

THE VENATORIAL FUND IN ROMANIA – ACTIONS OF COLONIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

FONDUL CINEGETIC DIN ROMÂNIA – ACȚIUNI DE COLONIZARE ȘI STRATEGII DE DEZVOLTARE

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Abstract: For centuries, hunting has represented an important activity for a part of Romanian population. Having a double purpose, finding food source on the one hand and spending free time on the other hand, this branch of economy unfolds its activity according to the law of venatorial fund and game protection no. 103/1996. The venatorial fund from Romania represents an area of 23.3 million hectares, of which about a third is occupied by forests. Starting with the 15th century, on the Romania's territory there have been done many actions of colonization, having as aim the rejuvenation of the indigenous game populations where they disappeared long ago, blood refreshment, increase of the game productivity on certain areas. The species that have been colonized in different stages were pheasant (starting with 1475), common crows (16th century), fallow deer (17th century), roebuck (20th century), chamois (1970), blackcock (1975), alpine marmot (1946), hares (periodically, in depopulated areas), enot dog (1950). The paper presents the actions and effects of these colonisations. At a national level, there have been elaborated the strategy of development in the venatorial resources and biodiversity, rendering efficient the role of the state in administering the national venatorial fund, promotion of the research activity and increase awareness in this domain, ensuring a durable venatorial management, diminution of illegal exploitations of the venatorial resources. In the paper there are presented SWOT analyses for each of the strategic objectives.

Rezumat: Vânătoarea a reprezentat de-a lungul secolelor o activitate importantă pentru o parte din populația teritoriului românesc. Având un dublu scop, completarea resurselor de hrană, pe de o parte, și de petrecere a timpului liber, pe de altă parte, această ramură a economiei își desfășoară activitatea pe baza Legii fondului cinegetic și a protecției vânatului nr. 103/1996. Fondul cinegetic din România ocupă o suprafață de 23,3 milioane hectare, din care circa o treime este ocupat de păduri. Începând cu secolul XV, pe teritoriul României s-au realizat numeroase acțiuni de colonizare, având drept scop întinerirea unor populații de vânat autohton acolo unde acesta a dispărut cu mulți ani în urmă, îmbogățirea de sânge, sporirea productivității în vânat a unor terenuri. Speciile care au fost colonizate în diferite etape au fost fazanii (începând cu 1475), corbii comuni (sec. XVI), cerbii lopătari (sec. XVII), câpriorul (sec. XX), capra neagră (1970), cocoșul de munte (1975), marmota alpină (1946), iepurele de câmp (periodic în zone depopulate), câinele enot (1950). În lucrare sunt prezentate acțiunile și efectele acestor colonizări. La nivel național s-a elaborat strategia de dezvoltare în domeniul cinegeticii pentru perioada 2006-2025 care are ca obiectiv strategic: utilizarea durabilă a resurselor cinegetice și conservarea biodiversității; eficientizarea rolului

statului în administrarea fondului cinegetic național; promovarea activității de cercetare și ridicarea nivelului cunoștințelor; asigurarea unui management cinegetic durabil; diminuarea exploatațiilor ilegale a resurselor cinegetice. În lucrare sunt efectuate analize SWOT pentru fiecare dintre obiectivele strategice.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to accomplish the paper there have been used the data gathered in the specialty literature, as well as information obtained through direct investigation. There have been used the following methods: monographs and for the second part, the projection method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

On the Romania's territory hunting has represented along the centuries an important activity having a double aim: an additional food supply on the one hand, and leisure, on the other hand.

Till the end of the 18th century, hunting in the Romanian provinces was considered "res nullius"; each hunter having the right to hunt anywhere, according to the necessities and possibilities. After a while, a part of the owners of large agricultural and forest lands extended their pretensions over the game, too. Nevertheless, according the juridical regulations that existed till 1948, the game belonged to the owner of the land where they were temporarily found. But he could not hunt if he was not a member of U.G.V.R.

After 1948, hunting entered with no exception in the state property, the whole venatorial heritage being shared by the units of venatorial management, called hunting funds. Two thirds of them have been assigned to the hunting associations, and a third is part of the special hunting forestries.

In 1996, there was abrogated the Law of venatorial fund and game protection where, among others, it is stipulated that the game is a public good, whose existence can be on public or private land, being divided into "hunting funds" with areas of 5000 ha in plains, 7500 ha in hills and 10000 ha in the mountains. The number of hunters is limited, according to the surface of the venatorial fund. For Romania, this number is of 60.000.

At present, Romania has one of the richest venatorial funds of Europe. Three were the causes that contributed to this situation: highly heterogeneous and presenting a moderate temperate climate; lower density of population and less intensive exploitation of the soil.

With no exaggeration we can state that Romania has remained, together with other few East- European states, the reservation of the large predators in Europe and even in the world. Romania has the first place in the world from the point of view of the density of *Ursus arctos* L., *Canis lupus* L., *Felis silvestris* L., and even *Lutra lutra* L. There is a moderate density of *Linx linx* L., *Lutreola lutreola* L. and *Cricetus cricetus* L.

Also, there are numerous species of fowls, rare in other parts, which in Romania have significant densities: *Biranta ruficollis* P., *Aythya nyroca* G., *Tadorna tadorna* L. etc.

A. Actions of repopulation with game

In Romania there have been practiced populations with certain game species, starting with the 15th century. The aims had in view: establishing native game populations, in the areas where they had disappeared; blood refreshments, increase of the productivity of such fields in order to exploit them in a hunting system.

The first colonizations of which there are written documents refer to pheasants and they go back to 1475, being localized in the west of the country. In the south of the country there have been used after 1900. In the inter-war period and especially after 1950, the practice developed a lot, as it has proved to be extremely attractive. At the same time, there has developed the warren houses destined for the breeding of the species and also the export of pheasants has increased as abroad they are looked for their good qualities.

