

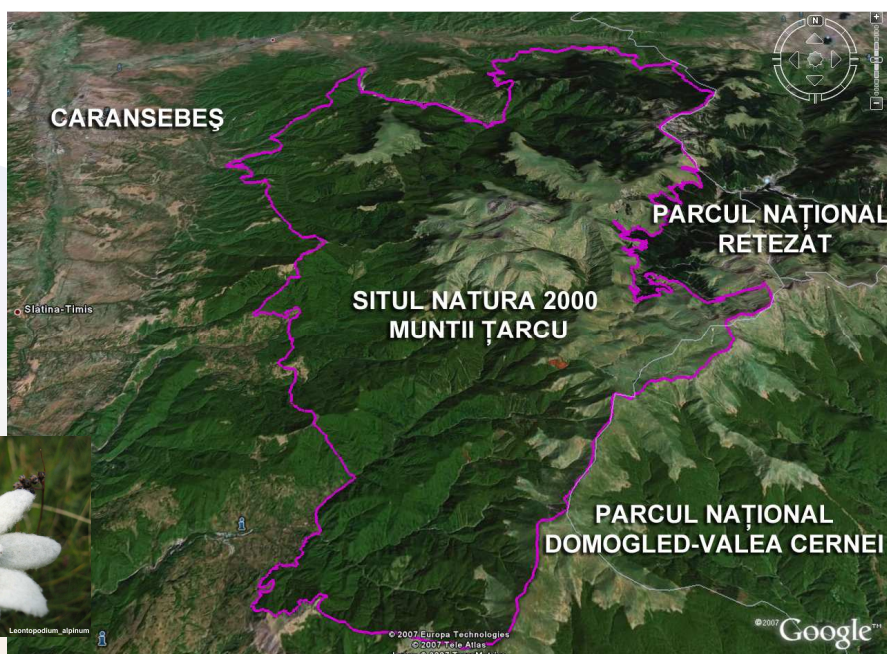
The Natura 2000 Site



Țarcu Mountains

*Respecting nature,
for future generations*

www.tarcu.ro



Rhododendron myrtifolium

foto: Alma Nicolin

A significant area for the biodiversity

The Țarcu mountains are in the Southwest of the Carpathian chain, close to the city of Caransebes, and features a compact area of unaltered natural landscape, without any permanent human settlements.

The 58000 ha ground area concentrates a variety of pristine ecosystems (81%), with a remarkable biodiversity and an abundance of species and habitats, dozens times greater than the national average.

The ground area is 58000 ha from Poiana Mărului in the north to Cornereva in the south, and from the western forest hill limit at 500-800 m altitude to the main ridge on the east, at the border with Retezat National Park and Domogled – Valea Cernei National Park.

The terrain of the **Țarcu Mountains Natura 2000 site** impresses through the original combination of different formations, reflected in the authenticity of the geographical landscape.

The **Țarcu Mountains Natura 2000 site** was established on the area based on the European Commission 92/43 Habitat Directive.

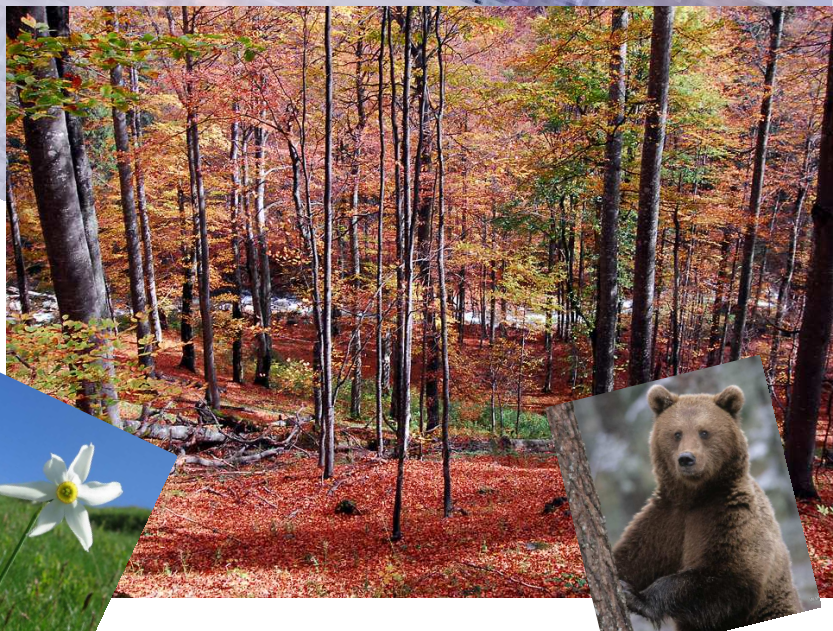
The **Țarcu Mountains Natura 2000 site** is distinguished through its biodiversity as well as the large encompassing area.

The alpine pastures and the century-old forests are home to a series of plants and animals which have become very rare in Europe or even are unique to this area.

They are protected both by the European and national regulations.

