

Slovenia information on potential wood supply

The potential wood supply in Slovenia is based on a system of forest management planning, which applies to all forests, regardless of ownership (80% of forests are privately owned) and is in place since 1970 with considerable adaptation in the Forest Law of 1993.

The system is based on plans elaborated every 10 years for each of the 250 forest management units, comprising altogether 1.2 million hectares of forests. The units are divided into forest management classes established mainly as a consequence of differences in sites and forest functions. Goals are set for every management class as are silvicultural guidelines, the allowable cut and required silvicultural and forest protection activities. The growing stock and increment are calculated from measurements on permanent sampling plots carried out every ten years (grid approx. 250 by 250 metres).

The owners that otherwise participate with the Forest Service when a plan is drawn up, are given an administrative decision and are normally not allowed to exceed the allowable cut, otherwise more specifically allocated to stands within detailed silvicultural plans.

According to close-to-nature and multifunctional forest management doctrine, it has been believed that the forests have not achieved the optimal growing stock yet and that on the national level the increment should still be accumulated (Table 1). This approach is highlighted also in the newly adopted National Forest Programme where the upper level of cutting is set to 75% of increment (5.9 Mm³).

Table 1: Annual allowable cut as set in the valid forest management plans compared to the forest resource in Slovenia (2007)

Growing stock (Mm ³)			Increment (Mm ³)			Annual allowable cut (Mm ³)		
Con.	Broadl.	Total	Con.	Broadl.	Total	Con.	Broadl.	Total
148	170	318	3.5	4.3	7.8	2.3	2.5	4.8

According to some calculations, there will be no need for increasing the growing stock after 2030, when the entire increment would be allowed to be cut.

There have been no official projections made to assess allocation of timber cut in future. Owners sell the timber or use it for domestic purposes according to their own calculations following the “law” of the market. The fact however is that the bulk of broadleaved timber under 25 DBH (approx. 50%) is expected to be directly used for energy, mostly locally. Indirect (industrial) usage of timber for energy has been estimated in the study WISDOM Slovenia¹ as was the annual amount of non-timber assortments from non-forest land uses (0.3 – 0.4 Mm³).

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¹ Drigo, R., Veselič, Ž., 2006. FAO – Forestry Department – Wood Energy