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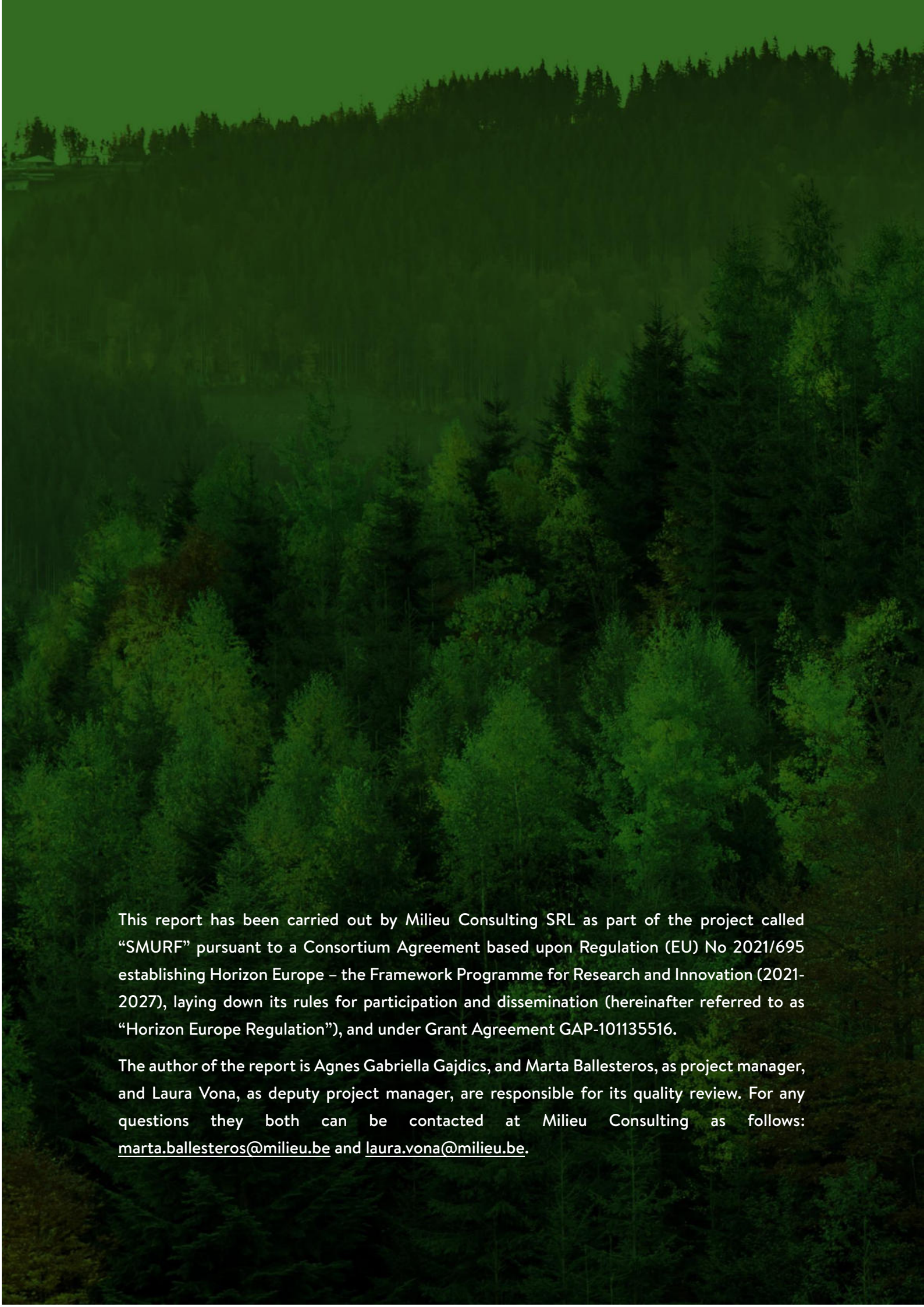
Legal and regulatory framework applicable to Small Forest Owners and Sustainable Forest Management

Country Fact Sheet
Hungary

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THE FOREST OWNERS' PROJECT

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Legal and regulatory framework applicable to Small Forest Owners and Sustainable Forest Management (SMURF) - WP2

Executive Summary

In Hungary, forest management is governed by a comprehensive regulatory framework. The main legislation laying down the rights and obligations of the forest owners, forest managers and authorities is Act XXXVII of 2009 of the Parliament and the implementing legislation thereof.

