

HUNTING TOURISM IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Abstract: The paper analyzes the hunting tourism as a factor of economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This paper analyzes the main resources for development of hunting tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it examines the basic characteristics, points to the problem of its development, examines the trends of hunting tourism and makes recommendations with a view to the future development of tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There was used a theoretical approach based on local and foreign literature, it analyzes strategic documents, examines the empirical material, analyzes the existing data on income, and it carries out the primary research through personal interviews with relevant people. This paper reports the research pointing to the existing potentials for development of hunting tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina where they are not sufficiently exploited. Hunting tourism is an additional income for the local population as well as for the local communities as a whole. Hunting tourism is also a major source of income of hunting societies and organizations that deal with it in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Key words: hunting tourism, wildlife, economic development, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INTRODUCTION

Hunting tourism, as a specific selective form of tourism on the one hand, and a segment of hunting economy, on the other hand, is an activity that takes place primarily in the natural environment, and is based on the use of one of the most important natural resources, ie. wild game in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This main resource of hunting and hunting tourism is, above all, the object of killing, and rarely observing or recording (photo-hunting or photo safari), and, as such, is subject to loss, but, at the same time, also potentially renewable. In addition to the main motivation segment of hunting tourism, there are also other natural resources, above all, space outside urban areas with different biocenosis such as forests, meadows, wetlands and swamp, farmland and karst fields in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Ćurić et al 1974)

Hunters are as hikers, tourists motivated by primordial human need to collect food and fur, win trophies, but also to escape from stressful and exhausting city life and enjoy the leisure and natural environment. It is a hunting tourism which is one of the most important forms of tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As a rule, it is of an elite character because of the price of arrangements and costs of hunting. The hunter who goes hunting outside the grounds of its home hunting organization is a tourist. (Novaković, 1996). The interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the development of hunting tourism is resulting from its economic importance. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rich flora and fauna, which is the basis for development of hunting tourism in mountains, forests, and in lowland, and karst areas. Besides, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long tradition of hunting, it has potential capacities, and professional hunter enthusiasts and mostly professional people with adequate qualifications. Therefore, there is an interest of foreign hunters for hunting destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The present problems of hunting and hunting

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tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina relate to the inadequate accommodation offer, frequent incompetence of employees in the field of hunting tourism, unregulated statistics, the lack of promotion and other important problems that need to be resolved. (Nurković, 2006)

Hunting areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina have very strong competitors. The sources of income in hunting tourism come from several significant factors. Most income comes from the lease of hunting grounds, then the fee for entering the hunting resort by hunters and their dogs, as well as the fees for killing, wounding and missing. Special profit comes from the purchase of game meat, service of hunters, use of hunting dogs, use of vehicles, services of guides and interpreters, insurance and accommodation and food for hunters. The more and more present issue is the sustainable rural development of hunting tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina which includes hunting animals in a way that their existence is not questioned, and not to disturb the natural diversity to the area as well as animal species. (Novaković et al 2011) Thanks to this type of hunting, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the whole activity becomes faster and more easily accepted in society, and creates economic, social and cultural benefits and it can also contribute significantly to the preservation of many animal species. The aim of this paper is to make a modest attempt to perceive the essential characteristics of the hunting grounds in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a specific tourist destination and to identify possible models of its valuation, as there have not been created a valid methodology for the evaluation of tourism potential of hunting areas and their relevant resources.

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

The methodological approach is imperatively suited to the purpose of work, ie. the modern development of hunting tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The study of hunting tourism covers the local and regional areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In assessing the economic development of new and old hunting grounds, there are almost exclusively used quantitative methods ranging from stochastic to deterministic. Data for writing of this paper have been obtained by the secondary publication research on this subject and previous studies of authors of hunting tourism and hunting areas, the statistical documentation of the State Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Studies of this paper include theoretical approach based on domestic and foreign literature. The aim of this paper is to analyze the situation in the hunting tourism of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to propose measures to improve its function. Rating of the direct contribution of hunting tourism on the local and regional economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a good basis for the definition and application of models that allow considering the overall development of the hunting grounds. However, the article of hunting tourism is devoted to a very challenging field of human activity, which has not been explored so far in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

