

Strasbourg, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023

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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

43<sup>rd</sup> meeting

Strasbourg, 28 November - 1 December 2023

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**Complaint on stand-by: 2021/3**

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

**- REPORT BY THE COMPLAINANT -**

*Document prepared by  
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## Second Update Report - Breaching of Bern Convention by extensive logging in Retezat National Park

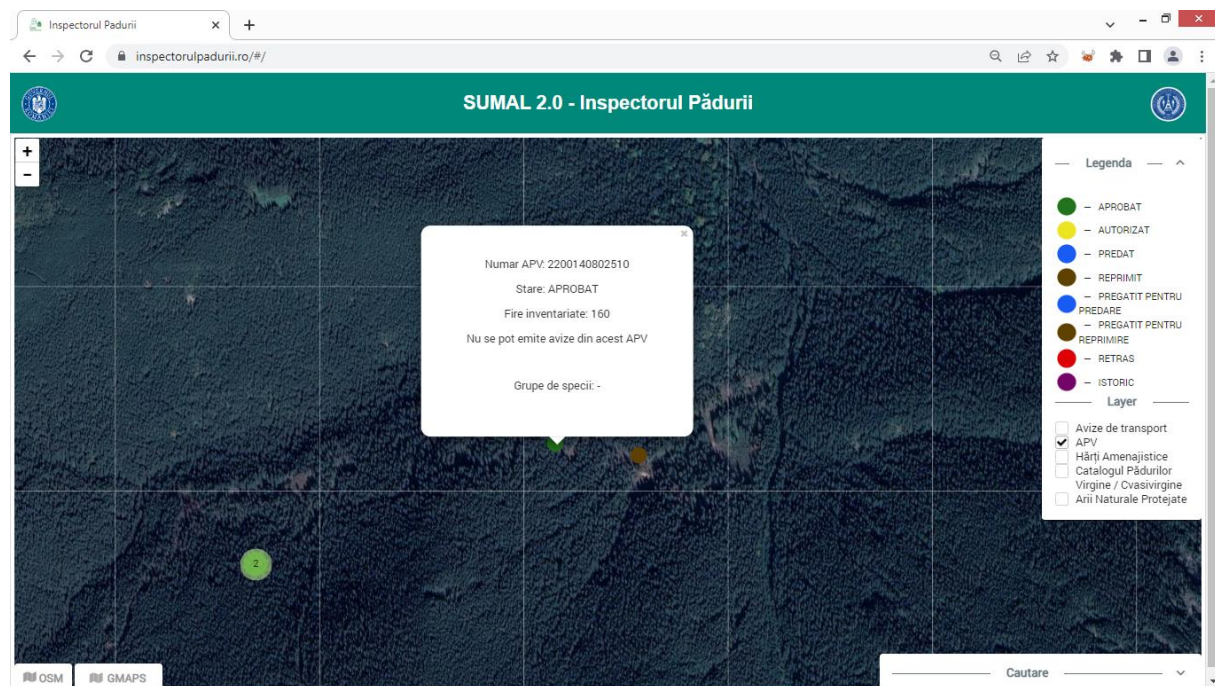
În the letter dated 5th May 2022, from the Secretary of the Bern Convention, is written that: "The Bureau asked both parties to provide an update report for the Spring meeting in 2023. The complaint is put on stand-by."

So I will shortly present the ongoing situation.

