

CRITERIA & INDICATORS FOR SELECTION OF QUASI-VIRGIN FORESTS IN THE CARPATHIANS

Criteria and indicators for selection of quasi-virgin forests in the Carpathians, to be fulfilled simultaneously.

A1. Criterion Naturalness		
	Indicators:	Defining:
A1.1.	Species composition	Forests are predominantly formed by native tree species according to potential natural forest types.
A1.2	Human activities, which influenced the development, structure and dynamic of the ecosystem	The absence of silvicultural interventions or logging in the last 75 years. Maximum of 5 stumps with diameters over 15 cm per hectare are allowed. Old forest roads are allowed, but they must be unused by machinery and naturally covered with litter or vegetation.
A1.3	Structure	Cyclic ecosystems with complex structures, which include all stages of small development circles (some phases may be present only in small areas) in a mosaic structure (horizontal) and vertically layered, according to the natural type of forest. Range of tree ages proved by biometric characteristic. Occurrence of trees with exceptional dimensions according to the site conditions and species, and signs of physiological decline.
A1.4	Deadwood	Presence of deadwood (lying and standing) at all stages of degradation and all over the forest surface.
A2. Criterion: Surface & Delimitation		
	Indicators:	Defining:
A2.1	Area of forest plot stand	Minimum 20 ha.
A2.2	Shape of forest plot stand	Minimum distance between any two opposite boundary points does not decrease below 200 m. This rule does not apply to the remains of relic/rare forests ecosystems or relic tree stands, surrounded by natural stands.

Existing guidelines for virgin forests apply mutatis mutandis.