# STUDY REGARDING THE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION OF THE VALORIZATION OF TOURISTIC RESOURCES IN THE JIU VALLEY



# **Executive Summary:**

The study presents a comprehensive framework for the development of tourism and outdoor recreation in the Jiu Valley, based on a detailed analysis of existing and needed trails, outdoor activity infrastructure, and in-depth discussions with local stakeholders from the private, non-profit, and public sectors. The focus is on enhancing activities such as mountain biking, hiking, mountaineering, and whitewater sports, emphasizing the need for synchronized trail networks, a cohesive brand identity, and sustainable use of natural resources. The report highlights the importance of improved mountain rescue services and critical infrastructure development.

#### Key recommendations include:

- 1. Establishing four main hiking and cycling routes.
- **2.** Improving digital infrastructure to support the trail network.
- **3.** Developing specific areas for mountain biking.
- **4.** Expanding the climbing hall in Vulcan.
- 5. Building an XCO trail center in Petrila.
- **6.** Conducting pre-feasibility studies for a recreation and camping area near Gambrinus.
- 7. Providing material support for the local climbing community.

These strategic initiatives are designed to transform the Jiu Valley into a top destination for outdoor recreation, with the plan emphasizing collaboration with municipalities, involvement of stakeholders, and a focus on community participation, economic growth, and responsible environmental management. The cumulative efforts signify a commitment to developing an attractive and well-organized destination for outdoor tourism in the Jiu Valley.

#### FINAL REPORT

#### I. INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Outdoor recreation tourism is on the rise, holding considerable economic and environmental consequences. As society changes, so do the demands and trends for outdoor recreation tourism, shaping its evolution and development. The market reflects a notable surge, with a forecast 16% annual rise through 2030<sup>1</sup>, indicating a burgeoning enthusiasm for diverse outdoor pursuits. In the Jiu Valley region, with 1200m of available lift services as well as existing and potential for development of more trails, it stands as a vibrant hub not only for mountain biking but also for the growing popularity of hiking, rock climbing, and whitewater activities. Expanding the network of trails, and adding "Skills" parks, coupled with effective development and capitalization of assets like Straja, Vâlcan, Sureneau, Parang, and Retezat positions the area as a thriving and diverse outdoor recreation destination.

In harnessing the full potential of the Jiu Valley as a recreational haven, it is imperative to not only focus on existing activities like mountain biking and hiking but also to foster the development and sustainable exploitation of rock climbing areas and capitalize on the Jiu River for whitewater recreation. The region's rugged topography presents an ideal canvas for climbing enthusiasts seeking vertical challenges, and the untamed waters of the Jiu River offer a thrilling playground for those passionate about whitewater rafting and kayaking.

To truly transform the Jiu Valley into a thriving adventure destination, holistic and forward-thinking development strategies and infrastructure investments are paramount. Efforts should extend beyond the establishment of biking and hiking trails; they should also encompass the creation of purposeful infrastructure that caters to the unique needs of rock climbers and whitewater enthusiasts. Effective trail marking becomes essential, not just for safety but also to guide adventurers through the diverse landscapes that beckon exploration.

Digital mapping of the area's natural assets is another critical component of comprehensive development. This not only aids in crafting detailed itineraries for different activities but also serves as a valuable tool for conservation efforts, ensuring that the delicate balance of the ecosystem is maintained. The integration of technology can enhance the overall experience, allowing outdoor enthusiasts to navigate with precision and discover hidden gems within the valley.

Branding initiatives play a pivotal role in establishing the Jiu Valley as a multifaceted destination. A cohesive and compelling brand identity will attract adventure seekers and position the region as a must-visit locale for those seeking a diverse range of outdoor experiences. Promotional campaigns should highlight the unique blend of rock climbing challenges, whitewater excitement, and the existing ski infrastructure, creating a narrative that captures the essence of the Jiu Valley's allure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source https://www.alliedmarketresearch.com/outdoor-vacation-market-A13082#:~:text=The%20outdoor%20vacation%20market%20size,16.2%20%25%20from%202021%20to%202030.

Moreover, sustainable exploitation of these natural assets should be a guiding principle in all development endeavours. Responsible tourism practices and conservation efforts must be integrated into the planning process to ensure that the ecological integrity of the Jiu Valley remains intact for generations to come.

Crucial to the growth of outdoor tourism in the Jiu Valley is the development of Mountain Rescue services. As outdoor activities gain momentum, ensuring the safety of enthusiasts becomes paramount. Supporting the establishment and enhancement of Mountain Rescue services aligns with the broader vision of fostering a secure and thriving outdoor recreation environment that encompasses mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and whitewater activities.

The Jiu Valley, with its natural assets and existing recreational offerings, stands on the verge of becoming a comprehensive outdoor recreation and tourism destination. By capitalizing on the rich trails, and climbing areas, and embracing strategic infrastructure investments, the region can unlock its full potential. Simultaneously, supporting Mountain Rescue services becomes an integral part of the developmental landscape, ensuring the safety and enjoyment of outdoor enthusiasts while fortifying the foundation for sustained growth in the realm of outdoor tourism.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES (OF THE STUDY):

The activities completed in preparation for this study include two (2) visits to the Jiu Valley area, initial and follow-up reviews of online presentations of available trails in the area, initial and follow-up meetings with local stakeholders, and analysis of both existing and needed infrastructure. The descriptions of these activities are presented below in detail.

**a.** Review and inventory of hiking and biking trail networks, existing rock climbing locations and assessment of locations available for new infrastructure (including Bike Parks, XCO trail center, and Whitewater park) in the Jiu Valley.

An initial review and inventory of mountain bike and hiking/trail running routes was carried out, (presented here, as it was in the interim report). More detailed information has been added as a result of further review and a second site visit that included meetings with several local stakeholders including all of the municipalities in the valley. Following these further activities, it is important to mention that at least some routes, both for hiking and cycling, although predominantly in the Jiu Valley, cross in certain sections into the neighbouring county to the south, Gorj, while others extend North out of the valley proper. These routes, derived from the initial review, remain listed, while those starting in Jiu Valley but primarily existing outside the county will not be considered part of the revised inventory. Additionally, the follow-up review and results of meetings and added information gathering have demonstrated a substantial lack of order and rationale to the presented and official (Salvamont-certified) trails in the Jiu Valley. Here it is critical to recognize that a rational, synchronized trail network in a mountain destination is essential to establishing the attractiveness of any destination as everything flows smoothly, and everyone is easily able to understand it. If the trails are chaotic and disconnected, it creates confusion, demonstrates a lack of overall coordination and elevates the risks visitors to the area encounter as a direct result. A well-planned trail network brings several benefits:

- 1. *Safety First:* A synchronized trail network ensures that paths are well-marked and maintained, reducing the risk of accidents. Hikers and adventurers can navigate without constantly worrying about getting lost or facing unexpected hazards.
- 2. *Preserving Nature:* With designated trails, there's less likelihood of random trampling on fragile ecosystems. A rational network helps concentrate foot traffic in specific areas, minimizing environmental impact and preserving the natural beauty of the destination.
- 3. *Efficient Resource Management:* From rescue operations to routine maintenance, having a rational trail system allows authorities to allocate resources more effectively. They can focus on well-traveled paths and respond promptly to emergencies.
- 4. *Enhanced Visitor Experience*: Travelers seek memorable experiences, and a well-designed trail network can provide just that. Logical connections between trails make it easier for visitors to explore different parts of the destination seamlessly, creating a more enjoyable and fulfilling experience.
- 5. *Community Engagement:* A synchronized trail network fosters a sense of community among hikers, nature enthusiasts, and locals. It becomes a shared space where people can connect, share experiences, and work together for the preservation and enjoyment of the destination.
- 6. *Economic Impact:* A well-maintained trail network attracts more visitors, which can boost the local economy. When tourists have a positive experience, they are more likely to return or recommend the destination to others, contributing to sustained economic growth.

In essence, a rational, synchronized trail network is the backbone of a successful mountain destination, ensuring harmony between human activity and the natural environment.

As it is, an initial total of 41 bicycle and hiking/trail running routes were reviewed and inventoried. The further review of trails, through deeper research into online presentations as well as feedback from local stakeholders, (including the Mountain Rescue Service (Salvamont)), indicates that the 'online/digital presentation' of trails appears to be far more than just 41. As it was discovered, the existing online indications are not in line with what exists in terms of proper, legal, trails. Salvamont lists 21 total trails as 'official', and that is within the broader Hunedoara county, of which review indicates that a mere 10 exist in large part within Jiu Valley proper with 4-5 others bordering the region or being only within the valley in a tiny part. Furthermore, the legal trails listed via Salvamont do not provide proper geo-data, lacking any GPX files or even photographs but rather provide text relating to the trail, which while of value, further complicates locating and using the trails by potential visitors to the region. (Samples taken from the Salvamont site are included in the annex to this document while screenshots of the listed trails are shown



SALVAMONT-HD TURISM PREVENŢIE CONTACT

# Trasee M-ții Vâlcan-Oslea

	TRASEU Click pentru a vedea descrierea traseelor	Marcaj	Timp ora
	Gambrinus – Drăgoiu – Pasul Vulcan – Vf. Straja – Vf. Mutu – Vf. Muncel – Vf. Siglăul Mic – Vf. Siglăul Mare – Valea de Peşti – Vf. Arcanu – Vf. Nedeița – Coada Oslei – Oslea – Câmpuşel	Bandă Roşie	24 - 25