The populations of common deer were done in Transylvania beginning with the 16th century, after the example of some countries from central Europe. They were done with specimens brought especially from Hungary and Austria, the species adapting very well, and thus through reproduction, it occupied all the mountainous and sub-mountainous areas of the country.

After 1970, there was organized another action of colonization in the south plain of the country. The set up populations, although they are not very stable as regards the place, and neither very representative as effectives, but they are of high quality, including the captures. At this situation there seems to have contributed both the genetic fund of the specimens captured selectively and the "blood mixture" done between deer that came from different zones of the country, but also from Bulgaria, and also due to the fact that plenty of food can be found here.

The populations of fallow deer began in the 17th century, but the success was partial because of the superposition of the habitat with that of the wolf and also with the existence of the poaching. Nevertheless at present there are some viable nuclei in the West Plain and in the Romanian Plain, but their existence is reduced.

The populations of mouflons were done in two stages in the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, but were not successful because of the wolves, dogs and poaching.

The populations with roebucks have begun after 1960, as a consequence of the disappearance of most of the species in the South Plain and other zones. The populated specimens and their descendants quickly occupied the forests in the low altitude zones and in the Danube meadow and delta, uniting the nuclei with the populations in the wild, including the trophies. The national record of over 211 CIC points comes from this region.

Two of the populations done after 1970 had a spectacular success. It is about the populations with chamois and blackcock. The lack of natural predators, the better conditions of feeding and the blood mixture had a great impact on these populations.

The populations with alpine marmot, bustard and aurochs are projects under development, but the actions are reduced as activity from the lack of funds and special protection conditions.

B. The strategy in the venatorial domain

The elaboration of the strategy in the venatorial domain at the national level in the 2006-2025 period, done on short and long term starts from the premise of alignment to the European demands, respecting at the same time the national traditions and specific in the venatorial domain. The elaboration of the strategy involved all the institutions and organizations that are related directly or indirectly with the forest and hunting and fishing fund. There have been identified five strategic objectives, for each doing also a SWOT analysis.

Objective 1. Durable use of venatorial resources and the preservation of biodiversity

In order to accomplish this objective there have been taken into account the following measures:

- accomplishment of some studies of venatorial scaping of the hunting funds, which should include the requests of biodiversity preservation;
- setting up management plans for the species of national, European and world interest.
- regulation of the number control of the fauna in the protected areas;
- respecting the refuge zones at the level of the hunting funds;
- creation of an organized frame for periodical consultancy of hunters, administrations and conservators of the protected zones, for information and insurance of transparency;
- regulation of the unfolding of tourist and agro-tourist activities within the hunting areas.

Strategic objective 2. Rendering efficient the role of the state in the administration of the national venatorial fund

Measures within this objective have in view the following:

- signing management contracts of the hunting funds for at least 10 years;
- establishing minimum contract clauses regarding the management of the hunting zones;
- setting up county structures of regulation, guiding and control of the venatorial activity;
- guiding, informing and training the specialized personnel;
- giving the ok of the specialized studies for each hunting fund.

Strategic objective 3. Harmonization of the relationship between landowner and fauna of venatorial interest

Within this objective we have in view the following:

- taking part of landowners at auctions organized for each hunting fund;
- creation of an organizational frame according to which the administrator and key landowners can sign direct agreements regarding the hunting activity with the stipulation of the obligations of the Prts;
- elaboration of a “code of good practice” by a inter-sector team regarding the behaviour towards nature.

Strategic objective 4. Ensuring a durable venatorial management in the context of the diversification of land property

These measures have in view the following:

- preservation of the minimum limits of the area of the hunting zones;
- identification, mapping and including the migration track in the landscaping plans and the infrastructure development;
- inclusion of measures of venatorial management in the norms of forestscaping and forestry landscaping;
- establishment of harest level according to the real present situation of the species;
- establishment of the norms of complementary feeding according to the natural potential of the venatorial fund;
- correlation of the studies of venatorial management of the hunting zones with the pexisting biodiversity and with the management of the protected areas;
- accomplishment of studies regarding migration amd season movements of the mage.

Strategic objective 5. Decession of the illegal exploitations of the venatorial resources

Within this last objective we have in view:

- buy the necessary equipment for guard, observations, communications and transport for each hunting fund;
- establishment of a “lottery” type system for authorizations available where the demand is higher than the offer;
- increase of the venatorial offer and implicitly the fall of the authorization price; control of game products (trophy, skins, furs, game meat etc) and their compulsory standar registration.
- Intensification of the control of equipment, arms and ammunitions used for hunting.

The strategy as regards the venatorial domain is part of the agricultural strategy.

Thus, the objectives of the strategy in the venatorial domain is subordinated to the environmental policy of durable use of venatorial resources and the preservation of biodiversity under the conditions of maintaining the agro-forestry-venatorial equilibrium.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Along the years, on the territory of Romania, hunting has represented an important occupation having a double aim: leisure and economic character.
2. Within Europe, Romania occupies the first place as regards the density of many species such as the bear, wolf, lynx etc.
3. Along the centuries there have been made numerous populations with species that have diminished their effective. It is about species of pheasants, deer, roebuck, chamois. At some species such as the alpine marmot, bustard and aurochs the populations have partly succeeded.
4. The strategic plan in the venatorial domain comprises a series of objectives that are going to be put to practice. These objectives have in view the durable use of venatorial resources and biodiversity preservation; rendering efficient the role of the state and the administration of the national venatorial fund; harmonization of the relationship between landowner and fauna of venatorial interest; Ensuring a durable venatorial management in the context of the diversification of land property, Decession of the illegal exploitations of the venatorial resources.

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