

ECOLOGICAL TOURISM - A FORM OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

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Abstract

Ecological tourism or ecotourism is, more than any other field of activity, depending on the environment, it represents "the matter was first" purpose and scope of work and progress, the support - frame and carrier resources. In these conditions, the relationship ecological tourism / ecotourism - environment is crucial, representing the environmental protection condition "sine qua non" of this tourism development. In these circumstances, it is development ecological tourism / ecotourism on the principles of responsible tourism, and this paper aims to identify the coordinates of the ecological tourism / ecotourism is a form of responsible tourism.

Keywords: ecological tourism, ecotourism, responsible tourism, environment.

INTRODUCTION

Promotion and development of tourism in general and ecological tourism / ecotourism, especially should not ignore the negative impact it can have on the environment (extinction of species of flora and fauna of nature monuments, overuse and exceeding the ecological carrying capacity, loss of agricultural and forest land, increasing urbanization etc.). **Relationship tourism - environment** was highlighted repeatedly at conferences devoted to its protection. Tourism in all its forms is carried out in the environment and the environment can promote or deny its quality tourism activities in certain areas. Landscape, forests, rivers, lakes, sea, natural monuments and art and architecture, air or mineral water etc. environmental components are considered as tourist resources that promote tourism to develop leisure and recreation, spas, seaside or cultural, hiking etc. The more these resources are more varied and complex, especially unaltered, with properties as close to the primary, the greater their interest tourism and the activities they generate are more valuable and more attractive, responding to very different motivations travel.

The natural environment is one of the main factors to be taken into account in the development of ecological tourism / ecotourism. Man is eager nature, framework integrated into the natural ambient. Human presence in nature creates the potential damage it, either for recreation and relaxation, or for the purpose of carrying out activities

necessary existence. In both cases it can degrade the more or less to get the benefits. Obvious dependence of tourism on the local environment makes him to be interested in all environmental actions and, thereby, to protect its own resources.

SOCIO - ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ECOLOGICAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AS A FORM OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

The development of ecological tourism / ecotourism will have a strong impact on tourist areas in which will be reflected in social, economic, cultural, ecological etc. The positive effects produced by the development of ecological tourism / ecotourism were discussed often and are welcome. In the context of promoting the concept of responsible tourism is more interested degradation consequences of tourism resources, which may have implications for social - economic of the worst. Thus:

- *the economic*, reported shortcomings due to the existence of tourism resources degraded primarily reflects interest unable to realize them as sources of income, thus constituting a permanent loss to the economy and tourism sector. In contrast, tourism products including degraded resources of its value decreases, the direct consequences evidenced in reducing travel demand and thus less use of the material of interest and lower receipts from their sale;

- *the socio-cultural and environmental* impacts are also very important. If it is accepted that the most important features are the recreational tourism - recuperative and instructive - educational means easy relationship between tourism and the environment. Its impairment, even to a small extent, reduce the possibility of recovery of health and human forces, reducing the quality of the therapeutic factors favoring or rest and recreation, as well as opportunities to meet the needs of culture and education of the people.

The tourism potential is an integral part of the environment's existence and development depend on its quality objectively, so can be considered as a possible index to its environment, ie, a "barometer" of its quality: practice where for various reasons, or other component of the environment such as landscape, air or water is degraded. Meanwhile, the "requirements" they claim, tourism can be a "practical solution for keeping unaltered environment". That is why protecting nature and preserving its qualities for tourism become a necessity in this regard competing actions to protect tourism potential. Human society environment subject to two main types of pressure: one is the direct result of the population explosion and urban expansion, pace and considerable growth achieved by industry, agriculture and other fields, gain traffic and transport systems and communication intensive exploitation of natural resources, and another, far less aggressive and predominantly seasonal nature arising from the use of the environment for tourism and leisure activities. Natural disasters (volcanism, hurricanes, landslides, floods etc.) and wars, although they are episodic, also contribute to pollution and environmental degradation, the destruction of cultural heritage of peoples, and causing huge economic damage.

Therefore it is generally accepted that *environmental degradation* and tourism resources comes from two main groups of *factors*:

- factors that are a direct result of economic development;
- factors derived from the use of the environment for tourism and recreation.

