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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

41st meeting
Strasbourg, 30 November – 3 December 2020

New complaint: 2021/3

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

- COMPLAINT FORM -

*Document prepared by
Mr Calin Dejeu*

**Convention on the Conservation of
European Wildlife
and Natural Habitats**



COMPLAINT FORM

NB: *Complaint forms must be submitted in electronic word format, and not exceed 3 pages, including the first administrative page. A maximum 5-page report can be attached. The Secretariat will request additional information on a case-by-case basis.*

Please, fill in this form and send it to the attention of:

Bern Convention Secretariat

Directorate of Democratic Participation

Council of Europe

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

E-mail: Bern.convention@coe.int

First name: Călin

Surname: Dejeu

On behalf of (if applicable): -

E-mail: ncldejeu@yahoo.co.uk

Web site: <https://www.romaniacurata.ro/bio/calin-dejeu/>

Date: 13.04.2021

Electronic Signature

1. Please state the reason of your complaint (refer also the Contracting Party/es involved and the Articles of the Convention which might be violated).

I am concerned that the increasing logging within the territory of Retezat National Park in Romania, on the valley of Râul Alb, will cause the loss of an invaluable genuine wilderness area, along with irreversible damage to the flora and fauna in the park.

I believe that Romania might violate Article 4, point 1 and 2, Article 5 and Article 6 of the Bern Convention.

2. Which are the specific specie/s or habitat/s included in one of the Appendices of the Bern Convention potentially affected? (Please include here information about the geographical area and the population of the species concerned, if applicable)

Geographic and general information

Retezat National Park is located in Romania, in Southern Carpathians. The valley of Râul Alb is situated in the North-East of the national park.

Retezat National Park is the first national park of Romania and used to be, from 1935 to the 90s, the only national park in the country, one of the richest in biodiversity areas in the country. It is a home to tens of species protected under the Bern Convention.

Out of these, most impacted by the increasing logging on the wild valley of Râul Alb are: *Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx*, *Canis lupus*, *Rupicapra rupicapra*, *Cervus elaphus*, *Lutra lutra*, *Martes martes*, *Glaucidium passerinum*, *Aegolius funereus* and *Ciconia nigra*.

Moreover, Retezat National Park was awarded with the European Diploma of Protected Areas.

A report with further data on this logging in the national park is attached with this complaint.

3. What might be the negative effects for the specie/s or habitat/s involved?

The forest habitats aggressed by this logging are degraded and fragmented. The species suffer habitat degradation and habitat loss, lose their previously best area with no human disturbance in the national park, an area especially important for reproduction.

There are more details in the attached report.

- 4. Do you know if potentially affected species or habitats also fall under the scope of other international Conventions, (for instance: RAMSAR, CMS, ACCOBAMS, Barcelona Convention, etc) or if the area has been identified as a NATURA 2000/Emerald network site?**

The area has been also designated Natura 2000. In fact, there are two Natura 2000 sites overlapping the national park: ROSCI0217 and ROSPA0084.

- 5. Do you know if there are any pending procedures at the national or international level regarding the object of your complaint?**

A complaint was filed by "Asociația Declic" to the Forest Guard, but the institution, manifesting its usual complicity with the loggers, did not stop the illegal logging, and just fined them with 3.000 lei. The petition at the link below was registered to the National Environmental Guard, was registered with the No. 612/CRP/30.03.2021. No answer was received since.

Râul Alb River was considered to be certified as "wild river" by the European Wilderness Society, but this certification is pending due to the opposition of the director of the administration of the national park, Zoran Acimov, which is openly opposing conservation.

<https://wilderness-society.org/wild-river-raul-alb/>

- 6. Any other information (existence of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), size of projects, maps of the area, etc)**

The logging is based on forest plans illegally approved by the Hunedoara Environmental Agency, without the SEA and appropriate assessments required by law. More data on the area are available in the attached report.

[Annex: Breaching of Bern Convention by extensive logging in Retezat National Park \(short report\)](#)