

BULGARIAN FORESTRY AND THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT – TEMPORAL CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOKS - A SHORT REVIEW

University of Forestry
Sofia, Bulgaria



Assoc. Prof. Georgi Kostov

**BULGARIAN FORESTRY AND THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL MANAGEMENT –
TEMPORAL CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOKS - A SHORT REVIEW**
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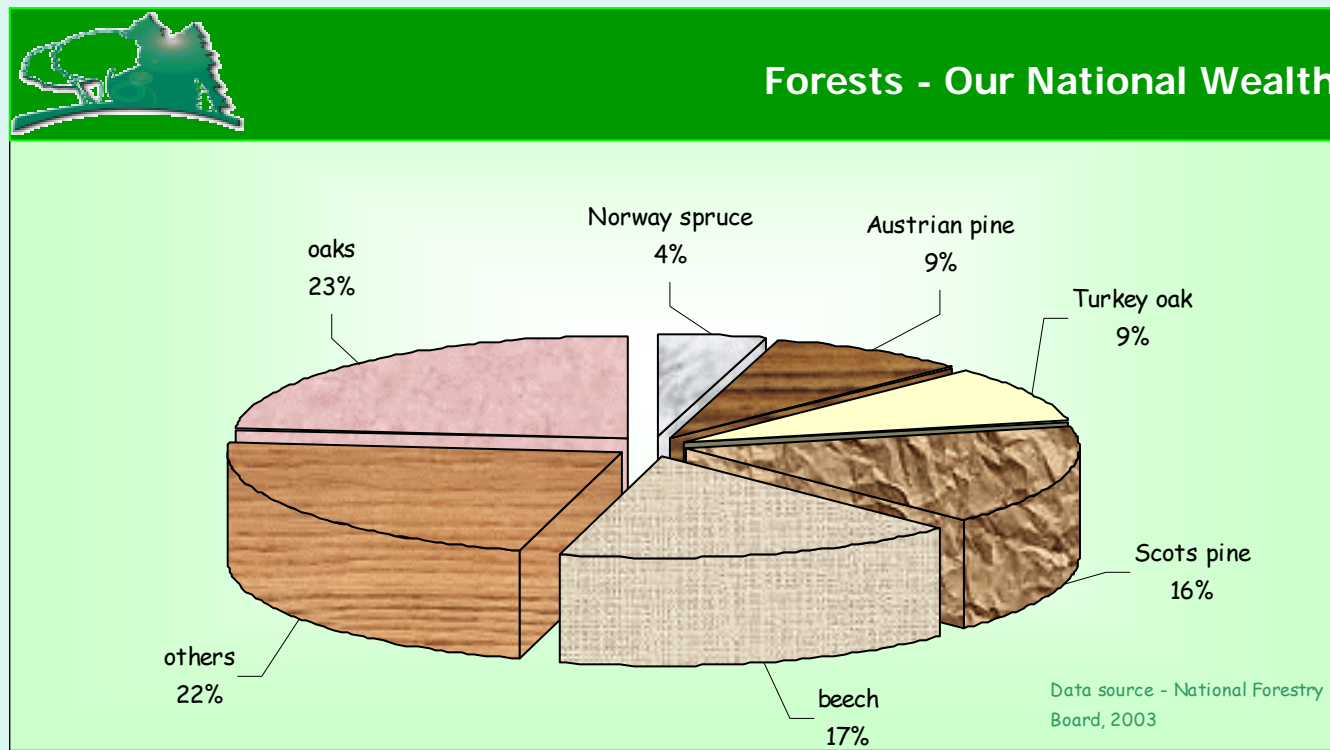
Area 3,67 mln ha
Growing stock: 600 mln cub m
Annual removals: 6,5 mln cub m
Annual increment: 14 mln cub m



