



Asociația ECO RODNA

Str. Principală, Nr. 1445, Loc. Rodna, Jud. Bistrița Năsăud, România

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BCR Rodna, Cont: RO68RNCB0283072983330001, CIF 20904866

Site: www.ecorodna.ro, ecorodna@yahoo.com

Eco Rodna Association





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Searching for partners in

European Volunteering Service

- Volunteering in Rodna Mountains National Park -

ECO RODNA Association (Romania)

Web site: www.ecorodna.ro

Period of volunteering: 6-12 months. There are a few deadlines per year.

The project will cover the **costs of transport, meals, accommodation** of volunteers during the stage. First step is to identify potential partner organizations which must be accredited on European Volunteering Service.

Partnership with the Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park

Place of volunteering: Rodna Mountains National Park (Biosphere Reserve). <http://www.parcrodna.ro>

Accommodation facilities:

- Volunteering House from Sant locality (near the headquarter of Park Administration)
- Local pensions.
- Also there will be used more than 20 mountain chalets

ECO RODNA Association Experience with volunteers: 858 Romanian volunteers, 176 foreign volunteers

Experience in projects: 29 projects were implemented 2007-2015 (KNIP Matra, Darwin Initiative&Environmental Change Institute from Oxford University, Rufford Foundation, Grundtvig Multilateral, Youth in Action, NGO Fond, GEF SGP Grants etc.)



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Potential tasks for volunteers:

- ❑ **Collecting biological data** (flora, fauna photos and some samples) from 20 tourist trail from Rodna Mountains National Park during 4 seasons (winter, spring, summer, autumn)
- ❑ **Identifying common flora and fauna flagship species** from 20 trails
- ❑ **Elaborating an electronic guide** of each trail
- ❑ **Proposing a strategy for improving the interpretative infrastructure** for each trail (types of panels, type of information, places for camping etc.)
- ❑ **Identifying the honey spots for each trail**, important objectives for visiting (waterfalls, caves, glacial lakes, peaks over 2.000 m, rocks, daffodil meadows etc.)
- ❑ **Editing an album with all trails** (photos, information in English)
- ❑ **Participating to local festivals** with traditional dances, traditional folklore, traditional dresses
- ❑ **Monitoring glacial lakes** (measuring water temperature, pH during the seasons), peat bogs etc.
- ❑ **Translating informative materials** in other languages
- ❑ **Mounting informative panels** on mountain trails
- ❑ **Helping in organizing Junior Ranger camps** and international camps
- ❑ **Identifying common medicinal, tinctorial, aromatic, edible plants, mushrooms** from the Park using field guides
- ❑ **Monitoring biodiversity:**
 - Small mammals with life-traps (Tatra vole – *Microtus tatricus*, snow vole – *Microtus nivalis*) etc.
 - grasshoppers and bats using ultrasound detector (bioacoustics, such as *Transylvanian* bush cricket – *Pholidoptera transsylvanica*, barbastelle bat – *Barbastella barbastellus*),
 - birds: capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*),



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- chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra carpathica*), alpine marmot (*Marmota marmota*)
- footprints of large carnivores (brown bear, wolf, lynx),
- Wildlife with infrared video cameras etc.
- **Editing field guides** in English about different groups of flora and fauna
- **GIS mapping** of species and habitats
- **Ecosystem services** assessment
- **Carbon footprint** evaluation
- **Mapping of virgin forests and wetlands** from mountains
- **Assessment of the impact** of tourism on biodiversity
- **Transhumance** – pastoral activities
- **Traditional customs**, traditional dresses, traditional dances, traditional music, wooden instruments, traditional way to dye the traditional dresses with tinctorial plants, botanical and zoological symbols on traditional wooden gates etc.
- **Number of volunteers which can be hosted: 10-15**



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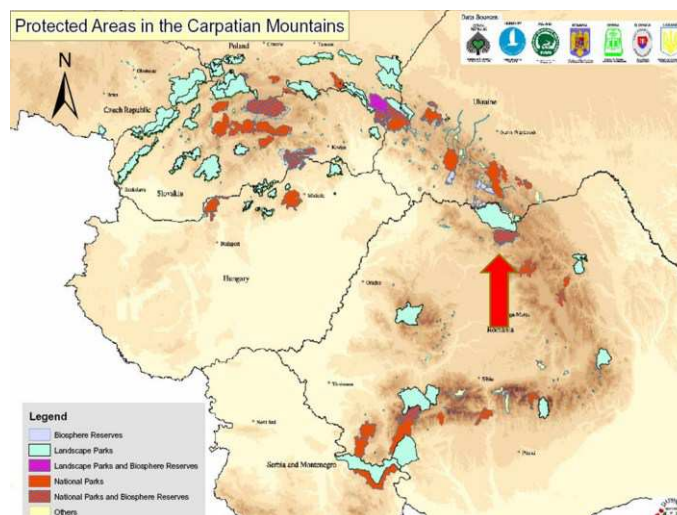
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General presentation of Rodna Mountains National Park and Biosphere Reserve

