

Colibița Climatic Resort (Bistrița-Năsăud County) between Project and Purpose

Ion BĂCA¹, Mircea MUREȘIANU¹, Andras BARTA¹, Eduard SCHUSTER¹

¹ Babeș-Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography, Bistrița Branch, ROMANIA

E-mail: john_grimo@yahoo.com, mmuresianu@geografie.ubbcluj.ro, andras_barta@yahoo.com, eduard_schuster@yahoo.de

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ABSTRACT

Colibița Depression is located at the contact between the Bârgău and Călimani rock formations, overlapping the upper basin of the Bistrița Ardeleană River. The area poses a significant tourist potential, exploited in the past by the existing climacteric resort. The hydroelectric development activities that took place between 1976 and 1996 deactivated the spa, but once they were finished, tourism experienced a powerful come-back. As a result, county institutions (namely the Bistrița-Năsăud County Council) and local authorities (the mayoralty of Bistrița Bârgăului commune) are interested in the revival of the Colibița climatic resort. This is already happening, through several specific activities and projects. Under these circumstances, our study tries to realise an evaluation of the region's attractive potential, as well as an analysis of the criteria needed to be fulfilled in order to reestablish Colibița climatic resort.

1. INTRODUCTION

Colibița Depression lies between the Bârgăului and the Călimani Mountains [5], occupying the upper basin of the Bistrița Ardeleană River (103 km²), representing the most important tourist area of the Bistrița-Năsăud County (fig. 1).

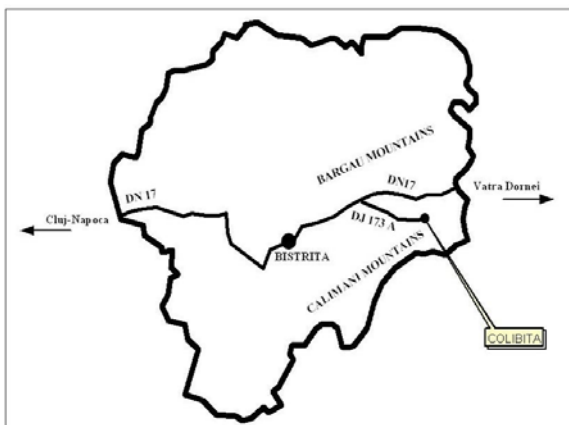


Fig.1. Colibița-Geographic position in Bistrița-Năsăud County.

Two territorial-administrative units share the depression's area:

- the village of Colibița, located in the Mita well, at the confluence of the Valea Măgurii creek with the Bistrița River;

- the tourist location, extended on both sides of the reservoir, represented by private tourist utilities (villas, chalets, pensions).

Based on its tourist history and attractions, county and local authorities (the County Council of Bistrița-Năsăud and the Bistrița Bârgăului Town Hall) intend to declare the tourist settlement a climatic resort of local interest.

According to section 2 of the Gov. Decision 1122/2002, "the certification of national or local interest as resort, may be obtained by any locality or part of locality with specific tourist functions, where economic activities support exclusively the realisation of tourist product, and which possesses natural and anthropogenic resources, delimited according to spatial planning and urbanism documentations, certified and approved according to law, and which

meets the minimal required criteria, for one of the categories”.

Therefore, both Colibița and its part represented by the tourist location can obtain the rank of tourist destination if the criteria that we will present in this study will be fulfilled from a geographic point of view.

2. PREMISES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CLIMATIC RESORT COLIBIȚA

Colibița has a rich tourist tradition, justifying the necessity for the valorisation of its attractions through the reestablishment of the former climatic resort. In the evolution of tourist activities at Colibița, four major stages can be pointed out, which we will shortly analyse below [2].

The first stage, preceding the development of the resort, took place between the end of the 18th and the end of the 19th century, when the area probably attracted nature lovers.

This includes intellectuals (teachers, army officers, magistrates, clerics, physicians) and civil servants from the communes in the Bistrița and Bârgău valleys, from Bistrița and even further away, that were looking for the scenery, the silence and the fresh air of Colibița.

The second stage of the climatic resort, as of the records, starts at the end of the 19th century, comprising two distinctive sub-stages.