DEVELOPMENT OF HUNTING TOURISM

Hunting in Bosnia and Herzegovina until the end of the nineteenth century was completely free. With the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, hunting was declared of national significance. However, the general disarmament of people, which was conducted for political reasons, led to an increase in the number of harmful wildlife and decline in the number of useful wildlife. Between the two wars, noble wild game have been much destroyed by irrational hunting. The last war has

caused even greater suffering of useful game, especially in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the reserve hunting grounds, where, besides that, all hunting lodges and huts were burnt and other hunting technical facilities were destroyed. In order to increase the number of useful game, from 1945 to 1950, there was banned hunting for doe deer, chamois, buck deer and pheasants. On the other hand, it was begun with intense extinction of wolves, for the past seven years there were killed about 5,000 of them. Game was proclaimed a national property, and the right to hunt was regulated by local community. (Laska, 1905) Government and hunting organizations have made a lot on the creation of the necessary conditions for proper breeding of wild game. Hunting grounds are divided on the state hunting grounds and the hunting grounds that belong to hunting organizations. The state hunting grounds cover about 10% of hunting grounds and are used primarily as wildlife reserves, then for the exercise of hunting and hunting tourism development. Their hunting technical facilities are usually renewed so that they could serve to increase international hunting tourism. Hunting tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1990 was successfully presented through various forms of tourist activities, especially highlighted and presented through hunting tourism programs and activities. Large areas covered by forests, and abundant, diverse flora that is suitable for wildlife are the key factors that allow survival and development of the wild game in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HUNTING GROUNDS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Favorite hunting grounds, which were gladly visited by foreign tourists, lovers of hunting, before the war are mountains around Bugojno, and the hunting grounds around Jajce, Kladanj, Mrkonjić Grad, Šipovo, Glamoč and others. We have to also add other features that are provided for tourists who visit Bosnia and Herzegovina for hunting. It's about getting to know remote mountain villages, and socializing with the population whom hunting and production of healthy food are traditional way of life. In order for hunting to have all the necessary tourist references, it should meet the basic criteria set before a tourist destination in general, which is, by definition, "more or less rounded geographical entity that has attractive, communicative and receptive factors, natural, social, anthropogenic, cultural and historical, traffic factors and requirements for accommodation, food, rest, recreation and entertainment of tourists." (Sušnik, 1972)

The attractiveness of the natural and social benefits of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the destination that significantly affect the particular choice of destinations (natural, built, cultural and social attractiveness). The conditions for stays and services, necessary facilities for accommodation and food, as well as all the other benefits that enable tourists to stay in the destination (local transport, sports activities, trade). Accessibility of the area, which includes the traveling distance in relation to the source markets, and which is expressed by expenditures, speed and comfort of arrival to the destination (infrastructure, equipment, operational factors and state regulation in the field of transport, border crossing, customs control). The above mentioned segments of tourist destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina are at the same time the basic elements of each specifically integrated tourism and hunting tourism product. This requires their basic elaboration when it comes to the specifics of some hunting areas as a tourist destination in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Rapajić, 1996)

Zelengora, a mountain in the area of Foča and Kalinovik, with a hunting area of 54,000 ha. Main wild game: chamois, doe deer, grouse and bear. The hunting lodge on Dobre Vode. Access to the hunting lodge with 12 kilometers of road Kalinovik Foča. The hunting ground has 7 more hunting lodges.

Treskavica, a mountain in the area of Sarajevo and Kalinovik, with a hunting area of 14,835 hectares. Main wild game: chamois, doe deer, grouse, bear and wild boar. The hunting lodge in Rajski Dol. Access to the hunting lodge from Trnovo - 4 km in the direction of Šuštavac. The hunting ground has 4 more hunting lodges.

Kruščica, a mountain in the area of Travnik, with a hunting area of 16,550 hectares. Main wild game: doe deer, wild boar, capercaillie and bear. The hunting lodge in Kruščica. Access to the hunting lodge by the road Vitez 4 km. The hunting ground has 3 more hunting lodges.

Koprivnica, a mountain in the area of Bugojno, with an hunting area of 15,900 ha. Main wild game are doe deer, wild boar, capercaillie and bear. The hunting lodge in Koprivnica. Access to the house via Bugojno-Kupres road, 17 km from Bugojno. The hunting ground has 4 more hunting lodges.

Gostović, on Kamenica mountain in the area of Zavidovići, with a hunting area of 16,300 hectares. Main wild game: doe deer, wild boar, capercaillie and bear. There is no hunting lodge. Access to the hunting grounds by railway Zavidovići- Han Pijesak, 18 kilometers from Zavidovići.

Sušica, a mountain in the Srebrenica area, with a hunting area of 18,300 hectares. Main wild game: chamois, doe deer and bear. There are no hunting lodges or hunting huts. Access to the hunting area from Srebrenica on foot or horse for 4 hours.

Motajica, a mountain in the area of Derventa, with a hunting area of 12,000 hectares. Main wild game: doe deer. There is one hunting lodge. Access to the hunting area is 7 km from the road Derventa- Bosanski Kobaš.

Vrbanja, in the area of Kotor Varoš, with a hunting area of 15,000 hectares. Main wild game: doe deer, capercaillie, bear and wild boar. There are no hunting lodges or hunting huts. Access to the hunting area by road from Skender Vakuf.