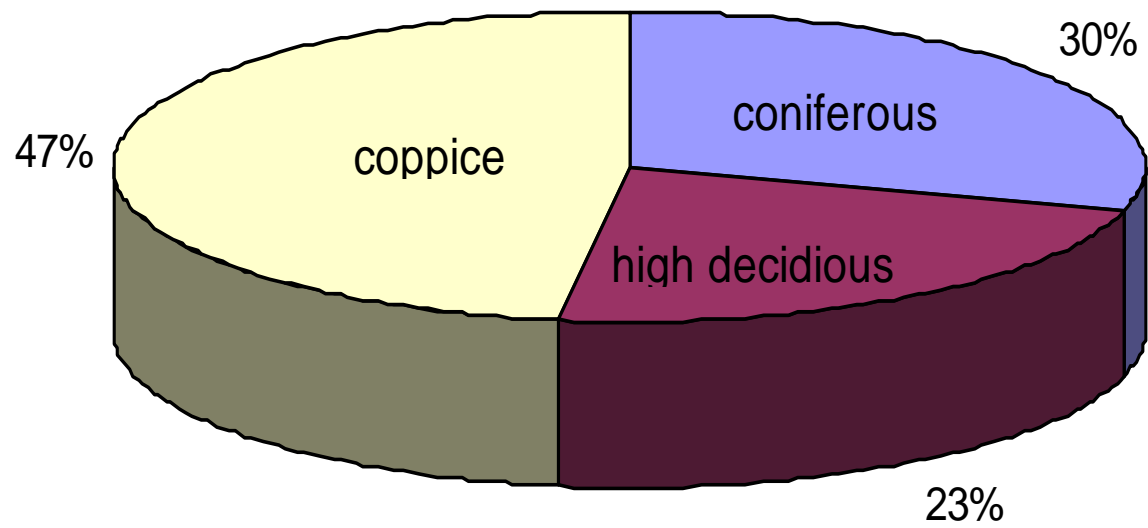
GDP of Key Economic Sectors in 2000

Economic sector	Share of the public sector %	Share of the private sector %
Services	57,7	52,1
Industry	27,8	27,3
Agriculture	14,2	20,4
Forestry	0,3	0,2
Total	100,0	100,0

Tree species



Forest groups





Main groups

Conifers:

Area: 1,09 mln. ha

Main uses and requirements (D and quality)

Saw logs ($d_{1,3} > 30$ cm)

Pulp wood, logs for panels ($8,0$ cm $< d_{1,3} < 22$ cm)

Fire wood – $d_{1,3} > 3$ cm



Main groups

High deciduous:

Area: 0,83 mln. ha

Main uses and requirements (D and quality)

Veneer logs ($d_{1,3} > 50$ cm)

Saw logs ($d_{1,3} > 30$ cm)

Pulp wood, logs for panels ($8,0$ cm $< d_{1,3} < 22$ cm)

Fire wood ($d_{1,3} > 3$ cm) – branches



Main groups

Copices:

Area: 1,75 mln. ha

Main uses and requirements (D and quality)

Fire wood – $d_{1,3} > 3$ cm

Logs for panels ($8,0$ cm $< d_{1,3} < 22$ cm)

Saw logs ($d_{1,3} > 30$ cm)

The forest and the social functions

- Forest should satisfy local population demands. The regulation of this process is based on tradition rather than market principles.
- Economic environment requires that market relations should be dominant.
- The achievement of an alternative occupation for local population using forest functions in other activities – tourism, rural tourism, hunting, fishing, photo-safary, hotel and restaurant industry, etc.

Forest ownership

- CONTEMPORALY PROBLEMS

Before 1947	After 2004
State 27 %	State 73 %
Municipal 55 %	Municipal 16%
Private 17 %	Private 10 %
Others 1 %	Others 1 %
Total 100	Total 100

CONTEMPORALY PROBLEMS

Forest policy, directly and indirectly, is made in three ministries:

The Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Environment and Waters

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

1.The Ministry of Finance

Activity - insuring maximum, short-term (most often 1-year) guaranteed income in the state budget at the expense of the use of forest timber and non-timber products.

Disadvantage – the state budget takes financial resources from forest but return smaller amount for the development of the sector resources.

2.The Ministry of Environment and Waters (Ecology)

Activities

- Introducing the International standards on environmental management and evaluation into the forest practice.
- Extending the network of protected nature territories, conservation of valuable forest areas and their exclusion from timber supply (for example Natura 2000)

Disadvantage – there are not sufficient resources for the high-quality management. The timber supply pressure on the forest areas without special purposes increases.

3.The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Activities

Implementation of sustainable and multifunctional forest management in new and changing environment:

- Profitable and financially attractive forest activities went into the private sector
- National economy relies on the cheap forest resource in order to be competitive

Disadvantage – Continuous deficit of financial resources for qualitative implementation of commitments (for the development of the necessary infrastructure, for science and education, training, capacity building, etc.)

Solutions?

National Forest Policy and Strategy

The Bulgarian forest is a national asset. The resources of the forest ecosystems retain their ecological, social and economic functions for improving the quality of life of people. Forests are professionally managed in a stable forest sector with broad public support and mutual respect and integration of the interests of all stakeholders

Solutions?

The main goals of the NFPS are:

- Sustainable development of an economically viable forest sector through **multifunctional forest management** in market economy conditions.
- To comply the goals and the means for the **sustainable** development of the forest sector with international criteria.
- To provide for national and international financial recourses and to support the **development** of the sector.

