THE SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY OF THE TOURISM'S POTENTIAL OF VEGETATION IN THE BASIN OF SUCEAVA RIVER

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Abstract

Our study followed in the first part, the analysis of the tourism potential of the natural vegetation within the basin of Suceava, the identification and description of the specific of tourism resources imposed by bio diversity, the drawing of cartographic representation of synthesis to reveal its potential volume and quality.

In the second part, the data analysis and synthesis has allowed advancement of proposals for the development of tourism activities in sustainable development and the growing importance of this sector in all economic activities in the area and the NE Region.

Key words: *Sustainable recovery, Forest, Silvo tourism, Silvo therapy.*

Classification JEL: *Q01, Q26, Q56*

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism is, in the present approach, a real opportunity in the sustainable recovery of growth and development of market economy in Romania (Hapenciuc, 2003). In Suceava County there is a sum of natural and anthropogenic favoring economic factors; its economic recovery through tourism can revive the sustainable development of the area.

The purpose of this research is to achieve a synthesis presenting in a realistic picture the potential vegetation characteristics and opportunities for tourism recovery within the Suceava Basin. In this respect, the opportunities available were evaluated and also the opportunities for different forms and types of tourism.

The aims were: the analysis of potential natural vegetation within the Basin of Suceava, the identification and description of the specific tourism resources imposed by biodiversity, the development of cartographic representation of synthesis to reveal its potential volume and quality; advancing proposals for the development of tourism activities in terms of growing importance of this sector in all economic activities in the area and the NE region.

In parallel with studying the reference books, periodicals were also reviewed, statistical and social data from the National Institute of Statistics Bucharest and the County Department of Statistics Suceava were analyzed, and various thematic maps were consulted.

The main procedures used in our research were the analysis (functional - to highlight the role of elements together, which targeted mainly statistical reporting and data sets as well as making assumptions, cartographic showing the spatial development of elements, diagnostic reflecting characteristics of the present situation, prognostic regarding possible developments) and synthesis, the comparative method (comparing elements, phenomena of the same type to capture the similarities and differences between them to highlight the logical links).

The authors' contribution consists in summarizing and processing of data obtained from sources or from direct field observation. These actions have allowed the sketching of an overall picture of the topic being studied and the elaboration of some cartographical supports: the vegetation map and the outline map showing the degree of afforestation within the Suceava Basin and the forwarding of proposals targeting the exploitation of the biogeographical turistic resources.

2. THE GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE SUCEAVA BASIN

The Basin of Suceava River is located in the north-eastern Romanian bordering Ukraine, with an elongated shape and is disposed about the NW-SE direction. The Suceava River is the first important tributary of the Siret River, after reaching the country.

The Suceava river basin covers about 2625 km2, with 87% of the area in Romania and 13% in Ukraine (327 km ²). The area under study is located on Romanian territory of the basin that means 2298 km^2, framed entirely in Suceava County, representing about 26% of its surface and about 1.1 % ouf of the surface of Romania (D.A. Siret, 1980). From a geographical

point of view the Basin of Suceava overlaps the following subunits: Obcinile Brodinei, the northern part of Obcina Feredeu, half northern and eastern slope of Big Obcina and the Suceava Plateau, west of the Siret River (Cocerhan and Lazarescu, 2011).

3.THE FUNCTIONS OF VEGETATION AND SOIL AND THEIR TOURISTIC ROLE

The elements of nature have a systemic function, having a major impact in choosing travel destinations. For tourists and investors an important role is played by the environment and atmosphere in which the tourist activities take place. Often the natural elements are the basis of the origin function of places, or in combination with anthropogenic factors generate types of landscapes (culturalized, urbanized, and rural) which manifest themselves as outstanding attraction.

The vegetal cover is the most sensitive component of the environment because they show different characteristics, influenced by prevailing natural factors (relief, climate, water, soil) and human pressure. The aspect of forest or grassland and hayfields landscapes has specific characteristics according to seasonal weather conditions and therefore determines the different types of tourism.