The first group of factors, resulting mainly from the intensification of industrial, agricultural and transport, affect both the environment and the general development of tourism, tourism potential components taken as separate entities, namely air, water, soil, vegetation, fauna, landscapes, nature and architectural monuments etc. Of these, a particular problem puts *air pollution* caused by industry, sources of contamination with repercussions on the tourism potential is considered, in descending order of harmfulness: energy industry, metallurgy, chemical, petrochemical, building materials, wood processing, food etc. Emissions mixed powders, harmful gases and odorous irritants produced by units of these industries can pollute resources underlying conduct specific activities of health tourism, rest and recreation, cultural, hunting and fishing.

Among the most polluted air source lies cement powder and dust are lost during the technological process alters the purity of the atmosphere, destroying vegetation, landscape, which give it a gloomy aspect, wildlife drives, attacking buildings and monuments that are submitted. Some of these sources are found in the major tourist areas (Bicaz, Campulung, Azuga, Miami etc.). But air pollution is due to other sources such as mills in Hunedoara, Resita, Suceava, Piatra Neamt, Ploiesti, Targu Mures, Govora etc., located on valuable tourist routes.

Conduct activities at the level of accommodation and food requires higher energy consumption and therefore, there is pollution from thermal power plants serving agro tourist resorts and villages. In addition, the lack of adequate facilities disposal, garbage, can cause olfactory air pollution in rural tourism. Compared to industrial activities, the tourism has a lower impact on air quality deterioration.

Particularly serious is *the pollution of the landscape*, one of the most valuable resources of tourism potential. Landscape degradation factors found within the pollutants that destructive actions of its components (vegetation, fauna, river network etc.) plus undirected forest logging, uncontrolled industrial and household waste, nasty construction achievement or inappropriate to their location (by not sensible colors and volumes), and so on, these are just a few aspects of what "ugly" nature, precisely where it is most wanted for her beauty. Significant in this regard are landscape degradation caused by hydropower construction sites and industrial roads, or other goals present especially in units scenic mountain landscapes, here, in most cases, during the execution or completion of the work does not comply with the measures landscape protection and restoration of damages suffered by it (Bucegi Mountains, Cindrel Mountains etc.). Of the most serious shortcomings caused by the construction of forest roads, with deforestation occurring, excavation slopes, tree defoliation cases in Apuseni Mountains, Bucegi Mountains, the reserve Rodna Mountains.

Landscape degradation caused and limestone quarries, such as the Corcoia Keys, natural monument and tourist attraction, unique tourist area Portile de Fier (Iron Gates), the entry into the Herculane - Costesti (Valcea County), located in areas with high tourist traffic, or careers Ilvei Valley in Bargaului and Bicaz Mountains and storage dumps near the mines, like those of Baile Harghita and Santimbru where difficult access to the station from mental next Muierii cave, to Lotrului Valley etc. or municipal landfills of common undertaking various urban centers around some of the tourist, which took the place of forests, gardens, green spaces etc.

Compared to air pollution, *water pollution* is much more present, because many tourist activities and agro can not run in the absence of water resources. Water consumption calculated for every tourist is quite high, both in the accommodation and in the catering, as a result recorded a large volume of wastewater discharged in addition to those from the village / tourist resort. Water pollution also has negative consequences for tourism, contributing to the degradation of some of the largest tourism resources in use. Creates serious implications for water pollution on sea, lakes, rivers and the Danube Delta, which, in addition to reducing the effects of relaxing and a decrease occurs biostimulators or their therapeutic effects. Examples of this kind it is therapeutic lakes Techirghiol, wedding party, Amara, White Marsh, episodic pollution of the Black Sea or fresh groundwater or minerals etc .

Soil pollution by various pollutants from rain water is contaminated with various chemicals directly from the discharge of waste, pesticides, fertilizers etc. has, in addition to the consequences of socio - economic and health consequences for tourism, the degradation of groundwater and water mirrors used in health tourism and recreation. Of course, soil degradation and thus the landscape is due to grazing and uncontrolled, as if the mountain or alpine meadows Bucegi Mountains, Ceahlau Rodna, Parang, Ciucas etc., mountain ranges with an intense tourist movement.

Noise pollution is another important risk factor for human health. Has implications on tourism, its appearance (noise) in places for its becoming disagreeable whereas the majority of practicing tourism seeking "a quiet corner in kind" to keep them from the hubbub of the big cities or industrial noise. The existence of sources of noise pollution spas rest or mood influences tourists, having repercussions on the effectiveness of spa treatments that sometimes can even cancel.

