



## **Chapter 5 The Piatra Craiului National Park organisation and functioning rules**

### **Section I**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, BORDERS, INTERNAL ZONING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PIATRA CRAIULUI NATIONAL PARK**

##### **Art. 1.**

- (1) The Piatra Craiului National Park (PCNP), established by Ord. 7/1990 of the Water, Forests and Environment Protection Ministry, referring to the establishment of national parks in Romania, and confirmed by the Law 5/2000 regarding the national territory management plan, Section III – Protected Areas, is a protected area of national interest.
- (2) The term naming the Piatra Craiului National Park's Administration, throughout the text of this document, is PCNPA.
- (3) The term naming the Piatra Craiului National Park, throughout the text of the present rules, is PCNP.

##### **Art. 2.**

- (1) Piatra Craiului National Park is included in the national parks category, designed for the purpose of protecting and preserving representative samples for the national biogeographic area, including natural elements of special physical – geographical, flora, fauna, hidrological, geological, paleontological or any other nature values, providing scientific, educational, relaxing and tourist purposes visiting opportunities.
- (2) PCNP is correspondent to the II IUCN category – “National park: protected area mainly managed for the purpose of ecosystem protecting and relaxation”.

##### **Art. 3.**

The Piatra Craiului National Park's borders, according to the area approved by the Law 5/2000, are the ones approved by Government Decision no. 230 of the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2003. The total area of the Park is 14.773 ha.

##### **Art. 4.**

- (1) The internal zoning of the Piatra Craiului National Park is the one approved by Order of the Agriculture, Forests, Waters and Environment Ministry no. 552 of 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2003, including the following modifications:



- The following elementary forest management areas are **included** in the special protection area: 188E (Production Unit III Cascoe), 27 (P.U. VI Barsa Groset), 51A and 51B (P.U. V Fata Pietrei Craiului);
  - The following elementary forest management areas are **excluded** from the special protection area: 132 (P.U. III Cascoe), 180B, C, D (P.U. VIII Ghimbavului Gorges);
- **Special Protection Area:** 4879 ha out of which **the scientific reserve** 683ha;
  - **National Park Area:** 9894 ha;

**Art. 5.** The Piatra Craiului National Park management's responsibility is entirely the job of the **Piatra Craiului National Park's Administration (PCNPA)**, a subsidiary of the Brasov County Forest Authority – part of the National Forest Authority "Romsilva", established by Government Decision 160/2004. PCNPA insures the coordination of all activities carried out in the area, for the purpose of biological conservation and rational use of the natural reserves, according to the Park's management plan and its internal zoning. The present management plan and functioning rules, established based upon Government Decision 236/2000 of the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2000 – regarding the natural protected areas' status, are approved by the Romanian Academy and approved by the central environment protection authority.

**Art. 6.** APNPC activities regarding biodiversity protection are approved and coordinated by the **Scientific Council of the Piatra Craiului National Park.**

**Art. 7.** The participation of interested parties to the Park's management is insured through the **Consulting Council**, which has the consultancy role in the planning and carrying out of activities regarding PCNP management.

## Section II

### ALLOWED ACTIVITIES INSIDE PCNP AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE ACTIVITIES

#### *Forestry, hunting and fishing*

#### **Art. 8. Forestry**

- (1)
  - a) On the territories belonging to the national forest area, included in the Piatra Craiului National Park, there will be carried out only the activities foreseen in the forestry



management plans (both for the state-owned forests and for the private-owned forests as well), in accordance with the available rules regarding the Piatra Craiului National Park's internal zoning and the forests' functions zoning.

- b) Outside the special conservation area the following forestry activities may be carried out:
  - 1. Young stands care and management interventions;
  - 2. Hygiene felling within a maximum volume of 1 m<sup>3</sup>/year/ha;
  - 3. Highly intensive treatments, which promote the natural regeneration of stands.
- c) On the territories sustaining forestry vegetation outside the national forest area, only the activities foreseen in the management-conversion plans may be carried out.

(2) Forestry management plans and also forestry management summarized studies, both for the national and for the private forest areas inside the PCNP, may not be approved until the agreement of the Scientific Council of the Park, for the purpose of respecting the Park's Management Plan. The habilitated authority for the approval of management plans and summarized management studies, invites an PCNPA's representative to all management meetings and approval comities.