Kozara- Prosara, mountains in Bosanska Dubica and Bosanska Gradiška, with a hunting area of 22,000 hectares. Main wild game: doe deer and buck deer. There are no hunting lodges or hunting huts. Access to the hunting grounds on Kozara from Prijedor over Mrakovica, and to the hunting grounds on Prosara from Bosanska Dubica.

Čvrsnica, a mountain in the area of Konjic, with a hunting area of 32 ha. The hunting lodge is located near the station of Jablanica. The hunting ground has 2 more hunting lodges and 5 shelters.

Prenj, a mountain in Konjic, with a hunting area of 24.1 hectares. Main wild game: chamois and doe deer. The hunting lodge on Borci. Access to the hunting lodge by road 19 km from Konjic to Boračko lake. The hunting ground has 7 hunting lodges.

Velež, a mountain in the area of Nevesinje, with a hunting area of 11,934 hectares. Main wild game: chamois, doe deer, wild boar and bear. There is a hunting lodge located 20 km from Nevesinje. The hunting ground has 1 more hunting lodge.

Jahorina, a mountain in the area of Sarajevo and Rogatica, with a hunting ground of 15.300 ha. Main wild game: doe deer, wild boar, capercaillie and bear. There is no hunting lodge, but hunters can stay at mountain hotels on Jahorina. Access to the hunting narea from Sarajevo b road 37 km orfrom Pale by road 16 km.

Plješevica, a mountain in the area of Bihać, with a hunting area of 6,475 hectares. Main wild game: capercaillie, doe deer and wild boar. The hunting ground has one hunting lodge. Access to the hunting area from Bihać by road 4 km to Zavalje.

Brestovsko, in the area of Kiseljak, with a hunting area of 8,800 hectares. Main wild game: rabbit and fox. The hunting ground has 1 hunting lodge on Gromiljak, the crossroads Travnik-Fojnica. (Tab. 1 and Fig 1)

Tab. 1. The hunting grounds of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014.

Hunting ground	Area hectares	Main animal
Zelengora	54.000	Roebuck
Treskavica	14.835	Chamois
Kruščica	16.550	Bear
Koprivnica	15.900	Rabbit
Gostović	16.300	Pheasant
Sušica	18.300	Partridge
Motajica	12.000	Wolf
Vrbanja	15.000	Waterfowl
Kozara- Prosara	22.000	-
Hrbljine	18.000	-
Čvrsnica	24,100	-
Prenj	24.000	-
Velež	11.934	-
Jahorina	15.300	-
Plješevica	6.475	-
Klekovača	8.668	-
Brestovsko	8.800	-

Source: Data of the national account for 2011 of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina

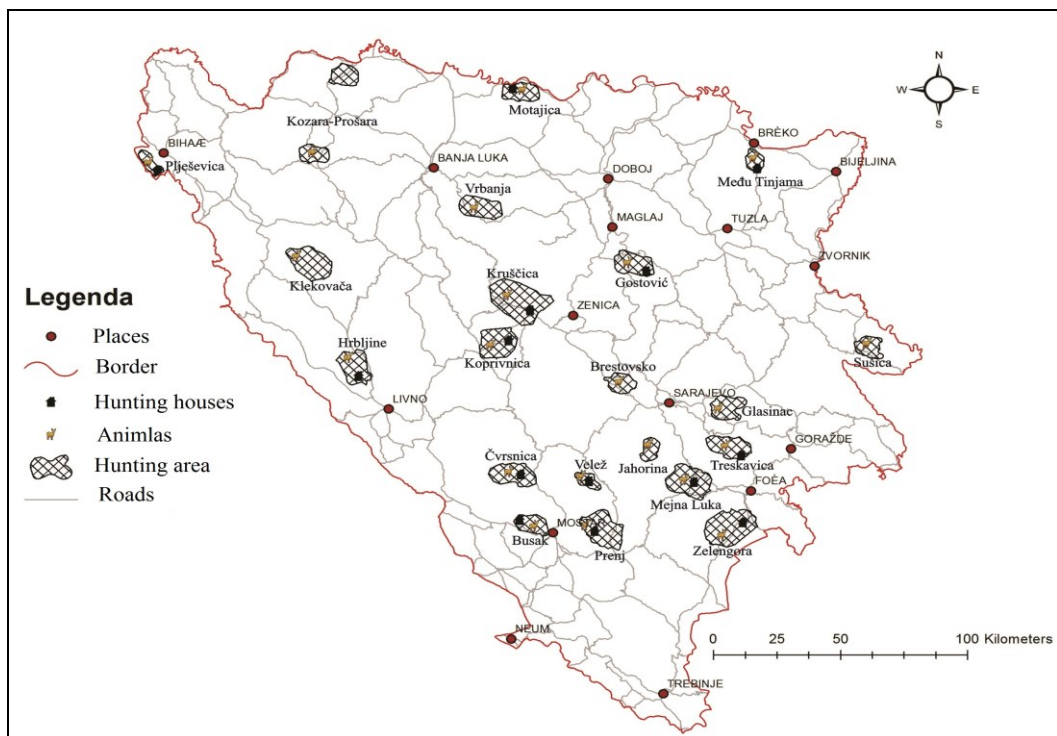


Fig. 1. The hunting grounds of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014.
 Author: Nurković R.

