



METHODS FOR CONSERVING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES THROUGH HUNTING TOURISM IN ROMANIA

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Abstract: Hunting tourism constitutes a significant form of sustainable tourism in Romania, contributing both to the preservation of biodiversity and to the promotion of traditional cultural heritage. When practised responsibly, it supports the balanced management of wildlife populations through the establishment of hunting quotas, habitat restoration, and the implementation of anti-poaching measures. The revenues generated from hunting permits are directed towards conservation programmes, species monitoring, and environmental education initiatives. Beyond its ecological dimension, hunting tourism plays an important role in safeguarding rural traditions, local craftsmanship, and traditional gastronomy, thereby reinforcing the cultural identity of local communities.

• Introduction

Hunting tourism represents a complex component of sustainable tourism, combining responsible wildlife management with the economic and cultural valorization of local resources. In Romania, this form of tourism has a long-standing tradition, being closely linked to rural customs, hunting culture, and the biodiversity characteristic of the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic regions. When organized responsibly, hunting tourism contributes not only to the conservation of game species but also to the restoration of natural habitats and the maintenance of ecological balance across forest and aquatic ecosystems.

The importance of hunting tourism manifests on multiple levels. From a biodiversity conservation perspective, hunting funds allow for the monitoring of animal populations through GPS, surveillance cameras, and regular reports, thereby maintaining a balance between wildlife and their natural environment. Moreover, these funds support anti-poaching programs, habitat restoration, and the creation of ecological corridors that enable natural species migration and prevent population isolation. Hunting tourism thus proves to be an effective environmental protection tool, providing financial and logistical resources for conservation activities.

• Material and method

The study adopts a qualitative and descriptive-analytical methodology, integrating information from specialized literature, statistical data, and case studies related to hunting tourism and sustainable management of natural resources in Romania. We used as a research methods: comparative analysis of how hunting tourism is managed in various Romanian regions, such as the Southern Carpathians, Danube Delta, and Transylvania; indirect observation of the effects of tourism and hunting activities on the environment; review of relevant legislation and documents to assess public policies in the field; Case studies of hunting funds administered by Romsilva and local hunting associations.

• Results and discussion

- ❑ Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation Hunting funds allow continuous monitoring of animal populations through GPS, surveillance cameras, and regular reporting, covering species such as deer, wild boar, roe deer, brown bear, and lynx.
- ❑ Economic Impact and Benefits for Local Communities Hunting tourists generate revenue for guesthouses, restaurants, local guides, and craftsmen, supporting rural economic development. Studies show that in Transylvania, approximately 40% of hunting fund revenues are reinvested in communities through employment and local procurement.
- ❑ Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Local Traditions Tourism activities integrate traditional cooking workshops, craft demonstrations (woodworking, weaving, pottery), and themed festivals related to hunting and rural culture. In the Danube Delta, visitors observe fishing traditions and hunting techniques adapted to aquatic environments.

➤ Ecological Education and Social Responsibility Educational activities in hunting tourism increase ecological awareness, providing information about local flora and fauna, responsible hunting rules, and the effects of activities on the ecosystem.

❑ Regional Case Studies - Southern Carpathians: Hunting funds manage over 30,000 hectares of forest, using GPS monitoring and surveillance cameras; deer and wild boar populations are stable, and tourism revenues are reinvested in reforestation projects.

-Transylvania: Hunting tourism combined with cultural and gastronomic experiences; over 50 local micro-enterprises participate, and revenues support hunting fund maintenance and tradition promotion.

-Danube Delta: Hunting tourism integrated with birdwatching and aquatic ecosystem protection; tourists participate in educational programs on biodiversity conservation and sustainable fishing.

❖ Challenges and Solutions Overcrowding may disturb wildlife and degrade habitats if access rules are not strictly enforced. Conflicts with farmers can occur when wild animals enter cultivated lands; preventive measures include buffer zones and warning systems. Lack of coordination between authorities, NGOs, and communities can reduce program efficiency; partnerships and integrated management strategies are recommended. Expanding educational and tourist engagement programs can turn visitors into promoters of environmental and cultural conservation.



Figure 1. Logo: Hunting tourism in Romania

• Conclusions

Hunting tourism is an effective tool for sustainable conservation of natural and cultural resources. Responsible management maintains ecological balance and protects species. Community involvement generates economic and cultural benefits. Educating tourists encourages responsible behavior toward nature and cultural heritage.