SALVAMONT-HD TURISM PREVENȚIE CONTACT

# Trasee M-tii Retezat

ITA	see M-ții Ketezat			
Traseu Nr.	Traseu (Click pentru a vedea descrierea traseelor)	Marcaj	Timp [h]	Observatii
1	Ohaba de sub Piatra – Nucşoara – Cârnic – Cabana Pietrele – Cabana Genţiana – Curmătura Bucurei – Lacul Bucura – Poiana Pelegii – Şaua Plaiul Mic – Cabana Buta – Cheile Buţii – Câmpu lui Neag	Bandă Albastră (Triunghi Albastru)	18-19	Traseu ce traversează masivul de la N la S (Scurtătura din "Curba Soacrei" spre Gențiana)
2	Pui – Hobiţa – Creasta Şerelului – Refugiul Baleia – Culmea Cozma-Baleia – Vf. Lănciţa – Şaua Vf. Mare – Porţile Închise – Vf. Păpuşa – Şaua Pelegii – Vf. Peleaga – Curmătura Bucurei – Vf. Bucura I – Şaua Retezatului – Vf. Retezat – Şaua Lolaia – Lacul Ştevia – Pârtia Râuşor – Baza Salvamont Râuşor	Bandă Roşie	15 - 16	Traseu pe creasta principală nordică, ce traversează masivul de la E la V
3	Uricani – Curmătura Tulișa – Culmea Văcarea – Culmea Custura-Gruniu – Vf. Custura – Șaua Plaiul Mic – Culmea Drăcșanu – Piatra Iorgovanului – Șaua Paltina – Vf. Galbena – Vf. Godeanu	Bandă Roşie	15 - 16	Traseu pe creasta principală sudică ce traversează masivul de la E la V
4	Cabana Pietrele – Valea Pietrele – Valea Galeş – (Tăul dintre Brazi – Valea Galeş) – Lacul Galeş – Şaua Vf. Mare – Vf. Mare.	Triunghi Roşu (Punct Roşu)	4 (1)	(√arianta prin Tăul dintre Brazi)
5	Cabana Pietrele – Valea Rea – Tăurile din Valea Rea – Şaua Pelegii	Triunghi Galben	3	
6	Cabana Pietrele – Valea Stânișoarei – Lacul Stânișoara – Șaua Retezatului – Vf. Retezat	Triunghi Albastru	3	
7	Cabana Pietrele – Culmea Lolaia – Şaua Ciurila – Vf. Lolaia – Şaua Lolaia – Vf. Retezat – Şaua Retezatului – Poarta Bucurei – Tăul Porții – Lacul Bucura	Bandă Galbenă	5	
8	Cabana Pietrele – Valea Stânișoarei – Şaua Ciurila – Pârtia Râușor – Baza Salvamont Râușor	Cruce Albastră	2	
9	Lacul Galeş – Şaua Zănoagelor – Tăurile din Valea Rea – Şaua Pelegii	Cruce Roșie	2	
10	Valea Nucşoara – Cetatea Colţ	Triunghi Albastru	1	
11	Râu de Mori – Suseni – Valea Râuşor – Baza Salvamont Râuşor – Pârtia Râuşor – Valea Valereasca – Şaua Muncelu – Culmea Prelucele-Retezat – Vf. Retezat	Triunghi Roşu	7 - 8	
12	Brazi – Cabana Gura Zlata – Lacul Gura Apei – Cabana Rotunda – Lunca Berhina – Poiana Pelegii – Valea Peleaga – Tăul Ghimpele – Şaua Pelegii	Punct Albastru	15 - 16	
13	Cabana Gura Zlata – Casa Academiei – Valea Radeşu Mare – Cioaca Porumbelului – Platoul Radeş-Zlata – Lacul Zănoaga – Şaua Judele – Lacul Bucura	Triunghi Roşu	8	
14	Lacul Gura Apei – Culmea Zlata – Vf. Zlata - Platoul Radeș-Zlata – Lacul Zănoaga – Tău Rasucit – Culmea Slăveiu – Lacul Bucura	Cruce Albastră	8 - 9	
15	Lunca Berhina – Crucea Trăznitului – Culmea Slăveiu – Lacul Bucura	Punct Galben	7	
16	Refugiul Baleia – Culmea Cozma-Baleia – Şaua Gorova – Refugiul Stâna de Râu – Şaua Custurii – Valea Peleaga – Refugiul Salvamont Poiana Pelegii	Triunghi Albastru	7 - 8	
17	Pui – Hobița – Valea Râu Barbat – Stâna de Râu – Tăul Țapului – Porțile Închise	Punct Roșu	9 - 10	
18	Lacul Bucura – Lacul Lia – Lacul Ana – Lacul Viorica – Lacul Florica – Tăul Agățat – Tăul Porții – Lacul Bucurelu – Lacul Bucura	Punct Roşu	11	
22	Uricani – Dealul Şerpilor – Şaua Tulişa – Saua Bilugu – Vf. Bilugu – Vf. Văcarea – Vf. Lazărul – Vf. Custura – Vf. Păpuşa – Vf. Peleaga – Căldarea Berbecilor – Lacul Bucura	Cruce Galbenă	12-14	
26	Centru local de informare turistică Baru – Valea Bărişor – Refugiu turistic ∀f. Tulişa	Cruce Galbenă	4-5	

Considering the official (legalized) mountain trails from Salvamont, and inventory derived from the initial and follow-up reviews, (see annex for screenshots from multiple sites reviewed in the follow-up, listing trails in the area), there is a wide variety of routes, using various combinations of the same trails as well as a large number of random forest paths that are not legal trails on any official level. As such, the presented number of trails seems to be quite large but is relatively disconnected, not fully legalized and not well organized or consistent in both structure and presentation.

It should be noted that there are several routes in the below list for which, although they have different starting and ending points, they follow sections of the same route throughout their entire distance. This dual use of sections without proper clarity on what are and are not official trails acts to create the appearance of a broader network of existing trails than exists. Additionally, while separated into hiking/trail running and cycling routes, under Romanian law, mountain trails are classified as such without reference to hiking, trail running or mountain biking. This fact also leads to a lack of clarity of what and where the best trails for potential tourists exist and as such hurts the potential capitalization of the trail network for economic development purposes.

Regarding the routes, paths, and other locations that were inventoried in the initial phase of the study, all have been geolocated with GPS files obtained in the specific fulfilment of providing a GIS database for the inventoried items. The list of routes/locations reviewed so far is as follows (See the Annex for location details):

# b. Hiking/Trail Running Routes:

1. Câmpuşel - Piatra Iorgovanului - Scorota - Câmpuşel (Start/Finiş 45°15'45.3"N 22°52'14.6"E)

The trail starts from the Câmpuşel Hunting Lodge (Jiul de Vest), and heads towards the peak of Piatra Iorgovanului. Then continues to the mountain cabin at Stana Scorota before descending into the Scorota Valley towards DN66A, from where it returns to the Campuşel Hunting Lodge.

Difficulty: medium difficulty.

**2.** Campuşel Hunting Lodge – Piatra Iorgovanului – Lunca (Trail 28 Red Triangle) (Start/Finish 45°15'45.3"N 22°52'14.6"E / 45°15'44.6"N 22°52'14.6"E)

This is the connecting trail between the Campuşel Hunting Lodge (Jiul de Vest) and Lunca Berhina (Lăpuşnicu Mare valley) - crossing the Retezatul Mic ridge, over Vf. Piatra Iorgovanului.

Difficulty: easy/medium difficulty.

3. Campusel-Valea Soarbele-Vf Paltina-Vf Soarbele-Saua Paltina-Vf Stanuletii Mari-Vf Piatra Iorgovanului-Campusel (Start/Finiș 45°15'44.3"N 22°52'14.8"E)

The trail starts from the Campuşel Hunting Lodge (Jiul de Vest) and initially follows DN66A before climbing to the peak of Stanuleti Mari, from where it goes to the peak of Piatra Iorgovanului. Then, the trail returns to the Campuşel Hunting Lodge. (An additional descent section along DN66A is indicated in the GPX traces, marked from Campuşel, with an additional distance of 7 km.)

Difficulty: medium difficulty.

**4. Scorota – Piule** (Start/Finiș 45°16'28.7"N 22°54'03.6"E)

The trail starts from the base of the Scorota Valley, ascending to the mountain cabin at Stana Scorota. From there, it heads to the peak of Piule and then returns by descending through the Scorota Valley.

Difficulty: easy/medium difficulty.

5. DN 66A - Vf. Scorota - Cabana Buta (Start/Finis 45°16'28.9"N 22°54'04.1"E)

The trail starts from the base of the Scorota Valley, ascending to the mountain cabin at Stana Scorota. Then, the trail continues to Cabana Buta.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

**6. DN 66A - Scocul Urzicarului - (Drumeție)** (Start/Finiș 45°16'46.8"N 22°55'36.8"E)

The trail starts at Câmpul Mielului and follows the dry valley formed by the Uricarului stream. The trail continues uphill, reaching two rocky thresholds with high technical requirements before reaching Scocul Urzicarului.

Difficulty: medium difficulty.

**7. Cabana Buta - Vf. Piule - Vf. Pleşa - DN 66A** (Start/Finiş 45°19'16.1"N 22°54'25.0"E / 45°19'16.1"N 22°54'25.0"E)

The trail starts at the Buta mountain cabin and heads towards the peak of Piule through the Scorota Saddle. Then, the trail continues descending along a ridge to the peak of Pleşa, before descending to connect to DN66A, where it finishes in the Gura Butei area.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

**8. Retezat Sky Race-Piule** (Start/Finiș 45°18'04.8"N 22°58'38.3"E)

The trail starts at the Cuibului cu Dor cabin, descends to DN66A before heading towards the peak of Pleşa, and then towards the peak of Piule, before travelling to Salvamont Buta and Cabana Buta. From there, the trail descends to Cheile Butii and finishes where it started, at the Cuibului cu Dor cabin.

Difficulty: medium/difficult difficulty.

**9. Valea Mării** (Start/Finis 45°18'32.5"N 22°59'03.8"E)

The trail represents a short branch from other trails in the Cheile Butii area. It reaches a waterfall at the end and then returns to the main trail below.

Difficulty: difficulty.

# 10. DN 66A - Valea Lazarul and Valea Marii Waterfalls (Start/Finis 45°17'43.2"N 22°59'38.9"E)

The trail starts on DN66A below the fork towards the Cuibului cu Dor cabin and follows a stream to the base of the short path to the waterfalls accessed by the Valea Marii trail.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

## 11. Uricani - Tulisa - Papusa - Peleaga

(Start/Finish 45°20'03.8"N 23°07'34.3"E)

The trail starts in Uricani and heads towards the peak of Cumatura Tulisa. From there, it continues to pass by the peaks of Pilugul Mic, Pilugul Mare, Vacarea, Custura, and Vârful Papusa, before finishing at Peleaga.

Difficulty: medium/difficult difficulty.

#### 12. Muttu neg

(Start/Finish 45°17'59.9"N 23°13'29.7"E / 45°17'59.9"N 23°13'29.7"E)

The trail is a short hike from a peak located just a few kilometres from the Mutu peak above the Straja Resort. It winds (descending, then ascending, then descending) and finishes at the Straja ski resort.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

## 13. Paroseni - Vf. Pilugu - Piatra Iorgovanului - M-tii Godeanu

(Start/Finish 45°21'56.7"N 23°16'06.1"E / 45.281892, 22.825849)

The trail starts between Vulcan and Lupeni, ascending to the peak of Pietrii and then traverses the entire ridge passing by several peaks along the way, including Tulisa, Pilugu Mic and Mare, and Piatra Iorgovanului, finishing just below the peak of Stanuleti Mari.

Difficulty: difficult difficulty.

# 14. Parâng Chairlift - Apres Ski Parâng - Pârtia B - Chairlift

(Start/Finish 45°23'36.2"N 23°26'44.5"E)

The trail starts from the base of the Parâng gondola and follows a road to a point just below the peak of the same gondola. It continues through the forest and then descends on another road, ending again at the base of the gondola.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

#### 15. Şaua Scurtu – Lacul Mija

(Start/Finish 45°22'45.6"N 23°30'40.1"E)

The trail is a short one located above the Parâng ski resort. It moves along the ridge between the peaks of Piatra and Scurtu towards Lacul Mija, situated in a more isolated area.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

#### 16. Salvamont Parâng Headquarters - Jiet - Petrila

(Start/Finish 45°23'03.4"N 23°28'14.3"E / 45°23'03.4"N 23°28'14.3"E)

The trail starts from the top of the Parâng gondola, initially directly below it, before continuing on a road that descends to the base of the gondola. From there, it follows a local road down to the center of Petrila.

Difficulty: easy difficulty.

# 17. Petrila - Cabana Groapa Seaca – Plaiul lui Dancila – Lacul Verde - Lacul Inghetat (Start/Finish 45°27'06.1"N 23°23'49.0"E / 45°21'39.9"N 23°32'22.2"E)

The trail starts in Petrila and follows a road, DN7A until it meets the Jiet stream, where it continues on a path towards Lacul Verde and Carja. It also provides a short added portion to visit Lacul Mija.

Difficulty: easy/medium difficulty.

