



PD Dr. Andreas Erhardt

Tel + 41 61 267 08 33
Fax + 41 61 267 08 32
e-mail andreas.erhardt@unibas.ch
www.conservation.unibas.ch/team/erhardt/index.html

Assessment of Biodiversity Baseline Report for
S.C. ROSIA MONTANA GOLD CORPORATION S. A. by Stantec

This report assesses the conservation value of a region in the Apuseni Mountains in Romania, in which large-scale gold mining is planned.

I have no means to judge the thoroughness, rigidity and quality of this report. However, for a scientist dealing with conservation issues in Central Europe, this report appears to be severely biased in favor of the intended mining activities.

The region which would be affected by the planned gold mining, consists of a mosaic of extensive traditionally cultivated agricultural vegetation and woods, which has been lost from most areas in Central Europe and has a high conservation value. Even the report, undoubtedly written in favor of the mining project, admits that vegetation types of high conservation value are present in this region! Even though only one protected plant species seems to present in this region, it harbours many heavily threatened species of invertebrates, particularly of butterflies, which have been proven to be excellent indicators of biodiversity. Thus I strongly disagree with the basic conclusion of this report that the region has only a low conservation value. In contrast, this area contains a high diversity of different habitats and species. The planned gold mining would have a devastating effect on this unique area and its precious biodiversity, and must be prevented at all events, not to mention all the chemical toxic effects associated with the intended gold mining.

I strongly hope that the responsible Romanian authorities recognize the uniqueness of this region and decline the planned gold mining project.

PD Dr. Andreas Erhardt