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**POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE
TRANSITION OF THE FOREST SECTOR
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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Basic forestry data

Forest land:	2 005 598 ha (41 %)
Growing stock:	434 million m ³ (227 m ³ /ha)
Increment:	11, 5 million m ³ (6, 1m ³ /ha)
Annual fellings:	6, 5 ~ 7, 5 million m ³
Tree species:	52, 7 % broadleaved 47, 3 % conifers
Ownership:	42, 2 % state 12, 0 % private 37, 3 % other non-state 8, 5 % unknown

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FOREST POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE TRANSITION

Concept and principles of forest policy - in 1992

- 10 principles of forest management and protection
 - main issue was restitution

In 1999 Forest policy for period 2000 – 2004

- only short-term tasks and duties of the MoA

1999 – 2000 FAO/TCP Project on a new forest policy and legislation

- draft prepared, not approved

Real long-term forest policy is missing

NFP does not exist, no discussion on it yet

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LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Laws on – Forests

Forest management

- both from 1967 – valid till October 2005
- from 1992 several attempts to draft new FL

1999 – 2000 FAO/TCP Project

- draft of a new forest law in cooperation with international team of experts
- after election in 2000 new law intent

2000 – 2005 more than 10 editions

2005 new forest law approved – very controversial

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INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

Before 1990 Ministry of Forestry and Water Management

1990 – 1992 Ministry of Forestry, Water Management and Wood Industry

**From 1992 Ministry of Agriculture
Forestry section**

State forestry authority at lower levels:

8 county forest offices

78 regional forest offices

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INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

STATE FORESTS

Till 1994 – 6 state forest enterprises under direct vertical control of the MoA

1996 – 2000 Association of 6 state forest enterprises

2000 one state forest enterprise Forests of the SR

26 regional enterprises

~ 80 forest directoriates

2 special enterprises

Semenoles- seeds and seedlings production

Enterprise of Forest Technology – harvesting for all 26 forest enterprises

Recently – Law on transformation of the state forest enterprise to a state joint-stock company

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INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

NON-STATE FORESTS

- Union of Regional Associations of Non-state Forest Owners of the Slovak Republic
- Association of Communal and Private Forest Owners of Banska Bystrica Region
- Association of Slovak Municipal Forests
- Union of Church Forests in Slovakia

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INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

Other institutions:

- **Forest Research Institute**
- **Lesoprojekt – Institute for Forest Management Planning**
- **Institute for Education and Training of Forest Workers**
- **Technical Univerzity Zvolen**
 - **Faculty of Forestry**
 - **Faculty of Wood Science**
 - **Faculty of Environment**
 - **Faculty of Environmental Technology**
- **3 middle level forestry schools**
- **3 vocational schools for forest workers**

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INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- Association of Employers in Forestry in Slovakia
- Slovak Forestry Chamber
- Slovak Hunting Association
- Board of the Economic and Social Agreement in Forestry of the Slovak Republic
- Club of Slovak women-foresters
- Several non-governmental organisations focused at environment and forestry

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CHALLENGES IN TRANSITION ACCOMPLISHMENT

- CAPACITY BUILDING IN NON-STATE FOREST SECTOR
- CAPACITY BUILDING IN STATE FOREST ADMINISTRATION
- IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOLOGICALLY, SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY BALANCED FOREST MANAGEMENT
- IMPROVEMENT OF COST EFFICIENCY IN MANAGEMENT
- IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE AND EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES
- IMPLEMENTATION OF MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES
- IMPROVEMENT OF MARKETING AND PRICING SKILLS
- INCREASING INVESTMENTS IN FOREST INDUSTRIES
- INCREASING INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

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