

DENDROLOGICAL PARKS -POINTS OF TOURIST ATTRACTION

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Abstract: *In this study we wanted to present the importance of Dendrological Parks in Timiș County, which can become points of attraction during this period, due to the species of exotic trees but also the history of the place. People visiting these parks must protect existing species and the environment.*

Key words: *tourists, environment, biodiversity, protected area*

INTRODUCTION

From the specialty literature I have noticed that in the county Timiș more dendrological parks which are considered true monuments of nature. In Dendrological Bazoș Park there are many species of trees brought from other continents. In Buziaș, the population can see many squirrels in the trees. The squirrels are an attraction for families with children [4],[8],[12].

The Dendrological Park from Bazoș belonged to Ludovic Ambrozy, who in 1909 planted several species of exotic trees and began to build a castle inside the park, and in 1934 he sold the property [10],[12].

In 1954, Bazoș Dendrological Park became a scientific reservation, in 1982 it was declared a natural monument, and in 1994 it was declared a protected area for biodiversity protection, [15],[7].

In the Buziaș Dendrological Park there are several species of trees, the most common is the plane tree, and squirrels have become the park's mascot, but in recent years their number has been declining.

Analyzing some bibliographic sources [5], [6],[13],[14] we noticed that in Romania there are many categories of protected areas that differ in the conservation and use regime, for example:

- 13 national parks;
- 16 natural parks;
- several hundred scientific reservations and natural monuments;
- biosphere reserves;
- natural sites of universal heritage;
- special conservation areas;
- special avifauna protection areas;
- sites of Community importance;
- geopark.

In the literature there are numerous studies about protected areas and their importance [1], [2] [3] [9], [11].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bazoș Dendrological Park is located in Bazoșu Nou village, Bucovăț commune from Timiș county, at a distance of 20 km southeast from Timișoara, and the other analyzed park is located in Buziaș and is at a distance of 30 km from Timișoara [4]. The research method used was the questionnaire.

RESEARCH RESULTS

In this study we analyzed the interest of people to visit these parks that contain many valuable species and are close to the city of Timisoara.

From the analysis of the answers given by the respondents we noticed that 64% visited one or both Dendrological parks, and 36% did not visit any of the analyzed parks.

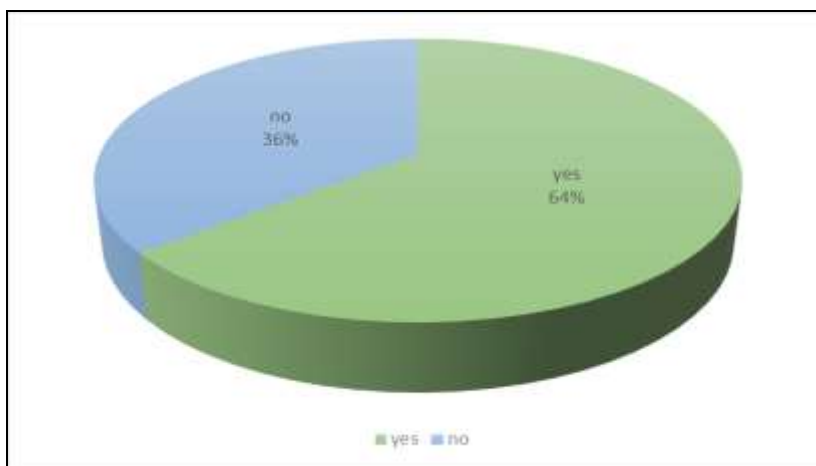


Figure 1. Frequency of responses based on interest in visiting these parks

Regarding the reasons that determined them to visit these parks, the respondents answered in proportion of 68% that they chose the place to relax, 26% wanted to admire the flora and fauna of these parks, being attracted by the tree species, existing in the Bazoș Dendrological Park and in Buziaș they were happy to see the squirrels in the park, and 6% of the respondents chose for the history of these places.

