

This work represents an interdisciplinary approach to the study of land-use dynamics and to the assessment of its impact on the environment of a Cotmeana Piedmont. A sub-unit of the Getic Piedmont, the Cotmeana Piedmont makes the transition between the Subcarpathians (Muscelele Argeşului) and the plain region (Gâvanu-Burdea Plain). Having in view the natural factors of this area and the general and its regional economic particularities, the land use structure is mainly agricultural (over 60% of the total surface-area).

The study contains nine chapters and is based on a big volume of information found in the specialist literature of several scientific domains, e.g. geography, economy, environmental protection, sociology, the soil science, agronomy, etc. and on numerous space data, beginning with the old cartographic documents (Specht's Map 1790, Szatmari's Map 1857, the Austrian Map 1912), the topographic maps on the scale of 1:50 000 and 1:100 000 (1975), soil maps (1:200 000), and the Landsat 5TM and Landsat 7 ETM (2000) satellite images, and the statistical data supplied by the National Institute of Statistics, the County Directions of Statistics (Argeş, Olt and Vâlcea), the Environmental Protection Agencies (Argeş, Olt and Vâlcea), etc. Very many additional data have been obtained from field surveys.

The main objectives of this volume are reconstruction of land use structure over the past 200 years and more using the GIS methodology, assessment of land use changes during the post-socialist period and their consequences on the environmental factors of the Cotmeana Piedmont.