(3) PCNPA approves the carrying out in the field of the type, intensity and volume of treatments/cuts inside the national forest area and in the forestry vegetation outside the national forest area within the PCNP area. In case of illegal or incorrect activities within the national forest area, the private forest area or within the forestry vegetation outside the national forest area, the following institutions will be notified: the Brasov and Pitesti County Forestry Authorities, the Protected Areas Service within the National Forest Authority – Romsilva and the Territorial Forestry and Hunting regime Authorities. For this purpose, the forest management authorities must forward the following documents to the PCNPA for their approval: the cutting plan inside PCNP before the beginning of the new forestry year and the exploitation authorizations before the start of the exploitation interventions.

(4) The national forest area / forestry vegetation management authorities within the PCNP area, must forward to the PCNPA, each year the status of the forest management plans undergoing in each of these territories.

### **Art. 9. Hunting**

(1) The hunting ground manager, together with the PCNPA, carries out hunt species evaluation actions and results interpretation. The hunting ground manager must notify a week earlier PCNPA about the intent of organizing the activities mentioned above, the specific date of the evaluation being then established by mutual agreement.

(2) Within the PCNP borders, hunting activities will be carried out in accordance with the available legislation, obeying the hunting restrictions regulations.



(3) In case of special situations (damage induced by the hunt), PCNPA may solicit derogations in accordance with the available legislation

### **Art. 10. Fishing**

(1) Fishing is allowed inside the PCNP in accordance with the available legislation.

(2) At PCNPA's specific request, absolute protection areas may be build, where fishing can be forbidden, for the purpose of preserving the ecosystems that monitoring studies reveal to be endangered.

**Art. 11.** Should critical phenomena occur (fires, natural calamities), the habilitated institutions intervene, for the purpose of eliminating or containing the effects of such phenomena, in accordance with the Ministry Order 552/26.08.2003, with the obligation of notifying the PCNPA as soon as possible.

### ***Grazing and mowing***

**Art. 12.** Meadows and hay-fields inside the PCNP exploitation is the owners responsibility (private persons, owners' associations or communities).

### **Art. 13.**

(1) Within the PCNP area, domestic animals access belonging to communities, associations, companies or individuals owners, located elsewhere than in Zarnesti, Măgura, Peștera, Șirnea, Rucăr, Sătic, Dâmbovicioara, Ciocanu, Podu Dâmboviței and Dragoslavele villages, is strictly forbidden

(2) The Scientific Council of PCNP involves in the approval of silvopastoral studies carried out within the PCNP area.

(3) The number of domestic animals by species and categories, grazing the meadows must be obeyed. This number is foreseen in the silvopastoral studies for each meadow. Also, the optimum season for grazing must be obeyed (end of April until the end of October).

**Art. 14.** Grazing is done in accordance with the following rules:

(a) The Forestry Code and the Law 31/2000 regarding the settlement and the enforcement of forestry contraventions regulate domestic animals grazing activities, inside the PCNP forest area;

(b) On the meadows located inside the PCNP, domestic animals grazing activity is carried out in accordance with the silvopastoral plans and the grazing studies. Meadows legal owners notify the PCNPA about the contents of tasks books regarding meadows renting



contrancts. PCNPA is authorized to check in the field the number of the animals grazing the meadows in order to insure that it does not exceed the meadows capacity, which is foreseen in the studies above mentioned;

- (c) The primary meadows, located above the natural altitude boundries of the forest, are excluded from grazing activities. This border is described in section 2.6.1, and also in the map at the end of this management plan. This border will be marked in the field with the symbol of a yellow square with white edges;
- (d) The establishment of sheep-folds and shepherds shelters, in accordance with the mountain traditions and well fitted into the landscape, is only allowed with PCNPA approval;
- (e) Locating sheep-pens closer than 50 m from water streams is strictly forbidden
- (f) The intensity of time of sheep-penning is: 2-3 nights for 1 sheep/ m<sup>2</sup> or 1 cow/6 m<sup>2</sup> on grass meadows and 4-6 nights for *Nardus stricta* meadows;
- (g) The number of dogs allowed is settled in accordance with the available lefislation (Law 103/1996 republished, Government Decision 748/2002, etc.). The dogs will wear collar-sticks. For each dog the vaccination certificate must be available at any time.
- (h) The passing through the forest area and to the water is done in accordance with the agreements with the managers/owners of the forests.
- (i) Hay-fields mowing must be carried out at the optimum time (graminaceae and perennial leguminous species flowering).

