



Forest biodiversity

- Croatia has more than 250-years old tradition of organised forestry.
- Forests must be managed in a sustainable way with taking into account biological and landscape diversity according to the Law on Forests.
- About 60 forest communities of which 18 are Natura 2000 habitats.
- 36% of Natura 2000 network in Croatia are forests and forest land (broadleaves 25.58%, coniferous 2.57% and mixed 7.65%).
- Forests boast with about 4.500 plant species.
- 95% of forests are close-to-nature managed forests.



Stakeholders

Croatian Forest Research Institute
www.sumins.hr

Faculty of Forestry, University of Zagreb
www.sumfak.unizg.hr

Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners' Associations
www.hsups.hr

Croatian Forests Ltd.
www.hrsume.hr

Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers
www.hkisdt.hr

Croatian Forestry Society
www.sumari.hr

Ministry of Agriculture
www.mps.hr

Advisory Service
www.savjetodavna.hr

State Institute for Nature Protection
www.dzzp.hr

Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection
www.mzoip.hr



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Forests and forestry in Croatia



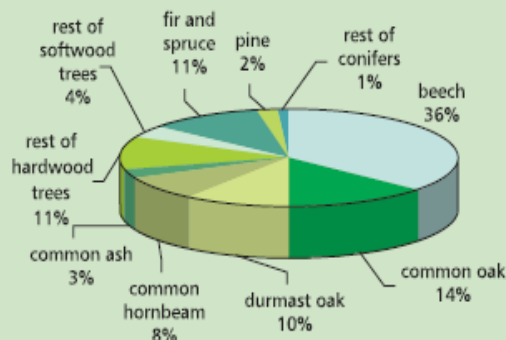
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Source: Biodiversity of Croatia (2006). State Institute for Nature Protection, Zagreb

In Croatia forests and forest land cover 46% of total land area which amounts to 56 594 km² and makes Croatia one of the countries with the highest forest cover in Europe. The amount of forests and forest land per inhabitant is 6000 m².

Trees of Croatian forests



Source: Biodiversity of Croatia (2006). State Institute for Nature Protection, Zagreb

State owned forests

- 77% of forests are state owned and mostly managed by Croatian Forests Ltd.
- Croatian Forests Ltd. is company owned by the state comprising 16 regional forest administrations and 171 forest offices.
- The company is being in possession of FSC certificate for forest management from 2002. Some of private forests also have FSC certificate.
- Forests are managed according to 10-year forest management plans.



ANNUAL INCREMENT (m ³)	
State forests	8,4 million
Private forests	2.1 million
Σ	10.5 million

GROWING STOCK (m ³)	
State forests	468 million
Private forests	85 million
Σ	553 million

Privately owned forests

- Private forests are characterized by a huge number of small scaled properties (**smaller than 1 ha**) owned by a huge number of owners (**around 600 000**).
- About 70% of them have forest management plans.
- Private forests are facing numerous difficulties in order to ensure SFM .
- Today in Croatia there are about 50 private forest owner associations and a national umbrella organisation.

FOREST OWNERSHIP (ha)	
State forests	1,987.799
Private forests	593.027
Σ	2,580.826

Trends in private forestry

- Restitution process
- Privatization of public forest management
- New types of private forest owners
- Changing lifestyle, motivations and attitudes of forest owners

Facing many challenges

Unclear ownership, forest property fragmentation, small size of parcels, restrictive forest regulations, lack of forest management plans, illegal logging, unfinished process of restitution and many others.