Distributions of functions in forestry institutions: positive and negative moments – the Polish experience

Tomasz Zawila-Niedzwiecki
FORESTS IN POLAND

FORESTS AREA IN POLAND: 9,4 mln ha

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SF: 7,4 mln ha

FOREST COVER IN POLAND

1946 – 20.8%

2017 – 29.5%

2050 – 33%

FOREST OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE IN POLAND

- 77% administered by the State Forests
- 18% individual ownership
- 2% national parks
- 0.9% other state-owned
- 0.9% commune owned
- 2% other privately-owned

In the last 20 years, the timber resources in SF have increased by 530 million m³.

Growing stock of Polish forests is 269 m³/ha.

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In the mountains the dominant species is:
- spruce (western part)
- spruce and beech (eastern part)

Coniferous species are dominant in 68.5% of the area of Polish forests.

In the years 1945-2016, the structure of species composition changed significantly, which is evident also in the increased share of stands with predominant deciduous species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMINANT TREE SPECIES IN THE STATE FORESTS</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pine</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oak</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birch</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spruce</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beech</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alder</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fir and other conifers</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poplar and other broadleaved</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In lowlands and highlands the most common tree species is **Scots pine**.
The average forest age is over 60 years.

Stands aged 41–80 years dominate in Polish forests.

The number of tree stands aged over 80 years is rising. Their area has increased from about 0.9 million ha in 1945 to over 2 million ha in 2016.

Stands representing age classes III and IV prevail in the forest stage structure and cover 24.9% and 19.4% of the forest area.
The organization of the State Forests is based on the principle of self-financing.

The organization of the Polish State Forests was founded in 1924. Its first director, Adam Loret, pioneered the modern structures of forestry and government in Poland.

The State Forests National Forest Holding is an organizational unit without legal personality. The basic document for the State Forests is the Act on Forests of September 28, 1991. It defines the principles of forest management of the State Forests and in the forests of other ownership types.

The organization of the State Forests is based on the principle of self-financing.
ORGANIZATION
OF THE STATE FORESTS

SUPERVISION:
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Director-General of the SF
appointed by the Minister of the Environment. He manages the organization by issuing ordinances and decisions. His office is the Directorate-General of the State Forests.

Regional directorates of the SF (17)
Their task is to supervise the subordinate units and to coordinate their activities.

Forest districts (430)
They operate on the basis of the forest management plan. The forest district manager is responsible for the forest management and the condition of the forest in the district area.
TAXES and IMPOSITIONS by STATE FORESTS

ILE LASY PAŃSTWOWE PŁACĄ PODATKÓW
I INNE OBCIĄŻENIA NA RZECZ CELÓW PUBLICZNYCH

GDZIE TRAFIAJĄ PIENIĄDZE?
dane za 2017 rok

ŁĄCZNIE
2,9 mld zł
To ponad 34% wszystkich kosztów Lasów Państwowych

BADANIA NAUKOWE
48 mln zł
To tyle co koszt stypendii dla 615 uczniów przez 15 lat

PARKI NARODOWE
66 mln zł
To tyle co koszt utrzymania żubrów żyjących w LP przez 22 lata

ZABEZPIECZENIE SPOŁECZNE
480 mln zł
To tyle co wartość 222 tys. przeciętnych emerytur

DROGI LOKALNE
(budowa i remont)
38 mln zł
To tyle co koszt zakupu 6 niskopodłogowych tramwajów

SAMORZĄDY
270 mln zł
To tyle co koszt budowy 150 km dróg lokalnych

BUDŻET PAŃSTWA
2,0 mld zł
To tyle co koszt utrzymania Ministrowstwa Środowiska przez 17 lat

Łącznie ze środków własnych nadleśnictw

opracowanie: Lasy Państwowe
projekt graficzny: Polska Grupa Infograficzna

www.lasy.gov.pl
Article 50 of the Forest Act specifies that “the SF shall engage in activities on the basis of financial self-sufficiency, covering the costs of its activities from its own revenues”. This means timber sales must finance the “basic forest management tasks” (e.g. silviculture, forest protection).