In all large game hunting grounds as well as in some small game hunting grounds, there are still wolves and many other furry and feathered game. In the hunting grounds, there are hunting associations with all of the above types of game and many others. In the hunting grounds of Bosnia and Herzegovina, around 50,000 rabbits, 6,000 foxes, 1,000 wolves and several thousand of other fur-bearing animals are caught annually. Hunting in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a traditional sport. There are around 10,000 organized hunters affiliated to 77 hunting associations which are gathered in the Union of hunting societies of Bosnia and Herzegovina based in Sarajevo. Large game hunting in the state hunting grounds is approved by Forestry Administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and low game hunting by forest management. For each caught game in the state hunting ground, a hunting fee is paid according to the price list, for small game hunting per piece, and for captured bear, chamois, doe deer and wild boar per quality of trophies.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF HUNTING GROUNDS AND HUNTING TOURISM

Like only a few other countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a relatively small area, has favorable environmental conditions for the survival and breeding of different species of wildlife. Given its natural conditions and gained positive experience from the previous period in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the use and promotion of the game as one of the special forest products should be a constant source of income. Hunting tourism as a specific type of tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina provides more efficient use of hunting grounds and wildlife due to the high taxes and the fact that hunters-guests are mainly foreign nationals. Profits achieved this way are invested in improving the situation in the hunting areas

(improvement of conditions of wildlife populations, improvement of infrastructure, and therefore offers). (Subašić, 2009)

Bosnia and Herzegovina exported large quantities of wild fur and still exports abroad. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Bosnia and Herzegovina has prepared the price list for game killing that is binding for all users of the hunting grounds. (Urošević et al 2011) "The lowest price for bears is 1,200 KM, and the highest up to 30,000 KM. The hunting of chamois costs from 660 KM to 8,000 KM, wolves 2,000 KM, rabbit 120 KM, pheasant 20 KM, grey partridge 40 KM, quail 6 KM, wild ducks 16 KM and rock partridges 60 KM. (www.neum.ba) Besides, hunting and hunting tourism have an impact on employment where hunting is in connection with considerably more employed people than shown by official statistics.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has received a credit from the International Development Agency (IDA) to finance a development project and conservation of forests - Additional Financing and intends to apply a part of the loan funds for contract for consultant services for the Study "Development of hunting." Bosnia and Herzegovina has received a credit from the International Development Agency for the development project and forest conservation. Hunting has its own legislation and frameworks. Hunting Act 2004 introduced dominal system in hunting management with two regulated types of hunting grounds i.e. private hunting grounds and common hunting grounds. Private hunting grounds have three forms of business, such as concessions, rental and entrusting the hunting rights in the state hunting grounds to a legal entity or physical person. (Nurković, 2013)

Accordingly, private hunting grounds ceded on the land owned by the state through public bidding may be given in concession or lease. Duration of the concession of state hunting grounds is about 30 years and management programs planned massive resources for the improvement of hunting management. Common hunting grounds are given to be managed by the most favorable bidder in public auction. Most of the lessee are hunting clubs that are organized under the Law on associations they do not have freedom to engage in activity for profit (Mustapić et al, 2004). The Law on Tourism accurately defines the way in which tourism activity can be performed by hunting associations and owners of hunting grounds. However, this law lacks The rules on hunting tourism.

CONCLUSION

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rich flora and fauna, which is the basis for development of hunting tourism in its continental territory. Variety and attractiveness of the hunting offer is linked to the existing natural resources and therefore is interesting for domestic, and especially for foreign tourist hunters. On the hunting grounds of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is possible to hunt big game: deer of all species, doe deer, bear, mouflon, wild boar, chamois; small furry game: fox, martens, hare, jackal, wild cat; and small feathered game: wild duck, dove, snipe and quail.

Hunting, as a specific branch of tourism, is significant because it requires wild game as an object of hunting to create motives for this type of tourism. Wild game is a natural resource and a social good that is renewable but not inexhaustible in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tourism is definitely the most sensitive sectors of the economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and hunting tourism, which entails the movement of armed people in an area as well as taking out the catch (trophies, whole specimens, meat or game products), as the two necessary conditions for the implementation of this specific branch of tourism is even more than that.

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