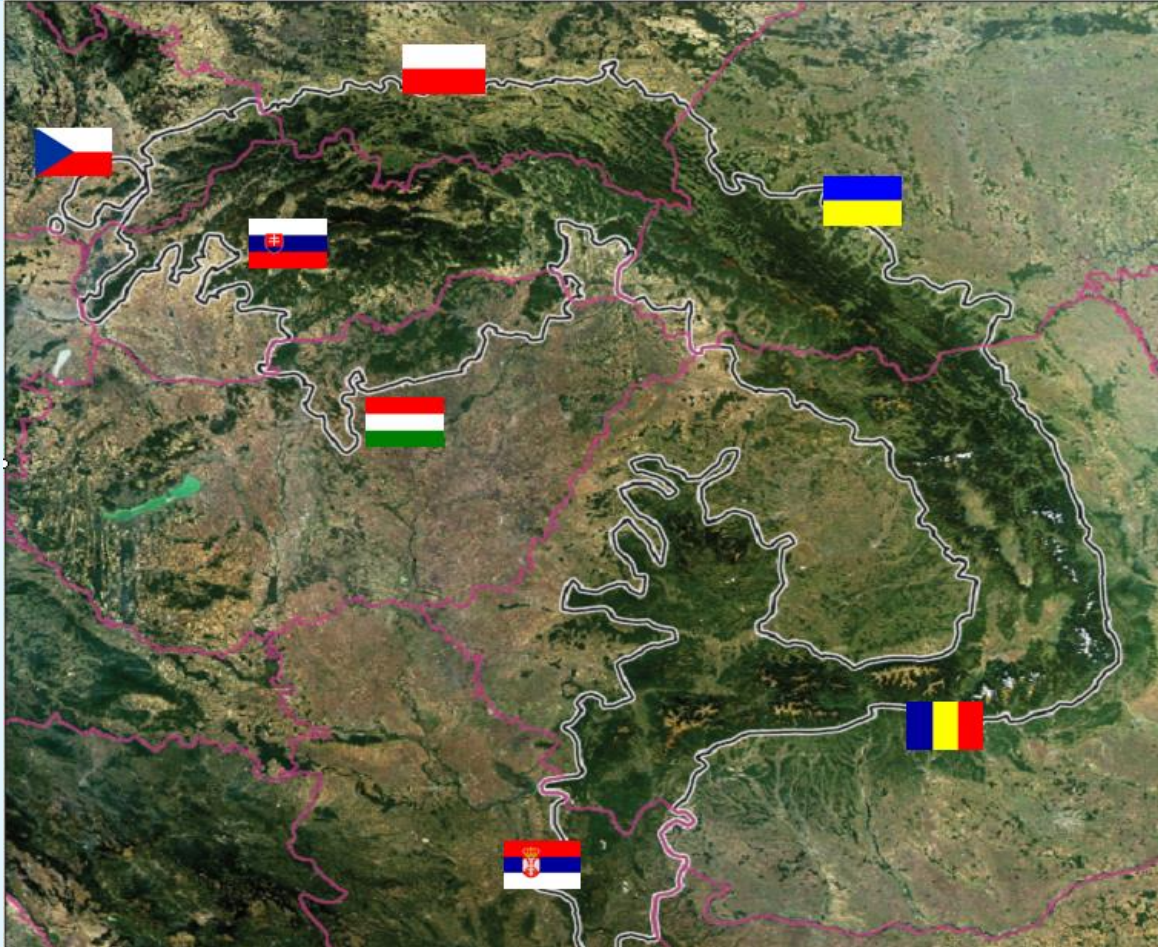


UN Environment's work on forests

The Carpathian Convention's Protocol on Forests

Harald Egerer
Head of the UN Environment Vienna Programme Office

The Carpathians at a glance



The Carpathian mountains



- Close to 100,000 km² of natural or semi/natural forests (represents over 50% of the territory)
- 36,000 km² of protected areas
- 3,000 km² of virgin forests
- 481 endemic plant species
- Viable population of all large herbivores
- Home of many large bird species in Europe
- Stronghold of the largest carnivore population in Europe with high density of bears, wolves and lynx
- Central Europe's last wilderness area



The Carpathian forests

Map 3.3 Forest cover of the Carpathians (CORINE Land Cover/PELCOM)

