

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION THE HUNTING TOURISTS IN THE SPIRIT OF A SUSTAINABLE BEHAVIOR IN HUNTING FUNDS**

**TARPIAN DENISA<sup>1</sup>, TĂUT I.F.<sup>1</sup>, VĂDUVA LOREDANA\*<sup>1</sup>, PETROMAN IOAN<sup>1</sup>**  
*<sup>1</sup>Banat's University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine"King Michael I of Romania" from Timisoara, Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism*

\*Corresponding author's e-mail: loredana\_heber@yahoo.com

***Abstract.** Educating visitors from hunting grounds in the spirit of sustainable behavior is the vital task and primary duty of fund managers, hunting tourism operators and organizers of hunting activities. All those who practice hunting, residents or non-residents, hunting tourists and other types of ecotourism visitors, regardless of the area in which they are located, natural park, or hunting ground, must be educated in the spirit of sustainable behavior. Education in the sense of adapting the expectations of hunting tourists to the specifics of the area/hunting found where the hunting activity takes place, must take into account the expectations of visitors, they must be compatible with the natural environment and the creditworthiness of hunting funds. The objectives of the research undertaken aimed at the spectrum of opportunities for recreation, relaxation, hobbies, as educational tools in the spirit of sustainable tourism, to contribute to the preservation of the biodiversity of the natural environment and the sustainable development of the entire area of the funds area, because tourism of any kind should not revolve around an awkward discussion about hunting. In this spirit we need to educate tourists who practice hunting, to be enlightened, to be exposed to new ideas and to better understand the problems that exist in different parts of the world, areas and hunting funds.*

**Key words:** sustainability, hunting, hunting funds, hunting tourism, education

**INTRODUCTION**

The literature addresses, in the vast majority of cases, the problem of degradation of the natural environment by practicing unsustainable hunting tourism. There is, among specialists, also the opinion according to which the hunting tourism, helps to maintain the wild populations and maintains the endurance capacity of the environment. In order to solve these opinions, we try to answer five questions and highlight the role of hunting tourism in the conservation of fauna and the maintenance of habitats [6,12,14,17,]:

1. Are species hunted or trapped the same as those that cause damage?
2. Hunting and trapping are economically efficient methods of removing animals from a population?
3. Hunting and trapping reduce the damage caused by wildlife by maintenance wild populations under the capacity of environmental tolerability, by removal predators, or by both methods?
4. Hunting and trapping reduce the damage caused by wildlife by changing animal behavior?
5. Do hunting and traps increase the tolerance of landowners for damage caused by wild animals?

According to other specialists [7, 8,12,18] we believe that this approach can be motivated by:

- the desire to maximize the environmental benefits for other species;
- to produce a maximum sustained yield of animals for harvesting;
- to reduce damage to wildlife to acceptable levels;
- to reduce the frequency of mortality among certain animal species;
- to reduce the spread of diseases or parasites.

In most cases, however, we believe that hunting and not trapping is a cost-effective and efficient method available to reduce wild populations, which cause damage to large areas of crops. Trap hunting or trapping reduces restocking, reductions in numbers, reduces

damage to wildlife through various mechanisms, including the elimination of individuals from a population earlier than would normally occur through natural mortality, the reduction of a wild population below the ability to withstand the environment or change the behavior of animals so that they are less likely to cause damage. Hunting can increase landowners' tolerance of wildlife and wildlife damage. If hunting were no longer practiced and no traps were set for the purpose of populating other areas where the species became extinct, animals would become more accustomed to humans, wildlife damage would increase, and landowners' tolerance would increase, compared to wildlife, some wildlife populations would increase and the value of some funds would decrease.

We believe that without controlled hunting, wildlife habitat would be lost because landowners would lose incentives to maintain game and face higher levels of wildlife damage. The pertinent question is whether hunting tourism means exploitation or conservation, we believe that there are undoubtedly benefits: economic and environmental, through the protection of habitats, which go hand in hand with the threat of unsustainable quotas, poaching, corruption and misconduct.

Community-based natural resource management systems have sought to use the high revenues generated by hunting tourism to combine conservation and sustainable rural development. In theory, this is by far a much more effective conservation tool than fences and fines. In practice, the "win-win" approach of these management systems proves to be problematic; the critics of sustainable development argue that this concept is contradictory, as economic growth and rural expansion will ultimately hinder conservation goals, from due to the demands of a growing population that affects the environment. This seems to be the case for the hunting tourism industry, because only in rare contexts, specific to the site, the hunting fund can be managed natural resources in a way that promotes social development, while supporting values, because in many areas, social development and biodiversity conservation are two opposing forces, for one of them to prevail, the other must suffer.