With regard to ownership, 56% of forests are State-owned, and 42% are private. Municipal/communal forests represent less than a 2% share of the total forest area; their role is rather limited within the forestry sector. Private forests are owned mostly by private persons who typically own forests in the form of undivided common ownership. Aggregate data on forests is collected and maintained in the publicly available National Forestry Database, and the National Forest Inventory, a large-scale statistical data collection records a wide range of parameters at nearly 11,000 sampling points across the country's forests.

Ownership and other relevant rights - such as the right to usufruct - concerning real estates (including forest land) are registered in the public real estate register. The forest owner (usufructuary) has the right of possession, the right of use, the right to utilise, and the right to dispose over the forest property. If there is no forest manager, the owner is obliged to ensure the professional restoration of the forest, the protection of forests against damage and harmful activities, the elimination of the effects of damage that has occurred, and the protection of forest soil. The forest manager primarily has the right to use the forest and benefit from timber harvesting. The forest manager may carry out afforestation, reforestation, and logging activities according to the requirements of the forest plan.

Forest management planning is highly regulated and centralised. Forests are divided into forest planning districts, the units for planning and controlling sustainable forest management activities. The forest administration prepares and approves forest management plans and monitors their implementation. The Forestry Act requires that forest management activities be carried out so that the natural state of forests is not degraded due to forest management. Hungary achieved PEFC forest certification in 2017, and the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd. issued the applicable SFM Requirements for PEFC certification, which is voluntary.

The Hungarian forestry subsidy system mainly relies on EU co-funding. Subsidies can effectively support new cooperations among forest managers, new (mostly environment-friendly) technologies, forestry practices, and other innovations. However, many of them are strongly linked to the subsidy itself, so they will disappear when they are not subsidised anymore. There is no forestry-specific taxation; the general taxation rules apply to forest owners and managers. Under specific conditions, forest owners may be subject to personal income tax exemption; however, further incentives have not been identified.

The complex and lengthy procedures of purchasing agricultural lands and the costs thereof are considered an obstacle in the land market. A simplified land sale process should be introduced in the case of the sale of tiny forest areas. Restrictions imposed on the land market also block further reduction of ownership fragmentation. Additionally, the main obstacle to improving the

private forest sector are small-scale forest management and the fragmented ownership structure. A new legislation to facilitate the liquidation of undivided common property was adopted in 2020, introducing new, simplified procedures for liquidating undivided common ownership on agricultural lands.

Introduction

This is a Horizon project with a strong research approach. The name of the project is 'Sustainable Management models and value chains for small Forests' known as SMURF with the reference HORIZON-CL6-2023-CIRCBIO-01.

The general objective is to provide an analysis of the legal and regulatory framework in EU Member States applicable to small forest owners (SFO) in their practices aiming to Sustainable Forest Management.

The specific project objectives are:

1. Prepare a report on the legal framework on SFO for most EU Member State.
2. Identify the basic legislation regulating SFO and the specific articles setting rights and obligations and *provide the links* to those basic and articles.
3. Define the rights and obligations for SFO in EU Member States.
4. Define the legal framework for the economic activity of SFO in EU Member States.
5. **Identify the main legal limitations or barriers for SFO in EU Member States.**
6. **Identify needs for legal reforms and propose specific legal improvements, when considered necessary.**
7. Prepare a comparative analysis of the legal framework SFO in the EU Member States.

These guidelines provide the basic information for the elaboration of the report on legal framework applicable to Small Forest owners/holders. It is complemented by a pilot report showing as a model to show the level of depth of the analysis.

