



PARCUL NATURAL APUSENI

Un parc pentru natură și oameni

www.parcapuseni.ro

MANAGEMENT PLAN

**for the
Apuseni Nature Park**

Administration of the Apuseni Nature Park

7th June 2006

Contributing Team:

External consultant:

Alexander Zinke – Team Leader of the Phare CBC Project “Romanian-Hungarian corridor for biodiversity conservation”, MWH, Belgium: *overall coordination and guidance of this management planning process, and in particular of chapters 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2.*

Project implementation team of the EU Phare CBC Project “Romanian-Hungarian corridor for biodiversity conservation”:

Alin Moș, ANP Director: *ch. 1, 2.1.6.2, 3.2.7, 4.2*

Alina Pitic, Community Relations & Ecological Education Officer: *2.4, 2.5, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.5, 3.2.6*

Milca Petrovici, Biologist: *ch. 2.3, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.8*

Anca-Diana Ardeleanu, IT/GIS Specialist: *ch. 2.1, 3.2.2 - 3.2.6, References, Annexes*

Moise Mortan, Chief Ranger: *ch. 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5.*

Special thanks have to be given to the following persons and institutions, who provided important support to the drafting of this Plan:

Important Contributors:

Paul Damm, Speleological Club “Z”, Astileu (*ch. 2.2.2, 3.2.1.2*)

Augustin Dudas, formerly EPA Bihor (*ch. 2.2.1*)

Paul Iacobas, Centre for Protected Areas and Sustainable Development Bihor (*ch. 3.2.2*)

Ioana Lucaciu, Centre for Protected Areas and Sustainable Development Bihor (*ch. 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.6*)

Mircea Petrescu, Speleological Club “Speodava”, Stei (*ch. 2.4.3*)

George Togor, ECOTOP Foundation for Culture and Ecological Education, Oradea (*ch. 3.2.3, 3.2.6*).

Valuable contributions and comments to various chapters were provided by:

Forestry Directorates of Alba Iulia, Cluj-Napoca and Oradea

Center for Environment Initiative, Cluj-Napoca (Calin Voda)

Center for Protected Areas and Sustainable Development Bihor (Viorel Lascu)

Ecological Club Transilvania, Cluj-Napoca (Gabriel Parauan)

Forestry Administrations of Garda, Valea Ariesului and Horea-Apuseni (Alba County), Vascau, Pietroasa, Cerbu and Lunca (Bihor County), and Belis, Huedin and Margau (Cluj County)

Milvus Group (Attila Nagy)

Museum “Tarii Crisurilor” Oradea (Erika Posmosanu, Radu Huza)

National Speleological Society (Ovidiu Guja)

Public Service of Mountain Rescue Bihor (Istvan Pinter)

Speleological Association “Sfinx”, Garda de Sus (Christian Ciubotarescu)

Speleological Club “Politehnica” Cluj-Napoca (Gheorghe Fratila)

Speleological Institute Emile Racovita, Cluj-Napoca (Bogdan Onac, Oana Moldovan)

Romanian Academy – Commission for Nature Monuments (Simona Mihailescu)

Romanian Bat Protection Association (Farkas Szodoray-Paradi)

Romanian Speleological Federation (Viorel Lascu)

The town of Nucet (Bihor) and

the communes from the counties

Alba (Albac, Arieseni, Garda de Sus, Horea, Scarisoara)