Therefore, the location of Suceava basin in the moderate temperate climate of transition influences the seasonal rhythms of the plant cycle. Mihaela Dinu states that even the composition and structure of plant formations, appearance and plant forms are amended in the same climate zone, in our case within the climate area. For any tourist, the attraction, perception and destination of a landscape will be different depending on the season (Dinu, 2002). Merging physical and geographical factors will generate a difference regarding tourism flows during the year (higher in the summer, when the bioclimatic indices have high favorability). Ion Muntele and Corneliu Iaţu see vegetation as "the essence of any landscape", the object and purpose of activities and space for the manifestation of tourism and decisive touristic background element upon tourists (Muntele and Iaţu, 2003, p 84).

The forms and types of tourism imposed by vegetation are hiking, green tourism, in the case of natural reserves, agro or rural tourism. The new SPA treatments: aromatherapy, chromo therapy, and silvo therapy landscape therapy complete the range of attractions. Also, the tourist valences of the vegetation cover is amplified by the expression of vegetation cycles specific for each season (each season attracts by a specific characteristic, triggers certain feelings and emotions). Finally, vegetation, especially forests, stimulate resting and recreational places, areas for touristic and places offering natural products: herbs, mushrooms, berries (Dinu, 2002).

Other factors that increase the attractiveness of tourism are related to some events and celebrations that are organized on the occasion of flowering plants and trees ("Feast of acacia", in the village of Arbore, "Fir buds" in Solca), the lifespan of plants (The centuries-old oak tree from Cajvana), then the attraction offered by the variety, color and size of plant species.

The appearance of vegetation can complete the tourist attraction. In the mountains of Suceava Basin there are forests of spruce trees and firs covered with snow, which give a special charm to the landscape in winter, attract tourists and delight lovers of winter sports.

The painting of "the tourism offer" is directly associated with the scientific and social importance of forests, the geo ecological role of vegetation by the multiple functions it has within the geosystem.

From a touristic point of view, vegetation, especially the forest – the most original and complex system – has numerous physical and spiritual values.

It meant and means house, food, shelter, refuge, place of dreams and poetry, songs and ballad, a place blessed by God, but of nature and the soul brother, it also means joy and consolation and a wellness, sublime and beauty. The benefits that we owe vegetation, reflected directly or indirectly on landscape, influence the health of people, generating some tourist activities.

Today, when the dimensions of our existence on this planet have other coordinates, the forest should be seen as a green diamond crown, which must not lose its brilliance. Therefore, we consider useful a brief reminder of the multiple functions that forests perform in nature and society as a whole in people's lives, be they consumers or fans of this priceless treasure.

The most important geo ecological role is to purify, refresh and air ionization, providing moisture to the atmosphere, setting extreme weather events, flood mitigation, reducing pollution, soil fixation.

This latter function is correlated with bio-geo-chemical function of the forest, as a function of the overall plant to contribute to permanent organic matter, biomass consumed by animals or humans.

The role of geochemical transformer of forests is reflected in achieving the circuit oxygen, carbon and nitrogen in nature.

Apart from the above mentioned multiple functions appear the social functions: the recreational and tourist function, aesthetic landscape function, hygiene, health and medical function and its role as a medium of different plant and animal life. Do not forget that vegetation is important for the physical and mental state of man, not incidentally most resorts are located near the deciduous forests, mixed or coniferous ones.

The forest-health relationship is based on the principles of environmental medicine and provides values landscape as a whole, since it directly

influences the neuro-endocrine-vegetative system and therefore human behavior (Giurgiu, 1992). The touristic function of vegetation, in general, increases by the presence and by including species declared monuments of nature, or nature reserves and scientific parks in the touristic circuit.

3.1. The touristic potential of vegetation and silvo tourism

The touristic recovery of vegetation is made in association with other attractive resources: relief, climate, water or monuments of art and architecture - the creations of human genius. The vegetation distribution is strictly conditioned by the elements of climate and altitude and altitude of relief. In the last two centuries, especially in the twentieth century, Man is the one who has become, in this part of the country, a destructive factor of the vegetal cover.

3.1.1. The touristic potential of forests

The Suceava river basin forests occupy modest areas, 19.34%, compared with 87 552 ha of the area studied, ie 44.66% of the county of Suceava, which has the highest level of afforestation in the country, 52; 88%. This has some repercussions on the balance of geosystem components, which results in some risks and restrictions for dynamic tourist area (remember the effect of floods in the years 2005, 2008 and 2010, frequent landslides).