The first sub-stage stretches to the mid 20th century, and begins in 1893 when several pavilions for patients suffering of tuberculosis and some private villas are erected, sketching the future resort.

In this period, the potential is fully valorised, with leisure and relaxation activities including walking tours to the surrounding attractions (Căsarul, Izvorul Lung, Colbu, Bistricior, Tăul Zânelor, Piatra lui Orban).

In 1926, all the buildings were purchased by the "Caritatea" Society from Cluj, which was nursing students suffering of lung diseases free of charge.

In 1930, several citizens from Bistrița establish a villa quarter under the Pușcă Hill, and the SKV builds a chalet for tourists.

After the Second World War, the resort was renewed and served alternatively as pioneer and student camp, and as resting resort.

The second sub-stage developed in the communist period, when the resort functioned on other principles. It had a climatic character and was part of the Bistrița-Năsăud County Office for Tourism, subordinated to the climatic-balneal company Sângeorz-Băi. It comprised 12 villas, its technical characteristics being presented in table 1.

Tourists from all over the country came here for relaxation, as well as students, in specially organised camps.

Table 1. Technical characteristics of the villas in the Colibița resort (1978).

Habitable space	40,66-375 m ²
Floors	2-3
Wall footing	Masonry
Walls	Bricks, beams
Floor	Fir beams
Roof	Tile, shingle
Heating	Wood
Dependencies	Well, toilet
Building year	1935, 1955

Beside accommodation facilities, the Colibița resort included a general store, a forestry store, a cafeteria, and the resort's bar. During summer, on Sundays, and on legal or religious holidays, the number of visitors was particularly high, being represented mainly by locals from the Bârgău Valley.

The largest villas were those containing the bar (375 m²) and the cafeteria (144,50 m²); regarding age, only one was built in 1935, whereas the rest of them were erected in 1955.

The third stage begins with the start of the hydroelectric construction site, in the year 1976. At this point, the resort and the village are abandoned and tourist activities became unorganised. Nature lovers and regular visitors would continue to come, despite the changes in the landscape.

We might say that the main tourist attraction in this stage is the building of the dam itself and collateral activities, but once the reservoir took shape, around the year 1983, its attractive potential catches attention.

From now on, thousands of visitors would "invade" the lakeside. Colibița starts hereby to reconfigure its tourist and functional personality, gaining strength, but future consequences, especially ecological ones, will be hard to control.

Beside a charming sight and its reputation gained in past decades, the construction of the reservoir would trigger that harmful phenomenon called mass tourism at Colibița.

In order to utilise Colibița's new tourist potential in an organised manner, the Bistrița-Năsăud County Council decides to erect a hotel and restaurant with 200 beds, under the Pușcă Hill, right above the reservoir, on a sunny slope with great view over the depression and the surrounding mountain crests.

The work was done with difficulties by the Colibița Hydroelectric Enterprise, but soon after 1989, the site is abandoned and the almost finished building is left in degradation.

The fourth stage starts at the end of the hydroelectric works, in the '90s, when the tourism revival of the resort takes place. In the clearings

around the lake, private villas, chalets and holiday homes are being built, creating a real tourist site. Thus, mass tourism continues, inducing corresponding effects.

3. ANALYSIS OF CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

The Gov. Decisions 1122/2002 and 867/2006 set the conditions and procedures for the certification of tourist resorts and of settlements as tourist resorts of national and local interest.

The minimal criteria for the certification are focused on:

- natural features;
- access and roads;
- utilities and accommodation;
- recreation facilities.

In this context, Colibița may become a climatic resort of local, regional, and even national interest, but only if it meets all specifications of the above-mentioned legal documents.

Thus, this study wants to apply the certification criteria and to analyse the attractive potential of the Colibița depression, so that local and county authorities shall possess a data base that will help compiling the project for the establishment and certification of the future resort Colibița.

3.1. Nature, natural curative agents, and environment quality

Colibița Depression offers a generous natural environment, characterised by numerous attractive elements, both physiognomic and therapeutic.

This was the prime condition for the success of this resort, and will still remain the basic condition for the tourism revival of the area.

