Sustainable Tourism in Mountain Protected Areas: Looking to the Pyrenean Experience









Sochi (Rosa Khutor Resort), 18 October 2018

Sustainable Tourism:

Global Challenges and Discovering Russia Conference



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Manager – Boumort & Cadí
National Game Reserves

1. Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas



Introducing myself and what I will talk about

I am a *practitioner*...

- Developing 3 protected areas in Andorra (1998-2004)
 - Sorteny Natural Park
 - Comapedrosa Natural Park
 - Madriu-Perafita-Claror World Heritage Site
- Managing Alt Pirineu Natural Park for 10 years (2004-2014)
- Managing Boumort National Game Reserve & two other reserves since 2014

Presentation of examples and experiences of sustainable tourism in the Pyrenees mountains

Based on personal experience

If you need more info please ask me!



Source: protectedplanet.net

Introducing myself and what I will talk about

- 1.- Sustainable Tourism in Alt Pirineu Natural Park
- 2.- Protected Areas and Ski Resorts
- 3.- Ecotourism for Conservation & Restoration (the case of Boumort Reserve)



Sustainable Tourism in Alt Pirineu Natural Park

FACTSHEET Alt Pirineu (=High Pyrenees) Natural Park

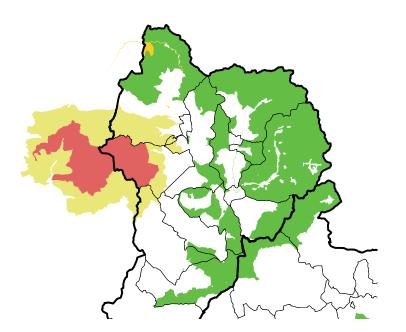
Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu

Created: 2003

Area: 79,317 hectares

Altitudinal range: 650 – 3143 m a.s.l.

• **IUCN category**: V (Protected Landscape)





Sustainable Tourism in Alt Pirineu Natural Park

A combination of initiatives to enhance a sustainable local economy

- 1. Protecting natural & cultural resources
- 2. Creating new attractions based on Park values (e.g. viewpoints, faires)
- 3. Promoting sustainable local production
- 4. Linking different activities and initiatives through tourism (BUT not only tourism!)
- 5. Getting recognition



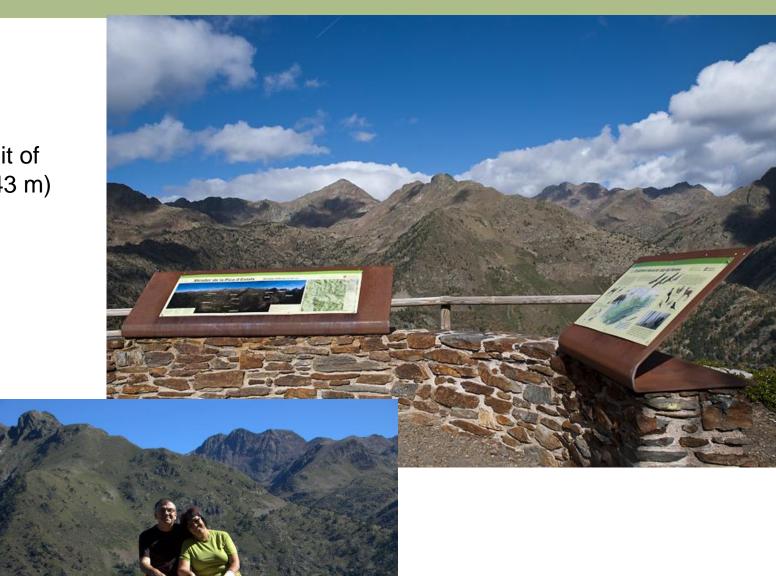
A successful experience requires to **combine different activities in a same trip**: gastronomy, wildlife, cultural heritage, crafts...





