ASPECTS CONCERNING TOURISM ON THE NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

ASPECTE PRIVIND TURISMUL ÎN REŢEAUA ARIILOR NATURALE PROTEJATE

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Abstract: *National parks and other protected areas of the world have always been favorite destinations for those tourists who seek contact with nature. National parks are not only natural landscapes and objectives, cultural and wildlife, but to also maintains a visitors' satisfaction and by such methods that leave them intact for future generations.*
Spaces protected by their valences aesthetic, recreational, educational, scientific, it is particularly attractive as tourist attractions, some are unique internationally.

Key words: *national park, natural protected area*

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has become one of the major socio-economic sectors. It has been asteady expansion over time, with a growth rate of 5-10% in the last half century.

Spaces protected by their valences aesthetic, recreational, educational, scientific, it is particularly attractive as tourist attractions, some are unique internationally.

Their recovery takes the form of various tourist complex. It must take into account the structure of protected area management objectives, the variety of resources, etc..

Recreational activities that can be developed within the protected areas are: the study of nature, flora and fauna, photography, landscape painting, climbing, caving, visits to cultural sites, historical and ethnographic, knowledge and learning oftraditional crafts, visit the

ecomuseums inside the area protected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although mass tourism is still the predominant form, other types of activities related to culture, environment, education, health. have emerged. They reflect preferencesfor environmental quality and a more vigorous form of entertainment andparticipatory.

Skiing, hiking, biking, canoeing etc.. activities have become much more pleasant than ever, satisfying the need to be close to nature, making the move, exploring and learning.

Romania, by Emergency Ordinance in 2007 by the regime of protection, defines four categories of protected areas, according to special measures of protectionand conservation of natural heritage assets, as follows:

a) **protected areas of national interest**: scientific reserves (IUCN category I),national parks (IUCN category II), monuments (IUCN category III), nature reserves(IUCN category IV), parks (IUCN category V);

b) **protected areas of international interest**: natural sites of universal intrest, naturalheritage, geo parks, wetlands of international importance, biosphere reserves;

c) **protected areas or sites of Community interest** "Natura 2000" sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas;

d) **protected areas of county or local**: set only on public / private administrative units, as appropriate.

By establishing these categories of protected areas is ensured proper systemprotection, conservation and use for:

a) the most representative natural habitats of national bio-geographical space, withspecific flora and fauna biodiversity, including marine areas, coastal and coastalplains, hills and mountains, wetlands, arid and ecotonal areas, watercourses meadows and lakes areas, ensuring the protection and preservation of natural flora and fauna, plant and animal genetic resources and maintaining ecological balance;

b) terrestrial habitats, water and / or underground permanently or temporarily livingplants and / or endangered wildlife, vulnerable, endemic or rare species of plantsand wildlife under special protection, and scientific

value species specialecological, and for those habitats where there are other natural heritage assets that require protection and conservation measures;

c) major biogeographic areas in biogenetic aspect resources, environmental, scientific, educational, and recreational proper behavior;

d) natural elements and geomorphological formations, landscape, geological,speleological, palaeontological, soil and also, the real value of natural heritage;

e) natural habitat types and plant and animal species of Community interest;

f) ecological corridors defined and identified based on scientific studies approvedby the Romanian Academy.

Protected areas contribute to sustainable development by:

- Soil conservation and water of eroded areas;
- Regulation and water purification, especially by protecting forests and wetlands;
- Protection of people from natural disasters like floods or devastating storms;
- Maintain natural vegetation and soils with low productivity in sensitive areas;
- Maintenance of wild genetic resources important for medicine, plant and feed;
- Protect species which are highly susceptible to human intervention;
- Providing critical habitats for feeding, breeding and resting species are usedsustainably;
- Providing income and jobs through tourism

Global network of protected areas includes 30,361 protected areas spanning an area of 13,245,528 km2, representing 8.84% of the world's land area. The networkof protected areas seems to be very large, from a global perspective, but has many national goals.

In Romania, the National Network of Protected Areas includes a total of 579protected areas (including 13 national parks) representing 5.18% of the territory (1,234,710 ha).

Natural parks are those protected areas whose purpose is the protection andconservation of landscape ensembles in which the interaction of human activitiesand nature over time has created a separate area with significant landscape valueand / or culture, often with high biological

diversity .