Situated at the contact between the Bârgău and Călimani geological structures, in the upper basin of the Bistrița Ardeleană River, the Colibița Depression shows a varied relief, with a high attractive potential, constituting a mountain landscape with real curative value.

At the northern and eastern border of the depressions, the magmatic hills of the Bârgău Mts. (Căсарu, 1591 m; Măgurita, 1581 m; Ariilor Hill, 1547 m; Cornu, 1510 m; Buba, 1640 m) are attracting the interest of tourists through their conical, dome-like configuration, the deep or hanging cols, the steep slopes and the relatively high altitude difference between the base of the depression and the surrounding peaks, which represents a challenge for climbing- and adventure-lovers [6, 8].

To the south-east and south of the depression, there stands the relief sculptured on volcanic formations of the Călimani Mts. [7].

This is spectacular in the Bistricior massif (1990 m), which is formed by compact magmatic rocks

(Andesites), and constitutes the main attraction through its minor morphology (semi-funnels and crinival chutes, steep slopes, sharp peaks, stone flows) and its high altitude that dominates the depression.

To the west, the crest Piciorul Scurt – Chicera lui Pasăre – Moldoveanca – Poiana Cofii – Piatra lui Orban consists of volcanic agglomerates from the Călimani Plateau, and the altitude is dropping (1300 – 1500 m); it is characterised by blunt peaks ("bâțci"), smoother sections, residual cols and sectors, showing peaks, descents and sharp crests, or rocky prominences arising from the forest. The lithologic slope beneath this ridge is particularly attractive, fragmented by deep torrents hidden in the woods, separated by short, buttress-like crests. On the north-west, the ridge between the Pușcă and Pietrei hills is formed also on volcanic agglomerates, showing attractive features (residual peaks and crests, slopes, bizarre rock formations).

The actual depression consists of two compartments, with distinctive tourism functions. The eastern compartment is dominated by the Blaja – Prislop promontory (1400 – 1600 m), carved from a pre-existent surface by the Colbu and Izvorul Lung rivers, quite large and functioning as access ways. They are deep, have remarkable wideness and lengths, and are bordered by long slopes covered with shady forests. The rivers are flanked by forest roads that sometimes climb on the crests, or show sectors of meadows that represent welcoming resting places. The riverbeds are extended and feature from place to place deep waters, appropriate for hydro-therapy.

The western compartment consists of two enclosed basins: Colibița to the west, where the reservoir is now in place and Mita to the east, holding the Colibița village. To the south, beneath the Piatra lui Orban – Chicera lui Pasăre ridge, lies the Colibița glacis which, between the Bistrița gorge and the Pănuletului valley, has the conformation of a terrace, covered with large forests and clearings (Poiana de sub Deal, Poiana Butucanului, Poiana Slatinii, etc.). The mild slope and the great stability of this formation, as well as the sight over the lake and the hills from Bârgău give it an important role in future planning (communication roads, tourist houses, panoramic views, camping sites).

Attractively relevant for the tourists are the peaks, representing orientation and panoramic points. They resulted through slope retreat and lie on the main crests, being flanked on both sides by cols. The attractive elements of these peaks are their altitude and shape. From the perspective of altimetry, the peaks from Colibița reach heights between 1000 and 1990 meters, and the drop to be overcome in order to reach their top can be as high as 1000 m, if we consider that at the foot of the Bistricior massif, at Gura Plaiului, at the confluence of the Tirimiul de Sus and the Colbu rivers, the altitude is 990 m.

Morphologically, there are: *sharp peaks* (Bistricior, Tuturgău, Străcior, Tiganca, Piatra lui Orban, Prislop, Pușcă Hill, Măgurita, Arsita, etc.), *rounded peaks* (Căsarul, Cornu, Buba, Blaja, etc.), and *blunt peaks*, called "bâți" (Moldoveanca, Poiana Cofii, Calului Hill).

Very spectacular are the periglacial landforms, which attract tourists through cryogenic, cryo-nival and glaciation and nivation features.

