MIRCEA VERGHELEȚ
Director of the National Park “Piatra Craiului”, Romania
Protected areas as tourism destinations

Mircea Verghelet – Piatra Craiului National Park
Romania
Identity
PAs classification system and tourism

- IUCN system (5 (6) categories)
- International Conventions (4 categories)
- EU Conventions (2 categories)
## IUCN Protected Area Categories and their relevance to tourism and visitor use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IUCN Protected Area category *</th>
<th>Primary goal and protected value(s)</th>
<th>Relevance to tourism and visitor use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Ia - Strict Nature Reserve** | Biodiversity or geoheritage protection (ecological and scientific values) | • Most visitor use (commercial tourism or recreation visitation) is prohibited  
• Public access only possible through organised scientific, citizen science or volunteer service programmes |
| **Ib - Wilderness Area**       | Protection of the natural character and condition of unmodified or slightly modified areas (wilderness and ecological values) | • Low-density visitor use is often a management objective  
• Restricted public access in terms of amount of use, group size, activity type, etc.  
• Commercial tourism activity limited and highly regulated (e.g., special use permit) |
| **II - National Park (13 in RO)** | Protection of an ecosystem and its large-scale ecological processes (ecological, recreation and community values) | • Visitor use and experience is often a management objective  
• A range of recreation opportunities are typically provided through zoning, facility development and visitor services |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IUCN Protected Area category *</th>
<th>Primary goal and protected value(s)</th>
<th>Relevance to tourism and visitor use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| III - Natural Monument        | Conservation of specific natural features (ecological, recreation and community values) | • Visitor use and experience is often a management objective  
• Recreation opportunities are typically provided to facilitate feature protection and public understanding |
| IV - Habitat/Species Management Area | Conservation through management intervention (ecological, community and recreation values) | • Recreation visitation and commercial tourism is usually a management objective  
• A range of recreation opportunities is provided with associated facilities and services  
• Commercial tourism common |
| V - Protected Landscape/Seascape (15 in RO) | Landscape/seascape conservation (community, ecological and recreation values) | • Recreation visitation and commercial tourism is usually a management objective  
• A range of recreation opportunities is provided with associated facilities and services  
• Commercial tourism common |
International categories

- UNESCO – World Heritage Sites (nature, culture or nature&culture) (1)
- UNESCO – Biosphere Reserves (3)
- UNESCO – Geoparks (1+1)
- Ramsar Convention – Wetlands of International Importance (19)

- Recreation visitation and commercial tourism is usually a management objective
- A range of recreation opportunities is provided with associated facilities and services
- Commercial tourism common
European System – Natura 2000

- SAC – special areas for conservation – Habitats Directive
- SPA – special protection areas – Birds Directive

- Sustainable use of natural ecosystems (community, recreation and ecological values)

- Recreation visitation and commercial tourism can be a key objective

- A range of recreation opportunities is provided with associated facilities and services

- Commercial tourism common
Tourism and Visitor Management in Protected Areas: IUCN Guidelines for Sustainability

- Clearly identifying and linking biodiversity benefits (for example the reintroduction of species or habitat management, etc.) which can support better monitoring and evaluation. This will in turn help build a case for future conservation efforts.

- Proactively engaging tourism stakeholders in local legislation and the development of policy frameworks that affect protected areas can enhance the sharing of information and decision-making, as well as any economic benefits.

- Increasing the number of visitors, the length of stay and concession opportunities can increase economic opportunities for local employment, community enterprises and the private sector, provided the right fee structures and management systems are in place.

- Assisting in the education and capacity building of local people to support tourism not only helps ensure a more positive experience for the visitor but can build a deeper affinity for conserving the protected area.

- Using tourism revenues to enhance facilities for local communities, such as for education, healthcare and infrastructure.

- Ensuring revenue from tourism goes back into paying for conservation management and mitigating any negative tourism impacts in the area.

- Encouraging collaboration and partnerships between protected area authorities and the private sector, as well as the local community, can stimulate and help secure long-term support for habitat and biodiversity conservation.
Components of the quality management of the destination

- PAs natural features conservation
- Consultative and transparent process for the visitor management plan design
- Experiencing nature facilities
- Outdoor activities opportunities
- Transportation services to and inside the PAs
- Visiting infrastructure – trails, signs, indicators, panels, shelters
- Interpretation – educational trails, visitor centers, information points, rangers, volunteers
- Cultural assets in or around the PAs, traditional architecture and activities
- Small scale, traditional accommodation and local products
- Income generation for conservation, communities and education
Ecotourism

- The most appropriate form of tourism for PAs
- Romania – elaborated a Strategy for eco-tourism
- Developed by the Tourism Research Institute, coordinated by ANT and elaborated with the help of AER (Association for Ecotourism in Romania)
- Vision, objective – creation and promotion of ecotourism destinations in Romania in and around PAs
- The strategy will be formally approved through a Governmental Decision
Ecotourism destination statute designation criteria

