

SOME ASPECTS REGARDING THE TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS ROSCI0045 JIULUI CORRIDOR, ROSPA0010 BISTREȚ AND THE NATURAL RESERVES FOSSIL SITE DRĂNIC-2391 AND ZĂVAL FOREST - IV.33+A6

Dragoș-Mihai MEDELETE¹, Mariana NICULESCU¹, Radu-Lucian PÂNZARU¹, Cristina (PESCARU) CIOBANU

⁽¹⁾Faculty of Agronomy, University of Craiova, 19 Libertății street, Craiova, Romania
dragosmedelete@gmail.com, mniculescum@yahoo.com,
rlp1967craiova1967@gmail.com, cryssandy77@yahoo.com

Corresponding author email: rlp1967craiova1967@gmail.com

Abstract

The study aims to present the situation of tourist activity for the protected areas ROSCI0045 the Jiu Corridor, ROSPA0010 Bistreț and the Natural Reserves Fossil Site Drănic-2391 and Zăval Forest - IV.33+A6, based on four indicators specific to it: tourist reception structures, tourist accommodation capacity in operation, tourist arrivals in tourist reception structures, overnight stays in tourist reception structures.

The analysed indicators mainly show downward trends in 2021 compared to 2017, an aspect determined, in particular, by the pandemic phenomenon manifested in that period. The number of reception facilities decreased from 64 units in 2017 to 53 units in 2021, the accommodation capacity decreased from 963,518 to 799,089 place-days (2017 and 2021 respectively), tourist arrivals decreased from 116,992 to 72,291 people (2017 and 2021), and the number of overnight stays decreased from 215,015 to 111,582 for 2017 and 2021 respectively.

Key words: housing, natural gas, living area, building permits

INTRODUCTION

The protected areas ROSCI0045 the Jiu Corridor, ROSPA0010 Bistreț and the Fossil Place Drănic-2391 and Zăval Forest Nature Reserves - IV.33+A6, are located, in the territory, within the counties of Dolj (37 ATUs, of which 1 municipality, 4 cities and 32 communes), Gorj (17 ATUs, of which 2 cities, 15 communes), Mehedinți and Olt (one ATUs - commune).

Tourism evolves under the impact of the transformations of contemporary civilization, its dynamics being integrated into the global development process. It represents a component of great importance of economic life for an increasing number of areas of the world, bringing with it a wide human and material potential and acting, through the efforts it undertakes and the beneficial effects induced on the areas of interference, as a stimulating factor for development and progress. The fact that tourism addresses large segments of the population,

responding to its material and spiritual needs, is reflected in the intensification of national and international tourist circulation, giving the phenomenon a high growth rate.

Tourist services must create conditions for the restoration of the physical capacity of the body, simultaneously with the pleasant and instructive spending of free time, to be designed in such a way that, after consumption, the tourist acquires more information, knowledge and even new skills, because only in this way can one speak of a content of the tourist service according to the requirements of the modern era, the demands of contemporary tourism, and ensuring an active rest of the tourist, in view of the increase in free time due to the reduction of working time, as a consequence of the increase in labour productivity and the improvement of production processes, of the large-scale promotion of scientific and technical progress in the economy - due to

the fact that passive rest time is becoming a constant, the demands on forms of active rest are increasing, taking into account the negative effects of urban concentration (among which, pollution and stress), active rest tending to become an increasingly important component of tourism. The tourist product is considered to be the result of the associations of the interdependencies between the attractiveness of an area or resource and the facilities or services offered to the buyer.

Tourism can be an important source of income for local communities, as well as for a country's economy, by attracting tourists and generating jobs in the tourism industry. At the same time, tourism can also be a threat to the environment and ecosystems. Tourists can disrupt the habitat of fauna and flora through their impact on the environment, pollution and the uncontrolled development of tourist infrastructure.

METHOD AND MATERIAL

The realization of the work is based on documentation, comparison and percentage. The analysed period was 2017-2021, for which an attempt was made to highlight the actual, relative and structural changes of the analysed indicators.

It is worth mentioning that for Olt County there are no statistical data on tourist structures and activity, in the case of the Ianca ATU.

