ADVENTURE TOURISM AN INSUFFICIENTLY EXPLOITED OPPORTUNITY IN BIHOR COUNTY, ROMANIA

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Abstract: The routine of everyday life, the stifling society, the desire of novel and unexpected alongside the unlimited access to information got the modern man on the threshold of a new experience: adventure. Within this context in the tourism industry one type of tourism seems to gain more and more followers: adventure tourism. The adventure tourism is a nature-based tourism involving challenging outdoors activities with a great potential of thrill and excitement. Thus, this paper aims to emphasise the potential for adventure tourism in Bihor County by highlighting the areas where activities related to adventure tourism are developed and to propose new itineraries.

Key words: adventure tourism, outdoor activities, extreme sports, adventure traveller

INTRODUCTION
Phenomenon that dominates the contemporary world (Cocean, 2005) and a barometer for the modern society (Erdeli & Gheorghilaş, 2006), tourism is considered to be an economic sector whose deployment framework is the geographical area modelled and transformed into a tourist area according to the attractiveness of its elements valued by specific facilities designed to support the tourism phenomenon (Măhăra, 1995). Transforming tourism into industry is one of the biggest changes in postwar economic activity (Batta, 2000). However, no other industry has an image problem itself higher than the tourist industry (Edgell et al., 2008). Tourism can not be regarded as an independent industry but only in connection with an amalgamation of other industry sectors: hospitality, transport, labor, etc. Tourism is a "reality" created by the human being who wants to travel the desire to broaden the horizons of knowledge, wants to relax away from the hubbub of everyday life or to recover their lost health in everyday hustle. The permanent alterations occurred in the behaviour of the tourism products consumers’ are a consequence of globalization as it has the capacity to create impacts on cultural criteria, social criteria, personal criteria and psychological criteria (Kotler, 2008). Therefore, there is an ongoing change in the demand for

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http://istgeorel.int.uoradea.ro/Reviste/Anale/anale.htm
tourism products. Market tourism is confronting nowadays with a high demand for tourism products that promise a guaranteed level of excitement and thrill. To that effect for the past decades tour operators have tried to combine the tourist packages so that to comprise at least one activity with potential for thrill and excitement. So, the path for adventure tourism has been planed.

Analyzing the opportunities for adventure tourism in the Bihor County is the main purpose of the present paper. The present paper is having a geographical approach by the areas studied offering possibilities for the capitalization of the adventure tourism. In the same time we are highlighting the strong existing connection between extreme sports and adventure tourism.

DATA AND METHODS

Any research or now a scientific approach, regardless of the field has its starting pont in the establishment of the research topic and setting of the methods, means and strategies overview by which the goal of the research will be achieved. For the present paper we used the classical methods of research: the bibliographic documentation addressing both Romanian and foreign literature, the field observation and research, the information storage and processing and the analysis and synthesis.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Defining adventure tourism