Forest degradation is another example of damage to the tourism potential. Forest is interest for tourism and its social functions - recreational and aesthetic landscape, sometimes therapeutic. These attributes make the forests generally be considered, regardless of their location in the mountains, along the trails near the resort, suburban areas and so on, as objectives to complete the value of the country's tourism potential. Logging to date in the Apuseni Mountains, among other consequences, had degraded karst landscape of plateaus Padis, which consisted tourist attraction and beauty of the forests that covered mostly razor cut. By logging can cause the onset of soil degradation processes that have affected the landscape that result in the disappearance of natural monuments and tourist etc scientific interes. When logging in spas around and generally localities, diminishes the possibilities for self-purification around them, and if spas are threatening hydro reservoirs, decreasing the potential for cutting them to extinction. By applying the laws of restitution of land including forests such deforestation will continue with great consequences in the natural environment and tourism.

Degradation of natural reserves and natural monuments harms also tourism potential that it lacks scientific intake, cognitive - educational, aesthetic objectives, unique or rare spectacle, or of natural habitats that have kept a balance biological virgin. Degradation of these monuments and nature reserves exist in appreciable numbers in our country may be largely driven by uncontrolled economic activities, their damaging incalculable damage both from the scientific and economic opportunities by reducing their tourism recovery (Danube

Delta, Retezat National Park, caves monuments of nature reserves in the Bucegi Mountains, tails, gout etc.). Negative aspects are encountered when sightseeing anthropogenic degradation of both the pollutants that attack, degrade and shortens the "life" of the strongest and most durable materials, following the disappearance of resonant historical monuments, artistic or cultural times people centuries ago, as well as other factors anthropogenic or natural. Buildings in areas contaminated with smoke, coal, cement etc. damaged, deleted or changes its appearance, taking a dark color, dark.

Regarding the second group of factors, tourism, like any other activity, human, being a consumer of space and tourist resources, participants involved in the degradation and pollution of the environment and tourism potential, either by direct pressure of tourists on the landscape, flora and fauna and other attractions that you can partially or totally damaged, either through misconception and equipment recovery of areas, points and sights. The problem becomes more acute, given that tourism is experiencing a continuous growth throughout the world, the destructive action of tourists on tourism resources showing increased intensity and variety from year to year.

Destructive actions may be numerous, especially in areas or targets that outlines a tourist concentration and in conditions that are not made special arrangements necessary facilities or practicing various tourist activities and especially for their visit. They are caused primarily by uncontrolled tourist traffic areas or sightseeing outside marked trails leading to the destruction of vegetation and flora, break trees, destruction of natural seedlings, detachment of rocks etc. Other damages are brought by triggering fires, preventing regeneration plant soil compaction, poaching and disturbance specific habitats hunting and wildlife in general, is going sometimes to species extinction.

Flora species extinction may be due to abusive collection of flora, especially plants declared natural monuments, due to insufficient popularization protected plant and ignorance of tourists to the serious implications that their actions may have on the environment unchecked. This explains why the edelweiss, Dianthus mountain, with its variety "Garofita Pietrei Craiului" and other plant species are endangered in some areas, although they are protected by law. But visiting intensive lighting candles and lack of technical equipment ventilation or pollution have led to degradation of frescoes, paintings inside of monuments and art, as in Bucovina.

Uncontrolled tourist traffic carried sightseeing natural or man without arrangements for their visit often causes irreversible destruction of some of the elements that have established as tourist attractions, sometimes, unique, bringing it thus harm tourism potential and national cultural property. Lack areas and walking trails along or near tourist attractions of sites developed for halting or installation of tents causes inevitable landscape degradation and other environmental components due to residual traces left many tourists random places they arrived. Such situations are found in all places for recreation and leisure tourism, especially around urban centers in the mountains, near the huts and tourist resorts on the shores of rivers or lakes etc.

Particularly bad in terms of air pollution is to increase tourist traffic automobile in balneoclimateric resorts and lack of parking, in which case they alter air quality, cleaning factors, influencing the specific spas and spa treatments.