Forest Districts pay ca 15% of the value of sold wood paid by each forest districts

Dues, fees and penalties associated with the exclusion of forest land from production

Compensation for damage caused to forests

Research and developments

Elaboration of Forest Management Plans

Forest Districts with deficits (depends on local natural condition and logging activities planned for each year)
THE ROLE OF THE STATE FORESTS

1. A creator of the idea of social responsibility
2. Expert in the field of pro-environmental activities
3. Bioeconomy implementer
They have work thanks to forests:

- 26,000 employees of the State Forests
- 50,000 workers in outsourced forest services, working in timber harvesting, planting and forest protection
- 300,000 employees of sawmills, papermills, companies producing furniture and building materials and others working for forestry and wood industry
Principal Markets

Sale on the Forest-timber Portal:
- Basic market (main stake for timber enterprises that already have purchased timber from the SF)
- Market for development (stake for entrepreneurs starting new enterprises, maximising production scales, for new-created entities)

Sale via price negotiations:
- Retail market (for individuals)
- Market of niche timber
- Market of charcoal burned traditionally
- Market of energy timber for enterprises
- Timber market for SF program supporting energy self-sufficiency of local governments

Sale during submissions or auctions – high-valued timber

Sale on e-drewno – the complementing market (mainly timber not sold during other procedures, also timber harvested due to natural disasters)
Criteria of purchase
on the basic market

Price
- Refused price – unacceptable low price for the SF due to economic reasons
- Offered price – suggested price which ensures the purchase of a sufficient amount of timber for customers and satisfactory funds for the SF
- Top price – price ensuring the purchase of the maximum amount of requested timber

80%
purchase geography

20%
optimisation of timber purchase and transport distances
A PERFECT RAW MATERIAL

Every year, such a quantity of raw material is logged, which does not harm the environment and enables the development of wood companies. Logging in the SF - about 60% of the increment.

Over the last 20 years, the supply of wood the market has increased by 100%. In 2017, it was over 40 million m³.

Forests absorb CO2 - and produces timber.
NATURE CONSERVATION

NATURA 2000

- Natura 2000 areas cover about 20% of the total area of Poland
- Natura 2000 sites cover 38% of the State Forests’ area

On the areas of the State Forests:
- 133 areas of special protection areas for bird - 2217 thous. ha (29.1%)
- 707 areas of Community importance - 1678 thous. ha (21.8%)

PROGRAMS OF THE STATE FORESTS

- Program for the Preservation of Forest Genetic Resources
- Program for the Restitution of Fir in the Western Sudets
- Program for the Restitution of Yew
- Programs focusing on reintroduction of black grouse
- Programs on reintroduction of peregrine falcon, lynx, bison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature reserves</th>
<th>Nature monuments</th>
<th>Species protection zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1279</td>
<td>10,328</td>
<td>3,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MODERN SILVICULTURE

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 being produced in container nurseries)

Almost **56 thousand hectares of forest were renewed in 2016**

In 2016 afforestation amounted **2011 hectares**
MAKING THE FOREST ACCESSIBLE

According to the Forest Act, forests owned by the State Treasury are made accessible to the public.

WELCOMING TOURISTS

- 22,000 km of hiking routes,
- 4000 km of cycling routes,
- 7000 km horse riding routes,
- 600 camping sites,
- 3200 car parks and stopping places,
- 4500 accommodation

FOREST EDUCATION

Forest education is an important part of the State Forests’ activity. Our educational offer targets children, teenagers, adults, among them disabled people.

Over 3.7 million people participated in educational activities organized by foresters in 2016.

- Nearly 28 million PLN spent by SF on forest education
- have created 5.5 thousand educational objects.
Game management

Number of hunting districts under the management of State Forests: **208**
with a total area of **over 1.8 million ha**

Percentage of hunting districts managed by the State Forests among all districts in Poland: **4%**

**GAME ANIMALS IN POLAND (IN THOUSAND)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deer</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roe deer</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wild boar</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fox</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hare</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pheasant</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partridge</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!

The State Forests
National Forest Holding

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