

# Forest Management

Contractual agreements (cooperation) are concluded with forest owners on a voluntary basis or the organisation of seminars and practical training for other forest owners, students, etc. Topics of sustainable and environmentally friendly forest management are dealt with.



## Summary

The Pasaules dabas fonds (Associate Partner of WWF or Formerly WWF Latvia) forest management demonstration plots have different owners, but their views on the forest are similar. Here, forest owners work for the benefit of the present while retaining the ability to exploit the vast forest values of tomorrow. There are three demonstration areas:

- "Kalna Gavnieši" in Skujene parish, Amata municipality of Vidzeme region;
- "Lejas Kleperi" in Launkalne parish, Smiltene municipality of Vidzeme region
- "Pūpoli", the territory forms the farm "Pūpoli" in Kurmene parish, Vecumnieki municipality and the farm "Alksnāji" in Mazzalve parish, Nereta municipality, and the farm "Renderi" in Jaunjelgava parish, Jaunjelgava municipality of Zemgale region

The demonstration areas differ in size, forest stand and natural conditions. Through contractual agreements (cooperation) with forest owners on a voluntary basis, seminars and internships are organized for other forest owners, students, etc. to maintain the forest and not to cut down all trees, to manage the forest in an environmentally friendly way and also to achieve economic benefits. There are about 5-10 events per year with a total number of 200-300 participants.



### COOPERATION

### PUBLIC GOODS

Forest management



Biodiversity

Social collaboration

### LOCATION

### COUNTRY



#### Demonstration areas:

1. "Kalna Gavnieši" in Amata municipality of Vidzeme region;
2. "Lejas Kleperi" in Smiltene municipality of Vidzeme region
3. "Pūpoli", the territory forms the farm "Pūpoli" in Vecumnieki municipality and the farm "Alksnāji" Nereta municipality, and the farm "Renderi" in Jaunjelgava municipality of Zemgale region.

#### Purpose

- To promote responsible and honest management of privately-owned forests in Latvia.

#### Objective

- To improve the knowledge of forest owners about responsible forest management.
- To ensure the distribution of demonstration territory experience and practice in private-owned forest management.

## CONTRACT

Public – private – civil society contract

**Contract conclusion:**  
Written agreement



**Payment mechanism:**  
Incentive payments

**Financing party:**  
Government (with EU-funding)



**Length of participation in scheme:**  
No termination



**Start of the program:**  
2011  
**End:** ongoing

## PARTICIPATION

- Demonstration areas- 3
- Collaboration experience 10-20 years
- Participation – 300 (annually)
- Area – 1000ha, 87 ha, 23 ha

## Data and facts - Contract

**Participation:** Cooperation based on a cooperation agreement. Three farms are in the forest management project, about 300 people annually participate in the seminars and the area of the farms: 1000ha, 87ha, 23ha.

**Involved parties:** The contracting parties are the Pasaules dabas fonds and the demonstration farms

**Management requirements for farmers:** The contract is managerial about the performing activities. Managerial activities lead to environmental solutions.

**Controls/monitoring:** There are monitored the growth of the wood, trees growing, diseases, insects by self - monitoring and participants.

**Renewal / termination:** no regulations

**Conditions of participation:**

- Pasaules Dabas Fonds supports establishment of infrastructure and setting up seminar rooms;
- Pasaules Dabas Fonds supports and organizes demonstration territory owner training;
- All forest management activity in the forest is economically justified by the demonstration territory owner and does not receive financial support from Pasaules Dabas Fonds;
- Pasaules Dabas Fonds does not offer owners financial compensation for time spent organising/managing seminars.

**Risk/uncertainties of participants:** Risks of the long term cooperation, risk that too many participants and high interest from target groups in the forest farms.

**Funding/Payments:** State funding, private funding, EU project support (in collaboration with Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre). In some periods, there is no external funding for educational activities in demonstration areas, then the costs are covered by Pasaules Dabas Fonds.

## Context features

**Landscape and climate:** Unfortunately, despite the ecological, economic and social benefits that the forest brings to us as human beings, deforestation in the world as a whole continues to progress at a tremendous pace, with 13 million ha of forests being destroyed each year, with irreparable consequences for the climate. Forests in Europe - 44% of forests and trees are essential for human well-being on Earth. The forest ecosystem accounts for one third of the Earth's terrestrial area. In Europe, forests account for more than 44% of the country's continental territory and, apart from traditional timber and other forest products, provide many benefits to European society and the environment, including clean air, clean water, homes, over 80% of terrestrial biodiversity. and nature protection against climate change. Sustainably managed forests not only provide us with environmental benefits, they also maintain sustainable economic development and growth, creating green jobs through climate, friendly and renewable raw materials. Forests provide livelihoods for millions of private forest owners as well as budget revenues. Sustainable management of Europe's forests is implemented by the Europe 2020 Strategy: "Innovation for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe", the latest "Climate and Energy Program 2030" and the "EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020". To manage following the principles of sustainable forest management and to reduce deforestation globally by 2020, all countries were encouraged to take local, national and international measures.