As mentioned, the quality of the tourism potential can be affected by a misconception to exploit its tourism resources, resulting either through unscientific and

irrational exploitation thereof or inadequate realization of investment objectives. The first of these issues is of particular importance is the basic raw material needed to ensure tourism, being found both for exploitation of mineral spas and the operation areas, towns or places of tourist interest. A special situation have spa minerals characterized by high vulnerability to exogenous factors, any adverse action against them can cause change physical and chemical parameters, on which were declared as therapeutic resources. The degradation encountered when mineral spas, especially thermo-mineral waters and resulting most often from non-compliance with the general principles of protection and exploitation of their imposing: limiting the exploitation of deposits in relation to mineral reserves approved spa, works in accordance with the geological research projects and specialized fields to exhaustion avoid exploitation and rational exploitation, their scientific etc. failing protection perimeters. Despite measures taken to protect resources lately spa can, nevertheless, some cases of degradation of significant being those of hydro reservoirs Buzias and Covasna, where faulty operation which led to excessive degradation phenomena. For this state, if it were not for strong fields fueled degradation phenomena were irreversible. Baile Felix resort overload without correlation to mineral reserves has led to an intensification of the exploitation of water up to the exploitation of hydro reservoir, its restoration rebuilt the rough. And if therapeutic mud, the rational use and treatment, as well as their protection sometimes are not taken into account, leading to impairment of the deposit, as happened in Techirgiol, at the lakes of Sovata, Sacelu - Gorj lake etc. Failure sometimes not setting, hydrogeology and sanitary perimeter and allowing polluting conduct economic activities within these areas also lead to resource degradation spa, as happened with the guests lakes, Techirgiol, Amara etc. due to irrigation and industrial waste water.

The general plan, sightseeing degradation products is due primarily to the absence or low level of their organization to operate facilities or tourist. The absence or poor condition of access roads or movement to a target in a mountainous area, nature reserve etc. Tourists dispersed over wide areas, and the lack of specific equipment (ladders, fences, signs etc.) lead to an anarchic movement, to an accident and message tainted cultural - educational and recreational zones and objectives. Such situations are found in the majority of the tourist attractions of our country, but especially in mountain units. No Retezat National Park, which is declared a nature reserve since 1936, nor the other parks and natural reserves are far organized for visitors. This means that, under the impact of tourism, with all protective measures taken by the Romanian Academy of Natural Monuments, these resources are subject to continuous degradation of the serious consequences of territories with elements of real originality and scientific interest in state natural balance.

But *environmental degradation* and tourism potential can be determined and unregulated development of settlements (and especially those encompassing resorts), poor design of nature tourism investment objectives, establishment of sites unsuitable for tourism basis, development of construction unsightly, unsuitable ethnographic, architectural, or natural area tourism, employment - intensive construction of space travel and so on, the latter situation may even affect the ecological balance of the territory. Such situations have been created, for example, in some resorts, by creating a material and technical base

disproportionate volume and structure with the capacity of the land and hydro reserves. The result was an "overload" of territory with tourist equipment and structures, going to a resort urbanization (Felix, partially Sovata). With these problems currently is facing the majority of resorts and tourist areas.

Building networks of paths and roads loaded or means to climb the mountain areas with high density of work that it requires (deforestation, protective walls, bridges etc.) can affect the landscape, negating or diminishing its charm. It is true that often contributes a number of engineering works, in turn, to beautifying the landscape (Portile de Fier). Arrangements for visiting caves attraction sights high, made without respecting the specific technique such work leads to their partial or total degradation. Appropriate Muierii and Ialomitei cave, where arrangements made from local initiative is not up to an adequate level, it leads to their degradation and diminish their value.

LEGAL ON ECOLOGICAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AS A FORM OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Tourists who travel to different tourist areas in order to achieve relaxation and various activities in the environment need to be informed and know the legal provisions on environmental protection. Also, the location of tourist facilities should be in places away from sources of pollution and any other items that may endanger the health or life of tourists. Owners of certified travel must have expertise in the field of environmental protection and contribute to informing and educating tourists, so they do not take action contrary to the environment.

The legislation requires the sanction of activities such as:

- unauthorized harvesting of flowers and other plants in public parks, landscaping, gardening and so on;
- harvest or capture for marketing unauthorized plants and animals in wildlife;
- dislocation, deterioration or destruction marking and warning panels for environmental protection;
- changes in land arranged as spares, without the competent environmental authorities and the completion of building or any other facilities in their area;
- collection, possession and / or sale of plants declared natural monuments, capture by any means, possession and / or sale of animals declared natural monuments, and dislocation, possession and / or sale of parts mineralogical and paleontological cave from declared places natural monuments and collections, unless approved by the environment;
- failure by legal owners or managers sanitation and hygiene measures associated land tourist sites;
- conduct by any person of activities with a negative impact on the environment (air, water, soil, vegetation);
- failure by the owners or managers of tourist facilities legal provisions in force and special measures established by the Environment Protection and preservation of areas of natural habitat and biological diversity, especially for the protection of species of plants and animals that are monuments, and are threatened with extinction.