This park is one of the largest one in the north of the Eastern Carpathians and stretches over 46.399 hectares, of which 3.300 hectares have been declared Biosphere Reserve since 1979. The importance of this protected area relies on geology, geomorphology, and numerous endemic or glacial relicts of flora and fauna. The Park was established in 1990 and the Administration appeared only in 2004 and has 18 employees.

Location

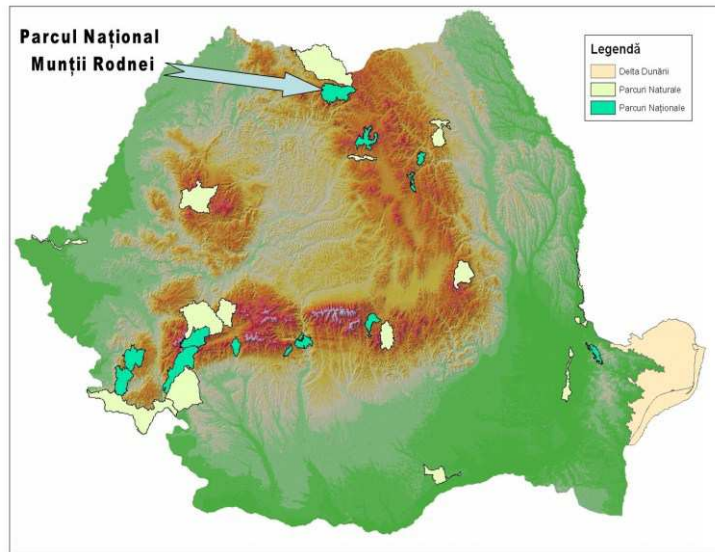
Rodna Mountains boost the highest peaks of Eastern Carpathians (Pietrosu Mare, 2.303 m) and they are placed in north of Romania. They belong to the Northern Carpathian group, known as Maramureș and Bucovina Carpathians, and dominate the boundary region, the highest altitude gap being recorded towards Maramures Depression, which is placed in north of Romania, Eastern Carpathians, counties of Maramures, Bistrita-Năsăud and Suceava.





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Access

The Trans-Carpathian railway Salva-Viseu (located westward), and its branch Salva-Rodna (in south) facilitate the access to these mountains from the following localities: Telciu, Romuli, Năsăud, Rebrîșoara, Nepos, Sîngeorz-Bai, Anies and Rodna. The railway is backed-up by routes that link Transylvania to Maramureș through Șetref Pass or to Moldavia through Rotunda Pass. From north, the access point is Borsa.

Geology and geomorphology

Rodna Mountains appear as a horst of crystalline layers delimited by deep faults: Dragoș Vodă (to north) and Rodna (to south). There are three crystalline layers: Bretila, Repedea and Rebra. To south, some new volcanic rocks are to be found into the high hills, placed along the Somesul Mare River. Sedimentary rocks (Cretaceous and Paleocene) surrounding the massif have been affected by tectonic movements and stamped the landscape with some particular features. The mountain chain keeps the best traces of Quaternary glaciers. Glacial landscape is well developed on the northern slope where some glacial cirques can be found (Pietrosu, Buhăescu, Negoescu and so on). On the southern slope, the glacial landscape is less impressive: some suspended glacial cirques and snow niches. On south, the limestone bedrock has made up a karst landscape, with some remarkable caves:



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Izvorul Tăusoarelor (16 km), Jgheabul lui Zalion, Baia lui Schneider, Cobasel, Grota Zanelor, Izbucul Albastru al Izei etc.

Hydrology

Somesul Mare originates in this massif and gathers all water bodies from south-east, south and west: Cobăsel, Baia, Anieș, Cormaia, Rebra, Sălăuta (with Telcișor and Strâmba as tributaries) and so on. The most important rivers of Maramureș Depression (e.g. Viseu) have their origins on the northern slope. Bistrița Aurie has its origin beneath the Gărgălău Peak and runs towards Moldavia. Beneath the crest there are 23 small glacial lakes, the most important ones being Iezerul Pietrosului, Tăurile Buhăescului, Lala Mare, Lala Mică, and Stiol Lake.

