

LE:NOTRE *Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015*

Working Group Sustainable Tourism and Recreation

Following the overall theme of the landscape of the Colentina lakes in and around Bucharest this workshop will focus on the most eastern part of this area: **Cernica**



View to Cernica monastery from the lake | *image: creative commons, author: fusion-of-horizons*

Why is this case interesting?

The landscape of Cernica is of topical interest for the following reasons:

- **Nature conservation:** Both lake and forest have been declared Natura 2000 areas in January 2011 and are thus protected under the EU's habitats directive. For the time being, these are the only areas falling under this protection status in the urban periphery of Romania's capital city. The forest represents an excellent example of Pannonian-Balkan turkey oak-sessile oak forests. The protected area covers 33 km². Its potential for providing ecosystem services is huge. The lake and the forest provide habitats for various species, bird migration routes, air cooling, wind and soil protection, stormwater retention and human recreation.
- **Cultural heritage:** The Cernica monastery dates back to the beginning of the 17th century and it is listed as a national monument. The ensemble is placed in close relation to the lake on two small islands, thus representing an essential element of the local landscape character. The monastery is already a destination for visitors but has also kept its position in spiritual life.
- **Recreation:** The Cernica area is located at a distance of 14 kilometers to the center of Bucharest. The zone bears a huge potential for recreation because of its proximity and its natural and cultural assets. It could serve the 2 million inhabitants of the capital city as a local recreation zone covering multiple values and functions.

- **Governance:** The Cernica area belongs to the administrative zone of Ilfov which is surrounding the administrative territory of the city of Bucharest. Up to the present, there is no administrative instrument at hand for implementing intercommunal planning.



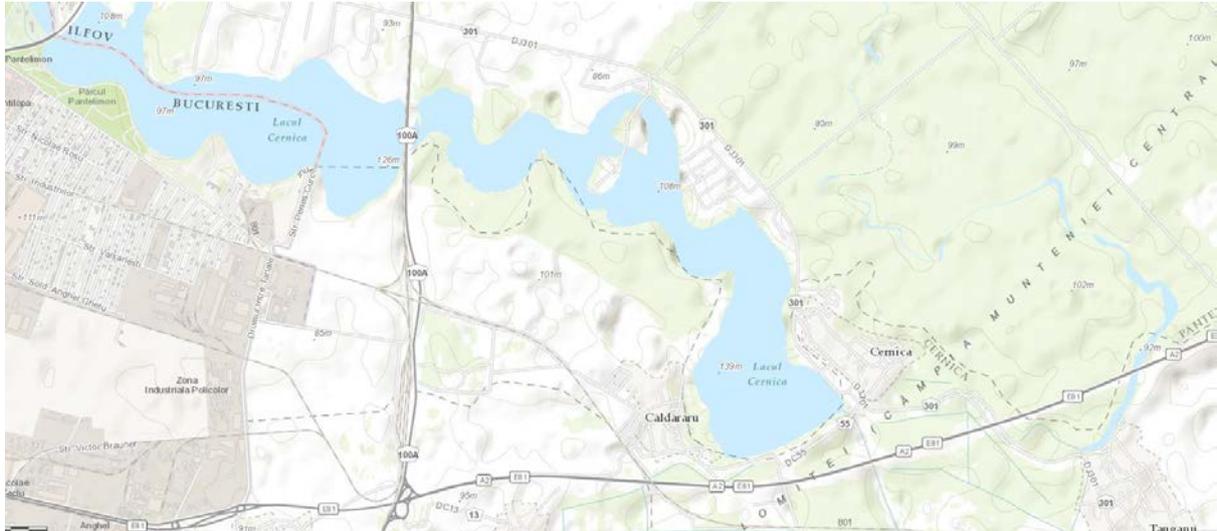
Cernica forest is listed as Natura 2000 area | *image: creative commons, author: andrixnet64*

Aspects and questions this workshop is going to address:

- How could a landscape approach to Cernica lake and forest be initiated? Which process model could be envisioned?
- How to manage transition zones between protected and unprotected areas, which in this case are closely interlinked? This concerns both agricultural land and settlement zones.
- How to create sustainable and easy accessibility to the site making use of its connectivity through the Colentina chain of lakes?
- What is the role of the Natura 2000 area and how could multi-functionality be achieved? Which conflicts are related to this and how could they be avoided?
- Which governance model could be suggested for achieving common and sustainable objectives on both sides of the administrative boundary?
- What is the wider regional relationship and how could touristic routes continue, possibly making use of the wider connectivity to the Natura 2000 areas?

Working methods: literature review, field trips, stakeholder interviews, workshops during the landscape forum, moderated online meetings

Output: Joint report with reflections and best-practices from research, education and professional practice relating the Cernica/Colentina context to comparable European situations.



General map of the area showing administrative boundary, lake and forest area | *source: world topographic map via ESRI*

Additional contributors:

- Asociația Ecologică Turismverde (Constantin Serban et. al.)

Stakeholders to be involved:

- Management Natura 2000 area
- NGOs promoting sustainable tourism like <http://www.oazadeliniste.ro/>
- Cycling associations
- Local administrations (Ilfov/Pantelimon/Cernica)

References:

- Natura 2000 fact sheet: <http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites/ROSCIO308>
- Cioaca, Doină: Animal Species and habitats protected in 'Natura 2000' Sites Cernica Lake and Forest (Ilfov County, Romania), in: Romanian Journal of Biology, 57,1, 2012 <http://www.ibiol.ro/zoology/Volume%2057/PDF%20RJB-Z%2057,%201,%202012.pdf#page=29>