Sustainable Forest

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Mountainous Carpathian Forests in the Czech Republic

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Main Information on the Carpathian Forests in CZ • Total area 7341,8 km² (9,3 % of Czech R.)

- Forest cover 37 %
- Forest categories (the Czech Forest Law):
 - Commercial forests 87,6 %
 - Special purpose forests 12,3 %
 - Protection forests 0,1 %
- Conifers (54,1 %) over broadleaves (45,9 %)
- Mixed stands
 - Mostly coniferous 40 %
 - Mostly broadleaves 30 %
 - Mixed 30 %
- At least one natural protection category on 59 % of forests
- NATURA 2000 –7 bird areas and 123 important locations (in European context)



Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in CZ

A view on SFM development:

- 1. Production sustainability logging control and reforestation
- 2. Anthropocentric view forest services with production sustainability
- 3. Sustainable forest management in an ecosystem (ecological) view



Sustainable Forest Management in CZ

- The CZ state forest policy in concordance with Rio de Janeiro 1992, Helsinky 1993, Lisbon 1998, Vienna 2003, Carpathian Convention 2006
- 200-yrs tradition of SFM in Czech Republic
 - Principles accepted at conferences above have been applied a long time ago in CZ.

Tools of CZ state policy for SFM

- Regional Plans of Forest
 Development
 - 41 natural forest areas, 20-yrs validity
 - Forest ecosystem classification, protection, forest functions and transportation
 - Forest management recommendations, plans and guidelines
 - Map agenda
 - Support for key actions of the National forestry program

National Forestry Program

- The SFM concept respects national sovereignty...
- ...while implements international agreement materials
- Fulfilled EU forest strategy

How do we differentiate SFM in Czech forests?

- Natural conditions via forest ecosystem classification is a basic criterion of SFM differentiation
 - The system is built on potential natural vegetation (PNV).
 - Classification units based on PNV reflect climate and site conditions (e.g., soils).
 - A basic unit forest type complex serves for forest management guidelines where SFM is applied.



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Forest Management Guidelines (FMG): units of SFM

- Site-silviculture units (hospodarsky soubor) aggregated from forest type complexes/types with similar ecological properties.
- They are characterized by:
 - Unified natural conditions (altitude, soil moisture, soil nutrient regime, etc.)
 - Functional orientation (commercial, protection forests...)
 - Existing vegetation (stand tree composition)



Forest Management Guidelines

- A table-like summation of basic management recommendations.
- They respect:
 - Ecological conditions (the environment)
 - Multifunctional character of forests
 - Demands of public interests
- They serve as recommendations for detail forestry planning (Forest management plans)
- They differ among natural forest areas (NFA)

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A numeric according to the second sites in mountainous areas

Recommended tree spp composition

Forest law management settings

Existing tree

vegetation

Production safety, Functional potential, Recommended technologies



Recommended % share of valuable hardwoods

Basic management recommendations

Silvicultural treatments

FMG in mountainous Carpathian areas in CZ deal with:

Forest vegetation zone

- 6. spruce-beech 6347 ha (2,3 %), 880–1080 a. s. l.
- 7. beech-spruce 646 ha (0,2 %), 1080–1240 a. s. l.
- 8. spruce 19 ha (0,007 %), 1240–1323 a. s. l. (Lysá Hora)
- 98 % of CZ Carpathian mountainous forests belong to Beskydy Landscape Protected Area



FMG stress points in mountainous Carpathian areas

- Natural regeneration of indigenous tree species
- Suggested tree species composition is close to potential natural
- Regeneration period is generally longer than for typical FMG: 40 yrs-∞
- Recommended security period of plantations (after clear-cut logging) is shorter:
 5 yrs (7 yrs by the law)
- Attention to a higher risk of climatic factors and clear cut "weeds"
- Attention to ecological functional potential: infiltration, erosion control, etc.

I he principle of SFM applied: examples abroad

- Carpathians in Ukraine 2005–2007 a 2008– 2010
 - Modification of the Czech planning approach in Ukraine.
 - Complete regional forest development plan for the model territory – 10 000 ha.
 - Detailed FMG for 20 management complexes.
 - Practical training of forestry staff.







The principle of SFM applied: examples abroad

- Mongolia 2015–2018 (a western Khentei region) – <u>http://forest4mongolia-cz.net/</u>
 - Enhanced approach to landscape classification
 - Direct inclusion of a time factor (fires) into forestry planning
 - Historic research (pedoanthracology)
 - Suggestion of ecological classification and FMG









Geo-vegetation zones of the western Khentei in Mongolia

 Typical stand and soil profile examples for the geo-vegetation zones in western Khentei, Mongolia



I. Forest-steppe (lower montane)



II. Steppe-forest / light taiga (montane)



III. Forest / dark taiga (upper montane)

An idea of an unified methodological tool for sustainable management of the mountainous Carpathian forests

- Why unified, advantages?
 - Direct implementation of the Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management and its Strategic Action Plan.
 - We can avoid unnecessary mistakes using a synthesis and sharing of proven ways of SFM by all parties within the Carpathian Declaration.
 - Recommended framework as an "idealized" example of SFM.
 - This framework and shared units will be transferable to all national systems of SFM



Conclusion

- Mountainous forests are the most precious part of Carpathian landscape. They hold the highest biodiversity which overlaps into the neighboring ecosystems.
- Use of the Carpathian mountainous forests in a way of SFM should be our priority. This will ensure forests' ecological, economic and social functioning.
- We propose an unified methodological tool for framework management of the Carpathian forests using common experience with existing structures similar to the Czech system.

Thank you for your attention. Questions?