The landforms determined by rock dissolution consist of shapes resulted through the removal of rock weathering products from slopes and watersheds and from the longitudinal profile of rivers, such as: *retreatment scarps* (Piatra lui Orban, Pușcă Hill, Tuturgău, Prislop), *gelifraction dells* (Bistricior, the northern flanks of the Piatra lui Orban and of the Tiganca crests, Pușcă Hill), *relic peaks, crests, and cols* (the crests Piatra lui Orban, Pușcă Hill – Pietrei Hill, Viisoru – Străcior – Bistricior - Tuturgău), *jags and walls* (Pușcă Hill, the Piatra lui Orban crest), rock stacks (the Apostles; the northern flank of the Tiganca crest), *rock prominences* (Tuturgău, Viisoru, the Piatra lui Orban crest), *steps and waterfalls* in the river profile.

The cryo-nival landforms resulted through the combined action of gelifractional (permafrost) and nivation processes, being represented by *semi-funnels* and *cryo-nival (permafrost) chutes* at altitudes over 1350 m on the western and northern flanks of the Bistricioru massif. The cryo-nival semi-funnels occurred through the widening of the erosional basins from the springs of Izvorul Lung (Terha de Sus, Terha de Jos), Colbu (Colbu, Gura Plaiului) and Tirimii, through the retreat, refragmentation and blunting of slopes.

The cryo-nival chutes are located on the flanks of cryo-nival semi-funnels and were formed through the shaping of pre-existent torrents under the action of snow and rock weathering processes. They have a semi-oval shape, splayed on the upper end, are covered with grassy vegetation, *Pinus mugo* or debris (rock flows), and function as avalanche alleys.

The glacio-nival landforms occurs in the cryo-nival semi-funnel beneath the Bistricior Peak, from the springs of the Gura Plaiului creek, tributary to the Colbul. This semi-funnel is 1000 m wide, 300 m deep, and has a visible precipice at its lower end, at 1550 m, along the Gura Plaiului valley.

Between 1600 and 1700 m, upside the mountain rescue shelter, the valley has a milder slope and a 150 – 200 m wide U-shaped basal cross-section, similar to a glacio-nival trough. It is possible that in the upper Pleistocene, in this northern sector, the yearly accumulated snow formed an ice tongue or ice lens that formed the present-day surface through pressure and scratching.

To the east, this glacio-nival trough is bordered by a morphological balcony, 30 to 50 meters

high, 380 m in length and 50 m wide, indicating the initial terrain in which the valley was carved.

Depending on certain local structural and morphological conditions, following periglacial systems can be distinguished in the perimeter of the Colibița depression:

- the periglacial landform of Pușcă Hill – Pietrei Hill – Piatra Mare, formed on volcanic agglomerates, represented by crests, peaks, residual cols and slopes (cliffs, jags, creeks, etc.);

- the periglacial landform of Piatra lui Orban Crest, carved in volcanic agglomerates and andesites, showing crests, peaks, residual cols and slopes;

- the periglacial landform Prislop – Colbu, with andesitic forms (cliffs and jags);

- the periglacial landform Bistricior, with a spectacular relief, formed on Andesite, comprising crests, residual peaks and cols, cryo-nival semi-funnels, fragmented by cryo-nival channels (chutes), valley sectors with glacio-nival character, cliffs, rocky prominences (tuturgaie) and debris fields.

The climate of the Colibița depression and of the contact zone to the Bârgău-Călimani area is stimulating, effecting the normalisation and re-balancing of the functions of the autonomic nervous system and the endocrine system. It is characterised by clean air, with high concentrations of ozone and turpentine volatile aerosols, lower temperature and atmospheric pressure, rich rainfall and intense solar radiation. This climate causes an increase in the number of red blood cells and of haemoglobin, intensifies metabolic processes, ameliorates lung functions and stimulates the nervous system [4].

The running waters in the depression are represented by numerous creeks and the river Bistrița. Among the more important streams regarding size, flow, and tourism potential, we mention Izvorul Lung and Colbul, along with some of their tributaries (Tomnatec, Prislop, Valea lui Toader, Valea Blajei, Tirimiu, Pănuțet, etc.). Their course has a primarily therapeutical interest, and secondary for fishing. Thus, walking barefoot in the water, spattering the body with cold water, and taking baths are all methods to fortify and relax the body. Cold or cool, knee-high leg bathing is recommended for circulatory dysfunctions, paresis, paralysis, leg muscular atrophy, and cephalalgia. Moreover, the babbling of water has sedative effects for the mind.

