Sustainable forest management, National Forest Strategy in Hungary

András Szepesi
Department of Forest Management
Ministry of Agriculture
Facts

• Total area of the country: 9 303 000 ha
• Forest area: 2 057 300 ha (21% forest cover)
• Growing stock: 386 million m3
• Annual increment: 13,0 million m3
• Total fellings: 7,6 million m3
• Afforestation: 700-10 000 ha annually
• Ownership:
  State: 57%    Community: 1%    Private: 42%
Distribution of land use categories

- Arable land: 46.6%
- Forest: 21%
- Grassland: 8%
- Not cultivated: 20%
- Fish pond: 0.4%
- Reed: 1%
- Orchard: 1%
- Grape: 1%
- Garden: 1%
Distribution of tree species

- Black Locust: 24%
- Turkey Oak: 11%
- Conifers: 11%
- Other soft broadleaves: 12%
- Improved poplars and willow: 6%
- Other hard broadleaves: 5%
- Poplars: 4%
- Beach: 6%
- Oaks: 21%
The challenge - reprivatization

• 40% of the forest land was reprivatized after 1989
• 360,000 new owners
• 35,000 new forest "managers"
• ~160,000 ha unmanaged forest
• Majority of the afforestation is done by private sector (average 10,000 -> 700 ha annually)
The framework of SFM in Hungary

- Legal framework – forest act and forest (forestry) related legislation, especially nature conservation, game management, water management legislation
- National Forest Strategy
- Institutions
- Forest management plans
- Information system
- Financial framework
Main objectives

• To ensure long term environmental, economic and social services of forests through sustainable multiple-use forest management.

• To improve adaptation to climate change and maintain or increase mitigation capacity of forests.

• To harmonize the interests of the society in sustainable forest management with the owners and forest managers.

• To improve the viability of the forest sector.

• To maintain natural or close-to-nature forest stands composed by indigenous tree species and extend their area in accordance with prevailing site conditions.

• To increase forest cover by afforestation up to the rate of approximately 27 %.
The NFS sets up 10 operative programs

1. Role of forests in rural development
2. Develop the management of state owned forests
3. Develop the management of private forests
4. Nature conservation in forests
5. Modern forest protection
6. Sustainable wildlife management
7. Rational wood utilization
8. Tasks for forestry administration
9. Research, education and innovation
10. Efficient communication on forests towards the improvement of the relation of society to forests and to forest management
Financial framework I.

Rural Development Program
• main source of subsidies in forestry
• main measures
  – improving forest technologies, increase production capacities
  – improving the economic value of forests, wood mobilisation
  – preservation of forest genetic resources
  – afforestation and industrial plantations
  – agro-forestry systems
  – restoring forestry potential, prevention against forest damages
  – improving forest resilience
  – natura 2000
  – forest environment payments
  – non-productive investments, tourism
National subsidies

- since the accession of Hungary to the EU the amount has decreased
- main areas:
  - reforestation
  - afforestation
  - narrow gauged railways
  - climate change related activities
  - improve welfare services of forests
  - support NGO-s

Amount: 4 mill. EUR/year
Forest management in Vas county

- Total area of the county: 333,600 ha
- Forest area: 98,626 ha (29% forest cover)
- Growing stock: 24.4 million m³
- Growing stock/hectare: 248 m³ (country 187 m³)
- Total fellings: 497,000 m³
- Ownership:
  - State: 52%
  - Private: 48%
Thank you for your attention!