



RESOLUTION #23

TITLE:
Save Roșia Montană, România



WHEREAS

The village of Roșia Montană is located in a typical area rich in biodiversity and providing important natural resources and environmental services in the Apuseni Mountains of the Romanian Carpathian. Having been dependent on the mining industry for the past few decades and with mining operations closing down, there is a real need for people in the community to develop other traditional occupations to establish more sustainable livelihoods.

The village and the area are being threatened by the prospect of a large open pit gold mine. The proposed use of cyanide in the leaching process and plans to create a large cyanide lake to hold result the contaminated mine tailings, will forever change the characteristics of this area.

The proposed introduction of a new law, favoring the interest of the Roșia Montana Gold Corporation mining company would allow the expropriation of land from the locals on the basis of national interest, thus representing a major threat to the rights of local people. It would set a dangerous precedent in overriding the rights of local communities to manage their own land.

The use of cyanides poses a major risk not only to the health of the local communities in the vicinity of the gold mine, but also to a large part of the Romanian population, as the river system of the area is intrinsically linked to an important part of the Danube catchment area. Even a small cyanide spill would have a major impact on the drinking water, not only for communities living in the area but also for those downstream, and any major cyanide spill would irreversibly damage the last remaining natural ecosystem in the Danube River and the unique Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Europe's second largest delta ecosystem.

There are over 50 sites included in the Romanian List of Historical Monuments in the area, including historical mining galleries (ancient, medieval and modern), that would disappear completely under tailing ponds and rubble.

There are numerous examples from around the world demonstrating that the destruction of Nature for short-term profit, jeopardizes the lives and livelihoods of local communities in the long term.

THEREFORE

The WILD10 gathering salutes the exceptional determination of the Alburnus Major Association and its supporters to fight for the rights of the local community and for maintaining the area for traditional use and livelihoods.

We, the supporters of wild nature as a vital resource for local communities, salute the Romanian citizens who have initiated and joined the first massive environmental movement in Romania through peaceful, but

determined demonstrations run in the streets of towns and cities for weeks, aiming to convince decision makers to reject the gold mining project.

We salute all citizens worldwide who are participating in protests in many cities in Europe and the USA with the same determination in support of the Romanian citizens, recognizing the threat posed by the gold mining project initiated by the Rosia Montana Gold Corporation.

RESOLVED

- Urge the Romanian Government and Parliament to reject the gold mining project in Rosia Montana for which the Roşia Montana Gold Corporation is asking approval.
- Remove the designation of the area as mono-industrial and develop and promote responsible natural resource use for sustainable development.
- Initiate and support the necessary process to have the ancient mining sites declared as UNESCO World Heritage Sites to preserve the exceptional historical and cultural value of the mining sites reflecting the history of the past two millenia.

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