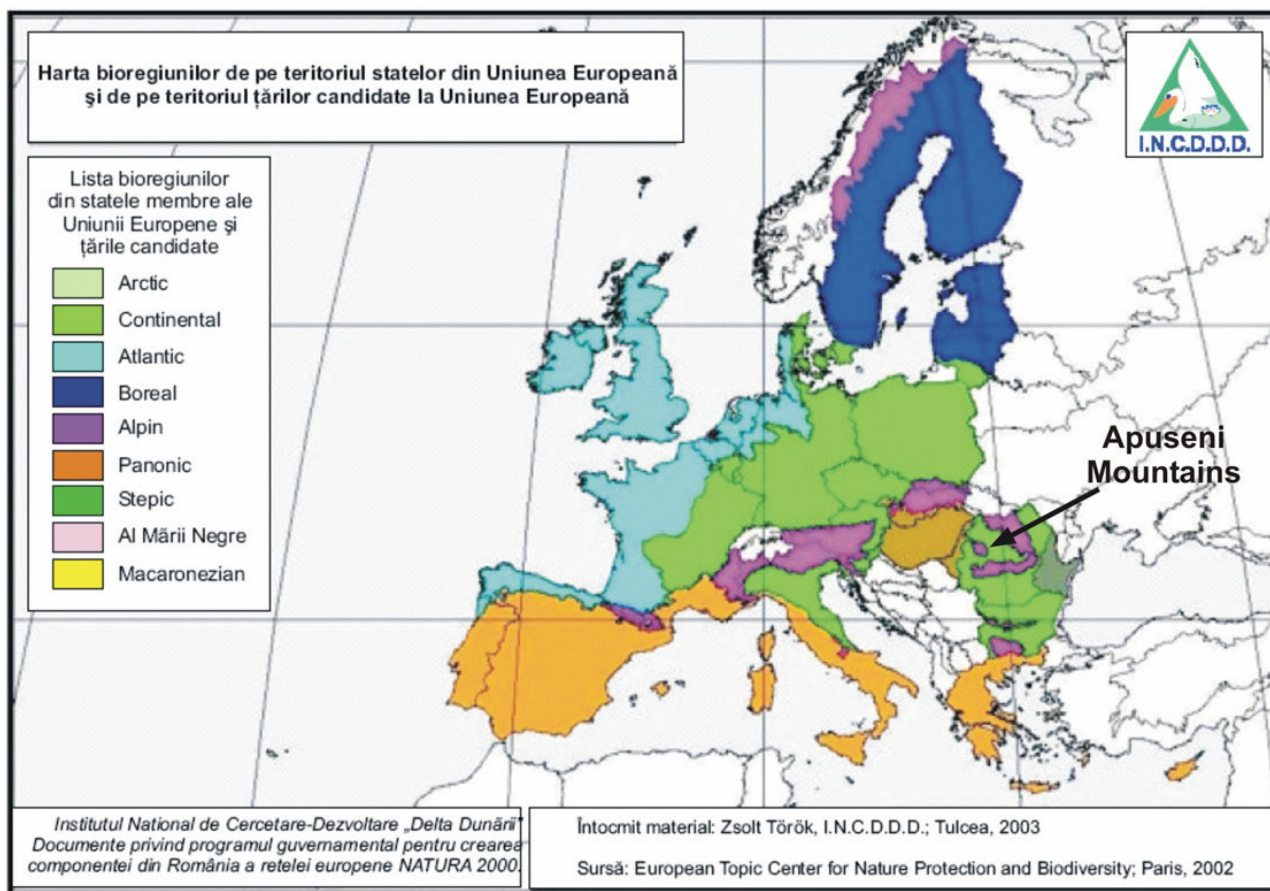
Bihor (Budureasa, Buntesti, Campani, Pietroasa)

Cluj (Belis, Calatele, Margau, Marisel, Sacuieu).