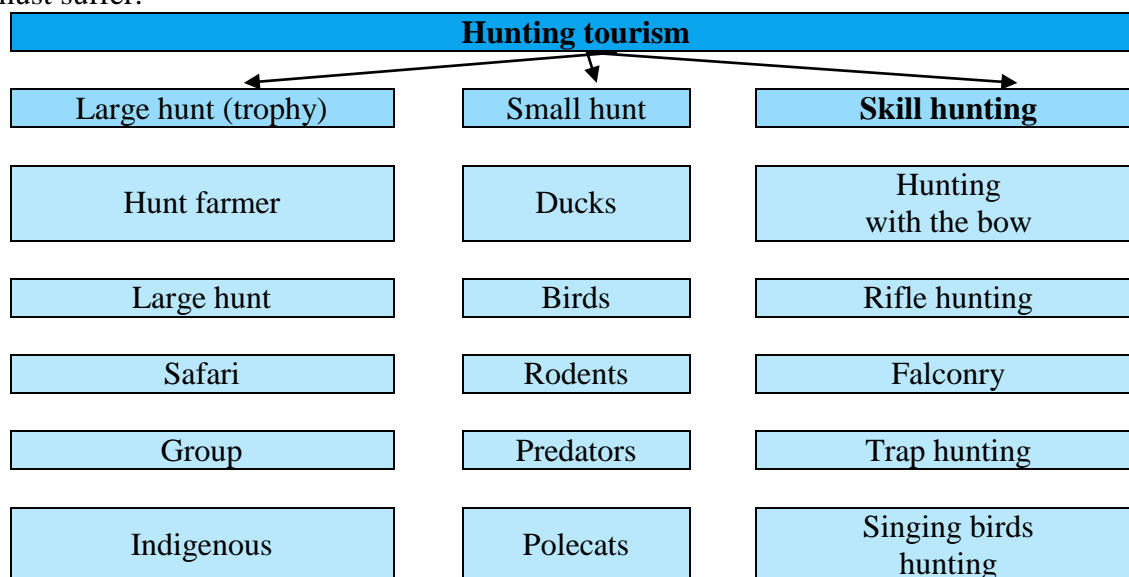


Figure 1 Sub-categories of hunting tourism [2]

For some researchers [1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 14], hunting tourism is a form of "wildlife consumer" tourism. The sub-categories of hunting tourism are presented in Figure 1 in which the arrows indicate the overlap of the sub-categories.

From all these types and sub-types of hunting tourism, trophy hunting is defined as "collecting hunting trophies" or "killing animals for recreation in order to collect trophies, such as horns, deer antlers, skulls, skins, fangs, or teeth for display"[13,14,16] increases

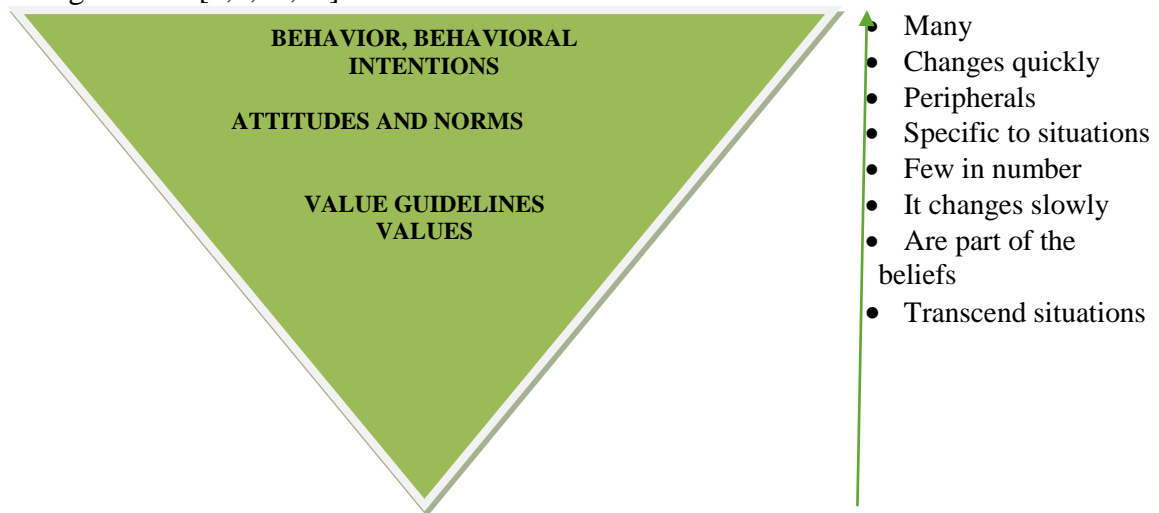
tolerance towards wild animals, reducing the effects of human conflict and reducing illegal hunting, which generates incentives for landowners to preserve or regenerate wild animals and which generates revenue for the management and conservation of wildlife and for anti-poaching activities [15,18]. This type of hunting is most often investigated in the literature.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