- **c. Bicycle Trails** (Note: the inventoried trails are for mountain biking, and road cycling routes have not been inventoried or revised yet):
  - 1. VJ Master Route pentru CJ (Start/Finis 45°16'23.6"N 22°57'29.9"E)

The trail begins on DN66A, approximately 7 km below the Campuşel Hunting Lodge (Jiul de Vest). It heads towards the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley, following the same ridge past Straja before descending into the valley just south of Petroşani. From there, the trail ascends towards the Parâng ski area. At this point, the path follows a ridge north of Petrila, passing by the peak of Vârful Lui Patru before turning back and passing just north of Petrila and Petroşani. The trail then continues along the ridge north of the Jiu Valley before descending through Valea di Brazi to DN66A, where it follows the road back to its original starting point.

Difficulty: Extremely Difficult

# 2. Dalma Cazuta - Gura Plaiului (Start/Finiș 45°16'19.5"N 23°05'13.9"E / 45°16'19.5"N 23°05'13.9"E)

The trail starts on the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley, above the Campu Lui Neag area. It follows for a short distance, connecting to another trail that allows descent back to the valley level.

Difficulty: Easy

#### 3. Pens retezat drum forest (Start/Finis 45°17'45.1"N 23°00'32.3"E)

The trail starts a short distance west of Campu lui Neag and heads south on a mostly unpaved forest/local road. It is a short but significant ascent, with numerous viewpoints along the way.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

#### 4. Pen ret ausyt (Start/Finis 45°17'44.8"N 23°00'33.1"E)

The trail starts from the same location as the one mentioned earlier. Initially, it follows the same route but continues much higher, reaching just below the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley, and then descends back.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

5. Câmpu lui Neag - Cabana Buta - Cheile Buții - Câmpu lui Neag (Start/Finiș 45°17'43.9"N 22°59'38.6"E)

The trail starts from DN66A at the access point to the dirt road that climbs below the hiking trail to Cascada Valea Marii but continues beyond to a trail leading to Cabana Buta. From there, the trail descends back but returns at the intersection with the dirt road to the waterfall instead of descending to Cheile Butii. It passes by that location and then returns to DN66A, reaching its original starting point.

Difficulty: Medium

6. Valea de Pesti - Muntele Siglaul Mare (Start/Finiș 45°18'17.7"N 23°03'46.9"E)

The trail starts just east of Campu lui Neag and follows a dirt road up Valea de Pesti, then turns right to follow another dirt road leading to the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley.

Difficulty: Medium

7. The Tulisa War Monument MTB Trail (x-country) (Start/Finiș 45°20'10.5"N 23°05'10.1" E)

The trail starts on the northern slope above Uricani. It ascends, passing by Cabana Tulisa, reaching its highest point at Curmatura Tulis, and returns descending on the same path.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

8. Valea de Pesti - Cheile Sohodolului - Rachiti (Runcu) (Start/Finiș 45°18'17.9"N 23°03'47.4"E / 45°05'15.5"N 23°09'14.2"E)

The trail starts east of Campu lui Neag and follows Valea de Pesti to the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley. The trail then descends south, eventually ending just north of Târgu Jiu.

Difficulty: Medium

9. Balomir to straja (Start/Finis 45°19'58.9"N 23°07'39.8"E / 45°21'14.6"N 23°12'38.0"E)

The trail starts in Uricani and follows the dirt road passing by Cheile Balomir, climbing to the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley. Then, the trail follows the ridge to the Straja ski resort, where it descends through the Baloo trail to Lupeni.

Difficulty: Medium

10. Tusu negrele (Start/Finis 45°20'24.2"N 23°10'19.5"E)

The trail starts just west of Lupeni, following a combination of local dirt roads and forest paths uphill to the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley. It reaches below the ridge, following a similar combination of local dirt roads and forest paths to finish at the same location it started.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

#### 11. Straja XC loop (Start/Finis 45°18'56.1"N 23°14'35.7"E)

The trail starts from the Straja ski resort, following a dirt road west below the ridge and eventually joins the ridge for a short period further west before turning back and following it back to the ski resort.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

#### 12. Straja varf (Start/Finis 45°18'28.7"N 23°15'50.8"E / 45°18'28.3"N 23°15'05.9"E)

The trail is very short, descending from the summit of Straja to Lake Mutu.

Difficulty: Easy

# 13. Lupilor – Straja (Start/Finiș 45°19'28.8"N 23°14'08.1"E / 45°20'18.1"N 23°13'02.5"E)

The starting point of the trail is at the first large bend on the descent road from the resort, approximately 60 meters after the waste storage area. The trail entrance is marked with a wooden sign (found in images in the photo gallery). Subsequently, the trail is distinguished by a marking tape, combining red and white colors. The trail descends to the intersection with the car road, from where it also descends on the road to the gondola intersection.

Difficulty: Medium

# 14. Baloo Flow – Straja (Start/Finiş 45°19'18.3"N 23°14'06.2"E / 45°20'04.5"N 23°13'13.6"E)

The starting point of the trail is near the green cage of Baloo the Bear, specifically in the parking lot behind the Montana Complex. The Baloo trail winds down the valley on a path with a width of 80-100 cm, with naturally built slopes from earth, along the gondola of the resort. The trail combines beech forest with meadows and the ski slope to the gondola boarding station.

Difficulty: Medium

# 15. Arcanu Bistritu Vaja (Start/Finiş 45°20'51.3"N 23°11'42.2"E)

The trail starts in Lupeni and follows DN66A past Campu lui Neag before heading south, ascending over the southern ridge above the Jiu Valley. From there, it descends to Pestisani before climbing again to cross the southern ridge once more and descend into the Jiu Valley, just west of where it turned to climb. Then, it returns to Lupeni on the same road, DN66A.

Difficulty: Difficult

# 16. Tulisa Dealul Babii Vulcan (via Lupeni and Uricani) (Start/Finiș 45°21'01.0"N 23°12'01.5"E)

The trail starts in Lupeni, following DN66A up past Uricani before heading north towards Curmatura Tulisa. It then follows the ridge passing by Tulisa peaks and Varful Mic before turning further north before joining DJ666 road, where it turns south towards Vulcan and then follows DN66A back to Lupeni.

Difficulty: Difficult

### 17. Oboroca MTB (Start/Finis 45°22'02.1"N 23°11'10.2"E)

The trail starts above Lupeni, ascending to Cascada Mierlei. It passes this point and continues up before descending on a trail below Piscul Oborcii, where it descends back to its original starting point.

Difficulty: Medium

# 18. Baru Mare - poale Vf Mic (Start/Finiş 45°24'00.1"N 23°07'51.2"E / 45°28'14.0"N 23°09'58.2"E)

The trail starts below the peak of Varful Mic and is a long descent towards the settlement of Baru.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

# 19. Pasul Vulcan Flow trail (Start/Finiș 45°19'36.1"N 23°17'31.8"E / 45°21'14.2"N 23°17'22.7"E)

The trail starts at the top of the gondola above the town of Vulcan and descends to the base of the same gondola.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

# 20. Gambrinus - Campu lui Neag (Start/Finiș 45°22'06.5"N 23°21'56.4"E / 45°18'17.4"N 23°03'46.9"E)

The trail starts just south of Petroşani and climbs past the peaks of Candetu, Dragoiu, and Tenia before descending to Jiu-Paroşeni and then heading back up to the Mutu peak above the Straja ski resort. It then follows the ridge west towards Valea de Pesti, where it descends to DN66A.

Difficulty: Difficult

#### 21. Fox Trail Parang (Start/Finis 45°23'02.4"N 23°28'18.4"E / 45°23'36.0"N 23°26'46.8"E)

The trail starts from the top of the gondola at Parâng. It is a technical gravity trail and, while moderate at the beginning, becomes quite technical and challenging in the lower part before ending at the bottom of the gondola.

Difficulty: Medium

# 22. Valea Arsului - Unex - Poieniţa (Start/Finiş 45°26'51.0"N 23°25'06.0"E)

The trail starts in the eastern part of Petrila and initially follows a local road before entering a path through the forest. The trail ascends quite a bit before turning back and descending past Unex Lake, ultimately back to its original starting point. Difficulty: Easy/Medium

# 23. Cheile Roşia (Start/Finiş 45°26'30.2"N 23°21'44.6"E / 45°27'05.4"N 23°23'09.2"E)

The trail starts west of Petrila and heads north of the town passing by Cheile Roşia along the way. It then reaches the highest point after just over 10 km before returning mostly on the same route, with a slight variation in the later portion returning to the east of Petrila.

Difficulty: Easy/Medium

#### 24. Sureanu (Start/Finis 45°26'59.1"N 23°24'19.0"E)

The trail starts in Petrila and ascends past Cheile Taii towards the peak of Sureanu. It then continues following a ridge that loops to meet the original trail a little further from Cheile Taii, before descending to its original starting point.

Difficulty: Medium

### d. 10 climbing locations and 4 other related areas considered for infrastructure investment.

- 1. Campusel Climbing Area (45°15'48.6"N 22°52'14.7"E)
- 2. Ursului Valley Climbing Area (45°16'01.0"N 22°52'44.3" E)
- 3. Boschetarului Climbing Area (45°16'10.0"N 22°53'12.5"E)
- 4. Climbing Area No. 5 (45°16'29.1"N 22°53'49.0" E)
- 5. Clopotnita Climbing Area (45°16'24.8"N 22°53'42.4"E)
- 6. Fallen Rock Climbing Area (45°16'06.8"N 22°53'00.7" E)
- 7. Urzicarului Climbing Area (45°16'53.2"N 22°55'33.4"E)
- 8. Valea de Brazi Climbing Area (45°33'91.44"N 23°08'29.08" E)
- 9. Valomir Gorges Climbing Area (45°32'49.31"N 23°13'72.12" E)
- 10. Tăii Gorges Climbing Area (45°47'39.21"N 23°41'69.71" E)

#### e. Other related locations:

- i. For a possible whitewater park:
- 1. Confluence of West Jiul and East Jiul Rivers (45°36'91.89"N 23°36'69.10"E)
- 2. West Jiul at the Lupeni Dam Location (45°36'20.77"N 23°24'67.42"E)
- 3. West Jiul at the Fazela Park Location in Uricani (45°33'38.43"N 23°12'42.16"E)
  - *ii.* Developing a dedicated cross-country mountain bike center (meeting UCI XCO standards):

1. Area south of Petrila, around Lake Maleia (45°25'57.0"N 23°23'28.3" E)

Upon completion of follow-up meetings with local stakeholders in Petrila (municipal representatives and representatives of the local NGO 'San Montan' with a site visit included at the end of the meeting, an alternative location that offered better potential and fit to the existing municipal plans was discussed. (Information on this location can be found within the meeting summary for Petrila below)

2. Unex lake area (45°26'01.9"N 23°25'50.5"E)

#### III. MEETINGS/LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Presented here are first the summaries of initial stakeholder meetings that took place during the initial location visit. They are followed by summaries of the meetings held during the second site visit. Given the second visit meetings were primarily held with municipal representatives, specific infrastructure needs and existing plans were able to be derived from those meetings. Where the municipalities were able to provide location and project information, those details are provided within the scope of each meeting summary.

Regarding the initial meetings, involved were a small group of local stakeholders and individuals most active in outdoor recreation in the Jiu Valley. The purpose of these discussions has been to assess the inventory of trails and outdoor recreation locations in the region and their current status. Additional discussions took place concerning infrastructure elements, addressing deficiencies, and devising improvement strategies. These meetings resulted in the provision of a list of inventoried trails and locations, accompanied by feedback on the development potential in other areas.

