Reevaluating the Water Resources in Tourism

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Abstract: Romania has an ample range of hydrographical resources: lakes, rivers, mineral waters, that can be exploited economically by tourism. The distribution of water resources that can be exploited is wide due to the fact that waters have an essential role in creating the tourism environment. They can generate various forms of tourism such as spa, recreational tourism, and a form of educational tourism for students, as training applications of school and university curricula.

In favor of a good tourism management, it is appropriate to classify the areas depending on water quality and hydrologic specific of the area, but also according to the existing facilities and recreational opportunities. Curative properties of the thermal and mineral waters in Romania are not superiorly revaluated due to the lack of modern infrastructure.

It is essential to value the areas of educational tourism, as well as the thematic one, especially the areas with special karst phenomena, emphasizing on implementing the concept of sustainable regional development.

Key-Words: tourism, resources, reevaluation.

1 Introduction

Romania has an ample range of hydrographical resources: rivers, lakes, sea and underground water resources with curative properties as well.

These resources are spread evenly and located on various relief forms in Romania.

All these hydrographical resources should generate various types of tourism, such as recreational, educational and curative tourism. Unfortunately, lack of infrastructure and poor promotion of tourism are reasons for which the tourism’s potential in Romania is still used at low levels.

2 Problem Formulation

2.1. Romania’s hydrographical potential

Romania has various hydrographical resources such as:

Mineral waters. Usually, mineral waters from Romania contain chlorinated substances, respectively compounds of chlorine, sodium and potassium. Some mineral waters are thermal mineral waters with high temperatures. Mineral waters have an important place in tourism resources, creating one of the oldest forms of tourism – balneary tourism.

From the theoretical point of view, Romanian mineral waters are defined according to the German education system, respectively based on the chemical composition, while in other countries mineral water is defined based on its curative properties.

The use of mineral waters in Romania has a traditional history, there is evidence of using these curative waters since Roman times, thermal baths were built at Herculane. Mineral and thermal waters started to be studied scientifically in the 18th century, with focus on chemical composition and curative effect. Nowadays, the Romanian mineral waters are classified according to their chemical composition, from mineralization of 1g/liter up to over 150 g/liter (salty waters).

The genesis of Romanian carbogaseous mineral waters is connected to the mofette aureole, the nearness of ancient and present volcanic downhill from western Oriental Carpathians and Apuseni.
Mountains.

Romania’s thermal waters are genetically tied to the existence of thick fractures and geothermal stages. There are various types of mineral waters in Romania: carbogaseous, bicarbonate, ferruginous, alkaline, chloride-sodic, iodized, radioactive, arsenical etc., that can be used for a large range of human conditions, either in external treatments or internal treatments.

Several mineral waters are accompanied by the so-called mofettes, carbon dioxide and sulfur-free gaseous emanations.

It is estimated that the majority of Romania’s hydromineral resources is not used at present due to several reasons although it has a remarkable tourism potential!

2.2. Therapeutic Muds as Tourism Potential

Muds are pelitick or peloid rocks (Greek pelos – clay), and substances that are formed in natural conditions under the influence of geological and biological natural conditions, and they are mainly used for therapeutic purposes.

These muds may be used in their natural state or processed, that is ground and mixed with mineral or geothermal waters.

These types of muds are geographically linked to two natural areas: peat swamps and sapropelic muds from salty locations.

In Romania, there are peat swamps near Vatra Dornei, Borsec, etc and sapropelic muds near the salty lakes of Techirghiol, Amara, The Salty Lake, Ocna Sibiului, Bazna, Slănic, etc.

2.3. Carbogaseous Waters

The spread of carbogaseous waters in Romania is the outcome of post-volcanic activities taking place at present through carbon dioxide emissions (unstable H2Co3) known in approximately 3000 points (the volcanic chain is the Europe’s longest chain competing with other similar chains). Resorts such as: Vatra Dornei, Sangeorzu Bai, Borsec, Baile Tusnad, Covasna, Lipova, Stana de Vale, Buzias, Tinca were created and developed in time. The deposits are used exclusively for local needs but there are also other points with great perspectives (the balneary and climatic resorts are facilities that comprise a balneary element, the water or a favorable climate). Campulung Moldovenesc is one of the climatic resorts.

The predominant type of carbogaseous water comprises other substances as well (carbonates, Na2Cl, iron compounds), thus we may speak of a complex mineralization.

The complex content of this category of waters is explained by the possibility to dissolve salts from the rocks on the ascent route. Carbogaseous, alkaline and alkaline-ferruginous waters are present at Sangeorz Bai, Malnas, Bixad, Valcele, Tinca. The ferruginous carbogaseous waters may be found at Săvanic Moldova ("Moldavia’s pearl"), Bibiorteni, Lipova.