Abbreviations

ANP	Apuseni Nature Park
ANPA	Apuseni Nature Park Administration
BFD	Bihor Forestry Directorate of NFA
Canton	forest cabin (in Romanian)
CBC	Cross Border Cooperation
CCA	Consultative Council for Administration of Apuseni Nature Park
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GD	Government Decision
ICAS	Institute of Research and Forestry Management
INCDT	National Institute for Research - Tourism Development
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
L	Law
MAFWE	Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Waters and Environment
MEW	Ministry for Environment and Water Management
MP	Management Plan
MTCT	Ministry for Transport, Constructions and Tourism
MWFEP	Ministry for Waters, Forestry and Environment Protection
NFA-	National Forestry Administration – Romsilva
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OM	Order of the Ministry
OS	forest administration (in Romanian)
PIU	Project Implementation Unit of the Phare CBC project
PDNT	National Territorial Land Use Plan of Romania
PUG	General Urbanisation Plans (within Romanian territorial land use planning)
SC	Scientific Council of the Apuseni Nature Park
u.a.	Forest unit (in Romanian)
UP	forestry production unit (in Romanian)
UN	United Nations
UTR	Territorial Unit of Reference
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Map of the European Bioregions, showing the Apuseni mountains as a distinct sub-region.



Management Plan for the Apuseni Nature Park

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 – Introduction and context

1.1.	Short description of the plan, its aims and objectives	7
1.2.	Aims and categories of the protected area	8
1.2.1.	Aim	
1.2.2.	Category of this protected area	
1.3.	Legal base for protected areas and for this Management Plan	9
1.3.1.	Legal base for the Management Plan	
1.3.2.	Establishment of Apuseni Nature Park	
1.3.3.	Legal base of the administrative structure of Apuseni Nature Park and its functioning	
1.4.	Elaboration process of the Management Plan	11
1.4.1.	Elaboration of the Management Plan	
1.4.2.	Planning process	
1.4.3.	Approval and revision	
1.5.	Procedure for modifying and updating the Management Plan	12
1.6.	Implementation procedure for the Plan	13

Chapter 2 – Description

2.1	General description	14
2.1.1	Location and access, existing access roads in ANP	
2.1.2	Land property and administration rights	16
2.1.3	ANP Administration resources for management and infrastructure	17
2.1.4	Maps and satellite image coverage	20
2.1.5	Photographical coverage	
2.1.6	Park limits	20
2.1.7.	ANP Management Zones	22
2.1.7.1	Surface Areas Management Zones	
2.1.7.2	Cave Classification	28
2.1.8	Importance of ANP as a bio-corridor	31
2.2	Physical environment	32
2.2.1	Geology	
2.2.2	Geomorphology	34
2.2.3	Hydrology	37
2.2.4	Climate	38
2.2.5	Soils	39
2.3	Biotic environment	40
2.3.1	Flora and plants communities	
2.3.2	Fauna	43
2.3.3	Habitats and ecosystems	46
2.3.4	Landscape	47
2.3.5	Ecological processes and relationships	48
2.4	History of the socio-economy and culture of the ANP area	50
2.4.1	Archaeology and history	53
2.4.2	History of the socio-economic development of the area and past land use	
2.4.3	History of the speleological research and explorations in the ANP area	53
2.5	Current socio-economic and cultural situation	56
2.5.1	Local communities	
2.5.2	Present land use	63
2.5.3	Designation for conservation	69
2.5.4	Facilities for educational activities	73
2.5.5	Facilities for tourism and recreation	74

2.5.6	Research facilities	81
2.5.7	Stakeholders in the ANP area	82
Chapter 3 – Goal, Management Themes and their Evaluation		
3.1	Management Goal, Themes and Objectives	86
3.2	Evaluation of Management Themes	88
3.2.1	Conserving biodiversity, karst and the landscape	
3.2.1.1	Evaluation of biodiversity and landscape conservation	
3.2.1.2	Evaluation of karst conservation	91
3.2.2	Evaluation of visitor, tourism and recreation activities	92
3.2.3	Evaluation of local culture and traditions	96
3.2.4	Managing in consent with Territorial Land Use Plans	99
3.2.4.1	Evaluation of territorial land use planning and use of resources in ANP	
3.2.4.2	Evaluation of the development of local services	100
3.2.5	Evaluation of local community cooperation	101
3.2.6	Evaluation of environment education, training and awareness	103
3.2.7	Evaluation of park administration and management	104
3.2.8	Evaluation of monitoring	105
Chapter 4 – Implementation - Action Plan and Resources		
4.1	Action Plan (Actions, Indicators, Priorities and Timing)	106
4.2	Required Resources and Budget	143

