



Project "Conservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage in Wetlands"
Ramsar Culture Network Development in the Carpathian Region
Questionnaire

I.	Name of the wetland site with cultural aspect(s) In case of the designated Ramsar site or World Heritage Site (or part of it) please add its reference number from the relevant database
Iron Gates Nature Park (Ramsar site no. 1946)	
II.	Location details (country, general location, administrative region, municipality, geographical coordinates)
The Iron Gates Nature Park is situated in South West Romania, in the immediate vicinity of the Republic of Serbia, stretching on over 115,655 hectares, partially on territories belonging to the administrative competence of Caras-Severin and Mehedinti Counties, at the south of Locvei and Almajului Mountains and in South-West Mehedinti plateau. Coordinates: Between 44°51' and 44°28'30"N and between 21°21' and 22°36'E.	
III.	Time period to which identified value or practice relates (historical dates/earliest known origins, date at which it ceased to be present, or specify that it is still of continuing relevance if this is the case)
Cultural and anthropic values: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) traces of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements,b) testimonies proving the history of the residence: fortresses, monasteries, churches, buildings with special architectural features: houses, water mills, stone arrangements,c) the existence of an ethnic diversity with different traditions and customs - Serbs, Czechs, Swabians, Gypsies, Hungarians - without interethnic conflictsd) the presence of the largest hydroelectric power plant in Romania and the Danube basin	

IV.	Typologies of cultural values and practices The elements of cultural heritage present in the area of the Iron Gates Nature Park are of strategic importance both nationally and regionally. The most significant cultural elements are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vodița Monastery, built between 1370 and 1372 on the territory of Vârciorova commune, about 500m from the Danube, near the border between the Austro - Hungarian Empire and Wallachia;• The Monastery of St. Ana, built between 1936-1939;• The Mraconia Monastery, situated on Serbian bank in a picturesque place in front of former Traian's Bridge, where Tabula Traiana is located;• Decebal's Head, carved in the rock, located at the mouth of Mraconia in the Danube, with a height of 40 meters and a width of 25 meters;• Trikulle Fortress, built in the 15th century to stop Ottoman expansion towards the west, the ruins can still be seen near the village of Svinița;• Ladislau Fortress, built on the left bank of the Danube, near the village Coronini, being mentioned since the 14th century;• Gaura Chindia II Cave, an archaeological reserve with art works as traces proving cave inhabitation in the Palaeolithic and Neolithic era;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veterani cave, known from ancient times, consecrated by the Dacians as the sanctuary of the Zamolxis god, located in the Great Gorges Nature Reserve; • The fortress and the Dacian settlement in the village of Divici, at the "Grad" point, is a testimony of the Dacian inhabitation of this place, the site of national importance. <p>Traditional events related to various religious or secular feasts take place at most of the Iron Gates Natural Park sites, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mărțișorul Ball - Ilovița, February 28; • Turkish Ball - Belobresca, Svinița, February 27, Sichevița, March 2; • Fruit Festival - Svinița; • Danube Village Festival - Svinița, 1-2 May; • Musical Festival of Minorities - Svinița, August; • Fig Festival – Svinita; • The Minority Festival - Bigar.
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Please select for each identified site

x The site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland.

☐ The site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilisations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland.

☐ The site where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities.

☐ The site where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland.

Please describe of what type is the site (Wetland related human activities)

1. Habitation

1.1 Cultural landscapes

Iron Gates Nature Park is a site present on Romania's map of protected areas. It's the place where the Danube forms its longest and most spectacular gorges. The landscape it creates is one of the most breathtaking in Europe and one of Romania's top natural attractions.

Located in the south-west of the country, on more than 115,000 ha and bordered by the river Danube on its 140km, Iron Gates Natural Park is a rare mix of biodiversity, geological attractions, traditional villages and multicultural heritage.

1.2 Cultural heritage sites (including religious heritage – monasteries, sanctuaries, hermitages, chapels)

The Serbian, Czech and Turkish communities left their mark on local culture of Iron Gates villages, shaping their authenticity and cultural value. This is, in fact, protected area with the highest ethnic diversity in Romania. A visit to ethnographic museums in Eselnita and Gornea or to the Iron Gates I Hydroelectric Power Plant Museum is an excellent chance to learn more about the local multicultural diversity.