- A. preconditions
- B. sustainable destination management
- C. maximization of social and economic benefits for the local communities and minimization of negative effects on the destination development
- D. maximization of benefits for cultural heritage and minimization of negative effects
- E. maximization of benefits for environment and minimization of negative effects
Destinations

- 2 destinations received the statute in 2014 – Mara-Cosau in Maramures and Zarnesti-Piţtra Craiului
- Tara Hategului-Retezat will receive the statut
- Bison Land – Vanatori Neamţ will be evaluated in 2016
Carpathian Convention
Tourism Protocol

- Developed through a participatory process
- Focused on sustainable tourism and environment protection
- Provisions for tourism contribution to developing and managing of PAs
- Cooperation among the Conventions members
- Strategy for its implementation adopted at last COP
- One initiative SKV – Via Carpatica and identification and marking of European long-distance paths crossing Romania – E3 and E8
Initiatives for improving the destination management

- ROWMANIA Association – Danube Delta

- Programs and concepts developed for the destination – wildlife (bird watching), outdoor activities – paddling, canotca (lotca+canoe), slow tourism, fish tourism, annual festival, encouraging traditional cooking and fishing

- Iconic legendary figure for promotion and coordination – Ivan Patzaikin – multiple Olympic and world champion for canoeing
Piatra Craiului National Park

- Outstanding landscapes
- Wildlife
- Flora
- Outdoor opportunities
- Cultural and traditional assets
- Visitor and interpretation infrastructure
- Over 110000 tourists/year
Parcul National Piatra Craiului

Achiziționează biletele de vizitare al Parcului
Buy the ticket for visiting the National Park

De aici puteti achiziționa bilețul al Parcului National Piatra Craiului
Exceptat de la plăți terțe de vânzare:
- persoanele cu vârsta sub 14 ani
- persoanele din comunitățile locale

Perioada de aplicare a terțelor:
1 Mai - 31 Octombre

Pentru a cumpăra bilețul:
1. CSV - Pontile Albăstră
2. Bilețe prin SMS

Regulile de vizitare

INFORMATIVĂ: Vă consultăm harta turistică a Parcului National Piatra Craiului.

Alegerea traseului care vă permite să vezi mai bine, și să accesați, nu vă predaște în pericol!

Deci ești doar un pic dintr-un traseu al acestor indicații întâlnite de la Administrația Parcului și Serviciile Soția!

Așteptă-de-vă să te alegă cu frigul și nu să vă pregătești pentru a te calucea neoprită!

Nu iubirea, să nu te simți cu mânerul în șarbe și să nu te simți neobosită!

Lucii cu gaze. În sare, ambalajele trebuie să fie lasate într-un loc

Pe parcursul expunerii respectați traseele oficiale, marcate cu semn concesiune!

Admitiți ființele din natură ne-așteptată!

Respectați animalele. Fiecare are un răbd la sănătate!

Respectați lovitura naturii și pe cei care vizită!

Nu comproți ani alemane de companie ani comestibile cu cea!

Nu opritiți-vă în locurile de cantare și încălcări care sunt protejate!

Nu distrugeti apriza, ștergeti indicii, refugiați montan, purtatul sau alte amenajări!

Păiași refugiați montan de ce refugiați la casă de necesitate, percheziții coșilor și altor vizitatori!

Visiting rules

Check the tourist map of Piatra Craiului National Park

Choose the route that suits you the best and don’t be too adventurous or overestimate your strength!

If you have any doubts about the choice you’ll receive information from our Mountain Rescue Service!

Make sure you have enough water with you for all the duration of the trip, water sources are rare and nonexistent in the upper part of the mountain!

Do not drive beyond the signs prohibiting access!

Don’t litter, take all your rubbish with you!

During your trip follow only the marked trails!

Adore the flowers but do not pick them!

Cherish the wild animals: there is a place for everyone in nature!

Maintain the nature’s tranquility as others can enjoy it as well!

Camp only in the specially designated locations!

Fire is allowed only in dedicated areas around camp sites and near shelters!

Do not damage the information panels, signs, mountain shelters, bridges or any other infrastructure arrangements!

Use the mountain shelters only in case of emergency: allow other visitors to do so as well!

From here you can buy the ticket for visiting Piatra Craiului National Park.

Exceptat de la plăți terțe de vânzare:
- children aged under 14 years
- people who live in the neighborhood of the park
The entrance fee implementation period is 1st May - 31st October

To buy a ticket:
1. Look for the blue ticket machine
2. or by SMS

3. From the National Park Office Administration site www.pncra.ro