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## **TRAMPLING EFFECTS ON VEGETATION COMPOSITION IN ROMANIAN LTSER SITES**

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### **Abstract**

This paper presents the trampling effects on vegetation composition in three Long Term Socio-Ecological Research sites (LTSER), respectively Neajlov Catchment, Bucegi-Piatra Craiului and Braila Islands (distributed within different biogeographical regions: continental, alpine and steppic), over a period of 3 years (2007-2009). The degree of damage is related to trampling intensity. In forest ecosystems significant declines in species richness was observed two weeks after trampling, from 75 passes onward, with the exception of Neajlov Catchment site (Vadu Lat). The tolerance to different intensity of trampling (25, 75, 250 and 500 passes) depended on the proportion of growth form, the sensitivity being associate with vertical species. The analysis of vegetation composition is a simple and effective method for the assessment of his resistance to trampling and serves to development of management strategy for recreational areas concerning: the configuration of the tourist routes, sizing the pressure through the flow of visitors, number and frequency of visits.

*Keywords:* communities, tolerance, trampling, vegetation

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