Although there are many methods of educating hunters and ecotourists in the spirit of sustainable tourism, which contribute to preserving the floristic and faunal biodiversity of hunting funds, in this study, we propose to implement two new methods of education, persuasion and interpretation, because visitors, resident and non-resident hunters or game tourists, must understand those aspects that determine conservation, what is the role of incentives and game markets and what is meant by sustainable species management. Everyone who conducts hunting fund activities wants to be able to take new and interesting stories with them, but they need to understand the sustainable development of hunting tourism properly - what are its incentives, what is the orientation of the hunting market, what are its links with the economy as well as its role in tackling rural poverty. We believe that it is the task of the tourism industry to help visitors of any kind who carry out hunting activities, to understand why one country or another has been successful in preserving the natural environment.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

People and hunting tourists, believe that they do what is best for protection and conservation, but they simply do not understand which are the economic factors, for the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity, in areas rich in biodiversity, but poor in rainfall for example. Hunting, hunting tourism and classic tourism must go hand in hand, so that well-managed and ethical hunting can become a "conservation hunt", an integral part of hunting tourism [3,4,10,17].



**Figure 2. The process of transition from values to behaviors**

The behavior of hunting tourists can be an indicator of the perception of the development of hunting tourism in the sense that negative attitudes and activities outside the current norms are indicators of areas at risk of conflict. Figure 2 highlights the path from values to behaviors:

For the education in the spirit of sustainable tourism, of those who carry out their activity on hunting funds, they propose two methods that will contribute to the preservation of biodiversity:

1. persuasion. It is a method of indirect educational approach that influences rather than regulates or imposes a certain desired behavior on the background of hunting, it being a form of intervention:

a. contrasting software;

b. with the hard, physical barriers, valleys, mountains that are strictly monitored by the hunting leader through:

- harsh direct interventions, necessary to reduce the problems created by a relatively small number of hunting tourists with intentional illegal behavior, non-compliance with silence in stands, shooting/injuring species for which hunting is not authorized;

- effective persuasive messages in:

- reduction of negligent actions such as entering other funds, disturbing/shooting protected species;

- reducing the incidence of uninspired activities, entering the field with one's own vehicle, not keeping dogs on a leash;

- unintentional and unavoidable activities, trampling of vegetation, entering beech trees in bad weather.

In table 1 we have summarized the problem situations that may appear on the funds and the measures that are required in the case of the strategy of informing and educating hunters, hunting tourists and ecotourists. In this sense, we recommend the editing of codes of conduct for each hunting fund, containing simple indications that contribute to the protection of the environment and the preservation of faunal and floristic biodiversity.

**Table 1**

**The use of information and education in solving management problems in sustainable tourism on hunting funds**

Specification	Actions to be taken	Efficiency of information and education		
Poaching actions	Collection of chickens, animals or birds	Low educational level	↓	Efficiency of education
Inevitable actions	Use of funds for recreational activities during the breeding season of bird and animal species	Low educational level		
Negligent actions	Throwing away garbage after eating Noise production Disposing of used cartridges in the field	Moderate educational level		
Actions caused by lack of training as a hunting tourist	Shooting from close range	High educational level		
Actions caused by lack of information	Hunting when the snow cover is very high	High educational level		

Source: own research

For these reasons, we believe that the following factors must be taken into account in the design and dissemination of persuasive information of a sustainable nature for tourists traveling to hunting areas:

- the channel, which refers to the way the message is transmitted;

- the source of information refers to:

- the power of the one who transmits the persuasive message;

- the power to offer rewards and to give punishments, to take the small bed from the weapon, from the magazine from the rifle;

- the power given by the recognition of experience in organizing hunting actions;