When using the term "legal framework" we consider:

- The organizational model of forestry and the forest value chain.
- The institutional framework, identifying the distribution of competences among the different administration levels (European, national, regional and local) and administration sectors (agriculture and rural development, environment, industry, interior, economics and others).
- The regulatory framework, identifying laws and regulations that affect forestry and the forest value chain. The key articles that set basic rules for forestry will be explicitly referred and translated into English.

The analysis will be focused on factors that affect the participation of forest holdings in the market. There is a particular interest in identifying barriers, obstacles and measures or instruments that have had a significant positive impact in the present functioning of the forest markets.

The analysis will describe the nowadays situation of the framework, although a contextual and short reference of the origin and evolution of the framework when needed for a good understanding will be included.

The analysis will consider the national legislation and will only refer to the regional legislation as a way of example to confirm the national legal framework or to show that in some regions the situation may be rather different.

The analysis will take into consideration the forest sector legislation, but not only, because the main barriers and legal limitations might be derived from the inadequacy of other sectoral laws (societal, fiscal, real state and ownership, cadastral, insurances) or requirements in some pieces of national environmental legislation. It will refer to Nature or Biodiversity Conservation law and to the Environmental Impact Assessment legislation while it might also refer to relevant agriculture legislation.

1. Basic legal and regulatory framework applicable to small forest owners

1.1. Context to the legislation

There are over 2.2 million hectares of forest in Hungary. As a result of the political changes and the privatisation in the 1990s, approx. 400 000 forest estates were created, with an average area of 2.2 hectares, and the compensation process resulted in a significant amount of undivided common property on arable land and forests. Only 3 % of the forest estates are larger than 10 hectares. Compared to other European countries, the proportion of forest estates without a forest manager is high, the reduction of which is a key challenge for the forest sector.[1] There is no significant logging in the unmanaged private forests and the risk of illegal logging and tax evasion is increased. The area of private forests has increased to ca 900,000 hectares – ca. 42 % of total forests - due to subsidised afforestation and reforestation of abandoned areas. The number of forest managers representing forest owners reached 38,000 in 2015. Due to disorganisation, lack of expertise, financial constraints, fragmentation and undivided common ownership, private forest management has been slowly developing.

The modification of forest management regulations in the 1990s changed the practice of forest management. The adoption of the forest law in 1996 facilitated the increase of protected areas, which was followed by the designation of NATURA 2000 sites by the middle of 2000s. A significant social pressure represented by NGOs to widen protection functions of forests and to apply close-to-nature silviculture also increased. As a result, forest management had to face increasing restrictions on forest operations limiting available technology, the time frame of fellings, and also the allowable cut. In forests where using clear cut or short period regeneration cuttings was prohibited, close-to-nature silviculture provided the only way to utilise timber yield.[2] Forest regeneration with natural regeneration methods resulted in cost reduction.

The new forestry law in 2009 was ratified introducing a classification of forests according to their natural state, a more accurate regulation of the selection system and other silvicultural methods.

Since March 2020, a special legal order exists in Hungary. According to Article 52 of the Fundamental Law (the Constitution)[3], the state of danger is declared under specific and extraordinary circumstances, and during this state, a special legal order is operated. Under the

[1] Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEFP), *From state forests to privately owned woodlands*, n.d., https://www.cepf-eu.org/about-us/members/hungary

[2] Béla LETT–János GÁL– Magdolna STARK– Norbert FRANK: Development and Possibilities for Close-to-Nature Forest Resource Management in Hungary, University of West Hungary, 2016, https://journal.uni-sopron.hu/index.php/aslh/article/view/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073

[3] Articles 48, 51 and 52 of the Fundamental Law of Hungary (*Magyarország Alaptörvénye)* https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-4301-02-00

special legal order, the Government is entitled to suspend the application of certain laws and adopt temporary decrees derogating from other laws (including the acts of the Parliament)[4].

