

# Germany

## Vessertal-Thüringen Forest



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**Declaration date:** 1979

**Surface area:** 17098 ha

**Administrative division:** Thuringia

### Human activities:

- Settlement : Schmiedefeld am Rennsteig, Frauenwald and Vesser, and parts of Schleusinger-neundorf, lie within the transition area (4.200 Inhabitants)

- Tourism: Hiking, Horseback-riding, Winter sports (cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, ski-jumping)

- Forestry: systematic implementation of principles for managing semi-natural forests.



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### Protection classifications:

Biosphere Reserve

Part of the Natura 2000 coherent ecological network

FFH area

European Bird Protection area

### Contact information:

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### Ecological characteristics:

#### Climate

Atlantic-influenced, moderate, cool-moist central mountain climate with heavy snowfall

Annual average temperature ranges between 4 °C - 7 °C (depending on elevation)

#### Geology, geomorphology

is located in the central region of the Thuringian Forest

includes parts of two geological features of the region: the Thuringian Forest proper and the Thuringian schist mountains

mountain range is cut by numerous valleys, and it slopes evenly from the ridge to 475 m, on its northern side, and to 420 m, on its southern side

peaks include Großer Beerberg (982 m), the Thuringian Forest's highest mountain, Schneekopf (978 m), Finsterberg (944 m)

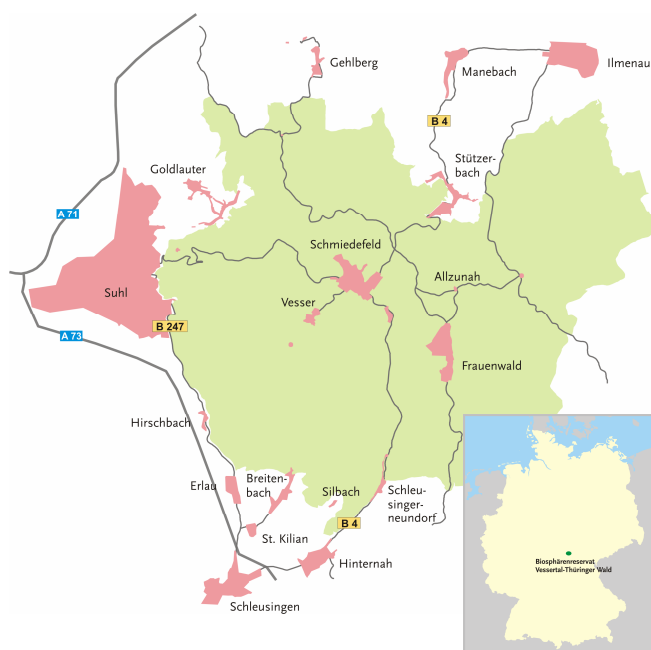
#### Habitats

Acidic-soil mountain spruce forests of montane and high-montane categories

Silicate spring fields, soft-water streams and stream-bank communities of crystalliferous mountains



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