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„Polish forests and forestry“ (Vortrag in englischer Sprache)

### **Content**

Basic information:

- Forest area in Poland: 9.4 Mio ha,  $\approx 30\%$  forest coverage;  
10 % increase during the last 75 years
- 77 % (7.5 Mio ha) administrated by Polish State Forests National Forest Holding (est. 1924),  $\approx 20\%$  private,  $\approx 2\%$  national parks.
- 2019 harvest goal: 40.4 Mio m<sup>3</sup> ( $\approx 65\%$  of the total annual increment)
- Annual planting activity: 500 Mio trees, approx. 50,000 – 60,000 ha/a
- 26,000 jobs at Lasy Państwowe (add.  $\approx 400,000$  in the entire wood sector),  
generating  $\approx 2\%$  of the Polish GDP

The Polish State Forests (Lasy Państwowe, LP) (PSF) is a self-financed enterprise, based on the parliament bill on forests, having the main objectives of: (1) executing multifunctional, sustainable management, (2) promoting the idea of social responsibility, (3) encouraging pro-ecological activity, and (4) implementing bio-economy. Prof. Zawila-Niedzwiecki introduced the activities undertaken by the PSF towards bio-economy today. Most important were the adaptation to climate change, climate change mitigation through carbon forestry and through water retention. For the period 2016-2022, the PSF have the objective to construct or maintain 2,300 small retention reservoirs and hydro-technical facilities to store additional 2.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of flood or rain water.

From the beginning of the PSFs' activity in 1924, nature protection has been one of the company's main goals. Today, 86 % of the Polish nature reserves and 40 % of the Natura2000 habitats are under responsibility of the PSF. Nowadays, the activities are extended by environmental education in connection with touristic and recreational infrastructure and by promoting healthy food products from the forests (venison, bee products, mushrooms). In Poland, venison is not an important traditional source of food, therefore, it is exported. The Polish State Forests are undertaking activities in energy savings and to reduce the own carbon footprint. The activities on carbon forestry, e.g. by means of soil protection and peatland restoration were described.

### **Critical remarks by the presenter**

The recent natural hazards and pest calamities, in particular extreme problems with drought in 2018, a storm event in 2017 (80,000 ha) and bark beetle mass propagation in parts of eastern Poland, have tremendous impact and require high effort. Partially, pest management is not allowed due to new regulations, even though also valuable spruce forests are going to die off.

### **Discussion**

Among other questions, the maximum and mean area of single clear cuttings in Poland was discussed. Maximum, 4 ha are allowed. The mean clear-cut area is much smaller, though.