In 2005 the futurist Thornton May asserted that „the future of travel is adventure travel“. It is reasonable that adventure travel and adventure tourism to be considered one and the same as tourism involves a trip that includes accommodation, transport and different activities with various level of excitement and thrill. In order to give a proper full understanding of the collocation „adventure tourism“ it is necessary to analyze the etymology of its most important word: adventure. The etymology of adventure lies in the Latin „adventurus“ future participle of the verb „advenire“ which means „to happen to“ (dictionary.reference.com). Adventure is generally assumed to describe a dangerous action with an inherent amount of risk involved and an uncertain outcome. Therefore, adventure is usually unexpected and exciting. In terms of adventure tourism there has been little attention in the academic literature as it is mentioned in some texts of ecotourism, outdoor, recreation and park management (Buckley, 2006, p.11), but it is a fact that adventure tourism is a subsector of the commercial tourism and the demand for it has grown rapidly for the past decades. Thus, adventure tourism began to be studied in the perspective of economic impact as well as it had a total annual turnover worldwide of around US$1 trillion (Buckley, 2010). Considering this point of view we have tried to select the most comprehensive definitions for the adventure tourism in the literature, therefore we have focused on three utterances of the following: Buckley in 2006, Candian Tourism Commision in 2008 and Adventure Travel Trade Association in 2010. All these three definitions focus on excitement, interaction with nature and outdoor activities. In our opinion the most broad definition for adventure tourism has been given by the Adventure Travel Trade Association in 2010: „any domestic or international trip that includes at least two out of the three following aspects: physical activity, interaction with nature, and cultural learning or exchange“ (ATTA, 2010). As it can be seen this definition is based upon the changing consumer needs; nowadays traveller is in the permanent search of new an unprecedented experiences having more or less risk potential but a high level of excitement. The most highlighted aspect in adventure tourism is risk implying danger, thrill, adrenalin, unexpected outcome and extraordinary experiences. The degree of risk is often a subjective issue as what is risky for one person may be not be considered risky for another person (Buckley, 2006). For this reason ATTA with The George Washington University (GW) and Xola Consulting (Xola) have advanced two categories of activities for adventure tourism: hard and soft activities. In the category of hard activities were included only three types of outdoor activities: caving, climbing (mountain/rock/ice) and trekking. As it can be seen hard adventure activities involves a higher level of physical or rugged involvement and also requires a good
physical training and greater challenging of the participants. Unsurprisingly these kinds of activities are arresting merely to a small percent of persons usually having a high level of specialized skills. The soft category comprises the others such as: archaeological expedition, backpacking, birdwatching, camping, canoeing, cycling, eco-tourism, environmentally, sustainable activities, fishing/fly – fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, kayaking/sea/whitewater, orienteering, rafting, research expedition, safaris, sailing, snorkelling, skiing/snowboarding, surfing and volunteer tourism. The soft adventure activities do not require a higher level of physical involvement by participants rather a moderate one and less physical and mental challenging.

The most interesting thing is that in this study eco-tourism is no longer considered a type of tourism and its activities such as birdwatching or cycling for example are now absorbed to the soft adventure tourism activities. We believe that is the thrill and the excitement given by these activities that has lead to this approach, but we cannot consider eco-tourism barely an activity as it has been extensively studied for decades and the adventure tourism itself leans on its basics. Furthermore some of the soft adventure tourism activities such as archaeological expedition are considered examples of discovery travel (Muller et al., 2001 op. ct. Swarbrooke et al., 2003). A discovery travel does not imply any kind of risk just excitement and thrill engender by the emotion of being in a novel place, interacting with a novel culture or to take part to novel activity.

Within this context it is necessary to overlook the main characteristics or qualities of the adventure tourism: uncertain outcomes, danger and risk, challenge, anticipated rewards, novelty, stimulation and excitement, escapism and separation, exploration and discovery, absorption and focus and contrasting emotions (Swarbrooke et al., 2003). However, it is compulsory all these qualities to be all present in order to have an adventure. The core of adventure is the uncertain outcome as uncertainty is one of the factors that sets up challenge and creates danger and risk as well. Escaping the routine of everyday life is the main motivation of the human living in a more and more stressed and stifling society craving for a new experience in exotic surroundings where the concerns of the ordinary world are left behind. Novelty, stimulation and excitement are only possible by exploration and discovery of unconventional activities in a remote environment giving a wide range of contrasting emotions to the traveller.

Motivation for adventure tourism and general adventure traveler profile

It has been established that for the adventure tourism the notion of risk and challenge are paramount (Weber, 2007). According to Plog's traveller typology an tourist seeking for thrill, excitement, risk or danger can be easily considered as an allocentric. Further, Jackson et al (2001) has developed a model of tourist personality types with the addition of the Eyseneck's Extroversion Scale in order to establish a pattern to which tourist can be classified by combining the destination selection predictability of the adventuresome scale with a scale of social interaction (Seery & Paris, 2010).

