State Forests
FOR FOREST, FOR PEOPLE

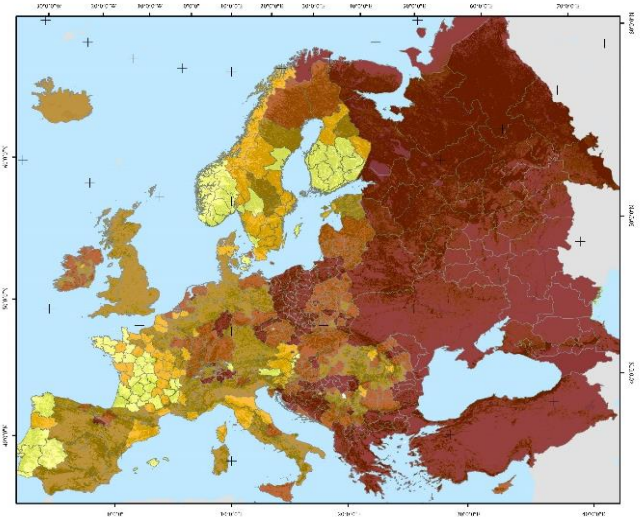
Poland

Possible Economic Impacts of recent EU forest-related Policies II

Damian Zieliński

Copenhagen, 13th October 2022

Public Forest Ownership Map of Europe



Forest Map of Europe

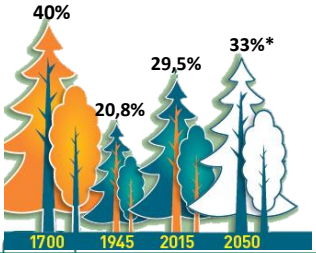
Where is forestry **headed**?

Source: EFI

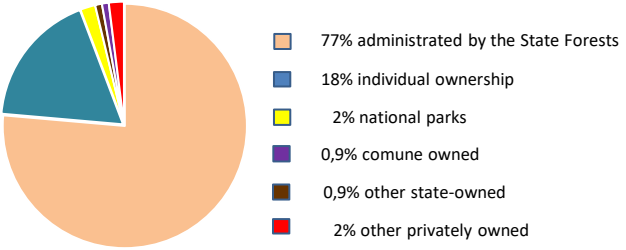
The significance of the Polish forests

- Forest area in Poland: 9,4 mln ha
- Under the management of the SF: 7,4 mln ha
- Forst cover: ca 30% of the total land area
- Growing stock of the Polish forests 269 m3/ha
- Biomass of Polish forests contains 822 milion tonnes of carbon
- **Timber harvesting volume ca. 40 mln m3**

FOREST COVER



OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE



eustafor
MANAGING STATE FORESTS RESPONSIBLY

Directorate General of the State Forests

Regional Directorates (17)

Forest Districts (430)

The State Forests units operate on nationwide, regional and local levels. We employ over 26 000 people and are the biggest organization of this kind in the European Union.

Due to a special financial mechanism we are economically independent and do not rely on taxpayers support.

Forest monitoring

National Forest Inventory

- ✓ forests of all properties, all types and age classes,
- ✓ about 28 thousands of permanent sample plots,
- ✓ one cycle - five years (from 2005) ,
- ✓ annually 20% of total samples in the entire country.

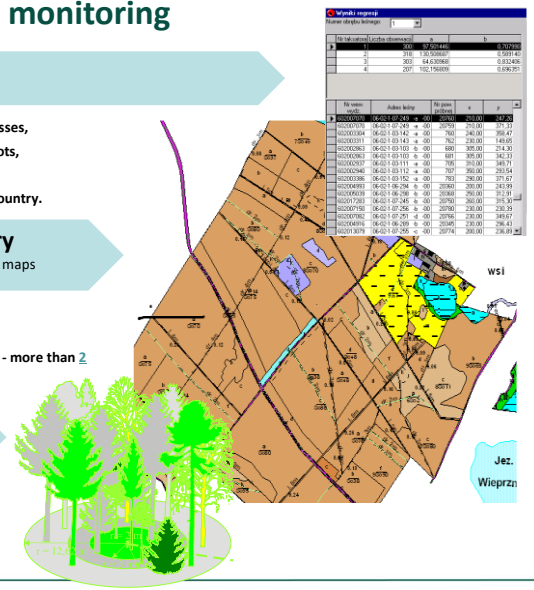
Stand and district level inventory

comprehensive information system based on numeric maps

- ✓ forest site and stand inventory,
- ✓ periodic forest inventory (10 year cycle),
- ✓ online registry on all activities on stand level - more than 2 million records.