Pica d'Estats Viewpoint

Highest summit of Catalonia (3143 m)



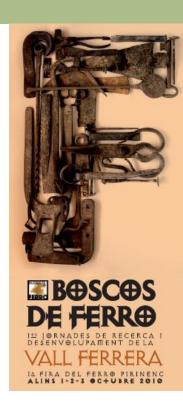
Vall Ferrera means "The Iron Valley"... But today there were nothing related to past history of iron making

The Iron Fair: a new Park project

- Scientific meetings
- Thematic hiking trails
- Iron smiths meetings
- "Gifts" to the valley

9 editions (2018) +3000 visitors/year









The Brown Bear Interpretive Center

A new facility for Park visitors in the heart of the Brown Bear recovery area Organizing activities for families, schools & general visitors since 2012 Partnership between Municipality, NGO and Natural Park



Promoting local products and visits to artisan workshops

Inventoring local producers & organizing tourist visits to their workshops





Promoting local products and visits to artisan workshops

The fair of Natural Park local products

Traditional activities Workshops Lamb meat tasting

7 editions (2018) +1000 visitors/year





A passport to promote family tourism

http://exploraelparc.cat/en

Explora el Parc Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu

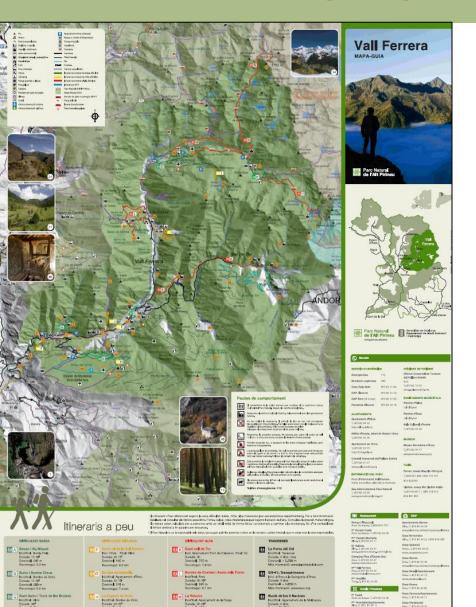
How does it work?

- You can buy it for 1€ in Park offices and visitor centers
- You can sign pages when you go to familyadapted places in the Park:
 - Visitor Centers & Park Museums
 - Viewpoints
 - Fairs & Park events
 - Guided tours with licensed companies
- When you reach some milestones, you can get a reward (hut, T-shirt, book, night hotel)





Leaflets to show everything



Intolfinal: Aparcams Danada, 15:365 Desnive 2:065 m Recorregut: 4.6 km



Vall Ferrera Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu

El boso de Virós, explota: des de l'época romana per a la producció del carbó

que alimentava les largues, és avul un del millors exponents dels ambient forestals del Parc.

La Vall Ferrera és el cor del Parc Natural de l'Alt Pirineu. Amb més de 18,000 ha d'extensió i un 94% de la seva superficie dins del Parc, aquesta gran vall de forts pendents guarda alguns dels tresors més preuats del L'Alt Pirineu, La Pica d'Estats, sostre de Catalunya, és IAB Prime, La Pice d'Estats, soutre de Carlayre, és di més conquir, por du d'endraire e ayaest territer poèré descebrir cims con el Babosto e el Monteso, estanya amageis con els de Baiau I Alexas, estenser pastures a la milica muntanya de Tor I boscos inaceabiles com el de Vibre, Els habitants de la vall Pras mate moderni des de la Pennia la aprofitar de seus recursos, han creat un paisaige de prats i bordes, erroites, la carbonere, sobles habitants con la configeración. bordes, ermites i carboneres, pobles inalterats com Norto o Besan, i artico camino que evul s'ofereixen al visitant per mostrani el Pivinou mes autentic i recorda I que, a la Val Ferrera, encara es pot escoltar el vilenci.



1809 2 518 85 49 49 18883 Ones River

Tehapi I Abresi

Retagl Golf For Scott de Vinte, Tut



Les zones racoses de les salanes de la baixa Vall Ferrera, amb la seva coberta

de vegetació mediterrània, contenen l'única població catalània de savina turifera, un arbret: que suporta molt bé la seguera estival i el fred trivernal.