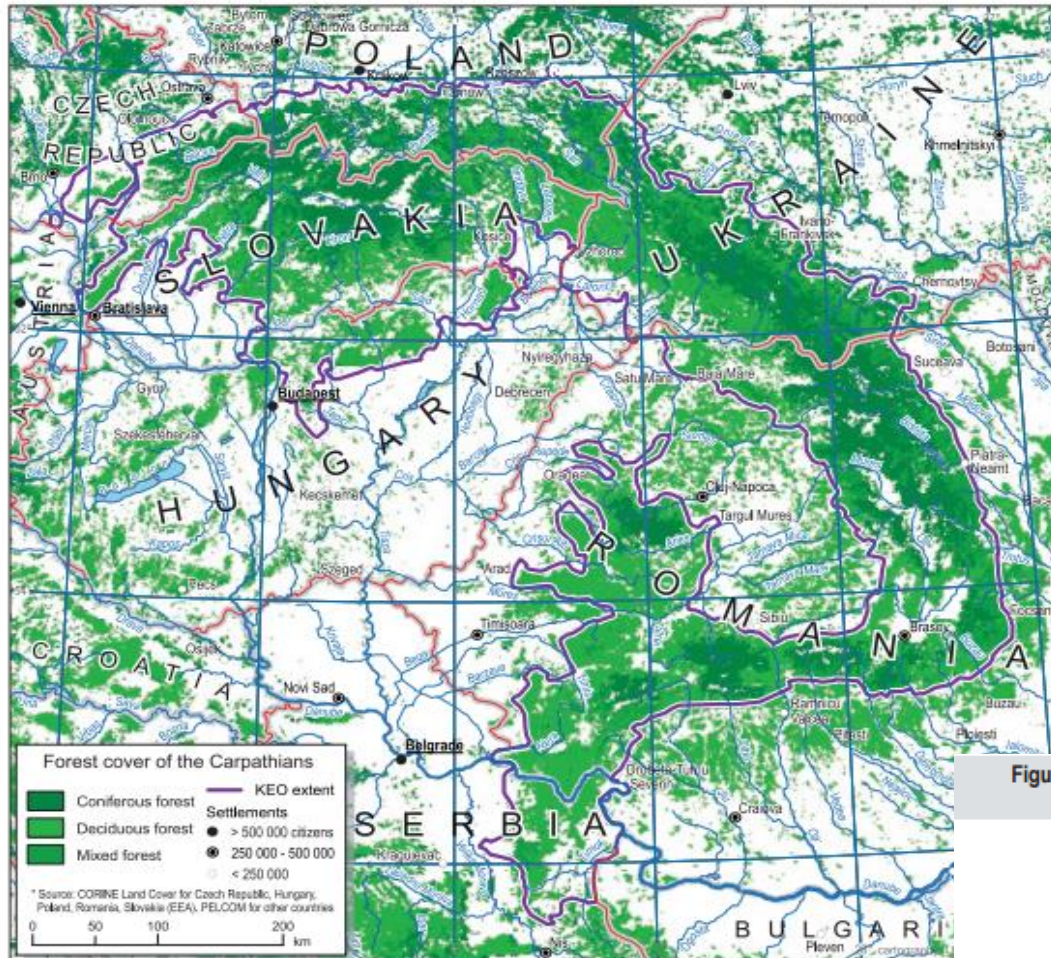
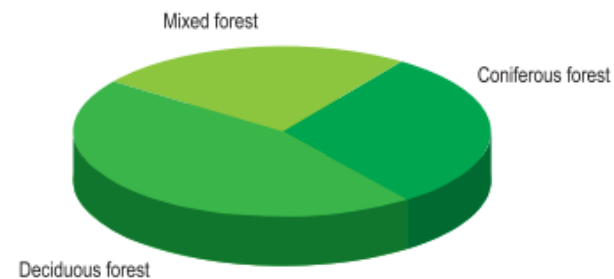


Figure 3.6 Main types of forest formation in the Carpathians (according to Ruffini et al. 2006)



Natural Virgin Forests



- Characteristics: age, existence of large carnivores and raptors, volume of dead wood
- Natural forests maintain of 100 m³ of dead wood per ha while in managed forests dead wood occupies less than 10 m³ over the same area
- A lack of dead wood implies a significant lack of biodiversity (e.g. plants, fungi and invertebrates that depend on this particular substrate for their survival)
- dead wood has many environmental values, most importantly carbon sequestration in higher altitudes (-> process of tree decay can be as long as one century; much longer than in the lowlands)



The Carpathian Convention

- Adopted on 22nd May 2003
- Entered into force on 4th January 2006
- Ratified by all seven State Parties (CZ,HU,PL,RO,RS,SK,UA)
- Goal: pursue comprehensive policy and cooperation in order to guarantee protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians



The Carpathian Convention and forestry



Article 7

Sustainable agriculture and forestry

- Applying sustainable mountain forest management practices in the Carpathians
- Pursuing policies aiming at designating protected areas in natural, especially virgin forest



The Protocols of the Carpathian Convention



So far 4 thematic protocols have been adopted:

- On Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Bucharest, 2008)
- **On Sustainable Forest Management (Bratislava, 2011)**
- On Sustainable Tourism (Bratislava, 2011)
- On Sustainable Transport (Mikulov, 2014)

The Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management

- **Objective: to promote the sustainable management and protection of Carpathian forests bringing benefits to present and future generations**
- Developed by the Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (WG Forest)
- Adopted by all the Carpathian Countries at the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) in 2011
- Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol adopted at the COP4 in 2014
- Criteria and Indicators for identification of virgin forests in the Carpathians adopted at the COP4



