



## **SILVOTOURISM IN SEMENIC CHEILE-CARAȘULUI PARK**

CAROLINA ȘTEFAN<sup>1, †</sup>, DANIELA NICOLETA SCEDEI<sup>1, †</sup>, MARIA MIHAELA MOATĂR<sup>1, †</sup>, PETRU IOAN DRAGOMIR<sup>1, †</sup>, VASILE CEUCA<sup>2, †</sup>, PETRE ALEXANDRU PANICI<sup>1, †</sup>, CRISTINA GABRIELA PANICI<sup>1, †</sup>, BORA MARINELA<sup>1, †</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Technologies*

<sup>2</sup>*University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Cluj-Napoca, Faculty Forestry and Cadastre, Department of Forestry*

**Abstract:** *Semenic-Cheile-Carașului National Park, located in Southwestern Romania, is an ideal destination for silvotourism due to its rich biodiversity, spectacular landscapes, and numerous natural attractions. This case study explores the various silvotourism activities carried out in the park, assessing their impact on the environment and the local community. The park offers a vast network of hiking trails, ranging from easy routes for families to more challenging trails for experienced hikers. Thematic trails, such as "The Beech Tree Path" or "The Wolf Trail," are marked and provide educational information about the flora and fauna encountered along the way.*

### • Introduction

The camping areas in the park are designed to minimize environmental impact. Visitors can rent eco-friendly equipment and participate in volunteer activities like trail cleaning and tree planting. The camping site at Lake Buhui is renowned for its picturesque landscapes and environmentally friendly facilities, such as composting toilets and recycling stations.

### • Material and method

The main goal of this work was to assess the potential and challenges of forest tourism in the Semenic National Park - Caraș Gorge. The study analyzed various aspects, from the park's biodiversity and natural attractions to tourist infrastructure, environmental impact, and economic benefits for local communities.

### • Results and discussions

Forest tourism activities in Semenic National Park - Caraș Gorge have had a positive impact on the local economy by creating jobs and attracting funds for conservation. However, there are challenges related to waste management and preventing soil erosion on heavily used trails.

### • Conclusions

Semenic National Park - Caraș Gorge stands out for its rich biodiversity, spectacular natural landscapes, and numerous tourist attractions. These features make the park an ideal destination for forest tourism, capable of attracting a large number of visitors interested in ecotourism and outdoor activities.