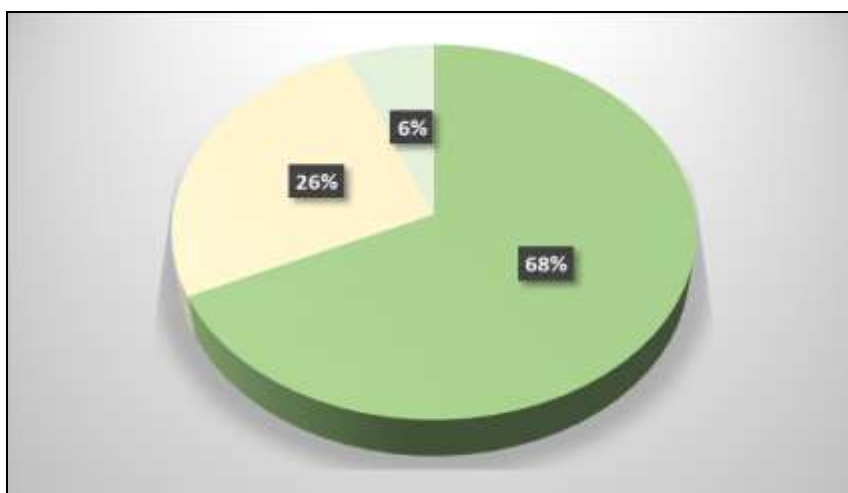


Figure 2. Distribution of answers according to the reasons for visiting the parks



Figure 3. The legend of the park and the water tower in the Bazoș Dendrological Park

In our study, we wanted to find out to what extent respondents are aware that these parks have extremely valuable species, unique in the world, that need to be protected. From the analysis of the answers we noticed that 52% answered "yes", they knew of the existence of these valuable species, 20% said "no", and 28% answered "I don't know".

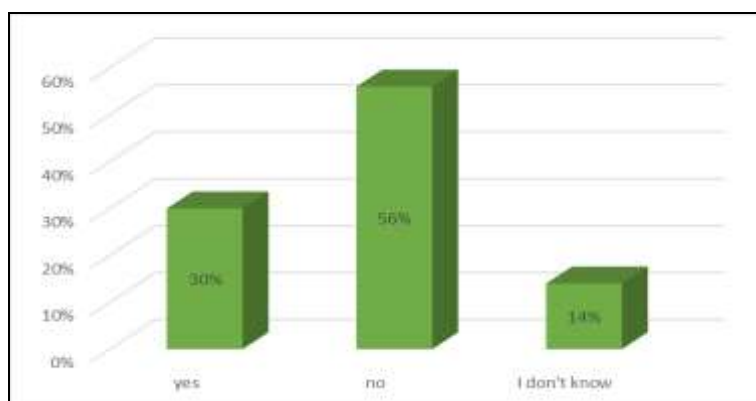


Figure 4. Frequency of responses by value of existing species

Analyzing the answers given regarding the sources of information, we noticed that 76% chose to visit the parks thanks to friends, and 24% chose the internet. We believe that the parks analyzed need to be more promoted.

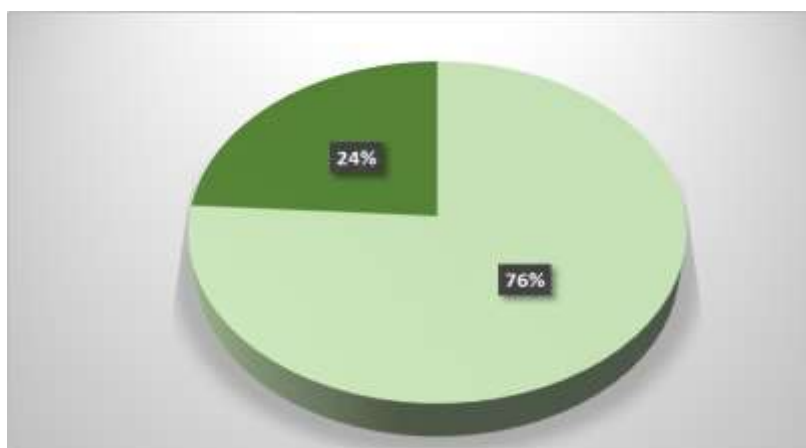


Figure 5. Distribution of answers by sources of information

Question: Do you think that the potential of the park is valued enough? To this question 56% of the respondents answered "no", 14% answered "I don't know", and only

30% of the respondents answered "yes". Analyzing the answers, we notice that most respondents believe that the analyzed dendrological parks should be better highlighted.