Climate

Baltic influences are apparent in this mountain; due to high altitude the climate is severe. The annual average temperature is about 7-8°C downhill and negative (-1.5°C) uphill. In January, the temperature averages -3°C downhill, and -9°C uphill respectively. For July, the corresponding figures are 18°C and 7°C respectively. Rainfall exceeds 1,200-1,300 mm/year.

Flora and vegetation

More than 1,100 species of flowering plants are to be found in these mountains. Endemic species, typical for this massif are the following ones: *Lychnis nivalis*, *Festuca versicolor* ssp. *dominii*, *Mimuartia verna* ssp. *oxypetala*; other species, also endemic but not only for these mountains are *Centaurea carpatica* ssp. *carpatica*, *Centaurea pinnatifida*, *Dianthus tenuifolius*, *Papaver alpinum* ssp. *corona-sancti-stephani*, *Poa granitica* ssp. *disparilis*, *Poa rehmannii*, *Festuca nitida* ssp. *flaccida*, *Trisetum macrotrichum*, *Heracleum carpaticum*, *Heracleum palmatum*.

Some rare species worth being mentioned: *Salix alpina*, *Salix bicolor*, *Astragalus penduliflorus*, *Androsace obtusifolia*, *Laserpitium archangelica*, *Conioselinum tataricum*, *Carex bicolor*, *Carex lachenalii*, *Carex pediformis* ssp. *rhizodes*, *Kobresia simpliciuscula*, *Juncus castaneus*, *Draba fladnitzensis*.

On wetlands some glacial relics are to be found, such as: *Scheuchzeria palustris*, *Carex limosa*, *Carex magellanica* ssp. *irrigua*, *Carex pauciflora*, *Carex chordorrhiza*, *Empetrum nigrum*, *Salix bicolor*. The following species are being



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protected under law: edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*), *Gentiana lutea*, *Gentiana punctata*, *Angelica archangelica*, *Nigritella rubra*, yew (*Taxus baccata*).

Fauna

Numerous invertebrates are endemic or relics: 28 species of aquatic worms, 12 species of Lumbricidae, of which *Allolobophora carpatica* is an endemic species for Rodnei and Maramures Mountains. Many species of Collembola have been identified, but the most important one is *Tetrachanthella transylvanica*. Diplopoda are represented by 20 species, of which 9 are endemic species, such as: *Glomeris promineus*, *Polydesmus daday*. As for Chilopoda, 36 species have been identified, of which 6 species are endemic, such as: *Clinopodes rodnensis*, *Lithobius matici*. Orthoptera are represented by 39 species, of which *Isophia brevipennis*, *Pholidoptera transsylvanica* and *Miramella ebneri carpathica* are endemic species.

Lepidoptera are represented by more than 295 species, some of them being internationally protected: *Erebia pharte carpatica*, *Erebia epiphron transsylvanica*, *Erebia sudetica* etc.

Numerous vertebrates can be found in this park, many of them being characteristic for Eastern Carpathians. Rivers stand for the appropriate habitat for many species of fish, such as: brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*), grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) and minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*). As for reptiles, worth mentioning is a relict species, the common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), which has been pinpointed in specific habitats, while the most representative birds are the black grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), which breeds just in north-Romanian mountains, capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

Some representative mammals can be found, such as: chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), alpine marmot (*Marmota marmota* - introduced in this area), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild bore (*Sus scrofa*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and pine marten (*Martes martes*).

Habitats and ecosystems

All mountainous ecosystems can be found, the alpine belt being representative for Romania. Some habitats are well preserved; therefore, the area is rich in endemic species.



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Characteristic landscapes

Two bulky mountains are individualized in this park: Ineul and Pietrosul. The two mountains preserve a typical glacial landscape, contrasting other glacial platforms that can be found on southern ridges.

History, culture, traditions and specific activities

Most of localities surrounding the park have been testified long time ago, during 13th, 14th and 15th centuries: Rodna, Borșa, Moisei, Năsăud, Rebra and many others. Two important ethnographic areas are to be found: Maramureș in north and Năsăud in south. The former one shows off numerous architectonical items, such as wood churches (some very old), sculptured porches and traditional houses. In south there are some mineral springs and a health resort (Sângeorz-Băi).