Later on Seery & Paris have added an third dimension of sensation seeking to Jackson's model by this: „Jackson's model becomes a clear window into what destination attract certain tourists by means of sociability, psychological preference and desired effect” (Seery & Paris, 2010). The achieved pattern offers the possibility for a better understanding of the adventure tourists’ behaviour and their desires. According to these pattern two categories of adventurer travellers emerge: adventure immersionist who is allocentric, extraversion and experience seeking and will not choose a safe environment and adventure generalist who is allocentric and extraversion as well, but kind of familiar seeking with a desire of trying something thrilling up to a point. They need to be assured that the action they are involved in are not harmful and cannot cause serious injury. It is evident that the major motivation of the two categories is different: „immersionist” are seeking for an challenging environment where they can focus on

their own strengths and capabilities, therefore we can think to them as hard adventure travellers; and the „generalist” who foremost seek to gain knowledge in an environment possessing natural beauty or cultural traditions with adventure activities as an extra-option.

ATTA (2010) has identified the profile of the adventure traveller as male or female with a majority aging 35-47 split in soft and hard adventurers, highly educated with higher levels of household income. Mostly, the hard adventurers are abroad travellers meanwhile soft adventurers are engaging in activities domestically. Commonly, at a first sight the two types of „soft and hard” adventure travellers can be identified by their looks and their behaviour. Soft adventure tourists prefer to travel in a guided group and to get involve in pre-set activities with a low degree of danger offering a high level of excitement by the end of it. It is likely possible for them to show up in street clothes and the tour operator has to provide specialized clothing and is also likely to know little about the activity they are about to undertake. These kind of tourists are seeking for pre-arranged packages including transportation, accommodation, proper equipment and specialized guides. Hard adventure tourists are requiring a high level of adrenalin. They are travelling in small groups, establishing their own routes, using alternative forms for accommodation and usually do not need guidance but for particular reasons.

The 2013 report of the adventure tourism market published by ATTA with GW and XOLA gives an overview of the adventure travel profile according to the favourite activities, issuing the following 2: 4,90% are preferring hard adventure, 41,90% soft adventure and an percentage of 53,20% is preferring another type of activities. The percents listed above are for the European Travellers. The study aimed three key regions: Europe, North America and South America. The most adventurous according to this study are the south american's travellers as they prefer hard adventure more than the ones in the other two regions: 8% of travellers enjoying hard adventures; the percent for soft adventure is close to the percent of the europeans' 40,30%, meanwhile 51,70% are enjoying other activities. It is an interesting fact that only a small percent of the north american's travellers like hard adventures 0,9% of the persons interviewed, 15,50% are pro soft adventure and the highest percent is for the other types of activities. In the category "other" has been included: attending local festivals/fairs, cruise, cultural activities, educational programs, getting to know the locals, learning a new language, walking tours, visiting friends/family, visiting historical sites.

Extreme sports and adventure tourism

It is obvious that mostly adventure tourism is associated with adventure sports or extreme sports due to the activities promoted by this type of tourism e.g. climbing, cycling, or river rafting. Extreme sports are generally considered outdoor activities with a high level of inherent risk practiced in a specific environment with an adequate clothing and equipment. Gheorghilaş (2006) considers adventure tourism as an improved type of sport tourism. In his opinion sport tourism is a subtype of tourism and leisure (Gheorghilaş, 2006, p. 62). A broad approach of sport tourism refers to it as „travel away from one’s primary residence to participate in a sport activity for recreation or competition, travel to observe sport at the grassroots or elite level and travel to visit a sport attraction such as sports hall of fame or water park” (Gibson Attle and Yiannakis, 1997 op. cit. Hudson, 2003, p. 2). The general trend within the tour operators is to offer packages including outdoor leisure activities as a consequence of the permanent changing of the tourism demand.

We can state that adventure tourism in not just about adventure sports or extreme sports as it requires a certain type of environment and the agents involved in its deploying are numerous: tour operators offering specialised packages, specialized guides, adequate accommodation and transportation according to the nature of the activity proper clothing and equipment and not at last, entertainment. The best argument in this case is Buckly’s definition for adventure tourism: „guided

commercial tours where the principal attraction is an outdoor activity that relies on features of the natural terrain, generally requires specialized sporting or similar equipment, and is exciting for the tour clients” (Buckley, 2006, p. 3).