In terms of vegetation spreading in Suceava Basin there are four layers (sub) of vegetation: coniferous (spruce, fir rarely), mixed forests (spruce, fir and beech), beech and mixed hardwoods floor (Table 1).

Tabel 1 - The vegetation layers within Suceava basin (Adapted from Fl. Clinovschi, 2004)

Nr. crt.	The name of the vegetation layer	Area (%)
1.	The coniferous layer (spruce and fir tree)	9.0
2.	Mixture layer (spruce, fir and beech)	77.6
3.	The beech layer	0.9
4.	The oak and beech layer (hill area)	12.5
TOTAL		**100**

Taking into account the phyto climatic position and the existing flora the Basin of Suceava belongs to the East Central European Carpathian province matching the Euro-Siberian Region. The mountainous Great Obcina requires a vertical zonality, in which Central European forest type (oak, beech) appears only on small areas in the foot region, continued above with beech, fir and spruce trees. The vertical zone interferes or even subordinates to a horizontal zone, the position inward or toward the periphery to the axis of the eastern Carpathians Mountains playing an important phyto geographic role.

The forests cover about one fifth of the territory of the basin, which corresponds to the Obcina Mare and piedmont sectors, accounting for two thirds (70.86%), and the plateau area only 1/3 of forests, respectively, 29.14%. Analyzing the distribution of forest areas and administrative units on average, compared to the total basin surface and Suceava county, it is noted that the area is overwhelmingly rural - 93.89%, respectively, 18.6% of the county, while urban percentage is 6.11% in the study area, eg. 1.18% of the county area.

An important indicator considered was the degree of afforestation (Clinovschi, 2004a) of the area, reported on administrative units, compared with basin area. The afforestation index was calculated by dividing the forest area to total area of the administrative unit (in percentage). By analyzing the map (Figure 1) which is this indicator there have been identified six categories of settlements by the degree of afforestation, as follows:

a. No forest areas;
b. With very low degree, < 10%;
c. Low, between 10.99% - 25%;
d. Of average between 25.99% - 40%;
e. High, between 40.99% - 60%;
f. With very high, over 60%.

By analyzing the map (Figure 1) we can notice that forests are spread unevenly on the surface of the basin, which is conditioned mainly by natural factors (terrain and climate), but also strong humans. They were made originally for the requirements of wood in households, expanding settlements and grazing areas, and then, after 1950, the need for wood industry and increasing areas of arable land (during collectivization).

The basin analysis reveals the existence of villages with significant forest coverage, over 80% of the unit, while on the opposite pole there are many localities in the plateau area, with small areas of forest and small (less than 10%) or without forests (Botoşana, Muşeniţa).

The highest rates of afforestation can be found in: Brodina - % (18.1% of the basin and 3.5% of total Suceava County; Putna 13.1% of the basin and 2.6% of the county; Suceava Springs 11.25% of the basin and 2.2% of all county and Sucevița with 8.56% of the Suceava basin and 1.7% of the total county.