Many historical attractions complete the list of places to see. Among the main attractions there are the ruins of the medieval fortress Triukule, Mraconia Monastery, the water mills from Sichevita, the 14th-century Vodita Monastery and the unconventional Catholic Cathedral from Orsova.

1.3 Settlements and structures

1.3.1 Ancient sites and structures (up to 1599 in number)

On the Serbian bank, there is a symbol of the Roman Empire's final attack on the Dacian Kingdom, the rock inscription Tabula Traiana, almost 2,000 years old.

The oldest traces of human population existence here are from Palaeolithic and Epipaleolithic. From these, the archaeological findings from the area of Sichevita, Gornea, Dubova and the area of the flooded Ada Kaleh Island are the most famous. Stone carving tools from middle Palaeolithic were found in the Climente Cave and Cuina Turcului Cave from Great Ciucaru. Traces of a Muster culture were discovered in Gornea. These places are considered to be the oldest archaeological footprints on the territory of the park, their age being estimated at 40,000 years.

The remains of the Neolithic human settlements can be seen over all the Danube Gorge, a great concentration being observed in the area of Dubova.

The first documented reference of a human settlement in the Iron Gates Natural Park dates back to 106 BC and it refers to the settlement of Dierna located on the place of the former town of Orșova. As the human activity in the area became still more diversified, the number of documented references, as well as findings of archaeological sites increased. The Romans built several castles along the river Danube, e.g. at Dierna or on the territory of the current Moldova Veche and Pojejena. They also built a number of different necessary facilities such as communications, ore mines and others. The continuity of human habitation in the Iron Gates Natural Park has been proven by archaeological research. In the perimeter of the old Roman settlement in the Orșova area, the objects from the 10th and up to the 13th century were found, they prove the existence of contacts with The Byzantine Empire. Several Roman checkpoints placed on the bank of the river Danube remained after the Roman withdrawal. Geostrategic importance of this area was determined by the possibility to control the traffic on the river Danube, which at that time was very important to the great powers of the time.

1.3.2 Traditional and modern settlements and structures

Close to the Monastery of Mraconia, there is the biggest rock sculpture in Europe, representing an ancient Dacian king Decebal. Almost 55 meters tall, the sculpture required 10 years (1994-2004) of hard and often dangerous work as the rock is accessible by water only.

One of the most significant attractions of the Iron Gates, the island of Ad Kaleh, inhabited for centuries by a Turkish community, was drowned by the Danube during the construction of the largest hydroelectric power plants on the Danube River, Iron Gates I and Iron Gates II. The building of the dams increased the water level by 35 meters. Together with other villages, the island of Ad Kaleh was lost forever.

1.4 Wetland archaeology

1.5 Infrastructure

1.5.1 Terrestrial transportation networks

1.5.2 Water management and facilities and networks

2. Primary uses of wetland resources

2.1 Wetland related agriculture

The low percentage of productive arable land left after the building of the Iron Gates dams meant the reduced production of crops. Previously, the agricultural activities supported livelihoods and provided food for the local population.

The following crops are grown on the territory of the Iron Gates Natural Park nowadays: maize (predominantly, grows on about 50% of the arable land), wheat and rye (grown on approximately 20% of the arable land) and crop potatoes.

The pastures spread on an area of over 17 586 ha, while meadows take up an area of over 7 698 ha. The vine is grown on a small area of only about 400 ha, of which 220 ha are located on the administrative territory of Moldova Noua. The orchards take up even less area - a total of about 250 ha.

2.2 Stock-breeding

Boars are bred throughout the park. A particular attention is paid to the sheep breeding, especially in the part belonging to Caraş-Severin County, where they breed at least 1,000 sheep in each community - the largest flock being in Pojejena (over 3,000). Livestock farming, however, contributes to habitat degradation, especially if it takes place in areas with high biological diversity.