Mineral waters are important hydro-geological occurrences at Colibița. Depending on their chemical composition, there are carbonated-chalybeate waters, named referred to as "borcuturi" by the locals, and sodium-chloride waters, called "slatini" [3]. Carbonated-chalybeate mineral waters represent post-magmatic manifestations of ignic activities in the Bârgău-Călimani area, and they emerge as springs in the Izvorul Lung valley, at the foot of the Dălbidan Crest. There exist 7 mineral springs, among which only

Dălbidan Spring is important, as the others are not captured. This spring is located 7 km from Gura Izvoarelor, on the right side of the forest road, and is closed by a concrete corbel and covered up. Its water is clean, carbonated and very tasteful, and a little glade is surrounding it. In this location, the Bistrița Bârgăului town hall can construct a rest area (fireplace, wooden benches and tables, wooden shelter) and a camping place.

At about 500 meters uphill the Dăbidan spring, on the right side beneath the forest road, several smaller mineral springs with lower flow come to light, which can be utilised in the future. Through their therapeutic qualities, these mineral waters can be used in treating gastro-intestinal and hepatobiliary diseases, food allergies, lithiasis, and anaemia.

Sodium-chloride waters occur at Poiana Slatinii and Poiana Slătioarei, beneath the Piatra lui Orban crest, and are linked to the aquitanian-burdigalian salt formations underground.

The salt water well from Poiana Slatinii is in an advanced state of degradation, but it can be refitted and a resting place can be built around it. Its water was redirected through a 600 m long pipe to the intersection of the circuit road with the road from the Pănulețului valley, where a water faucet makes it free for use at the Știubei tourist resting place, built by the local authority of Bistrița Bârgăului in 2009.

The water from the two wells was used in the past by locals from the surrounding areas for food preservation, leather tanning, brining, and for animal food, but nowadays these activities are hardly to be found. For curative purposes, these sodium-chloride mineral waters can be used for chronic gastritis, colitis, and intestinal dyspepsia.

In the south-eastern part of the depression, at 1270 m, beneath the Chicera lui Pasăre crest lies the 3,3 ha large mountain lake Tăul Zânelor, formed behind a periglacial landslide mass originated from the adjacent slope. North-east from the lake, there is an inviting clearing (Poiana Tăului), where a shelter, a resting place and a vantage point to the depression can be built.

The vegetation of the Colibița Depression is diverse and has a high tourist value. We therefore distinguish: forest vegetation (mixed woods, spruce forests), grassy vegetation (hay meadows, mountain pastures), and subalpine vegetation (subalpine pastures, shrubs).

The forests of the depression are an important curing factor through its sylvan-therapeutic functions.

The forest has positive influences on human organism, having sedative effects in spring and summer, and acting like a tonic-stimulant in winter.

Various natural processes specifically photosynthesis, rain, cold winds, and natural radioactivity affect air quality.

The air in the woods (mainly conifer forests) contains large quantities of oxygen ions (especially in summer), with a negative electric charge (negative ions), and is therefore recommended to persons suffering from bronchial asthma, allergic rhinitis, migraines, neurosis, insomnia. It also slows down aging through brain oxygenation.

The increase of CO₂ during the night eases the respiration of persons suffering from chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, and pulmonary sclerotic emphysema by stimulation of the breathing apparatus. Coniferous forests generate volatile turpentine aerosols, which, together with ozone, activate blood circulation, increase the number of red blood cells, and favours sleep.

By its structure and ecologic characteristics, the forest also affects the mind. The silence of the woods is a good remedy for stress, and a summer walk in a forest with high, rare trees is a quite real "Scottish shower" because of the successive shadow and light spots. Spruce forests with high and straight trees, such as those from the upper valley of Colbul, can stimulate will and boldness, while trees can inspire majesty and power.

