

Living with climate change

by Pavel Mogage, Tudor Ruse and Mihai Jugureanu

In common usage, climate change describes global warming — the ongoing increase in global average temperature — and its effects on Earth's climate system. Due to some major problems such as: fossils, fuel use, deforestation, pollution in big cities, Earth climate changes faster than previous years: deserts are expanding, heat waves and wildfires are becoming more common, storms become more devastating.



In 2019, approximately 1,7 million cubic meters of forest (meaning the surface of 7.000 football fields) were devastated in Romania by the extreme weather phenomena such as: natural fires, extreme winds, trees dryness, snow breaks or insect attacks. All these had devastating effects, because the Forest Management in Romania hasn't yet taken any measures to adapt to climate change.

Because of forest loss, in Oltenia a strange phenomenon appeared: the Sahara of Oltenia. It is an area of approximately 800 km², which spreads from the city of Calafat to the city of Dăbuleni. It is the result of the process of desertification, meaning that this area is becoming a desert. Tens of years ago, forests would cover the area where the desert now spreads. One of the farmers who lives here said in an interview to Digi 24 that nowadays they are cultivating African beans, sweet potatoes and peanuts. He and his neighbors are absolutely sure that they are never going to cultivate corn and wheat again because of the way that weather is changing.





In the same interview, an old man who lived in the same area that now is covered by the desert was very sad because all his life's work, his house, his garden and his farmland were ruined. He told the reporters that he couldn't breed animals anymore and that he couldn't do anything to change things back how they used to be, so he had to move away from the

place where he had lived all of his life.

In conclusion, not only the Earth, but also Romania is changing and it's up to us to protect our planet for ourselves and for the people who will live after us.