REFERENCES

ANNEXES

Annex I	ANP Regulation
Annex II	List of institutions invited to the Workshops for the elaboration the Management Plan
Annex III	List of participants at the Baile Felix Workshop on 19 th - 20 th July 2005
Annex IV	Agenda of the Baile Felix Workshop on 19 th - 20 th July 2005
Annex V	List of participants at the Gârda de Sus Workshop on 11 th - 12 th October 2005
Annex VI	Agenda of the Gârda de Sus Workshop on 11 th - 12 th October 2005
Annex VII	Location Map of ANP in the Apuseni Mountains
Annex VIII:	Administrative Map of the communes in the ANP area
Annex IX	Map of the ANP limits
Annex X	Map of the main access roads to ANP
Annex XI	List of forest roads in ANP
Annex XII	Map of public and forest roads in ANP
Annex XIII	Members of the ANP Scientific Council
Annex XIV	Members of the ANP Consultative Council (CCA)
Annex XV	Map of the ANP management zones
Annex XVI	Map of the Romanian-Hungarian Biocoridor for Biodiversity Conservation
Annex XVII	Red List of Protected Plant Species in ANP
Annex XVIII	Red List of Protected Animal Species in ANP
Annex XIX	Habitats identified in ANP in accordance with the main classification systems used at European level

Chapter 1 – Introduction and context

1.1 Short description of the Management Plan, its Aims and Objectives

Apuseni Nature Park is a protected area, established so with the purpose to protect the landscape and the ecological and cultural diversity, on a representative part of Romania's national territory and of the Apuseni Mountains.

The Administration of the ANP is a management unit which must promote new strategies and development policies in order to incorporate the economic, social and ecological issues and to support the harmonisation of the economic development with social and ecological security, as it results from the UN conference for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

The ANP Management Plan represents the official document for setting the park's objectives and management measures to be undertaken in order to achieve these objectives, according to the current legal framework and taking into account the recommendations of the international fora in this field.

This document synthesizes the information available at the time of the drafting of the Plan, sets the major interest fields and the management objectives, as well as a 5 years Action Plan. All the actions foreseen in the operational plans, as well as their efficiency will be monitored according to the monitoring plan.

The ANP Regulations are presented in **Annex I**. These Regulations are approved by the central authority for environment, and set the main activities and their conditions for their development on the ANP territory. This Management Plan also contains maps and a series of Annexes with detailed information about ANP and its management.

The principles that represented the basis for the elaboration of this plan are those of an adaptive management for the ecosystem, ensuring an integrated approach of the general issues connected to protection, conservation and development, at the same time being able to analyse and apply in due time the most efficient management measures.

The plan constitutes the base for the ANP Administration as a main working tool, also serving as a reference document for the planning of the park activities, undertaken by the park administration as well as by the land owners/administrators and by those who wish to initiate and develop activities on the park territory.

The statute of nature park, as an area assigned for the landscape protection and recreation, in the case of ANP is well known by the majority of stakeholders. This constitutes one of the most important support elements for an efficient implementation of this Management Plan.

After 1990, the socio-economic conditions and the restitution of some lands from the park resulted in a change of attitude of land owners/users, the pressure upon the natural resources growing notably; the main problem being the exploitation of forests, mostly without respecting the forestry regulations.

Also, as a result of the improvement of the economic situation of the country in the near future, and of the actions promoting the park values, it is very likely that the pressures due to tourist activities will increase, threatening the protection status of the area and one of the fundamental characteristics of the park, which is the natural aspect of most of the areas untouched by human activities.

The lack of coordination between the economic and the conservation activities can lead to disperse actions, with reduced efficiency and important losses of biodiversity and of other park values.

The ANP Management Plan was elaborated for an integrated planning of the actions needed to reach the previously set goal, respectively to preserve biodiversity, karst and landscape, as well as the local cultural values.