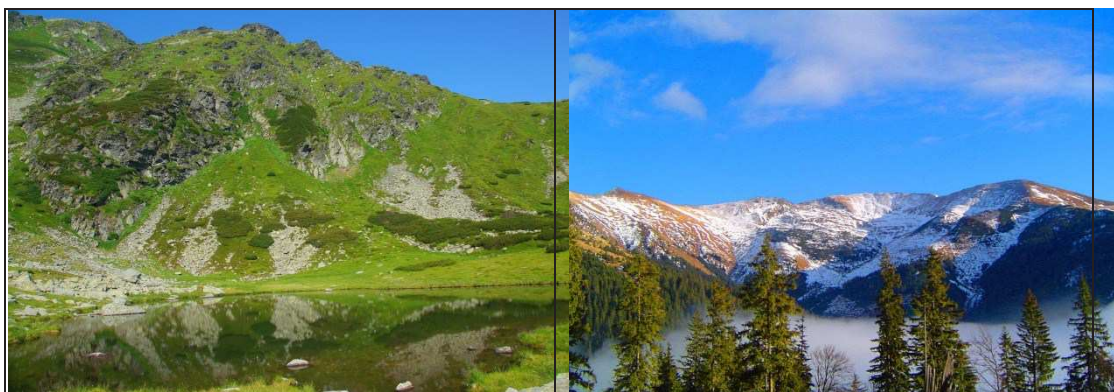
Permitted activities

Only a few traditional activities are allowed, as they do not contravene the main managerial goals along with scientific research and eco-tourism, especially.

Protected areas within the park

Four protected areas have been gathered in the park: Ineu-Lala (2,568 hectares), Bila-Lala (325.10 hectares) Bătrâna Spring (0.50 hectares) and Pietrosul Mare (3,300 hectares).

Area 46.399 hectares.





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Aims of the Eco Rodna Association

The Eco Rodna Association was created in 2007 due to a group of young people, teachers, employees of the Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park in order to participate in biodiversity conservation, ecological education programmes.

The Eco Rodna Association promotes the involvement of children and students in biodiversity conservation, being an example by the Eco clubs created within schools of nearby local communities. Each of these clubs is in charge of monitoring some flagship objectives of biodiversity conservation of Rodna Mountains National Park.

By involving young people in our projects we aim in developing skills and abilities that formal education cannot provide. We use non-formal and informal methods in order to make the students realize the importance of each nationality in a multicultural environment, the importance of working in a multinational team, of accepting people different than them, of working together for the same purpose. In this way we hope that students will realize the importance of getting involved in the sustainable development of their regions.

Examples of implemented projects

The active management model was promoted at local, regional and international level within the Darwin project "**Youth participation in management of protected areas in Rodna Mountains National Park (Romania)**", implemented by the Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park in partnership with Oxford University (Environmental Change Institute) and Eco Rodna Association.

The Eco Rodna Association is implementing other projects focused on students participation in nature conservation:

- "**Interactive network between local schools, NGOs, museums and Rodna Mountains National Park (Biosphere Reserve)**" project funded by Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation and Deutsche Bundestiftung Umwelt from Germany (2008-2009), 10.000 euro.
- "**Participatory management of Bila-Lala nature reserve from Rodna Mountains**" KNIP Matra project funded by Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality from Netherlands (2008-2009), 8.700 euro.
- "**Little custodians – model of interactive participation**", Youth in Action – Youth Initiative, 2009-2010, 10.000 euro.
- "**Eco clubs without borders**", Youth in Action – Youth Exchange, partnership with Friends of Hainich National Park from Germany, 2009-2010, 20.000 euro.
- "**Friends of Rodna Mountains National Park**", Rompetrol funds, 10.000 euro, 2010.



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- **"Youth participation in the inventorying of the forest biodiversity from Rodna Mountains National Park"**, GEF UNDP SGP small grants, 30.000 USA dollars, 2009-2011.
- **"Sustainable management of Pietrosu Mare Biosphere Reserve by involving local stakeholders"**, funded by the Financial Mechanism of European Economical Space SEE, 15.000 euro, 2009-2010.
- **"Rodna Mountains National Park – 20 years of existence"**, funded by the Partnership Foundation from Romania, 4.000 euro, 2010.
- **"Little ambassadors of National and Nature Parks"**, Youth in Action – Youth Exchange, 2010-2011, 15.000 euro.

Members of Eco Rodna Association took part in other conservation projects as: protecting bats - PHARE project, **"Floral laboratory"** project - implemented by Eco Club Anieș, environmental and educational projects; they also participated in national contests and camps.

Claudiu Iusan

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