The indicators tracked are: tourist reception structures with tourist accommodation functions by type of structure (number of units); the capacity of tourist accommodation in operation by type of tourist reception structures (number of places-days); arrivals of tourists in tourist reception structures by type of structures (pers. no.); overnight

stays in tourist accommodation facilities by type of accommodation (number). The indicators are presented at county level – for the TAUs included in the protected areas – as well as by means of residence (urban, rural) – the information refers to the following types of reception structures: hotels, hostels, motels, tourist villas, tourist pensions and agritourist pensions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 presents information related to tourist structures, by type.

In Dolj county, the total number of reception structures varied from 60 to 46 units, of which about 50% are hotels (27 and 23 units, respectively), about 10% hostels and agritourist pensions (7 and 5 units each), about 5% motels (3 and 2 units, respectively), about 2% tourist villas (1 unit at the level of the two years), about 25% tourist pensions (15 and 10 units). Compared to 2017, at the level of 2021, there is an equal level in the case of tourist villas, while for the rest of the types of structures there is a decrease in their number, as follows: 14.81% for hotels, 23.33% in general, 28.57% for hostels and agro-tourist pensions, 33.33% in the case of motels and tourist pensions, respectively.

At the level of Gorj County, we are discussing a doubling of the total number of units in 2021 compared to 2017 (from 3 to 6 units). The county presents significant structural changes, as follows: hotels disappear in 2021 (in 2017 there was only one unit), the number of hostels and tourist pensions has remained unchanged (one unit in the case of the two years), the number of tourist villas increases (one unit appears in 2021) and respectively of agrotourism pensions (3 units are active in 2021 compared to none in 2017).

Table 1. Tourist reception structures with functions
tourist accommodation by types of structures (no. of units) *

Specification	Year		2021/2017 (%)**
	2017	2021	
Dolj County			
Total, of which:	60	46	76.67
- hotels	27	23	85.19
- hostels	7	5	71.43
- motels	3	2	66.67
- tourist villas	1	1	100.0
- tourist guesthouses	15	10	66.67
- agrotourism guesthouses	7	5	71.43
Gorj County			
Total, din care:	3	6	200.0
- hotels	1	-	-
- hostels	1	1	100.0
- motels	-	1	-
- tourist villas	1	1	100.0
- tourist guesthouses	-	3	-
Mehedinți County			
Total, din care:	1	1	100.0
- agrotourism guesthouses	1	1	100.0
Total general**			
Total, din care:	64	53	82.81
- hotels	28	23	82.14
- hostels	8	6	75.0
- motels	3	2	66.67
- tourist villas	1	2	200.0
- tourist guesthouses	16	11	68.75
- agrotourism guesthouses	8	9	112.50
- urban	52	42	80.77
- rural	12	11	91.67

* processed by: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>, TUR101C- Tourist reception structures with tourist accommodation functions by types of structures, counties and localities (10.03.2023);

** own calculations;

In the case of Mehedinți County, the number of establishments did not change during the analysed period, with only one establishment classified as an agritourism guesthouse.

For the overall area, there was a decrease in the total number of establishments from 64 in 2017 to 53 in 2021 (-17.19%). This downward trend was observed in most categories except for agritourism guesthouses and tourist villas, which saw increases of 12.50% and 100.0%, respectively (from 8 to 9 units for agritourism guesthouses and from 1 to 2 units for tourist villas). The actual decreases recorded were 5 units for hotels (-17.86%), 2 units for hostels (-25.0% from 8 to 6 units between 2017 and 2021), 1 unit for motels (-33.33% from 3 to 2 units for the analyzed years), 5 units for tourist guesthouses (-31.25% from 16 to 11 units), 10 units in urban areas (-19.23%

from 52 to 42 units between 2017 and 2021), and 1 unit in rural areas (-8.33%). From a structural perspective (for the years 2017 and 2021), Figure 1 highlights the predominance of hotels (43.75% and 43.39%), followed by tourist guesthouses (25.0% and 20.75%), agritourism guesthouses (12.50% and 16.98%), hostels (12.50% and 11.32%), motels (4.68% and 3.78%), and tourist villas (1.57% and 3.78%).