Since the declaration of state of danger in March 2020[5] in Hungary, and except for a few months, the Government has maintained[6] a "rule by decree" system so far. By reference to the state of danger, the Government is entitled to adopt extraordinary rules that can suspend the application of any laws and derogate even from the provisions of Acts of the Parliament. The Government exercises this power, inter alia, in regulatory matters relating to the security of energy supply, which concerns the legal framework of forest management.[7]

One of the emergency legislations, adopted in 2022, abolishes the compulsory cutting age for oak and beech forests.[8] It also allows clear-cuts on nature protection areas without regard to the restrictions laid down by the Forest Act and the Nature Conservation Act. Under this decree, forests do not have to be restored as the forest laws require. Furthermore, logging roads can be built without a permit. In forests managed by state-owned forest management companies, the Minister of Agriculture can decide on logging regardless of the restrictions included in the forest management plan[9].

1.2. Basic legal instruments

The framework of Hungarian forestry law is based on the following national legislations:

- **Act XXXVII of 2009 on Forests and the Protection and Management of Forests (the Forest Act)[10]**

- 61/2017 FM Decree on the implementation of Act XXXVII of 2009 on Forests and on the Protection and Management of Forests (**FM Decree 61/2017**)[11]

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[4] Article 80 of Act Act XCIII of 2021 on the coordination of security and safety activities (*2021. évi XCIII. törvény a védelmi és biztonsági tevékenységek összehangolásáról)* https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-93-00-00

[5] Government Decree 40/2020 (III. 11.) on the declaration of a state of danger (*40/2020. (III. 11.) Korm. rendelet veszélyhelyzet kihirdetéséről*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2020-40-20-22

[6] Government Decree 180/2022. (V. 24.) on Declaring a State of Danger Due to the Armed Conflict and Humanitarian Catastrophe in the Territory of Ukraine, and in Order to Eliminate the Consequences of these in Hungary and on Certain State of Danger Rules (*180/2022. (V. 24.) Korm. rendelet az Ukrajna területén fennálló fegyveres konfliktusra, illetve humanitárius katasztrófára tekintettel, valamint ezek magyarországi következményeinek az elhárítása érdekében veszélyhelyzet kihirdetéséről és egyes veszélyhelyzeti szabályokról)* https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2022-180-20-22; Government Decree 424/2022. (X. 28.) on Declaring a State of Danger Due to the Armed Conflict and Humanitarian Catastrophe in the Territory of Ukraine, and in Order to Eliminate the Consequences of these in Hungary and on Certain State of Danger Rules (*424/2022. (X. 28.) Korm. rendelet az Ukrajna területén fennálló fegyveres konfliktusra, illetve humanitárius katasztrófára tekintettel, valamint ezek magyarországi következményeinek az elhárítása és kezelése érdekében veszélyhelyzet kihirdetéséről és egyes veszélyhelyzeti szabályokról*) still in force, https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2022-424-20-22

[7] Gov.Decree 287/2022

[8] Gov.Decree 287/2022, Article 1(5)

[9] Ökológiai Kutatóközpont, *Az Ökológiai Kutatóközpont állásfoglalása a „Vészhelyzet alatt a tűzifaigények biztosításához szükséges szabályok módosításáról" című 287/2022. (VIII. 4.) Korm. rendeletről, amely 2022. augusztus 4-én jelent meg a Magyar Közlöny 131. számában.*, 2022, https://ecolres.hun-ren.hu/az-okologiai-kutatokozpont-allasfoglalasa-a-veszhelyzet-alatt-a-tuzifaigenyek-biztositasahoz-szukseges-szabalyok-modositasarol-cimu-kormanyrendeletrol/

[10] Act XXXVII of 2009 on Forests and the Protection and Management of Forests (*2009. évi XXXVII. törvény az erdőről, az erdő védelméről és az erdőgazdálkodásról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2009-37-00-00

[11] 61/2017 FM Decree on the implementation of Act XXXVII of 2009 on Forests and on the Protection and Management of Forests (*61/2017. (XII. 21.) FM rendelet az erdőről, az erdő védelméről és az erdőgazdálkodásról szóló 2009. évi XXXVII. törvény végrehajtásáról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2017-61-20-11