Hay meadows in the Ariniș – Șaua Blajului area, on the oblong slopes of the Căsarul and Măgurita, in the clearings of Poiana de Sub Deal, Poiana Butucanului, Poiana Slatinii and Poiana Slătioarei attract tourists through their rich floristic structure, cricket sounds and bee buzzing, with a relaxing effect if enjoyed while sitting at a tree's shadow.

Very important are some medicinal plants (amber, cumin, common yarrow, plantain, common horsetail) which can be plucked, dried and used in the treatment of various diseases. The haying activity, done by the locals, can be observed beginning with the end of June to the end of September, presenting special features regarding scything, drying the swath, and building the hay cocks.

On high crests and around some peaks, or inside forests, mountain pastures in form of clearings of various sizes are in place. They hold sheepfolds whose characteristic activities and products may attract tourists. They can also serve as resting and camping places for the end of a tour during trips.

3.2. Access and roads to the resort

Although Colibița has a somewhat remote position, the depression is linked through communication infrastructure with the Mures Valley (the forest road Răstolita – Valea Scurtului), the Bârgău Valley (road DC 8 on the Blajului Valley) and the Bistrița Aurie Valley (DJ 173 A), underlining the economic importance the region gained in time.

The most important access way in the region is DJ 173 A, which derives at Prundu Bârgăului from

DN 17 (rank Ib). This road is modernised up to the intersection with the road coming from Muresenii Bârgăului on the Blajului Valley, and the Bistrița-Năsăud County Council will continue the asphaltting operation all the way to Colibița.

After this, the road will be certified for public transport. Under these circumstances, the access to the future resort will be done in very good conditions, and if the road from Muresenii Bârgăului on the Blajului Valley will also be modernised, tourist flows might split between the two valleys.

The depression has many forest roads that need to be fitted in order to permit tourist access to various attractions (the roads on the valleys of Izvorul Lung, Colbu, Pănulet, Valea Măgurii, or the southern rim road).

One important issue for the proper functioning of the future resort is the public road transport from Bistrița, Prundu Bârgăului or Bistrița Bârgăului to Colibița, non-existent at the time, which impedes the access in the region.

3.3. Public facilities

As mentioned above, the Colibița depression comprises two territorial-administrative units: the village of Colibița and the tourist settlement. The village is located in the eastern part of the depression, in the Mita basin, at the confluence of Valea Măgurii with the Bistrița Ardeleană River, counting 615 inhabitants in 174 households. Following public facilities are present: Romtelecom centre; general store; public secondary school; cultural centre.

The tourist settlement is concentrated around two cores: one main centre in the north, in the Pușcă Hill – Hânganilor Spring sector, along the DJ 173 A road, and a secondary centre in the south-western part, beneath the Pietrei Ridge.

This tourist settlement is composed of numerous villas, chalets, holiday homes and guest houses, built after 1990. These two cores will form the future tourist resort, as many of the existing constructions could be integrated within.

As for now, there are no public facilities in the area; therefore, it is necessary to construct commercial spaces (shops, bars, pizza places, pastry shops, etc.), service providers (bank, postal office, travel agency, medical centre, pharmacy, and accommodation desk), public lighting, fresh water, parking places, bus stations, etc.

Furthermore, in the area of mineral springs (carbonated on the Izvorul Lung, salty in Poiana Slătioarei and Poiana Slatinii) facilities for the extraction, protection and their utilisation for curative purposes have to be realised.

3.4. Accommodation and recreational facilities

According to data provided by the Bistrița Bârgăului Town Hall, Colibița comprises approx. 300 tourist houses (villas, chalets, holiday houses, guesthouses), among which only 21 are officially recorded, and only two of them are certified for tourist activities (table 2).

Table 2. Guesthouses in Colibița recorded for tourism (year 2010).

