

Tragically, the period of the preparation of the *Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference 2024* (<https://conferences.ulbsibiu.ro/abic/2024/index.html>) was the last period of life for its founder and leader since 2007, namely *Angela Curtean-Bănăduc*, who passed away in Clermont-Ferrand, France, on 1 November 2023. The other organizers and friends of the conference wish to pay here an ‘in memoriam’ tribute to someone who was both their very good friend and colleague and the beloved life partner and wife of *Doru*.



She was born in Orăștie (Transylvania, Romania) on 27 January 1971, into a caring family of intellectuals whose main educational moral rule, “everything you do, do it right!”, profoundly influenced her contented golden childhood and teenage years.

This happy family and the location of their picturesque, multicultural native city, lying near the Carpathian Mountains where the legendary Sarmizegetusa Regia, capital of the ancient Dacians, over the last 2000 years beneficially influenced Romanian dreams and realities – if only to recall here a temple of the Romanian language, *Palia de la Orăștie*, the monumental translation of the Old Testament into the Romanian language carried out in the 16th century – created the necessary milieu which inspired *Angela* to achieve something important with her life.

The vicinity of one of the largest Danube River tributaries, the scenic Mureș River, gave her the impulse to love the blue like in her gorgeous eyes, rivers, streams, and lakes. The chance to dream, imagine, organize, support and shape directly the lives of people of goodwill involved in the continental waters scientific understanding and protection, and the forces which uphold them, came through the professional opportunities afforded by her studies in chemistry at the Nicolaus Olahus Highschool of Orăștie, in ecology at the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, for her PhD in aquatic ecology at “Ovidius” University of Constanța, and her post-doctoral research in water resources management at “Costin C. Kirițescu” Romanian Academy National Institute of Economic Research in Bucharest, etc.

The rivers, streams and lakes were indeed symbolic of her beautiful blue life on this Blue Planet! Nature was her temple, home and support for numerous projects in ecology, biology, and nature protection and conservation. Benthic macro-invertebrates and fish populate her written output, scientific episodes which are on permanent record in over 200 publications. To give just some examples of what *Angela* founded and/or led over the years with fabulous positive and honest energy, efforts and results: *Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research* (<https://magazines.ulbsibiu.ro/trser/index.html>) since 1999 including the Wetlands Diversity series; *Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference* since 2007 (<https://magazines.ulbsibiu.ro/trser/events.html>); *Acta Oecologica Carpatica* since 2008; environmental Ecotur Sibiu Association since the end of the XX century; *Applied Ecology Research Center* in the last century (<https://appliedecologysibiu.wordpress.com/>); “Lucian

Blaga” University of Sibiu Faculty of Sciences where she worked hard in teaching and research since 1996, finally for 10 years as a Dean; etc.

Many devoted friends accompanied this genuinely extraordinary beautiful personal and professional life, the co-organizers of *Aquatic Biodiversity International Conference* being among them.

A unique personal and professional match was achieved without a break from 1998 between the beloved *Angela* and her husband *Doru*, who not by chance pays his deep loving respect for an unbelievable fabulous shared lifetime experience.

A cruel illness took her too soon from this world, but till the end she smiled with her characteristic kindness.

All of us, who had the good fortune to meet *Angela* in this all too short life, and to benefit from her angelic heart and mind, will keep her in the sunny part of our memories forever!

Family, friends, colleagues and students wish her eternal blue waters on the other side, where sooner or later we shall all meet to again be happy together!