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# Introduction to the forest and land use in Romania

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# Romania: Location and geography

- The largest country in Southeastern Europe and its terrain is distributed equally between mountainous, hilly and lowland territories.
- The Carpathian Mountains dominate the center of Romania, with 14 of the mountain ranges reaching above the altitude of 2,000 meters.
- In south and eastern Romania, the Carpathians sweeten into hills, towards the plains.



# Romania: Location and geography

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# Romania: Climate

- Climatic conditions are influenced by the country's varied relief.
- The **average annual temperature** ranges between **11°C** in the southern plain to **0°C** in the alpine area, whilst the mean temperature varies from **-10°C** to **0°C** in January and **10°C** to **29°C** in July.
- **Rainfall** decreases from west to east and from mountains to plains, ranging from a mean annual value of **380mm** on the Black Sea coast to **1200mm** in some alpine areas.
- The length of the **growing season** (daily temperature higher than **5°C**) varies also significantly from **55 days** in the alpine area (Omu Peak) to **255 days** in south-east and south-west Romania.

# Romania: General land use information

- **Surface area of the country : 238 391 km<sup>2</sup>**
- **Agricultural land: 61% (cca 90% non-state)**
  - arable land: 63,1 %
  - meadow and pastures : 33,3 %
  - orchards: 1,8 %
  - vineyards: 1,8 %
- **Forest land: 28% (cca 50% non-state)**

