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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

42nd meeting
Strasbourg, 29 November – 2 December 2022

Other complaint: 2021/3

**Alleged unsustainable logging within the
Retezat National Park
(Romania)**

- REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
the Retezat National Park Administration*



Contează pentru viitor!

REGIA NAȚIONALĂ A PĂDURILOR – ROMSILVA ADMINISTRAȚIA PARCULUI NAȚIONAL RETEZAT

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To:

Antonia Oprișan, Focal Point to the Bern Convention for Romania
Ursula Sticker, Secretary of Bern Convention
Anne Burill, European Commission, EU Focal Point to the Bern Convention

Ref: Additional documents related to Complaint No. 2021/3 - increasing logging in Retezat National Park

According to the requests sent by your letter of 7th October 2021, we submit to your attention the following documents:

- [Annex 1](#). Copy of report from Environmental National Guard – Hunedoara County Territorial Service followed by English version translated by an authorized translator;
- [Annex 2](#). Copy of report from Environmental National Guard – Bihor County and Arad County Territorial Services followed by English version translated by an authorized translator.

Regarding your second request, we specify that the Retezat National Park internal zoning includes following zones: Strict Protection Zone (**SPZ**) – total protection, Integral Protection Zone (**IPZ**) – high protection, Sustainable Conservation Zone (**SCZ**), called also “**buffer zone**” – medium protection, and Sustainable Development Zone (**SDZ**) – very small in size, where some construction works are allowed.

The area under complaint is located in upper part of Râul Alb (White River in English) Valley and is included since 2003, when first edition of Retezat NP Management Plan was approved, in **SCZ**, where some logging activities can be done, according to article 22, paragraph (8), letter j), of Law 49/2011: “forestry activities for the care and management of forest, special conservation works to promote natural regeneration and without the extraction of dead wood, except in cases of forest pests attacks that can spread over large areas, in the forest plots adjacent to the areas with strict or integral protection, in the rest of the buffer zone being allowed the application of forest treatments that promote the natural regeneration (...). Forest treatments will be applied with restrictions imposed by park management plans and forest management guidelines in protected areas”. It has to be mentioned that the entire forest area in the Râul Alb basin is private property of the communities in the area, and at the public consultations of the last two years they have clearly expressed their request that these properties remain in SCZ.

Regarding the Complainant’s slanderous statement about the attitude of the Retezat National Park director related to the issue under discussion, we quote from the message sent by e-mail, on July 15, 2021, by Mr. Vlado Vancura – Deputy Chairman of the European Wilderness Society: “We have

not yet experienced any opposition from the National Park authority to audit Raul Alb as WILDRiver”.

In **SPZ** area all human activities are forbidden, except scientific research. In **IPZ** zone some human activities are allowed (for example tourism and grazing), but forestry works are strictly limited to small interventions in special cases, under the condition to be approved by the Scientific Council of the park and then by the relevant ministry.

An updated version of the internal zoning, in which the **SPZ** and **IPZ** were increased in size (as can be seen in [Annex 3](#)), was proposed by the park administration in the new edition of the park management plan and will be submitted by the end of the year to the analysis and approval of Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests.

The proposed internal zoning of Retezat National Park is presented in the table bellow.

Zone	Surface - hectares	Percent - %
SPZ	4350,00	11,35
IPZ	21723,14	56,70
SCZ	12089,68	31,55
SDZ	153,13	0,40
TOTAL	38315,95	100,00

Park director,
Zoran Acimov