**Art. 15.** PCNP periodically initiates surveys for determining the meadows capacity for grazing. The results of the studies are then communicated to the owners in order to properly regulate the grazing activities.

### *Other resources use*

**Art. 16.**

(1) Collecting of wild flora and fauna resources for comercial purposes is allowed only for the common species, in accordance with the studies approved by the Scientific Council and with the approval of PCNPA – in accordance with the Order 647/2001.

(2) Collecting of flora and fauna species is only allowed for scientific purposes and only with the written approval of PCNPA and in accordance with the restrictions foreseen in Art. 22 paragraph (2) (except for the common medicinal plant species).

**Art. 17.** Unauthorized capturing of any wild fauna species inside the Piatra Craiului National Park is strictly forbidde. It is also forbidden to destroy animal lairs, bird nests or to collect their eggs from any PCNP areas.



**Art. 18.** Humus and soil collecting is forbidden in the PCNP area, except for the areas within the build-up area.

**Art. 19.** Extracting mineral resources and water collecting for comercial or industrial purposes are forbidden throughout the entire are of the PCNP.

## *Buildings*

**Art. 20.** The following buildings are located at the present inside the Piatra Craiului National Park, outside the build-up area:

- a. Curmătura Chalet – private property;
- b. Brusturet Chalet – private property;
- c. The refuges at: Vf. Ascuțit (C. Lehman refuge), Șaua Funduri, Șpirlea, Șaua Grind, Diana, Cabana Ascunsă, Grind refuge – property of PCNPA;
- d. The refuges at: Curmătura, Prăpăstii – property of the town of Zarnesti;
- e. Garofița Pietrei Craiului Chalet – private property;
- f. Valea lui Ivan Chalet și Brusturet Forestry Building – property of N.F.A.-Romsilva;
- g. Pietricica – private property;
- h. Zorele – private property.

**Art. 21.**

(1) Within the PCNP borders, outside the build-up area, either pemanent or temporary constructions may be built only after obtaining all of the following approvals: the County Council in which area the specific target land is located, the Sceintific Council of PCNP, the Romanian Academy (Nature Monuments Committee), the Environment Division within the central authority responsible for the environment.

(2) PCNPA has the obligation of notifying the proper authorities in case of new construction sites appearing in the area, in order to clarify their legal status.

(3) Inside the PCNP, within the build-up area, the buildings will relate to the local architectural traditions, by means of using traditional building materials and design elements inspired from the local tradition, in accordance with the portfolio available at the PCNPA.

(4) Modifications to the existent town-planning, will be accompanied by impact surveys focusing on PCNP.

(5) Modifications to the town-planning for areas inside the PCNP will be made based upon the environment studies and approved by the Scientific Coucil, the Romanian Academy Nature



Monuments Committee) and the Environment Division within the central authority responsible for the environment.

### *Scientific research*

#### **Art. 22.**

(1) Scientific research in PCNP for the purpose of preserving the flora, fauna, geology, geomorphology, speology and landscape assets is highly promoted by PCNPA.

(2) Sample collecting for scientific research, analysis or educational purposes is done in accordance with the agreements settled with the PCNPA.

(3) Scientific research activities in the PCNP are carried out with the approval of the PCNPA, which also supports them, financially and logistically, within its possibilities. Researches conducted inside the PCNP by external collaborators will be carried out in compliance with a research contract signed with the PCNPA.

(4) PCNPA draws up a yearly scientific research plan, which is then forwarded to the Scientific Council for approval.

#### **Art. 23.**

(1) Scientific research activities in the PCNP carried out by external collaborators will be done in accordance with research contracts signed with the PCNPA. PCNPA will permanently act for the purpose of including PCNP in national and international research programs.

(2) PCNPA will initiate, wherever the case is, extinct plant and animals species repopulating actions, based upon studies approved by the Scientific Council and the Nature Monuments Committee.

(3) Introducing foreign species (species which don't occur and haven't occurred in the past either) is forbidden.

(4) Natural reconstruction of damaged habitats will be done based upon a scientific survey approved by the Scientific Council and then by the Romanian Academy (Nature Monuments Committee).