**Extreme sports and adventure tourism in Bihor County**

Due to its geographical position, historic and interethnic connections, Bihor county is considered one of the most important “gates of entrance” from the western part of the country as it shares 150 km of frontier line with Hungary, more precisely with the Hungarian counties of Hajdú-Bihar and Békés. Across this frontier line there are spread four important crossing border units: Valea lui Mihai, Borș, Episcopia Bihor and Salonta (figure 1).

Bihor County overlaps a variety of landforms, built as a vast amphitheater opening to the north-west. There are three main units: mountains with their charming landscapes, hills ending the western edge of mountains separated by broad depressions, and a vast alluvial plain with fertile soil. The mountains are occupying the south-east of the county and 24% of its surface; a mountainous mass lobed by depressions and peripheral bays. The unit of the piedmont hills forms a transition zone between the Apuseni Mountains and the Criș Plain, with a maximum extension mountain frame from depression Barcăului, Vad and Beiuș. The plain occupies the western part of the county between the hills and the Hungarian border unit. This relief unit is represented by Crișurilor Plain and the southern section of Someșului Plain, subunits of the Banato – Crișene Plain.

Climate characteristics in Bihor County are subject to atmospheric circulation air masses, the geographical location of the county and the changes imposed by the peculiarities of the underlying surface.
Peculiarities of the natural environment alongside human activities print the features of the county waters: groundwaters, rivers and lakes. Terraces climate and soils by relief requires a natural setting that succeeding vegetation in the plains to the peaks of the Carpathians, from the steppe to the forest domain and then subalpine vegetation. Regarding the fauna of the Bihor county elements of the central - European fauna are met in the hilly and mountain regions and pannonic elements in the Crișurilor Plain.

Regarding the potential of attractiveness of the natural settings of the Bihor county, it can be said that it has been blessed with all the major units of relief; therefore its potential of attractiveness is huge and so the types and forms of tourism that can be practiced, e.g. eco-tourism, mountain tourism, scientific tourism and so on. The present paper is focused on a particular type of tourism strongly connected with extreme sports which has gained for the past few years more and more followers: adventure tourism.

The most suitable areas for deploying activities connected with adventure tourism are the mountains regions, offering the possibility of practicing canyoning, river rafting, climbing, caving, canoeing and kayaking, etc. These activities are the main offer of the local stakeholders and the national touroperators when it comes to adventure tourism, therefore the present paper is focused on them.

Canyoning is the activity of the descending the gorges that may include other outdoor activities such as caving, climbing, swimming or abseiling (Gheorghilaș, 2011). The term has been used as it is known today since the '70 when this technique has been introduced in spelaeology (Pop, 2013). This kind of adventure sport can not be practiced without proper gear. The essentials are: buoyancy aid, helmet, water suits and neoprene or nylon spraydeck. In Bihor county canyoning is practiced on Cheile Galbenei/Galbena Gorges, Valea Seacă/Dry Valley and Valea Oșelul/Oșelul Valley.

Cheile Galbenei/Galbena Gorges are located in the Bihor Mountains, in the south west of Palatoul Padiș/Padiș Plateau – Cetățile Ponorului/ Ponorului Fortress. Genetically speaking, the Galbena Gorges were formed by underground karst catching which were associated with active tectonic processes and gravitational masses of limestone (Cocean, 1988). The total length of the gorges is 6 km and its most spectacular sector is the Izbucul Galbena and its surroundings. The Galbena Gorges are among the most beautiful and wild gorges of the Apuseni Mountains area offering a relatively short, but especially spectacular "canyon" crossing route (Lascu, 2007). The Galbena Gorges are included in the so called Galbena round trip of Padiș area and is considered the most interesting and difficult part of it. The touristic route of Galbena Gorges is only recommended to the tourists having a good physical training and attended by specialized persons. From the access point untill the Cascada Evantai/Fan Falls the crossing is only possible trough three passages: the first is the easiest having a length about 25 m can be crossed using the steel cable for the hands and the support chains for the legs; the second has a medium difficulty level can be crossed using the steel cable as well, it is comprises a bottom portion and a descending branch upward rising to 20 m above the valley; and the third is the most difficult as its 100 m length requires a good physical training due to the fact that sometimes the rock isn’t having footoutles and may raise issues of adherence. The third passage is located on the opposite side of the waterfall and is designed to allow access to the portion superior tourist route without entering the water. The best time for visiting Galbena Gorges is June to September as the water flows aren't at a high level and it is forbidden during winter time or when flash floods occurs.