- **Government Decree 287/2022 (VIII.4) concerning specific rules to meet firewood demand (Gov.Decree 287/2022)**[12]

- **Act C of 2021 on the Real Estate Register (Act C of 2021)**[13]

- Act LXXI of 2020 on the liquidation of undivided joint ownership of land and on arrangement of the data of owners of real estate classified as land in the real estate register (**Act LXXI of 2020**)[14]

- **Act CXXII of 2013 on Transactions in Agricultural and Forestry Land (Act CXXII of 2013)**[15]

- Act CCXII of 2013 on certain provisions and transitional provisions of Act CXXII of 2013 on Transactions in Agricultural and Forestry Land (**Act CCXII of 2013 évi CCXII**)[16]

- Government Decree 179/2023. (V. 15.) implementing Act C of 2021 on the Real Estate Register (**Gov.Decree 179/2023**)[17]

- **Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code (the Civil Code)**[18]

- **Act LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation (Nature Conservation Act)**

- **Act XLIX of 1994 on forest associations (Act XLIX of 1994)**[19]

1.3. Basic Regulatory framework

In Hungary, forest management is governed by a very strong State influence and strict regulatory framework (listed under point 1.2).

In addition, the National Forest Strategy 2016-2030[20] was approved in 2016. Its main, long-term objectives are inter alia the development of state and private forest management, afforestation, conservation of forests, and nature protection in forests. The Strategy is a high political commitment for sustainable forest management and addresses current challenges such as

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[12] Government Decree 287/2022 (VIII.4) concerning specific rules to meet firewood demand, *Vészhelyzet alatt a tűzifaigények biztosításához szükséges szabályok módosításáról" című 287/2022. (VIII. 4.) Korm. rendelet*, https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2022-287-20-22

[13] Act C of 2021 on the Real Estate Register (*2021. évi C. törvény az ingatlan-nyilvántartásról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-100-00-00.3#CI

[14] 2020. évi LXXI. törvény a földeken fennálló osztatlan közös tulajdon felszámolásáról és a földnek minősülő ingatlanok jogosultjai adatainak ingatlan-nyilvántartási rendezéséről, https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2020-71-00-00.6

[15] Act CXXII of 2013 on Transactions in Agricultural and Forestry Land (*2013. évi CXXII. törvény a mező- és erdőgazdasági földek forgalmáról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2013-122-00-00

[16] Act CCXII of 2013 on certain provisions and transitional provisions of Act CXXII of 2013 on Transactions in Agricultural and Forestry Land (*2013. évi CCXII. törvény a mező- és erdőgazdasági földek forgalmáról szóló 2013. évi CXXII. törvénnyel összefüggő egyes rendelkezésekről és átmeneti szabályokról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2013-212-00-00.39#CI

[17] Government Decree 179/2023. (V. 15.) implementing Act C of 2021 on the Real Estate Register (*179/2023. (V. 15.) Korm. rendelet az ingatlan-nyilvántartásról szóló 2021. évi C. törvény végrehajtásáról*), https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2023-179-20-22

[18] Act V of 2013 on the Civil Code (*2013. évi V. törvény a Polgári Törvénykönyvről*), https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2013-5-00-00

[19] Act XLIX of 1994 on forest associations (*1994. évi XLIX. törvény az erdőbirtokossági társulatról*), https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1994-49-00-00

[20] National Forest Strategy 2016-2030 (*Nemzeti Erdő Stratégia 2016-2030*) https://erdo-mezo.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nemzeti_erdostrategia_2016.pdf

ensuring the preservation and enrichment of the forest, reducing of the impacts of climate change and considering the impact of natural factors and human interventions on forest ecosystems and habitats. The Strategy also takes into account the extension of close-to-nature forest management.

Hungary also signed and promulgated the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management[21]. The Convention requires the Parties thereto to pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programs, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management.