The concept of ecotourism was defined in 1991 at the international seminar on ecotourism, organized by Canada (CEAC), when it was concluded that: "Ecotourism is a travel experience that highlights the nature, contributing to the conservation of ecosystems and the while respecting the integrity of communities - host". Thus, ecotourism involves practicing his conduct both tourism activities and their related economic ones, in a pleasant environment, polluted with scenic views, refreshing and unaltered. The practice of ecotourism requires the protection zones or tourism resources, which are designed to study, admire nature, recreation and physical and mental recovery.

Another definition involves the same concepts, namely ecotourism is "tourism in areas least modified by man, and must contribute directly to the protection of nature and the good condition of the local population". (Sylvie Bblagny, 1992)

In the narrower sense, **ecotourism** is based on the observation of nature, offering tourism products distinct specific forms of cultural tourism, scientific research, as practiced in countries with remarkable biodiversity, which has natural reserves, national parks and local communities that customs and traditions have been preserved unaltered.

Ecotourism requires leadership, organization and tourism development in order not to disturb or destroy the natural balance, natural tourism resources environment and cultural - historical values or technical-economic and achieve their sustainable exploitation.

Ecological tourism / ecotourism, as most experts and tour organizers, a means (tool) saving natural habitats (with their creatures) and historical and cultural degradation and destruction threatened by intensive tourism, mass tourism or sale (gorilla National Park in Uganda UNEP, 1992, Amboseli National Park - Kenya, National Park Virgil Islands, Caribbean reefs - Comores and Reunion islands or those in Mozambique and Madagascar, Canyonlands National Park - USA). Therefore ecological tourism / ecotourism was associated with national parks and nature reserves, where found, along with the function of protecting and preserving and protecting that investment, and supporting local economic development, traditional and maintaining social and cultural traditions historical local communities.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK ECOLOGICAL TOURISM AS A FORM OF RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Through the concept of ecological tourism / ecotourism, tourist space (ecotourism) is regarded as dual aspect, ie quantitatively, by "the capacity of the land" that can be natural or artificial and qualitatively, through the work or tourist value of the territory natural or artificial (anthropogenic). Both sides are part of the overall policy approach for sustainable development of ecological tourism / ecotourism. Such tourism policy aims to ensure functioning ecological, economic, social and cultural tourist areas on the effective use of responsible and effective use of resources.

Ensuring sustainable development and management of ecological tourism is based on several principles of planning, namely:

- apply strict measures to protect flora, fauna, ecosystems and, where appropriate, archaeological sites, historical and local culture;

- rules optimal accommodation capacity may be admitted, so travel arrangements should not be excessive and extremely crowded with tourists places;
- creation of tourist eco friendly accommodation equipment using construction methods, style and local materials using low power devices and conveniently eliminating waste, the accommodation has a density of lightweight construction (deck) to treat individual wastewater using biological means compact and solid waste composting is the maximum to be loaded into the truck. This builds a reception and information center for tourists, which presents local environmental techniques, background information, useful services and so on;
- produce and disseminate a code of conduct for tourists and visitors about ecotourism and the provisions included in the code (which should take tourists);
- providing well prepared guides, informing tourists precisely to raise awareness about biodiversity and environmental resources and to build commitment to the environment;
- learning the local population to participate in tourism development in order to travel out of jobs and income , organize visits to educate tourists respect local culture and traditions, local economic activities.

Although ecotourism declaration binds the world's first national park, Yellowstone (USA), in 1872, the concept of ecotourism has emerged in the 80s, following the development of wildlife tourism in the most remote and fragile areas of the planet and as a alternative to mass tourism with tourism development and intense classic industrial type of tourist resorts or overcrowded urban centers. Eco-tourism development aimed at four main areas, namely:

- tourism and sustainable exploitation of the natural and built environment (anthropogenic) and reduce pressure on areas most heavily exploited by introducing circuit other tourism areas (economic direction);
- protecting and conserving tourism resources and ecosystems that circumscribe their reduction and disposal, recycling, reducing removal aside and forestry etc. (ecological direction);
- protection and economic and socio-cultural development of local communities in that area or near its traditional economic development and increased employment: the use of cultural and historical elements that express cultural identity and develop a spirit of tolerance (social direction);
- finding sources of funding for environmental protection, natural habitats and local communities build and economy (funding sources).