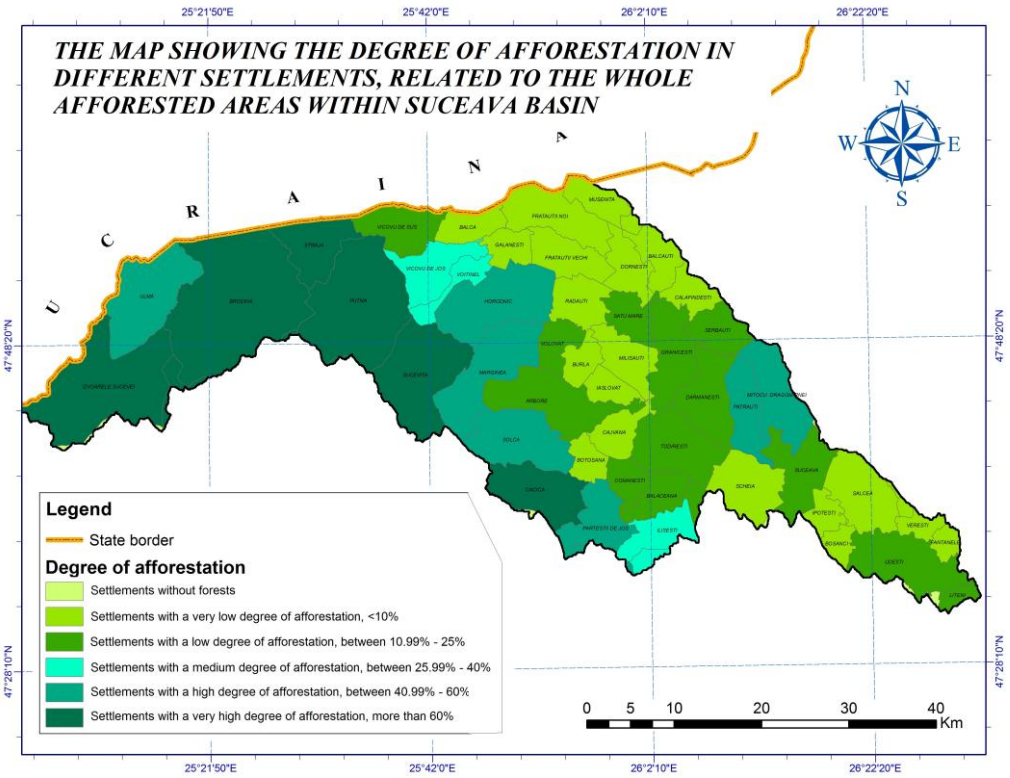

Figure 1 - The map with the forested areas within the Basin of Suceava River

This situation is justified by the location of these communities in the mountainous area, relief and climatic factors favoring the growth of forests. We must say that although here are the largest forests, legislative measures must be applied in the future to stop the massive deforestation which is taking place now.

History demonstrates that the Suceava Basin forest areas decreased drastically, especially after the two World Wars and were amplified after 1990 by the mismanagement of forests. The analysis of statistical data on catchment areas of the forest shows large shares in three of them: Putna, Brodina and Sucevița (between 11,000 -12,000 ha). The presence or lack of forest determines the degree of attraction and the flows of tourists, more intense in well-forested areas.

Although the urban population is larger and it is the first "consumer of green areas" the forested urban areas are small, only 6.11%, which half is the town of Solca that spatially overlaps the mountains of Big Obcina, biocenotic favorable factors.

For tourism activities, the forested areas, vegetation generally must be regarded as generators of jobs and recreational, leisure, entertainment and scientific research. Unfortunately, tourism is becoming more and more an economic activity which aims to achieve immediate turnover and leisure while the recreational and knowledgeable aspects are neglected. Also, the management of the resources needs to be improved by immediate recovery measures, protection and conservation.

For practical purposes it is important to know the distribution of forest vegetation on species categories. In the case of tourist exploitation the forest type, especially floral structure, will determine the tourist's option for a place or another. Thus, coniferous forests are preferred for their aromatic and ionized air, the deciduous or mixed categories will attract tourists who value the phyto plandscape-calming and sedative action of forestry factors.

3.1.2. The spreading of forested areas and the importance of the silvo touristic factors

As far as altitude and latitude are concerned we distinguish several sub (floors) of vegetation with specific and complementary characteristics, whose distribution is shown on the map in Figure 2. To highlight this both by mapping and from a spatial point of view the plant associations were grouped into three categories: coniferous forests, mixed forests (coniferous and deciduous) and deciduous forests. The description of plant associations typical for the area studied was carried out in more detail, the sub, scoring for the floristic structure of the species that give fito landscaping value and tourist attraction.

The spruce sub floor (Figure 2) includes the western and northwestern Great Obcina, which corresponds to greater heights (1000-1200 m and 1200 m). Here the mountain boreal climate type (with icher rainfals and lower temperatures) allow a large development of the spruce fir at all altitudes. The spruce (Picea excelsa) is a dominance of 90 to 100%. Among other essences appears the pine, isolated, the fir tree and rarely theyew (Taxus bacata). Some deciduos species complete the picture: the birch

(Betula verucosa), alone or with trembling aspen (Populus tremula) and the goaty willow (Salix Capraia), frequently found in natural gledes or spruce exploited areas (that stands pins). The service tree - an attractive tree with red-orange fruits - (Sorbus aucuparia), the sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and sporadic mass appearances alder spruce fir (Barbu, 1976).

