

CURRICULUM VITAE

Miroslav SANIGA (1964) was born in the **Liptov** region in the small remote village of **Liptovské Revúce** that lies in the close embrace of nature in the Veľká Fatra Mountains. Since early childhood, the author has been continually imprinted with the beauty of nature's most secret hidden sites below the majestic rocky slopes of the **Black Rock**. As a consequence he retains the deepest sensitivity to and empathy with everything belonging to nature.

The love of God's creatures also predestined his choice of professional studies. After finishing elementary school in Liptovské Revúce and attending the **Grammar school in Ružomberok**, he went to **the University of Forest and Wood Technology in Zvolen**. Becoming more and more familiar with various natural phenomena and events helped strengthen his close connection with nature.

After finishing his studies, Miro became directly engaged in nature protection in his first job in the **Malá Fatra National Park**. Continuous contact with nature in his everyday work simply reinforced his deep and genuine love of the natural environment. His intense curiosity concerning the secret and hidden workings of the natural world led to him taking up an appointment in 1993 at the **Research Station in Staré Hory**, working for the **Institute of Forest Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences**. Staré Hory is a tiny hamlet situated in the foothills of the Veľká Fatra. His present studies focus on bird communities. The author's ornithological interests are centred on **Capercaillie** and **Wallcreeper**. Since first encountering them, Miro has been enchanted with both species to the extent that they remain his principal interest. Both species prefer remote and undisturbed corners of nature. Just reaching their sites poses considerable difficulties. A "trip" to see these admirable creatures of God, particularly Capercaillie, is no comfortable stroll, for not only does Miro usually have to get out of bed at midnight from March until late May and in September and October, he has to undertake several hours of strenuously sweaty ascent of steep mountain tracks. To set off into the dark forest, regardless of weather demands a genuine and unlimited love for these birds.

Relentlessly repeated research journeys of many hours reward Miro with many occasions during which he can observe the wonders and complexities of life, or just contemplate their beauty. So, it is no wonder that his sensitive, romantic heart is able to sense in nature many otherwise hidden things that would not attract the eye of a casual visitor. Many such moments illustrating the new and cyclical aspects of natural life have been caught in his camera to preserve a moment in time, not just for his own satisfaction, but also for the pleasure and knowledge of others.

During uncountable days and nights spent on the bosom of nature, Miro has been witness to numerous events and 'stories' that can happen at any time in nature's hidden corners. To keep such experiences just to himself would be selfish and arrogant, and so he is sharing them with the general reading public. He has already published eleven books for small children: **'Stories of aunt Fir-tree' (1996), 'A year with little Paul in nature' (1998), 'Strolls with little Paul in nature' (2000), 'Fairy tales of Mother Nature' (2003), 'Fairy tales from under the Black Rock' (2004), 'Fairy tales from the Lily-of-the valley's valley' (2004), 'Fairy tales about the orphan Tit' (2007), 'Fairy tales of Granny Nature' (2008), 'As little Tit knows the seclusions of the Olinka's valley' (2009), 'An optional reader of the small natural scientist – 1st volume: Fairy tales from the Olinka's valley' (2010), 'An optional reader of the small natural scientist – 2nd volume: Fairy tales from the Olinka's valley' (2011).** For older children (and also for adults) he has written the books: **'Capercaillies – my love' (1997), 'Meditation with Capercaillies' (1998), 'Unforgettable experiences with Lynxes' (2007), 'Meditation with Wallcreepers' (2007), 'Meditation with Bears' (2007), 'Ecological essays' (2007), 'Reflexions on God and nature' (2008), 'Meditation with nature' (2008), 'Nature in the changes of the year's cycle' (2008), 'Poetry of forest' (2008), 'Poetry of nature' (2008), 'From my bird garden' (2009), 'My double love Wallcreeper and Capercaillie' (2009), 'A fairytale bird garden' (2009), 'Engaged with nature' (2009), 'My fairytale life under the protection of tree guardian angels in heavenly skies' (2010), 'Wallcreeper in poetic meditation and drawings' (2010), 'Capercaillie in poetic meditation and drawings' (2010), 'Jolly-grave tales from nature' (2010), 'Almanac of the nature' (2011), 'Fragments from the notebook of the natural scientist' (2011), 'Nature – my heart affairs' (2011),**

‘Fragments from the nature’ (2011), ‘Bird boxes and feeders in the Fairy-tale Bird Garden and Fairy-tale Wallcreeper’s house’ (2011), ‘Impressions of the Nature’ (2011), ‘Symphony of the Nature’ (2011).

Miro has several manuscripts, waiting for publication, locked in his writing table. They have been written as fairy tales devoted to the youngest readers. He illustrates his authentically experienced books with his own illustrations.

In the area of scientific literature, Miroslav Saniga is the sole author of **67 papers** and a **monograph** about the life of the **Wallcreeper**. He frequently summarizes his observations for the general public in form of short presentations in the mass media. He has cooperated with Slovak Television on films about nature in the **Veľká Fatra Mountains** and about the **Wallcreeper** and **Capercaillie**.

Author got **the Slovak Academy of Sciences Award for Popular Science Activity** in 1998, **the Ministry of Education Award (2nd place) for Popular Science articles ‘Calendar of the nature’** in the journal **QUARK** in 2006 and the **Honourable mention** of the village Liptovské Revúce for long-lasting successful presentation of the village in the field of the publications, scientific work and writing. **G.F. Belopotocký’s Library in the town Liptovský Mikuláš** conferred on Miroslav SANIGA the Award **‘Book of the Liptov region 2008’**, titles: **‘Ecological essays’** and **‘Poetry of Nature’**. Miroslav SANIGA got also **Mayor’s Award (town Ružomberok) for the important contribution by the education of the young in the sphere literature and nature protection** in 2009. Miroslav SANIGA got **the Slovak Academy of Sciences Award for Popular Science Activity** also in 2010. In this year he got also **BAYER Award – Top-ranking award for permanently sustainable development – National environmental contest 2010 laureate in the category ‘Environmental act of the year’ (1st place)**, for the project **‘A fairy-tale bird garden’**. Author got also **Thank-you letter of the town Ružomberok for development of the Slovak journalism and promotion of the town Ružomberok**.

Author gives external lectures at the Matej Bel University, Faculty of Natural Sciences in Banská Bystrica titled **‘Biological diversity’, ‘Ethology of animals’, ‘Ornithology’** and **‘System of Chordates’**.