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TECHNICAL REPORT

Study and protection of the endangered submediterranean „sibleac” habitats in Semenic – Carasului Gorges National Park

Nr. RM/KNIP06/04

**Asociația Speologică Exploratorii
2007**

Technical Report
RM/KNIP06/04

Covering the project activities from 01/07/2006 to 01/07/2007

Reporting date
31/09/2007

**Study and protection of the endangered submediterranean „sibleac”
habitats in Semenic – Carasului Gorges National Park**

PROJECT DATA

Project Location: Semenic – Cheile Carasului National Park
Project starting date: 01.07.2006
Project ending date: 01.07.2007
Total project length (months): 12 months
Total budget (euro - €): 4560
Royal Netherlands Embassy contribution (€): 3760 (82 %)

BENEFICIARY DATA

Beneficiary Name: **The Speleological Association EXPLORATORII**
Collaborators: Semenic – Cheile Carasului National Park
Administration

Contact Person: Raluca Crîsta
Address: Reșița, str. Gratz , bl 5, sc. 3, ap. 3, 320010
Caraș Severin
Telephone: +40 740896990
Fax: +40 255 21 09 14
E-mail: aser_ro@hotmail.com
Website: www.exploratorii.ro

Bogdan BADESCU
President ASE

Raluca CRISTA
Project Coordinator

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Summary

Study and protection of the endangered submediterranean „sibleac“ habitats in Semenic – Caras Gorges National Park project took place in the area of the Semenic – Cheile Carasului National Park and NATURA 2000 site, in 2006-2007, on 37000 ha surface. There were identified 138 surfaces of the habitat: Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophitic vegetation (8210). There were also identified the associated habitats: with Petrifying springs with tufa formation (7220*), Calcareous and calchist screes of the montane to alpine levels (8120), Caves not open to the public (8310). The habitats were mapped for the first time offering a real and complex image.

The field activities carried out by the volunteers for habitats and species identification, inventorying and mapping were concluded into a scientific report, a monitoring plan and a measures plan.

The results obtained were the base of the informational materials realized in the project (albums, posters) and their distribution in the area in order to increase the sensibility of the inhabitants and the municipalities.

Objectives and activities

Objective: Evaluation the status and to implement a set of conservation measures in order to protect the fragile sibleac habitats and the resident animal and plant species in the Semenic-Caras Gorges National Park area.

Activity: A1. Elaboration of a report on the areas covered by the thermophilous scrub habitats in the SCG NP.

Planned period: September-October 2006

Description: The team created a bibliographic study and based on this study they could identify on the map the main areas. Then a field phase followed, where were identified the known habitats and also many other unknown areas. Because of the Romanian demarches to declare Natura 2000 sites, we decided to extend the research so that we can identify all the habitat's surfaces in the future Semenic – Cheile Caraşului site.

Results: identification of 138 areas situated on cca 37000 ha

Problems appeared and their solution: the large and hilly surface that had to be covered lead to prolongation of the action and it's ongoing together with actions A3 and A4. This did not affect the project ongoing but substantially increased the knowledge degree and the results accuracy.

Activity: A2. Implementation of a raising awareness campaign to emphasize the biological value, the fragility and the beauty of these scrub habitats.

Planned period: Oct. 2006 - Jun.2007

Description: there were organized trips in the habitat, in all seasons of the year, in order to take a variety of pictures. The authors' team together with the photographs team, assisted by the researches team elaborated the texts

for albums; they selected the photos, translate into English and designed the models for poster and album. These were multiplied in a printing house in Resita.

The printing materials were the base of the informational campaign realized by the association's volunteers and the ranger from the national park administration.

The beneficiaries of this campaign are listed bellow.

There were prepared for distribution in the project area 300 posters and 200 albums as informational and educational materials.

Results: Materials were distributed in 8 cities and villages instead of 3 planned. The albums and posters circulation was 500, with 200 pieces more than planned at the beginning.

Problems appeared and their solution: Identification of more areas with specific habitats lead to the opportunity to enlarge the area of population information. On the other hand, we considered very important to pay a specific attention to the public administration and institutes with role in protection the areas.

Identification a printing house with a lower price than others permitted us to increase the number of copies of albums and posters so we could increase also the number of beneficiaries in the enlarged area.

Activity: A3 Realizing of the report containing information on the status and biodiversity of the remained sibleac habitats.

Planned period: Apr. 2007 - Jun.2007

Description: there were many trips in the area, of our specialists and collaborators who worked as volunteers in the project. These trips were made according to each volunteers's possibilities, for developing an inventory of the referenced habitas' species, an inventory of species and habitats associated, their conservation statutes, threats.