This Plan is as one of the implementation activities of Phare CBC Project "Romanian-Hungarian corridor for the conservation of biodiversity", developed during 2003-2006. The planning process was designed in form of a consultancy contract executed between April 2005 and May 2006. The consultancy for the planning process was provided by the company MWH from Belgium, securing the involvement of a specialist with a wide experience in this field from EU countries.

1.2 Aims and categories of the protected area

1.2.1 Aim

Due to the importance of the karst in general and of some karstic phenomena typical for this part of Romania, the setting up of a national park in the present ANP area was proposed since the 1940s by the great scientist Emil Racovita.

Later, starting with the 1950's as a result of other discoveries in endokarst exploration, the scientific value of the Bihor Mountains karst is much better founded and supported, increasing the growing importance, and at the same time, need to protect this area.

In the last decades, the importance of the area was further stressed by the fact that this is one of the last few remaining areas with forested karst of such dimension in Europe. Further, some plant species have here their Southern-most distribution limit, which is due to the climate conditions created by the karstic relief. The specific micro-habitats of karstic areas have caused the evolution of a large number of endemic, cave-dwelling species, most of them can be found only here.

Further, the human communities natives to the Apuseni include the Moti, a group nationally important in their keeping of customs and local traditions.

The area also has a high-quality aesthetic landscape with a large diversity of habitats, flora and fauna, which is due to unique and traditional methods of land use, social organization and specific customs. Here the visitors are provided with recreation possibilities and tourism, integrated in the traditional life style of the local communities.

According to the provisions of Law no. 462/2001, Art. 5 align. 2 and Annex 1, for the approval of the Government Emergency Order No. 236/2000 on protected nature areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, ANP has set as aim the "protection and conservation of certain landscape ensembles where the interaction between human activities and nature has created over time a distinctive area with significant landscape and/or cultural value, and often with a high biologic diversity".

1.2.2 Category of this protected area

ANP has a surface of 75,786 hectares, established by the Law No. 5/2000, respectively 76,064 hectares analytically calculated via GIS. It includes through its internal zonation management categories, starting with the most restrictive ones (scientific reserves, category I of IUCN), where human activities are totally excluded, up to the most permissive management category of protected areas in Romania (nature park, category V of IUCN), in which the development of traditional communities living in harmony with nature is promoted. The detailed description of the management categories of ANP is presented in chapter 2.1.6 regarding the internal zonation.

According to the IUCN classification, ANP is a protected area falling under its management category V. According to the laws in force and the international norms, the category of nature park requires the achievement of major management objectives specific for their protection aim. These required objectives for category V (nature park) are as follows (according to IUCN recommendations):

- The maintenance of a harmonious interaction between local human communities and nature by means of terrestrial and/ or aquatic landscape protection, and the continuation of traditional land uses, the preservation of building methods as well as of social and cultural events;
- the maintenance and stimulation of a lifestyle and of traditional economic activities based on the long-term use of resources and on cultural traditions;
- the maintenance of the diversity of ecosystems, species and the landscape;
- the elimination, where necessary, and the prevention of land use and activities improper in terms of intensity and/or character;
- the insurance of opportunities for visitors, by planning visitor and recreation activities that correspond to the essential qualities of the area;
- the encouragement of scientific and educational activities which contribute to the well-being of local communities, to the growth and consolidation of the public support for the existence and well functioning of the protected area;
- the supply of natural resources and quality services for the local communities.

This type of protected area represents a pilot area for sustainable land use. Due to the varied land uses within this protected area, a good management plan is necessary even more than for other management categories. In order to successfully meet the management objectives, a significant part of this type of area should be managed mainly through conservation activities.

1.3 Legal base for protected areas and for this Management Plan

1.3.1 Legal base for the Management Plan

The elaboration and approval of the Management Plan was made on the provisions of the Law no. 462 / 2001 for the approval of the Emergency Order no. 236 / 2000 on the status of protected nature areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild fauna and flora, Art. 18 item 4 and Art. 19.