Hungary achieved PEFC forest certification in 2017, and the Hungarian Forest Certification Non-profit Ltd. issued the applicable SFM Requirements for PEFC certification.[22]

The publications of the National Chamber of Agriculture help forest managers and owners comply with the law and apply for certain subsidies.[23]

All companies owned by the State (including publicly owned forest companies) are obliged to establish an internal control system[24] which includes that the organisational structure is clear, processes are transparent and organisational objectives and values are defined, known and accepted, responsibilities, authorities and tasks are clear and well defined, ethical expectations are defined, known and accepted (e.g. in codes of ethics).

[21] Gov.Decree 306/2005. (XII. 25.) on the framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, (*306/2005. (XII. 25.) Korm. rendelet a Kárpátok védelméről és fenntartható fejlesztéséről szóló Keretegyezmény kihirdetéséről)* ,https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0500306.kor

[22] Magyar Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer, *Sustainable Forest Management Requirements*, 2019, https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.org/media/2019-03/1d570696-d769-4078-9b7d-1fa946f68256/b4773505-8220-571b-af71-8dbe9f2dd277.pdf

[23] https://www.nak.hu/erdeszet/kapcsolodo-kiadvanyok

[24] Article 4(1) of Governemnt Decree 339/2019.(XII. 23.) on the internal control system of publicly owned companies (*339/2019. (XII. 23.) Korm. rendelet a köztulajdonban álló gazdasági társaságok belső kontrollrendszeréről*), https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2019-339-20-22

2. Governance and institutional framework

1.1. Distribution of competences between the State and Regional authorities.

- **According to the legal framework, what are the relevant competences and responsibilities regarding decisions on forest management and forest management practices at the different State level (national, regional, municipal) in your country?** Please describe the situation stating the legislation and relevant provisions.

Legal background

The main legislation laying down the tasks and responsibilities of the forest authority is the **Forest Act**, and Government Decree 383/2016. (XII. 2.) designating the bodies responsible for agricultural administration and management (**Government Decree 383/2016**)[25]. The latter legislation appoints different bodies as forest authorities having competence concerning different tasks: the Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry), the National Food Chain Safety Office (the NÉBIH) and the county government offices are responsible for forestry administration.

National competences

The Ministry, and in some instances, the NÉBIH and the Pest County Government Office, have national competence as forest authorities.

The main administrative body of the forest management sector is the Ministry. The Ministry, within which the **State Secretariat for Forests and Lands** operates, is the highest level and national authority in forest administration. The **Deputy State Secretary for Forests**[26] is responsible inter alia for the performance of tasks related to forest district planning, forest management, for coordinating forestry and forest management activities with nature conservation, the professional tasks arising from the exercise of ownership rights over State forestry companies, the preparation of legislation on forest management, forest protection, the conditions for the maintenance, public welfare use and expansion of forest assets. The **Deputy State Secretary for Forests** supervises the timber trade chain, the forest management and the timber trade chain through the public authorities, and carries out other tasks as required by the law. The Ministry operates the Forestry Management Information System, which includes the publicly accessible National Forest Inventory Database, the registers of forest managers and qualified forestry managers (hereinafter referred to as qualified forestry personnel). The Ministry operates the Forest Measurement and Monitoring System (EMMRE[27]) to monitor the ecological condition of forests, the effects of climate change and damage to forests. The

[25] Government Decree 383/2016. (XII. 2.) designating the bodies responsible for agricultural administration and management, Article 10, (*383/2016. (XII. 2.) Korm. rendelet a földművelésügyi hatósági és igazgatási feladatokat ellátó szervek kijelöléséről*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2016-383-20-22

[26] Order 1/2023 (VI.30.) of the Ministry of Agriculture on the Organisational and Operational Rules of the Ministry, Article 60/A, (*1/2023. (VI. 30.) AM utasítás az Agrárminisztérium Szervezeti és Működési Szabályzatáról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2023-1-B0-7R

[27] *Erdővédelmi Mérő és Megfigyelő Rendszer*, https://erdoleltar.nfk.gov.hu/emmre