The shrubs are underdeveloped: the honeysuckle (Lonicera nigra), the red elder (Sambucus racemosa), the currant (Ribes alpinum),the raspberry (Rubus idaeus), in the highest mountains in the upper basin of Suceava, on the heights and peaks such as Hrobi, Aluniş, Hrebeni, Big Veju, Calela, or further south, to Sihloaia appear the bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus) and cowberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea).

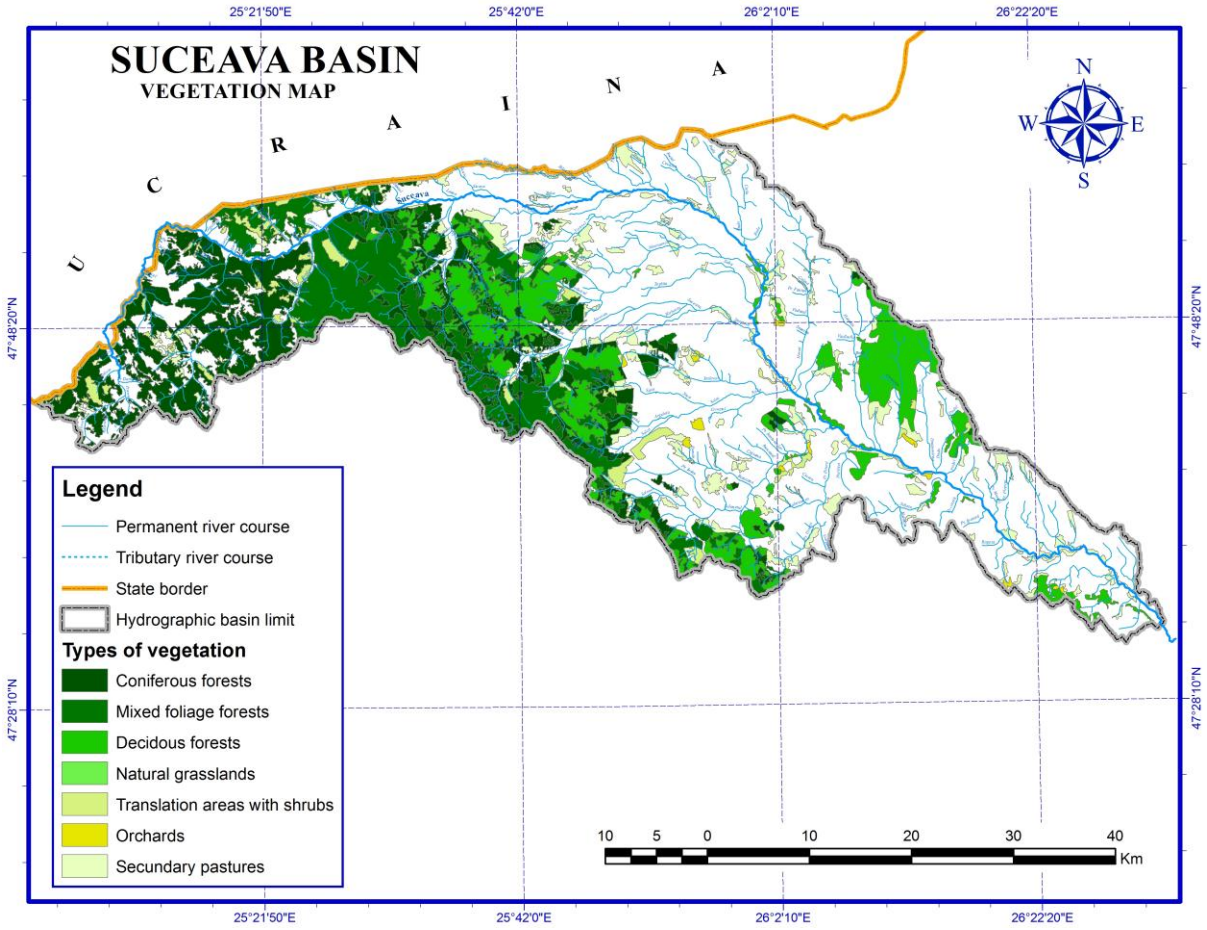

Figure 2 - The vegetation map within the Basin of Suceava River

The presence of these species of special importance for their fruits rich in vitamins, which are collected by local and eaten either fresh or prepared or jams and cranberry products are more popular and appreciated by tourists.

