

## DANUBE DELTA. ECONOMIC RESOURCES

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**Abstract:** *The Danube Delta, with an area of 430,000 ha, is one of the largest in the world – i.e. ranking the 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Europe. Since 1980, the Danube Delta has been a Biosphere Reserve, and, in 1990, the Romanian government declared it the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. From the very beginning, for Romania, the Danube Delta was an important economic resource; fish, pasture, wood, reed and, in recent years, tourism represent the main economic resources of the Danube Delta. In the second half of the 50's (twentieth century), the Romanian Government decided to use reed as raw material for papermaking; thus, the Delta was organized according to this purpose. There were also created special machines and equipment for harvesting and transporting reed. Because the reed proved to be an expensive raw material, after 10 years, this activity was waived. In the following period, agriculture received greater attention. The compartments designed in order to grow reed would be drained and converted into farms on surfaces exceeding 200,000 ha. However, only an area of about 30,000 ha was drained, where agriculture and especially businesses are still practiced nowadays. Currently, it is attempted to harmonize the various activities and resources of the Danube Delta: fisheries, agriculture, forestry and, of course, tourism. Activities are conducted for the further systematization of the territory and localities, in order to improve the living standard of Delta inhabitants.*

**Keywords:** agriculture, the Danube Delta, reed culture, reserve, tourism.

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