This Management Plan was prepared in close collaboration with the stakeholders and was endorsed by the ANP Consultative Council for Administration. Also, it was drafted, analyzed and discussed with the members of the ANP Scientific Council and, later on, approved by them.

After the important involvement of stakeholders in this process and the support for this plan by the Nature Monuments Commission but prior to its submission to the Ministry for Environment and Water Management, the MP was approved by the Cluj, Bihor and Alba County Councils. In this way, its integration in the local and/or county development plans is thus facilitated.

The provisions of the ANP Management Plan will be respected by all owners and administrators of lands within the park, as well as by those participating in activities of any kind on the land of ANP, as foreseen by the law in force.

The protection and nature park management must be realized in accordance with the provisions of the laws in force. The most important norms, issued up to the date of the MP approval, are given in the list in section 1.3.3. The provisions of any norms issued after the approval date of the present document and referring to the management of the protected areas and the conservation of the biodiversity, will be applicable, due to the adaptability of this Management Plan.

1.3.2 Establishment of Apuseni Nature Park

The first proposals for declaring this parc have been made in the mid 1930s by the renowned Romanian scientist Emil Racovita, then during the 1950-60s by Marcian Bleahu, one of the most important karst scientists of Bihor mountains, and in the 1970s by Zeno Oarcea in the first documentation for designing the area as a national park.

The norm through which the park was effectively established is the MAPPM Order no. 7/1990 on the establishment of 13 national parks in Romania, in which the Apuseni National Park is mentioned for the first time.

With the issuing of Law no. 5/06.03.2000 concerning the approval of the national territorial planning – section III Protected Areas, the name “Apuseni Mountains Nature Park” appears for the first time. Later on, the name itself was changed into “Apuseni Nature Park” to be the officially used title for the protected area, and the established management category is that of a nature park.

1.3.3. Legal base of the administrative structure of Apuseni Nature Park and its functioning

The following legal norms are relevant for the management of the ANP:

- Law no. 5/6.03.2000 concerning the approval of the territorial planning - Section III – Protected Areas
- Government Emergency Order no. 236/24.11.2000 concerning the status of protected nature areas, the conservation of nature habitats, wild flora and fauna, approved with amendments and complements through the Law no. 462/18.07.2001;

- Government decision no. 230/4.03.2003 concerning the delimitation of biosphere reserves, national parks and nature parks, and the constitution of their administrations;
- MWFEF Order no. 850/27.10.2003 concerning the procedure of entrusting an administration or attributing custody for protected nature areas;
- Administration contract, registered under no. 733/MMGA/22.05.2004, signed between the Ministry of Environment and Waters and the National Forestry Administration – Romsilva, for the administration of the Apuseni Nature Park;
- MMGA Order no. 722/12.11.2004 concerning the assembly of the Apuseni Nature Park Consultative Council;
- Government decision no. 2151/30.11.2004 concerning the implementation of the protected nature area status for new areas;
- MMGA Order no. 604/4.07.2005 for the approval of the classification of caves and cave sectors as nature protected areas;
- MMGA Order no. 933/6.10.2005 concerning the amendments and complements of the establishment order of the Apuseni Nature Park Scientific Council no. 640/27.10.2004
- MMGA Order no. 1198/25.11.2005 for updating the annexes 2, 3, 4 and 5 on basis of the Government Emergency Order no. 236/2000 regarding the regime of protected nature areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna, approved with amendments and complements by the Law 462/2001.

All activities that take place on the territory of the park and which are not included in the provisions of the above-mentioned norms, will be subject to the legislative framework in force.

