

THE CLIMATE OF RESORT PĂLTINIȘ SIBIU, A FACTOR IN MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT:In terms of climate change, adaptation is of great importance to the tourism product at the weather conditions offered by vulnerable areas, as is the case of mountain areas. In terms of bioclimatic, the characterization by bioclimatic indexes (index of equivalent temperature, temperature-humidity index and temperature-wind and bioclimatic stress index) Păltiniș resort and surrounding areas highlights that there is a very favourable bio-climate for tourism. So far, Păltiniș was shaped primarily for recreation, for tourism, except the early period, when the resort had balneary purpose. The strong sunlight, the small amounts of cloudiness and air pressure, moderate values of bioclimatic indices can be valued for treatment and prophylactic treatment of sunbathing and aero therapy. With a high bioclimatic potential, Păltiniș and adjacent area may become not only places of interest, but the interest of the SPA, regaining their place in the national tourism circuit.

KEYWORDS:Păltiniș, climate index, bioclimatic potential, mountain tourism, sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is, by its nature, an activity that takes place in connection with rhinestone surrounding natural and social environments. Analyzing the relationship between them, it is observed that most often priorities are economic benefits and the negative consequences on the environment and society are forgotten. Sustainable development management is the process through which it is anticipated and coordinated, are lead and planed, assessed and controlled the activities of change in which the exploitation of resources, coordination of investments and development orientation of technical and institutional changes are compatible and allow the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet them in turn [3].

Management of sustainable development aims at a new balance between the issues of environmental conservation, economic growth and social equity. The management of sustainable development in tourism is focused on objectives that highlight the need to take account of cost-benefit analysis not only in a microeconomic dimension, but also in macroeconomic stability. In sustainable development, tourism plays a key role contributing to a high rate of economic recovery to boost and Romania. Raising the tourism product from the values enshrined in the corresponding standards and preferences of Romanian and foreign tourists involves initiating and promoting actions that include, on the one hand, workflows education and training of a mentality appropriate current type of development, and on the other hand, emphasis on sustainable development in regions of tourist reception.

Regarding the sustainable development of tourism in Romania, one of the most important strategies of sustainable development refers to the Romanian Carpathians. Strategy for sustainable development of the Carpathians aims at developing a continuous process of awareness, increase of institutional capacity for sustainable tourism education and training at all levels. It aims to reduce the imbalance between favored mountainous regions and disadvantaged, marked by permanent natural constraints, targeting the whole issue of economic, social, cultural and environmental. The need for sustainable development according to the 2013 National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2020-2030 starts from the observation that at the end of the first decade of the XXI century, after a long, traumatic transition to pluralistic democracy and market economy, Romania still has to overcome significant gaps to other member states of the European Union, while seeking to absorb and

put into practice the principles and practices of sustainable development in the globalized context.

2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF ROMANIAN MOUNTAIN TOURISM

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The need for sustainable development according to the 2013 National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2020-2030 starts from the observation that at the end of the first decade of the XXI century, after a long, traumatic transition to pluralistic democracy and market economy, Romania still has to overcome significant gaps to other member states of the European Union, while seeking to absorb and put into practice the principles and practices of sustainable development in the globalized context. Despite all the progress in recent years, it is a fact that Romania's economy still relies on intensive consumption of resources, a society and administration that is still seeking for a shared vision and a natural capital affected by the risk of damage that may become irreversible. The concrete objectives allow passing, in a reasonable time and realistic, to the model of development generated by added value, propelled by interest in knowledge and innovation, oriented to continuous improvement of the quality of people's lives and their relationships, in harmony with the natural environment.

Mountain tourist destinations are perceived by tourists as a functional and unitary system, which must be efficient. An efficient tourism management must be based on a solid concept to promote a tourism destination economically viable, able to impress and satisfy customers, contribute to the controlled development of the territory. At the regional level, it must be taken into account the complementarity of the mountain adjacent areas. Thus, the strategy of development of mountain tourism in any area should include approaches such as [2]:

- management and conservation of the natural environment;
- arranging and equipment of natural space according to customer expectations;
- ensuring security for tourists;

- attracting customers, by balance between what offers the travel services provider and customer expectations.

