

Important dates

Deadline for abstracts: 1st October 2007

Selection of successful abstracts: 22nd October 2007

Submission of full papers: 15th January 2008

Contacts:

For further details about the symposium objectives, and to submit abstracts, please contact:

Dr. Anna Lawrence, Environmental Change Institute,
University of Oxford
Email: anna.lawrence@eci.ox.ac.uk
Tel: +44 1865 275880; Fax: +44 1865 275850

Symposium web-page and more background information:

<http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/humaneco/youthparticipation-romania.php>

For more information regarding accommodation and local transport in Romania please contact:

The Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park
Str. Principala nr. 1445
Rodna, Jud. Bistrita-Nasaud, Romania
Tel: +40 263 377715; Fax: +40 263 377181
E-mail: parcrodna@email.ro or parcrodna@rosilva.ro
Contact person: Claudiu Iusan



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Environmental
Change Institute
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The University of Oxford and
The Romanian Forest Administration
(RNP-Romsilva)



10-13 March 2008
Bistrita, Romania

Call for papers



Organised as part of project 14019 "Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna Mountains, Romania" funded by the Darwin Initiative

Call for papers

We invite you to participate in an international symposium for both practitioners and academics working in biodiversity conservation. Participation is an increasingly important theme in conservation, but widespread models are either suitable for the western world with strong civil society, or for developing countries with communities that are strongly dependent on natural resources. Post-socialist Europe needs its own models of participatory conservation. We will focus on experiences, opportunities and constraints in participatory conservation, both within and beyond protected areas throughout the post-socialist region of Europe. This symposium will provide a forum for analysing experiences of projects and organisations in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and for learning from positive experiences to better understand how lessons from one place can be applied to another.

We are looking for case studies where local people and the wider public have been involved in biodiversity survey, monitoring, management and conservation. Sometimes this overlaps with other activities, so we don't exclude them, but we look forward to some exciting descriptions of people engaging with biodiversity. The symposium will, over two days, include paper presentations and workshops to explore case studies. The papers and results of this symposium will be included in a web-based book of case studies.

Location

The symposium will be hosted in the Transylvanian city of Bistrita (<http://www.bn.ro/bol/index.htm>), capital of Bistrita-Nasaud County and situated in close proximity of the Rodna Mountains National Park. The venue is Hotel Coroana de Aur, in a central location and walking distance of main attractions.

Registration fee

The registration fee is €95, including field trip, or €70 without field trip. This fee covers information package, welcome party (March 10th) and seminar dinner (March 12th) as well as coffee breaks and lunch on March 11th and 12th, plus the field trip where this applies. We offer free accommodation for participants who are presenting case studies and a limited number of travel bursaries for non-EU participants.

Excursion

Participants are invited to take part in a one-day coach tour of the Rodna Mountains National Park which will be held on the 13 March.

Official language

English is the official language of the symposium. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Guidelines for case studies

We invite you to prepare an abstract of 500 words, describing your experiences. The case studies should cover the following points; your abstract should indicate how your paper will contribute to them:

1. Your context. Where are you working, what is special or distinctive about it? Who are the stakeholders involved?
2. Conservation policy in the country of your focus. How does this help or hinder participation?
3. Organisation. What are the groups involved in conserving the area you are writing about, and how are they connected to each other? [for example, the park administration may be under the Ministry of Environment; or it may be subcontracted to an NGO or other institution]
4. Participation. What was the objective, whose idea was it, who was involved and why, who was left out and why?
5. How did you involve the different stakeholders in planning the participatory monitoring or conservation?
6. What were the activities carried out?
7. Were they successful? Why or why not? Who decided what was successful, and how did they measure it?
8. Recommendations. What worked, why, and what could have been done better? What advice would you have for others trying to do something similar?
9. Wider context. What do you think your experiences have in common with protected areas in other parts of the world, and why?
10. What is different, and why?
11. What makes your experience fit your context?