Responsibilities of the administrative structures of the park:

- a. **Administration of the Apuseni Nature Park** sets up annual work plans based on the provisions of the Management Plan, implements and/or co-ordinates the activities connected to the park administration, and supervises and controls all ongoing activities on the park territory.
- b. **Consultative Council for Administration (CCA)** meets twice a year, each semester, or when-ever needed. During the meetings or indirectly through written correspondence, the CCA analyses and forwards management solutions proposed by ANP Administration or issues new management proposals.
- c. **Scientific Council (SC)** analyses the ANP Administration activity, co-ordinates it from the scientific point of view, and submits draft annual reports to the central environment authority. It also analyses and approves management solutions/measures proposed by the ANP Administration and/or the CCA, so that the objectives of the management category are respected, especially concerning the conservation of biodiversity, and of natural and cultural local values.

In case of disagreement between the ANP Administration and the CCA, the SC has to take the final decision to find a solution for the problem. Details regarding the procedures how the provisions have to be applied are given in the ANP Regulations (see Annex I).

1.4 Elaboration process of the Management Plan

1.4.1 Elaboration of the Management Plan

In December 2003 the financing of the Phare CBC Project “Romanian-Hungarian corridor for biodiversity conservation” has begun. This project secured the financing for planning an integrated park management.

A major component for the development process of the management system was the elaboration of a Management Plan of ANP in parallel with the elaboration of a Management Plan for the future Cefa Nature Park, as a protected area integrated into the Romanian-Hungarian corridor for biodiversity conservation, developed in this project.

The Management Plan was elaborated by the ANP administration team and involved many stakeholders. The MP elaboration took place from April 2005 to May 2006, during the execution of

a consultancy contract as a part of the Phare CBC project, through which the European Union as donor secured the technical assistance for the entire planning process, i.e.

1. The organisation of various workshops with the participation of SC and CCA members, both during the first stage of the planning process and also for discussing the draft plan.
2. the involvement of representatives from the civil society and from the environment protection field into the plan elaboration process, respectively their invitation to working sessions;
3. the soliciting of comments/suggestions from stakeholders and specialists from various fields during the plan elaboration;
4. an analysis of stakeholder remarks prior to soliciting the MP approval according to the legal provisions.

The MP elaboration process was carried on with the support and under the guidance of the MWH consultant, Mr. Alexander Zinke, specialised on the management of protected areas.

1.4.2 Planning process

First, the ANP Administration organised preparatory meetings with the consultant of MWH, during which the situation of the protected area was analyzed as well as the main necessities to secure an efficient management, also with regard to the equipment and the measures that have to be taken at administrative level.

Concluding the results of the consultant's analysis regarding the organization and the further planning process, a list of invitees for the working meetings was set up, as given in **Annex II**, listing the following major categories: project team, stakeholders, specialists from various fields needed for the planning. Due to the special character of such working meetings, the number of participants was limited to secure concrete results within a short time frame.

The first stage in the elaboration of the Management Plan was the working meeting in Baile Felix (19th - 20th July 2005). This meeting aimed at jointly starting the ANP planning process, by developing the Goal, and the main Themes and Objectives (see chapter 3.1). The list of institutions and persons attending the Baile Felix working meeting is given in **Annex III**, and its agenda in **Annex IV**. The results of the meeting were synthesised and presented to the ANP Scientific Council on 21st July 2005.

After the first MP meeting, the consultant organised a field visit to 5 national and nature parks in Hungary and Austria, involving 12 stakeholders and members of the park administration. Main objective of the visit was to demonstrate to the Romanian delegation the functioning of a Management Plan, as well as the related ongoing management activities in these parks. The number of participants was limited for organizational and financial reasons, the study trip was granted by the Austrian government.

The next important stage started with the second working meeting at Garda de Sus, Alba county (11th - 12th October 2005), with the aim to identify the management Topics, Actions and Indicators for every management Objective. The list of institutions and people involved in this planning stage is presented in **Annex V**, and the working meeting agenda in **Annex VI**.

This working meeting was followed by a new meeting of the Scientific Council, where the results of the Management Plan elaboration process were presented, also giving some recommendations.

