



## **Geoarchives in the Pirin Mountains (Bulgaria)**

**K. Grunewald and J. Scheithauer**

Landscape Research Centre Dresden, Germany  
(karsten.grunewald@landschaftsforschungszentrum.de / Fax: +49-351-2096537 / Phone:  
+49-351-2096542)

The development of climate and landscape in the Pirin Mountains in a cultural and historical context was analysed and reconstructed, using a combination of different methods (dendro-ecology, firm ice stratigraphy, peat and soil layers, lake sediments and climate data, literature research as well as determination of age). Periods of prosperity and periods of crisis, which are linked to the climate were detected for the Balkans and can be shown for Southwest Bulgaria as well. Particularly during Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman Age, the “Golden Bulgarian Age“ and Little Ice Age the phases of climatic stagnation and transition correlate with stability (soil formation), activity (erosion) and the dynamic of settlement (expansion vs. abandoned settlement). Determination of age, based on carbon-14, assures these findings.