



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development  
of the Slovak Republic

Boris Greguška  
Chief State Counsellor

Section of Forestry and Wood Processing

# European Union Forest Strategy 2030

Carpathian Convention, Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management  
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# Forests and the European Union

national competence

## Treaty on the European Union, the Article 5

The use of EU competences is governed by the principles of:

- **subsidiarity**, and
- **proportionality**.



## Forests and the European Union

„ Although the EU has a variety of forest related policies, the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU makes no reference to a common EU forest policy, **the responsibility for forests lies with the Member States ...**“

*EU Council conclusions, November 2020*

national competence



# Forests and the European Union

## EU Forest Strategy

1998 » 2013 » 2021

strategic framework

Vision, objectives and strategic orientations at EU level (**sustainable forest management** and **multifunctional role of forests**)

Consistency and coherence of EU forest related policies

Complement national / sub-national forest policies

national competence



# Forests and the European Union

## European Green Deal (2019)

to be climate neutral by 2050

- EU Strategy on Bioeconomy
- Action Plan on Circular Economy
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and Nature Restoration Law
- New EU Forest Strategy for 2030
- EU Strategy on Adapting to Climate Change
- European Climate Law

## Fit for 55 (2021)

- LULUCF Revision
- Renewable Energy Directive (RED II/III)
- EU Soil Strategy for 2030 and Soil Monitoring Law (2023)
- New regulation on fighting deforestation and forest degradation (EUDR, 2022)
- Carbon farming (2021) and legislative proposal on carbon certification



# Forests and the European Union

## New EU Forest Strategy 2030

strategic framework

- Promoting **socio-economic functions of forests**  
(rural development, circular bioeconomy, bioenergy, ecotourism, ...)
- **Forest protection and restoration**  
(adapting forests to climate change, forest resilience, biodiversity conservation, incl. protection of primary forests, afforestation and reforestation, forest restoration)
- **Forest monitoring, reporting and data collection**  
(EU Forest Observatory, new legislative proposal on forest monitoring, 2023)
- **Forest research and innovation**
- **Forest governance:** inclusive and coherent (revision of the Standing Forestry Committee)
- **Enforcement of existing EU acquis** relevant to forests



# Forests and the European Union

strategic framework

## New EU Forest Strategy 2030

- Guidelines on the definition of primary and old-growth forests, including their definition, mapping, monitoring, and strict protection
- Guidelines on biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation
- Guidelines for closer-to-nature forestry as well as closer-to-nature forestry certification scheme
- Revision of forest reproductive material legislation (still under negotiations)





# EU Forest Strategy 2030: national implementation

Adoption of **the National Forest Programme 2030 („Forests for the Society“)**  
by the Government of the Slovak Republic (March 2024)

- 17 strategic objectives
- Sustainable forest management (economy – environment - society)
- Focus on adapting forests to climate change
- Promoting close-to-nature forest management (as an integral part of SFM)
- 25 % of Slovak forests managed in line with close-to-nature principles by 2030 (climate, biodiversity)
- Increasing the effectiveness of the forest sector and its contribution to bioeconomy / circular economy
- Payments for ecosystem services
- Supporting research and innovations





# EU Forest Strategy 2030: national implementation

Adoption of **the Action Plan of the National Forest Programme 2030** by the Government of the Slovak Republic (December 2024)

Action Plan identifies concrete measures and sources of their financing.

In the implementation of the Action Plan, the use of CAP Strategic Plan financing, the state budget (state aid), private sources (forest owners and managers), as well as other forest-relevant operational programs is expected.

**Action (example):** incorporate recently developed climate-change adaptation models to forest management planning and forest management plans.



# EU Forest Strategy 2030: national implementation

- **CAP National Strategic Plan 2023-2027** (2022 adopted)  
(forestry measures supporting rural development,  
support for close-to-nature forestry)

Forestry interventions:

best practise integrated projects of close-to-nature forest management



## EU Forest Strategy 2030: national implementation

- Close-to-nature forest management: development of instruments and working modalities for forest management planning.
- Payments for forest ecosystem services: state aid scheme for financing non-productive forest functions (since 2021, we have provide 6 mil. euros per year to forest holders).
- Protection of primary and old-growth forests: a new network of strictly protected areas was designated under a joint name Pristine forests of Slovakia (Pralesy Slovenska) which includes remnants of primary and old-growth forests.
- Amendment of the Act 543/2002 on Nature Protection adopted in 2021: the obligation to apply close to nature management on forest land under the 3<sup>rd</sup> and higher degree of nature conservation (pursuant to national classification).



## National forest related strategies and policies

- National Forest Programme
- National Forest Act

Forests fulfilling multiple functions

Support the implementation of sustainable forest management

### Sustainable forest management

(MCPFE / FOREST EUROPE, Helsinki Ministerial Resolution, 1993)

*“the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”*



# National forest related strategies and policies

*František Papánek, 1978:*

*„Theory and practice of functionally integrated forest management“*



(multifunctional)





# Integration vs fragmentation

Functionally integrated (multifunctional)  
forest management (1978)

Sustainable forest management (1993, 1998, 2013, 2021)



based on **integrating** forest functions



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Thank you  
for your attention

Contact:

E: [boris.greguska@land.gov.sk](mailto:boris.greguska@land.gov.sk)

W: [land.gov.sk](http://land.gov.sk)

 [@Boris\\_Greguska](https://twitter.com/Boris_Greguska)