It is noted that these objectives through their contents, are circumscribed to two concepts: the best possible use of resources and the protection and sustainable socio-economic development and cultural communities.

So ecological tourism / ecotourism must:

- ✓ an optimal and sustainable exploitation of resources and the environment;
- ✓ an economic and social benefits of the resident population;
- ✓ compatibility between the local population and the tourists and stakeholders for sustainable development; a broadening spectrum of traditional economic activities and creating opportunities for the best use of tourism resources;
- ✓ an introduction to business in new targets and areas of interest.

These principles were adopted and the Berlin Declaration of the International Conference on the relationship between biodiversity and tourism (6-8 March, 1997), which highlights the consensus of sustainable tourism and environmental protection, namely:

- sustainable, responsible, especially through ecotourism allows use of biological diversity and contribute to its development;
- development of tourism activities must be carried out in a steady and sustainable efficiency and can be controlled;
- special attention to forms of tourism in fragile ecological and cultural areas, which are required to avoid mass tourism;
- all interested partners, both private and public, must be involved in supporting sustainable tourism through the development of tourism products branded and codes of conduct for all participants in this activity (tourists, staff, local);
- involve local people and local institutions in applying these principles of action ecotourism to be the main beneficiaries of ecological tourism / ecotourism.

Application of ecological tourism / ecotourism development model for sustainable tourism, responsible, especially in protected areas, but in others a fragile environment and its principles, has a dual purpose: on the one hand, the integral and sustainable natural and cultural resources, to improve the quality of life in local communities and on the other hand, satisfaction of tourists motivations and requirements consistent with the preservation of the environment and resources for future generations. In some tourist areas of Africa, Oceania etc. impact of tourist flows has great implications in the natural environment, but also social, economic and cultural life of local communities, leading to damage. In this respect, the correct explanation of the basic principles, ecotourism should lead to: sizing rigorous flow of tourists, tourist behavior modeling and setting the threshold of tolerance supported by the local population to maintain the authenticity of the communities, while avoiding exceeding the limit of endurance which means irreversible degradation. There are opinions and on the fact that rural tourism component to agro tourism, scientific and professional will require forms of ecological tourism (ecotourism). It should be noted, in this regard, the contribution of tourism to rural development if local people participate in the pursuit of it being also a means of protecting the environment, economic and cultural-historical traditions of rural local.

In the sense of a growing number of experts, scholars and practitioners of the field, it outlines some common goals of ecotourism and the economy, namely:

- any kind of industry, and once again the tourist must not degrade resources, but to be developed in such a manner as to protect the environment;
- economic activities should provide long-term benefits, resources, local communities and industry in the form of resource conservation or scientific benefits, social, cultural or economic;
- the need to provide direct experiences involving the participation and education of tourists, primarily, but also other actors in the tourism market;
- involving environmental education to all categories of "actors" local communities and non-governmental organizations, businesses and tourists, before, during and after consumption of tourism services;
- encouraging the unanimous recognition of the intrinsic value of resources;

- recognition that resources are still limited, and the need to accept a management oriented for substitutes there;
- promoting the idea of association and cooperation among many "actors" (partnership) that can be governmental and nongovernmental organizations, businesses, scientists, tourists and locals;
- the need to support and promote the moral and ethical responsibility and attitudes aimed at preserving and protecting the natural and cultural environment by all agencies of all concerns and guidelines.

Some of these objectives have been included in a list of the most appropriate sustainable tourism practices analyzed in the Conference on Global Tourism Performance, 1992. Tourism activities in protected areas has different forms, specific and complex lifting tourism planning issues as the protection and conservation of ecosystems and the development of general infrastructure, equipment and accommodation facilities for recreation and tourism. Therefore, tourism development and ecotourism in protected areas is done by certain conditions, namely:

- use and planning of protected areas (national parks and natural biosphere reserves, natural reserves, natural monuments) is done in the spirit of normative acts globally and integrated with the complexity and specificity of the natural, human and tourism and level of economic development - social protected area and surrounding region;
- choosing and implementing the best recovery and tourist development projects is done only after opportunity and feasibility studies, and environmental impact;
- providing the necessary financial support and balance the project especially given the economic and environmental costs;
- expand cooperation with the authorities and local people on protected areas and a partnership between them and the administration of protected areas;
- activities of intermediaries in tourism and guides in protected areas must be consistent with the protection of the environment and the local community;
- increase financial and practical contribution of companies providing tourist services as intermediaries in tourism, protection of protected areas;
- develop a policy for promotion and marketing specific protected areas, consistent with the compliance regime for their protection and conservation;
- create all conditions to avoid undesirable impacts of pollution and degradation of the environment, ecosystems and flora and fauna.