2.3 Fishing and aquaculture

Fishing was practiced in the area of Iron Gates Natural Park from times past, being one of the local food source. However, the state of the fish stock upstream of the Iron Gates I dam of the Danube River is inappropriate. Here are few reasons for it:

- a) dam construction planned without a system for ensuring the withdrawal of the migratory sea sturgeons;
- b) practicing unauthorized and unorganized fishing, even during periods of prohibition;
- c) using the fishing techniques and tools prohibited by the existing regulations;
- d) practicing fishing poaching with electrical equipment;
- e) capturing the fish with dimensions which are less than those stipulated by the law;
- f) failure to comply with legal provisions regarding prohibiting commercial fishing and recreational / sports on the Danube river in wetlands and reserves declared by several acts' regulations. Commercial and recreational / sport fishing is prohibited in the area of running water 500 m downstream of the dam.
- g) high water level variation of the accumulation lake, which is not secured against the withdrawal of fish aged 1 and even 2 from the waters' shallow reedbed in the deep water of the Danube.

Fishing has been a great deal in recent years, despite the fact that fish stocks have declined considerably, both in terms of quantity and quality. This is due to declined quality of chemical constitution of the water and due to industrial fishing, which does not allow for the juvenile fish to develop. Practicing unauthorized fishing of both commercial and sports type also creates an increased pressure on areas protected for bird species.

2.4 Management of forest wetland types

Forest management in the Iron Gates Natural Park is ensured by six forest nurseries: Moldova Nouă, Sasca Montana, Berzasca and Baile Herculane from the Caraş-Severin Forestry Directorate, respectively, Orşova and Drobeta Turnu Severin from the Mehedinti Forest Directorate. They coordinate resource management and exploitation forestry activities that are partly or totally based on the Iron Gate Nature Park based on forestry arrangements.

To harmonize the conservation imperatives of forestry biodiversity with forest management goals, the Administration of the Iron Gates Natural Park participate in the design conferences, the theme arrangement being elaborated in collaboration with the Iron Gates Natural Park Administration, the result being the adaptation of the provisions of the arrangements with the management plan. Also, the Administration of the Iron Gates Nature Park is monitoring the compliance with the forestry arrangements.

Sustainable forest management will be pursued the following measures:

- 1. Maintaining the surface of the forest fund and extending its surface by:
 - a) monitoring of activities likely to lead to diminishing the surface forestry fund;
 - b) afforestation of degraded and / or abandoned land, carried out only with indigenous species and forming the Natura 2000 habitats, for which it has declared the ROSCI0206 Iron Gates site;
 - c) re-afforestation of afforested land by afforestation exploitation of mineral resources;
 - d) interventions to limit natural disasters or fires;

- e) maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems through the use of rational household practices;
- f) use in afforestation and reforestation of indigenous and indigenous species of the local provenance of the trees and entering the Natura 2000 habitats, for which it was declared ROSCI0206 Iron Gates site, adapted to the yard installation of the new shaft. The introduction of indigenous species can only be applied after assessing their impact on the ecosystem;
- g) adopting treatments, techniques for harvesting and transporting the material wood which minimizes the degradation of trees and / or soil;
- h) monitoring the activity of forestry equipment for the elimination of losses of fuels and lubricants;
- i) the establishment and maintenance of an appropriate forest infrastructure ensuring efficient services and minimizing environmental impact, paying particular attention to threatened species and avoiding fragmentation of habitats;