The working team synthesized all the data in a complex report.

Results: A report of biodiversity and conservation statutes of habitat 8230

Problems appeared and their solution: -

Activity: A4. Mapping the areas that host the sibleac habitat in the Semenic Carasului Gorges National Park.

Planned period: May 2007 - June 2007

Description: There was built an IT expert team specialized in GIS. These operate the obtained data from the team that worked in the field (GPS points or polygons) and data in analogical format on maps (scale 1:10.000). Using ortophotoplans in combination with the above data, there were drawn the first area in GIS. These were analyzed by the field researchers' team and with the latest data and observations received they assigned a final shape and calculated the analytic surfaces.

Results: realization a map with all perimeters of the referenced habitat.

Problems appeared and their solution: The field cartography was extremely hard because of the hilly field (calcareous walls, abundant vegetation, great detritus). This inconvenient made difficult the team

displacement, with real risks or in some cases without success. On the other hand, the area with deep valleys didn't permit the GPS to function with best accuracy.

These difficult situations were passed over by using alpinism equipment and the ortophotoplans that gave very good results.

Activity: A5 Workshop and elaboration of an action plan for sibleac habitat conservation

Planned period: June 2007

Description: workshops for discussions were initiated at the national park's administration office, at the Environment Protection Agency office and of course, at the association office in order to give a shape to the action plan. This plan was finalized with a meeting of the interested factors, organized in Resita. This was also the end of the identification, mapping, evaluation and planning process of the habitat conservation statutes.

Results: A workshop was organized and other three meeting for elaboration of the action plan for habitat conservation.

Problems appeared and their solution: -

Collaborator

Semenic – Cheile Carasului National Park Administraion

Beneficiaries

The local population in the administrative units:

- Resita with Cuptoare ward
- Caraşova with Iabalcea village
- Goruia with Gârlişte vilage
- Anina
- Bozovici
- Rangers of the Semenik – Cheile Carasului National Park Administraion
- Public administration:
 - Reşiţa Municipality
 - Caraşova Municipality
 - Goruia Municipality
 - Anina Municipality
 - Bozovici Municipality
- Public institutes
 - Prefect Institute
 - County Council
 - Environment Protection Agency
- Teaching institutes
 - 4 high-schools in Reşiţa

- 1 high – school in Caraşova
- 1 primary school in Goruia
- 1 high – school and 4 primary schools in Anina
- 1 high - school în Bozovici
- NGOs
 - Speocaraş Oraviţa Association
 - Prusik Timişoara Association
 - Romania Speleological Federation
 - International Union for Nature Conservation

Results

1. Report of biodiversity and conservation statutes of habitat 8230 „Rocky slops with chasmophitic vegetation”.

The report represents a document containing data from actions A1, A3, A4. these data are: referenced habitats’ description, associated habitats’ description, flora and fauna species inventory, habitats’ conservation statutes, habitats’ limits, images of the habitats.

2. Action plan for habitats’ conservation

The plan contains clear measures for sustainable conservation of habitats.

3. Monitoring plan

The plan contains the monitoring objective, working protocol, methods and tools.

4. Album

The album of 500 ex, colored contains texts and images from the referenced habitat and associated habitats. In English and Romanian languages, there is a description of the habitat, species, of the conservation statutes and threats.

5. Poster

The album was designed colored, A3 format, of 500 ex. It describes the importance of the habitat, threats upon it, and risks in case of un-protection.

6. Publicity

The projects’ activities were promoted through two interviews at the regional radio, Radio Resita, two press releases, www.exploratorii.ro website and the association forum.

Problems appeared and their solution

All problems appeared in actions A1, A2, A4, related to the large surface where inventory and public awareness activities were developed, were successfully passed over.

Conclusions

1. The project objective and planned activities were successfully realized.
2. The project area was enlarged from the national park surface to the NATURA 2000 site.
3. 138 surfaces of the Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (8210), total 278,286 ha.
4. There were identified associated habitats of Petrifying springs with tufa formation (7220*), Calcareous and calcareous screes of the montane to alpine levels (8120), Caves not open to the public (8310).
5. Informational materials were realized of a bigger number.
6. The target group and the project beneficiaries' number was extended.

Annexes

1. Financial report
2. Report of biodiversity and conservation statutes of habitat 8230 „Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation“
3. Action plan for habitats' conservation
4. Monitoring plan
5. Album
6. Poster
7. Publicity