Later on, after the information resulting from the stakeholders meetings were processed, the actual elaboration of the MP document (specifically of chapters 3.1 and 4.1) started. For the other MP chapters, the ANP team collected all available information and drafted the related texts. Where any information was missing, insufficient or inaccurate, experts having a relevant professional experience to the park area, competent institutions and public authorities were officially contacted to check and provide data. The list of these contributors can be found on page 2.

The elaboration process of the MP was continued in January 2006, and in March 2006 it was submitted to the stakeholders for consultation.

On 3rd March 2006, the 3rd CCA meeting discussed and commented the proposed MP document together with the EU consultant. This meeting was followed by another one of the SC on 28 March

2006. Between March and May 2006, all received stakeholder requests for modifications and adjustments have been assessed and incorporated into the final draft MP document.

1.4.3. Approval and revision

The Management Plan is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Environment and Water Management after the following agreements/ approvals have been obtained:

- Decisions of the County Councils of Bihor, Cluj and Alba
- Endorsement by the ANP Scientific Council
- Note of the Commission for Nature Monuments Protection, within the Romanian Academy.

A revision of the Management Plan will be made every 5 years, starting with the approval date.

1.5 Procedure for modifying and updating the Management Plan

ANP's high heterogeneity, the complexity of the man-environment interrelations, the appearance of natural processes which can lead to changes in the composition and normal dynamics of the ecosystems often require the re-evaluation of the biodiversity conservation measures.

The dynamics of the local community development and the growing interest for the development of tourism, in one of the parks with the biggest human communities in Romania, requires continuous adjustment of the management system to current situation. Taking this into account in the present Management Plan, basic principles of an adaptive management were adopted to allow an easier management.

The ANP Management Plan is elaborated in order to constitute a document to define the main action directions for the achievement, on the long term, of the park objectives.

The detailed work plans are elaborated each year by ANP with the approval of the SC, on the basis of the Management Plan provisions, but also taking into account the actual situation on the park territory, as well as the available management resources.

As the ANP Administration currently prepares the legally required integration of this protected area into the EU Natura 2000 network, starting with 2007, this Management Plan is also adapted to the appropriate management requirements of this special designation.

In case of any imposed changes of the Management Plan, the competence for their approval belongs to:

1. The Ministry of Environment and Water Management, with the notice from the Romanian Academy – Nature Monuments Commission, if the changes imposed refer to Objectives, Actions, or the functioning level, while respecting the approval procedure described in section 1.4.3;
2. the Scientific Council, if the modifications refer to priorities, responsibilities, research;
3. the ANP Administration if the modifications will affect the content or implementation of the annual work plan.

Proposals for modification can come from the park administration, as well as from stakeholders (see sub-chapter 2.5.7) or the ANP Scientific Council.

1.6 Implementation procedure for the Plan

The responsibility of the MP implementation concerns the ANP Administration and is established through planned actions on the basis of Annual Work Plans. These will be elaborated in the 4th semester of the previous year and have to be approved by the SC, only after the CCA agreed upon the activities that can affect the main stakeholders.

In case that during the finalisation of the Annual Work Plans, disagreements occur between ANP Administration and the CCA regarding the activities that can affect stakeholders, the SC has the mandate to give the final decision regarding the respective activities.

The activities in the Annual Work Plan are implemented/organised:

- directly by ANP Administration, through those in charge, from the park staff
- by involving certain partners on the basis of collaboration contracts, volunteers or
- on the basis of cooperation agreements (NGOs, public services or volunteers)
- on the basis of contracts, with private persons or specialised legal bodies, NGOs etc.

Activities that are developed on ANP territory but are outside of the scope of the MP must follow the provisions of the Management Plan and can only be developed under the supervision of the ANP Administration. This will establish a framework within which these activities can be undertaken.

The ANP Administration will ensure an optimum implementation of the Management Plan to prevent that human disturbances conflict with the conservation status for which this nature park was declared.