

**UNECE/FAO Workshop on policy consequences of the European Forest Sector  
Outlook Study (EFSOS), Budapest, 20–21 June 2005**

**Country report – POLAND**

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**1. In what way are the EFSOS ‘Conclusions and Policy Recommendations’ relevant for your country?**

The EFSOS ‘Conclusions and Policy Recommendations’ contain a number of curious and valuable remarks, conclusions and recommendations, many of which are relevant for Poland and may be very useful in forest policy formulation process in Poland in the coming years.

The EFSOS report presents scientific evidence of the occurring changes and emerging trends in the forestry sector in Europe. The study gives a reliable basis for realisation of policy process, which enables to adapt better the Polish forestry sector to the changing conditions of functioning forestry in Europe.

Many of the conclusions and recommendations provided by the EFSOS report has been reflected in forest policy documents as well as other related documents and activities being already in force or being now worked out.

*The National Forest Programme* (NFP) for Poland which is currently in its final stage of drawing up (it is to be completed and come into force in 2005), and which constitutes the basis for development of forestry and bringing international agreements on forest management into force adopts, among other things, the principle of partnership and participation of all interested groups in forest management, as well as inter-sectoral and cross-sectoral consultation on maintenance and enhancement of forest resources. Among the main partners for forestry the Programme lists agriculture, wood-processing industry, construction industry, power industry, tourism and hunting, nature conservation, spatial management and rural development.

The NFP sets directions and gives proposals for activities to achieve sustainable, multifunctional forest management, to find its expression in – among other things – maintaining the high-quality of forest environment, to stabilise natural processes, to provide society with public forest functions, to integrate activities in forests of various forms of ownership, as well as to increase effectiveness of forest management and to promote wood as natural resource and renewable source of energy.

As regards forestry sector relations to wood industry, the NFP based on the *National Policy on Forests* (adopted by the Polish Government in 1997) emphasises the necessity of:

- working out and bringing into force a long-term strategy of demand on wood,
- identifying abilities and needs for wood imports and exports in long term,
- adopting technologies and directions of production of wood industry to quality of wood and its assortments, including pulpwood and smallwood, produced within multifunctional forest management,
- introducing incentives for wide use of wood by construction industry, its rational use, protection and conservation.

The NFP acknowledges it necessary to prepare and implement legal regulations and economic instruments which would enable:

- granting forest owners and managers economic and financial compensations for providing society with ecological and social forest functions and realising sustainable and multifunctional forest management,
- selling some of non-market (so far) forest products and services.

Those measures would pose a response for decreasing viability of forest sector.

*The National Policy on Power Industry until 2025* (adopted by the Polish Government in January 2005) points out that the strategic goal of the State policy is to support and develop of renewable sources of energy and to reach the level 7.5% of share of those sources in the total energy production until 2025. In Polish economic, social and environmental conditions it is justified that the major emphasis will be placed on development of biomass-based energy production technologies, including wood. Making use of wood in energy production will significantly influence forest management and agriculture and may result in improving forest

sector viability in the coming years. To achieve this goal it will be necessary to create and maintain stable mechanisms for supporting use of renewable energy sources.

Although the EFSOS report did and does not give a direct inspiration for the aforementioned issues there is no doubt that the conclusions and recommendations presented in the report are consistent with directions of forest policy and other relevant policies development in Poland and should be taken into consideration in the forest policy formulation and development process in the coming years, when detailed regulations for implementing the *National Forest Programme* in Poland will be prepared.

## **2. Which of the policy scenario assumptions made in EFSOS fits best to the situation in your country (see Chapter 3)?**

The most reliable scenario assumptions for Poland seems to be the integration scenario, mostly because of the following factors:

- according to the *National Development Plan in 2007-2013* the expected economic growth is 4,9% in 2005-2006, 5,5% in 2007-2013, and 5,0% in 2014-2020, while expected consumption growth is 3,9%, 5.3%, and 5.0%, respectively;
- it is expected that area of forests and forest resources will increase;
- it is expected that an overall and the average consumption of wood per one inhabitant will increase,
- no significant increase in the total area of protected forests is expected; the most significant rapid increase in the protected areas occurred in the 1990s when all the most valuable biotopes and conservation areas were taken under protection.

## **3. What kind of significant changes are you expecting with regard to your country's forest sector policy in the next 3-5 years as a (direct or indirect) result of the EFSOS analysis, conclusions and recommendations?**

The most significant changes expected with regard to forest sector policy in Poland in the coming years are as follows:

- development of a support system for forest owners and managers making possible compensation of costs connected with realization of ecological and social forest functions (legal regulations, economic instruments),
- enforcement of legal regulations enabling full transposition of the EU regulations on protection of forests against fire,
- to take an initiative aiming at covering the new EU Member Countries with a compensation system to all fuelwood plantations; the initiative will be taken under guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (recommendation contained in the *National Policy on Power Industry until 2025*),
- to draw up and implement new mechanisms for supporting development of renewable sources-based energy production, including ‘green certificates’ and tax concessions (recommendation contained in the *National Environmental Policy 2003-2006*).

**4. Who uses the information, conclusions and recommendations presented in EFSOS in your country? Who else could potentially benefit from EFSOS?**

The main users of the information, conclusions and recommendations presented in the EFSOS in Poland are as follows:

- Ministry of Environment, as the main body for drawing-up and implementation of a forest and environmental policy,
- Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour,
- National Forest Holding ‘State Forests’ – a state organisational unit, which manages the majority of Polish public forests and representing the State Treasury where the management of assets is concerned,
- Bureau of Forest Management and Forest Geodesy – an organizational unit responsible for forest planning and preparing forest management plans,
- research institutes (Forest Research Institute in Warsaw, Wood Technology Institute in Poznań), as well as academic units (forest- and wood technology departments in Warsaw, Poznań and Kraków).

It is also expected that new-sprung private forest owners associations will use the EFSOS report also.

**5. What process is used to make EFSOS known and review it at the national level?**

As it was mentioned before (see point 1), the valuable remarks, conclusions and recommendations of EFSOS, especially the feasible ones, might be taken into consideration during the process of implementation of the *National Policy on Forests*.

They support the policy-making process and constitute important source of information for the policy-makers.

**6. What are significant information/analysis/ideas to national policy debate (inside and outside sector) added by EFSOS?**

The most significant information and analyses significant to national policy debate in Poland are those ones describing forecasted development of production and consumption of wood raw materials and wood products against the background of other countries in the Eastern Europe sub-region and the whole Europe. Especially essential is the presented detailed division on different wood assortments and expected changes within different development scenarios.

**7. Do you have any comments on the EFSOS country profile for your country (see attachment)?**

In 2020 the area of forests in Poland is expected to amount more than 9 million hectares. It is more than the amount presented in the integration scenario of the EFSOS report. The increase of forest area results in carrying out the National Programme on Expanding of Forest Cover, implemented in 1995, which aims at afforestation altogether 680 thousand hectares of agricultural lands (mostly private ones) between 2001 and 2020.

**8. What are your suggestions and comments with regard to further UNECE/FAO Forest Sector Outlook activities?**

No specific suggestions.

**References:**

*National Policy on Forests*, 1997. Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry, Warsaw. (In Polish)

*National Policy on Power Industry until 2025*, 2005. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Warsaw. (In Polish)

*National Forest Programme*, draft version, not published. (In Polish)

*National Development Plan in 2007-2013. Preliminary draft*, 2005. Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour, Warsaw. (In Polish)

*National Environmental Policy 2003-2006, in compliance with prospects of 2007-2010*, 2002. Ministry of Environment, Warsaw. (In Polish)