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## Subject: IMPACT Interreg Europe Newsletter #5



# e-newsletter

Innovative Models for Protected Areas: exChange and Transfer

[Read this newsletter in IMPACT website](#)

*Exploring new models to balance exploitation and conservation of protected areas*

## Welcome!

This bi-annual newsletter is dedicated to sharing news, events and updates from IMPACT project. Enjoy reading!

### Issue #5 - October 2018

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### Partners overview



**INCDT - National Institute of Research Development in Tourism, Romania**

Created in April 1971, the **National Institute of Research Development in Tourism – INCDT**, Romania, is the only scientific research unit of national interest in the tourism field,

with official juridical status, boasting a rich experience covering all **45 years of continuous existence**.

INCDT has as its main object of activity conducting fundamental and applied research studies of public and national interest, which concern the development and promotion of Romanian tourism. INCDT's mission is to be an institute of excellence in research-development in tourism, a benchmarking institution at national and European levels and also an important partner, both for central and local administration with responsibility in the tourism field and for the private sector in this field.

INCDT's main goal within IMPACT project is to improve the implementation of regional development policies in the field of the protection and development of natural and cultural heritage and to raise awareness about natural assets of protected areas and their development potential.

The 5 Romanian Protected Areas involved in IMPACT project are:



### **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve**

*Size:* 580.000 ha - 2,5 % of Romania's surface.

*IUCN Category:* II

*Protection Category:* Biosphere Reserve and RAMSAR site.

#### ***A worldwide renowned wetland.***

Located in Romania, the Danube river has during the last 16,000 years built at its mouth with the Black Sea one of the most beautiful deltas in Europe. It is one of the biggest wetlands in the world, with compact reed beds, habitat of the waterfowl. There are large colonies of pelicans and cormorants and a great number of fish species of high ecological and economic value. The exploitation of the fishing resource from the natural aquatic pools is based on traditional methods. Fishing is one of the oldest occupations of the Danube Delta population and still represents an important economic activity engaging more than half of the active Delta population.

**Related Good Practice:** [Evaluating the carrying capacity for visitor management.](#)

[Discover the park](#)



### **Rodna Mountain National Park**

*Size:* 47.177 ha

*IUCN Category:* II

*Protection Category:* National Park

#### ***One National Park, seven Natural Reserves.***

Rodna Mountains National Park is the second largest national park in Romania, with an area of 47.177 ha. It is located in north of Romania, in the Eastern Carpathians - the highest peak Pietrosul Rodnei, 2303 m. More than 1.100 species of flowering plants are to be found in these mountains, with numerous of them being endemic. The Park is also home for seven Natural Reserves: *Poiana cu narcise de pe Masivul Saca, Ineu-Lala, Izvoarele Mihăiesei, Izvorul Bătrâna, Pietrosu Mare, Piatra Rea* and *Bila-Lala*.

**Related Good Practice:** [Participatory monitoring of biodiversity.](#)

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**Iron Gates Natural Park**



*Size:* 115.655 ha  
*IUCN Category:* V  
*Protection Category:* Natural Park

### **Romania's largest Natural Park**

The Iron Gates Natural Park is a protected area in which the remarkable beauty of landscapes and biological diversity can be exploited in the conditions of unaltered conservation of traditions, and the quality of community life being the result of some activities economic development of the inhabitants, in harmony with nature. Two areas of special avifauna protection were declared on the territory of the Iron Gates Natural Park as an integral part of the European ecological network NATURA 2000 in Romania. Furthermore, this park shares borders with Djerdap National Park in Serbia, conforming a Transboundary Park.

**Related Good practice:** [Landscape monitoring in two transboundary parks from Romania and Serbia: Iron Gates Nature Park and Djerdap National Park.](#)

[Discover the park](#)



### **Vânători – Neamț Natural Park**

*Size:* 30.841 ha  
*IUCN Category:* V  
*Protection Category:* Natural Park

#### ***The land of the European bison***

The Natural Park Vanatori Neamt is a protected area designated in the year 1998 with the objective to protect the population of European bison. The park is located in the north-east of Romania, in the east side of the Mountains Stanisoarei and the Neamt Sub-Carpathians, in the north part of the Neamt County. The fauna of the park includes some rare species like the brown bear, wolf, bison, fox, the Carpathian stag and many more. The bison are the symbol of this part of Romania called Moldavia. The tourists can see some bison in the Dragos Voda reservation.

