HOW DOES AN OLD-GROWTH FOREST LOOK LIKE?

Ancient forests where no logging takes place present some distinctive features

Forest canopy occupies several vertical layers: low amount of light reaches the ground, predominance of shade-tolerant species

Forest canopy comprises varied species and age classes: it favors high species diversity and increases resilience

Small gaps created by disturbances (falling trees) : they increase heterogeneity and allow regeneration

High quantity of dead wood, both standing dead trees and coarse debris: habitat for a wide variety of dead wood-depending species ("saproxilic")

Very thick trees, both dead and alive: high variety of microhabitats (hollows, cracks) suitable for specialized species

Mixed beech-fir forest in Turieto Alto, Ordesa y Monte Perdido National Park