The spruce-beech sub floor occupies a large area of Great Obcina, especially the central and southern basins of rivers Putna Sucevita Solonet and Solca. The basic essence is the spruce, but the fir and beech prevail more and more and often form mixed stands with spruce and in some areas reaching even to dominate, especially in eastern and southern slopes.

As a sub transition area it presents itself as a forested mosaic highly sought after by tourists, especially in autumn season.

By the dominant essences we can distinguish spruce forests, and spruce, beech and fir, spruce, fir, spruce, beech, fir-beech and beech-tree forests. Here and there appear pure beech and firs (Figure 2). In general, the forests are well completed in the crown of trees, so that shrubs and herbaceous vegetation is less represented.

The beech sub floor (Figure 2) occupies the eastern Great Obcina, The piedmont plateau and Suceava Plateau. The dominant essence is the beech, on the western side the fir and spruce trees appear forming pure stands. In the west, in Great Obcina- and Marginea Ciungi piedmont the most common mixture consists of beech, fir and spruce, of highly variable proportion from one place to another. The pure beech and young firs are rare and on lower surfaces in this area.

With a sporadic distribution are recorded tree species such as: the pine, the birch, the trembling

aspenthe elm, the ash, the maple and shrub species (hazel, elder red bush). Towards the contact with Suceava Plateau there appear: the hornbeam (Carpinus betulus), the lime smelling (Tilia tomentosa), the maple (Acer platanoides) and even the oak (robur Ouercus). Massive pure beech or where the beech dominates appear in the Suceava Plateau (the largest in Dragomima Plateau)

The beech forests usually cover altitudes of 400 m and more, plateaus and slopes with different expositions.

The beech tree is usually associated with: the hornbeam, the lime sulfur (Tilia cordata), the birch and, less frequently, the sycamore, the maple, the elm (Ulmus montana), the ash (Fraxinus excelsior), the oak, the lime (Tilia tomentosa), the wild cherry (Cerasus avium). The shrubs and herbaceous flora have a poor development in the shady woods, among bushes we can mention: the hazel, Virbunum lantana, the horn (Cornus mas) and Sambucus nigra.

The following trees have a sporadic distribution: the pine, the service tree, the birch, the trembling aspen, the maple, the elm, the ash, the maple and shrubs: the hazelnut, the red elder. Towards the contact with the Suceava Plateau appear the following: the hornbeam (Carpinus betulus), the smelling lime (Tilia tomentosa),the maple (Acer platanoides) and even the oak (robur Ouercus).

Massive pure beech or where the beech dominates appear in the Suceava Plateau (the largest in Dragomirna Plateau). The beech forests usually cover altitudes of 400 m and more, plateaus and slopes with different expositions

The flowery spectrum of the beech trees is completed by other deciduous trees: the hornbeam, the lime sulfur (Tilia cordata), the birch and, less frequently, the sycamore, the maple, the elm (Ulmus montana), the ash (Fraxinus excelsior), the oak,the silver lime (Tilia tomentosa), thewild cherry (Cerasus avium).

The shrubs and herbaceous flora have a poor development in the shady woods, among bushes we can mention: the hazel, Virbunum lantana), the horn (Cornus mas) and Sambucus nigra.

The holm-oak sub floor covers in the Plateau of Suceava basin almost all forms of relief to the 400 m elevation (Figure 2). The oak (Quercus robur) sometimes forms pure or nearly pure areas, but often is associated with the home-beam, the lime sulfur, the common oak (Quercus petraea), the ash, the maple, the common maple (Acer campestre), the wild cherry and sometimes lime, wild apple (Malus silvestris) and silver oak (Pyrus piraster). The main groves are the oak groves, the oak-homebeam groves, the oak and mixed foliage forests (Barbu, 1976).

Towards the superior limit (350 – 400 m), more frequently, evergreen oak and beech mix, then the maple, the elm and the mountain birch. The higher brightness of the deciduous forests allows a higher frequency of shrubs: the hazelnut, the hom (Comus sanguinea), the dog wood (Ligustrum vulgare), the blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), the wild rose (Rosa canina) etc. The forests mixed with deciduous species create great polychrome landscapes with a very attractive tourist value, especially in spring, during the greening, or fall.