2. Maintaining and preserving the biological diversity of forest ecosystems through:

- a) organization of regeneration, management and exploitation works consistent with the maintenance of ecosystem biodiversity and landscape diversity;
- b) highlighting of protected forest ecosystems in forestry settings, rare or endangered areas of endemic species;
- c) adopting treatments that promote natural regeneration;
- d) preservation of dry, falling or standing trees, of deciduous trees and trees that can form habitats, feeding places, nesting or breeding for species of small mammals, birds, insects or lower plants;
- e) the maintenance of ponds, parks, springs, marshlands in a state that can allow their role in reproducing fish, amphibians, insects or other species of animals or plants;
- f) maintenance and improvement of forest protection functions;
- g) highlighting in forests arrangements of those forests with protective functions for the entire area of the park;
- h) monitoring of forestry operations in areas prone to erosion;
- i) prohibiting grazing and limiting access to grazing and watering of domestic animals;
- j) prohibition of practices that may adversely affect the quality of water, namely:
 - (i) discharges of domestic and residual waters into inland water courses and in the Danube River;
 - (ii) storage of household waste on the shores of watercourses;
 - (iii) washing agricultural machinery and motor vehicles in the water;
- k) maintaining the socio-economic functions of the forest by:
 - (i) tracking the exploitation of woody and non - timber forest products in the vision of rural development;
 - (ii) respect for legal, customary and traditional rights over land forestry, which will not affect the protected natural area;
 - (iii) promoting the traditional use of forest resources, according to the law.

Exploitation of forest fruits, medicinal and tinktric plants of the forest fund is currently deficient, with the possibility of capitalization in the future, one of the developmental directions of the communities in the park being creating facilities to process and capitalize on these resources.

2.5 Hunting

The main species of hunting interest in the park are: roe deer *Capreolus capreolus*, wild boar – *Sus scrofa*, fox *Vulpes vulpes*, hare *Lepus europaeus*, pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, partridge *Perdix perdix*, quail *Coturnix coturnix*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Bear - *Ursus arctos*, wolf – *Canis lupus*, deer - *Cervus elaphus*, lynx - *Lynx lynx*, wild cat - *Felis sylvestris*, species present in the Iron Gates Natural Park are protected species under the Habitats Directive.

2.6 Salt extraction, mineral extraction, mining

The development of industrial activities in the Iron Gates Nature Park is primarily related to the exploitation of various natural resources, especially mineral resources.

The Iron Gates Nature Park territory has a variety of mineral resources that have been exploited throughout history in many places.

The exploitation of high quality coal was held at Cozla, Bigar and Baia Noua. Copper mines are no longer exploited in Moldova Noua region. At present the only banatite mining operations are carried out in two quarries, in which the copper content is much lower - 0.2%. For storing the tailings as a result of the mining operations, several tailings dumps were set up, under the form of "field ponds", which are the largest landfills in the country.

Extractive activities of non-metalliferous ores were numerous in the area studied, the exploited resources being the following: coloured clays at Coronini and Gârnic, caolin at Sichevita, serpentine at Berzasca, Iuti, Șvinita, Eibenthal and Tisovita, asbestos in Tisovita, Eibenthal and Plavișevita, quartz in Orșova, crystalline limestone at Career Mraconia, and bentonite at Tufari.

It can be mentioned the existence at Ponicoava of the quartz processing station, and at Sichevița the stone sorting and crushing plant. At Orsova there was the enterprise "Silicor S.A. - Orsova" processing of a non-metallic ores - feldspar, quartz, talc, raw material from nearby mining operations.

Areas of extraction of mineral resources exploited in the Iron Gates Nature Park formed degraded areas, where it is necessary to promote some costly ecological reconstruction programs.

2.7 Water use

2.7.1 Irrigation

2.7.2 Domestic use

2.7.3 Water transfer infrastructure

2.7.4 Energy production

The power industry is represented by the Hydroelectric Power Iron Gates, hydropower that uses water from the reservoir. Current electric transport is achieved by high voltage lines, numerous ramifications starting from the right of the Iron Gates dam, heading for Drobeta Turnu Severin through Breznița-Ocol and Jidoștița and near the village of Bahna, to NV.

2.7.5 Other water uses (water mills, saw mills etc.)

There are still some functionable old water mills on Elesheva valleys, Povalina, Camenita.

