



The multifunctional role of Croatian forests and tools to enhance this role in the future



FORESTS IN CROATIA - GENERAL INFO

FORESTS	STATE FORESTS	PRIVATE FORESTS
AREA	2.106.917 ha - 78%	669.700 ha - 22%
WOOD STOCK	468.000.000 m ³ - 85%	85.000.000 m ³ - 15%
WOOD STOCK / ha	256 m ³ /ha	156 m ³ /ha
NATURAL FORESTS	97%	98%
PLANTATATIONS	3%	2%
BROAD-LEAVED	74%	77%
CONIFERS	7%	5%
MIXED	19%	18%

THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF FORESTS IN CROATIA

FORESTS IN CROATIA

- ❑ The total area covered by forest is 47.5% of the territory
- ❑ Croatian forest management and forestry activity is 255 years old
- ❑ The basic principles of Croatian forestry are sustainable management with the aim of preserving the natural diversity structure of forests
- ❑ Forests are managed according to forest management plans, which are the ecological, economic and social basis for increasing forest production and biological improvement of forests



Some of our key messages

- ❑ We need to *promote forest management* as an eco-friendly activity, and especially wood as a renewable raw material
- ❑ We need also to popularize the diversity of species and the need for *forestry as a strategic activity* and professional occupation
- ❑ There is a *large potential* for forestry enterprises
- ❑ The *value of forest by-products*, from forest and forest soil, their importance for biodiversity and additional revenues in rural areas
- ❑ *Positive environmental role of forests* such as impact on the water-air regime and the ecological, aesthetic and tourist-recreational role.



TOOLS TO ENHANCE MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE OF FORESTS

CONVERSION

Process of changing the forest from degraded form to hanging growing form, with the purpose of achieving the best quality of forests in the future.



SOURCES OF FINANCING THE CONVERSION AND RECOVERY OF FORESTS

1. "GREEN TAX" - Forestry Levy

- ❑ The tax is valued 0,0265% of annual revenue and it is used for the biological renewal of the forests, maintenance of forest infrastructures, fire protection, monitoring of forest pests, marking trees for felling and for making forest-management plans
- ❑ With this type of financing the competent ministry makes payments of all expenses for habitat preparation, seedlings, planting, maintenance and care for the forest growth during the first 4 years
- ❑ That kind of stimulation represents an opportunity for all private forest owners to well manage their forests, achieving quality in accordance with the rules of the profession

SOURCES OF FINANCING THE CONVERSION AND RECOVERY OF FORESTS

2. EUROPEAN FUNDS

- ❑ Financial support in the form of grants (100%)
- ❑ Grants are provided by the:
 - European Union - 85%
 - The Republic of Croatia - 15%
- ❑ Standard costs of conversion per hectare for planting seedlings with protective tubes = 7.535,00 EUR



THE BENEFITS OF SUCH TOOLS

- ☺ Increasing the resistance of forest ecosystems to biotic and abiotic factors
- ☺ Increasing the value of the environment and general useful functions of forest ecosystems
- ☺ Preservation and increasing of biodiversity
- ☺ Increase the stock of wood





Thank you for attention !

Robert Sambolek, mag. ing. silv.

**Chairman of the Forestry Committee,
Croatian Chamber of Agriculture**

