

Types of participation (after Pimbert and Pretty 1995*)



More than 60 participants attended the seminar - a great opportunity to promote the participatory biodiversity monitoring work undertaken in Rodna

In order to ensure effective participation, it is necessary that all those involved share responsibility and a sense of ownership in the process.

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Passive - people are informed about what is going to happen or has already happened. Their opinion is not gathered.

Information giving - people provide information (e.g. through answering questionnaires, etc.) They do not have a chance to influence the proceedings as the results are not shared and discussed.

Consultation - stakeholders are consulted and their views are listened to. However, decision-making is not shared and stakeholders' opinions are not necessarily taken on board.

Material incentives - people provide resources, e.g. labour, in return for money or other material incentives. They are not involved in the learning process; and they do not have the capacity to continue activities when incentives end.

Functional participation - people participate by forming working groups to achieve pre-determined objectives. This type of participation is not usually found in the first stages of projects but later on, after major decisions have been made. It could lead to the creation of local institutions which, although dependent on external initiators, may become sustainable.

Interactive participation - people participate in joint analysis which leads to action plans and the formation or strengthening of local groups. It involves interdisciplinary methods that seek multiple perspectives and it employs systematic and structured learning processes.

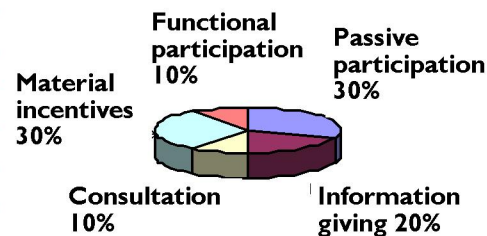
Self mobilization - people take initiative to make changes, independently of external institutions.

*Pimbert, M.P. & Pretty, J.N. 1995. Parks, People and Professionals: Putting 'Participation' into Protected Area Management. Discussion Paper No. 57. UNRISD, Geneva.

Workshops

What role does participation have in protected areas in Romania?

The most used types of participation in Romanian PAs – conclusions of work group discussions



This group concluded that passive and material incentives participation are the types most frequently used currently in protected areas (PAs) in Romania. With regard to stakeholders, the greatest involvement in management is secured by the PA administrations

(80%), followed by NGOs (10%), local communities (5%) and others (5%). Participatory methods most commonly employed are: informal interviews, target groups interviews, observations in the field with local people and participatory mapping.

What type of participation do we want in Romanian PAs?



Work group 2 discussing desirable types of participation

This group analysed desirable types of participation from the perspective of various stake-

holders: protected area administrations, political class, education institutions, and owners and administrators of land included and adjacent to protected areas. General agreement has been reached on the hope that

the political class will adopt a stronger type of participation. The group concluded that strong participation types are the most desirable, and future trends will focus around democratic processes, functional and interactive participation and even self-mobilization.

In the future, democratic processes, functional and interactive participation and even self-mobilization will play an essential role - conclusions of work group two

Opportunities and challenges in implementing strong participation in Romanian PAs

Some of the opportunities identified were:

- Collaboration with local authorities, land administrators, education and research institutions, environmental law enforcement bodies, NGOs and civil society, and tourism operators;
- Funding from international sources;
- The creation, functioning and collaboration of administrations of national and nature parks in Romania;
- The creation and functioning of parks' Scientific and Consultative Councils;
- Existing park infrastructure and databases.

Agreement was also reached on challenges facing protected areas; the most important ones were:

- Local people's mentality and prejudice, as well as their lack of interest and motivation;
- Lack of compensations for owners of land included in protected areas;
- Conflict of interest between land owners and protected areas;
- Fragmentation of forest administration and ongoing changes in land ownership;
- Legislation that is not adapted to local needs;
- Inadequate protected area personnel (insufficient or not qualified).

Analysing the current situation, the group concluded that the most practiced type of participation is consultation, tending towards functional participation.

Conclusions

This seminar reflected current status on participation in protected area management in Romania; it also opened the way to future discussions and collaboration at a national level on this increasingly important topic. The Rodna Mountains National Park has demonstrated unique experience in participatory biodiversity

monitoring, a model that the participants could pursue further. Agreement was reached on the fact that future trends lead towards stronger participation in protected area management, and this will bring along great opportunities but also commensurate responsibilities. This will require, among other things, legislation

that corresponds to local needs, stakeholder motivation, adequate training of protected area staff and the development of civic consciousness.



Brainstorming on opportunities and challenges for implementing strong participation in PAs