2.8 Use of other wetland natural resources

2.8.1 Biomass extraction

2.8.2 Sustainable use of medicinal plants

3. Secondary use of wetland resources

3.1 Food processing

3.1.1 Traditional methods of food preservation

3.1.2 Culinary heritage

3.2 Craftsmanship

3.2.1 Artefacts (of ancient origin – up to 1599 / traditional and modern artefacts)

3.2.2 Handicrafts and tools (of ancient origin / traditional and modern)

3.2.3 Transportation means (boats etc.) (ancient / traditional and modern)

3.3 Traditional building construction

3.3.1 Dwellings

From the structure point of view, the rural settlements in the Iron Gates Nature Park area generally fall into the villages of the gathered type due to the tendency of agglomeration along valleys or roads as well as relief conditions - most human settlements were developed on the tributaries of the Danube, especially in the area between Liubcova and Eşelnita. There are also scattered villages, under 100 inhabitants, these being mainly those formed by the phenomenon of roaring, mother villages being Sichevița and Șopotu Nou.

3.3.2 Utilitarian buildings

3.3.3 Public buildings

3.4 Wetland-based traditional marketing

3.5 Tourism – eco-tourism and cultural tourism

Practicing tourism in the area of the Danube and Orsova gorges, in the present area of the Iron Gates Nature Park, started in the first quarter of the 19th century, hiking and admiring picturesque or historic sites. It has expanded towards the end of the same century, by navigating the Danube, visiting the Ada-Kaleh Island and other objectives. In the inter-war period, it began to take place school tourism in this area.

Through its natural dowry and its remarkable historical and cultural potential, the Iron Gates Nature Park is the space for organized and ecological tourism, providing the visitor with the combination of recreational and leisure activities and instructional - educational activities, environmental perception and protection of natural and cultural history resources. The touristic potential of the area is extremely high, with touristic objects represented by the special landscapes, such as the points of view on the Great Ciucarul, the Trescovăț lava dome, the exokarstic relief present on the Little Ciucarul and the Great Ciucarul as well as on the karst plateau of St. Helena, the endokarstic relief from the Poncova, Muscovy Hole, Haiduceous Hole, Zamonița caves and others, as well as cultural and historical objects described previously.

In recent years, equine tourism has developed.

3.6 Leisure and sports

Scientific tourism is implemented in the nature reserves from the park area, for protected habitats and species of plants and animals, geological patrimony, caves, archaeological objects and ethnographic collections.

Another important activity is birdwatching, Iron Gates Nature Park being designated in 2011 as Ramsar Site for the big number of bird species. On the territory of the Nature Park, in the area of Șușca and Sichevița a bird observatory was built, respectively a place of rest, fenced, equipped with tables, benches and trash cans. These arrangements are signalled by panels located in visibility places.

3.6.1 Hiking, climbing

There are 16 marked tourist trails, 10 in the east and south, 4 in the west of the park as well routes linking localities with Czech ethnic population.

Hiking can be done on marked trails in the Iron Gates Nature Park, hiking that can last for 5-8 hours or even more days depending on the route chosen. They offer both admiring scenic landscapes as well as visits to isolated households of poor, modest locals, but welcoming, for the observation and knowledge of their occupations, of the way of traditional life in the area. The interest in going through these routes can also be found from the variety of geological structures and petrographic diversity, relief and karst structures, special plant associations as well as the presence of a large number of rare and endemic species.

Some of the trails may be of interest to scientific tourism, these partially paving the paleontological, speleological, forest, botanical reserves or mixed. On the basis of these routes, various tourist programs can take place, simpler, one day for a single route, or more complex, during many days for a longer route or multiple routes.

A number of 5 routes have been identified for mountain biking.

3.6.2 Rafting and kayaking

In the last years it was developed international nautical tourism - cruises on different sectors of the Danube and water sports on the Danube - canoeing, kayaking, ski-jet;

3.6.3 Sailing and boating

There are cruises on the Danube - departure from Orșova; several ships are currently operating for passengers with a capacity between 30 and 90 people, as well as a few light leisure boats for up to 6 people.

