THE INCLUSION IN THE TOURISTIC CIRCUIT OF ARAD COUNTY OF NATURAL RESERVATIONS AND PARKS TO DEVELOP THE RURAL TOURISM

INCLUDEREA IN CIRCUITUL TURISTIC AL JUDETULUI ARAD A REZERVATIILOR SI PARCURILOR NATURALE IN VEDEREA DEZVOLTARII TURISMULUI RURAL

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Abstract: *The authors of this paper have proposed to analyze the great value tourist potential of Arad County. This paper develops several aspects including: the paneling and presentation of all protected areas in the county (insufficiently capitalized) in order to stimulate the tourist interest for these destinations; the main characteristics of natural parks and reservations; the positive influence (development) or negative (degradation) of rural tourism in the protected areas; ways to include these areas in the tourist circuit of Arad County; the measures taken in order to preserve their uniqueness and authenticity. A general conclusion which emerges from the presentation of this potential is the poor recovery in tourism, reflected by the lack of improvements and tourist information panels.*

Key words*: measures, circuit, protected areas, rural touristic capacity, Arad*

INTRODUCTION

Arad County is an eloquent example of harmonious combination of nature, people, history and present which are reflected on the daily life of its inhabitants. Situated in the western part of the country, Arad County takes the form of a vast amphitheater comprising its different landscapes within the limits, in which a specific note is introduced by the anthropic activity.

The nature of Arad places offers and had always offered favorable conditions of human activity: a diversified relief stepped down smoothly from east to west in three complementary natural units (mountains, hills and depressions, plains), a pleasant climate, moderate, without strong differences, a rich hydrography (dominated by the majestic course of Mures River), a vegetable cover and soil with high productivity and riches of the subsoil who fills in the natural wealth of the county.

The nature protection initiatives have started from the necessity to save the species of flora and fauna rare or endangered, the idea has been expanded to the some natural or anthropic territories of national or international importance, reported now as parks or reservations. The sizes of the natural reservations are often related to the characteristics of protected species, usually, they don't involve very large areas but must be large enough to provide suitable places for nesting, migratory birds halt, the continuity of some vegetable species in the forest or grassland ecosystems. Within these protected areas there are human interventions, oriented towards the provision of an optimum development of some vegetable species or communities (protection against predatory, limitation of agricultural activities, grazing, etc.).

The natural parks include areas with a terrestrial or aquatic landscape of a great quality from the aesthetic point of view or typical landscapes of a certain geomorphologic complex (karstic complex, for example). This category can include landscapes resulting from a traditional practice of planning, carried out by a socio-cultural group or other storage practices of natural and semi-natural landscapes around the urban centers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors of this paper have completed two phases. In the first phase, it has been required a theoretical and bibliographical documentation concerning Arad County, rural tourism, natural parks and reservation. It has been defined the issue and formulation of the main hypotheses in order to constitute an explanatory and convincing model, inducing the importance and activity of the researched subject. The final phase has been drawn up

and completed by the collected information. The drafting of this paper was made in laboratory, based on the notes from the ground, the existing material and consulted bibliography.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The tourist potential of Arad County is one of great value. The harmonious combination of the relief forms, the favorable climate, the faune and flora elements, the presence of mineral waters and the abundance of historical and architectural monuments transform this area in a real tourist convergence area.

