

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Identification and protection of old-growth and virgin forests in the Ukrainian Carpathians



A virgin forest in Ukrainian Carpathians

Source: Bogomaz Photography

#### Background

In many mountain regions of Europe, forests are being used intensively. In the Ukrainian Carpathians, in contrast, you can still find relatively large areas of virgin and old-growth forests. They host a high biodiversity and store large amounts of carbon. The importance of the relevant forest protected areas was internationally recognized by including them into the list of UNESCO World Natural Heritage. However, large portions of virgin forests are located outside existing protected areas. They can therefore fall victim to illegal or even legal logging. This risk is increased by the economic decline of the Ukraine.

#### Project details

The aim of the project was to contribute to the protection of old growth forests and primeval forests of the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains. This was done by means of their identification and documentation and through accompanying measures. With field research and using the criteria of the Carpathian Convention, the project team collected and analysed information about these forests and documented them in a public database. A network of volunteers subsequently monitored the condition of these forests. At the same time, the project team promoted the project intensively and such achieved the adoption of a law to protect old growth forests. Surplus negotiations on a permanent protection status for the identified natural forests started. With intensive public relations, the project wanted to create a greater awareness for these forests. Accordingly, it communicated the progress of the project and its findings to different target groups, such as public authorities, municipalities, universities and researchers, as well as to the general public. The surveys in the Ukrainian Carpathians were subsequently transferred to the territory of Polessie.

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**Target country/region:** Ukraine, Carpathian Mountains

**Duration:** 10/2016 - 01/2019

**Beneficiaries:** State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine

**Implementing organisations:**

Michael Succow Foundation, WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme

**Project numbers:** 76856, 89168

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#### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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