

## Project Update: April 2012

In the first stage (October 2011 – April 2012) we concentrated information about forests of studied region: forest taxation databases, mapping data, satellite imagery etc. Potentially valuable patches of old growth forests (120-200 years old) were selected.

Starting from the October 2011 we surveyed eight forest massifs with total area of 33000 ha (old-growth patches make near 15% of this territory). Our survey included geobotanical description, search and mapping of rare plants locations, nests of raptors, shelters of burrowing animals, revealing of rare species of amphibians, insects, and fungi. Dead standing trees and dead wood abundance, anthropogenic impact (sanitary felling, fires, grazing) were estimated.

It became known that some of valuable patches are under the serious threat of cutting at the moment. Data about them were immediately submitted for inclusion to the Governmental Cadastre of Animal World of Ukraine. Total area of these patches is near of 3000 ha.



Left: A lot of old growth forests mentioned in forest taxation databases are already cut and others are under the threat. Right: Plots with the high amounts of large-sized fallen wood are of great importance for biodiversity maintenance.