

One of the first Romanian works, denoted to the traditional relations between man and nature “Viața pastorală din Munții Rodnei” (Pastoral life in the Rodna Mountains) is due to the late Prof. Tiberiu Morariu, Member of the Romanian Academy. The present volume *Parcul Național Munții Rodnei. Relații om - mediu* (The Rodna Mountains National Park. Man-environment relations) makes a new approach to this topic in the light of present-day realities, underscoring sustainable development prospects for this Park, the largest in the Eastern Carpathians.

The detailed presentation of the Park relies on field work, comprehensive bibliographical documentation and careful analysis of realities in the study area. GIS assessment methods and complementary data sources (topographic and thematic maps, satellite images, statistical data, etc.) ensure the reliability of this study.

A detailed account is given of the characteristics of each of the Rodna Mountains National Park zones and of human pressure on this environment also by discharging economic and social activities at its periphery. The impact has been estimated by indexes of naturalness and shepherding.

Human pressure on the environment is the outcome of pastoral activities, deforestation, fragmentation and shrinking of the forest stock, hunting, mining and tourism.

Sustainable development prospects for the Rodna Mountains should have in view ecotourism and environmentally-friendly activities attractive to the local population. One of the factors affecting environmental dynamics is climate change, attested by climate indexes and indicators, as well as the results of dendrochronological research. The findings have revealed that climate change and a modified type of human impact have pushed the timberline at ever higher altitudes.

The clear, suggestive illustration emphasizes the interdisciplinary character of this work, and its interest for both students and specialists concerned with current issues of environmental protection in mountain regions.