(5) In case of plant and animals invading species, which put at risk the integrity of the ecosystems, containing and eliminating measures based upon studies approved by the Scientific Council, will be carried out.



## *Tourism, visiting rules*

### **Art. 24.**

(1) Access in the Piatra Craiului National Park is only allowed on official marked tourist trails, formally declared as open, except for the following:

- a) Individuals living in the towns and villages mentioned in Art.24 paragraph (3), who own land in the Park, or commissioners from local associations – located in the towns and villages mentioned in Art.24 paragraph (3) – owners of land in the Park, and also the economic agents/private individuals who have contracts with landowners based upon an access permit issued by the PCNPA;
- b) Mountain rescue teams of Zarnesti and Campulung;
- c) PNCPA or PCNPA representatives;
- d) Local Forestry Districts or other structures managing the forest fund and the forestry vegetation outside the national forest fund or commissioners of the above mentioned.
- e) Institutions authorised to conduct specific verifications in PCNPA area.

(2) The list of official tourist trails, formally declared open by seasons, based upon the danger criteria, is part of the present rules and is enclosed in Annex IX.

### **Art. 25.**

(1) PCNP Visiting fee is approved by the central environment protection authority, and is charged at the marked access and control points or throughout the PCNP area, by authorized personnel.

(2) Visiting fee is the equivalent in Lei RON romanian currency of 1 Euro with approximations from 0,5 to 0,5 Lei RON.

(3) Piatra Craiului National Park can only be visited after paying the visiting fee, except for the persons described in paragraphs (4) and (5).

(4) Persons living in Zărnești, Predeluț, Tohănița, Bran, Moeciu, Măgura Peștera, Șirnea, Ciocanu, Podu Dâmboviței, Dâmbovicioara, Rucăr, Sătic and Dragoslavele don't pay the visiting fee.

(5) It is allowed to move in/from the villages inside the Park without paying the visiting fee. Also visitors to the churches inside the Park don't have to pay the visiting fee.

(6) Children under 10 years of age and the ones participating to organized trips from schools and high schools, in collaboration with the PCNPA, or the ones part of the PCNP educational program, don't pay the visiting fee. Pupils and students visiting the Park outside organized trips, benefit from a 50% discount off the visiting fee.

**Art. 26.** Selling food products outside the build-up area inside the PCNP or in any other areas except for campings or authorized chalets, is only allowed with the written agreement of





PCNPA and in accordance with the available legislation regarding food products commerce and waste evacuation.

**Art. 27.** Trips organized in the PCNP by tourism operators are allowed with the accompanying of a specialized guide of PCNP or of a guide licenced by PCNP.

**Art. 28.** Inaugurating new trails and locating informational pannels is done only with the PCNPA approval.

**Art. 29.** Camping and use of refuges throughout the PCNP area are done in accordance with the following rules:

- a) Camping is allowed only in specialized camping areas (except for paragraph f.) and in other locations designated and marked by the PCNPA.
- b) The camping spot must be used in compliance with the internal rules regarding the camping site, posted at the entrance to the camping
- c) The mountain refuge is used only for survival purposes, during nighttime or for sheltering in case of health related problems or extreme weather conditions. It is allowed to use mountain shelters for the duration of one night; should the weather conditions not allow this, stay may be extended until conditions return to parameters, which are safe for travel continuation.
- d) Visitors have to clear the refuges at the request of authorized personnel, designated by the PCNPA, should these facilities be used in for other purposes than the ones described in paragraph c.
- e) It is forbidden to ditches around tent sites.
- f) In case of emergency, it is allowed to spend the night in the bivouac, without lighting fire.

**Art. 30.** Making fire inside the Piatra Craiului National Park is allowed in compliance with the followin regulations:

- a. Lighting and using fire is only allowed in the especially designated areas from the camping sites;
- b. At the refuges located on the ridge, open fire is forbidden. For heating purposes it is allowed to use the primus type instalations.

**Art. 31.** The waste management rules, inside the Piatra Craiului National Park, are the following:

- a. Dumping any type of waste within PCNP borders is strictly forbidden;
- b. Tourists have the obligation to evacuate their own waste to special designated areas, or into containers located at the Park's main access points.
- c. The responsibility of temporary waste storage at chalets in compliance with the legal conditions, reverts to the respective chalets' managers.
- d. At least once a month managers of chalets, campings or houses outside the build-up area inside the PCNP evacuate doestic waste accumulations. Also, managers take every percautions to avoid waste spill off the containers.