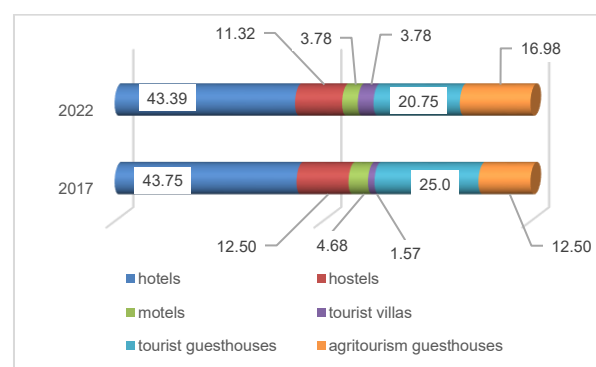


Fig. 1. Structure of the total number of units by type (%) - processed by: www.insse.ro

Table 2 contains data on the operational tourist accommodation capacity.

In Dolj County, the accommodation capacity ranged from 917,279 to 766,433 overnight stays, with approximately 70% provided by hotels (615,674 and 576,743 overnight stays, respectively), 8-10% by hostels (119,293 and 61,708 overnight stays), 4-5% by motels (38,642 and

34,882 overnight stays, respectively), 0.5-1% by tourist villas (6,205 overnight stays for both time periods), 8-10% by tourist guesthouses (94,895 and 58,887 overnight stays, respectively), and approximately 5% by agritourism guesthouses (42,570 and 28,008 overnight stays).

Table 2. Tourist accommodation capacity in operation by types of tourist reception structures (number of places-days) *

Specification	Year		2021/2017 (%)**
	2017	2021	
Dolj County			
Total, of which:	917,279	766,433	83.56
- hotels	615,674	576,743	93.68
- hostels	119,293	61,708	51.73
- motels	38,642	34,882	90.27
- tourist villas	6,205	6,205	100.0
- tourist guesthouses	94,895	58,887	62.05
- agrotourism guesthouses	42,570	28,008	65.79
Gorj County			
Total, of which:	43,791	32,656	74.57
- hotels	20,066	-	-
- hostels	23,725	19,890	83.84
- tourist guesthouses	-	7,300	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	-	5,466	-
Mehedinți County			
Total, of which:	2,448	-	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	2,448	-	-
Total general**			
Total, of which:	963,518	799,089	82.93
- hotels	635,740	576,743	90.72
- hostels	143,018	81,598	57.05
- motels	38,642	34,882	90.27
- tourist villas	6,205	6,205	100.0
- tourist guesthouses	94,895	66,187	69.75
- agrotourism guesthouses	45,018	33,474	74.36
- urban	852,415	721,763	84.67
- rural	111,103	77,326	69.60

* processed after: <http://statistici.INSSE.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>, TUR103D- The capacity of tourist accommodation in operation by types of tourist reception structures, counties and localities (10.03.2023);

** own calculations;

Compared to 2017, in 2021 reductions of 16.44%, 6.32%, 48.27%, 9.73%, 37.95%, and 34.21% were observed for the total, hotels, hostels, motels, tourist guesthouses, and agritourism guesthouses, respectively. Only for tourist villas was the level of the indicator maintained constant over the two years analysed.

In Gorj County, the overall accommodation capacity was 43,791 and 32,656 overnight stays in 2017 and 2021, respectively (-25.43%). Among these, there were changes for hostels (-16.16%, a reduction from 23,725 to 19,890

overnight stays). The indicator was present only for hotels in 2017 (20,066 overnight stays) and only in 2021 for tourist and agritourism guesthouses (7,300 and 5,466 overnight stays, respectively).

In Mehedinți County, the indicator is mentioned only for 2017 (2,448 overnight stays) at the general level and for agritourism guesthouses.

For the general level of the area, we observe a decrease in the indicator from 963,518 in 2017 to 799,089 overnight stays in 2021 (-17.07%), a phenomenon (decline) that is present for most types of

structures, with the exception of tourist villas – unchanged level of the indicator (6,205 overnight stays).

The relative decreases recorded were 9.28% for hotels, 42.95% for hostels, 9.73% for motels, 30.25% for tourist guesthouses, 25.64% for agritourism guesthouses, 15.33% in urban areas, and 30.40% in rural areas.

The structure of the indicator (composed for the two analysed years - Figure 2) highlights the predominance of hotels (65.98% and 72.18%), followed by hostels (14.84% and 10.21%), tourist guesthouses (9.85% and 8.28%), agritourism guesthouses (4.67% and 4.19%), motels (4.01% and 4.36%), and tourist villas (0.65% and 0.78%).

Table 3 contains data on tourist arrivals within accommodation structures.