From the total of 13 parks in Romania, 10 are administered by the National Forest Company - Romsilva, according to the schedule below:

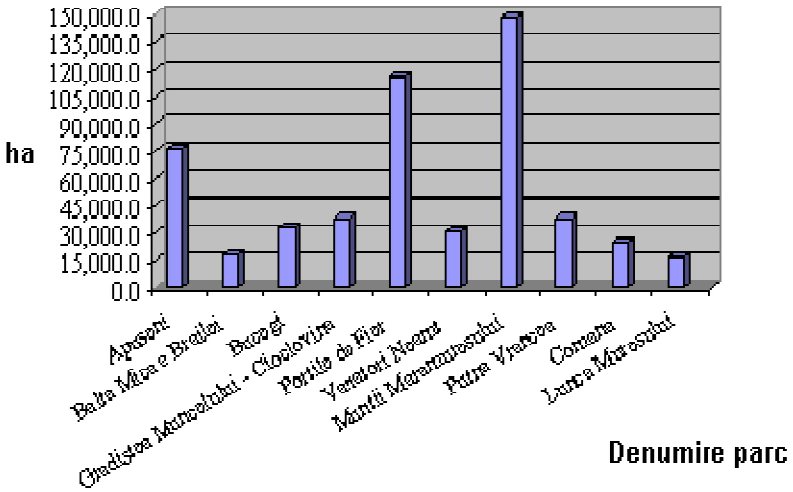


Fig. 1 Natural Parks in the administration of RNP-Romsilva
Source: National Forestry – Romsilva

National parks are those natural protected areas whose purpose is the protectionand preservation of national representative samples for biogeographic area,including natural elements with special value under physical-geographical aspect,flora, fauna, hydrological, geological, paleontological, speleological, pedological or other nature, allowing visits for scientific, educational, recreational and tourism.From the total of 13 national parks in Romania, 12 are administered by the National Forest Company - Romsilva.

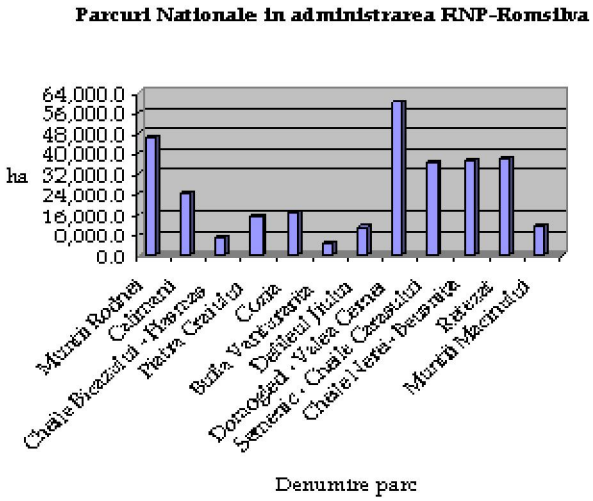


Fig. 2 National Parks in the administration of RNP-Romsilva
Source: National Forestry – Romsilva

The tourism infrastructure within the park system and in their immediate vicinity is still under development. The number and type of accommodation in protected areas vary considerably. Although some protected areas do not have sufficientaccommodation, however in most cases this is offset by the accommodation in the immediate vicinity of protected areas, according to Table 1:

Table nr. 1

Accommodation in and around protected areas

Location	Accomodation units in protected areas	Accomodation units around protected areas
Biosphere reserve	103	-
National parks	73	344
Natural parks	310	1011

Source: National strategy of development for ecotourism in Romania

CONCLUSIONS

Recovery in protected areas take different forms, complex. It must take intoaccount the structure of protected area management objectives, the variety ofresources, etc..

It is considered that recreational activities that can be developed within theprotected areas are: the study of nature, flora and fauna, photography, paintinglandscapes, trekking, climbing, caving, visits to cultural sites, historical andethnographic, knowledge and learning of traditional crafts; ecomuzeelor visit insideprotected areas.

Protected areas, is the most effective way to conserve biodiversity.

We can say that a tourism planning recovery and prudent, effective management must becomethe strength to preserve the ecological integrity of all protected areas.

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