

# RANGER PORTRAIT

**Maria Gurscaia, Țîpova Landscape Reserve. Moldova**



## **Main duties:**

- Environmental education: Natural & Cultural Heritage Interpretation
- Monitoring
- Patrolling
- Working with local communities
- Improvement of legislation

## **Why is your work important to you?**

For me, a ranger is the person who is mostly out in the field and understands the essence of protected areas with all their aspects: be it nature, culture, society or tourism. We can take people deep into these areas, building a bridge between places and people.

## **What is your greatest motivator even when it's hard working out there?**

Having lived here for 11 years, I can't imagine being separated from this place. Going out into the field, monitoring, explaining, is something completely natural. I am part of this place. For me, taking care of the reserve thus means taking care of myself.

## **Your biggest moment of luck during work?**

When I attended ERF training for the first time, I started to learn more about what a ranger is. I realised that what I had been doing for several years was actually ranger work without knowing the concept of a ranger. I'm glad I came to the profession naturally – it kind of grew from within.



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