

STUDY OF THE DALERD CO.'S ACTIVITIES WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON HUNTING AND TOURISM FUNCTIONS

KALLAI KRISZTINA*¹, BODNAR KAROLY*¹

¹*University of Szeged, Faculty of Agriculture, Hodmezovasarhely, Hungary*

*Corresponding author's e-mail: kallai.krisztina5@gmail.com, bodnarkaroly.dr@gmail.com

*Abstract: The aim of this case study is to represent the set-up of the DALERD Co., which is one of the most considerable state forestry in Hungary. Its expansion, timber production, accommodation facilities, fair games, game parks and prices of services were analysed. The timber production of the company is significant in the South Great Plain Region. Their wildlife management is at a high level (e.g. fallow deer (*Dama dama*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), partridge (*Perdix perdix*)) and they offer a wide range of services as accommodation in hunting lodges, catering etc. That's why the hunting branch of the company is popular among Hungarian and foreign hunters too.*

Key words: *forestry, game management, hunting tourism, game species*

INTRODUCTION

There are several reasons of the ineffectiveness of tourism destination management. These include relative inexperience in the sector on the part of those employed, a general lack of experience in cooperation, a lack of resources and the view that only marketing is a worthwhile activity for partnership [1].

Tourism development in rural areas aims to resolve the economic problems of areas related to the depopulation caused by the migration of rural population to urban centres. By ensuring conditions to practice profitable activities into the villages it is seeking to stop the migration of rural labour and the return from urban areas of origin rural areas, increasing the stability of the active population, improving living conditions, environmental protection and conservation as recreation factor, recovery individual's creative potential, creating conditions for carrying out other economic activities, industrial, agricultural, commercial in rural areas [2].

Starting from the reality that rural tourism brings a considerable contribution to the development of rural areas, to creating new jobs, to updating the application on various local products. Keeping a brand image for tourism services require the existence of an optimum balance between the nature of the supply, the services quality and the price perceived. Rural areas offer a lot of profitable tourist elements: accommodation, a wide range of activities such as pedestrian walks, cultural tourism, river tourism, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, winter sports, cycling etc. So it solves a first requirement, tone one of the number of accommodation spaces [3].

Stimulating and motivating rural households to deal with, among other things, certain rural tourism activities, especially the cottage industry in the area of accommodation and meals for tourists, and therefore hunting tourists [6].

Development and promotion of agrotourism services in major European countries should be unified, coordinated and with the direct involvement of the central leadership bodies, taking into account the views of associations and agrotourism service providers and other local, regional, national and international profile organizations, specific to each country [4].

In Romania, the provisioning services of food and raw materials are more recognized, while in Hungary, the regulating and cultural services (mainly recreation and ecotourism) are better appreciated. It is concluded that the ecosystem service approach can

contribute to a better understanding of the role and influence of the different factors involved on ecosystem service supply in the Tisza River Basin [5].

The aim of this study was the analyses of the role of DALERD CO. (the greatest state forestry in the region) in hunting tourism, similarly as it was done by Skobrak-Bodnar and Bajorhegyi in 2007 [7].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors of the paper were used as methods of work: primary data collection by interviews with the manager of the hunting lodge and secondary data collection, processing of data and their interpretation was carried out too.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The DALERD Co. was established in 1993 by the Hungarian State and it is managing, protecting the state-owned forests of Csongrád and Békés Counties. It is working in the forestry land group of the Hungarian Great Plain. It has 6 units: the forestry of Ásotthalom, the forestry of Fásító, the forestry of Gyula, the forestry of Körösvidék, the forestry of Szeged, and the Informative Center. The main games in this area are red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), fallow deer (*Dama dama*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), hare (*Lepus europaeus*), ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), wild goose (*Anser anser*, *Anser albifrons*, *Anser fabalis*), partridge (*Perdix perdix*) and Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Fur-bearing vermin like red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Eurasian badger (*Meles meles*), golden jackal (*Canis aureus*), beech marten (*Martes foina*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) etc., and feathered vermin like hooded crow (*Corvus cornix*), Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*) and Eurasian jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) can be hunted also.

The forestry of Ásotthalom is located in the boundary of 16 villages, it handles traditional forestry on 8436 hectares, and it lumbers 25000 m³ trees a year. The forestry of Gyula is located in the boundary of 12 villages, it handles traditional forestry on 7100 hectares, and it lumbers 19000 m³ trees a year. The forestry of Körösvidék is located in the boundary of 16 villages, it handles forestry on 5800 hectares, and it lumbers 18000 m³ trees a year. The forestry of Szeged is located in the boundary of 26 villages, it handles traditional forestry on 6750 hectares, and it lumbers 30000 m³ trees a year.

The Informative Center is a forestry forest school, it is located in Gyula-Városerdő, and it helps to study about the protection of the forests. Students can become acquainted with the beauty of our nature; they can learn how to respect the forests. It can hold 130 people, the quality is the category of a tourist hostel, and it can provide full board. There work forestry engineers, foresters, and teachers with great practical experience.

The DALERD Co. has 5 hunting-grounds where they manage wildlife management, in Ásotthalom, in Derekegyház-Tompahát, in Gyula, in Biharugra, and in Ladány-forest. The total area is 22581 hectares. Their philosophy is to hold the amount of games in an optimal level, to rear the games in high quality, and to hunt the games with trophies in a classical hunting traditional way. Hungarian and foreign hunters can hunt individually or in a partnership. The prices of games and touristic services are shown in the Tables 1-3.