The fundamental principle underlying the sustainable development of mountain tourism is keeping the balance between protecting the mountain and the natural setting. Tourism activity development brings a series of economic and social benefits [4]:

- generates jobs locally (directly in the tourism sector or related sectors);
- stabilizes the local population and contributes to improving the rural demography and in the mountainous area;
- stimulates the local economy through the development of infrastructure and tourism services (accommodation, food, transport, recreational facilities, handicraft, crafts);
- stimulates the rural economy by creating or increasing demand for agricultural products that are necessary to ensure tourist services;
- boosts the development of infrastructure, which brings benefits to the local population;
- stimulates the development of peripheral areas through capital inserts;
- on the conditions of normal growth, tourism can lead to self-financing mechanisms of development from which can benefit the administrators of protected areas as a tool for conservation;
- supports the activities of natural and cultural heritage conservation, by convincing authorities and the public on the importance of protecting the natural areas and recovery of traditions, customs, crafts and costumes.

Romanian tourist flow in the mountainous recorded variations in the last five years, as seen from the data presented in Table 1. It should be noted that the mountain tourist traffic manifests a continued growth in the three years analysed (2013-2015).

Table 1. Tourist accommodation capacity existing at the national level and resorts located in the mountainous area, per types of tourism structures (beds)

Types of tourism structures	Years				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hotels					
- total	174748	180714	182284	185172	188607
- resorts from the mountain area	13608	16173	15654	16586	17546
Chalets					
- total	5928	5150	5183	5128	5876
- resorts from the mountain area	3796	3497	3753	3982	4108
Touristic pensions					
- total	20499	25019	27325	27295	32051
- resorts from the mountain area	5034	5962	7004	7085	8065
Agrotouristic pensions					
- total	20683	27453	28775	30480	35188
- resorts from the mountain area	7840	10232	11625	13026	14807

Source: data insse.ro

Tourism can be considered a priority for regional development programs, taking into account both existing resources and the need for achievement of economic and social cohesion at the national level by expanding the number of areas and resources that may be valued higher, through an approach based on integration and sustainability. The strategy for tourism development is represented by the concept of sustainable development, a principle that underpins the entire economic and social growth. This concept implies that a balance between economic growth and conservation / reconstruction of the natural designed to ensure a harmonious, able to satisfy both current demands and those of perspective, with the ultimate aim of harmonization of short-term benefits of environment business and long-term benefits to the community and social indicators.[3]

The mission of a strategy for tourism development on a regional level is represented by transforming each region into a competitive destination in terms of tourism internationally, in the value of tourism resources at its disposal, but also those that may be created further and

impose them as tourist areas in national tourism system by identifying areas with tourist activities. The Central Region is the first region of the country in terms of mountain tourism potential. In this region have been inventoried in 2015, 277 units of accommodation hotel type of which 43 in Sibiu, 138 villas including 17 in Sibiu, 76 chalets including 14 in Sibiu, 613 guesthouses in which 90 are located in Sibiu, 813 of which 118 rural locations in Sibiu.

Central region is ranked 2 in the country by number of beds. In 2015, 2,340,984 tourists frequented the region, of which 430 476 were foreign tourists. [2]

The evolution of this indicator in the last five years (2011-2015) shows a continuous increase regional and in Sibiu County, except for the hotel structures which recorded a slight fluctuation.

