

The forest management in Greece

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THE GOULANDRIS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
GREEK BIOTOPE/WETLAND CENTRE



Με τη συνεισφορά του χρηματοδοτικού μέσου LIFE της Ευρωπαϊκής Κοινότητας.



ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΓΟΥΛΑΝΔΡΗ ΦΥΣΙΚΗΣ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΒΙΟΤΟΠΩΝ-ΥΓΡΟΤΟΠΩΝ

About EKBY

- EKBY was founded in 1991 by The Goulandris Natural History Museum. Its premises are in Thermi, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Our main task is to promote sustainable management of renewable natural resources in Greece, the Mediterranean and Europe.
- Regarding forest management, EKBY has an advisory role to the several public authorities including the Directorate General for Forests especially for Natura 2000 issues and is involved in several forest management and restoration projects.



The Greek Forests in numbers

- High forests > 25% (3,3 mil ha) and other wooded land >24% (3,16 mil ha)
- Mainly conifer forests 43%
- Mainly broadleaved 57%
- Approximately 59% of Greek forests are included in Natura 2000 sites.



Ownership

Distribution of forests ownership in Greece (ha). (Albanis et al., 2000)

- State: 65.42% (State forests cannot be sold or confiscated)
- Municipalities: 11.98%
- Monasteries and other religion organisations: 4.37%
- Other non governmental organizations: 0.48%
- Co-operatives: 9.79%
- Individuals: 7.96%

Wood

Stock

- Conifers: 77.000.000 m³ (mean annual growth at 2,82m³/ha)
- Broadleaved: 60.000.000 m³ (mean annual growth at 2,12m³/ha)
- Evergreen broadleaved: 21.000.000 m³ (mean annual growth at 0,45m³/ha)

Mean annual production of wood (1998-2016):

- Timber and roundwood: 445.000 m³
- Fuelwood: 812.000 m³

Non-Wood Forest Products

Greek forests are particularly rich in NWFP's. Despite this the sector is poorly described and organized. Examples of products are:

- Mushrooms
- Pharmaceutical/aromatic plants or parts of plants
- Oak acorns and seeds
- Honey
- Resin
- Various seeds
- Topsoil for plant cultivation

Employment

Services (excluding academic and research):

- Forest service: approximately 3.000 employees.
- Private consultants: approx. 400 firms with 1800 employees.
- Other non-state (NGO, etc): approx. 20 organisations with approx. 20 employees working mainly on forest related issues.

Production:

- 784 forest cooperatives with approx. 20.000 members (most of them inactive).
- 25 cooperatives for resin collection with approx. 2.500 members.
- 700 wood processing companies (size vary significantly) with approx. 13.000 employees.

Management principles I

Management of Greek forests after WWII is organised under the following principles:

- Strict protection of existing forest land and especially of high forests and expansion when possible.
- Strict regulation of grazing.
- Thorough consideration of the role of forest land against erosion, flood control and provision of water.
- Continue improvement of quality and increase of the standing stock, annual yield equal or bellow annual growth.
- Provision of fuelwood for free or at low price for rural/mountain communities.

Management principles II

Under the recently adopted National Forest Strategy the management of Greek forests will continue the application of these principles moving forward to a Mediterranean forestry paradigm that

“Ensure sustainability and increase the forest contribution to the national economy through multifunctionality, adaptability, socio-economic role enhancement and taking into consideration climate change”

NFS promotes an ecosystem service view of the management planning allowing more flexibility for the management objectives for each forest, increased role of local communities on the planning process and integration of biodiversity conservation and climate policies.

Mediterranean forestry paradigm: a few points

- Inclusion of grazing in the forest management planning as a tool for provision of several Ecos. Services.
- MP's for all forest ecosystems, tailored to the ES which can offer (e.g. MP's orientation to honey or mushroom production)
- Integration of fire management into forest management in local and regional level.
- Integration of biodiversity conservation in forest resource management and protection.
- Provide incentives and stable regulatory framework for rural population to re-enter the forest related sector.

Management planning and authorisation

- In Greece for all state and non-state forests there is a management plan. Depending on the size and the products, currently there are three basic types of management plans.
- All types of management plans have to be reviewed and approved by the competent local Forest Service. No logging or other economic activity is allowed without an approved MP.
- MP's contain specific information in a prescribed form that every forest manager is obliged to follow. The structure and the content of MP's is currently under reform, in order to comply with NFS.
- Management planning for state forests is performed by Forest Service staff and contractors, non-state forest owners usually use contractors. Some municipalities employ foresters, but a few private owners do so.

Thank you

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