Ministry's **Head Department of Forestry** and its regional departments carry out forest planning procedures.[28]

Another relevant public administration body with national competence is the National Food Chain Safety Office (the NÉBIH)[29]. Within the scope of its forest administration tasks, the NÉBIH is responsible for supervising the timber trade chain (EUTR)[30], and in some instances[31], it has a national competence as forest authority. On the NÉBIH website, the forestry administration provides information to the public in a visual format by displaying Hungary's forests[32]. The website is a general map that is regularly updated and freely available to the public. The map shows the administrative classification of forests in Hungary (county administrative offices, forest planning districts, localities, forest districts). It also provides the most important information about the forest - e.g. the primary function of the forest, the year of forest planning, the forest landscape, the protection status or the type of ownership, etc.

The **Pest County Government Office** has national competence in a few specific instances.[33] As an example, this body approves the trust contracts concerning 100% state-owned forests. It determines the suitability of the trustee as a forest manager unless the trustee is a 100% state-owned company.

Regional competences

On the territorial level, 10 county government offices act as forest authority[34] under the supervision of the Ministry and the NÉBIH. The competent county government offices and the forest districts under their jurisdiction are listed by Annex 2 to Government Decree 383/2016. The (forest department of the) competent government office carries out all tasks that the legislation assigns to the forest authority for which the legislation does not designate another authority.

In the case of forest management activities subject to notification, the county government office checks the notified activity and, if it does not comply with the requirements, this authority may prohibit, restrict or impose conditions on the continuation of the activity. This authority carries out the licensing procedure with the involvement of other authorities (e.g. the water protection authority), if required. It monitors the activities of forest managers and imposes sanctions in the event of violating the applicable provisions. The government office also keeps forest records and provides data from those.

The Forest Act also imposes obligations on the nature conservation authority (operating within the county government offices). If the logging or grazing activity is carried out in a forest that is

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[28] Ministry of Agriculture, Head Department of Forestry, https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/erdeszeti_foosztaly, https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/Erdotervezesi_osztalyok_elerhetosegei_news_2216

[29], Gov.Decree 22/2012. (II.29.) on the National Food Chain Safety Office (*22/2012. (II. 29.) Korm. rendelet a Nemzeti Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Hivatalról*) https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1200022.kor

[30] Gov.Decree 22/2012, Article 4/B

[31] Governmental Decree 383/2016. (XII. 2.) designating the bodies responsible for agricultural administration and management, Article 12(1), (1c), (2),

[32] https://erdoterkep.nebih.gov.hu

[33] Government Decree 383/2016. (XII. 2.) designating the bodies responsible for agricultural administration and management, Article 11(3),

[34] Government Decree 383/2016., Article 11(1), Annex 2

a protected nature conservation area or Natura 2000 area, the nature conservation authority has to check if it complies with the relevant requirements. If not, it may prohibit, restrict or impose conditions on the continuation of the activity. As a main rule, clear-cutting on nature conservation areas are also subject to authorisation of the nature conservation authority.[35]

Local/municipal competences:

N/A

Forest coordination and advisory bodies

The Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture is a public body whose main task is providing information and operating an advisory network to support farmers (including forest managers).[36]

1.2. Key representation organisations of the forest sector

There are about 1,800 registered economic entities with a main forestry activity, including 22 state-owned forest enterprises, 765 forest associations, 750 forestry service providers and about 150 other forest management companies. There are more than 1,700 individual forest enterprises (of which 10% are forest managers and 90% are forest contractors) and only 12 full-time forest farmers.