Monitoring and research plot networks

Various networks focused at *inter alia*:
- expansion factors refinement,
- forest condition monitoring,
- forest endangerment monitoring.

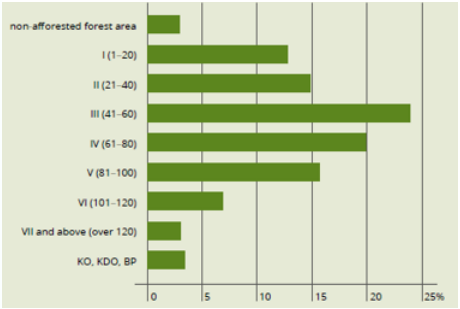


We protect nature

- ✓ Natura 2000: **38%** of SF area
- ✓ Nature reserves: **2 %** of SF area
- ✓ Protection zones for chosen species: **2%** of SF area
- ✓ 11 million euro for a complex European bison protection project in SF (2017-2020)
- ✓ **44 million euro** support from SF for national parks in the years 2016-2020

MODERN SILVICULTURE

AGE STRUCTURE



- The average forest age is over **60 years**
- Stands representing **age classes III and IV** prevail in the forest structure and cover 24.9% and 19.4% of the forest area

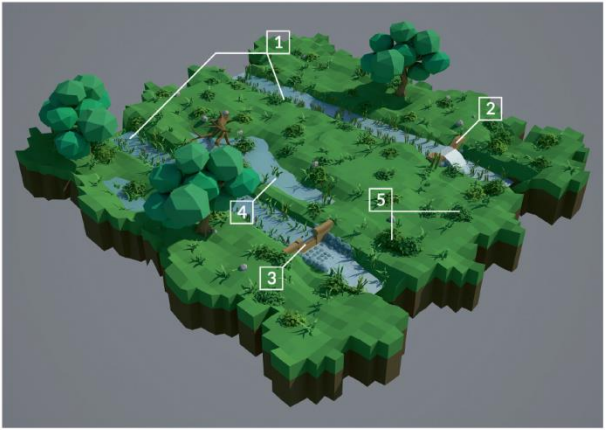
- We plant **500 mln trees** per year

- We are enhancing the importance of natural renewals – **their share in the last six years is 13,8%.**

- The nurseries produce annually **759 million of seedlings** (53 milion seedlings are beeing produced in container nurseries)

Small retention in lowland & mountain areas 2016-2022

- ✓ Renaturalization of wetlands, streams, bank-side reservoirs
- ✓ Construction, reconstruction or restoration of 2300 small retention reservoirs and other hydrotechnical facilities
- ✓ Storage of additional 2.5 million m³ of flood or rain water
- ✓ The total cost of 120 million USD from the State Forests and EU



RENATURALISATION OF WETLANDS

This is a process of restoring drained (via a damaged drainage system) wetlands to a good condition, through the construction of small water facilities on old canals and ditches [1]. Barrages built in artificial watercourses [2] impound water to the required level, and thanks to water gates [3] it is possible to regulate and maintain a specified (often variable in time) water level in the ditch. Thanks to these measures, soil retention increases, the water level in a wetland rises [4], abundant vegetation, characteristic of this habitat, grows [5], and water and marsh birds thrive.

Climate Change is an issue!

- ✓ “Effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change”
- ✓ Global temperature rise this century “well below” 2 °C above pre-industrial levels (+ efforts for 1.5 °C).
- ✓ “Achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century”

Paris Agreement (2016)

IT’S ALL

ALREADY

HERE

"It has been and will be a commitment by the Commission and my personal commitment to make the Green Deal a fair deal. Either the Green Deal will be fair, or there will be no Deal. „

Virginijus Sinkevičius

Challenges faced by European forests and forestry

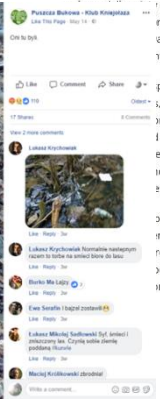
- ✓ Socio-political changes that are shaping the public's perception of forests and forestry
- ✓ the growing number of policies is affecting the complex and fragmented forest policy environment
- ✓ advancing climate change and accompanying threats to forest sustainability

Current discussion trends

- ✓ Increasing contestation of the principles of sustainable forest management,
- ✓ introducing new terminology: close to nature forestry
- ✓ questioning the validity of the idea of multifunctionality of forests, and thus proposing the separation of natural and productive functions, and in selected areas the cessation of any forest use.

