



## **National Forest Administration-Romsilva**

### **Country report 2008 for the “9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European State Forest Administration” - Bialowieza, Poland, June 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

#### **1. Overview of State forest administration**

The task of The National Forest Administration - Romsilva (NFA) – consists in the integrated and sustainable management of the state forest area, according to the stipulations of the forest management plan and to the forest regulations, aiming to increase the contribution of forests to the improvement of the environmental conditions and to provide the national economy with timber and other forest products.

The NFA operates as a financially autonomous organization performing forest management and silvicultural operations, engaging in non timber forest products and services and providing a range of public service functions. It reports to the State Secretary for Forestry within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Rural development. It is responsible for managing State Forest Land (currently circa 3.6 million hectares of state forest). The NFA is responsible for the administration and management of protected forest areas including national parks (22 of 27 that are established in Romania). It is also obliged to ensure that state forests contribute to improvement of the environment and ensure supply of wood for the national economy. The NFA is mandated to (a) implement the national forest strategy for the forests under its stewardship to ensure the protection, conservation and long term development of state forest assets, (b) manage hunting and fishing territories, (c) turn to account specific forest products, (d) perform duties of public service related to forests (e) The coordination and implementation of the national program regarding the horse breeding, as well as applying its responsibilities as the national equine authority, (f) the management of protected areas, eco tourism and leisure, horse-riding and equestrian tourism and (g) undertake measures required to obtain financial profit.

## **2. Wood production and non-wood forest products, markets and forest products marketing**

Timber is the main forest product and, for The National Forest Administration – Romsilva, its harvesting is the main income source. On the basis of the forest management planning stipulations, the Government authorises annually the timber volume to be harvested depending on the type of forest property as well as the timber destination (for the timber harvesting and timber processing companies and for the population's needs). This volume was in 2007 10 million m<sup>3</sup>, (less than the rated allowable cut). Starting 2008, according the new Forest Code, the volume to be harvested is established according the management plans.

The National Forest Administration – Romsilva aims to the increase of the non-wood products within the achieved income as well as the growth of export. The National Forest Administration – Romsilva sells timber to the timber harvesting and processing companies on public auctions basis. The timber is sold both as stand and as primary sets: veneer logs, lumber logs, pulp timber, etc. Many sets originate from FSC certified forest (circa 1 million ha).

The primary timber products offered by The National Forest Administration – Romsilva include the industrial sets of the different species of trees, which make up the commercial timber (deal boards, planks, beams, semi-manufactured products and parquet elements).

In its quality of a corporate body, The National Forest Administration–Romsilva is concerned with the production diversification in the forest sector and with making available the financial resources needed for the management of the state owned public property and of other owners' forests, which they manage.

Forest fruits and natural juice production. The National Forest Administration – Romsilva commercialises specific forest fruits (bilberries, rowan trees fruits, blackberries, raspberries, white underbrush, hip berries, hawthorn). National Forest Administration – Romsilva possesses a modern centre of forest fruits processing to get nectars, purées, jams and natural flavours.

The edible mushrooms, together with the forest fruits, are some of the most demanded natural products of the forest spontaneous flora and therefore The

National Forest Administration – Romsilva markets them fresh, frozen, dehydrated or pickled.

Due to the professional experience of the forest specialists, The National Forest Administration – Romsilva, by ICAS, is certainly the only national authority in the field of seeds and forest saplings production and sorting. The forest seed reserves, the seeds orchards\* and the forest nurseries produce every year forest reproductive material of highest quality, for which there is issued a certificate of origin. These certificates of origin certify the genetic origin and guarantee the success of their use in forest regeneration, in the development and maintenance of parks and gardens. Besides the specific forest species, The National Forest Administration– Romsilva also produces saplings of decorative species.

Other products offered by the National Forest Administration – Romsilva are charcoal, wooden boxes, the wooden houses.

