Forests in Poland

- Forest area: 9,2 mn ha
- Forest cover: 29,3 %
- Standing volume: 2,3 bill. m³ (gross merchantable timber)

Main tree species of Polish forests

- Scots pine 62%
- Silver fir and other coniferous 4%
- Norway spruce 6%
- Oak 8%
- Beech 6%
- Aspen 0%
- Poplar and other broadleaves 2%
- Birch 7%
- Black Adler 5%

Source: General Directory of the State Forests
Ownership structure of Polish forests

- State Forests Holding: 77%
- Private forests: 18%
- National parks: 2%
- Other: 3%

Source: General Directory of the State Forests

NWFPs utilisation (traditionally called minor forest utilisation) has its particularly rich tradition as a branch of forestry in Poland.

Polish concept of forest minor production (Professor Wiesław Grochowski)

Idea:
The whole of forestry production process - both the production of wood and the production of all other forest uses – are oneness.
products of plant origin
  • excretions,
  • bark, leaves & needles,
  • forest fruits,
  • medical herbs,
  • decorative plants,
  • other plants of economic importance...

edible mushrooms

products of animal origin
  • game, leather & meat, trophies,
  • snails,
  • bee-keeping products...

mines
  • pit, sand, amber, other minerals...

plantations of economic plants
  • wicker, Christmas trees, medical plants, fruits...
Resin tapping

(Scots pine – *Pinus sylvestris* L.)

Norway spruce bark harvesting

Spruce bark harvesting in Poland [T]

Christmas trees

Harvesting of Christmas trees in the State Forests (in thousands)

Source: General Directory of the State Forests

Game animals

Source: S. Fiedukowicz

Quantity of procurement of game animals in Poland in 2011

Total value in 2011: 80 265 000 PLN (ca 19 482 000 EUR)
avg rate in 2011: 4.12

Goods of forest floor: edible mushrooms, fruits and medical herbs


Source: P. Staniszewski
Collecting of forest floor raw materials

WHY SO IMPORTANT?

• Tradition
• Free access
• Quality (low level of forestry chemicalization)
• Chance for rural development

Problem:

At present it is difficult to assess the actual value of non-wood forest production in Poland, especially concerning forest fruits and mushrooms.

Forest fruits harvesting in Poland [ T ]
(products purchased from collectors)

Total value in 2011:
56 248 000 PLN
(ca 13 652 000 EUR)

g +g rate in 2011: 4.12

Total yield of edible forest mushrooms harvested in Poland

(products purchased from collectors)

Total value in 2009: 54 262 000 PLN
(ca 13 170 000 EUR)
avg rate in 2011: 4,12

4 422 840 000 PLN
→ ~ 1 073 500 000 EUR

Average value of forest fruits and mushrooms purchase (2002 – 2011):
115 418 000 PLN
→ ~ 28 014 000 EUR

Purchase, export and import of forest berries and mushrooms in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Export</th>
<th>Import</th>
</tr>
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<td>Berries</td>
<td>9 147</td>
<td>3 509</td>
<td>2 276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushrooms</td>
<td>6 922</td>
<td>22 967</td>
<td>1 121</td>
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Source: Leśnictwo 2012 (Forestry 2012) Główny Urząd Statystyczny [Main Statistical Office]
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Most important species of forest fruits harvested in Poland (in 2011)

- **Billberry**: 22% (4 450 tons)
- **Elder (elderberry)**: 48% (10 836 tons)
- **Dog rose**: 3% (680 tons)
- **Mountain ash**: 3% (588 tons)
- **Others**: 24% (5 670 tons)


**Bilberry**

*Vaccinium myrtillus*

**Elder (elderberry)**

*Sambucus nigra*
**Dog Rose**
*Rosa canina*

**Mountain-ash (rowan)**
*Sorbus aucuparia*

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**Most important species of forest fruits harvested in Poland (in 2011)**

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*Source: Leśnictwo 2012 (Forestry 2012) Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Main Statistical Office)*

**Most important species of forest mushrooms harvested in Poland (in 2011)**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Cantherele</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bay boletie</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King boletie</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Source: Leśnictwo 2012 (Forestry 2012) Główny Urząd Statystyczny (Main Statistical Office)*
Chanterelle, Cantharellus cibarius

Bay Bolete, Xerocomus badius

King Bolete (Edible Bolete), Boletus edulis

Photo: P. Staniszewski
For most of NWFPs, which are gathered on forest lands or from trees outside the forests, no specific forest management plans or silvicultural treatments are applied. Is it really a forest economy / sustainable utilisation?...

Lack of knowledge about NWFPs resources. Over- or inappropriate harvesting may lead to forest degradation, including threatening the survival of the species used. Inventory - the assessment of NWFP, and the forest resources providing them, should be an essential tool for the sustainable management of these resources.

The growing public interest in NWFPs forces one to prepare detailed, based on research results, principles and rules of their management and utilisation.

Small and rather decreasing number of species commercially important. Knowledge / promotion
Gypsy Mushroom (Chicken of the woods)  
*Rozites caperata*

Sweet Tooth (Hedgehog)  
*Hydnum repandum*

Trumpet Chanterelle (Funnel Chanterelle)  
*Cantharellus tubaeformis*

Yellow-footed Chanterelle  
*Cantharellus xanthopus*
Purple-gilled Laccaria
Laccaria amethystea

Changing Pholiota
Pholiota mutabilis

Wood Blewit
Lepista nuda (Clitocybe nuda)

Chicken Mushroom (Sulphur Shelf)
Laetiporus sulphureus
Collecting goods in the forest is also an element of recreation.

Wider understanding of the term: “Non wood forest products & services”
Problems / challenges

The plantation-type cultivation of fruit-bearing plants and edible mushrooms is one of possible forms of broadening the surface area of raw material bases.

Rural development - the potential for a new extra income source for the local communities.

Problems / challenges

The appearance of new, “niche” products.

Chance for – not only local - market.

Oyster Mushroom
Pleurotus ostreatus

Photo: P. Staniszewski

Inner bark of Norway spruce → export.
Reactivation of traditional forest bee-keeping → chance of promotion of regions.

New / old products?...