Estenys, rierds i paternalis son hábitets singulars on prosperen plantes tans

Il Serool

Boto d'or ts. Voltor comu ar Stronbothers nic

VB. Isard

v. Papalona apolio



Prats alpins

Per soure del limit dels arbres, a més de 2,000 m d'altitud, trobem formacions herbàcies on viuen expécies adaptades a un clima extrem. A la Val Ferrera hi ha algunos de les millors representacions d'aquest hábitat a tot el Parc.

Une excursió per solore del Pla de Boet suposa una bona



An interactive app to integrate Park information

Deixa't Guiar ("let yourself be guided"): www.deixatguiar.com



Contents:

- Discover the Park
- Explore the Park
- Cooperate with the Park: Wildlife sightings reporting, Photo-incidences
- Park Information

+5,000 downloads



3. Protected Areas and Ski Resorts



SENYALITZACIÓ D'ALLAUS

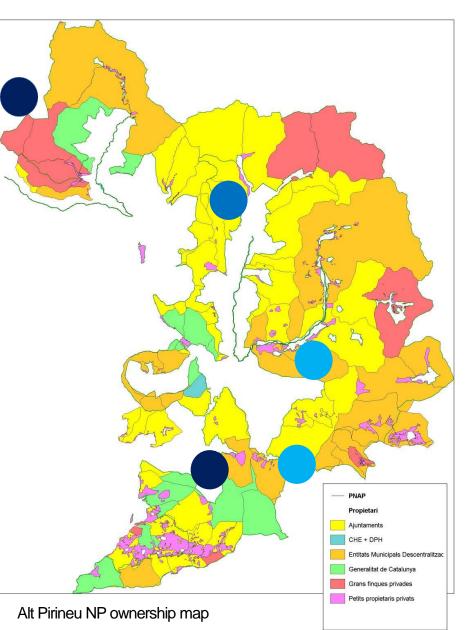






El pas d'esquieders a paquette els espents, els cidiqu a hagir i els debihsa. Amb Pi que paquès ser laproreis pels perdaders i estiva craciet.

Alt Pirineu NP: working with ski resorts to promote conservation



Ski resorts & natural park area

- 2 active cross-country ski resorts inside
- 1 mixed ski resort partly inside
- 2 alpine ski resorts *outside*

A challenge to park conservation



Alt Pirineu NP: working with cross-country ski resorts inside the park

Cooperating with cross-country ski resorts since 2006

2 cross-country ski resorts inside the natural park (Virós & Sant Joan de l'Erm)

- Strategy: cooperation with mutual benefit
- Winter environmental education programme
- +600 students in 1 year

Park benefits

- Safe place for winter activities with children
- Control over ski resort activities
- Increasing awareness

Ski resort benefits

- Stable number of winter activities in working days
- Increased financial viability
- Wider social support





Alt Pirineu NP: working with cross-country ski resorts inside the park

Snowretrack Experience in Pleta del Prat Ski Resort

Combined product: protected area + ski resort

- Visiting Corbiu Viewpoint in winter
- Profiting snow retrack machine
- Cabin with place for 8 people

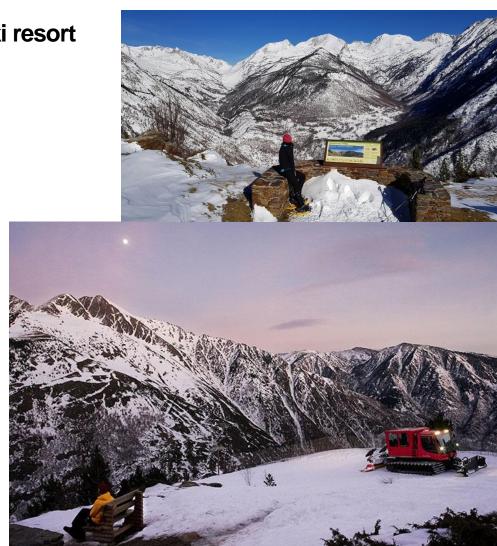
Park benefits

- Safe place for winter visits
- Control over ski resort activities
- Increasing awareness

