Management of State Owned Forests in Slovakia – an Overview of a Study Tour of a Russian Expert to the Republic of Slovakia

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STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA

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FORESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA

- **FOREST AREA** - 2.0 MILLION HA
- **PERCENTAGE OF FOREST AREA** – 40.8%.
- **ANNUAL INCREMENT** – 11.05 MILLION M³
- **TOTAL STOCK, INCLUDING:***
  - DECIDUOUS TREES – 53%
  - CONIFEROUS TREES – 47%
- **DESIGNATION**
  - COMMERCIAL – 67.6%
  - PROTECTION – 17%
  - SPECIAL PURPOSE – 15.3%
Forest distribution by types of ownership

- State: 41.8%
- Private: 24.9%
- Municipal: 14.2%
- Personal: 9.7%
- Church: 3.4%
- Agricultural cooperatives: 5.9%
- Not identified: 0.1%

Legend:
- State
- Private
- Municipal
- Personal
- Church
- Agricultural cooperatives
- Not identified
FORESTRY OF SLOVAKIA

- 25 THOUSAND EMPLOYEES:
  - 13 THOUSAND PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FORESTRY;
  - 12 THOUSAND IN ENTERPRISES PROVIDING SERVICES ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

- MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION – «FORESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA»
State management structure of forests in Slovakia

Ministry of Agriculture
Forestry Section

Regional forest departments (8)

Local forest departments (48)

National Forest Center
- Forest Research Institute
- Forest planning organisation
- Institute of Forest Resources and Informatics
- Institute of Forest Consulting and Upbringing

Forests of the Republic of Slovakia
- Forest plants (26)
  - Seed production plant
  - Forest machinery plant

Forests of Tatrinskii National Park
- Lesnichestvo

Forest plots
Directorate General has 4 departments responsible for the following activities:

- Technical development (including forestry operations)
- Trade
- Economics and finance
- Organization of production
Revenues

- Timber sales (90%)
- Timber sawing (4%)
- Hunting (3%)
- Tourism (construction of summer houses and their provision for rent), biomass production, animal breeding (bisons and horses for forest work), sales of Christmas trees (3%).
NATIONAL FOREST CENTER

- Forest Research Institute
- Forest planning organization
- Institute of Forest Resources and Informatics
- Institute of Forest Consulting and Upbringing
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SECTION

- Approval of regional plans, including definition of designation of forests
- Identification of borders of forestry enterprises
- Organization and implementation of work on certification of forest managers
- Adoption of key provisions of forestry plans
- Activities in case of natural disasters
- Adoption of the Charter of Slovakian hunting Union
- Development of instructions and recommendations on management of forestry and game
- Methodological assistance to forest departments of regional and local executive authorities as well as control over unified procedures
REGIONAL FOREST DEPARTMENTS

- Adoption of statutes on territorial planning
- Control over forestry operations
- Approval of forestry plans
- Division of forests by their designation
- Planning and implementation of activities in case of natural disasters
- Administration of a forest managers’ register
Local forest departments

- Allocation of forest lands, administration of the register of forest owners and users
- Identification of activities aimed at rational use and protection of forest lands
- Appointment of professional forest managers, their certification, disqualification and administration of a relevant register
- Determination of fines for violating forest and hunting legislation
- Provision of permits for construction done on forest lands
- Provision of permits for deviations from legally established norms of forestry (prolonging terms of forest regeneration etc.)
- Activities in case of natural disasters
- Evaluation of the results of forestry operations
- Determination of key provisions for running game management areas
Real estate tax - 104 million SKK consists of two taxes:
- Land tax (main part). Land tax concerns only commercial forest reaching the age of first thinning. For forest land there is a maximum tax in the amount of 0.25% of the basic rate of the land tax. In some cases the tax can be reduced or exempted for several years.
- Tax on buildings and constructions.

Road tax - 36 million SKK. Amount of tax - 20%. Enterprises of forest industries do not pay this tax.

Profits tax - 428 million SKK. Enterprises pay 19% of profits.

VAT - 932 million SKK. Amount of tax varies from 10 to 23% depending on the type of a product.

THERE IS NO SUCH A CONCEPT AS STUMPAGE PRICE IN SLOVAKIA.
Recommendations

- Division of economic, management and control functions. Prohibition for concentration of different functions to one executive authority.
- Provision of one or several management levels with normative and control functions at the same time. Only controlling the execution of your own decisions can be effective.
- Compulsory consideration of regional special features when defining methods and norms for forestry.
Recommendations

- Regional (district) special features of forest planning must contain elements of economic evaluation.
- It is indispensable to keep continuity of legislative norms when changing legislation. Business must be sure that its rights deriving from legitimate acts of the state are protected.
THANK YOU!