3.6.4 Diving

3.6.5 Speleology

There are a lot of caves on the territory of the natural park:

- Gura Ponicevei Cave - It is the most important cave in the Danube Gorges, partially fossil, partially subfossil, mostly formed on the fault system and less on the Tithonic and Neocomian limestone layers.
This cave is remarkable by its size and the diversity of the problems that derives from its complicated system of large passages and holes. However, it is interesting from biospeological, paleontological and archaeological point of view. In the area of entrances there are many spiders' cloths, especially *Nesticus cellulanus* and *Meta merianae*. In the Great Hall, around the guano mound and on the walls, appear some species of the guanophil diptera (*Chiromyia flava* and *Heteromyza atricornis*).
In addition to some "cemeteries" of the bones recently discovered, there were found skeletal remains of *Myotis bechsteini* (very rare species in Romania and in the rest of Europe) and even the fossils of *Ursus deningeri* and *Crocota spelaea*.
- Gaura cu Muscă Cave with protected species - *Rhinolophus* spp., and also known for its endemic fly *Simulium colombaschense*.
- Gaura Chindiei Cave, an archaeological reserve where traces of cave art belonging to the Palaeolithic and Neolithic were found, as well as traces of the Protodacica period and Dacian dwelling. Naturalistic-schematic elements such as birds and floral motifs, singles or pairs of symbols, group of signs, Cyrillic and Latin scripts, Slavonic texts, hand and finger impressions are found.
- The Veterani Cave is known from ancient times, being consecrated by the Dacians as the sanctuary of the Zamolxis god, being placed in the natural reserve of the Great Gorges.
- Zamonița Cave - Apart from the interesting problems of karst morphology and hydrology (the origin of the watercourse is not yet known), the cave is also remarkable by several species trapped in the underground: an interesting species of *Bulgarosoma* and in the rimstone dam lives a new species of ostracod (*Mixto-candona botosaneanui*) and a species of aquarium mite (*Limnohala-carus wackeri wackeri*). Parietal fauna attracts our attention through the variety of subtroglophilous species of Diphthera and Trichoptera.
- Gaura Haiducilor Cave - the cave is characterized not only by the geomorphological, hydrological and concretization features, but also by some cavernical species. Of the terrestrial ones we mention *Duvalius (D.) milleri* and *Mesoniscus graniger*, and of the aquatic *Niphargus maximus* and *Acanthocyclops reductus propinquus*. It is very likely that the Great Hall of the cave was inhabited. There would have been the traces of a settlement from the primitive commune.
- Cave from Ceuca Valley - *Niphargus puteanus cf elegans* lives in the water of the rimstone dam and marmite. Terrestrial fauna contains at most troglophilous species of isopods and

gastropods. In a small passage, among the bats and rodent bones, there were found some rings and earrings of an age hard to tell (perhaps Neolithic-medieval).

3.7 Social practices and methods

In the area, the specific habits of various events are maintained: holidays, weddings, baptisms, funerals. Local events and Sundays are real parades of the popular port.

3.8 Festivals, fairs, celebrations and events

Annually traditional events related to various religious or secular events, include:

- Mărțișorul Ball - Ilovița, February 28;
- Turkish Ball - Belobresca, Svinița, February 27, Sichevița, March 2;
- Fruit Festival - Svinița;
- Danube Village Festival - Svinița, 1-2 May;
- Musical Festival of Minorities - Svinița, August;
- Fig Festival – Svinița;
- The Minority Festival - Bigar.

4. Knowledge, belief systems and social practices

4.1 Scientific research and education

Research activities in the Iron Gates Natural Park took place under the form of individual themes or of research / education institutions. Areas which have been envisaged target different natural, social or economic aspects.

Out of the extensive research projects carried out before 1989 draws attention the development of the Iron Gates Monograph.

Scientific studies have been conducted by scientific personalities representing universities from Romania - Bucharest, Timișoara, Brașov, Craiova and others, institutes of research, regional museums and more.

The current research infrastructure comprises two stations of the University of Bucharest, located at Orșova and Eșelnița. The research station in Orșova currently represents the place of accommodation of students from the Faculty of Geography from University of Bucharest, who practices the specialty practice in the area in summer period. The research camp at Eșelnița, called Captivity Growth Centre for Hermann's turtle, was founded in 2001 as a research unit of the University in Bucharest - Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies that aims to carry out in situ conservation activities and to assist ex situ in order to rescue from the local extinction of *Testudo hermanni* turtle Boettgeri.