**Farm structure:** Two farms are located in the central highlands of Vidzeme and one in southern Latvia in the lowlands of Central Latvia. Farms have a great variety of natural conditions, which are more pronounced in the alternation of hills and valleys and the diversity of soils. Farms in the central part of Vidzeme spring a few weeks later than in other parts of Latvia, the rainfall is also higher.

A small proportion of the forests in the demonstration areas are now within 100 years of their current borders. Most have developed over the past 40 to 70 years, overgrowing with meadows or pastures. Demonstration areas include both artificially forested grasslands and pastures with coniferous cultures of the same age and natural forests of different tree species at different ages.

**Farm structure:** Non-clear cutting methods, as opposed to widely used clearcutting, is more environmentally friendly and often more beneficial to the owner than the opportunities and risks of random felling. During the seminar, you will be able to ask questions and discuss your own experiences. This method allows you to obtain money from the forest all the time without diminishing its value. Practically, anyone can see the demonstration areas. Interested in the demonstration area will be able to learn about the use of unrestricted forestry in different types of forest growing conditions, and listen to interesting experiences. Promote examples of good forest management practices to demonstrate adaptive forestry practices that promote forest value. To stop and prevent sustainable forest management from forest degradation, depletion and management of forest resources in Latvia. Full-time forest owners.



#### **Demonstration area "Kalna Gaviesi"**

The area is located in Skujene parish, Amata region of Vidzeme region. The farm is well-developed for firewood trade, pond farming, beekeeping. Land about 1000ha, divided into several properties. The demonstration area was established in 2003. In spring 2001, 160 ha of forest were certified according to FSC standard requirements. These 160 ha include areas that have been fully preserved for natural development and where no economic activity is planned, such as broadleaf, spruce forest on the Amata slope, old spruce forest.

#### **Demonstration area "Lejas Kleperi"**

The territory is located in the Launkalne parish, Smiltene municipality of Vidzeme region. The farm has a private family, local history, forest museum. The total area of the farmland is 119,4ha incl. forests 86.1ha. The demonstration area was established in 2004. Due to the hilly terrain, the farmland is used mainly for grazing and hay production. Inferior agricultural land is gradually being naturally forested. Forest management is carried out on our own, using the equipment on the farm. The area depicts the use of random felling, planning, care felling.

#### **Forestry demonstration area "Pūpoli"**

The territory is made up of Kurmene parish farm "Pūpoli" in Vecumnieki municipality, Alksnāji farm in Mazzalve parish in Nereta district and Renderi farm in Jaunjelgava parish in Jaunjelgava municipality. The demonstration area was established in 2012. The total area of farms in the demonstration area is 37.6 hectares. Of these, 23.2 hectares are covered by forest land. Part of the agricultural land is covered with forests. Deforestation of overgrown areas is not planned in the future.

### **Problem description**

Balancing social and economic needs with nature. The effects of climate change need to be reconciled with the characteristics of today's market, the growing demand for wood, the preservation of biodiversity and the necessary green solutions for energy supply. Society's needs for forests are also growing. These - the challenges of the past decade - must be addressed in a multi-purpose forestry program. The education system of the forest owners, the forest workers, shall ensure the acquisition of knowledge about the adaptation of forests as a natural system and economic activity to the processes and characteristics of the natural system. Knowledge of the wide range of forest ecosystem services, public interest and business sector responsibilities. It is from the nature of the natural forest ecosystem and the public interest that the goods and services on which Latvia's forests are based, and on what value, should be derived. Without denying the role of wood as a renewable natural resource in the economy, it is necessary to find a compromise in forest management - balancing social and economic needs with what is happening in nature. It is wrong to regard forests as agricultural crops, thus equating forest management models. The average risk of forest damage is higher in silvicultural forestry than in t.s. continuous cover or selective cutting methods in forestry. Types of risk include fungal diseases, malnutrition, strong winds and rodent damage. However, the calculations of the likelihood of risk vary considerably. This is due to the fact that in the clearcut management method, the money invested to create and maintain new stands after clearing will not be recovered until the forest is felled and the timber is sold.

## SUCCESS OR FAILURE?



Successful collaboration experience with demonstration site owners 10-20 years, demonstration of practical, environmentally friendly forest management in private forestry.

### Reasons for success:

- Formulation and analysis of an idea to a successful goal.
- Evaluation of potential demonstrability.
- Identification of cooperation partners.
- Analysis of target audiences.
- Selection of demonstration areas, incl. applicability of site owners.
- Integration of the results of the demonstration project into a wider goal realization.

### SWOT analysis