**Art. 32.** The use of radios, cassette-players or any other musical instruments, as well as personal voices in such manner that they should disturb nature and the other tourists is strictly forbidden inside PCNP. In order to organize festivals, games, sports contests, camps, etc. the interested parties will ask for PCNPA approval.

**Art. 33.** Biking on any other routes than the ones especially designed for this purpose, as well as biking in a manner disturbing for other visitors, are not allowed.

**Art. 34.** Helicopter landing inside the PCNP without written authorisation is allowed only in extreme urgency situations.

**Art. 35.** Vehicle, motorcycle or any other engine vehicles access is allowed only on public roads and forestry roads up to the signs or barriers that limit the access.

**Art. 36.** Damage or destruction of informational pannels or any other signs, as well as of the plates, pillars or markings on tourist trails is strictly forbidden. It is also forbidden to enter any PCNPA facility, surrounded area, monitoring site, etc. wherever an informational pannel notifies such restrictions.

**Art. 37.** Damage or destruction of refuges, shelters, bridges or any other constructions or facilities throughout the PCNP area is forbidden

**Art. 38.** Horseback riding tourism is allowed within the Park borders, but only following forestry roads or marked tourist trails, designated for this specific purpose.

**Art. 39.** Taking photos or filming for commercial purposes without approval of the PCNPA is forbidden. If interested, one may obtain a permit from the PNPCA, in exchange for an approved fee.

**Art. 40.**

(1) Vehicle washing inside the PNPCA, outside the especially designated facilities within the build-up area, is not allowed.

(2) The use of any chemical substances (including detergent-based substances) outside the build-up area within the PCNP borders is not allowed.

**Art. 41.**

(1) The Dambovicioara cave may be visited in exchange for an entrance fee, and only following the designated trails.

(2) Custody of the Dambovicioara Cave may be granted in accordance with the Ministry Order 850/2003.

(3) The activities allowed within a 100 m radius from the entrance to the cave are in accordance with the Law 462/2001 (Art.32 paragraph h).



## *Mountain rescue service*

**Art. 42.** Within the PCNP area there are Mountain rescue teams organized in accordance with the available legislation and standards.

### **Section III**

#### **SANCTIONS**

**Art. 43.** Violations of the present rules results in disciplinary, contraventional, penal, material or civil responsibility according to the available valid laws.

**Art. 44.**

(1) Violations of other articles or paragraphs of the present rules are penalized in accordance with the available laws.

(2) Violation of the articles or paragraphs of the present rules that don't have an equivalent in the current legislation will be settled by future decisions.

### **SECTION IV**

#### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Art. 45.** Enforcement of the present Rules is carried out by the PCNPA personnel, and also, by persons designated by the PCNPA (ex: Mountain rescue services). The authorised personnel will reveal their identity by means of identity cards, the format of which will be made known to the public through the mass-media and the informational pannels located at the main access points to the Park.

**Art. 46.** PCNPA is designated to enforce the followin rules: the environment legislation, forestry code, available laws regarding forestry sanctions, hunting law. (Environment protection law 137/1991 republished in the Official Monitor 17.02.2000, Law 26/1996 – The Forestry Code, Law 31/2000 regarding the settlement of forestry sanctions, Law 103/1996 regarding the hunting fund and the protection of hunting species republished in the Official Monitor 328/17.05.2002), Government Order 236/2000 regarding natural protected areas regime, the preservation of natural habitats, of wild flora and fauna, approved, with adjustments, by the Law 462/2001.

**Art. 47.** Noticing and punishing violations of the present Rules reverts to the following institutions/individuals: the PCNPA personnel, the authorized personnel of the National Control Authority, (National Environment Guard), Central and Territorial Public Authority for the Environment Protection, the Central Public Auhority responsible for Forestry and Agriculture, and also to all the authorized personnel of the PCNPA, based upon ID cards issued and signed each year by the PCNPA (ex: Mountain rescue services Zarnesti and Campulung and other comissioners of the local authorities).



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**Art. 48.** PCNPA has the obligation of notifying authorised institutions about violations of the present Rules, and which can not be solved by this administration.

**Art. 49.** The present rules can be modified at the proposal of the PCNPA, with the approval of the Scientific Council.