Table 2. Capacity of tourist accommodation in the Central Region and Sibiu, the types of tourist structures of tourist reception (beds-days)

Types of structures of tourist accommodation	Years				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hotels					
- Centre Region	6653253	7592803	8203555	8488952	8773297
- Sibiu county	1227527	1275755	1263962	1299402	1276290
Chalets					
- Centre Region	438539	486360	571546	565412	650732
- Sibiu county	55627	66248	61306	77238	87910
Touristic pensions					
- Centre Region	1975079	2539493	3052217	3110295	3558629
- Sibiu county	68601	112325	113626	113120	342404
Agrotouristic pensions					
- Centre Region	1843037	2596629	3257979	3502009	3840642
- Sibiu county	101602	158961	228627	261359	406822

Source: data insse.ro

Average length of stay in the Central Region was 2.2 days (2.5 days girl nationally). The number of tourist arrivals registered a continuous growth both at a regional level and county (Sibiu), trends in both the arrivals of Romanian tourists, as well as foreigners. This demonstrates a general increase of the interest for the tourist offer in this geographical area.

3. CHARACTERIZATION OF MOUNTAIN TOURIST AREA PĂLTINIȘ - CINDREL (SIBIU COUNTY)

Tourist Area Păltiniș - Cindrel is located in the southern county of Sibiu and overlaps administrative units Sibiu, Poplaca and Rășinari, revolving around a major urban center, Sibiu municipality, to which Păltiniș resort is located 30 km direction SV. Păltiniș resort of national interest was set at 1400-1452 m altitude, and the natural conditions present significant potential of international approval as a receiving area for tourists. Among the geographical factors, the relief has a determinant role in the rainfall regime, establishing itself by altitude, slope orientation, slope and configuration of its forms. The altitude causes vertical change of all climatic elements. Rainfall grows, as the altitude increases, up to a certain height called pluviometrical optimum beyond which begin to decrease. The slopes print differences between the southern slopes that receive lower amounts of precipitation, compared to the north, where rainfall is higher. The slopes safe from the general circulation of the atmosphere (eastern slopes) receiving smaller amounts of rainfall, compared to Westerners. Tilting the slopes has a role in the differential heating surfaces with different slopes, hence resulting in the role in rainfall distribution. Climate change causes relief configuration elements. The forms concave (depression, colour valley) temperature inversions occur frequently, persistent frost, wind is less and less rainfall. The convex shapes (ridges, peaks), the wind speed increases and orographic convection, with significant implications in enhancing rainfall. The mountainous area has a specific climate with average annual temperatures lower in this case are typical rainfall and cool summers with cold winter with heavy snowfall and snow longer. The hilly summers are hot, relatively frequent rainfall, as warmer intervals.

General circulation of the atmosphere is characterized by high frequency of intake air temperate oceanic in the West, especially in warm weather and low frequency of continental temperate air from the northeast and east. The air temperature is influenced much relief altitude. Meteorological data collected by the weather station Păltiniș (1453m) indicates an average annual temperature oscillating around 5°C. The average temperature in July is 13.4°C in Păltiniș and 7-8° in the ridge area. Highs exceeded 30°C and 22°C in Păltiniș on the highest peaks. Average number of days of frost is 155.2 in Păltiniș and over 200 in the ridge of the mountains. Rainfall is generally higher as the altitude is higher. Average annual Păltiniș is 906,1mm and 1200 mm on the highest peaks; monthly average amounts biggest fall in June and are 153mm to 150mm Păltiniș and around 2,000m. Cantitățile the lowest average monthly fall in February, 41.5 mm in Păltiniș and 50 mm in high mountain area. The highest amounts of rainfall in summer are frequently accompanied by thunder. Maximum levels have fallen in 24 hours cumulative 98.3 mm in Păltiniș resort. Winds are influenced much relief. Păltiniș prevailing winds from the W, SW and E, and the highest peaks of V and NV winds dominate. The average annual frequency of calm is small in mountainous sector, 18.3% to the resort. Annual average speeds range between 1.5 - 6.5 m/s. In late winter and early spring from the mountain beat "Big Wind" warmer, causing heating sharp and sudden melting of snow. Considering the specific agro-pastoral area of the territory Păltiniș - Cindrel, environmental quality improvement component depends on encouraging environmentally friendly practices.

4. BRIEF HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN TOURISM IN PĂLTINIȘ

The appearance of the Păltiniș resort was due to the desire manifested in the 80s and 90s of the nineteenth century by a series of important personalities of the Saxon community to establish a health resort in the mountains near Sibiu, as a natural consequence of touristic pioneering activities conducted by the Transylvanian Carpathian Association – SKV. By the nature of his job, the lawyer Gustav Conrad was a connoisseur of an extensive complex of Cindrel mountains so as to he was able to identify the area a place and suggested placing the resort in a mountainous area of woodland that belonged to Cristian, namely in a ravine located on the south-western saddle between the peaks and Oncești and Păltiniș, at an altitude of 1400 meters. In addition to the proposed crossing, a cart road connected the mountain area of Cristian and Rășinari of Sadu Valley, snaking over Șteflești peak toward the Beautiful Valley. Near glen chosen by Gustav Conrad, resurfaces a beautiful stream with clear water and cold whose name gave the inhabitants of German ethnicity of Cristian was Hohe Rinne (chute up in height), hence the name in German of resort and then Păltiniș peak (1470 m attitude) in close proximity (having originally sycamores which grew in the area) Romanian gave the name of the resort. The chalets results thus represented a unique combination between the beautiful architecture of the villas Alpine region of Tyrol woodworking craft proved particularly Romanian builders. Many of the joints beams and wooden beams used in the buildings were made without nails, resulting in a particularly resistant structure.



Figure 1. First building project in 1940 embedded today in Hohe Rinne Păltiniș Hotel & SPA (left) and Tourists House Ensemble in the 1960s (right) Source: Personal archive of Dr. Dragoteanu Mircea, Cluj-Napoca

The resort was frequented until 1926 only in summer and in winter 1912-1913 and made an appearance at Păltiniș skiers, foretelling the future success of winter sports. Access is on foot, horseback, wagons or resort omnibuses, horse-drawn. In 1962 the hotel was built (called

nearly half a century) Tourists House, in memory of beautiful wooden buildings built in 1895 and demolished in 1960.

At the beginning of 70s, after the reestablishment of Sibiu County, under the jurisdiction of leadership with a larger opening for tourism in Sibiu, Păltiniș had a prosperous period for modern landscaping. In addition to some municipal works and infrastructure, needed for normal operation was successful arrangement slopes Oncești 1 (high slope) and Oncești 2 (pit); construction of the first facilities cableway (chairlift to Oncești, the pit lift and baby-lift in Plat - now abolished); link the resort to the forest roads of the Valley Dane (Cibin Gorge), Sadu Valley, Valley Ștezii (by Șanta) and the link between Sadu Valley and Valley of the Beautiful - Saddle Șteflești that provides Păltiniș connection to DN 67C, in Sebeș Valley (route old King's Road - Transalpine) contributing to the removal of the resort in a position to be a bottomed place. As a result of these measures, Păltiniș began to show their true meanings modern, falling gradually into his role normally important tourist centre of the Massif Cindrel and mountains between Olt and Jiu, the number of visitors and skiers from all over the country increasing substantial. This demonstrates that through relevant measures, the skilful use of local conditions and possibilities of urban suitable merged with the tourism and sports Păltiniș presents a number of conditions latent development, fulfilling current requirements for a resort versatile, of big future. Leaving from this period, it began to be ever more clearly that enlargement made are far from sufficient, that Păltiniș can become a more attractive destination for many tourists, and the openings to areas of the ski, free from the Glade Găujoara, Old Peak and Peak Surdu should enter into function as soon as possible.

This is when they appeared in Romania, in the urbanism projects of the mountain resorts, modern systems for calculating the optimal capacity of these settlements, experience from the Alps, the figures hovering on average approx. 50% of the total number of skiers possible in case of Păltiniș studies drawn setting optimal number of seats for the first stage at about 5,000 tourists accommodated. In 1975, taking advantage of a favourable moment when the Ministry of Tourism of the time fund such works, it starts the construction of the lift cable for tourists, Păltiniș (Chalet No. I) - Valley Dăneasa -Bătrâna, with length of approximately 2,5 km starting from the peak. Unfortunately, due to organizational inconsistencies facility has not been realized, leaving only executed deforestation ski slope, still visible today.