In Dolj County, there is a variation in the number of tourist arrivals from 71,707 in 2021 to 114,494 in 2017. Sequentially, we observe decreases between these two years by 37.37%, 35.98%,

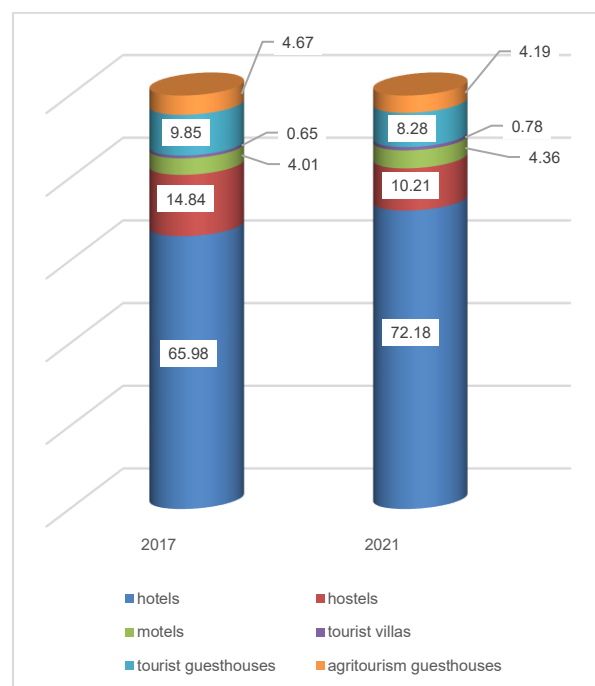


Fig. 2. Structure of tourist accommodation capacity on types of receiving structures (% - processed by: www.inse.ro)

Table 3. Arrivals of tourists in tourist reception structures by types of structures (no. of people)*

Specification	Year		2021/2017 (%)**
	2017	2021	
Dolj County			
Total, of which:	114,494	71,,707	62.63
- hotels	89,140	57063	64.02
- hostels	5,181	1,561	30.13
- motels	5,073	3,035	59.83
- tourist villas	1,063	347	32.64
- tourist guesthouses	8,465	4,317	50.99
- agrotourism guesthouses	5,572	5,384	96.63
Gorj County			
Total, of which:	2,379	584	24.55
- hotels	1,775	-	-
- hostels	604	85	14.07
- tourist guesthouses	-	466	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	-	33	-
Mehedinți County			
Total, of which:	49	-	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	49	-	-
Total general**			
Total, of which:	116,922	72,291	61.83
- hotels	90,915	57,063	62.77
- hostels	5,785	1,646	28.45
- motels	5,073	3,035	59.83
- tourist villas	1,063	347	32.64
- tourist guesthouses	8,465	4,783	56.50
- agrotourism guesthouses	5,621	5,417	96.37
- urban	106,433	65,311	61.36
- rural	10,489	6,980	66.54

* processed after: <http://statistici.inse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/inse-table>, TUR104E- Arrivals of tourists in tourist reception structures by types of structures, counties and localities (10.03.2023);

**own calculations;

69.87%, 40.17%, 67.36%, 49.01%, and 3.37% at the general level, in hotels (89,140 and 57,063 arrivals), hostels (5,181 and 1,561 arrivals), motels (5,073 and 3,035 arrivals), tourist villas (1,063 and 347 arrivals), tourist guesthouses (8,465 and 4,317 arrivals), and in agritourism guesthouses (5,572 and 5,38 arrivals).

In Gorj County, we observe limits of 584 and 2,379 arrivals in the years 2021 and 2017 (-75.45% in dynamics). Based on the specific county situation, we also observe a substantial decrease in the number of arrivals in hostels (from 604 to 85, respectively -85.93%), while for the rest of the units, the indicator was influenced by the number of units and their evolution, which was previously presented (Table 1). The commune of Butoiești in Mehedinți County recorded 49 arrivals in 2017, while in 2021, the indicator did not present any statistical data.

At the general level of the area, the indicator decreased from 116,922 to 72,291 arrivals from 2017 to 2021 (-38.17%). By type of unit, the indicator showed only downward trends in 2021 compared to 2017, larger or smaller than the previously mentioned one: -3.63% for agritourism guesthouses, -33.46% in rural areas, -37.23% for hotels, -38.74% in urban areas, -40.17% for motels, -43.50% for tourist guesthouses, -67.36% for tourist villas, and -71.55% for hostels.