Ski resort benefits

- Winter use of Park facility
- Increased financial viability





Greening the neighbouring alpine ski resorts

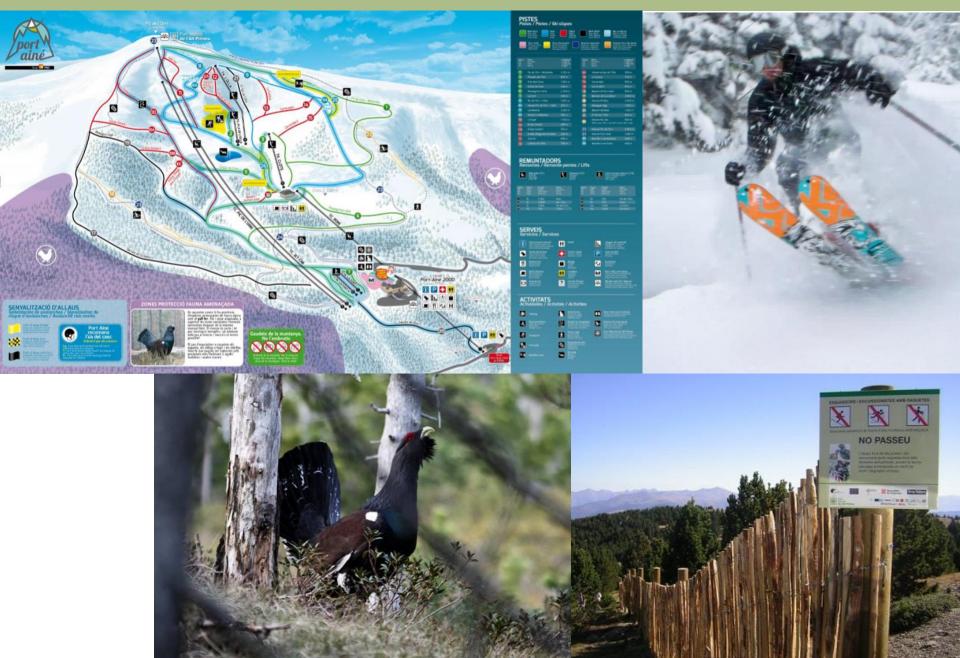
Cooperation Agreement with Portainé Alpine Ski Resort (FGC) – signed 2012

Greening the resort management facilities (esp. Hotel)

Advice on waste management, water & energy saving

Wildlife conservation around the resort

Avoiding people to ski freely in Capercaillie wintering areas



Greening the neighbouring alpine ski resorts

Cooperation Agreement with Portainé Alpine Ski Resort (FGC) – signed 2012

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Environmental awareness

- Training of resort staff about the natural park
- Signposting of natural heritage around the resort
- Environmental education in hotel resort classrooms
- Nature expositions in the hotel hall

New commercial products

- Creation of an interpretive panoramic viewpoint in Orri Peak
- Creation of mixed products (ski lift + interpretive hiking)

Combined marketing (leaflets, websites, social media...)



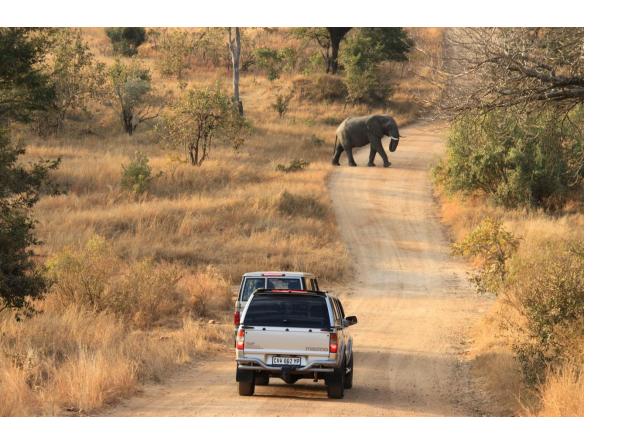
4. Ecotourism for Conservation & Restoration

