

Carpathian Forest

A TDF on a mountain range which has a high % of (semi) natural forests



-Between 45° and 50° N latitude and 17° and 27° E longitude-

Climate

- Is cool and humid, with both temperature and precipitation strongly correlated with elevation.
- The warmest locations=foothills of Romania.
- The highest precipitation occurs in the northern slopes of Tatras.
- Carpathian foothills the annual precipitation can be as low as 600 mm.
- Less than 3 months snow cover in foothill regions.

Geology

- Northern/ North Eastern areas = *Carpathian flysh* (layers of sandstone and shale)
- High mountainous regions = Granite
- Western Carpathians = limestone bedrock

Vegetation=ZONES

- *Foothills* = deciduous forest
- The *Montane* zone = European beech and silver fir mixed together but in some places it is dominated by conifers
- *The subalpine zone* = Norway spruce forests.
- At the alpine timberline Stone pine occurs.
- Above timberline=*krummholz zone* -dense thickets of mountain pine
- Alpine meadows occur above the *krummholz zone*, but not on high peaks =rocky or covered with very little vegetation.
- Areas of the East Carpathians don't have the *subalpine spruce forest zone* = timberline of dwarfed beeches borders the alpine meadows.



HUMAN IMPACTS and PROBLEMS

- Intensive logging in C19th and the C20th = spruce monocultures.
- 16% of the Carpathians is protected but the conservation effort varies between countries.
- Current threats include: air/ water pollution, intensive logging (clear cutting), development of large ski resorts, and proposals for top sports events – blocking of watercourses.
- Biodiversity threatened by *reforestation* with spruce monocultures and removal of the traditional forms of agriculture
- Many game species are over hunted, and poaching is a problem in Ukraine.