# b. Initial visit meetings:

- 1. A meeting with Dana Bates, the founder of the "New Horizons Foundation" NGO, active in the region for many years, contributing actively to the development and mapping of biking and hiking trails. He provided significant insights into the area's potential and highlighted the most critical improvement needs.
- 2. A meeting with Filipe Silva, a local of Brazilian origin and a climbing enthusiast, also the founder of "Fara Limite," the only operational climbing gym in the region. Filipe, well-informed about climbing opportunities, both current and potential, shared feedback on active climbing locations, their quality, and the necessary infrastructure improvements.
- 2.1. A second meeting was held with Filipe online just before the second site visit. During this visit, he presented the exemplary youth outreach his organization has been able to do and indicated that he has good cooperation with the Municipality of Vulcan, who provide him with the space he is using as a climbing gym. He indicated that he does lack space to provide safe instruction for lead climbing and that there is a need to expand on the location he is in to both give that ability as well as to accommodate the large volume of youths using the space.
  - 3. Meetings and on-site visits with Marius Bucur, Owner and Founder of Valea Jiului Outdoor, a local outdoor tourism initiative. Marius provided significant information about biking and hiking trails in the area, accompanying visits to specific locations and trails on both the northern and southern ridges of the valley. He offered critical insights into accessibility

and necessary infrastructure upgrades, providing access to numerous geographically located trails (GPX files) and detailed information about discussed locations and trails.

4. Follow-up and additional meetings

#### Initial group presentation to representatives of the Municipalities

The meetings included; Uricani City Hall - Sorin Inel, Vulcan City Hall - Maria Raducanu, Petrosani City Hall - Ovidiu Câmpean and Paula Dragoş, Aninoasa City Hall - Sfia Ion Sfia, Petrila City Hall - Marius Haljiu. Representatives of Lupeni were unable to attend this initial presentation and discussion but were met with individually at a later time as were all of the municipalities who were present. Additionally present were ADTI JV representatives Alexandru Keleman and Elena Parvan.

The meeting with representatives proved both informative and promising. The consultant initiated the session with a comprehensive presentation, introducing himself and providing insights into the progress achieved in his ongoing engagement.

The focal point of the presentation centered on the outdoor tourism potential of the Jiu Valley, specifically in Mountain Biking, Hiking/Trail Running, Rock Climbing, and Whitewater Rafting/Kayaking. The consultant shared findings from the review of existing infrastructure and identified essential requirements for supporting outdoor tourism development in the region.

An important observation highlighted the abundance of 'indicated' trails in the area. However, the consultant underscored the need for organization, pointing out the overlapping of multiple trails. To address this issue, he proposed establishing a clearer layout for the trail network, reducing the number of trails, and allowing for the development of thematic routes or routes of particular interest. This strategic measure aims to enhance the overall outdoor experience for enthusiasts.

Emphasis was placed on the need for substantial support for Rock Climbing, given the numerous high-quality areas in the Jiu Valley. The consultant emphasized creating a conducive environment for climbers and ensuring sustainable development in this specific outdoor activity.

The presentation also outlined promising prospects for Whitewater Rafting and Kayaking, with three potential locations identified for the development of a Whitewater Park. Envisioned as not only a tourist attraction but also a sports venue and a local social benefit, this park holds promise for the economic and recreational growth of the region.

Furthermore, the proposal for a gravity-oriented Bike Park and a UCI XCO Trail Center showcased the consultant's comprehensive approach to outdoor tourism development. These initiatives, similar to the Whitewater Park, have the potential to bring significant benefits to both tourism and the local community.

In conclusion, the meeting established a solid foundation for collaborative efforts between the consultant and the municipalities. The potential for a well-organized and thriving outdoor tourism sector in the Jiu Valley is evident, and with strategic planning and collective action, success appears attainable. Representatives left the meeting with optimism and a shared commitment to realizing the full potential of the region's outdoor offerings.

# Local MTB and outdoor operator 'Straja Extreme' (Talita and Razvan Amurăriței, owners of Straja Extreme Park)

The meeting with the local mountain bike school and camp operator was very insightful, shedding light on the untapped potential for mountain biking in the Jiu Valley. The operator expressed a strong belief in the market for developing mountain bike trails and outlined several key areas of focus for the growth of this niche in the region.

First and foremost, the operator stressed the need for a proper flow/family trail tailored for beginning mountain bikers. They indicated the importance of catering to a diverse range of skill levels, this emphasis on inclusivity is seen as a positive step towards making mountain biking accessible to a broader audience. While acknowledging the existing reputation for quality mountain bike trails in the area, the operator highlighted the shortfall in quantity. This perspective aligns with the consultant's proposal to streamline and organize the trail network, creating a more cohesive and appealing outdoor experience. The operator indicated a need for a skills development area and a proper XCO trail center, demonstrating a commitment to fostering both entry-level engagement and advanced skill development. This holistic approach aligns well with the broader vision of the consultant, aiming to establish the Jiu Valley as a comprehensive outdoor tourism destination.

A notable aspect of the meeting was the operator's keen awareness and expression of the need to raise the local population's awareness about mountain biking. Community engagement initiatives are crucial for cultivating local support and ensuring that the benefits of outdoor tourism are widely understood and embraced.

The operator's expressed willingness to contribute materially, including trail-building tools and shuttle services for trail builders, reflects a commendable spirit of collaboration. Such local support is invaluable for the successful execution of the proposed trail development projects.

There was a suggestion to have a single bike park ticket for two potential areas, Vulcan and Parang, which represents a practical and visitor-friendly approach. This not only enhances convenience for tourists but also promotes a unified, integrated and coherent identity for the mountain biking experience in the Jiu Valley.

Lastly, they emphasised the need to establish a proper trail maintenance mechanism/management underscores a commitment to long-term sustainability. It aligns with the consultant's approach to not only building trails but to ensure their ongoing maintenance and sustainability.

In summary, the meeting with the local mountain bike school and camp operator has opened up exciting possibilities for the development of mountain biking in the Jiu Valley. Their insights and support, coupled with the consultant's strategic vision, create a strong foundation for a thriving mountain biking destination with benefits for both tourists and the local community.

# Laurențiu Petreanu, (Main Organizer of Red Bull Oslea Hike & Ride, Oslea Run and cooorganizer of Retezat Sky Race until 2021)

Given the role of Mr. Petreanu as the organizer of a major event that specifically capitalizes on the trail networks in the Jiu Valley, the discussion with him focused primarily on needs relating to that network. He

reiterated that which was confirmed by virtually all stakeholders, that there is a serious need to rationalize the trail network. He also, as did many other stakeholders, discussed the existing problems with trail maintenance, which it was acknowledged, was in part due to the lack of clarity with the overall trail network. Multiple ideas were discussed regarding how to address the trails. These included outsourcing the service, collaborating with local NGOs, and improving human capacity at Salvamont amongst others. There was agreement that setting up a system to relieve the burden of trail maintenance Salvamont deals with is a priority. It was indicated that there are material problems that are also an issue, including a lack of tools to do the maintenance work. He indicated that for one of the events he organized he had to go up and clean/prepare the entire trail himself as it was completely overgrown with vegetation. However, he also indicated that the chosen path may not have been part of the 'legal' network of trails, reinforcing the need to rationalize and make clear the broader trail network as a whole).

The discussion also included the need for greater funding to support outdoor-oriented events i

n the Jiu Valley, with a direct discussion of the place that outdoor competitions have within the tourism development strategy for the area. Discussing the events that he organizes, some items that were brought up were well beyond the scope of this study, specifically problems with the local roads and the need to pave them better. That said, He made it clear that while he has been able to build good events, father support to bring the events to a greater level would, in his opinion have a multiplier effect as the higher the profile the event can get, the easier it would be for him to bring in sponsors, which in turn will add to the long term sustainability of the events as well as the ability to expand into newer events that further capitalize on the regions natural assets.

#### Petrosani Municipality representative (Paul Ponycski, manager and administrator of Parang Resort)

The meeting with the representative from Petrosani, associated with the Parang ski area and a trail builder with hands-on experience, provided valuable insights into the potential for mountain biking development in the Jiu Valley, with a specific focus on the Parang mountain.

The representative's strong conviction that the area offers excellent terrain for expanding the existing trail network sets an optimistic tone for the future of mountain biking in the region. His expertise as a trail builder and the creator of the only proper mountain biking trail on Parang Mountain added a practical dimension to the discussion.

The proposal for a 'skills development' area, featuring an easier trail along with elements like jumps and drops, is a thoughtful approach to cater to a range of skill levels. This initiative aligns well with the broader vision of creating a diverse and inclusive mountain biking experience for enthusiasts of all backgrounds.

The identification of clear areas within the forest for potential trail development indicates a strategic approach to utilizing the natural landscape. The acknowledgement that these trails would be considered 'expert' due to the steep terrain adds a layer of challenge that could attract more experienced riders seeking adrenaline-pumping experiences.

The mention of a former DH (Downhill) race trail under one of the lifts represents an exciting opportunity to revive a historical element of the mountain. This not only adds to the variety of trails but also taps into the nostalgia and legacy of mountain biking in the area.

A critical point raised in the discussion was the need for a robust trail management system. The representative highlighted the past neglect of trails due to the absence of proper, full-time trail maintenance staff. This insight underscores the importance of establishing a sustainable infrastructure to ensure the regular maintenance and longevity of the trail network.

The representative's mention of the positive impact on trail usage during periods of regular maintenance, attracting visitors from distant cities for day trips, emphasizes the potential economic benefits of a well-maintained trail network. The prospect of drawing visitors from 3 to 4 hours away (and potentially even further) signifies the regional appeal of the mountain biking offerings.

The discussion also touched upon the idea that an expanded trail network would encourage visitors to stay longer, contributing to a more immersive experience for guests and critically, generating greater economic returns for the local communities.

In summary, the meeting with the Petrosani representative and trail builder adds a practical and hands-on perspective to the mountain biking development plans. The combination of local expertise, strategic trail development ideas, and a keen understanding of the need for trail management creates a strong foundation for the envisioned growth of mountain biking in the Parang mountain area and the broader Jiu Valley.

### **Lupeni meeting (Condoiu Cristofor from Lupeni City Hall)**

In a meeting with representatives of the Municipality of Lupeni, the focus centered on the municipality's plans to bolster outdoor tourism infrastructure around the Straja ski resort, building it into a year-round destination. After an initial review of the efforts by ADTI JV to collect and inventory infrastructure assets and needs relating to outdoor tourism development, the municipality presented a comprehensive plan, currently in development, outlining various components aimed at enhancing the resort's functionality.

