

# Relations between IUCN-zoning and tourism in the Hungarian national parks

Borbála Benkhard

University of Debrecen, Department of Landscape Protecting and Environment Geographic,  
Debrecen, Hungary  
e-mail: bebr@axelero.hu

Within the 100.000 km<sup>2</sup> area of Hungary, which is located in Central Europe, 10 % is protected. Our country has 10 national parks, which amount to the half of the total protected areas.

The National Park Directorates make an effort to suit the requirements of the IUCN and strive to develop a zoning system. However, the settling of the zones meet with many difficulties in this relatively small country, which also has dense regional structure.

The extent and the fragmentation of the national parks, the position and threateness of their natural values and the previous utilization and naturalness of their area all influence the classification of the given area. Besides, attractions, tourist destinations and the areas which are used by tourists also have to be taken into consideration during the development of the zones.

The popular tracks and destinations formed earlier than the protection of these areas owing to the traditional hiking. Hence, today there are significant conflicts between the strictly protected areas and the tourist demands. Not only with this object, but also because of the poor environmental awareness of the visitors it is obvious that the most difficult problem is the determination of the C-zone, which can be visited by tourists. This could be the reason for the variegation of the zones in Hungary.

The position and the shape of the zones changes from the mosaic-like (e.g. Kiskunság National Park) to the annulus (e.g. Aggtelek NP). This affects that the A-zone or core area how can be protected against the external, undesirable impacts (e.g. tourism).

The rate of the zones shows a high distribution, too. The proportion of the C-zone, which is also the scene of tourism, is minimum about 4 % (Bükk NP) or maximum about 64 % (Aggtelek NP) from the total area of the national parks. In the case of the parks lying on the more popular mountainous areas the 4 % is not much and this fact causes a lot of problems, on the other hand the C-zones with larger proportion of the plains perhaps “are not exploited”.

The aim of this poster is to analyse the role of the position, shape and rates of the zones and their connection with tourism.