### Hunting and fishing

In Romania there is a tradition regarding the management of game species, a tradition developed and improved by the Romanian foresters. The Carpathians are, due to their geographical location, the variety of the relief, and the rich hydrographical net, the ideal biotope to keep a viable animal population, a great diversity of species consisting of vigorous individuals. The presence of the large carnivores (the bear, the lynx and the wolf) is an element to facilitate the development of the natural selection process, which leads to the existence of exceptional trophies, both at the chamois, common buck and wild boar as well as for bear, wolf and lynx. The hunting grounds managed by The National Forest Administration – Romsilva (26% of the total amount of the hunting grounds in Romania) comprise ecosystems specific to each relief form, from the alpine bare areas of the Carpathians to the Black Sea, counting more than 6.3 mil. ha. The activity in the field of hunting has been mainly oriented towards the application of the strategy developed by the National Forest Administration – Romsilva, strategy to follow the sustainable management programs regarding the hunting grounds, the consolidation of the balance between agriculture, forest and game, to achieve the harvesting levels and the pheasant breeding programs in repopulation and hunting purposes.

The National Forest Administration – Romsilva manages an important hydrographical net, which comprises 18,200 km of mountain running waters and 12,100 ha of lakes, which house local and some exotic species of trout. In the 50 trout farms, active within the NFA, we get the trout for repopulation and about 900 tons/year of trout for consumption.

### **3. The multifunctional role of the stet forest – aspects related to biodiversity, Kyoto protocol**

In the first half of 2004, National Forest Administration – Romsilva took over for management, on an agreement basis, from the central public authority, which is responsible for natural protected areas (The Ministry of Environment and Waters Management), 16 national and natural parks (10 national parks and 6 natural parks).

At the end of 2005, National Forest Administration– Romsilva took over for administration, also on agreement basis, from The Ministry of Environment and Waters Management, another 2 national park and 4 natural parks. Thus the total number of national and natural parks under the management of The National Forest Administration – Romsilva amounts 22, consisting of 12 national parks, with an area of 307,461 ha, and of 10 natural parks with an area of 539,816 ha. Therefore, out of the total number of 1.6 mil ha of protected natural areas of national interest in Romania, the National Forest Administration– Romsilva is currently managing 847,277 hectares, of which 528,958 hectares in the growing stock. The forest areas included in the special conservation area of the national and natural parks managed by National Forest Administration – Romsilva are about 143,124 ha.

Besides these parks, the National Forest Administration– Romsilva also has in custody, by its forest directorates, 39,000 more ha of growing stock, which is represented by 196 natural reserves and nature monuments. The management units of the national and natural parks subordinated to The National Forest Administration– Romsilva include 323 positions, out of which 197 rangers, with exclusive duties and tasks in the management of the parks. From the financial point of view, the National Forest Administration– Romsilva ensures annually, according to the management agreements made for 10 years period, about 3 million Euros in order to achieve the settlement of the administrative and management structures for all 22 national and natural parks. The sustainable forest management aims to the harmonization of all the 3 functions fulfilled by the forest: the economic function, the

protection function and the social one. Considering that the last two functions, which are very important under the current circumstances and require high costs, one of the concerns of The National Forest Administration– Romsilva has recently been to draw external funds to finance them.

Besides the projects intended for the protected areas, The National Forest Administration – Romsilva coordinates The Afforestation of Degraded Agricultural Land Project in Romania, a project developed on the basis of the Agreement signed by the NFA with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2003, with a deadline in 2017. The activity of the project, which consists in the afforestation of 6033 ha of degraded agricultural land, corresponds to the stipulations of The Article 3.3 of The Kyoto Protocol regarding the greenhouse gas emissions effects (mainly carbon dioxide). The project gets to the amount of 3 millions USD.

#### **4. Innovation and research**

The research and innovation activity related to the State Forest is performed by the Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS) and by the Faculty of Forestry Brasov.

