

FOREWORD

As being EU member, Romania has started to focus on the nature protection more and more but the experts are facing on the fact that the conservation of the natural values is not possible without getting profound knowledge of these and without proper infrastructures. Documentation with scientific value does not exist in the case of many protected areas. The management of the protected areas in some cases is implemented by Non Governmental Organizations in order to compensate the lack of state infrastructures. In this way the Transylvanian Carpathia Society – Satu Mare has become the administrator of many protected areas in Satu Mare County.

Because of the lack of a national wide biomonitoring system our knowledge concerning the biodiversity of the country is insufficient. Only few areas exist on which overall researches have been implemented in the past 50 years (Retezat National Park, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve). Ecologists are facing with a big gap of information in many territories of the country. Due to valuable works of local researchers there are information about the flora and fauna of some restricted territories only. Unfortunately there are less and less enthusiastic scientists who are working based on their own resources and due to the lack of a central organization their activities will have less effect.

Between 2001 and 2006 the Transylvanian Carpathia Society – Satu Mare in collaboration with the Museum of Satu Mare County has implemented its biodiversity research project in the territory of the Tur River Natural Reserve. Experts of different countries and many volunteers were involved in this project. The present volume was born by the processing of data collected during the five years researches.

Our goals were: to draw a realistic picture about the living world of the biggest natural reserve of Satu Mare County, to assure baseline data for further researches and in the same time to give reference points for the nature conservation management of the territory.

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We hope that in the future this initiation will be continued on the one hand by continuing the works in the Tur River Natural Reserve, on the other by preparing the monograph of different protected areas of Satu Mare County.