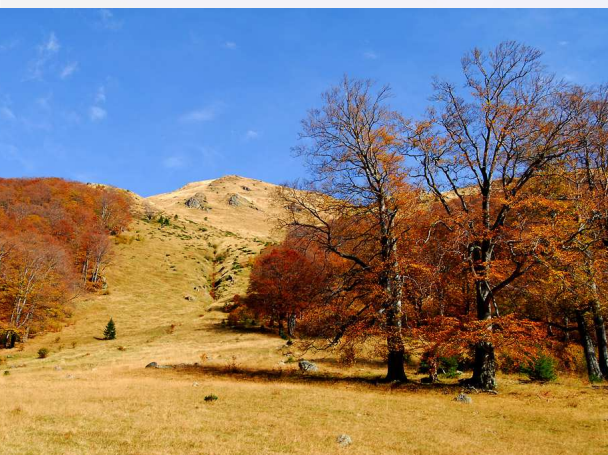
The Țarcu mountains shelter several habitats and species of community importance and of national interest, among them five priority habitats, two highly endangered species and five species declared “monuments of nature”, South Carpathian endemic species, Carpathian endemic species and Romanian endemic.

These species as well as their native habitats need special protection measures, according to the law.



Within the specific protected area, remarkable are the virgin and quasi-virgin woods, preserved in inaccessible plots. These virgin forests cover a total area of 10,061 ha (29 %). Approximately a fifth of these (1900 ha) are made up of old trees with an average age between 165 and 185 years, extremely rare in the country and in Europe at median latitudes (40-50° lat. N). The forests in the Tarcu area have a complex role, virgin and quasi-virgin forests shelter a number of relics, endemic, rare and protected species.

The preservation of habitats of community interest is the main reason for Tarcu Mountains Natura 2000 site establishment.



The aim is for our children to be able to enjoy the beauty of these places the same way as we enjoy it now.

By protection we understand preserving these places and preventing deterioration, but also a lasting development of this area through ecological and sustainable tourism.

Within the site areas with special status of conservation will be delimited, depending on their importance.

A management plan will set up internal zoning and regulations based on the current legislation.

Regarding tourism and infrastructure, an important area is allocated to sustainable development, inside which building is permitted.

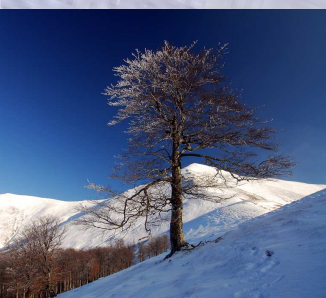
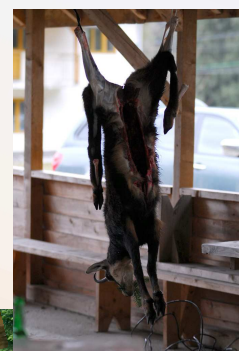
This includes Poiana Mărului and Muntele Mic massif, where there is already a substructure for tourism as well as for winter sports.

Within the **Natura 2000 site Tarcu Mountains** nowadays there is a threat to biodiversity through irresponsible human intervention, leaving visible and irreversible traces on the natural settings.

The major factors that have already left visible marks are:

- massive deforestation in the last years;
- poaching, especially of animal species protected by the law
- access with motor vehicles and enduro, ATV sports;
- setting on fire areas covered by juniper populations;
- building new forest roads;
- overloading the touristic infrastructure on the hot spots;
- widespread littering in the mountain area.

In response, the Altitude Association took the initiative to manage the Natura 2000 Tarcu Mountains site and now is in charge of the administration. **The scope is the protection and the conservation of the biodiversity, together with a sustainable and ecological tourism development, for future generations.**



Short Presentation of the Altitude Association

The Altitude Association, founded on February 10th, 2005, has as goals the pursuit of ecological education activities, ecotourism, mountain sports, preservation of the biosphere, landscaping and environment architecture, ecological agriculture, promoting Christian moral values and aiming for an educational process.

The activities accomplished so far have aimed to ecologize, preserve and protect habitats with high biogeographical potential and to raise awareness of the importance of environment protection. A series of actions have been undertaken so far, e.g., the project to ecologize the Dendrological Park in Simeria, the project of landscaping arrangement at the headquarters of Generali Insurance in Brasov and the project to set up the Muresel Park.

Another ongoing project concerns reconditioning and maintaining the alpine refuges situated in the high alpine and forest areas of the Godeanu, Tarcu and Parang mountains.

The most important project is **founding the Tarcu - Muntele Mic National Park**, through which we aim to institute a special protection framework for this large mountain area in the Banat Region, in order to protect the forest fund and preserve biodiversity.

In the meanwhile, **the Tarcu Mountains area has been declared Natura 2000 site by decision 776/05.05.2007 of the Romanian Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development**, and since February 2010 the Altitude Association has been designated administrator of the site.



Asociația Altitudine

Tel/fax: 0256.201.433
administratie@tarcu.ro
www.tarcu.ro

Respecting nature, for future generations!