Valea Seacă/Dry Valley is located in the Bihor Mountains in the superior water catchment area of Galbena Valley; its receiving body is The Ruginoasa hole located in Țapu Peak (1475 m). Downstream the receiving sector, the Dry Valley has deepened in a limestone stack carving a gorge sector of unspeakable savagery with narrow rocky walls obstructing the passage, giant marmites disrupting the river bed and recumbent and active jags; an inaccessible sector to the

3 http://www.salvamontbihor.ro/download/trasee/Masiv%20Bihor%20%20jud.%20Bihor/Zona%20turistica%
uninitiated (Bleahu, 1981). Is the savagery of it raising one's interest. The "canyon" route Dry Valley is the heaven for the extreme outdoor activities passionate: no less than 14 drained falls are spread on approximately 1 km along the route, they can only be descending by abseiling. The "canyon" route crossing takes three to four hours and can be accessed during winter time as well from the downstream climbing the ice falls. The "canyon" route Valea Seacă/Dry Valley is merely addressing to the hard adventures with good physical training. The best time for a canoeing in Valea Oșelu/Dry Valley is June to August.

**Valea Oșelu/Oșelu Valley** has its provenance in a spring from the sheerness of Piatra Ciungii in the Bihor Mountains. It has a sector of gorges with a 1.5 km length strewed with numerous small waterfalls; the highest is Oșelul Waterfalls (10 m). Its waters run to waste in the reservoir in the front of the waterfall. Canyoning on Oșelu Valley can be done from April to September. The route is not difficult, but the use of proper equipment is mandatory. Crossing the Oșelu Valley by canyoning is not a difficult task, the desire for thrill and excitement is needed and so specialized guides. Therefore, practicing canyoning in Oșelu Valley is a soft adventure activity.

Another challenging outdoor activity related with the extreme sports is river rafting. This kind of activity is about navigating on rivers or others bodies of water using a raft. The excitement and the thrill of it lie in navigation on whitewaters. The International Rafting Federation has classified in 1981 the waters in nine categories due to the fact that each country has had its own system of classification making the navigation unsafe and dangerous. Therefore, the classification starts with the backwaters and it is ending with impossible to navigate. It is important to know that one river may have different levels of difficulty on its flow.4

The path for river rafting in our country has been opened with the first descent on the Bistrița river in 1999 (Todașca, 2008 op.ct Pop, 2013). Since then, touroparators specialized in offering outdoor activities packages such as river-rafting, canoeing or climbing have developed in various parts of the country. Rivers like Bistrița, Rebra, Dorna, Mureș, Cerna or Jiu have become attractive for the tourist seeking for new excitement and thrilling experiences. In the Bihor county the waters of Crișul Repede and Crișul Pietros are navigated in touristic purposes.

The Crișul Repede river has three sectors suitable for river-rafting: the first one is from the Izvorul Crișului to the aber with Valea Iadului, the second from the aber with Valea Iadului through Bratca and the third one from Bratca to Vadu Crișului. Crișul Repede waters are classified as medium level of difficulty, the international standard for it is WW.II; it has a low potential of danger, but the trill and the enchantment given by the spectacular sheerness of Pădurea Craiului Mountains are incommensurate. The rafting activity can be interweaved with caving as route crossed by Crisul Repede is spread with caves such as: Unguru Mare cave, Vântului/Wind cave or Vadu Crișului cave. Due to the fact that it has a low potential of danger local stakeholders include in their offer packages for families and children.