Growing expectations for forests ➡ ⬅ Increasing threats

Forestry in the age of public scrutiny



5 February 2019

Trees cover 182 million hectares of the EU. That's six times the size of Italy. Yet as this report shows, European Union (EU) forests are under threat, and rapid and committed action is required to save them. We all - citizens, policy- organisations and political leaders - have rotect our forests, and to make sure they ay which respects biodiversity, indigenous nts, and natural resource limits.

pruce forests in the Czech Republic fall s, biomass power plants threaten to rests, old-growth forests are being l and Romania, conifer plantations swamp es battle logging on indigenous lands in d Sweden... These are just a handful of ests in danger.

ong action to protect forests globally, nt aid, innovative trade work such as the rcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and commitments to end EU ds that cause agricultural deforestation. But to meet climate targets and improve the mmunities, we must protect forests the world over.

- Strategy sets targets of legally protecting a minimum of 30% of the EU land area and 30% of the EU's sea area, to **strictly protect at least one third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests**, and to effectively manage and appropriately monitor all protected areas by 2030.

Consequences of implementing the EU's biodiversity strategy

Deloitte.

IBL

- ✓ Impact on carbon sequestration opportunities
- ✓ Impact on forest communities
- ✓ Risk of large-scale forest dieback
- ✓ Impact on timber harvesting
- ✓ Impact on forestry and forests in non-EU countries

Achieving the desired goal would require strict protection of nearly 1/3 of the EU's forest area **(10% is 42,676,420 hectares).**

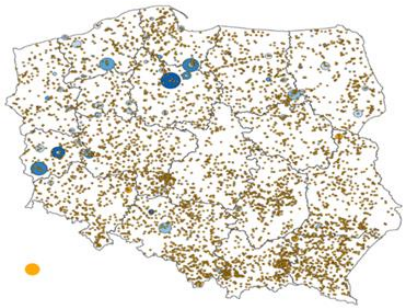
Reliable estimates indicate that achieving this goal would result in a decline in the EU's raw timber production by **more than 40%, or about 244 million m^3**

Consequences of timber imports

- ✓ Imports of wood raw material from outside the EU
- ✓ Substitution of wood by other raw materials - plastic, glass, metal, rubber, concrete, petroleum products, etc.
- ✓ Significant increase in CO2 emissions as a result of deforestation and as a result of shipping and lengthening the transportation route of raw material in Europe
- ✓ Forest biodiversity outside the European Union will also be threatened

Consequences in Poland

- ✓ Decrease in timber harvesting
- ✓ Possible reduction of more than 200,000 people employed in the timber industry
- ✓ A decrease in the share of wood industry employees in total industry from 12.5% to 6%
- ✓ Reduction or liquidation of production of 90% of companies located in rural areas-92% of wood processing companies employ less than 10 people.



Activation of forest dieback processes

- ✓ loss of ability to sustain biodiversity
- ✓ dead forests will become an emitter of CO2
- ✓ loss of opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change - including reduced water retention, mitigation of daily temperature amplitude, loss of beneficial effects on air quality, activation of erosion processes.

EU plan to restore natural resources by 2030.

- ✓ Politically unrealistic goal of restoring 20% of land and sea areas
- ✓ No definition of "satisfactory levels" of ecosystems
- ✓ Unclear links to Natura 2000 and extension of these provisions beyond the network
- ✓ Lack of identified sources of funding

Conclusions

- ✓ Forests have a central role in Climate Change mitigation but adaptation, prevention and preparedness are a key issues!
- ✓ Only Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) can bring long-term climate benefits from healthy and resilient forests
- ✓ EU policies need to be coherent and based on SFM Principles

EU forests are a growing resource but must be resilient

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Thank you!

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