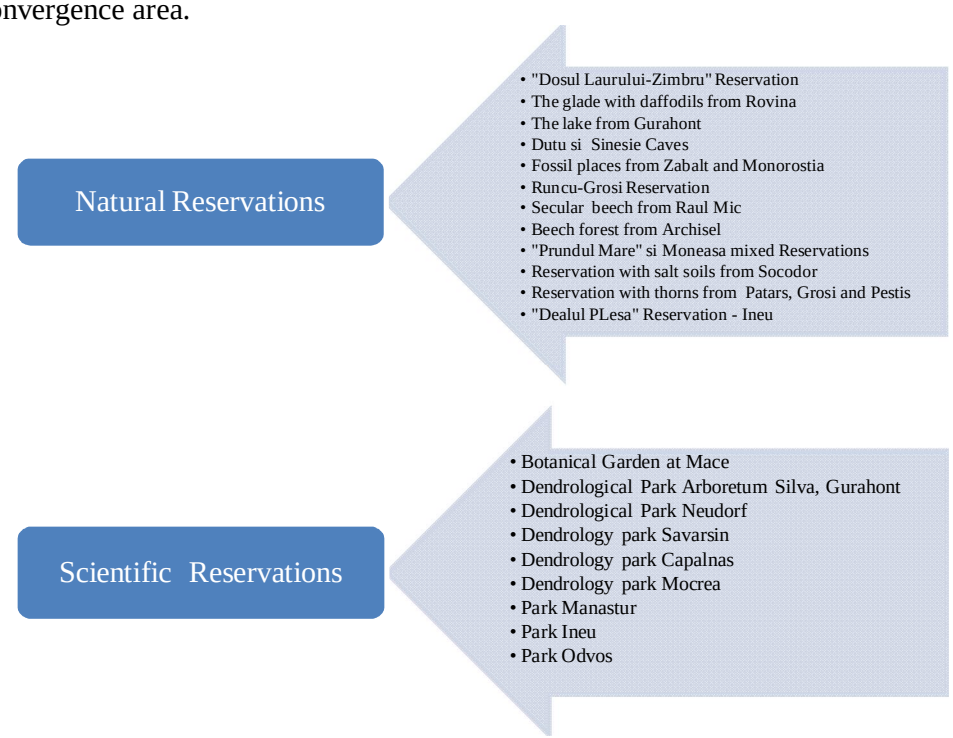


Fig. 1. Protected natural areas in Arad County

Among the most representative natural tourist attractions of Arad County, we note the natural reservations: Valea Morii Cave (Moneasa village), Dosul Laurului and the lakes from Gurahont (Gurahont

village), Runcu-Grosi (Bârzava village), the glade with daffodils in Rovina and lake Rovina (Ineu city), lake Şoimoş (Lipova city), Forest Sic (Carand village), Cave Duţu (Săvârşin village), fossil place in Monoroştia (Bârzava village), fossil place in Zăbalţ (Ususau village), fluffy oak forest from Carand (Carand village), Salt soils (Socodor village), dendrology park in Macea (Macea village), Prundul Mare (Natural Park of Lunca), Natural park of Mures River Valley which occur both in Arad and Timis Counties.

The geographical and the ethnographic characteristics of the rural area in Arad represent elements to be taken into account by the majority of tourists who want to spend holidays in the countryside far away from the urban agglomeration. For the purpose of regulating the problems on the protection and conservation of environment, in many countries the specialized ministries were created.

The protected areas can be created through a variety of ways, two of most common mechanisms being: the government action, often at national and but also regional level and the purchase of land by private persons or organizations involved in conservation activities. The Governments can delimit land to be used as protected areas and can promulgate laws that allow certain economic use levels of resources and habitats.

The responsibility for managing procedures of natural protected areas and other natural heritage assets placed under special protection and conservation, declared by laws or other normative acts adopted by Government, is the central public authority for environmental protection with the Romanian Academy. For the protected areas, declared by the decisions of local administrations, the administration responsibility returns to the Authority of Local/ County Public Administration. Rural tourism can cause great damage to protected areas, especially if they are not managed properly, but it can also bring great benefits.

The tourist sites pressures increase, so that valuable natural areas become increasingly more for the long-term tourism, one day visits and sport. In some protected areas there are simply so many visitors that nature suffers, in other cases, the visitors can penetrate into the most remote areas. The tourist facilities are often in conflict with the aims of conservation and break down the natural landscapes. But, if it is planned and managed in order to be sustainable, rural tourism can be

a highly positive force, bringing benefits both to protected areas and rural communities. The rural tourism will be welcome within its grounds or near to the protected areas, if it complies with the special character of area, so that the damage and pollution to be reduced at minimum.

