

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “MARINE RESEARCH HORIZON 2020”

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**MARES2020**

Hotel Admiral, Golden Sands Resort, BULGARIA



INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

# ECOTOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

*Marius POPESCU, Mariana GOLUMBEANU, Marius-George CRACU,  
Liliana PANAITESCU, Zoia PREFAC, Marius-Laurentiu LUNGU*

*“OVIDIUS” University from Constanta  
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences*

## *Introduction*

In this paper gives emphasis relation between ecotourism and environmental education.

Ecotourism is a kind of tourism practiced in protected areas and environmental education through ecotourism may have a positive impact especially on school population.

## *Material and method*

For identification environmental problems determined of tourism activities was realized a questionnaire with 20 questions applied to 200 students about Geography and Ecology and Environmental Protection Programs from “Ovidius” University of Constanta.

## *Results and discussion*

### 1. Gender

- 65% - girls
- 35% - boys

### 2. Age group

- between 20 and 22 years old – 54%
- under 20 years old – 43%
- more than 25 years old – 3%
- between 23 and 25 years old – NO

### 3. Area of origin

- urban area – 83%
- rural area – 17%

## *Results and discussion*

4. *Environmental Education* is a basic component of education?

- YES – 96%
- NO – 4%

5. *Environmental Education* is a component of education for Sustainable Development?

- YES – 95%
- NO – 5%

## ***Results and discussion***

6. *Environmental Education* can be achieved in University in the field of:

- Geography – 35%
- Environmental Science– 33%
- Interdisciplinary level – 32%

7. Practical applications are required in *Environmental Education*?

- YES – 97%
- I don't know – 3%

8. The Tourism in protected areas could help at *Environmental Education*?

- YES – 82%
- I don't know – 10%
- NO – 8%

## *Results and discussion*

### 9. Protected Areas from Dobrogea:

- Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve – 43%
- Macin Mountains National Park – 17%
- Dobrogea Gorges – 17%
- Fantanita Murfatlar – 12%
- Others (Hageni, Techirghiol Lake, Esechioi, Canaraua Fetii) – 11%

### 10. Protected Areas from Romania:

- Retezat Mountains National Park – 40%
- Ceahlau Mountains National Park – 20%
- Piatra Craiului Mountains National Park – 15%
- Apuseni Mountains National Park – 12%
- Bucegi Mountains National Park – 10%
- Others (Fagaras, Parang and Macin Mountains) – 3%

## ***Results and discussion***

### 11. Protected Flora species :

- Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*) – 80%
- Lily water (*Nymphaea alba*) – 14%
- Carthusian pink (*Dianthus Carthusianorum*) – 4%
- Others – 2%

### 12. Protected Fauna species :

- Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*) – 35%
- Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) – 14%
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) – 11%
- Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) – 10%
- Swan (*Cygnus*) – 8%
- Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) – 7%
- Stag (*Cervus elaphus*) – 5%
- Others – 10%

## *Results and discussion*

13. You agree with tourism in protected areas?

- NO – 67%
- YES – 33%

14. What is the age when *Environmental Education* should start?

- between 7 and 10 years old – 48%
- under 7 years old – 37%
- between 11 and 15 years old – 12%
- more than 15 years old – 3%

15. You have been a volunteer for action on environmental protection?

- YES – 62%
- NO – 38%



## *Results and discussion*

16. Who should be involved in *Environmental Educations*?

- Educational Institutions –26%
- Universities –21%
- Environmental Protection Agencies – 19%
- NGO of environment –18%
- Media –16%

17. Tourism contributes of environmental degradations, in the percentage of:

- 11-25% - 38%
- >25% - 37%
- 5-10% - 22%
- < 5% - 3%

## ***Results and discussion***

### 18. Environmental problems caused of tourism activities:

- wastes – 30%
- various forms of pollution – 28%
- imbalances in ecosystems – 25%
- disappearance of species – 10%
- others – 7%

### 19. Measures to prevent environmental problems caused of tourism activities:

- education and information – 31%
- application of fines – 22%
- delimitations of strictly protected areas – 20%
- organized tourism – 12%
- strict laws and monitoring of protected ares – 9%
- others – 6%

### 20. **70%** from students have defined ***“Environmental Education”***

## CONCLUSIONS

- *Ecotourism is a form of tourism based on the knowledge and protection of the environment, focusing on the need to educate tourists/students about environmental problems and means of maintaining them.*
- *Protected areas are resources for ecotourism.*
- *Tourism activity in protected areas must be in accordance with protection and conservation of ecosystems.*
- *It is compulsory to have a Touristic Center for Information, in order to indicate access points and routes, without affecting the protected elements.*
- *By harnessing the potential of ecotourism, optimal conditions for tourism are created through research, recreation, and education, given the protection and conservation of the landscape and biodiversity.*

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*Thank you!*