In 1972, construction works will begin at the Hotel Cindrel which lasts until 1976. After 2000, the resort flourish bipolar with the construction of holiday homes in the Hermitage Păltiniș, because in 2010 with the construction of the Arena Platoș achieve a number of hostels around it, making it possible to preserve what's left of the old resort, *House of Cure* and *House Monaco*. Hotel Cindrel in 2005 enters a process of modernization and extension of government funding, work place opening in May 2009. Home of Tourists passed during 2008 - 2012 through a process of expansion and modernization funded in part with European funds obtained from the company SC Păltiniș S.A. ROP of MDRT, and in 2013 became HoheRinnePăltiniș Hotel & SPA.

5. THE ROLE OF CLIMATE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESORT PĂLTINIȘ

21st century's challenge is climate change. This has three distinctive traits: cumulative character, irreversible effects and global manifestation. Romanian mountain tourism is directly affected by these changes, given that the ski area directly depends on the length and thickness of snow and tourist activities are subject, throughout the year, of the manifestations of violent risky weather events (storms, excess rainfall, windy, blizzard and altered humidity-temperature comfort index values). Tourism management must be adapted to climate's excessive non-routine events, by reducing its effects in order to ensure normal functioning of tourism activities and tourism consumers' safety.

In analysing the bioclimatic characteristics of Păltiniș resort several indicators were selected (resulting from combining several climatic factors), relevant to stress the level of favourable climate of the area studied: thermal comfort index or TEE, temperature-humidity index (THI)

and bioclimatic stress index of skin, lung and global. From the analysis of climate data string of Păltiniș weather station situated at an altitude of 1443 m, between 2005-2014, for June, July, August and September at 13 hours (when tourism activity is particularly intense), the conclusions are the following: thermal comfort (even at lunch hours) is reached with low frequency in all summer months. Thus, in July thermal comfort is recorded at Păltiniș with a frequency of 2%; heat discomfort is not reached as a monthly average in Păltiniș (rather as a daily average) yet discomfort by cooling reaches high values: 29% in July. The temperature-humidity index for Păltiniș was calculated at 13 hours (June, July, August and September between 2005 and 2014) and only the feeling of comfort was recorded.

Temperature-wind index was calculated at 13 hours (in all the months of the year, although the negative effects exist only in the winter) in the period 2005-2014 for Păltiniș weather station. It was found that the monthly mean values had only recorded the feeling of comfort and light discomfort, but there were days when the index had negative values. Thus, in February 2009 the lowest average was registered (-3,5° C, increased discomfort) and on the 12th and 13th calorie stress had been observed. Bioclimatic Stress Indices highlights the main meteorological factors influence on the human body and how it reacts to maintain steady heat (warm-blooded), i.e. constant temperature of the human body. Bioclimatic stress has three components: coetaneous stress, lung stress and global stress. To calculate these indices it is used the average daily values for the following climatic parameters: temperature (°C), atmospheric water vapor pressure (hPa) and wind speed (m/s). For Păltiniș, were obtained monthly average of skin stress that reveals bioclimatic with hypertonic stress in January, February and December, and the rest of the year balanced. In 2005 in June, July, August and September were recorded hypotonic stress. Five months (April-June and September-October) are relaxing with a tonic effect, stimulant, training and the opportunity to spend time outdoors through specific tourist activities (hiking, cycling). In terms of lung stress index (which has value 20) is also reduced, it varies with altitude less than index stress skin. The balanced months of the year are May-June and September-October. The interval from November to April index recorded a desiccant, positive, stimulating action, drive and conducive to winter sports.