The proposed developments include:

#### 1. Adventure Trails:

- Trail 1: 379m
- Trail 2: 319m
- Trail 3: 91m
- Trail 4: 186m
- Trail 5: 362m
- Trail 6: 250m

#### 2. Junior MTB Trail:

Length: 506m

#### 3. Bob Coaster Track:

• Length: 1030m

# 4. Administrative Building:

• Area: 527 sq m

• Functions: Ticket house, equipment storage, employee space, guard area

## 5. Camping Area:

• Accommodates 50 tents

• Total area: 900 sq m

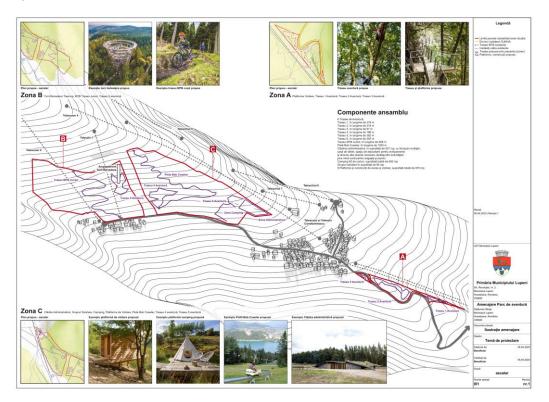
# 6. Sanitary Facilities:

• Area: 80 sq m

# 7. Platforms and Access/Viewing Structures:

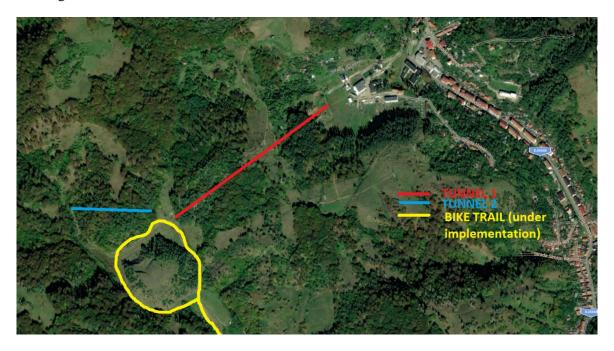
• Total area: 975 sq m

During the meeting, the representatives discussed the current phase of the project, which involves the preparation of technical documentation necessary for implementation. The municipality has already secured a target funding source of 8,000,000.00 euros for the entire project once the technical documentation is complete. This collaborative effort, with insights from ADTI JV's infrastructure assessment, underscores the strategic partnership between the municipality and external consultants. The municipality expressed a need for technical assistance in preparing this documentation to expedite the project's development and streamline the timeline for completion. They emphasized that any support in this regard would significantly contribute to the successful implementation of the outlined plans for the Straja ski resort. (The site plan for Straja Adventure Park is seen below. 45°18'36.2"N 23°14'48.3"E)



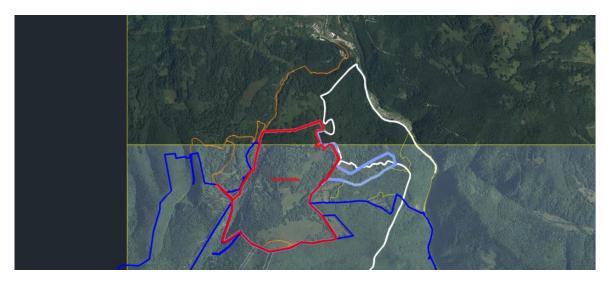
## Aninoasa meeting (Sfia Ion - Vicemayor of Aninoasa City Hall)

The meeting with the municipality of Aninoasa focused on two potential infrastructure development projects aimed at promoting outdoor tourism in the broader Jiu Valley region. The first proposal involves the reclamation and rehabilitation of two old mine caves, approximately 800m and 200m long. The plan includes converting these caves into the starting point of a hike and bike trail leading to the northern ridgeline transversal trail above the Jiu Valley, ultimately connecting it to Retezat National Park on the western edge.



Location of the caves: 45°24'29.6"N 23°18'26.9"E

The second proposal centers around the development of a recreation area in the vicinity of Gambrinus Lodge. This area would serve as an outdoor recreation hub, directly linking with the southern ridgeline above the valley. Additionally, there are plans to establish camping facilities in this location, addressing a pressing need in the valley.



Location of the area is in the vicinity of 45°21'56.7"N 23°21'52.0"E

Both projects aim to boost outdoor tourism and recreation in the region, contributing to the economic and social development of Jiu Valley. However, when comparing the two, the second proposal involving the development of the recreation area near Gambrinus Lodge appears to have better potential for several reasons.

Firstly, the Gambrinus Lodge location offers a strategic position for outdoor enthusiasts, connecting directly to the southern ridgeline and providing access to Parang Mountain. This connectivity enhances the overall appeal of the area and opens up opportunities for extended outdoor activities.

Secondly, the inclusion of camping facilities in the Gambrinus Lodge area addresses a significant need in the valley. The lack of camping facilities has been identified as a gap in the current tourism infrastructure, and addressing this demand is crucial for attracting a diverse range of visitors.

Lastly, the Gambrinus Lodge project complements the existing natural features of the southern ridgeline, creating a seamless integration of infrastructure with the landscape. This harmonious development approach is likely to enhance the overall experience for tourists and contribute to the sustainable growth of outdoor tourism in the Jiu Valley region.

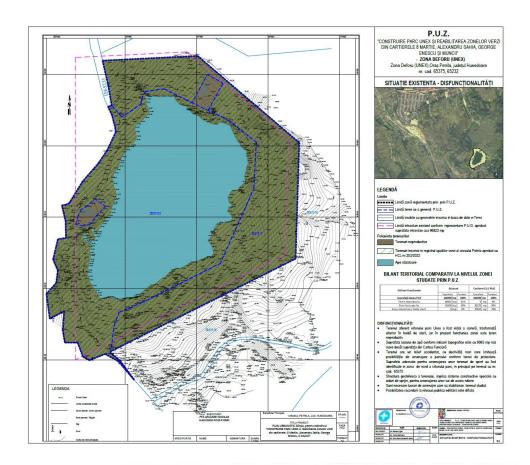
In conclusion, while both proposed infrastructure projects have merit, the development of the recreation area near Gambrinus Lodge stands out as having better potential due to its strategic location, provision of camping facilities, and seamless integration with the natural surroundings. This project has the potential to not only meet the immediate needs of outdoor enthusiasts but also contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of tourism in the Jiu Valley region.

# Petrila Meeting (Petrila City Hall - Marius Haljiu, San Montan - Erika Santa, Other stakeholders - Cristi Draghici, Vasile Laurentiu Sorin)

The meeting with representatives of the Municipality of Petrila, along with key stakeholders in outdoor tourism, specifically Erika Santa from a local non-profit organization, San Montan, provided a comprehensive overview of the ongoing efforts to support the integrated development of outdoor recreation and tourism in the broader Jiu Valley.

The discussion began with a review of the interim report following the initial assessment of the area's potential for outdoor tourism. Initially considering Lacului Maleia for the development of an XCO MTB trail center, concerns arose regarding current usage and land ownership issues. In response, the municipal representatives introduced an alternative location, Unex Lake. They highlighted their ongoing project to develop Unex Lake into a sports and recreation area, emphasizing that an XCO MTB trail network at this site would not only align with their existing plans but also enhance the overall attractiveness of the development from both a local social and economic standpoint.

Unex Lake (based around coordinates 45°26'01.9"N 23°25'50.5"E)



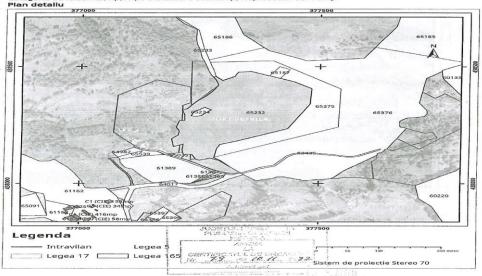


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This shift in focus to Unex Lake not only addresses potential challenges but also underscores the municipality's commitment to integrating outdoor tourism development with existing projects, fostering a more cohesive and synergistic approach. Furthermore, the municipality expressed ongoing discussions with local stakeholders, including Erika Santa's organization, indicating a shared vision to rationalize and optimize broader trail networks for both hiking and biking. The collaborative effort to streamline and organize trail networks, extending to the region just north of the municipality, reflects a holistic approach to outdoor tourism development.

Erika Santa's involvement, particularly in organizing mountain biking activities and events for local youths and the broader community, adds a community-centric dimension to the meeting. The collaborative initiatives discussed align with the broader context of promoting social engagement and economic development through outdoor recreation. Specific discussions were also had in which it was discussed that there is a need to grow the events that are currently happening as well as expand the number of them, but there is a need for financial support to get the events to a higher level of exposure and relevance so that they can play a role in supporting the tourism strategy for the area and its specific reference to supporting competitions and other related events that will promote the area's natural, (and planned) infrastructure and natural assets.

In summary, the meeting in Petrila showcased a dynamic collaboration between the municipality, local stakeholders, and outdoor tourism enthusiasts. The shift to Unex Lake for the XCO MTB trail center, coupled with the commitment to rationalize trail networks, exemplifies a strategic and inclusive approach to integrated development in the broader Jiu Valley. The meeting not only addressed specific location challenges but also highlighted the potential for sustainable growth that balances social, economic, and recreational considerations.

Salvamont meetings (initially Remus Popescu, head of the local Salvamont Parang, with Ovidiu Bodean, the head of Salvamont Hunedoara & Anca Rusu - manager of the eco-destination Tara Hategului and Retezat Tourism Association joining later)

The two-part meeting with Salvamont provided essential insights into their role and needs in the Jiu Valley, focusing on the development of hike and bike trails and their impact on the broader outdoor recreation and tourism sector.

#### Part 1: Local Insights from the Parang Mountain Area

- Staffing Challenges: Salvamont is grappling with a critical shortage of paid staff, limiting their capacity for rescue operations and trail maintenance. Despite the use of volunteers, organizational and administrative challenges persist.
- *Need for Better Resources:* There's an urgent need for improved physical assets, such as updating deteriorating mountain huts and enhancing equipment for rescue and trail upkeep.

#### Part 2: County-Level Perspectives and Solutions

• Legal and Structural Issues: The legal classification of Salvamont as a national public service imposes constraints, particularly in staffing decisions. Overcoming these legal hurdles at regional and local levels remains difficult due to national legislation.

- Infrastructure Development: Salvamont needs support for establishing a base in Uricani, including workspace containers and a proper building. There is a substantial need to upgrade existing mountain huts from which Salvamont operates in the field. Additionally, updating emergency infrastructure like a helipad is crucial.
- Collaborative Approaches and Successes: Discussions highlighted potential solutions like outsourcing trail maintenance to local NGOs and involving volunteers, though national legal challenges are complex. The Hateg Tourism Organization's success in enhancing trails and attracting major events underscores the importance of high-quality trail development in boosting tourism.

Overall Impact on Jiu Valley Development: The challenges faced by Salvamont, including staff shortages, resource limitations, and legal constraints, directly affect the development of outdoor recreation and tourism in the Jiu Valley. Collaborative efforts and a focus on trail infrastructure can drive tourism growth. In summary, the meeting highlighted the immediate needs of Salvamont and the legal challenges they face, underscoring the importance of overcoming these obstacles for the broader integrated development of outdoor recreation and tourism in the Jiu Valley. Collaboration and advocacy at various levels will be essential to address these challenges and unlock the full potential of the region's outdoor offerings.

## Vulcan meeting (Maria Răducanu & Ovidiu Drăgoi, City Hall of Vulcan)

In the meeting with the Municipality of Vulcan, discussions centered on supporting the year-round valorization of the gondola (ski resort) above the city. The meeting approached with a broader perspective and considered the potential impact on the integrated development of outdoor recreation and tourism in the broader Jiu Valley.

#### Primary Areas of Discussion:

- 1. Mountain Biking Trail Development:
  - The existing mountain biking trail on the gondola terrain, while in poor condition and not
    managed effectively, confirmed the value of investing in further development. The municipality, owning the lift and the majority of the land, expressed interest in improving and
    expanding the trail network.

#### 2. Bike Park Development:

• The municipality, recognizing the potential, discussed plans for developing a bike park on the location. With ownership of the lift and substantial land, there was an acknowledgement of the ease of developing additional trails. Challenges related to privately owned parcels were recognized but deemed manageable.