4.2 Traditional knowledge

Ethno-folkloric and cultural manifestations represent forms of attraction for tourists, but also to create a cultural identity of the Iron Gate Nature Park area. Local people in the Iron Gates Natural Park have made a tradition of exploitation natural, renewable and non - renewable resources, namely forest exploitation and exploitation of non-renewable resources - limestone quarries, mining.

Traditional purchases can also be considered as cultivation of land, livestock breeding, fishing and marketing of animal or vegetable products at fairs in the area. Many of the traditional forms of life and work have been maintained. Animals of traction are still used in a rudimentary way for transportation, forest work or in the field, in the area meeting animal breeds not of the best. Households, tools like objects used in everyday life are made using local materials and a traditional technique. A special feature is the milling tradition, with water-powered mills on the Sichevița Valley, activity that is still maintained.

4.2.1 Oral traditions and expressions, sayings

4.2.2 Languages, dialects and special terms

4.2.3 Relevant place names and their etymologies

- 4.2.4 Practice of traditional medicine
- 4.3 Spirituality and belief systems (including processions, pilgrimages, nature rituals and ceremonies)
- 4.4 Sacred natural sites or landscapes (e.g. caves, islands, rivers, springs, mountains...)
- 4.5 Artistic expression
 - 4.5.1 Dances and traditional rural games
 - 4.5.2 Music and traditional songs
 - 4.5.3 Nature photography
 - 4.5.4 Literature of wetlands nature, traditional legends and stories*
 - 4.5.5 Movies and TV shows
 - 4.5.6 Painting landscapes and nature

Please provide details and comments if necessary.

* Please send the text of legend/story identified relevant to the aims of this project in English (Word format) to be published in the final publication.

Porta Ferea in Latin, Gvozdena vrata, Donje Djerdap in Serbian, Vaskapu in Hungarian, Demir-kapi in Turkish, Pořile de Fier in Romanian: a barrier of rocks and swollen waters that for centuries made almost impossible to navigate the Danube at the entrance to Romania. Many navigators, courageous or reckless, have lost their lives trying to cross this dangerous corridor. Today, the "killer gates" are peaceful. Hundreds of rocky cliffs emerging from the Danube, creating nightmares for any sailor, now live beneath the waters of the huge reservoir created by the dam of the Iron Gates Hydropower Plant. The ships float quietly over them. After centuries of fierce confrontation, the old Danube and the millennial mountains - the Carpathians on the Romanian bank, the Balkans on the Serbian side - ceased their struggle. They have an armistice. The river and the mountain, the water and the stone made peace. Only the legends, impressions and testimonies of those who travelled through the centuries through this wonderful gorge remind us of the terrible clash.

V.	The main exponents, practitioners or beneficiaries of the documented values and practices. Particular values may be held in common by a particular community of stakeholders or a social group who derive benefits (tangible or intangible) from the wetland systems (or stories) concerned. In the case of cultural practices, there may be details to record concerning roles played by particular members or groups in the community
VI.	Specialised or vernacular terms used locally (including in local languages) to refer to the values and practices concerned
VII.	Relative significance of the values and practices concerned (e.g. in terms of rarity, magnitude, degree of formal recognition, or diversity in combination with other values)
VIII.	Transcription of any pertinent officially-adopted descriptions of the values and practices concerned , specifying the source in each case

IX.	Conservation implications of the cultural values/practices for the wetland(s)
X.	Status of the cultural values/practices Clarify whether the values or practices relate to a former period of history or whether they are continuing. If they relate to a former period of history, the time of their cessation and the reasons of it (if known) should be noted. If they are continuing, it should be clarified whether any changes have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in relation to the values or practices concerned.
XI.	Current touristic use and potential for sustainable tourism development in the area, tourism influence in the area
XII.	Suggestions for conservation actions (for example to address threats, restore or enhance values, improve integrated management or strengthen policy) – see 4.1 above
XIII.	Ongoing management activities at the site (if any)
XIV.	Please include reference sources (and links to them where relevant), images, illustrations, maps, data tables, interview results, further detail on case examples, useful contacts and anything else deemed appropriate

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Iron Gates Natural Park