**Related Good practice:** [Education and awareness campaigns “Ana has apples ...for bison!” and “The Bison’s Night”](#)

[Discover the park](#)



### **Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark**

*Size:* 102.392 ha  
*IUCN Category:* (NA)  
*Protection Category:* UNESCO Global Geopark

#### ***Ancient Dwarf Dinosaurs***

Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark covers 12 communities from the Hațeg Country cultural area, a depression in the Carpathian Mountains. This territory contains extraordinary geological heritage and also natural and cultural heritage, being one of the most interesting areas in Transylvania. The core of the geopark is the ancient Cretaceous fauna, or the Dwarf Dinosaurs found only in this region.

**Related Good Practices:** [Volunteers for the Geopark and Geopark Ambassadors programs](#) and [Andi Andezit-Education and networking through mascot characters.](#)

[Discover the park](#)

## IMPACT work in progress



### IMPACT project Action Plans implementation has started

The project successfully reached the end of phase 1 with the approval of 5 action plans that will be implemented along the phase 2 (April 2018 – 31 March 2020).

[Check the Action Plans!](#)

## IMPACT events



### IMPACT Interregional meeting in Romania

The National Institute of Research and Development in Tourism - INCDT, together with Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark organised, the 5th IMPACT Interregional meeting.

As the Hațeg Country Dinosaurs Geopark, an UNESCO International Geopark, is one of the protected natural areas selected as good practice under the IMPACT project, INCDT chose this area as the venue for this event.

The three-days program included a conference focusing on "Communication and Awareness Raising of Protected Area's Role in Preserving Natural Heritage Assets" that took place the first day. You can access the proceedings of the conference here. In the afternoon, it followed a meeting of the Steering committee of the project.

[Read the whole report of the meeting and check the photo-gallery!](#)

## Related news



### Workshop on Protected Areas & Sustainable Development

Within the framework of the ESPARC Conference, which took place in Covadonga & Cangas de Onís villages (Asturias) located inside Picos de Europa National Park, EUROPARC participated in the Workshop on Sustainable Development of Protected Areas. In it, the following case studies were presented:

- **STARLIGHT certification - Acoustic and light protection**, a new tool for Sustainable Development of Protected Areas and their areas of influence. It consists in promoting astronomical tourism to unseasonalise the tourism offer in protected areas and increase the number of overnight stays.
- **The Alto Bernesga Biosphere Reserve in León**, where the protected area has empowered the role of women to fix population through their incorporation into the world of work.
- **The Cantabrian Rural Development Network NATUREA**, a consolidated program in relation to the public use of the Cantabrian network of protected

areas, managed by a private entity through an agreement with the public administration.

- **The experience of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism promoted by the Garajonay National Park for the island of La Gomera.** A participatory process to promote inter-institutional coordination and attract economic resources linked to sustainable development

[Read the whole new](#)



## CEETO Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism

The CEETO Conference on Protected Areas and Sustainable Tourism will take place next **22nd to 24th of October in Opatija, Croatia**. Its objective is to promote an innovative sustainable tourism planning model which reduces usage conflicts, sustains social and territorial cohesion, improves the quality of life of local communities, and encourages the tourism industry to concretely contribute to nature conservation.

For more information on the [Conference page](#) or contact the organizers at [ceeto@wwfadria.org](mailto:ceeto@wwfadria.org) or through the phone number **00385989099219**.

## Latest videos



### The House of Volcanoes

The House of Volcanoes brings us an example of one of the most successful projects carried out since the creation of Hațeg UNESCO Global Geopark. In this short video interview, Cristian Ciobanu, Geopark Finances & Heritage Administrator from the University of Bucharest, explains the importance that a project of this kind has for the local community.

[View the video in IMPACT YouTube channel](#)



### The Amber Catcher

Learn how some of the local inhabitants of Protected Areas strive to find their niche and develop alternatives to more traditional economic activities inside protected spaces. The Amber Catcher will bring you through a short journey to the Baltic Sea and introduce you to the amber extraction, a well rooted industry in this area of Europe.

[View the video in IMPACT YouTube channel](#)

## About IMPACT Interreg Europe project

Innovative Models for Protected Areas: exChange and Transfer, or simply IMPACT, is an interregional cooperation project developed with the support of the EU European Regional Development Fund. Its objective is to introduce new management models in protected areas to promote socioeconomic activities that are respectful with nature.

During a four years process, the following six partners will be sharing best practices, designing Sustainable Development Plans for their respective protected areas and implementing them:

- Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain), as the Lead Partner.
- EUROPARC Federation (Germany), as the Advisory partner.
- EUCC Baltic office (Lithuania).
- Molise region (Italy).
- National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (Romania).
- Espaces Naturels Régionaux (France).

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