Having its spring in the Bihor Mountains, the Crișul Pietros river is esteemed along the most technical rivers in the country 5 and rafting on it is only for the high skilled ones as it requires aside from skills and experience, a drop of craziness and courage. The rafting route is 7 km in length with a level of difficulty from WW.II to WW.IV between Valea Boga and Pietroasa localities. Rafting on the Crișul Pietros river is possible only in spring time when the flow of the water reaches is highest level. April and May are the months when rafting on Crișul Pietros is out of serious injuries as the average monthly flow for April is 9,15 m³/s and 6,91 m³/s in May (Pop, 2013). Canoing and kayaking are as well practiced on both Crișul Repede and Crișul Pietros, but commonly by the trainers as are implying a higher risk potential.

Bihor County has a high potential for another adventure activity such as rock climbing. This outdoor activity involves climbing up, down or across natural rock formations and it’s originated in mountaineering or alpinism. Rock climbing is a sport activity demanding a good

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5 http://romaniaaperepezi.ro/index.php/rom%C3%A2nia-pe-ape-repezi/rafting.html
physical training and mentally balanced and usually is a team activity; the common, safest and fast team is the "two-team". Rock climbing is split into several styles and sub-discipline due to the variety of the rock formation. Rock climbing can be a very dangerous sport as long as the climbing techniques are not known by the climber and if specialised climbing equipment is not used.

Figure 2. The most common areas for adventure tourism in Bihor county
Source: own elaboration based on the data basis RomaniaUTMWGS84

http://www.climbing.com/skill/rock-climbing-technique/
Climbers’ heaven in the Bihor County is the Pâdurea Craiului Mountains. The area Vadu-Crişului - Șuncuiuş - Bulz is well known in the entourage of climbers. Six climbing routes have been arranged in Poiana Ponor/Ponor Glade in the area of Platoul Padiş/Padiş Plateau. Vadu – Crişului area has been divided in ten climbing sectors having various degrees of difficulty and names. The first sector named "Peretele Zânelor/ Fairies’ Mure" has no less than 31 climbing routes very technically challenging. The route named "El Monstro" is the hardest free climbing route in the country; its level of difficulty is 8 according to the French grading system and X+/XI according to the UIAA (Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme) grading system. The second sector is named "La Lac/At the Lake" and includes nine route climbing all having a medium level of difficulty. The third sector "Piatra Tunelului/The stone of the Tunnell", very hard to reach is only recommended to the experienced as it is located above the railway tunnel of Vadu Crişului and can be accessed trough the forest merely by abseiling (Anghel, 2007). The forth sector has ten climbing routes, but only three of them have the level of difficulty established being hard to very hard. This sector is referred as "Black Women", "Peştera Roşie/Red Cave", "Peretele Gârii/Station Wall". The fifth sector has the longest climbing routes, 12 m to 15 m in length and VI up to IX+ on the difficulty scale. The sixth sector has 15 climbing routes and it is called "Fisurile suspendate/Suspended Rifs"; the seventh is having 31 climbing routes in two subsectors and it is known as "Peretele Griti/The Grey Wall", four climbing routes in this sector have been arranged in 2013 as the CAR Climbing Fest has been held here. The eight sector has ten climbing routes and it is named "Peştera Caprei/Goat Cave". The tenth sector has two subsectors totaling 18 climbing routes and is named "Peşti din Terase/Walls from the Terace" (Anghel, 2007).

The most known sector of climbing routes in Șuncuiuş area is "Faleza Zenovia/Zenovia Cliff" on the left bank of Crişul Repede River. The 22 climbing routes of "Faleza Zenovia" are 8 up to 15m in length and difficulty levels ranging from VI+ to X. This sector is near the cave Unguru Mare that’s why is known as the "Faleza Unguru Mare/Unguru Mare Cliff".