Referring to the structure of the total number of tourist arrivals (Figure 3), considering the types of structures, the situation for the years 2017 and 2021 was as follows: approximately 77-79% hotels, about 2-5% hostels, around 4% motels, approximately 0.5-1% tourist villas, about 7% tourist guesthouses, and approximately 5-7% agritourism guesthouses.

Table 4 presents the specific data for the number of overnight stays in reception structures, by types of structures.

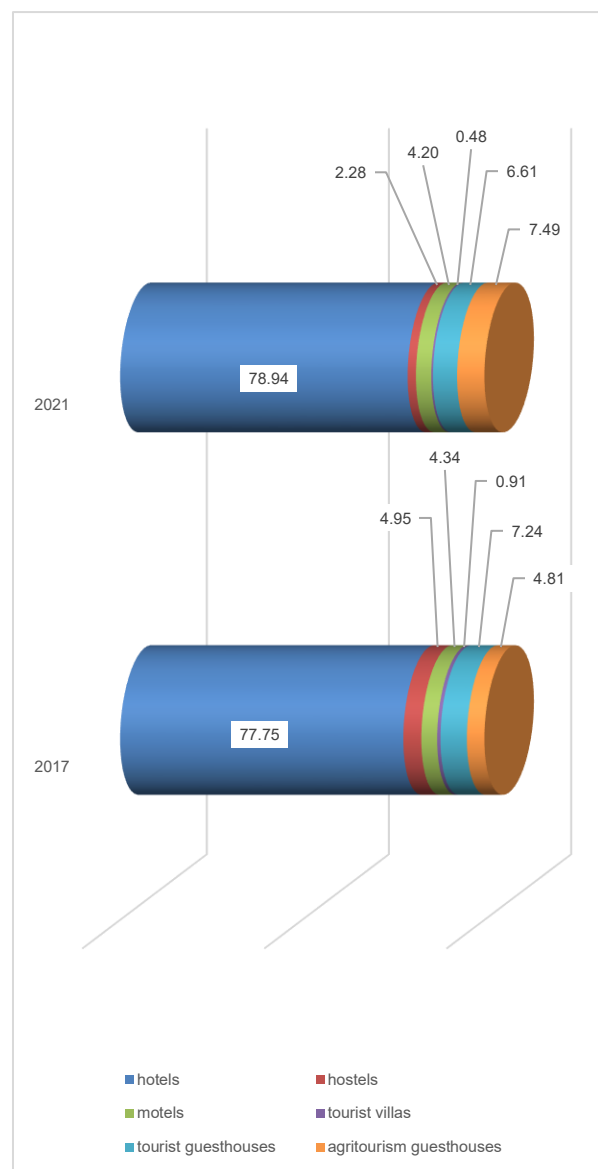


Fig. 3. The structure of the number of tourist arrivals by receiving unit types (% - processed after: www.inse.ro)

In the case of Dolj County, the total number of overnight stays decreased from 205,005 in 2017 to 110,642 in 2021 (-46.03%). By type of structure, the reductions in the indicator were as follows: -43.66% for hotels (157,570 and 88,779), -75.78% for hostels (9,512 and 2,304), -46.55% for motels (10,846 and 5,797), -60.04% for tourist villas, -58.85% for tourist guesthouses (17,328 and 7,130), and -26.40% for agritourism guesthouses (8,135 and 5,987).

Table 4. Overnight stays in tourist reception structures
by types of structures (number)*

Specification	Year		2021/2017 (%)**
	2017	2021	
Dolj County			
Total, of which:	205,005	110,,642	53.97
- hotels	157,570	88779	56.34
- hostels	9,512	2,304	24.22
- motels	10,846	5,797	53.45
- tourist villas	1,614	645	39.96
- tourist guesthouses	17,328	7,130	41.15
- agrotourism guesthouses	8,135	5,987	73.60
Gorj County			
Total, of which:	9,121	940	10.31
- hotels	3,114	-	-
- hostels	6,007	126	2.10
- tourist guesthouses	-	734	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	-	80	-
Mehedinți County			
Total, of which:	889	-	-
- agrotourism guesthouses	889	-	-
Total general**			
Total, of which:	215,015	111,582	51.89
- hotels	160,684	88,779	55.25
- hostels	15,519	2,430	15.66
- motels	10,846	5,797	53.45
- tourist villas	1,614	645	39.96
- tourist guesthouses	17,328	7,864	45.38
- agrotourism guesthouses	9,024	6,067	67.23
- urban	191,504	102,370	53.46
- rural	23,511	9,212	39.18