The most important forest research activity in the last years has been the following:

- *Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding*: rules for genetic material utilization among regions; conservation of the forest genetic resources; selection of the most important populations / individs of coniferous and broadleaved forest species; biotechnologies and molecular research of some forest species;
- *Conservation and sustainable forest development* : normative for national forest management; conservation of the noble hardwoods; factors of stability in forest ecosystems;
- *Sylviculture* : forest tree regeneration under different environment conditions; models for tending operation applied in different forest composition and structure;
- *Forest Monitoring* : European and national forest health monitoring; soil inventory and evaluation; carbon stoking in forest soils; tree and forest increase, atmospheric pollutants, climatic factors, leaf content and biodiversity of the forest vegetation in the intensive survey of the forest ecosystems;

- *Forest protection* : prevention and control of the most important forest insects and disease (control technics, biological control, ecology of insects and trees, monitoring of the forest sanitary state); management of invasive species;
- *Ecology* : climate change and its influence on forest ecosystems; relationship among different abiotic factors and forest health and production; pollution and nutrition influence on forest seedlings and trees; phenology studies; desertification control; soil influence on forest management; new site and ecosystem classification; dendroclimatology studies; climatic risk factors in forest ecosystems;
- *Forest biodiversity and protected areas*: management of protected forest ecosystem affected by damaging factors; stand characteristics in natural virgin forests; natural and artificial forest management in Danube Delta; deadwood dynamic in virgin forests;
- *Forest auxology and biometry* : auxology studies in natural forests;
- *Wood quality*: influence of the silvicultural methods on wood quality; European standards for wood products;
- *Wildlife conservation and game management* : management models for game population; evaluation of the mountain fish population; reintroduction of the disappeared species; large carnivores behavior; methods for game population survey;
- *Ecological reconstruction* : rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems affected by abiotic, biotic or anthropic factors;
- *GIS* : utilization of GIS in forest survey, planning, administration, harvesting, etc.
- *Forest Management Planning* : normative of national forest management planning; new GIS techniques in forest planning.

**Type and field of activity:** Forest ecology, Soil science, Environmental factors, Biotechnologies, Biodiversity, Wildlife conservation and management, Genetics, GIS, Forest protection, Forest planning

**Some recent representative projects:**

1. Genetic Resources of Broadleaved Forest Tree Species in Romania.
2. Effects of Forest Health on Biodiversity with Emphasis on Air Pollution in the Carpathian Mountains; Pan European Intensive Monitoring Programme.
3. Natura 2000 – Forest Sites.
4. Conservation and Sustainable Development of Forests with regard to Biodiversity Ecological, Social and Production Functions.
5. Forest Certification and Relevant Biodiversity Elements.

6. Wildlife Conservation and Management; Carpathian Large Carnivore Project.
7. Forest Protection, Forecast and Integrated Methods of Forest Pest Control.
8. National Forest Protection Belt System.

#### New facts

In March 2008 the new Forest Code (Law nr. 46/19.03.2008) was issued. According to its provisions, several additional forest regulations have to be amended. Also, the Forest Research and Management Planning Institute will become independent that is, it will no longer be a branch of NFA.

#### Challenges

A proposal for reorganizing the National Forest Administration is ongoing. The aim of this initiative is to restructure the activities that are carried on by NFA in order to allow some departments to access European funds (ex. for protected areas) .

Forest restitution is not completed, and for this reason some areas still have an uncertain status.

Natura 2000 sites were established by two Ministerial Orders of the Ministry of Environment. There were declared 108 SPA (for 118 bird species) covering 11,9 % of the country surface and 273 SCI covering 13,2% of the country surface. The Natura 2000 sites cover around 4,25 million ha (17,8 % of the country surface). The forest surface inside Natura 2000 sites is not known with high accuracy, but we estimate that more than 1 million ha of forest under NFA administration is included. The problem we are facing is that Natura 2000 management principles are not clear and for this reason the Environmental Agencies do not allow the active management for these sites. Another problem is related to the maps. We use forestry maps designed according the forest management purpose and we do not have access to the Environmental Agencies maps (that anyway have different scale and other details and it is difficult to overlap on forestry maps).