No.	Guesthouse	Category	No. of rooms	No. of beds	Classification
1	Pensiunea Ariniș	2	8	16	No
2	Pensiunea Gura Izvoarelor	2	7	14	Yes
3	Cabana Sportul	2	12	30	No
4	Casa de Oaspeți Lumina Lacului	2	7	21	Yes
5	Pensiunea Casa Adriș	3	7	16	No
6	Casa de vacanță Colibița	2	4	8	No
7	Cabana Sebastian	2	8	16	No
8	Vila Colibița Trișcaș	2	9	18	Yes
9	Vila Orizont	2	6	16	No
10	Vila Butnariu	2	7	14	No
11	Cabana Viking	2	4	10	No
12	Pensiunea Târnaveanca	1	5	10	No
13	Cabana Sculptor	1	5	15	No
14	Pensiunea Orizont	2	6	16	No
15	Cabana Sinitean	2	4	8	No
16	Pensiunea Măjeri	2	5	10	No
17	Pensiunea Fărcaș	2	3	6	No
18	Vila Diana	3	7	13	No
19	Vila Ana	3	6	12	No
20	Cabana Cocoșul Roșu	3	12	24	No
21	Hotel Apele Române	2	28	60	No

The tourist constructions are built around the reservoir, in the clearings on both flanks of the Colibița basin, depending on terrain features (slope, altitude, fragmentation, orientation, visibility) and on each proprietor's preference (more or less close to the lake, near the forest, amid a hay meadow, in observation points etc.), villas and chalets situated at some distance from the lake and on higher ground (Pripoarele Căsarului, Pietriceaua, Sub Deal) are often isolated, while buildings near the lake are much closer to one another, forming a real tourist location between the Pușcă Hill and the Hânganilor Spring, along the DJ 173 A road.

In this sector the density of tourist buildings is very high, and traffic is intense, creating some discomfort.

Proprietors of villas situated below the road, near the lake, extended their estates down to the shore, passing the protection zone and somehow isolating the lake, denying free access for tourists [1].

If accommodation facilities are abundant, that's not the case for recreational facilities.

There is almost a complete shortage of rental points for bicycles, ATV's, kayaks, boats, water cycles, as well as of theatres, discos, pools etc.

Moreover, outdoor recreation facilities have to be realised (promenade alleys, observation points, resting places, sports ground), as well playgrounds for children, tourist routes to important attractions should be marked, water sport facilities built, etc.

4. THE COLIBIȚA RESORT PROJECT

In order to certify the climatic resort of local interest Colibița, county authorities (Bistrița-Năsăud County Council) and local authorities (Bistrița Bârgăului Town Hall) initialised a series of actions, such as:

- drawing the General Urban Plan of Bistrița Bârgăului and the Zone Urban Plan for the Colibița Depression, costing approx. 40,000 Lei;

- founding an initiative committee for the development of tourist activities and the certification of the climatic resort Colibița, formed by businessmen and owners of tourist structures in the region.

The tourist planning project for the future resort, realised by a team of architects from Bucharest, implies the erection of a nautical base, a ski track and a skating rink.

As weak points, we mention: poor snowfall (which is affecting winter sports), restriction of lake access due to abusive estate assignment of building owners (a situation that must be resolved by the Water Management Company in Bistrița, as the reservoirs' manager), and the opposition of guesthouse owners regarding this project.

5. CONCLUSION

Our research has revealed that Colibița Depression has tourist potential, but for now it doesn't meet all criteria in order to certify the climatic resort centred on the present-day tourist location stretched between the Pușcă Hill and the Hânganilor Spring.

For the realisation of this project, some strategic actions coordinated by the Bistrița-Năsăud County Council and the Bistrița Bârgăului Town Hall are necessary, as follows:

- building public facilities (restaurants, postal offices, banks, pharmacies, medical centres, theatres, discos, etc.);

- introducing public lighting, a sewerage system and fresh water;

- modernising transport infrastructure in the depression (DJ 173 A, forest roads) and organising public transport towards Colibița and inside the depression;

- establishing a tourist infrastructure (footpaths, alleys, observation points, resting points, camping places etc.).

Currently, the above-mentioned authorities already undertake some of these actions, demonstrating that the project of reviving the climatic resort at Colibița is a desideratum, but its materialisation is a long-lasting process.

Beside actions carried out by the authorities, some problems have to be resolved by estate owners, one of these problems being the storage and disposal of effluents according to running regulations.

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