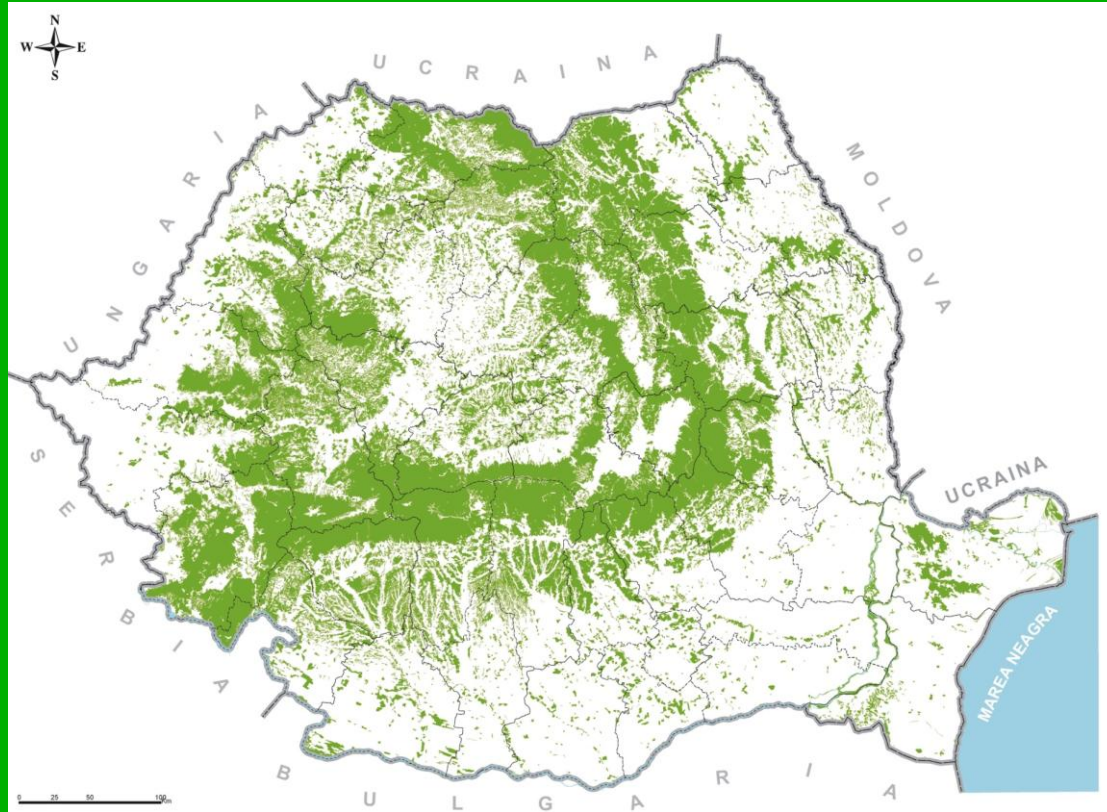
# Romania: Evolution of forest area

- 80% of the country area in 100 AC
  - Clear-felling > agricultural land
- 40% at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Exploitation > rural reform and export
- 32% after the first world war
  - Rural reform
- 27% after the second world war and remained almost constant

# Romania: Present trends in land use

- Increase of built environment
- Increase in forest area:
  - natural expansion of forests on abandoned lands and pastureland in mountain and hilly regions
  - EU financial support in the frame of the NPRD for afforestation of agricultural land
  - decreasing of clear-felled area by forest owners

# Romania: Main features of the forests



- **6,734 milion ha - 28% of the toatal area of Romania**
- **70% broadleaves (beech, oaks) and 30% conifers (spruce, silver fir)**

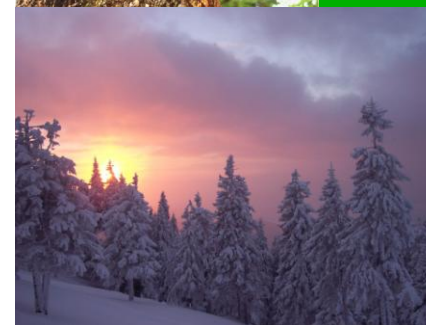
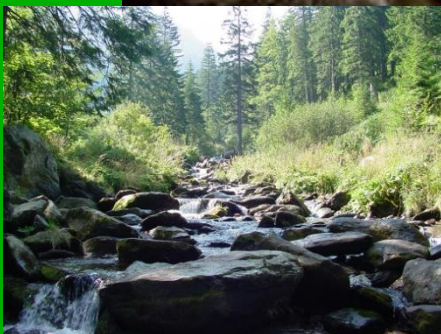
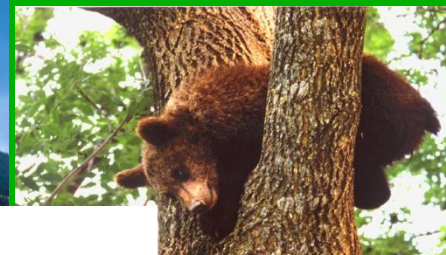




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# Romania: Main features of the forests

- *Among the largest area of pristine/old growth forests in Europe*
- *The largest populations of bear, wolf and lynx in Europe*



# Romania: Distribution of forest vegetation

- The composition of the forest cover varies significantly from the alpine area to the Danube floodplain.
- Apart from the altitudinal variation, forest composition is also influenced by the local topography and climate in the steppe and plain regions.
- Islands of non-typical forest vegetation due to the specific local conditions are found within many vegetation formations (southern slope of Tampa mountain)



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# Romania: Alpine area





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# Romania: Alpine and sub-alpine area





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# Romania: Sub-alpine area





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# Romania: Norway spruce forests





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# Romania: Beech – conifer mixtures





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# Romania: Beech – conifer mixtures







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# Romania: Beech forests





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# Romania: Beech – oak mixtures





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# Romania: Oak forests





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# Romania: Floodplain forests



# Romania: Main features of the forestry sector

- *Total standing volume: 2.2 billion m<sup>3</sup>*
- *Annual allowable cut: 19 million m<sup>3</sup>*
- *Export of wood and wood products: 3.7 billion Euro*
  - *Furniture and wood products > 2/3*
  - *Exports higher than imports (>1.5 billion Euro/year);*
- *About 200,000 persons employed in forestry (23,000), logging and wood processing sectors*





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***Forests played and will continue to play an important economic, ecological and social role in Romania***





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# THANK YOU