The location of the base of the gondola is 45°21'14.4"N 23°17'24.8"E

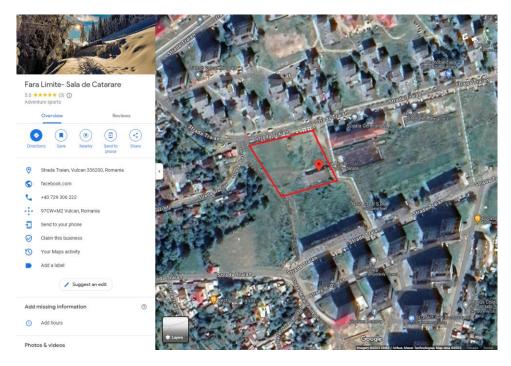
# 1. Family Flow Trail:

• Both the municipality and private operators expressed interest in developing a proper Family Flow trail as a main attraction. This aligns with the broader goal of attracting mountain biking enthusiasts to the area and enhancing the overall recreational offerings.

#### 2. Climbing Gym Expansion:

- In the context of the development discussions involving the local climbing club, Fara Limite-Sala de Catarare, and the municipality, the expansion of the climbing gym emerged as a pivotal project. The club, renowned for its active involvement in youth programs and climbing development within the Jiu Valley, underscored the pressing requirement to broaden its facilities, incorporating lead climbing and bouldering.
- Several pathways for expanding the climbing gym facilities were examined, with one option involving the acquisition of an additional building. However, cost considerations and administrative complexities weighed heavily in the decision-making process. After thorough evaluation, it was collectively determined that the most feasible approach would involve adapting and expanding the current site to accommodate the burgeoning capacity needs. This strategic choice reflects a practical balance between the club's aspirations for growth and the realities of cost-effective expansion within the municipality.

 The Municipality of Vulcan demonstrated substantial interest and provided positive feedback on both the bike park and climbing gym expansion ideas. The potential benefits for local engagement, tourism, and overall outdoor recreation development were acknowledged.



Location of the existing climbing gym: 45°22'19.2"N 23°17'41.6"E

# **Broader Context of Jiu Valley Development:**

- The commitment to improving mountain biking trails and developing a bike park aligns with the broader goal of integrated outdoor recreation and tourism development in the Jiu Valley.
- The recognition of privately owned parcels and the willingness to work around them reflects a collaborative approach to ensure responsible and sustainable development.
- The expansion of climbing facilities addresses the growing interest in climbing activities and youth engagement, contributing to the overall appeal of the Jiu Valley as an outdoor destination.

In summary, the meeting with the Municipality of Vulcan showcased a proactive approach to developing outdoor recreation assets. The discussions on mountain biking trail development, the creation of a bike park, and the expansion of climbing facilities contribute not only to Vulcan's local appeal but also to the broader vision of positioning the Jiu Valley as a comprehensive and attractive outdoor recreation destination. The positive feedback from the municipality indicates a commitment to the successful implementation of these projects.

#### **Uricani meeting (Uricani City Hall - Sorin Inel)**

The meeting with Uricani covered three primary areas and reaffirmed developing needs trends for the Jiu Valley. Firstly, Uricani was the only municipality to express substantial interest in the development of a

whitewater park, (at the identified site provided during the initial review/report, West Jiul at the Fazela Park Location in Uricani - 45°33'38.43"N 23°12'42.16"E). The Municipal representative had informed the mayor of the concept following its presentation at the initial group presentation earlier in the week and received an indication from him that the municipality was interested in such a project. Additionally, the representative indicated and presented the number of hiking trails he had personally marked, established GPX traces for and maintained, also indicating that while he is a volunteer with Salvamont, the organization lacks the human and equipment resources to adequately maintain and control the trail network. He agreed that there is a need to establish some type of mechanism that will allow for improved trail maintenance and marking/signage. He further indicated that there would be a need on both the northern and southern ridgelines for some level of trail clearing and marking as both are currently lacking. He was also fully supportive of the need to develop climbing areas, indicating accurately that the majority of the indicated areas available for development are within Uricani's municipal lines.

The meeting was ultimately very efficient and served to confirm the need for trail rationalization as well as their desire to develop both whitewater activities and climbing within the municipality.

#### IV. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND INTEGRATED SUMMARY FROM THE MEETINGS:

The series of meetings with representatives from various municipalities and stakeholders in the Jiu Valley have collectively laid the groundwork for a comprehensive and integrated development plan for outdoor recreation and tourism. The consultant's presentations highlighted the untapped potential of the region, focusing on key areas such as Mountain Biking, Hiking/Trail Running, Rock Climbing, and Whitewater Rafting/Kayaking.

#### **Key observations:**

# A) Trail Network Organization:

- a. The existing abundance of trails in the area was recognized, but the lack of organization and overlapping paths posed a challenge.
- b. The proposal to establish a clearer layout for the trail network, reduce the number of trails, and create thematic routes aims to enhance the overall outdoor experience.

# **B)** Mountain Biking Development:

- c. Insights from local mountain bike operators emphasized the need for a family-friendly trail, skills development areas, and a proper XCO trail center.
- d. The proposal for a gravity-oriented Bike Park and a UCI XCO Trail Center aligns with the broader vision of a well-rounded mountain biking destination.

# C) Whitewater Rafting and Kayaking:

• Identified locations for a Whitewater Park hold promise for both tourism and local social benefits.

 Recognition of the economic and recreational growth potential associated with Whitewater activities.

## D) Climbing and Adventure Development:

- Emphasis on the need for substantial support for Rock Climbing in high-quality areas of the Jiu Valley.
- Proposals for the expansion of climbing facilities, development of climbing areas, and integration with local climbing clubs.

# **E)** Municipality Collaborations:

- e. Each municipality expressed interest and commitment to various projects, showcasing a collaborative effort toward integrated development.
- f. The willingness to address privately-owned parcels and work collaboratively ensures responsible and sustainable development.

#### F) Trail Maintenance and Salvamont Challenges:

- g. The Salvamont meetings highlighted critical challenges, including a shortage of staff and physical assets, legal constraints, and the need for infrastructure.
- h. Collaborative solutions, such as outsourcing trail maintenance to local NGOs, were discussed to address these challenges.

#### **G)** Strategic Shifts and Alternative Proposals:

The flexibility of municipalities, as seen in Petrila's shift to Unex Lake for the XCO MTB trail center, demonstrates adaptability and integration with existing projects.

# H) Tourism Infrastructure Expansion:

Proposals for adventure trails, MTB trails, bob coaster tracks, administrative buildings, camping areas, and viewing structures indicate a holistic approach to tourism infrastructure.

# I) The role of Salvamont is central to supporting outdoor recreation in the area and they have multiple areas that need investment:

Learned from all discussions and meetings held was the role of Salvamont in ensuring a safe area for outdoor recreation and while the difficulties of increasing their human resource capacity is indeed needed, there is a need to support them materially so as a means of modernizing their capacities as well as improving their efficiency with the scope of their limited human resource capacities.

# J) Events and their role in supporting and promoting the areas existing and soon-to-be-developed assets.

There was a clear recognition by multiple stakeholders that there is a greater need to support local events and competitions to help grow them on a broader scale, thereby supporting the tourism strategy for the Jiu Valley.

#### V. SPECIFIC CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Comprehensive Recommendations with Integrated Rationale**

The cumulative effect of these meetings suggests a promising future for outdoor tourism and recreation in the Jiu Valley. The strategic planning, collaboration between consultants, municipalities, and local stakeholders, and the focus on sustainability and community engagement provide a robust foundation. With clear objectives in place and a commitment to overcoming challenges, the Jiu Valley appears poised for success in becoming a thriving, well-organized, and attractive outdoor destination. The positive feedback, shared optimism, and commitment from all parties indicate a collective determination to realize the full potential of the region's outdoor offerings.

#### 1. Rationalization and enhancement of broader hike and bike trail network:

#### **Recommendation:**

- Establish four primary routes: the Parang area, North Valley ridgeline, South Valley ridgeline, and the region north of Petrila. Ensure the trails are properly marked and prepared.
- Build signs for all legal primary and secondary trails, locating them at all trailheads and trail intersections.
- Upgrade digital infrastructure to support the trail network, enhancing safety and visitor experience.

#### **Rationale:**

*Safety and Preservation:* The current lack of organization in the trail network poses safety risks and threatens the preservation of fragile ecosystems. A well-coordinated network with proper signage ensures safe navigation, reducing accidents and minimizing environmental impact.

Resource Efficiency: Efficient resource allocation becomes challenging without a rational trail system. A synchronized network allows authorities to focus on well-traveled paths, responding promptly to emergencies and conducting routine maintenance effectively.

Visitor Experience: A harmonized trail network contributes to a memorable visitor experience, promoting community engagement and supporting the local economy. Logical connections between trails make exploration seamless, enticing visitors to return and recommend the destination to others. The current abundance of trails lacks organization, affecting the overall visitor experience. By reducing the number of trails and creating thematic routes that capitalize on a more rational trail network, the region can provide a more streamlined and enjoyable outdoor experience.

Sustainability: Salvamont faces critical challenges, including staff shortages and legal constraints. Collaborative solutions, such as outsourcing trail maintenance to local NGOs, address these challenges sustainably, ensuring ongoing trail maintenance.

# 2. Development of Bike Parks at Parang and Vulcan:

#### Recommendations

- Develop Vulcan as a family-friendly area with easy to intermediate trails.
- Designate Parang for intermediate to expert mountain biking, focusing on more challenging trails.
- Provide and support all needed documentation for the effort and finance the development itself.

# Rationale:

*Economic Impact:* Mountain biking is a potential economic driver, drawing enthusiasts to the region. Conducting a cost-benefit analysis and feasibility studies ensures that investments align with sustainable tourism, maximizing economic benefits.

Sustainable Tourism: Thorough analysis and technical documentation are crucial for sustainable tourism development. This approach safeguards against haphazard growth and ensures long-term success in attracting mountain biking enthusiasts.

# 3. Expansion of Climbing Gym in Vulcan:

#### Recommendation

• Support the preparation of documentation and financing for the expansion of the climbing gym in Vulcan.

#### Rationale:

*Youth Activation:* The expansion of the climbing gym aligns with the goal of activating youth in the region. Rock climbing provides a healthy and engaging activity for young residents, fostering a sense of adventure and well-being.

*Tourism Appeal:* A well-supported climbing facility enhances the region's attractiveness to climbers and adventure enthusiasts, potentially becoming a niche tourism attraction.

Local Support: Raising local awareness about mountain biking and outdoor tourism benefits is crucial for garnering community support. Engaging the local population ensures a shared commitment to sustainable development, contributing to the success of outdoor tourism initiatives.

#### 4. XCO Trail Center in Petrila:

#### Recommendation

 Fund the construction of the XCO Trail Center at Unex including the provision of needed documentation as well as physical construction

#### **Rationale:**

Tourism Infrastructure: Integrating the XCO trail center with ongoing sports recreation area development contributes to robust tourism infrastructure. This expansion aligns with the broader vision for the area, potentially increasing tourism traffic.

Adaptability: The phased approach, starting with a pre-feasibility study and adjusting based on budget considerations, showcases adaptability. It allows the municipality to proceed in alignment with existing projects while ensuring financial feasibility.

Local Support: Raising local awareness about mountain biking and outdoor tourism benefits is crucial for garnering community support. Engaging the local population ensures a shared commitment to sustainable development, contributing to the success of outdoor tourism initiatives.