The basic young trees are the oak trees (Barbu, 1976). At the high (350-400 m), more frequently, there are mixtures of evergreen oak and beech, then mountain maple, elm or birch. Higher brightness deciduous forests allow higher frequency of shrubs: hazelnut, calin, horn, silver carp (Cornus sanguinea), the dog wood (Ligustrum vulgare).

The oak sub floor cover in the Plateau of Suceava basin almost all forms of relief to the 400 m elevation (Figure 2). The oak (Quercus robur) sometimes forms pure or nearly pure areas, but often is associated with the hornbeam, the lime sulfur, the common oak (Quercus petraea, the ash, the maple, the common maple (Acer campestre), the wild cherry and sometimes lime, wild apple (Malus silvestris) and silver oak (Pyrus piraster).

The basic brush consists of oak-hornbeam, and oak with mixed foliage forests. Towards the superior limit (350-400 m) it mixes, more frequently with the evergreen oak and beech, to which is added the species of maple, elm and mountain birch. The higher brightness of the forests here allows a higher frequency of the layer consisting of hazel undergrowth, horn, silver carp (Cornus sanguinea),dog wood (Ligustrum vulgare), blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), wild rose (Rosa canina). The presence of the lime sulfur (Till cordata Mill), attracts bee keepers, an attractive field for specialised tourism.

Within the Suceava Basin the existence of large forest areas in the mountain area of Great Obcina, especially the area of Brodina, Springs of Suceava, Straja, Sucevița and Ulma, offers therapy with curative properties of forests – silvo therapy - the aestheti-vitalizing side and the type of generated tourism, which are asserting themselves more – silvo tourism.

The spontaneous flora Suceava Basin has attractive tourist herbs that have a particular therapeutic action, it is the basis of what we call, more often lately, "green pharmacy". We live today a process of upgrading the plant species found everywhere. In a short ride out any tourist or hiking can also gather herbs, if they are not protected by law.

Our aim is not to make an inventory and description of their therapeutic action, but we will mention, some of the most commonly used plants in the area we studied, especially in the mountainous Great Obcina.

Here are just some examples of their multitude: Tussilago windbag, the primrose (Primula officinalis), the horsetail (Equisetum arvense), Arnica montana, the juniper (Juniperus communis), the nettle (Urtica dioica), St. John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum), the bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus), the cranberries

(Vaccinium vitis-idaea), the raspberry (Rubus idaeus), the savory, the thyme or savory field (Thymus serpylum), the rabbit dock (Oxalis acetosella), the camomile (Martricaraia chamomilia), the dandelion (Taraxacum officinal) and more.

Unfortunately, some have become increasingly rare as a result of overexploitation. It is the more recent case of the mountain arnica, which was collected and traded excessively at the end of the last the century (in 1970-1980).

3.1.3 The Silvotourism and silvo therapy

Silvo tourism is a relatively new concept that would simply be translated by the phrase "tourism generated by forest" or a form of tourism by exploiting the opportunities offered by forested areas. This type of tourism has striking similarities to what is today called "ecotourism", a form of tourism today already established in many countries (Cocerhan, 2011).

The silvo tourism might be defined as tourist activities involving travel, visiting and familiarization, under circumstances which involve responsibilities towards the environment, with the woodland with a view to admire and appreciate the forest landscapes, making good use of the stimulating and therapeutic factors generated by forests for the human body. Certainly, the cognitive aspect means that the tourist has both a scientific knowledge in terms of forest areas and also knowledge and ideas to support the protection, conservation and sustainable development (Cocerhan, 2012).

Following the principles of silvo tourism the Suceava Forestry Department has recently introduced the tourist circuit of hunting lodges. There are seven of them in the basin of the river (Table 2). They are located in remote areas, surrounded by forest, are connected to electricity, are provided with bath or shower and bathroom. The comfort level is divided by the number of beds; in general they are classified in category 2 and 3 stars guesthouses. These locations are often required for winter holidays and New Year period.

Silvo therapy is a term which means how the existing active factors within a forested area can be redeemed for relaxation and body revitalization. It also refers to how these conditions can be placed in therapeutic procedures, as curative medical measures that have beneficial effects. Soare (2007), quoting Caramzinu, with his "aesthetic landscape vitalizing" (Bucharest, 1977, pp.88-90), presents the role of several silvo therapeutic factors on the human body. In this respect, he mentions some positive actions of the forest on affected organs as well as on the psycho-emotional state of the whole body.

