

Euromontana Conference

Lillehammer, 17th September 2010

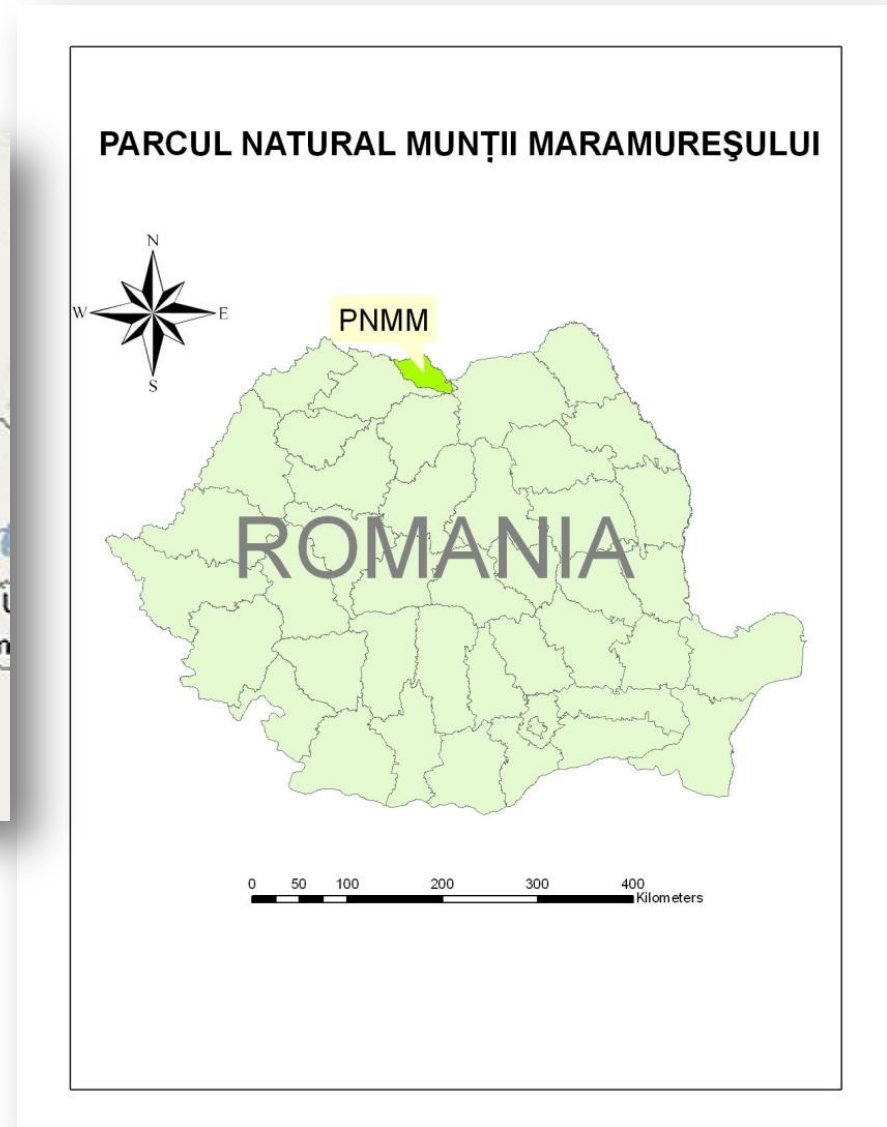
**Innovative actions in East
Carpathians - Maramures
Mountains Nature Park**

