



# Close-to-nature forest management by LESY Slovenskej republiky, š.p.

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Carpathian Convention WG on Sustainable Forest Management

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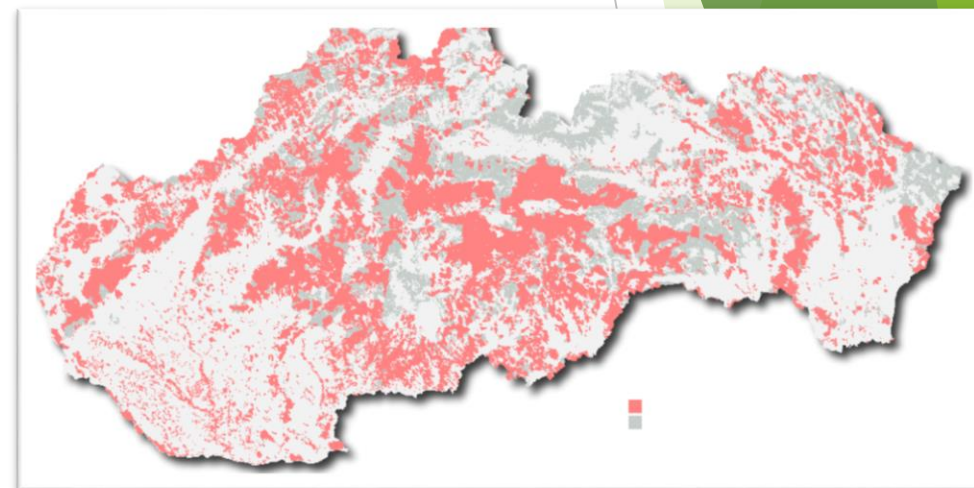
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# LESY Slovenskej republiky, š.p.

## Basic informations:

- ▶ Total area: 886 252 ha
- ▶ Employees: 3 635
- ▶ Annual felling: 4.57 mil. m<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Artificial regeneration: 4 063 ha
- ▶ Natural regeneration: 3 541 ha
- ▶ Revenues from timber sales: 235 mil. Eur
- ▶ Direct costs for silviculture operations: 26.6 mil. Eur
- ▶ 100 % PEFC certified, 3 branches FSC certified (124 616 ha)





# Lesy Slovenskej republiky, š.p. and nature protection

▶ **National protected areas network:**

national parks	18.25 %
protected landscape areas	23.49 %
small-scale protected areas	3.04 %

▶ **European protected areas network (NATURA 2000):**

sites of community importance (SCI)	26,00 %
special protection areas (SPA)	43,70 %

▶ **Protected areas cover 60,02 % of the area managed by LESY SR**



# Close-to-nature forestry

- ▶ **Ecological functions** - conservation of ecosystems, protection of soil, water and climate
- ▶ **Social functions** - recreation, amenity and cultural aspects
- ▶ **Economic functions** - the production of large timber of good quality, assurance of income and places of employment



# Lesy Slovenskej republiky, š.p. and Pro Silva



- ▶ **1989** Pro Silva was founded  
11 founding countries

Aims: - Put everything in place to ensure the maintenance of European forests vitality, to improve their structure and stability, and to ensure that their varied functions, productivity and profitability are guaranteed in a sustainable way

- Allow to collaborate and exchange their experience

- ▶ **1997** first meetings and excursions in demonstration forest stands in Slovakia
- ▶ **2000** the beginning of cooperation with LESY SR
- ▶ **2005** first company close-to-nature management directive at LESY SR



# Tools

- ▶ Well defined procedures
- ▶ Objects PRO SILVA - project, documentation, defense of project
- ▶ Exemplary forests - the education of foresters working in similar conditions
- ▶ Forestry Days Pro Silva - presentation of results, exchange of experience
- ▶ Excursions
- ▶ Publicity







# Selection system

- ▶ Uneven-aged system
- ▶ Trees of all ages are found mixed together over every part of the area
- ▶ Mature timber is removed at relatively short intervals, repeated indefinitely
- ▶ Regeneration should occur throughout the life of the stand
- ▶ Selection system follows nature in respect of its pattern of felling





# Suitable stands

- ▶ Stands with prevailing production function
- ▶ Forests of high silvicultural form
- ▶ Suitable tree species composition
- ▶ Min. area 4 ha
- ▶ Min. age 40 years
- ▶ Max. slope 45 %
- ▶ Suitable terrain conditions







# Principles

- ▶ Full use of natural dynamic forest processes
- ▶ Continuous forest cover
- ▶ Paying attention to the function of every single tree
- ▶ Development of mixed, uneven-aged forest stands
- ▶ Use of natural regeneration
- ▶ Use of natural stem number reduction
- ▶ Use of appropriate machinery





# Results

- ▶ 250 objects PRO SILVA
- ▶ 5 exemplary forests
- ▶ 65000 ha
- ▶ 7,3 % of our forest is managed according to principles of close-to-nature forestry







**Difficulties should act as a tonic. They should spur us to greater exertion.**

