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THE IMPORTANCE OF ORGANIZING AND PROMOTING ECOTOURISM IN PROTECTED AREAS

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Abstract: *In this paper we analyzed and described a wetland ecosystem (Lunca Mureșului Natural Park), being interested in preserving the ecological balance in this area. From the analysis carried out, we noticed that in this park tourists can carry out many activities, namely: bike rides that can be rented, walks to admire the diverse flora and fauna, but also canoe rides on the Mures River. The analyzed park offers tourists a multitude of activities, being very important that these facilities are promoted among young people and possible visitors, also extremely important is the ecological education of those who visit these protected areas in order to reduce the impact that visitors have on ecosystems.*

• Introduction

The link between ecotourism and protected natural areas is a very strong one because one of the features of this form of tourism is the active contribution to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

• Material and method

In this paper I have analyzed and described the main attractions and activities that tourists can carry out in the Lunca Mureșului Natural Park, which is a protected area. According to specialized literature, the park is located in the west of the country, it covers an area of 17,455.2 ha.

Conclusions

It is very important that those who manage natural parks in protected areas respect the existing regulations and management plans and promote eco-tourism .

• Results and discussions

Figure 1 shows the internal zoning and permitted/prohibited activities in accordance with the protected natural areas in Romania.



Figure 1 Description of the park

In the analyzed park, tourists can practice many recreational activities (figure 2) for example: kayak-canoe rides that can be rented, bike rides through the forest ecosystems where they can admire the flora and fauna.



Figure 2 Recreational activity