Costel BUCUR,

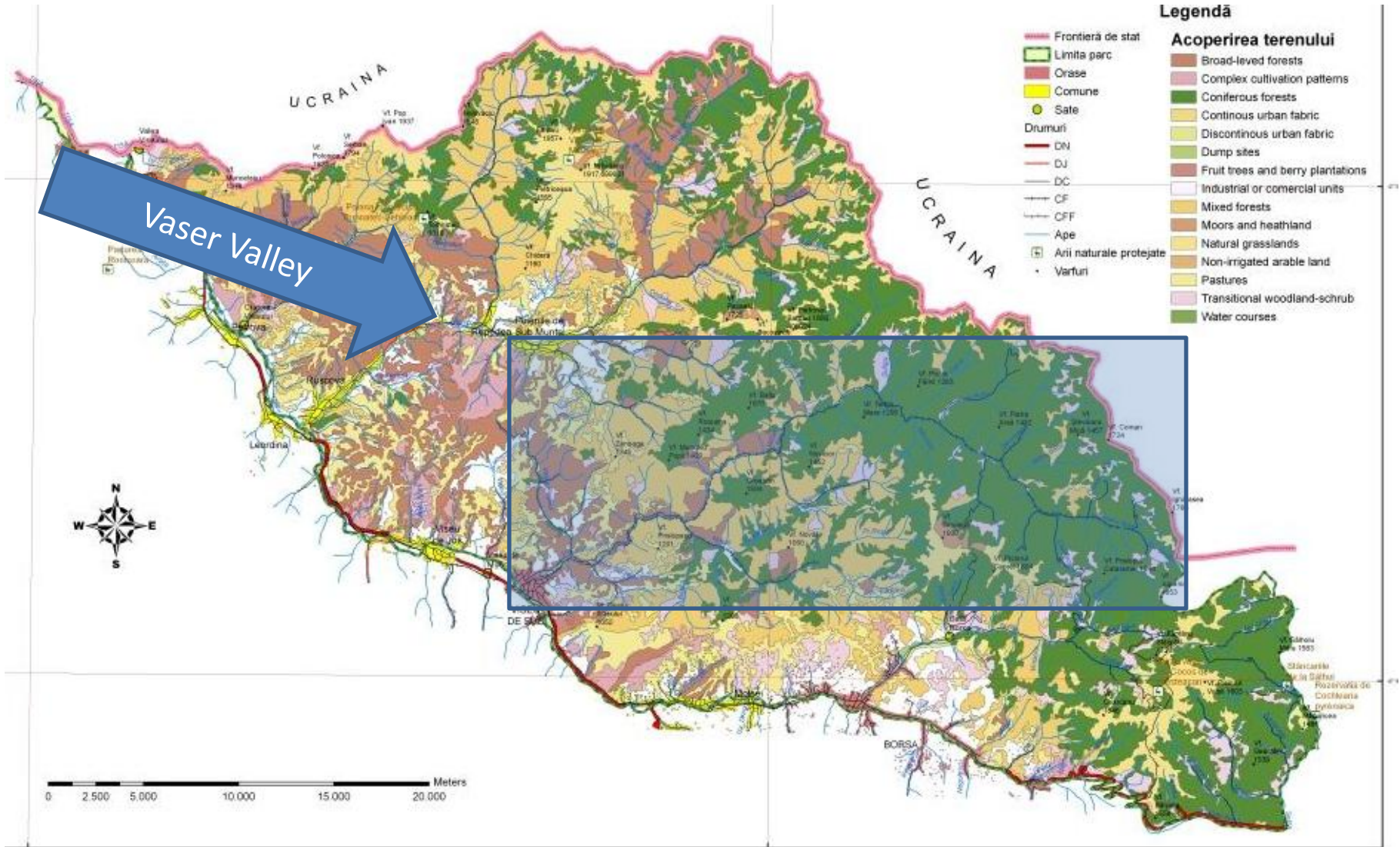
Maramures Mountains Nature Park, Romania