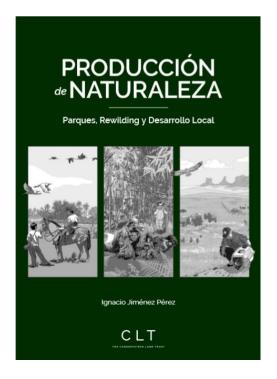


Ecotourism for Conservation & Restoration

"Producing Nature": a new concept

Protected Areas can become areas devoted to the "Production of Nature". The natural resources that are protected can be used in a non-consumptive way (ecotourism) or even through hunting, generating revenues that can promote new restoration actions.





Ecotourism for Conservation & Restoration: Boumort Reserve

FACTSHEET Boumort National Game Reserve

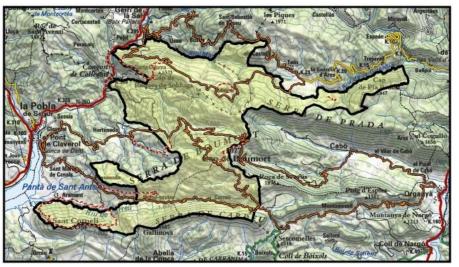
Generalitat de Catalunya Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació Reserva Nacional de Caca del Boumort

• **Created**: 1991

Area: 13,097 hectares

Altitudinal range: 600 – 2077 m a.s.l.

IUCN category: IV (Habitat/Species Management Area)





Promoting Wildlife Guided Tours





Licensed companies for guided tours: 2 (2015) > 7 (2018) Guided visitation increased 28% last year





Developing wildlife-watching hides



3 hides for raptor & deer watching

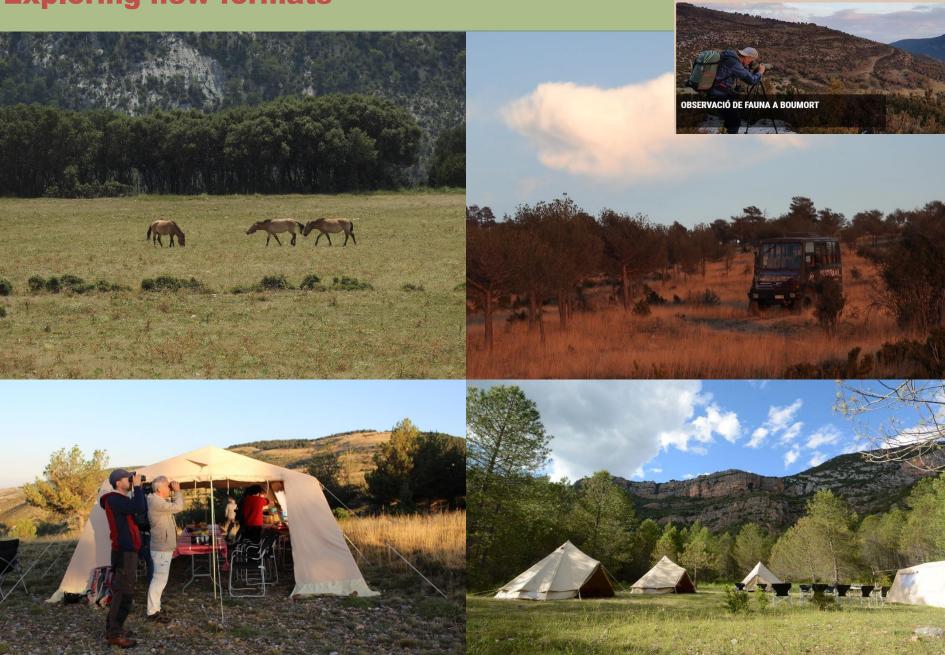




Hides generate 1/3 of annual income



Exploring new formats



EXPERIÈNCIES DEL PALLARS JUSSÀ

Promoting Ecological Restoration













Sustainable tourism should help improve the conservation status of protected areas

Thank you very much!









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www.gencat.cat/parcs
www.pallarsjussa.net/boumort