Multifunctional forestry

(traditional opinion)

In their nature forests are multifunctional, i.e. they implement a number of **functions** simultaneously (protective, water conservation, recreational, purifying, etc.) provide a number of **products** (wood, forage, game, mushrooms, herbs, etc.) and **design environment** (a landscape element, climatic factor, a subject of tourism, etc.)

While regenerating forests through a good silvicultural practice, foresters regenerate a number of functions, products and services from forests. **That is why, for foresters, the good silvicultural practice has always been a multifunctional one.**

This is even more proper for the centralized state management, existing in Bulgaria till 1997.

Multifunctional forestry

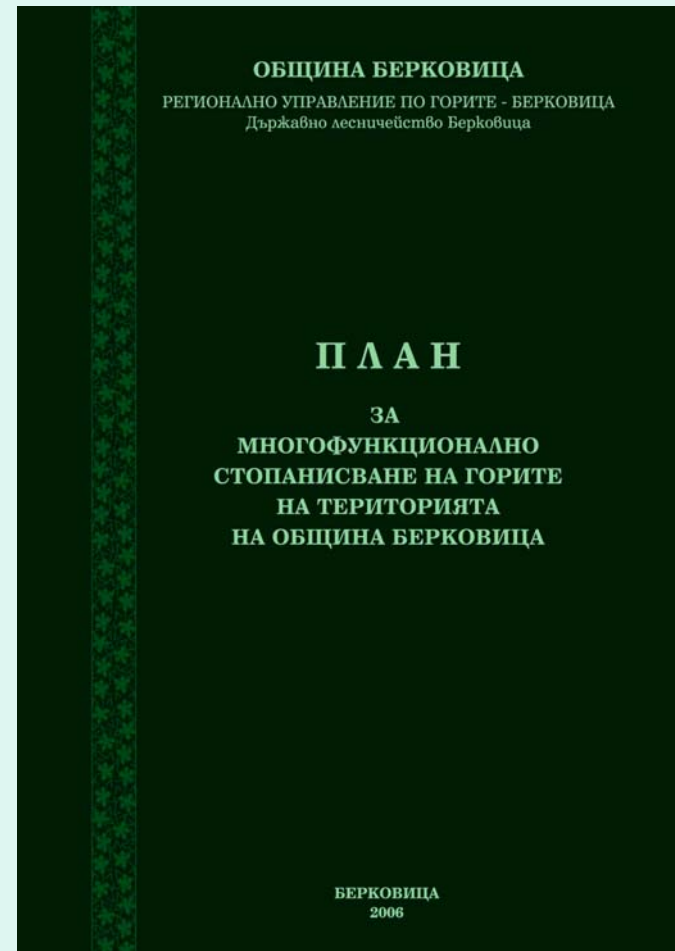
(temporal opinion)

Multifunctional forest management is only this management which is **publicly recognized as sustainable**, for which there is a consent and understanding from all stakeholders – owners, managers, public organizations or enterprises.

The fact that the state is the biggest forest owner in BG is a responsibility and duty to **inform society** about the principles of the forests management – today and during the future, considering regional peculiarities and finding the **balance** between the local and national interests and international agreements.

Planning, as an element of the practical application of the multifunctional forest management.

MFP is a participative, middle-term, regional forest planning. It “produces” the so called **MFMP – Multifunctional Forest Management Plan**



The main goal of a detailed Plan is: the establishment of a working normative regulation for multifunctional forest management on the territory of the forest fund in a given region (municipality, State Forest Enterprise, forest unit, etc.)

Tasks that should be solved with the development of the plan are:

- Defining the term multifunctional forest management and its popularization among the public.
- Attracting broad public in the tasks, responsibilities and problems of the sustainable management of the forest ecosystems;
- Popularization of the close-to-nature management and silvicultural systems for biodiversity conservation, securing the protective functions and other benefits from forests;
- Identification of the various public interests in forests in a certain region and their potential conflicts;
- Discussion and managing the conflicts of interests in the frames of the legal regulation on a consensus base;
- Providing comfortable working environment for the interested institutions and firstly to the forest departments.



OUTLOOKS

- MFP provides opportunities for the establishment of a **new working environment** in forests and forestry. It empowers civil society to assess and to change the management practice at various levels.
- **MFP guarantees transparency and democracy** in decision making process concerning forest sector.



- ✓ **MFP is a way of generating support** from local authorities, various NGOs and associations to conduct activities and initiatives for adequate development of forests.

OUTLOOKS

- MFP implements the idea of **enhancing the capacity** of the administration and people working in forests and the forest sector.
- Through MFP the **state will present its commitment to society** to look for investments and to use them for the improvement of the forest status, mainly for the development of the infrastructure – forest road network and infrastructural objects related to forest use and maintenance.



- ✓ **MFP is a way of achieving a consensus** on forest development.