# 5. Support for Recreation Area and Camping Site near Gambrinus:

• Prepare a prefeasibility study for the site and depending on the results, provide additional support to the development of technical documentation.

#### **Rationale:**

*Diversification and economic development:* Assisting the Municipality of Aninoasa in preparing technical documentation supports the diversification of outdoor offerings. The recreation area and camping site near Gambrinus add variety, attracting visitors with different preferences.

# 6. Support for Municipality of Lupeni in Straja Expansion:

Provide technical assistance for the preparation of documentation for the Straja expansion project.

#### **Rationale:**

*Multiplier effect:* As the municipality already has another funding source in mind to finance the project, providing assistance would result in a greater impact than the relative level of investment.

Community Development: Providing assistance in preparing technical documentation for Straja's expansion supports the municipality's community development efforts. Highlighting their pursuit of additional funding emphasizes the collaborative approach to achieving project goals.

*Local Support:* Raising local awareness about mountain biking and outdoor tourism benefits is crucial for garnering community support. Engaging the local population ensures a shared commitment to sustainable development, contributing to the success of outdoor tourism initiatives.

#### 7. Prefeasibility Study for Whitewater Park in Uricani:

Initiate a pre-feasibility study for the proposed Whitewater Park, assessing its potential as a tourism
draw as well as its potential for social benefit with cross-reference to the technical challenges of
actually constructing the park.

#### Rationale:

*Tourism Attraction:* Initiating a pre-feasibility study for the proposed whitewater park addresses the region's potential as an adventure tourism destination. Whitewater activities have both economic and recreational growth potential, making them attractive to visitors seeking unique experiences.

*Local Support:* Raising local awareness about mountain biking and outdoor tourism benefits is crucial for garnering community support. Engaging the local population ensures a shared commitment to sustainable development, contributing to the success of outdoor tourism initiatives.

### 8. Support for improved signage and expansion of climbing areas:

- Provide material support to the local climbing community to expand the number of climbing routes.
- Improve signage for enhanced safety and accessibility in climbing areas.

#### **Rationale:**

Enhanced Safety and Accessibility: The development of improved signage is crucial for ensuring the safety of climbers and hikers, minimizing the risk of accidents and lost paths. Expanded climbing areas offer diverse experiences, attracting enthusiasts and contributing to the region's reputation as a climbing destination.

Youth Outreach and Activation: The expansion of climbing areas aligns with youth outreach and activation goals, providing a recreational avenue for young residents. Accessible climbing spaces engage the youth, fostering a sense of adventure and physical well-being.

Community Engagement: A well-signposted and expanded climbing network fosters community engagement, encouraging locals and visitors to explore the region's natural beauty. This initiative contributes to the overall appeal of the destination, supporting local social benefits and community well-being.

Local Economic Development: Improved signage and an expanded climbing network create opportunities for local businesses, from gear rental to guide services. This economic boost can further enhance the region's overall development and sustainability.

#### 9. Support to Salvamont on multiple levels

- Salvamont has multiple infrastructure needs. All should be considered and the most important should be fully funded to completion.
  - Full funding is needed to refurbish and equip at least two (up to four depending on cost)
    mountain huts from which Salvamont operates in the field. This included whatever technical documentation is needed as well as whatever construction and material cost may be
    determined
  - The base location in the valley within the Municipality of Uricani has multiple levels of potential support.
    - At a minimum there is a need to provide additional containers from which they operate.

- Documentation for the construction of a proper building to operate from long term is a minimum requirement and if financially feasible (upon completion of a prefeasibility study), full construction should be done.
- The organization has a lack of vehicles that can handle the terrain they have to cover, (difficult mountains dirt roads and paths). There is a need to do a proper needs assessment first, which would determine the exact number of vehicles and what type (expectations include 4x4 automobiles, pick-up trucks and ATVs).
- The existing rescue Heli-pads are in very poor condition. At a minimum, a pre-feasibility study should be done that would select one of the existing locations for rehabilitation and the decision as to whether to invest further would be determined by the forecast cost of the investment and whether enough budget is available to make that expense. While considered important, this is a lower priority than the base of operations development.

#### **Rationale:**

Enhanced Safety and Accessibility: Support for rescue services in the area is essential to ensuring the safety of visitors to the area which is a baseline and mandatory item for sustainable development of the outdoor-related tourism sector.

*Community Engagement:* The problems with human resource shortages cannot be easily overcome given the national-level scope of the problem. That said, local outreach and collaboration can go a long way to alleviating the problems.

Local Economic Development: Improved rescue services will support a positive view of the area by potential visitors who are often concerned with safety as a first item of consideration when visiting any destination. This economic boost can further enhance the region's overall development and sustainability.

# 10. Sprijin pentru evenimentele care promovează și finanțează infrastructura existentă și în dezvoltare.

There is a definite need to support local event organizers in order to promote and capitalize on the area's assets and potential. This support should come in a variety of forms.

- O Support for the NGO San Montan in growing its events is a definite need. This support should come both in the form of direct financial support for event organization, acquisition of mountain bikes and e-mountain bikes as well as related supplies (both for youths as well as for the organization to offer rental services which will aid in its long-term financial sustainability, as well as considering the provision of possible technical assistance (in the form of marketing consulting services, brand development, sponsor relations development and other areas as deemed needed). There are two reasons for this of which both critical.
  - The organization is exceptionally active in activating local youths. This is critical to the long-term sustainability of the area as there currently exists a lack of skilled outdoor labor in the valley and as the area grows, the need for quality, skilled outdoor workers will also grow. Additionally, there is a huge value from the standpoint of developing a local culture not just within the youth population but also from the generation that represents both their parents and grandparents, who will

- also gain a greater level of appreciation for outdoor recreation and tourism as a result of supporting and engaging the local youths.
- Sporting events that capitalize on the existing and developing assets of the region is a part of the tourism development plan for the valley for a reason, it recognizes that events of this variety will drive visitors to the area, who may then return as well as spreading the word about the assets of the area to their communities from wherever they came from.
- Oslea Hike & Ride and others) is needed. He has been able to succeed in slowly developing his events to the point where the trail running event he organizes is now included in the Ultra Trail Mont Blanc qualification event calendar. This is no small accomplishment and given the severe financial restrictions he faces in organizing these events, like San Montan, it is advisable to provide both direct financial assistance as well as considering and likely providing some level of technical assistance as well.

#### • Rationale:

Sustainability: The continuing success and role that events have in generating interest in a destination is valorized by its existence within the tourism development strategy. The need to support these events early on is critical to their ongoing success as failure of them can not only result in a lack of capitalization and social benefit at the moment, but it can also act as a deterrent to the development and success of other events that are likely to come in the future.

Community Engagement: Supporting the development of more events will have a great effect on the local population's awareness of the potential of the area, the likelihood of allowing or even encouraging their own children to get active would have a very positive impact.

Local Economic Development: raising the profile of events like these plays a critical role in growing the awareness level of the area to the broader public and generating wide appeal for the area. This will not just result in one-off increased revenues during the events themselves, but in raising the popularity of the region as a whole, it will ultimately have an economic effect on other local businesses from restaurants to retailers and other service providers.

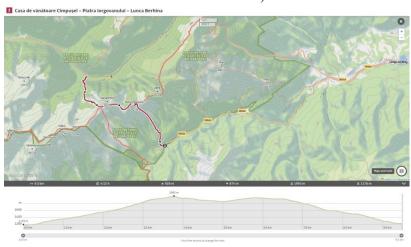
#### Annex

# Hiking & trail running trails:

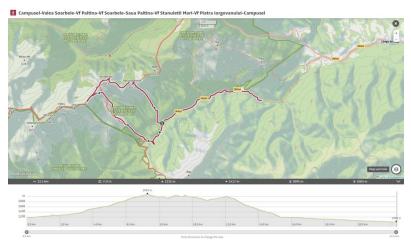
1. Câmpuşel - Piatra Iorgovanului - Scorota - Câmpuşel (Start/Finiş 45°15'45.3"N 22°52'14.6"E)



2. Casa de vânătoare Câmpușel – Piatra Iorgovanului – Lunca (Start/Finiș 45°15'45.3"N 22°52'14.6"E / 45°15'44.6"N 22°52'14.6"E)



3. Câmpuşel -Valea Soarbele-Vf Paltina-Vf Soarbele--Şaua Paltina-Vf Stănuleţii Mari-Vf Piatra Iorgovanului- Câmpuşel (Start/Finiş 45°15'44.3"N 22°52'14.8"E)



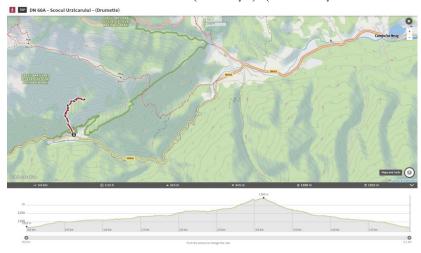
# $4. \quad Scorota-Piule \ (Start/Finis, \quad 45^{\circ}16'28.7"N \ 22^{\circ}54'03.6"E)$



#### 5. DN 66A - Vf. Scorota - Cabana Buta



# 6. DN 66A - Scocul Urzicarului - (Drumeție) (Start/Finiș 45°16'28.9"N 22°54'04.1"E)



7. Cabana Buta - Vf. Piule - Vf. Pleşa - DN 66A 66A (Start/Finiş 45°19'16.1"N 22°54'25.0"E / 45°19'16.1"N 22°54'25.0"E)



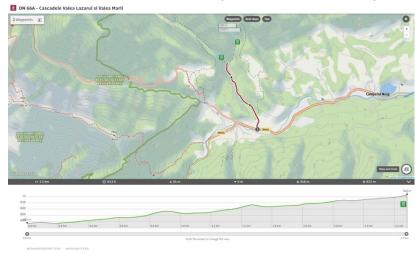
8. Retezat Sky Race-Piule (Start/Finiș 45°18'04.8"N 22°58'38.3"E)



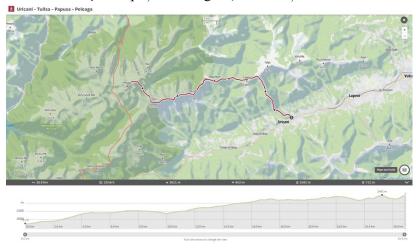
9. Valea Mării (Start/Finiș 45°18'32.5"N 22°59'03.8"E)



10. DN 66A - Cascadele Valea Lazărul și Valea Mării (Start/Finiș 45°17'43.2"N 22°59'38.9"E)



11. Uricani – Tulişa – Păpușa – Peleaga (Start/Finiș 45°20'03.8"N 23°07'34.3"E)



12. Muttu neg (Start/Finiș 45°17'59.9"N 23°13'29.7"E / 45°17'59.9"N 23°13'29.7"E)

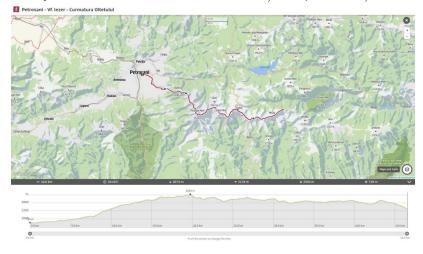


13. Paroșeni - Vf. Pilugu - Piatra Iorgovanului - M-ţii Godeanu (Start/Finiș 45°21'56.7"N 23°16'06.1"E / 45.281892, 22.825849)

