The ecotourism and tourism lasting development are concepts used more and more in international tourism activity with all economical, ecological, financial and social implications.

The tourism lasting development assumes an optimum use of tourism resources connected with their protection and natural and build environment. It is about the satisfying of all needs of the tourism industry and of the present tourists (economical, social, esthetic, rest, fun, etc.), preserving the cultural integrity, social, ecological, biological diversity, etc. With other words, who take into account the present tourism and the future opportunities as well.

The establishing of Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation (DDBR) has the main goal to natural habitat protection, but also support the lasting development with ecological sustain of the traditional economical and cultural activities, tourism included.

The ecotourism is a concept who involves both tourism development and practice protecting and conservation the nature and the cultural and historical values and obtaining the financial resources to preserve and conserve the nature, cultural heritage and local community social-economic development as well.

It supposes management, organizing, and development of the tourism activity to avoid the damage of the natural balance, environment with its natural resources.

The main objective of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reservation (DDBR) is to protect and preserve delta ecosystems and, mainly, to preserve some strict protected areas to preserve the nature here, and that is why is necessary (like in other economical areas from delta) the making of a tourism development strategy in the sustain limits of delta nature but also of local community, who is ecotourism development.

It may takes a number of general principles, like:

- Necessity of the delta nature and bio-diversity preservation, like habitat form and the animals who lives in them, Danube Delta being one of the most important wet ecosystems in Europe;
- Favoring the traditional economic development, tourism included, respecting the environment and esthetic quality of the landscape;
- Tourism forms restructuring and tourism programs fitting to requests for conservation and protection of delta ecosystems, to social and cultural particularities of the population, without decreasing the esthetic, cognitive, scientific, sport or economic value of them (of programs);
- Gradual movement to a organized tourism from an individual one, first made on ecological mode, with low implication on local ecosystems;
- Running the tourism programs (who implies some tourism pressure against the environment) and making the tourism devices to respect the supportability ecological limits, psychological and social, that means minimum of damage of the landscape, urbanization avoiding, decreasing tourists satisfaction and overwhelming local populations vs. tourists waves.
- Using an effective marketing policy to promote the Danube Delta “tourism product” but also the understanding and knowing the delta;
- Necessity that, by ecotourism, DDBR becomes for pupils, students, youth, a school of understanding and learning the nature, the delta one specially, and necessity to preserve and protect it and its bio -diversity.

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Cooperation between the governmental and local bodies and DDBR referring to the protection and preservation of delta ecosystems and traditional economy development in the same time;

For making of some tourism-ecosystems relations to be acceptable and long term it has to be done the next issues too:

- Establishing the “entrance points” for tourists in delta, making them visible and settling some control and info points;
- Marking the major objectives for tourists;
- Settling tourist access and paths in delta;
- Settling the needs of the fitting outs and equipment for tourism (tourists accommodation or to protect the strictly protected reservations);

Making of some tourism structure who preserve the typical delta architecture and to be fitted in the landscape and with nonpolluting equipment.

The concept of organizing, fitting out and promoting the ecotourism in the Danube Delta

It has to be taken into account as premises to organizing and fitting out in Danube Delta the next issues:

1. The Danube Delta, as a Biosphere Reservation, has to included in the general outlook on international protected areas;
2. The Danube Delta is a brand for Romanian tourism for both internal and international markets and this image has to be consolidates;
3. Organized tourism and ecotourism are the only economical activities who can be made in delta with low implications on local ecosystems;
4. The rural tourism – as a component of the ecotourism – is one of the few chances of the economical and social launching in the delta settlements.

In the concept of the ecotourism development in Danube Delta it hat to be take into account the next:

- Tourism activity redefining, as: tourism forms, transport types, areas;
- Gradual passing to organized type of the tourism activity, with the minimum influence to ecosystems alteration;
- Restructuring and diversifying the tourism forms and programs through promoting the ecological ones (scientific and learning tourism, bird-watching included, photo and cine-safari, trips, agritourism, trips for rest, helio-cure, tourism for youth-adventure), and limitation or leading the fishing and hunting ones;
- Control and leading the tourists traffic (monitoring, info and control points and centers fitting outs, marking and signaling the strictly protected areas, the tourists paths);
- Tourism fitting out, endowment and equipping specific for delta (tourism structure like bungalow, camping, huts, camping areas, nautical and water sports endowments, light boats, silent and nonpolluting); hotel endowments are not profitable, through big investments connected with complex works and are not fitted to the ground;
- Tourism programs are organized, usually, on water - the main reason of delta visiting; it can be made ecotourism on land - sandbanks – for scientific tourism, photo-safari, etc;
- Professional and managerial training, ecological training of tourism personnel;
- Tourists and local inhabitants ecological informing and teaching;
- Restructuring and perfection the ways and forms to better promotion and advertising “the tourism product” of Danube Delta.
Tourism activity monitoring

The monitoring activity is an objective necessity to permanent knowing the tourists traffic (organized and alone) and offer the possibility to know tourism pressure on delta ecosystem and optimum limits for ecotourism development.

Until now it has try a partially monitoring of the organized tourism, through recording the accomodation structure and tourists traffic – number of tourists (romanians and foreigners) and number of overnights staying.

For organized tourism traffic monitoring there are necessary data about companies who act in delta, like tourism service providers, tourists traffic (number of tourists accommodated or arrived for trips, accidental tourists led by the feeling of traveling, tourist paths), tourism accommodation structures, feeding and entertaining, possibility to travel (by road, by boat), work force (source, qualifications), specific trade, etc.

The non-organized tourism traffic monitoring (alone) is harder to be made. Even so, filling an entry authorization in the Danube, in the same time with fee paying can do this activity.

In this way, the authorization becomes a part of an official document, the tourist can prove the legality of his trip in DDBR and, on the other hand, this is a very useful document for non-organized tourism traffic monitoring (as volume, destination, goal, period, etc.).

This authorization (A5 shape) can has on reverse the DDBR map with protected areas and ecological in reconstruction areas and the main guiding marks (hotels, villages, tourist paths, etc.), and it can be a valuable way of promoting the DDBR.

Filling this formulary can be made at Tulcea (tourism agencies, passenger boats) or at local town hall or at any accommodation place.

In this regard it has to be a close cooperation between DDBR and local authorities or tourism service companies from delta.

We suggest that the entry authorization has to contain the followings: the tourist name, place of residence, family, children (if applicable), destination (place or area), entry data in delta, trip length (in number of days); type of trip (trip, rest, sport fishing, learning, etc.); accommodation (tent, private house, hotel, camping); transport type; equipment: boat (type), camera, fishing equipment.

Of course, it can be requested other data too, but those are essential for recording the tourists traffic and pressure on delta ecosystems.

Tourism endowments necessary to “organize” individual tourism

To avoid the chaotic spread of the individual tourism in delta, with very serious results in ecosystems damaging, it mast takes some measures (some endowments and tourism equipment).

That is for the “area fixing” of the individual tourists flows, to control and lead them as tourism destination, avoiding, on one side, environment damage and, on the other hand, making a sanitary and personal protection of the tourists.

There are necessary tourism fitting out and equipment of camping platforms using some useless reed platforms, over lifted above the medium level of the Danube flow. Them can be found in atractive tourism areas and looked by the tourists, like Sontea-Olguta canal, Baba Rada, Mila 23, Babina-Lopatna, Dovnica, Caraorman-Iacob Lake, Litcov Canal, Crisan, Dunavat, etc.

The fitting out these platforms means making a parking platform and endowment it with utilities as: quays, tourist reception, storehouses, renting shops, place for picnic, kitchen, sports grounds, endowments for nautical sports, boats, electric power generator, water reservoir with cleaning device, etc. The necessary work force is reduced. The agritourism and rural tourism development in the Danube Delta represents the most important involvement of the locals in tourism activity with positive economical and social effects for the delta.
settlements and keeping the spirituality of them. The endowment of some general infrastructure elements (water and electricity supply, heating, sewing system, roads and anti floods protection plus local houses modernizing and preservation of the folkloric architectural values and local habitat) will help the delta settlements to enter in tourism circuit.

The Danube Delta, as Biosphere Reservation, represents the ideal frame for lasting benefit of tourism resources and ecotourism practicing to support the bio-diversity environment protection, of economical and spiritual traditions of local community and to satisfying the needs for rest and entertainment.