costel.bucur@muntiimaramuresului.ro

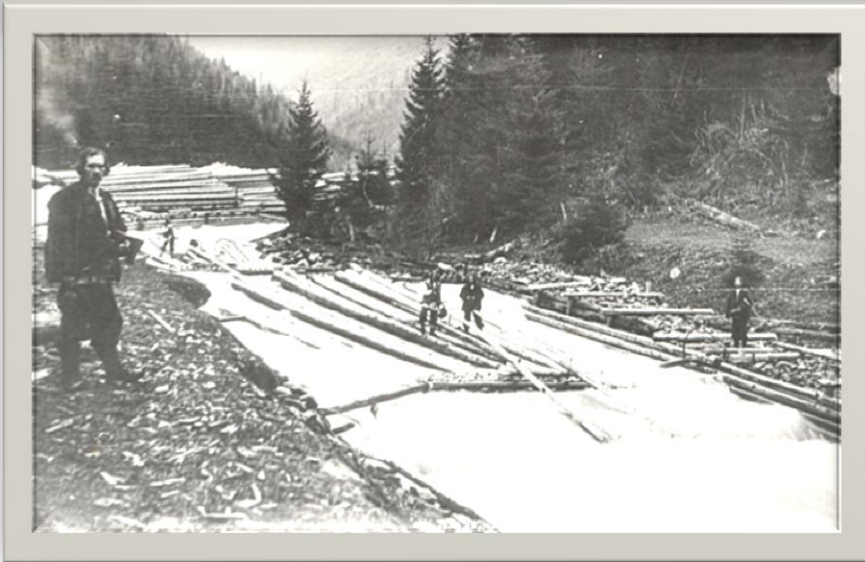
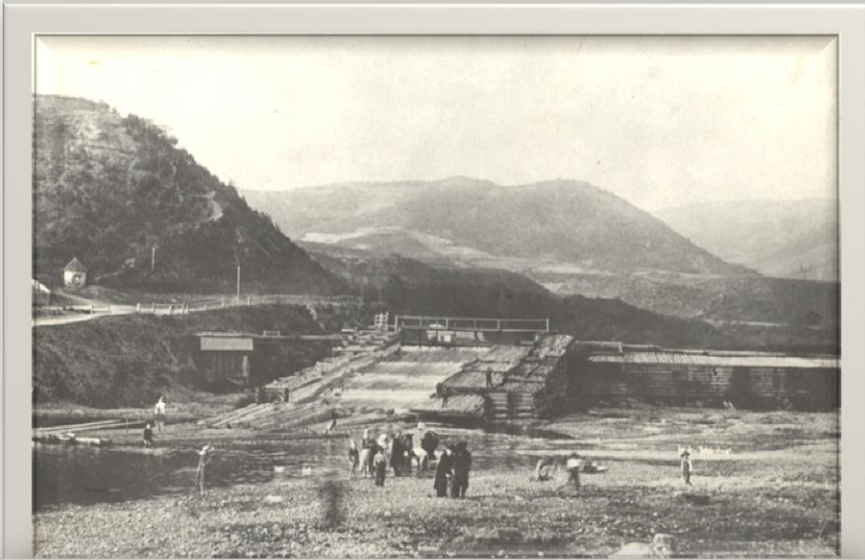
Where we are?



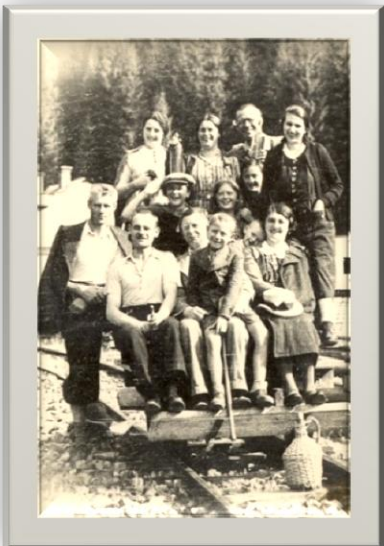
The park encompasses 132,354 ha; Forest – 60% of the park's surface
 The watershed of the Vaser Valley covers more than 36,000 ha of forest



In 1932, after 150 years of wood rafting,
a narrow-gauge railway was inaugurated



... for the transport of the wood and not only



...as a result, the steam train became the symbol of the area



...and a reason of pride.

Wood processing industry was and still is representative for the area and the main livelihood activity



After the communism, the industry was going down but starting with 1999 a new company was built which is now one of the most important European producers of stratified wooden elements for windows and doors. This way the added value has constantly increased. www.rgholz.com



Threats!

Limited access !



No carriages suppliers !



Bark beetles !



Low quality wood !



After the floods in 2001 when almost 10 months the valley was not accessible, a big amount of wood was affected by insects, fungus, etc

Innovating!

In 2002 a small company producing EPAL-EUR pallets was set-up, because of the increased amount of low quality wood.



Innovating!