They emerge following the impregnation of waters with carbon dioxide in the mofette aureole of the erupting Mountains Oas –Gutui- Tibles and Calimani-Giurgiu-Harghita. The most extended areal with similar hydrochemistry is grouped la Bixad, Sapanta, Borcului Valley, Bilbor, Baile Harghita, Homorod, Tusnad, Sâncraieni, Bodoc, Covasna, Zizin, Malnas, etc. There are other areas with mofettes and carbogaseous springs as well, located in the Metaliferi Mountains (Georgiu, Rapolt, Bopolt, Chimindia, etc.) but also in the Western Plain and Western Hills, where the carbon dioxide dissolved in the carbogaseous waters comes from deep down through the major faults system (Tinca, the Black Forest, Lipova, Buzias).

2.4. Surface Waters and Tourism Potential

Romania has a diverse and rich network of surface waters, including the Danube and any other small or big stream.

The possibilities to use these resources are numerous: nautic sports, leisure activities, piscicultural tourism, ethnographical tourism (seas, vortexes, stamping mills).

Rivers are excellent for swimming, taking sun baths, nautical sports, fishing etc. Other rivers are good for hiking, mountain climbing or extreme nautical sports.

Waterfalls areas have a unique tourism potential. Waterfalls are breaks of different sizes in slope of rivers, due to highly advanced tectonics. Waterfalls are located in areas with hard rocks or cliffs, crystalline schists (Bălea Waterfall), or metamorphic calcars (Horses’ Waterfall from Rodnei Mountains).

2.5. Lakes as recreational areas

Lakes are an important element of geographical landscape. They have multiple geneses. There are over 3400 lakes in our country, out of which 57% are natural lakes.

The most famous lakes are the saline lakes (Ocna Sibiului), glacial lakes (Retezat Mountains), volcanic lakes (Sfânta Ana) and lakes – river banks or maritime.

The majority of the lakes is located in the Retezat Mountains, and the bank-types ones are on the Black Sea seashore.

3 Problem Solution

3.1. Development of water resources in tourism

Water is indispensable to humans and
environment. All processes in the natural environment take place in the presence of water.

Tourism is by its nature, content and purposes a phenomenon characteristic to the modern civilization and one of the major components of economic and social life that polarizes the interest of an increasing number of countries.

The role of tourism in the national economy of different countries is extremely important due to its complexity, the amplitude of activities that need a particular infrastructure and development of services, but most of all because it implies professional training and an the promotion via tourism fairs and movies promoting a tourism area etc.

3.2. The implementation of sustainable development concept in tourism

The purpose of creating a sustainable tourism must be subordinated to national and regional projects aiming economic and social development. Actions may cover economic purposes (increase of incomes, diversification and integration of activities, control, intensification and area-based development), social purposes (improving life conditions and eliminating inequality in distributing incomes, protection of social and cultural indigenous patrimony, partaking and involvement of local communities) or ecological purposes (protecting ecotourism functions, preserving and using in a sustainable manner the biodiversity). Some specialists prefer talking about sustainable development of tourism rather than about a sustainable tourism; the first concept pictures all the aspects of the development while the latter deals with some aspects and components of tourism, such as long distance air transportation, which may just not be sustainable under the circumstances of current technologies, even with the use of the best practices.

The implementation of policies and tourism projects is the responsibility of both the government and the private sector. The private sector is in charge with establishing the tactic, calendar and research, creating the basic infrastructure, developing certain tourism attraction points, setting and managing the norms regarding the services and facilities offered, determining measures for territory management and capitalization and for the protection of the environment, setting standards for tourism training and preserving public health and safety.

The private sector is in charge with the development of accommodation services, activities of tourism agencies and companies enrolled in the tourism sector, and it relies on the infrastructure, on the development of some tourism attraction points and their promotions through specific marketing activities.

Political engagement is crucial for the development of tourism in a planned and sustainable manner. At the same time, nongovernmental organizations are more and more engaged in aspects concerning tourism development.

Different implementation techniques are used. Logic montage and scheduling development projects and tourism action programs are important as well. Tourism is a domain that must cover efficient organizations, both in the public and private sector, ensuring environmental protection and standards of the tourism facilities. Tourism projects must be developed systematically using the Critical Path Method. Projects’ financial support, both for the public and private sector is an essential condition. A financial strategy must be established for each and every tourism activity.

Developing human resources for tourism must be the top priority for the purpose of providing quality services necessary on the tourism market, and it implies a systemic approach upon projecting the personnel needed for the activity and establishing the manners used to train the qualified personnel in the private and public sector. Should the national and regional institutions specialized in training within the hotel sector, catering and tourism fail to fulfill the local needs, a specialized institution should be set up on a local level.

At the same time, it is essential to use tourism marketing techniques and methods: establishing the objectives and marketing strategies and developing a promotional program. Marketing activities must take place on the governmental tourism departments’ level, on the local tourism department and on the private tourism sector as the development of a positive image in the new tourism sector on the potential markets is extremely important.

4 Conclusion

Romania has an outstanding tourism potential over a balanced divided territory. This potential must turn into a tourism offer. Romania has a complex and diverse hydrographical network, comprising rivers and streams, natural and artificial lakes, some with therapeutic properties, the Black Sea, the Danube and the Danube Delta, but also mineral and thermal-mineral waters that can and must promote tourism.

The actions of promoting tourism should take place within governmental tourism institutions, local tourism authorities and especially within the private sector.
References:


