



Efficiency of managing forests in Slovenia

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Reasons to conduct audit on efficiency of managing forests

- General statement: Slovenia is one of the most forested countries in Europe therefore forests are considered as one of the most valued natural resources → **is this really so in practice??**
- **findings/experiences from two prior audits** → poor information system on felling, reforestation, health conditions, poor management of concessionary contracts in state forests, system on auctioneering wood from state forest is not functioning;
- **follow up audit** on corrective measures undertaken and recommendations realized from prior audits.

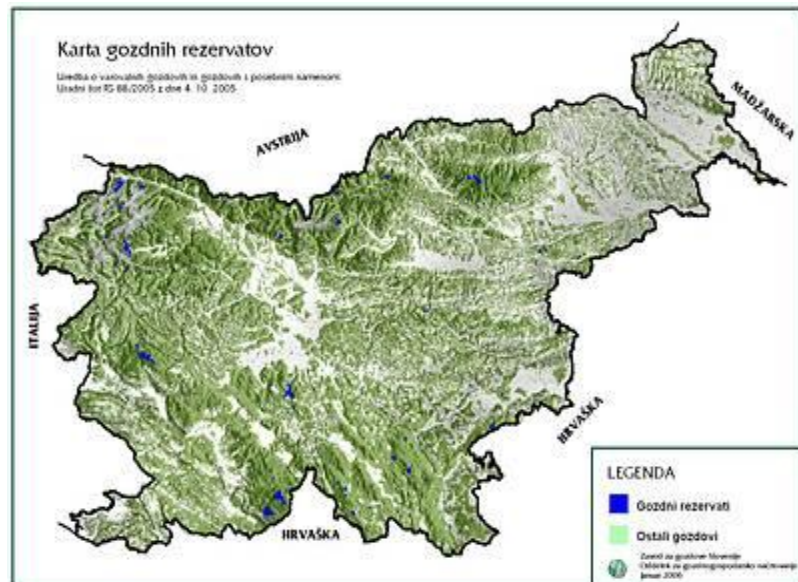
Slovenian forest in figures

Forest area: 1.186.104 ha

Forestation: 58.5%

Growing stock: 327.458.525 m

- (276.08 m³/ha)
- Annual increment: 7.985.256 m
- (6.74 m³/ha)
- Possible cut: 5.126.609 m³
- Total annual cut: 3.74.191 m³
- Coniferous trees: 1.853.772 m³
- Deciduous trees: 1.520.419 m³



Realized cut represents 70% of possible cut.

- Length of forest roads: 12,624 km
- Length of forest borders: cca 115,000 km



Audit questions

Main audit question:

“Is managing forests in Slovenia efficient?”

Sub-questions:

- Is there adequate, complete and up-to-date legal regulation and strategic frame to enable efficient forest management?
- Did the competent governmental bodies plan and conduct required measures to achieve set objectives in planned time and scale, according to planned funding?
- Were there adequate control in place to enable conducting planned measures in a planned way?



Audit criteria (1)

Evaluating sub-question 1:

- There should be appropriate and adequate legal frame on procedures to plan and perform measures to maintain forests and especially procedures on auctioneering the wood from state forests;
- There should be the complete strategic frame (strategy and corresponding action plans) in place with clearly set objectives, formulated according to the “SMART” principle;
- There should be clearly determined activities, how to achieve set objectives.



Audit criteria (2)

Evaluating sub-question 2:

- There should be an information system in place which would provide reliable, complete and up-to-date on conditions in forests upon which to plan required measures;
- There should be an analysis and overview of current situation in forests as a basis to plan required measures;
- There should be clearly determined activities, how to achieve set objectives.



Audit criteria (3)

Evaluating sub-question 3:

- There should be a strategy on monitoring and controlling how planned measures are conducted (clear determination of competence of involved institutions, cooperation among institutions, regularity of monitoring and control);
- There should be corrective measures taken upon findings from monitoring and controlling;



Audit methodology

- Review of law regulations and strategic framework;
- File review;
- Interviews with competent employees at auditees;
- Interviews with key representatives of other institutions responsible for forestry (university, institute, experts);
- Questionnaire to the concessioners in state forests;
- Benchmarking of prices for wood from state and private forests;
- Benchmarking of costs of forestry works in state and private forests.



Audit findings (1)

There are no strategy and action plans in place which would contain solid objectives formulated according to the "SMART" principle and also no specific activities determined how to reach set objectives.



There is a risk on constant changes of actual state forestry policy

Monitoring the progress of achieving set objectives is therefore not possible



Audit findings (2)

There is no information system in place which would provide accurate and up-to-date database on types of forests, investments made regarding reforestation and no reliable data on felling of trees because of different diseases and pests



all these aggravate to plan efficient measures to improve conditions in forests and monitor their performing



Audit findings (3)

The management of state owned forest was inefficient; there was no proper monitoring of concessionary contracts.

Unfinished contracted maintenance of forests and increased the risk for long-term deterioration of health conditions of Slovene forests

Lower prices for wood of the same quality from the state forests; higher costs of maintaining state forests





Impacts of the audit

- Amendments to the current law on forests regarding planning and performing measures to improve health conditions of forests have been proposed to the parliament;
- A new information system to support timely recording of felling, reforestation and registering various diseases and invasions of pests has been developed and introduced;
- New obligatory procedures to auctioneering wood from state forests have been introduced.

<p>Challenges/ solutions</p>	<p>→ Slovenia is one of the most forested countries in Europe therefore forests are considered as one of the most valued natural resources</p> <p>Is this really so in practice?? → not entirely → findings/experiences from two prior audits: poor information system on felling, reforestation, health conditions; poor management of concessionary contracts in state forests, no auctioneering wood from state forest</p>
<p>Methodology/ Data</p>	<p>Review of law regulations and strategic framework; file review; interviews; questionnaire to the concessioners in state forests; benchmarking of prices for wood from state and private forests and of costs of forestry works in state and private forests.</p>
<p>Findings/ Recommendations</p>	<p>No strategy and action plans in place → no coherent forestry policy; no accurate and up-to-date database on investments made regarding reforestation and no reliable data on felling of trees because of different diseases and pests; inefficient management of state owned forest was; no proper monitoring of concessionary contracts, lower prices for wood from state forests and higher costs for maintaining woods.</p>



Experiences of the Court of Audit

Impact

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Audit scope & Questions

Broad approach, dealing with most problematic areas into very details to be able to form appropriate recommended corrective measures

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Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?