The natural parks have as main objective the protection of nature, being also open for the organized touristic activities. To evaluate the rural touristic capacity load-bearing of the protected territories, we must take into account four dimensions defined as follows:

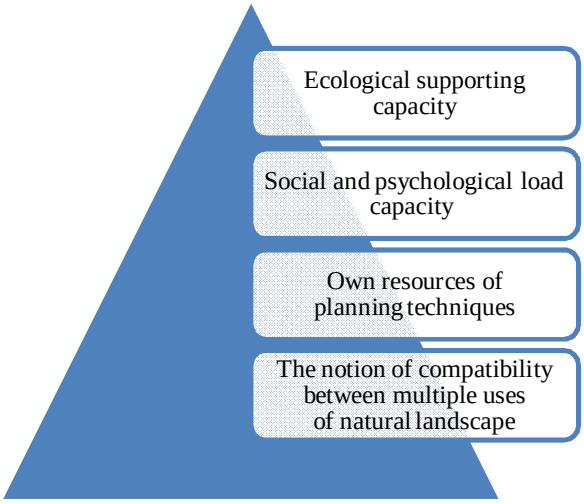


Fig. 2. The evaluation of rural tourism capacity

The rural tourism planning of natural parks and reservations is presented as a complex process which, through the objectives and development ways, often interferes with the tourist planning

The rural tourism planning proposes, on the one side, the solutions to stimulate the tourist circulation and to provide the tourism integration in the economy of the area and, on the other side, the methods on the selection and delimitation of areas, technologies and elaborating and developing stages of the projects for the new sites, operating principles etc.

The rural tourism development near or even within the natural parks and reservations can be achieved by: creating

new facilities for certain types of rural tourism; organizing more judicious of facilities in the existing entertainment sites; searching sites able to absorb some visitors in the proximity of parks (in fact, the only one solution accepted by conservationists)

The promotion of these tourist products shall be carried out by specific marketing activities: participation at the travel fairs and exhibitions in the country, elaboration of albums, tourist guidelines, leaflets, tourist maps, posters, tourist DVDs, postcards, tourist promotional TV spot, appearances in a TV program and installation of promoting tourist panels.

So that the natural parks and reservations achieve their intended purposes, they must benefit, in addition to the material items, of serving staff enough specialized for park and reservations functions, with a high professional training. The success of tourist actions in the natural parks/reservations depends largely on the organization visit in parks/reservations, on the communicated information, on the competence of guides. To these we must add the equipment quality available to tourists, disseminating measures and their popularization in region, country and abroad. Besides benefits that the natural parks/reservations offer to the tourists, their rural tourist planning is a source of income for the population from the close settlements, offer jobs or can create objects of folk art and memories, so that they can open them in particular trade stores from these parks.

From the organizational point of view, natural parks and reservations raise many problems related to the bodies responsible for the creation, planning, management, exploitation and their conservation, problems whose solution is very different from one region to another, from one country to another, according to the legislation specific for each of them.

It is considered that the harmonious solution, favorable for the natural parks and reservations development is establishing of these responsibilities to a unique administration, that can coordinate the entire

functionality of parks, providing a balanced management, with a maximum overall efficiency which will be reflected in the last instance in the quality of services offered to the tourists.

Measures to be taken in this direction are, primarily, those that covered the legal obligations and competences of the county public administration (The local public administration Law and specific laws) or those which, although provided for other local authorities competence or decentralized services, could be achieved in a institutional partnership, targeting a more efficient use of available public resources and the results maximization.

CONCLUSIONS

Arad County can fit among attractive tourist destinations in Romania with a varied potential, diversified and concentrated through the existence of form relief merged all over the territory, a climate favorable to the tourism practice, a fauna and flora potential, with natural balneary treatment factors, with a rich cultural, historical and architecturally heritage

A general conclusion that results from the presentation of this potential is its weak touristic exploitation reflected by the lack of facilities, and touristic panels for information.

This weak touristic exploitation causes itself the unfilled conditions for practicing the tourism forms depending on the existing resources, including the ecotourism, rural tourism and agrotourism or other types of tourism.

Regardless of the mechanism by which the protected area were created, once their area entered under a protection regime , the decisions related to the public use must take into account the maximum permissible degree of human intervention.

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