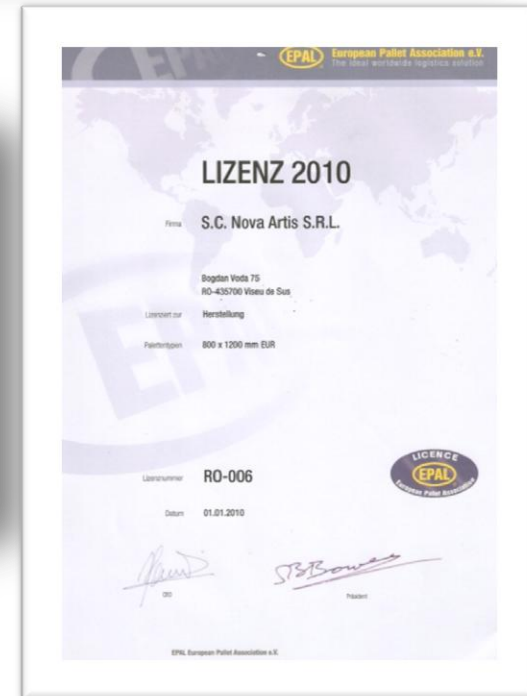
Innovating!

innovating!

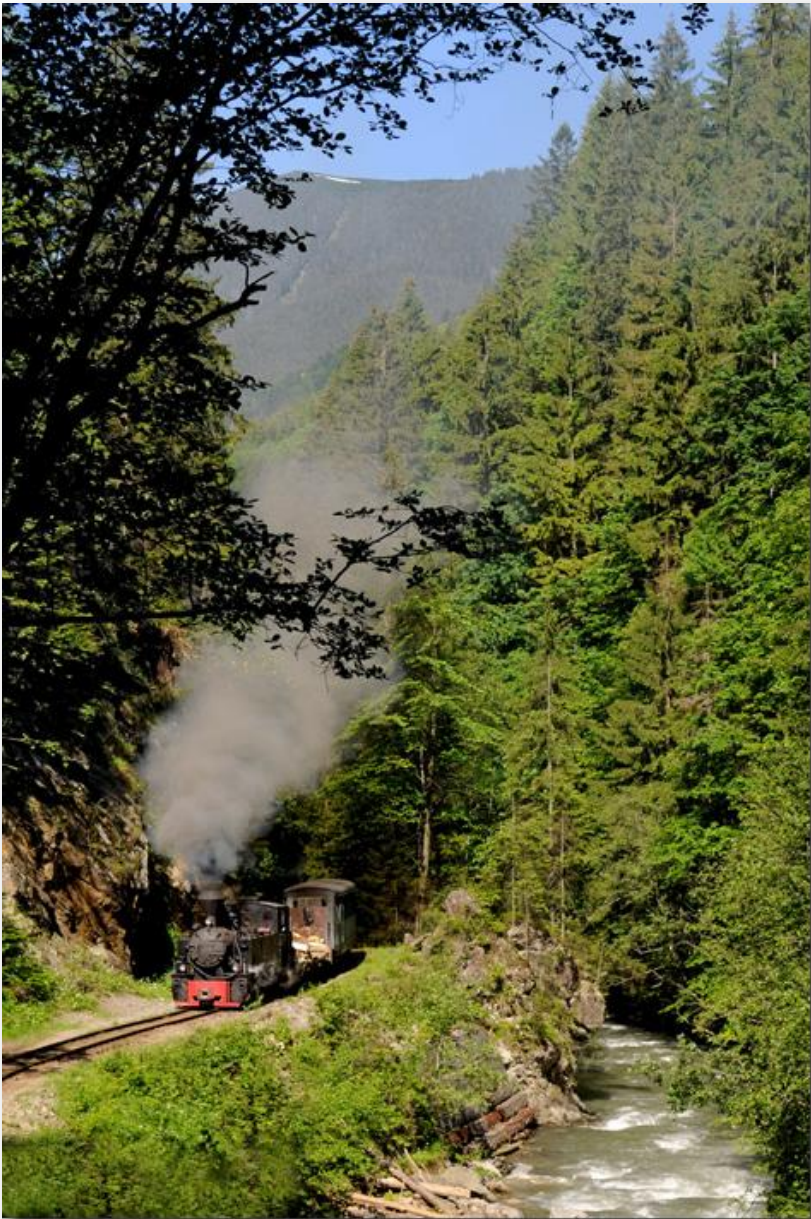
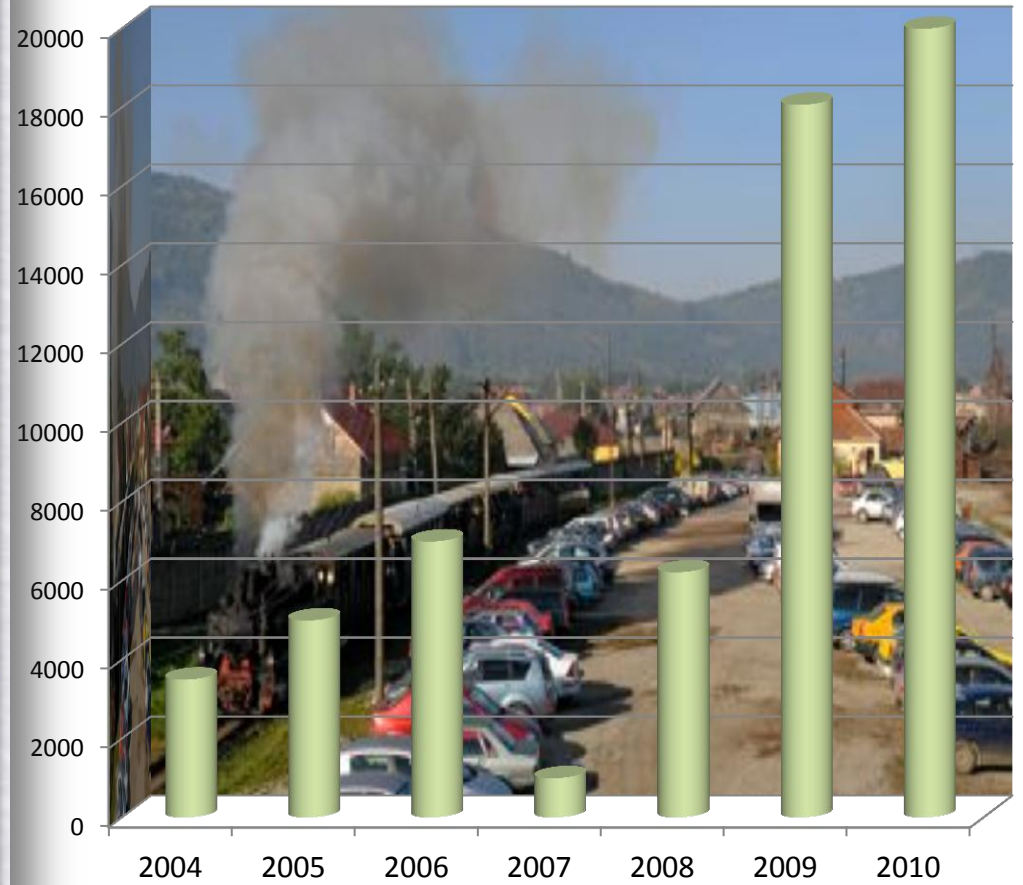
In 2003 a branch of RG Holz Company started to offer regular trains for tourists.



www.novaartis.ro 50.000 pallets/year



Number of tourists



In 2007 a TEV study was conducted for the park

Key ecosystems services:

1. Sustainable forest management and watershed protection;
2. Recreation and tourism;
3. Biodiversity;
4. Carbon sequestration;
5. Traditional landscapes and cultural heritage



More than 50% of the tourists coming to the area want to see the beauty of nature (forests, wildlife) and the steam train.

In 2008, the big flood on 26th of July, destroyed over 6 km of railway in more than 12 different places. The damages were estimated around 3 mil. euros.



So, big debates took place for replacing the railway with a forest road. ☹️

However, thanks to the ...

Park



Added value to the low quality wood



Tourism



The need of saving local identity



The railway has been repaired

So, the logs ...

...and the tourists are still transported by the steam train...



As additional benefits...

Novaartis is now producing boxes for wine bottles, and...



The park receives 1 euro/tourist from the company running the train



Thank you very much!