- the power given by hunting associations;
  - the message can be formal or informal, emotional or rational, based on one or more arguments or rhetoric. For hunting practice, we recommend that the messages sent by the organizer of the hunting activity be structured as follows:
    - to start the hunting action with a clear position, the protection and security of hunters and gonads, the signing of the authorization, the game species to be hunted;
    - to present general arguments in favor of the assumed position, without having influences on the environment and not affecting the experience lived by the hunting tourists;
    - to illustrate the position assumed with facts, rare game species, trophies obtained;
  - the receiver regards the characteristics of those to whom it is addressed as a target audience:
    - culture, language, multiculturalism;
    - the income of those to whom it is addressed;
    - the level of education reached;
  - the situation on the spot of the hunting activity, the season, the meteorological conditions, the state of the terrain, the speed and the direction of the wind.
2. interpretation. It is a distinct form of education, which goes beyond the transmission of useful information to hunters in revealing the meanings and relationships with the real world and through illustrative means of communication:
- pleasant and fun, given the fact that hunting tourists, ecotourists are non-captive recipients who can pass the message or change it as they please;
  - made relevant with the help of analogies and metaphors, so that the goat does not hurt you;
  - of the references to the values, beliefs, problems and impacts with direct effect, on the hunting tourists, the observation of some vulnerable species;
  - well organized, around up to five ideas about the fed species (deer);
  - thematic, meaning to address issues strictly related to sustainable tourism, biodiversity conservation;
  - sustainability of lifestyle as ecologist, hunting tourist, trophy hunter;
  - in the rehabilitation of the environment and maintaining at the levels of endurance the number of individuals in the area, through the role of hunting tourists.

Interpretation can be dynamic when it is offered by fund managers, game managers, game guides, or static when it is known through advertising and the media. The organizers of hunting activities are people who offer an effective interpretation, but their ability to carry out a proper activity is hampered by the multiple roles they have to perform:

- ❖ group management and logistical coordination of the activity;
- ❖ to ensure safety in stands and to avoid hunting accidents;
- ❖ to prevent inappropriate behaviors, the use of weapons and the type of ammunition;
- ❖ to solve emergencies;
- ❖ to mediate the interactions between non-resident hunting tourists and those resident on whose land are the hunting funds;
- ❖ to meet the expectations of hunting tourists, managers, residents who must be sustainable in terms of environment and biodiversity of species.

Analyzing these activities from the point of view of persuasive interpretation for the researched hunting funds, the presence of the organizers of hunting activities presents:

Analyzing these activities from the point of view of persuasive interpretation for the researched hunting funds, the presence of the organizers of hunting activities presents:

- advantages because the organizers of experienced hunting activities can adjust their message according to:
  - o the psychological characteristics of consumers of such activities;
  - o relevant situational factors at a given time;
  - o can answer questions by engaging in dialogue, using enthusiasm, establishing lasting connections;
- disadvantages:
  - the efficiency of the interpretation tends to be reduced if the number of hunters or hunting tourists is high and they do not know each other;
  - there is a risk of not encountering in the background the game species for which they came or does not have the trophy for which it was paid.

Static interpretation includes signaling systems related to the hunting ground, video films with the species on the background, the quality of the trophies harvested, by the existing rare species but can have a number of advantages and disadvantages:

- The advantages are the following:
  - the high efficiency of the cost of presenting the areas that can be mystified to attract a large number of hunting tourists;
  - reduced ability to check the content of the message to be transmitted;
- The disadvantages are:
  - cannot respond to the curiosities of hunting tourists and ecotourists;
  - cannot establish links with fund managers;
  - messages are not personalized;
  - cannot be adapted to situational and climatic factors;
  - can be ignored

Although there are many interpretation techniques presented in the literature, we consider that for the researched funds the most effective interpretation techniques are (Table 2).

**Table 2**

**The most effective interpretation techniques for hunting funds**

Interpretation technique	Comments
Personal services offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ direct information about species, funds;</li> <li>➤ data about administrators, hunting organizers;</li> <li>➤ special programs, placement in the stand, mode of travel;</li> <li>➤ additional expenses.</li> </ul>
Impersonal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ information with the help of modern technologies;</li> <li>➤ movies, websites, shows;</li> <li>➤ make the information accessible at a low cost.</li> </ul>
Activities to support hunting, hunting and ecotourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ natural routes;</li> <li>➤ information panels, indicators for environmentalists;</li> <li>➤ requires special equipment;</li> <li>➤ programs that require trained staff, courses;</li> <li>➤ the services are coordinated within a managerial program;</li> <li>➤ basically the best quality management practices are implemented;</li> <li>➤ measures are implemented for the best marketing management.</li> </ul>