In these circumstances, **ecotourism planning** and recovery processes are continuous, periodic subject of an impact assessment, where all tourist activities are adapted to the specific situation of each protected area, showing major tourist meanings. Tourism planning these protected natural areas vary from one country to another, as different travel and equipment of each park, which is determined largely by its natural specific objectives, motivation visiting the possibilities of recovery, quantitatively fits existing facilities and qualitative limitations of these ecosystems, which exceeded disrupt their balance.

Tourist facilities include overall very diversified accommodations (from campsites, cottages, villas, hotels, motels, holiday villages), eating establishments (restaurants area - specific modern, fast food), leisure facilities and sport (various sports facilities, natural

slopes skiing, swimming pools, horseback riding etc.), specific to each site, depending on the type of existing tourism resources. Regardless of the degree of endowment parks, each must have minimum tourist equipment, consisting of various facilities, located throughout the park (but not restricted to protect areas), trails and paths marked places for specific facilities for visiting various natural objects or man.

Recovery of protected areas through tourism involves the following:

- judicious setting of the points of entry and exit of tourists in protected areas and reserves;
- organizing Visitor Centre and Tourist Information;
- achieving overall infrastructure (road network, road network, pedestrian, parking, water supply etc.);
- organization of tourist traffic, which involves the tourist flows, their size, tie zone groups of visitors, frequency, duration of visit etc.;
- arranging the accommodation, catering, sports and recreation in accordance with specific conditions, specific resources, principles tourist development planning, standards development indicators and technical standards, as well as arranging for sightseeing;
- restoration of degraded landscapes and landmarks;
- signaling sightseeing, endowments and utilities.

All these actions that create optimal motivation tourist consumption - research, study, recreation, education - must be made very carefully in order not to distort the environment, the landscape, especially authentic and animal life, plant and locals. **Strategy of sustainable and responsible tourism** requires, among many others:

- respect and care for the way of life of human communities;
- increasing the life of the human habitat;
- bio-conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity;
- reducing resource exploitation, particularly the finite and non-renewable;
- individual attitude change towards sustainable development of space activities;
- opportunities for communities to preserve its environment, along with the development of the local and national levels.

Ecological attitude to natural resources exploitation involves giving unlimited and irrational generalization about the importance of scientific concept of biosphere preservation of natural resources for future generations. A prerequisite without which the preservation of natural resources can not be done is to develop each person a sense of responsibility for the natural resources of the environment. This requires knowledge of and respect for the carrying capacity of the environment of the exploited, being dependent on the use of natural resources and environmental pressure on equilibrium.

Layout territorial economic objectives - social, according to human needs and ecological vocation that environment, is spatial planning, which involves accepting the following ***principles***:

- (1) - Consideration of natural resources for sustainable development, the goods of both the present generation and the future;
- (2) - Preserving the environment and its resources to be made not by giving technical progress, but the improvement of conservation and resource management;
- (3) - The activities spatial and environmental conservation must take into account the hierarchy of needs of human society;

(4) - The study of natural processes cyclical use of resources in the biosphere can give rise to technology (models) to reduce or eliminate the tendency of resource depletion;

(5) - Unilateral use exclusively natural resources and pollution are risk factors that threaten life on earth;

(6) - Natural resources management and conservation is zonal, national and global.

In the spirit of these principles requires development of ecological strategies of development (eco-development), capable of providing a healthy and rational use of resources specific to a particular ecosystem, to meet basic human needs. In this context ecology actively participate in the following:

- assessment of environmental opportunities to the objectives proposed by the company;

- establishing their impact on the environment and finding ways to mitigate it, the long-term conservation;

- development of special measures for active conservation of specific resources or portions of the environment;

- determination (along with other sciences) needs characterizing indices of quality of life and priorities for meeting them;

- design with optimum efficiency anthropogenic ecosystems in relation to economic objectives and long-term preservation of the environment.

CONCLUSIONS

Existing environmental problems at national and global level is closely correlated with economic and social development. In this context, it is necessary to unequivocally protect Earth's natural resources for all generations to come can enjoy a pristine tourist area, with all of its unparalleled comfort and human health - water, air, forests, landscape and more especially, the population of this area.