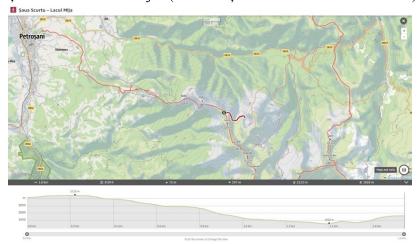


14. Petroșani - Vf. Iezer - Curmătura Oltețului (Start/Finiș

45°23'36.2"N 23°26'44.5"E)



15. Şaua Scurtu – Lacul Mija (Start/Finiş 45°22'45.6"N 23°30'40.1"E)



16. Sediul Salvamont Parâng - Jieț - Petrila (Start/Finiș 45°23'03.4"N 23°28'14.3"E / 45°23'03.4"N 23°28'14.3"E)



17. Petrila - Cabana Groapa Seacă— Plaiul lui Dăncilă – Lacul Verde - Lacul Înghețat (Start/Finiș 45°27'06.1"N 23°23'49.0"E / 45°21'39.9"N 23°32'22.2"E)



#### **Biking trails:**

1. VJ Master Route pentru CJ (Start/Finis 45°16'23.6"N 22°57'29.9"E)



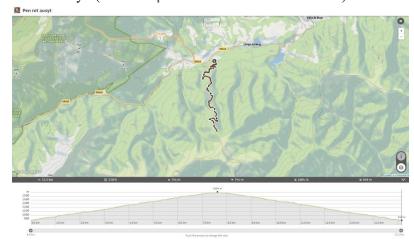
# 2. Dâlma Căzută - Gura Plaiului (Start/Finiș 45°16'19.5"N 23°05'13.9"E / 45°16'19.5"N 23°05'13.9"E)



3. Pens retezat drum forest (Start/Finiș 45°17'45.1"N 23°00'32.3"E)



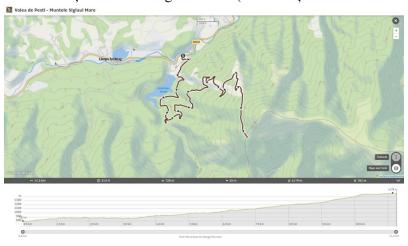
4. Pen ret ausyt (Start/Finiș 45°17'44.8"N 23°00'33.1"E)



5. Câmpu lui Neag - Cabana Buta - Cheile Buții - Câmpu lui Neag (Start/Finiș 45°17'43.9"N 22°59'38.6"E)



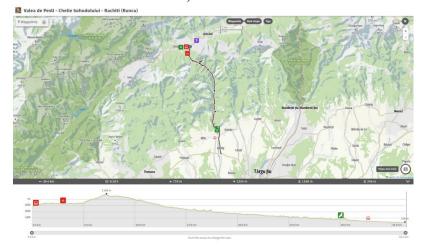
6. Valea de Pești - Muntele Siglăul Mare (Start/Finiș 45°18'17.7"N 23°03'46.9"E)



7. Traseul MTB Monumentul de Război Tulișa (cross-country) (Start/Finiș 45°20'10.5"N 23°05'10.1"E)



8. Valea de Peşti - Cheile Sohodolului – Răchiţi (Runcu) (Start/Finiș 45°18'17.9"N 23°03'47.4"E / 45°05'15.5"N 23°09'14.2"E)



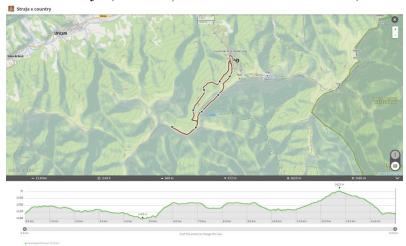
9. Balomir până la Straja (Start/Finiș 45°19'58.9"N 23°07'39.8"E / 45°21'14.6"N 23°12'38.0"E)



10. Tusu negrele (Start/Finiș 45°20'24.2"N 23°10'19.5"E)



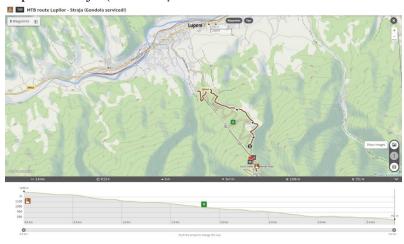
# 11. Bucla XC Straja (Start/Finiș 45°18'56.1"N 23°14'35.7"E)



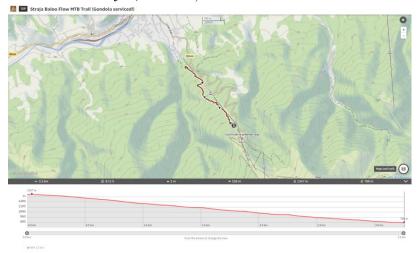
#### 12. Vârful Straja (Start/Finiș 45°18'28.7"N 23°15'50.8"E / 45°18'28.3"N 23°15'05.9"E)



# 13. Lupilor – Straja (Start/Finiș 45°19'28.8"N 23°14'08.1"E / 45°20'18.1"N 23°13'02.5"E)



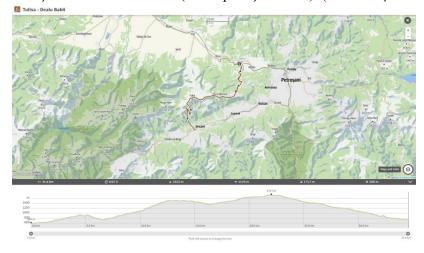
14. Baloo Flow – Straja (Start/Finiș 45°19'18.3"N 23°14'06.2"E / 45°20'04.5"N 23°13'13.6"E)



15. Arcanu Bistritu **Vâja** (Start/Finiș 45°20'51.3"N 23°11'42.2"E)



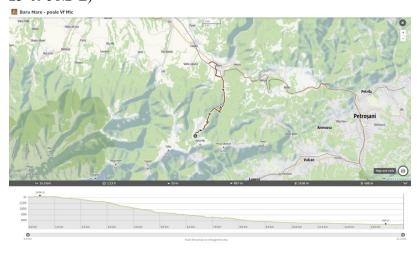
16. Tulişa Dealul Babii Vulcan (via Lupeni şi Uricani) (Start/Finiş 45°21'01.0"N 23°12'01.5"E)



17. Oboroca MTB (Start/Finiș 45°22'02.1"N 23°11'10.2"E)



18. Baru Mare - poale Vf. Mic (Start/Finis 45°24'00.1"N 23°07'51.2"E / 45°28'14.0"N 23°09'58.2"E)



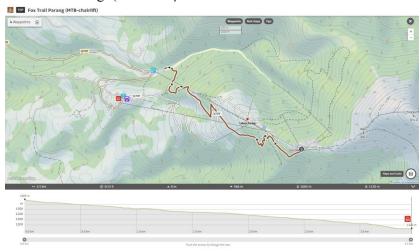
19. Pasul Vulcan Flow trail (Start/Finiș 45°19'36.1"N 23°17'31.8"E / 45°21'14.2"N 23°17'22.7"E)



20. Gambrinus - Câmpu lui Neag (Start/Finiș 45°22'06.5"N 23°21'56.4"E / 45°18'17.4"N 23°03'46.9"E)



21. Fox Trail Parâng (Start/Finiș 45°23'02.4"N 23°28'18.4"E / 45°23'36.0"N 23°26'46.8"E)



22. Valea Arsului - Unex - Poieniţa (Start/Finiș 45°26'51.0"N 23°25'06.0"E)



#### 23. Cheile Roșia (Start/Finiș 45°26'30.2"N 23°21'44.6"E / 45°27'05.4"N 23°23'09.2"E)

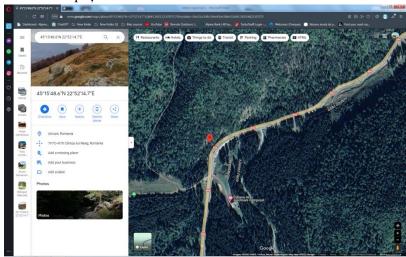


# 24. Şureanu (Start/Finiş 45°26'59.1"N 23°24'19.0"E)

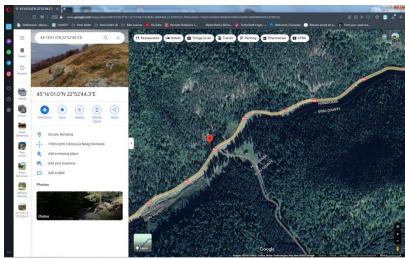


# **Climbing locations:**

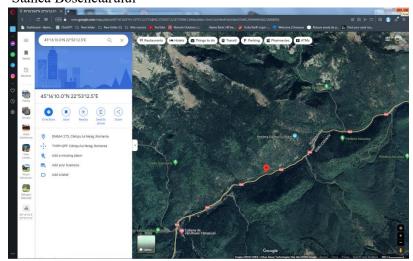
1. Stânca Câmpușel



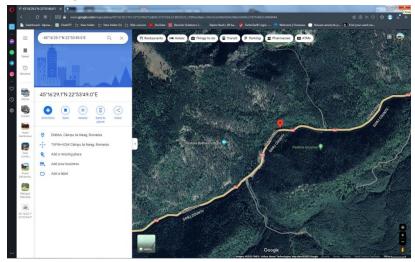
2. Stânca Valea Ursului



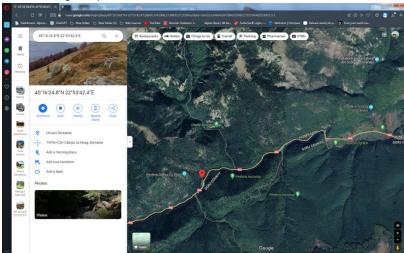
3. Stânca Boschetarului



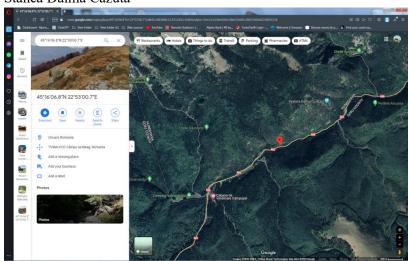
# 4. Stânca Nr. 5



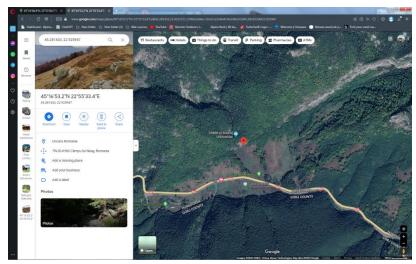
# 5. Stânca Clopotnița



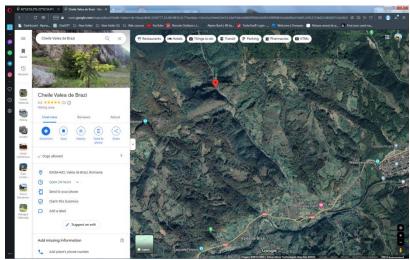
# 6. Stânca Dâlma Căzută



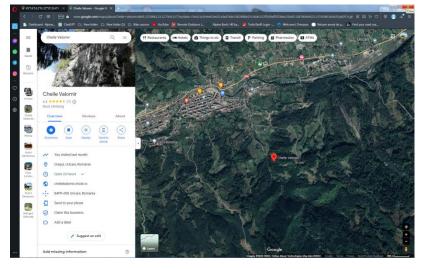
#### 7. Stânca Urzicarului



8. Stânca Valea de Brazi



9. Cheile Valomir



# 10. Cheile Tăii