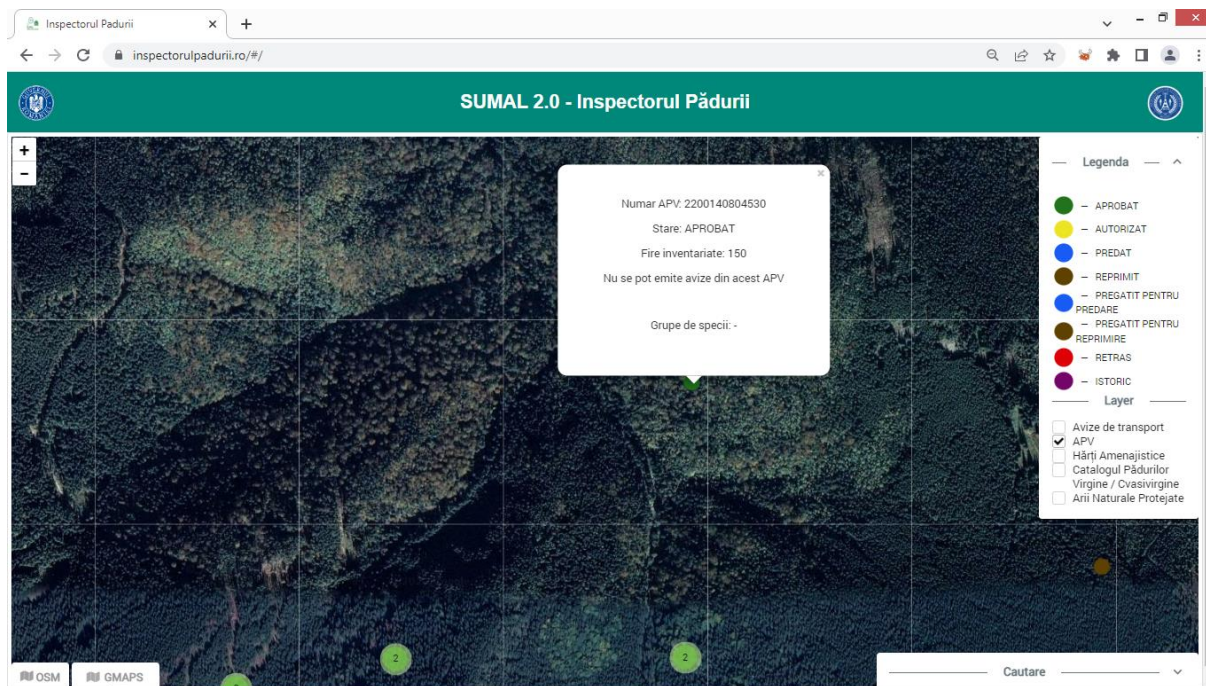
I gathered Print Screens with all the timber transport permits from the logging sites inside the Retezat National Park, in the Valley of Râul Alb, issued after March 15, 2021. I must stress that these are not the permits issued for the whole park, just those for the trees felled in the Valley of Râul Alb. And I must also stress that **all this huge logging was done after I started to write the complaint, after the destruction that triggered my complaint**. So, this huge logging portrayed by the 212 timber transport permits adds to the destruction caused to the pristine forests there, that is already depicted in my complaint. It substantially and staggering increases the aggression against the natural heritage. The Print Screens were taken on phone and on laptop. Except for the first two, the ones from 2021 are on phone. The ones from 2022 – 2023 are on laptop. **I am [linking a file with all the 212 Print Screens](#)**.

By allowing this logging to continue, after being informed about my complaint, the Romanian Government is mocking the Bern Convention.

And the near future looks even worse. Because two more acts of exploitation ("acte de punere în valoare" – APV) are already approved, in the worst locations possible. You have below Print Screens of theme.



This one above approves felling 160 more trees, just next to the horrible wound of the tree cover I presented in prior communications, seen in the video uploaded at the link <http://s.go.ro/mwk55fyk>.



The one above approves felling of 150 more trees, close to the river course. The Valley of Râul Alb being the only one in Romanian Carpathians with no standard forest road accompanying the river course, the river course and its vicinity are of huge importance for nature research, on issues going from wildlife to hydrogeomorphology. So opening a new exploitation in the vicinity of the river is a very serious issue.

As regards the Government Report no. 146 / 09.02.2022, it contains in false data, as follows.

First of all, there is no internal zoning of Retezat National Park, since no management plan was ever approved by a ministerial order or government decision, as required. No such order or decision was ever published in the Official Gazette of Romania. Anyone says otherwise should provide the number of the Official Gazette of Romania. **Please ask the Romanian Government to provide the number of the Official Gazette of Romania in which such an act was published!**

The paragraph below also contradicts the present situation:

”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.”

Because the management plan newly written, which promotes logging in the Valley of Râul Alb, has already finished the SEA procedure. It ended with the issuing of the Final Framing Stage Decision no. 83 of October 13, 2021.

In order to submit an updated version of the plan to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, the new version **must prior be subjected** to a new SEA procedure (since it is a changed plan). According to the site of the Hunedoara Environmental Agency, **no documentation was filed for a new SEA procedure.**

Romania is the European country with the worst attitude towards protected areas, the worst management of the protected areas. For instance, the widest attack on nature in the nowadays Europe is represented by the Ordinance of Ecocides, which includes a large clearing of the forest in Călimani National Park, to make room for an illegal reservoir. More on the Ordinance of Ecocides, here:

<https://balkanriverdefence.org/news/basca-mare-dam-plans-resurrected/>

The Institutions of Bern Convention do not have the capacity to address all these violations of the Convention, but they should start somewhere, and the logging on the Valley of Râul Alb, being already documented, is a good start.

Please acknowledge again that **the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests can stop the illegal logging in Retezat National Park** at any moment, by revoking the orders which approved the forest plannings, **if wishes to**. Then, ecological restoration can be performed on the forest surfaces destroyed so far. After all, we are in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. But first, any destruction must cease and the perpetrators must be held accountable.

biol. Călin Dejeu

Cluj-Napoca, January 31, 2023