

Visitor Management in the Danube-Ipoly National Park

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The Danube-Ipoly National Park was founded in November 1997 as the ninth national park in Hungary. This nature reserve is suited for many kinds of tourist activities (hiking, cycling, horse riding, winter sports, aquatic sports, rock-climbing, fishing, rural tourism, wine tourism etc.) thanks to its diverse natural, architectural and cultural values. As a consequence, there are numerous unfavourable environmental impacts which are caused by tourism and are increased through the nearness of Budapest, that we have to take into consideration. Visitor management can be one of the most obvious methods to avoid these adverse effects. From the system of relations between tourism and nature conservation, which is full of special conflicts it follows that just those tourist activities can be formed and developed in national parks which not only enhance the experiences and knowledge of tourists, but also contribute to the protection and rehabilitation of the natural and built values.

In the article, after we have revealed the values of the Danube-Ipoly National Park, their sensitivity, present state and those factors which put them at risk, we demonstrate the kind and the extent of the possible methods of their protection.