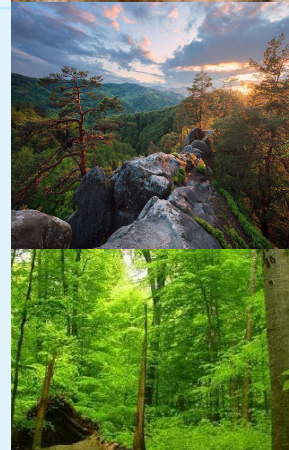
The Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management



To achieve the objectives, Parties shall cooperate on:

1. Maintaining/enlarging forest cover
 2. Ensuring the productive functions and rural development
 3. Promoting the sound use of wood as well as non-wood forest products
 4. Improving health and vitality
 - 5. Identifying and protecting natural and virgin forests**
 6. Promoting the restoration of close to nature forests
 7. Enhancing the role of the forest-based sector in mitigating climate change
 8. Improving protective forest functions
 9. Strengthening the governance of the forestry sector, enforcing forest law, combatting illegal logging
- ...and many more

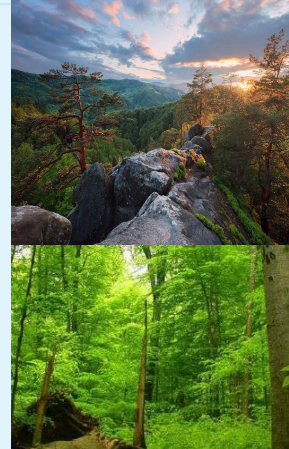
Ratification of the Forest Protocol



COUNTRY	SIGNATURE	NATIONAL RATIFICATION, ACCESSION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL	DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION	ENTRY INTO FORCE
	27 May 2011	23 January 2012	07 February 2012	21 October 2013
	27 May 2011	12 June 2013	08 August 2013	06 November 2013
	08 September 2011			
	27 May 2011	9 April 2013	23 July 2013	21 October 2013
	27 May 2011	13 March 2015	1 April 2015	30 June 2015
	27 May 2011	(no information on the national ratification date)	02 March 2013	21 October 2013
	27 May 2011	16 October 2012	26 November 2012	21 October 2013

Article 10: Identification and protection of natural, especially virgin forests

1. Each Party shall take measures in its national territory aimed at identifying and protecting natural, especially virgin forests of the Carpathians, by establishing **Protected Areas** in sufficient size and number and implementing other specific measure of protection.
2. Each Party shall take measures for the inclusion of sufficient areas of all types of identified natural forests from its Carpathian.
3. In particular, each Party should take specific measures for the preservation of genetic resources of natural, especially virgin forests.
4. Each Party shall take specific measures for compensation of costs or economic losses resulting from measures taken in accordance with paragraph 1,2 and 3 of this Article.



Definitions from the Forest Protocol

“Virgin forests” means natural forests which have not been influenced directly by human activities in their development

“Natural forests” are forests composed of tree species indigenous to the area with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and diversity



Article 14: Forestry and climate change

1. Each Party shall pursue policies aiming at enhancing the role of the forestry sector in mitigating climate change, with particular attention to finding the right balance between increasing carbon stocks in forest ecosystems, promoting the use of renewable wood energy, and the sound use of wood products as substitutes of rough materials derived from non renewable resources.
2. Each Party, taking into consideration the effects of climate change, shall pursue adaptation policies and measures aiming at increasing the stability and the resilience of the Carpathian forests.
3. Each Party, taking into consideration the increased vulnerability of forest to the fires and other extreme events due to climate change, shall undertake appropriate measures in order to reduce the risk and mitigate the effects



The Carpathian Project



- co-financed by the EU-Community Initiative Programme for transnational cooperation: INTERREG CADSES
- Programming Period 2000-2006
- Objective: to enhance the sustainable development of the Carpathian region based on its rich natural and cultural heritage
- 18 project partners from 10 countries joined their efforts to work on common and harmonised data and maps from the Carpathian Space, including the area of forestry with the following data and reports on:
 - Challenges and priority for adapting the management of Carpathians forests to new environmental and socio-economic conditions
 - Report on Current State of Forest Resources in the Carpathians
 - Innovative Application Of GIS Methods And Satellite Photos For General Inventory And Protection Of Carpathian Forests
 - Wood production and trade in the Carpathian Region (2007)



Cooperation with EEA

European Environment Agency



Close partnership with EEA from 2014

- Joint report on data and indicators relevant for sustainable forest management and for the elaboration of an inventory on the Carpathian Virgin forests
- Carpathian Convention contribution to the CLIMATE-ADAPT
- Data flow between the EEA and the Carpathian Convention
- Strengthening the cooperation with EIONET National Focal points and European Topic Centres, also with a view of promoting cooperation with other mountain ranges



UN-REDD: A UN collaboration to reduce deforestation and forest degradation



Thank you



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