OUTLOOKS

- MFP stimulates modernization of timber harvesting, pulp and furniture producing, and attracts additional investments for their development.

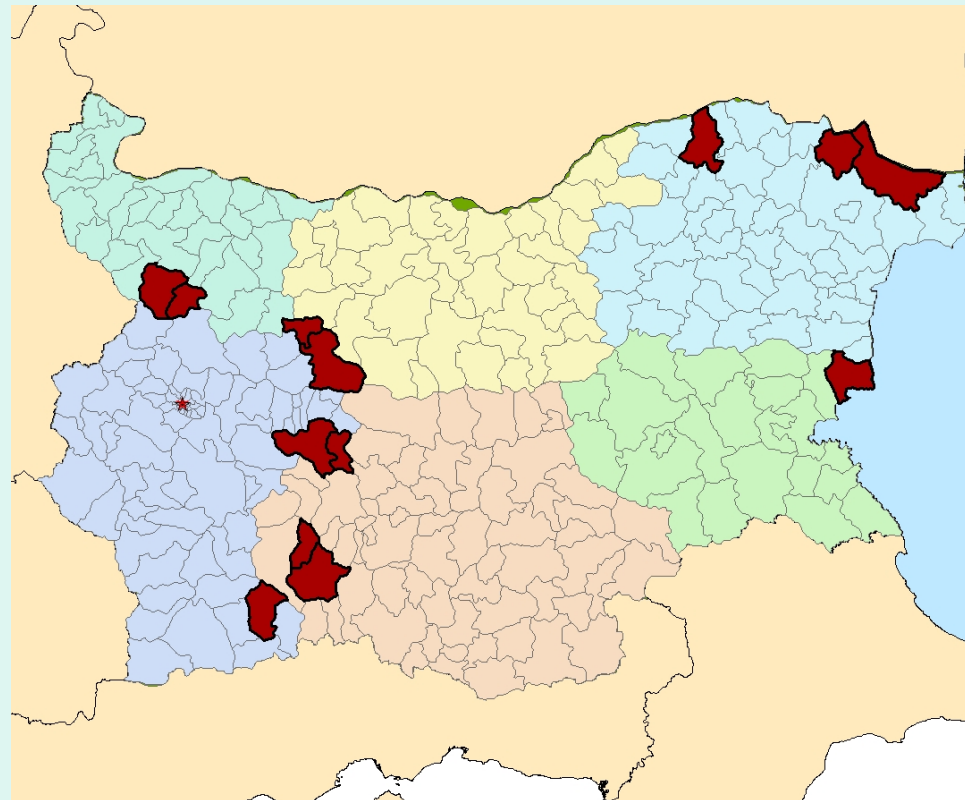


- ✓ MFP ensures preventive change of traditional forestry, which should be in harmony with public expectations.
- ✓ Through MFP the state engages itself and guarantees to society to maintain and increase the ecological and social significance of forests.
- ✓ MFP contributes to the extending forest certification process and application of ISO Quality Management Systems

MFP – Public evaluation of forestry sustainability

Our experience in MFP

- 9 years experience in MFP;
- Introduced in 15 municipalities,
- 17 State Forest Enterprises and State Game Breeding Stations in 7 Regional Forestry Boards,
- Covering over 10% of the total forest area in the country.



MFP – Public evaluation of forestry sustainability

Our results

- **Conflict identification** in the forestry and finding specific, local way to solve them.
- **Achieved public consensus** on applying sustainable and close-to-nature forest management, based on a transparent, democratic and decentralized approach.
- **Building a new forest policy and strategy** at local, regional and national level based on the public critical analysis and assessment of the existing forest resource management.
- Raising awareness on public significance of forests, which **restores the prestige of forest authorities.**

MFP – Public evaluation of forestry sustainability

- The processes related to MFP, although positive and irreversible at first sight, need legal regulation to guarantee that the state has fulfilled its engagements to involve civil society in decision making concerning forest management.



Conclusion

- The forest services are “responsible for the implementation of all activities in forests” but they work in an environment of multiple “interests” and sometimes “strange requirements” of the rapidly developing civil society.
- MFP provides opportunity for public assessment and intervention in forest management and forest sector development under transparent and democratic conditions and market economy principles.
- MFP is an approach about how problems and conflicts in the forests and the forest sector can find public acknowledgement and appropriate solution..

A photograph of a dense forest of tall, slender pine trees. The trees are green and reach high into a clear blue sky. The ground is covered in green grass and smaller vegetation. The text is overlaid on the upper and lower portions of the image.

Forestry is not about trees, it is about people!

J. WESTOBY

THANK YOU!

E mail: doc_georgi_kostov@mail.bg