All these elements must be kept in the care and attention of human society as a whole and of each individual, meaning their permanent preservation and protection. Social developments and trends in leisure need in a pleasant and diverse paves organized tourism development. At this level tourism in all its forms must have a capable management to harmonize the natural and tourist facilities in order to meet the requirements of modern tourism.

For example, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve is a protected area where ecotourism can apply and develop in all its complexity. Here are intertwined requirements deltaic ecosystem protection and conservation of natural areas still undisturbed by man with maintaining and developing the local economy and traditional human habitat with their ancestral traditions.

In Romania, responsible tourism, based on ecological principles must be based on Romanian legislation and other regulations or directives in the field of EU countries or global organizations which support these efforts and to be fully harmonize perspective. Were adopted, so a series of laws, some organic, concerning environmental protection, urban and regional planning, as well as laws on town planning documentation, the system of protected areas and natural monuments of human settlements and cultural heritage, issuing environmental permits for urban and regional planning, environmental and social impact assessments, environmental audit etc.

Ministry of Tourism has initiated a series of regulations for the use and protection of marine beaches, mountain areas and tourist resorts, the establishment and protection of heritage tourism, organization and performance of tourism in Romania and the Ministry of Health initiated an emergency ordinance on resorts climatological and balneoclimateric (GO no. 111 / 2000) and other regulations on the use and protection of resources and therapeutic.

Romania is a party to many international and European organizations and conventions and signed a number of documents that stipulate the protection of nature, human habitats, tourism development on ecological principles, and as a signatory, the recommendations and directives of those institutions and especially the European Union.

The Law no. 5 / 2000 were found protected areas and natural monuments of national interest and national cultural heritage values . Thus, approved 17 biosphere reserves, national parks or natural reserves and 827 and 681 natural monuments of national heritage values (historical monuments of national importance).

Protected natural areas of national interest and monuments of nature have a purpose and management, and the management and use are established by regulations and their protection and conservation plans approved by the national scientific and administrative skills (Law no. 462 / 2001). These protected areas and natural monuments can enter tourist circuit, allowing visits for scientific, educational and recreational tourism.

Exceptions are strictly protected scientific reserves, conservation areas and Special Protection Areas, the last two categories falling under Directive 92/43 / EEC / 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna and will be part of the European network NATURA 2000 after recognition of their status by the European Commission (GEO no. 236/2000).

In Romania there are few protected areas introduced in the tourist circuit (ecotourism). It is the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, Retezat National Park, Rodna National Park, but only the first two have their own governments and economic recovery programs, including tourist. In the future, will become tourist destinations (ecotourism) Ceahlau National Park and the National Park Piatra Craiului.

Ecotourism activity besides anchoring in the durability is in step with economic integration and development generates structures necessary to support the transition. This is because the actual content of ecotourism includes: the modernization of infrastructure, development of rural - urban sustainable use of non-conventional forms of energy and clean technologies, leading to protecting and improving the environment.

Ecological tourism / ecotourism in the narrower sense of the term, is therefore as "raw" or consumer destination tourism protected areas, nature reserves, national parks and biosphere. The idea of national and natural parks and biosphere reserves appeared first in developed countries in terms of industrial, social and educational as motivation.

With time, landscaped areas have expanded internationally, currently registered with the UN over 2,600 national parks, natural biosphere reserves, covering an area of 4 million square kilometers located in 124 countries.

Starting from the concept that "sustainable development of viable and sustainable ecological development that is considered to meet the needs of the present without

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" tourism as an economic activity is join this scientific endeavor and should cooperate with other industries and economic activities to ensure environmental quality, resource base and its survival.

Moreover, co-participation becomes necessary to this end, the central and local authorities, local communities, along with tourism providers and related services, human environment and, last but not least, tourists enjoying the tourist offer and environmental quality of the favorite tourist destinations .

The concept of sustainable development was based bowing to recognize the limits of growth. The theory of economic growth was essentially limited time to pure economics, neglecting some essential aspects of development such as human relations - nature, society - environment, human - society - politics - technology etc.

The need for addressing problems of economic development in the context of their environment correlation and natural, technological, social, political and cultural in recent decades has become a goal of studies on human evolution on earth.

It was found that different patterns of growth can have negative consequences in terms of long-term human needs. In time, more and more scholars have drawn attention to the danger of exponential growth, the application of techniques and technologies without worrying about maintaining a balance with the environment and thus the preservation of life on Earth.

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