The area for climbing in the Bulz commune has been divided into three sectors: "Ţancul Găurit", "Coasta Rea" și "Faleza". In these three sectors there are 17 arranged climbing routes with various levels of difficulty ranging from V to VIII+. The area is still on planning process. 7

In recent areas have been arranged climbing routes in Poiana Ponor/Ponor Glade in the Padiş Plateau. The climbing routes are near the camping area of Glâvoi and the difficulty levels are VI+, VII-, VII+ and VIII. Rock climbing is an alternative for the ones who are hankering for little adrenalin when they are not trekking this area of Apuseni Mountains.

The outdoor activities connected to adventure tourism listed above are the most common to be practice in Bihor County. The present paper's aim was to highlight them and the areas suitable for deploying such activities; therefore we have filled in to the present study a map pointing them out (figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

As the hunt for adrenalin, thrill and excitement of the modern society has become more and more keen has led to the development of a new type of tourism: adventure tourism. For many years in the tourism literature, both Romanian and foreigner, adventure tourism has been discoursed in the point of view of the extreme sports as the final result was a guaranteed high level of excitement at the end of a risky action. It has been demonstrated by the physicians that the eager for risk and danger is very different from person to person and the thrill of a risky action is felt differently, thus adventure has diverse meanings according to each person. In terms of adventure tourism has been taken into account the motivation of the tourists who are not always looking for risk and danger but rather to thrill and excitement. The last two can be obtained through a simple observation from de distance of the wild life in the natural environment. It was ATTA’s main task

7 http://amunteanu.go.ro/escalada.html
to classify the outdoor activities into "hard" and "soft" based on the level of the difficulty involved, the skills need to perform an action and the physical and mental challenges for the participants. Regarding the potential for adventure sport in Bihor county we can state that is still in an inchoate phase and is rather mixed with extreme sports. Adventure activities such as rafting or kayaking have been set up in Bihor county only in 2007 and there were few local stakeholders offering adventure packages guaranteeing safety conditions. Bihor – Vlădeasa and Pădurea Craiului Mountains are harnessed in adventure tourism purposes, but Plopiș and Codru Moma Mountains are still weakly harnessed. Both Plopiș and Codru Moma Mountains are prone to activities such as backpacking, hangliding or cycling. In the Befția – Băile Felix area are also promoted activities suitable for adventure tourism such as horseback riding, hangliding, ATV and off road motorcycle. Relying on the natural features of the terrain, adventure tourism needs special infrastructure according to the established activity, but in some cases needs only special equipment or gear. The infrastructure for rock climbing has been done in most cases by the county service "Salvamont". In terms of accommodation camping is the most common due the location of the deploying of the adventure activities. For example the tourists seeking for adrenalin in the Padiș Plateau can use the chalets, pensions, hollyday houses or campsites spread in the Padiș-Boga area.

In the Vadu-Crișului area most of the offers for adventure tourism are given by the local stakeholder Master Adventure who indicates few local partners for accommodation, beside the camping site near the "Faleza Zenovia/Zenovia Cliff".

For the Vadu Crișului - Șuncuiuș and Padiș - Boga areas have been done recent studies regarding the forms of tourism practiced according to different criteria. Taking into account the motivational criteria, Morar in 2012 has shown that 32% of the tourists’ visiting Vadu-Crișului - Șuncuiuș have as main motivation adventure tourism, meanwhile 22% prefer recreational tourism, 16% school tourism and 12% polyvalent tourism. In the same study he is pointing out the origin of the tourists underlining that 76% of the tourists are Romanians and 24% are Hungarians (Morar, 2012, pp.159). Regarding the Padiș-Boga area Banto et al., have undertook a study considering the tourist flow. The study is highlighting the presence of the Hungarians tourist in the area magnetized by the beauty of the surroundings and the trekking possibilities mainly (Banto et al., 2012). It is easy to figure out that most of the visitors of Karst Plateau of Padiș are adventure travellers looking out for thrill in an unharmed environment.

The adventure tourism is no longer considered just a form of tourism it has become one of the most developed sector of the tourism industry and the countries worldwide are trying to point out their potential for adventure travels. Romania is trying to seduce the potential tourists under the slogan of „Wild Carpathia” and has reached top ten of the developing countries in ATTA's 2009 research concerning the countries with a high potential for tourism adventure.

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