6. WAYS TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE PĂLTINIȘ RESORT

The landmarks with sports facilities and leisure along with the ones for accommodation and entertainment and events play a critical role in the development of the resort. The most important long-term goal in this area is the development of activities of winter sports, along with those that can take place all year round. Access areas on the slopes, containing specific facilities for winter sports are special components in the spatial organization of the resort. Tourist reception facilities are a category of prime importance in the resort and in the surrounding area, their distribution and typology being essential for the successful development of Păltiniș to overcome the/a weekend tourism level/destination. Stimulating an economy of tourism, sustainable and balanced based on local resources, the cooperation in the area of administrative units and training local economies will determine the improvement of living standards of the communities in the area by creating jobs in local economies. It is also necessary to upgrade the tourist infrastructure, consistent with environmental improvement and complying with the protection and preservation of the natural and built environment.

The mountainous area of Sibiu falls into the category of non-conventional destinations, being frequented by relatively young people who opt for hiking or sports, as well as those who prefer rest and recreation in the natural environment. A special category of foreign/non-local tourists represent those who combine many types of tourism (leisure, cultural, business, visits to relatives and friends, events) and who change in the course of a holiday, more/various destinations and accommodations. The priority on the development of Păltiniș - Cindrel resort and surroundings is the development of the ski area. Păltiniș is a settlement with predominantly tourist functions, the importance of which will be amplified in the future.

The majority of Păltiniș resort's accommodations are in hotels, while approx. 20% are in pensions and the remaining ones (vs 'the rest are rest houses') rest houses. This is relatively unfavourable for a mountain resort frequented largely by young people (44% of tourists throughout the county are between 26 and 45 years), whose incomes and interests are not consistent with the offer of accommodation and food in the resort.

The offer of hotel accommodation and meal at the restaurants is more appropriate to/for foreign tourists, which however account for only 30% of the visitors to the county, which is offering few activities, thus foreign tourists have an average duration of stay of less than the domestic ones (2.67 days vs 3.28 days for foreign and Romanians respectively). The administrative territory of Păltiniș resort has an area of 296 ha, which offers potential for development for at least 3000 people (calculated with an average population density of 20 person / ha for the actually built area, which is specific to other/some settlements in the area and taking into account that it is 1/2 of the total area of the resort), that is, approx. 6 times its current capacity of receipt/accommodation. The maximum occupancy of the accommodation units is of the order of 5,000 seats, estimated relative to the ski area, valued at a total capacity of approx. 7000 skiers. Assuming the resort accommodates 50% of the area's total capacity (10,000 people) and rate of occupancy in the resort is at maximum 70%, the other half is supposed to be made up of tourists staying in nearby localities/settlements and of one-day tourists. Creating and expanding ski resorts integrated in local ecotourism networks provides numerous jobs and business opportunities for local communities which weakens this kind of pressure on the environment and, most importantly, motivates communities to conserve the landscape and to preserve the attractiveness of the tourist area in question.

7. CONCLUSIONS

A special problem in the case of Păltiniș resort is the big coverage of the landscape/perspective by boreal forests of spruce and as we know, one of the most important points of tourist attractiveness of a mountain ski resorts is the landscape it offers. From this exact consideration, the resort has much to suffer, the actual ski area having very little to offer. It is why making a small study of skiing among the skiers from different counties of Transylvania, other than Sibiu, we found that less than 3% of subjects know the resort and only 1% would prefer to go to Păltiniș for winter sports. The resort is known for its lack of wide, refreshing or spectacular landscapes, unlike what tourists can find in the mountain locations on the outskirts of Transylvania (Poiana Brașov, Băișoara, Toplița, Cavnic etc.). Thus, Păltiniș has become largely a local ski resort which strongly limits its future prospects from this point of view. The development of tourism strategies involves a complex process that requires a mature ecologic, economic and social spirit from/of all public and private actors that are involved in decision-making stages of initiation, adoption and implementation of action programs. Reflecting management on a sustainable basis, natural and anthropic tourism potential can gain in the manner of preservation and development of an environmentally sound way, sustainable.

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