The hunting-ground of Ásotthalom is 5195.5 hectares big, it is located in the South-West part of Csongrád County, it is 30 kilometres far from Szeged, and it neighbours Serbia. This area can't hold enough game, that's why a 337.6 hectares big wild boar park was set up in 1997 (Photo 1). Wild boars and fallow deer can be hunted there. There was an expansion with 349.7 hectares in 2006 (total: 687.3 hectares). There is a resting house in

the park, and a hunting lodge too, where 8 people can stay. A beautiful fishing lake can be found next to the resting house.



Photo 1: The forestry at Ásotthalom

Source: Karoly Bodnar

The hunting-ground of Derekegyház-Tompahát is located in the central part of Csongrád County, and it is 5220.5 hectares big. There are a lot of roe deer with high quality, the amount of male deer with medal is about 25-30%. A partridge reservation area can be found in Tompahát, which was established in 2005, and it joined to the National Partridge Reservation Program. It was ranked special function hunting-ground in 2006 in order to preserve the gene pool of partridges. The center of this hunting-ground is the hunting lodge of Derekegyház, which can hold 32 people. Modern rooms, sauna and a bar can be found here. There is a restaurant where 60 people can eat, and a timber program house, which can hold 150 people, and there are often weddings and conferences (Table 3).

The hunting-ground of Gyula is 8226 hectares big, and the most important game is the fallow deer here. More of 50% of the male deer which were hunted down got gold medal here. Hunters can take part a traditional carriage hunting too. This area was also ranked special function hunting-ground in order to preserve the gene pool of fallow deer. Roe deer and wild boar populations are also significant here. A 670 hectares big fallow deer park was established here in 2000. In the center of the park the hunting lodge of Sarkad-Remete is located. It has 2 apartments and 9 double-bed rooms with bathrooms, and a restaurant too.

The hunting-ground of Biharugra is 5498.2 hectares big, and it is located in the northeast part of Békés County. There are small games, roe deer, red deer and wild boar too. Big game hunting is more considerable than small game hunting here, because there are a lot of restrictions in small game hunting. Just like the hunting-grounds of Ásotthalom and Gyula, it is also located next to the border of Hungary, so the migration of some games can be notable. Hunters who hunt here can also stay in the hunting lodge of Sarkad-Remete.

Table 1.

Prices of big game hunting

	Bull (trophy)	Cow/heifer	Wounding	Meat with leather	Leather
Fallow deer	100 € - 7950 €	80 €	40 €	4 € / kg	100 €
Red deer	500 € - 6050 €	120 €	60 €	4 € / kg	
	Buck (trophy)	Doe/kid	Wounding	Meat with skin	Leather
Roe deer	80 € - 3300 €	40 €	20 €	5 € / kg	
	Boar (trophy)	Sow	Gilt	Pig	Wounding
Wild boar	400 € - 450 €	350 €	160 €	80 €	40 € - 200 €

The hunting-ground of Ladány-forest is located in the border of Körösladány and Szeghalom, and it is 418 hectares big. There are wild boar population with high genetic value. This area was also ranked special function hunting-ground for educational and research reasons. Hunters who hunt here can also stay in the hunting lodge of Sarkad-Remete.

Table 2.

Prices of small games

Small game	Unit price
Pheasant	22 €
Hare	46 €
Mallard	15 €
Bred mallard	14 €
Wild goose	30 €
Partridge	26 €
Eurasian collared dove	50 €/day/hunter

Table 3.

Prices of touristic services

Services	Prices
Accommodation	40 € / person
Breakfast	10 € / person
Lunch/dinner	15 € - 22 € / person
Sandwich packet	5 € / person
Lunch at the field	10 € / person
Rover	1 € / km
Microbus	1 € / km
Transfer	0.7 € / km
Hunting licence (30 days)	60 € / person
Dog kennel	10 € / day
Trophy review	15 € (no medal) – 30 € (medal)

4 hunting lodges belong to DALERD Co. in Ásotthalom, in Derekegyház, in Sarkad-Remete, and in Szanazug.

The hunting lodge in Ásotthalom has 1 double-bed apartment, and 3 double-bed rooms. The rooms have television, phone, and fireplace too. All the rooms have bathrooms too. There is a lounge upstairs. Programs up to 35 people can be held here too. Breakfast, lunch and dinner can be also provided for the guests.

The hunting lodge in Derekegyház has 2 triple-bed rooms, 11 double-bed rooms and 2 single-bed rooms. The modern rooms have bathroom, television, phone and internet. There is a lounge, an oven, so the guests can cook or grill outside, and there is a restaurant

too, with wide range of offer. It is situated in a beautiful park with walks. A timber program house was built in 2006 next to the hunting lodge, it can hold 150 people.

The hunting lodge in Sarkad-Remete has 10 double-bed rooms, with bathroom, television and internet. It has a restaurant (Photo 2) and a conference room too.

The hunting lodge in Szanazug has 3 four-bed rooms, 1 double-bed room, and 1 alpine-like house with two floors. The rooms have bathrooms, kitchenettes, and a small kitchen. It is situated in a beautiful park, and there is a playground for the children. The guests can cook and BBQ outside too.



Photo 2: The restaurant of the hunting lodge at Sarkad-Remete

Source: Erika Skobrak Bodnar

CONCLUSIONS

The DALERD Co. can offer the hunting most of the big games and small games for guest hunters in two counties (Békés and Csongrád) of South Hungary. The different hunting seasons of games ensure a better utilization of the capacities of the hunting ground and the touristic services and facilities. There is a permanent expansion of the services and modernization of the properties. The company emphasises its Internet homepage and the informing in English and German languages in their marketing communication. Their prices meet the level of hunting and touristic services.

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