



*Polish Voluntary National Contribution towards achieving the
Global Forest Goals and United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests*

Introduction

In accordance with paragraph 30 of the United Nations Forest Strategic Plan 2017-2030 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2017¹, Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contribution to global forestry objectives and targets, taking into account national circumstances, strategies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forestry circumstances. National voluntary contributions may include national actions and targets related to other international commitments related to forests, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development², the Sustainable Development Goals³, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets⁴ and measures to combat climate change under the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵.

National Conditions

Thanks to the work of many generations of foresters, Poland has one of the richest forests in Europe in terms of biodiversity and timber resources. The number of forests is still growing. According to the data for 2020, the forest area in Poland is over 9.2 million hectares (ha), which is 29.6% of the country's area. Supervision of forest management in Poland, in forests that are owned by the State Treasury of the Republic of Poland, is exercised by the Minister responsible for the environment, but forests that are ioET@.000008871

Many forest districts organize spring forest planting actions. In April 2019, the Inauguration of the 1st edition of the "sadziMY" action took place, which is an initiative of the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda. The Presidential Couple together with thousands of participants took part in the tree planting in Jakubowo Forestry Unit in Rytel Forest District, which was affected by the hurricane in August 2017. The most valuable gene resources of forest-forming species are collected in gene banks created by the State Forests, such as the unique Forest Gene Bank in Kostrzyca, launched in 1996.

It is worth mentioning that the share of natural regeneration in the total regeneration area has been increasing since the beginning of the 1990s. In 1986-1990 this share was 4.2%, in 1991-1995 - 6.5%, in 1996-2010 - 10.5%, and during the last five years - 13.8%.

Poland also carries out a number of scientific and research works in the forestry sector, corresponding to the challenges faced by forests in the modern world. These include projects such as monitoring of adaptation processes to environmental changes caused by fire against the background of artificial and natural forest regeneration in the forest and natural regeneration of forest in Myszyniec Forest District, or natural-economic monitoring of natural and artificial renewal of forest in Pisz Forest District after hurricane in 2002.

International aspects and initiatives of Polish Forest Policy

In recent years, Poland has been implementing the objectives set in international initiatives, as well as actively participating in their promotion. Polish international forestry policy implements existing global environmental and development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the targets of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Global Forest Goals of the United Nations Strategic Plan For Forests 2030, and all further development goals related to forestry at the international level. During the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP24 in Katowice (Poland), one of these was the announcement of the Ministerial Declaration "Forests for Climate" on conserving and enhancing carbon stocks in sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases until 2050 and emphasizing the multifunctional role of forests. It

environmental degradation and strive to repair or reduce the damage that has already occurred. We will protect forests and forest ecosystems currently vulnerable to deforestation, land degradation and wildfires. We will place emphasis on maintaining natural balance and restoring degraded ecosystems and protecting biodiversity. We believe that in this regard it is necessary to combine the activities of

and quality. The seedlings go not only to forest districts, but also to municipalities or private entities that have designated their areas for afforestation.

3. Development of scientific basis and methodical solutions supporting the Pilot of "**Carbon Forests Project**" - activities of this type are carried out due to the progressive, negative climate change, to which the high emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere mainly contributes. In 2015-2019, forests in Poland absorbed about 30 million tons of CO₂ annually. In 2017-2021, the research service "Development of scientific bases and methodological solutions constituting for the Pilot Development Project entitled "Carbon Forest Project" was carried out by a research consortium led by the Forest Research Institute. The cost of the service was 35 million PLN (~ 8.3 million USD). The project is to contribute to increasing the amount of CO₂ absorbed by the forest ecosystem, mainly forest stands and soil. It aims to indicate the role of forest areas in mitigating the negative effects of climate change. The project assumes integration of many areas of activities: environmental protection - taking additional forestry actions to increase atmospheric carbon sequestration and reduce the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, science - developing modern forest ecosystem carbon balance models for different silviculture and forest management scenarios, economy - encouraging entrepreneurs to purchase carbon

- 4. Development of small retention in mountain and lowland areas** - Small water retention facilities are created in the forest areas of the State Forests, thus counteracting the effects of drought and at the same time supporting the preservation of natural habitats and creating new ones. Within the framework of two comprehensive projects of forest and forestry adaptation to climate change

