

## **SLOVAK PRIMEVAL FORESTS – DIVERSITY AND PROTECTION**

*200 pp., 205 color photographs, 6 figures, 2 tables, 17x24 cm. Hardcover, ISBN 80-967238-4-7*

### **Book review**

This wonderful book, of near 200 pages, could only have been written owing to the high competence of a prestigious, 20-member scientific team. In-depth texts are also accompanied by first class photographs. The support of foundations, embassies, banks and other bodies proofs the interest and the quality of this undertaking.

We learn in its first section, in a very pedagogical way, about the origin and biodiversity of the Slovak primeval forests, what they represent as climax communities, the scientific research which is being carried out in these areas as well as their specific function in global natural ecosystem.

In the second part of the book, fifteen carefully selected primeval forests growing in varied natural conditions are thoroughly represented. Each site is abundantly illustrated with marvellous photographs showing the beauty of these forests as well as their inner structure and texture, the extreme diversity of the fauna they are housing, as well of the insects as of the birds, or of the flowers.

I can testify the unique originality and the exceptional features of these forests as I undertook, in my capacity as *the Head of the Division of Nature Conservation of the Council of Europe*, with an independent expert, an on the spot appraisal of the Dobroc Primeval Forest before it was awarded the “European Diploma”, an outstanding distinction confirming the European dimension of such areas.

A completely different, but exemplar comment: the book is bilingual, written in Slovak and English language; very useful at the European level!

Dr. Jean-Pierre Ribaut