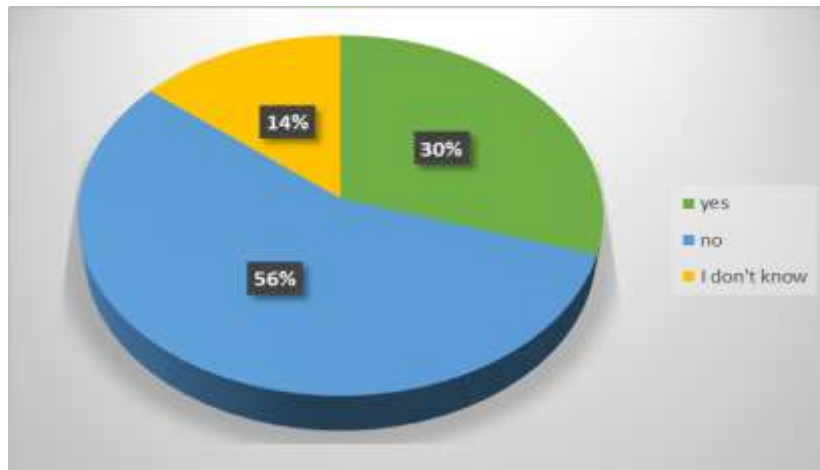


Figure 6. Frequency of responses after the value of the parks

Question: Considering that visitors have a negative impact on valuable species in the analyzed parks, we noticed that 72 said "yes", 12% answered "no" and 16% said "I don't know".

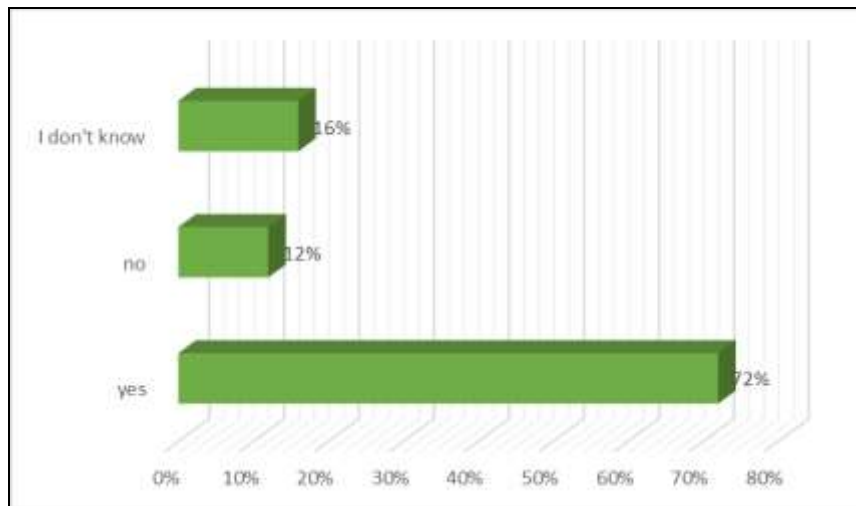


Figure 7. Distribution of responses on visitor behavior

Many species of trees and squirrels have disappeared due to the negative behavior of the people.

CONCLUSIONS

Most respondents chose to visit these parks due to the beauty of the landscape (flora, fauna, relaxation) and fewer chose to visit due to the history of the place.

Respondents felt that these parks are not enough in value and need to be promoted more among young people.

Authorities need to be more involved in the rehabilitation and maintenance of these parks, which have very valuable species and can attract more visitors in the future.

Respondents know that the negative behavior of visitors leads to the extinction of valuable species in these ecosystems.

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