The factors are divided into active (stimulating), irritants, exciting, and passive factors (sedative) and inhibitors. The therapeutic activity of the forest vegetation varies from one species to another, it is manifested by the degree of ionization of the air, oxygen concentration, aerosol, negative ionization, the saturation in ethereal substances, flavors, and the effect given by landscape, color, brightness, shape and height of trees. All these silvo therapeutic factors improve the overall condition of metabolism, soothe or excite the central nervous system, relaxes, stimulates fantasy, imagination, thinking, facilitates amnesia processes, converting the heart activity, activates blood circulation and helps eliminate more active actively the catabolic substances from the body.

Table 2 - The hunting lodges within Suceava Basin (Suceava Forestry Department)

Nr.crt	Lodge name	Category	Accommodation	
			Number of rooms	Number of persons to be accommodated
1.	Codrul Voivodesei – Sucevița	**	4	9
2.	Horodnic	**	3	7
3.	Ursoaia – Putna	**	6	12
4.	Sadău – Brodina	**	7	12
5.	Crujana 1 – Pătrăuți	**	15	18
6.	Crujana 2 – Pătrăuți	**	1	2
7.	Păstrăvărie – Valea Brodinei	**	4	4
TOTAL			**40**	**64**

Source: Suceava Forestry Departament

4. CONCLUSIONS

In terms of forestry, the Suceava Basin forests belong to four layers and sub layers of vegetation (Table 1), which overlap the relief forms arranged in amphitheater which start from an altitude of 1500 m and reaches almost 200 m in the confluence of Suceava River Siret. Among these, what prevails is the mixture of beech, spruce and fir as a share exceeding 75% of the area studied, while the mountain beech forests floor does not exceed 1% (Fig. 2), due to the jump altitude of about 400 m in the contact area with Obcinile Bucovinei, namely the Great Obcina with the plateau area, namely Rădăuti Depression. An explanation for the distribution of forest vegetation on

layers is "the basin shape, narrowing towards mouth" (Clinovschi, 2004b, pp.41-42).

As forest formations, the mixtures of beech and pine reach a rate of almost 40%, which is prevalent in the districts of Brodina, Falcau, Putna, and Marginea. This is due to the wide deployment of the Great Obcina, with a relatively low altitude in relation to other Obcina in the Suceava basin.

In terms of tourism, forests have an important role in their multifunctional areas, they attract tourists of all ages because they are a curative natural factor, they positively affect the human body, help develop, maintain and restore physical and mental balance, leading to improvement and treatment of conditions (Sun, 2007).

It should be noted that many resorts and tourist facilities exploit the presence of forest thanks to specific relaxing microclimate, rich in aerosols and highly ionized. In the same context we must also take into account the effects of moderating climate, the feeling coolness, calm and tranquility offered by forests, the forest vegetation, in general, or as massive forest, parks, alleys, squares or forest plantations.

With its potential in the basin of Suceava river vegetation represents a remarkable tourist resource generating tourist flows during the warm season (April-October) standing out in this respect, besides the forms and types of tourism already mentioned, and silvo therapy silvo tourism.

In the long term sustainable development, the natural tourism potential of the Suceava Basin, in approached case - the vegetation - is "a valuable resource and a planning and recovery to a level similar to other tourist regions in the world can ensure sustainable development of the region for the benefit of present and future generations" (Cocerhan and Nastase, 2011, p.22).

In conclusion, the forests and plants, the green landscape around us, are part of the geographic and cultural landscape of Suceava River Basin as tourist items chosen, worthy to be respected and protected. The richness and forest landscaping variety that nature offers us, either here in this beautiful corner of Bucovina, or elsewhere, should bring joy to our heart and eyes, to refresh our mind and thinking, in order to offer the "green gold" to future generations. The Basin of Suceava has certain attractive elements with valences for practicing sustainable tourism in the area, some being offered by the potential of forests. The practical measures we propose to local authorities and investors refer to the development of the following forms and types of tourism: ecotourism, silvo tourism with all aspects of silvo therapy, scientific tourism, school tourism and education, which enhance the recreational function and aesthetic landscape of the area.

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