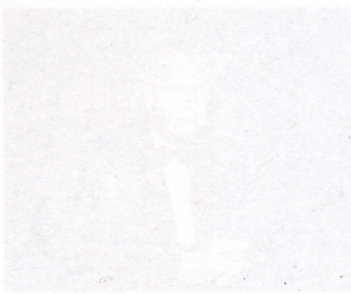


# Introduction

From the Chairman of the Board and the Directors, Mr Tom Garvey



Tom Garvey

I am proud to introduce this first Annual Report of REC Moldova presenting, as it does, a successful beginning and a fruitful year's work. Our Centre has been set up to assist the citizens of Moldova to participate, to an increasing degree, in decision-making at all levels which are likely to impact on the environment.

It is thus appropriate that REC Moldova started operations in the same year that the Aarhus Convention on 'Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-

making and to environmental NGOs in Moldova that Moldova was one of the first countries to ratify this Convention.

Our task in REC Moldova is to promote public awareness of the problems of, and threats to, the environment and involvement in the policy measures proposed for it's protection. We work towards these goals by disseminating information and by the development and promotion of environmental NGOs which form the essential link between the citizens and the machinery of Government. In our first year we have, I believe, made a good start as



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## Regional Environmental Centre - Moldova

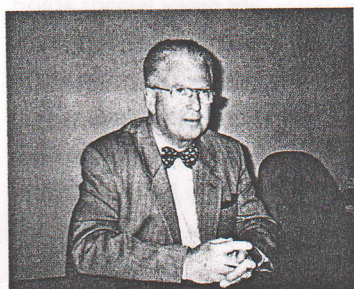
### Annual Report 1998/9



# Introduction

From the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr Tom Garvey:

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It is thus appropriate that REC Moldova started operations in the same year that the Aarhus Convention on 'Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making' was signed. It is a matter of satisfaction to the

Board and to environmental NGOs in Moldova that Moldova was one of the first countries to ratify this Convention.

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A meeting of the REC Moldova Board

will be clear from the following report; this is in large measure due to the guidance of our Board members and the dedication and efficiency of our Executive Director and his colleagues.

I would like to express thanks to our sponsors who are funding our operations; the European Commission and the US Environment Protection Agency. Without their support REC Moldova would not have been able to become the first fully operational REC outside Central and Eastern Europe.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to Environment Minister Arkady Capcelia whose enthusiasm, standing in international environmental circles, and whose unstinting support have been largely responsible for our being where we are today.

*Tom Garvey - Chairman of the Board of Directors*





## Case study: Inqua Moldova – one hundred hillocks



The area known in Moldova as 'One hundred hillocks' holds special value for Moldova and for Europe. This historically, archeologically and scientifically important site is made up of many hillocks spread over a 900 hectare area in the north of Moldova.

The origin of the hillocks is still unknown and is the subject of debate in the scientific community. Unfortunately, at the moment a large portion of the site is under intensive farming, with many areas being ploughed. This has led to damage to topsoil in the whole area and the site is suffering permanent harm.

With the benefit of a small grant from REC Moldova, the NGO Inqua-Moldova implemented a project which aimed to rehabilitate the site

and campaign for it to be put under state protection to ensure it's long-term preservation.

The NGO organised a series of activities as part of the project, including environmental expeditions to assess the ecological situation, surveys amongst the general public, round table meetings with local residents and publishing an informational bulletin describing the ecological situation in the area.

Finally, detailed petitions were presented to the Parliamentary Environmental Commission and the Ministry of Environment requesting that the area be protected from agricultural use and be included in the 'Princely Forest' nature reserve. The petitions presented the results of the work of the NGO.

As a result of the project the level of environmental knowledge of people living in the area was vastly increased, and the situation of the natural site was highlighted amongst local people and the bodies responsible for environmental protection in Moldova. Most importantly, residents and decision-makers came to understand the special importance of the area and the need to act decisively for its protection.

Since then the NGO continues to work with the Ministry of Environment to develop collaborative projects in order to protect the site – an excellent example of a working partnership between the NGO sector and government at both a national and regional level.

The 'One Hundred Hillocks' area in Moldova.

