

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

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**Republic of Slovenia
Country Report**

The forest in Slovenia covers 1.2 million hectares representing 60% of the country's territory. Growing stock exceeds 300 m³ per hectare and annual increment is assessed at 8 million m³. Annual removals represent less than 50% of the increment. Half of the forests are within the EU ecological network Natura 2000.

Only 20% of forests are state owned, 2% are owned by local communities and all other forests are owned by 300.000 private forest owners.

With the forest law of 1993 the Government established the Forest Service whose main tasks are to carry out in all forests forest management planning, authorisation of cutting including marking of trees, care for maintenance of forest roads, forest protection activities, checking silvicultural activities and approving incentives to forest owners paid from the budget. Functioning of the Forest Service is very expensive for the State budget.

Formal manager of the state forests is Fund for agricultural lands and forests, which, according to the law, signed concession contracts with former state, but now private forestry companies. The fees they have paid so far for concession are rather low.

Most of the owners are members of Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, but the services this institution offers to forest owners are rather limited. Several Associations of forest owners therefore appeared.

Forest policy challenges:

1. **PLANNING:** What should the system of forest management planning look like for State and for small private forest properties? What should be the role of a governmental institution and forest owners at different levels of planning?
2. **NATURE CONSERVATION IN FORESTS (50% in N2K):** How to deal with nature conservation requirements in forests?
3. **MANAGEMENT IN PRIVATE FORESTS (80% of forests are privately owned):** Who should assist private forest owners in managing their forests (e.g. marking of trees for felling) and who should pay for this assistance? Should authorisation for felling be mandatory and what would the procedure be? How to approach forest owners in small ownership to intensify their management?
4. **MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS:** What models for management of state forests are most promising? – concessions or state owned companies