* processed after: <http://statistici.insse.ro:8077/tempo-online/#/pages/tables/insse-table>, TUR105E- Overnight stays in tourist reception structures by types of structures, counties and localities (10.03.2023);

** own calculations;

In Gorj County, the indicator drastically decreased by 89.69% from 2017 to 2021 (9,121 and 940 overnight stays, respectively). In Mehedinți County (Butoiești), the indicator reached 889 overnight stays in 2017.

At the general level of the analysed area, only downward trends in the number of tourist overnight stays are observed. Thus, we see a general indicator decrease of 48.11% (from 215,015 in 2017 to 111,582 in 2021). These declines were exceeded in the cases of hostels (84.34% - from 15,519 to 2,430 overnight stays), rural areas (60.82% - from 23,511 to 9,212 overnight stays), tourist villas (60.04% - from 1,614 to 645 overnight stays), and tourist guesthouses (54.62% - from 17,328 to 7,864 overnight stays). Hotels, motels, agrotourism guesthouses, and urban areas recorded smaller decline rates than the general level, as follows: agrotourism guesthouses (32.77% - from 9,024 to 6,067 overnight stays), hotels (44.75% -

from 160,684 to 88,779 overnight stays), urban areas (46.54% - from 191,504 to 102,370 overnight stays), and motels (46.55% - from 10,846 to 5,797 overnight stays).

The structure of the indicator (compiled for the two analysed years - Figure 4) highlights the predominance of hotels (74.73% and 79.56%), followed by tourist guesthouses (8.06% and 7.05%), motels (5.04% and 5.19%), agrotourism guesthouses (4.20% and 5.44%), and tourist villas (0.75% and 0.58%). An exceptional situation is manifested in the case of hostels, where the differences recorded between the two years are more significant (7.22% and 2.18%)..

CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, the tourism sector, from the level of protected areas, like the entire tourist activity, suffered due to the pandemic phenomenon that manifested itself during the analysed period.

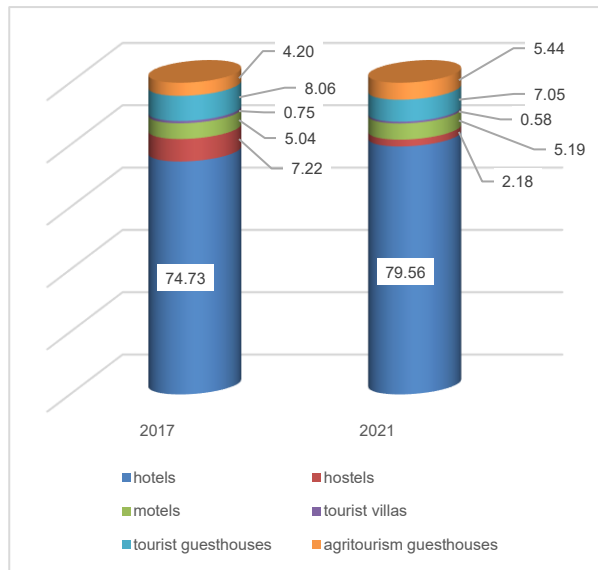


Fig. 4. Structure of the number of overnight stays
By type of reception unit (%) - processed by:
www.inse.ro

This aspect led to the disappearance of certain tourist accommodation structures, which led - in cascade - to the decrease of the other indicators analyzed. The reduction in the number of tourist trips had negative economic and social effects, starting from the regression of the respective sector to what it meant the decrease in the level of income and social security for its employees, but also for those in related sectors.

In the end, we can appreciate the fact that tourism in protected areas can bring significant benefits to the environment and to local communities, if it is managed in a responsible and sustainable way. To promote responsible tourism, it is important to develop tourism development plans that take into account the impact on the environment and local communities, provide education and awareness programs for tourists, promote eco-tourism, and support local communities through responsible tourism. By implementing these measures, we can ensure that tourism in protected areas is beneficial for all those involved and contributes to the preservation of the environment and biodiversity.

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