Source: own research

## CONCLUSIONS

Educating all those who carry out hunting activities in the spirit of sustainable behavior is the vital task and primary duty of fund managers, hunting operators and organizers of hunting activities, because all those who practice resident or non-resident hunting, hunting tourists and other types of ecotourism visitors must be educated in the spirit of sustainable behavior. The behavior of hunting tourists can be an indicator of the perception of the development of hunting tourism in the sense that negative attitudes and activities outside the current norms are indicators of areas at risk of conflict. For the education in the spirit of sustainable tourism, of those who work on hunting funds, two new methods have been proposed to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, the persuasion method of indirect educational approach that influences rather than regulates or imposes a certain desired behavior on hunting fund and interpretation as a distinct method of education, which goes beyond the transmission of useful information to hunters in revealing the meanings and relationships with the real world and through illustrative media.

## REFERENCES

- [1]. **BALDUS D.R., DAMM R.G., WOLLSCHIED K.**, 2008, Best Practices in Sustainable Hunting-A Guide to Best Practices from Around the World
- [2]. **BAUER J., GILLES J.**, 2002, Recreational Hunting: An International Perspective, Sydney: CRC for Sustainable Tourism
- [3]. **BOOTH V.R.**, 2009, A Comparison of the Prices of Hunting Tourism in Southern and Eastern Africa. Rome-Budapest: F.A.O.-C.I.C.
- [4]. **BROWN C.**, 2017, The Important Link Between Hunting & Tourism in Namibia Both Working for Conservation. Windhoek: Namibian Chamber of Environment
- [5]. **BUCKLEY R., MOSSAZ A.**, 2015, Hunting Tourism and Animal Conservation, Animal Conservation, 18, pp.133-135
- [6]. **CELAC S., VADINEANU A.**, 2018, Strategia națională pentru dezvoltarea durabilă a României 2030, București: Editura Paideia
- [7]. **CONOVER M.R.**, 2001, Effect of Hunting and Trapping on Wildlife Damage. Wildlife Society Bulletin, 29(2), pp.521-532
- [8]. **DEERE N.J.**, 2011, Exploitation or Conservation? Can the Hunting Tourism Industry in Africa Be Sustainable? Environment Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, 53(4), pp.20-32
- [9]. **FRANK L.G., ALEXANDER R., MATHIESON A., ROMAFIACH S.**, 2007, Trophy Hunting and Conservation in Africa: Problems and One Potential Solution. Conservation Biology 21(3)
- [10]. **KAGERVALL A.**, 2014, On the Conditions for Developing Hunting and Fishing Tourism in Sweden. Doctoral Thesis. Umeå: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- [11]. **LEE R.**, 2008, Hunting as a Tool Wildlife Conservation- the Case of Sheep Hunting in Mexico
- [12]. **MARTÍN-DELGADO LUZ-MARÍA, RENGIFO-GALLEGO J.I., SÁNCHEZ-MARTÍN J.M.**, 2020, Hunting Tourism as a Possible Development Tool in Protected Areas of Extremadura, Spain, Land, 9(86), pp.1-20
- [13]. **PETROMAN CORNELIA, MATIUȚI A., BĂLAN IOANA, PALADE S., LALA V.**, 2009, Territory arrangement methods for the practicing of hunting tourism, Lucrări Științifice Management Agricol Seria I, vol.11(1)
- [14]. **PETROMAN I., MARIN DIANA, PETROMAN CORNELIA**, 2015, Bazele turismului, Editura Eurostampa, Timișoara
- [15]. **RIE D., CREMONA PATRICIA**, 2016, Informing Decisions on Trophy Hunting. Gland: I.U.C.N

- [16]. **SHEIKH P.A., BERMEJO L.F.**, 2019, International Trophy Hunting. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service
- [17]. **TĂUT I.F., PETROMAN CORNELIA, MILIN ANDA, ADAMOV TABITA, MARIN DIANA, PETROMAN I.**, 2019, The Implications of the Hunting Tourism's Development on Rural Area's Sustainable Development, International Conferente on Live Science, Filodiritto Editore-Proceedings, pp.1080-1086
- [18]. **TĂUT I.F., PETROMAN CORNELIA, BRAD I., MILIN ANDA, MERCE IULIANA, VĂDUVA LOREDANA, PETROMAN I.**, 2018, Implementation of managerial measures that contribute to the growth of the livestock of hunting interest on the hunting funds, *Lucrări Științifice Management Agricol*, Seria I, Vol.20(1)