The majority of forestry operations (including state-owned forests) are carried out by private micro-enterprises (about 2,900 operating companies), which together generate a turnover of about HUF 35 billion, of which HUF 15 billion is generated by individual entrepreneurs and HUF 20 billion by contracting companies. Their most important customer is the state forestry sector (about HUF 25 billion per year).[37]

1. **Forest owners:** In Hungary, the share of state-owned forests is 56% and that of community-owned is 1% and 43% of forests are private. State-owned forest land areas are managed by 100% state-owned forestry companies listed by law[38]. The organisation of the Minister without Portfolio for the Development of Public Assets, the Hungarian National Asset Management Inc. (MNV Zrt.) exercises ownership rights over state assets, including state-owned real estates and companies.[39]

As mentioned above, the majority of private forests are undivided common properties.

2. **Forest municipalities: The forests owned by municipalities are under 1%.**[40]

3. **Forest industry:** Main actors of the forest industry are the 22 state-owned public companies managing the state forests and managers of private forest. There is publicly available data

[35] Nature Conservation Act, Article 33(5)
[36] *Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara*, Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture, www.nak.hu
[37] Nemzeti Erdőstratégia 2016-2030, National Forest Strategy 2016-2030, 2016, https://erdo-mezo.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nemzeti_erdostrategia_2016.pdf
[38] Forest Act, Annex 1
[39] Magyar Nemzeti Vagyonkezelő Zrt., Hungarian National Asset Management Inc., https://www.mnv.hu
[40] Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEFP), *From state forests to privately owned woodlands*, n.d., https://www.cepf-eu.org/about-us/members/hungary

on the turnover of the public forest companies and the 30 largest private forest managers and forest service providers in 2023[41].

4. **Forest clusters**: Last year, the Ministry launched organising the Hungarian cluster for forest-based economy actors[42]. Further details have not been found in this respect.

5. **Forest contractors**: The National Association for Wood and Wood Products Industry (FAGOSZ)[43] publishes main data of the most relevant forest contractors, such as the Mátyás Fakereskedő Kft. (https://www.matyasfa.hu), AGRO-CUP Kft. (http://agrocupkft.hu)[44]

6. **Forest Professionals**: In order to ensure the professionalism of forest management activities, the forest manager shall employ qualified forestry personnel registered at the forest authority.[45] Contact details of qualified forestry personnel registered is available on the Ministry's website.[46]

7. **Forest Agents or rangers**: Contact details of qualified forestry personnel registered is available on the Ministry's website.[47]

8. **Forest Sciences**: The Forest Research Institute of Sopron University (ERTI) is the most important research organisation for forests in Hungary.[48] The key research areas of ERTI are climate change, potential impacts and appropriate responses, and improvement of management methods based on natural processes.

9. **Forest certification:** The Hungarian Forest Certification System Nonprofit Ltd. was established to develop and operate the forest certification and forest product certification system, the Hungarian Forest Certification Scheme.[49] Hungary achieved PEFC forest certification in 2017, and the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Requirements[50] also provide detailed guidance in this respect.

10. **Public enterprises**: Forest managers of state-owned forests are operating in the form of private limited companies. These are the Bakonyerdő Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt., the DALERD

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[41] Available at: https://fataj.hu/2024/07/magan-erdogazdalkodok-erdeszeti-szolgaltatok-a-szamok-tukreben-2023/
[42] Országos Erdészeti Egyesület, *Magyarországi klaszter szervezését indítja el az AM az erdő alapú gazdaság szereplői számára*, 2024, https://www.oee.hu/hirek/agazati-szakmai/magyarorszagi-klaszter-szervezeset-inditja-el-az-am-az-erdo-alapu-gazdasag-szereploi-szamara
[43] http://www.fagosz.hu
[44] https://fataj.hu/2023/06/magan-erdogazdalkodok-erdeszeti-szolgaltatok-a-szamok-tukreben-2022/
[45] Forest Act, Article 97(1)
[46] https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/Erdeszeti_szakiranyito_vallalkozasok_kapcsolatfelveteli_adatai_news_1012
[47] https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/Erdeszeti_szakiranyito_vallalkozasok_kapcsolatfelveteli_adatai_news_1012
[48] Soproni Egyetem Erdészeti Tudományos Intézet, https://erti.hu/en/
[49] *Magyar Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer*, Hungarian Forest Certification System, http://www.pefc.hu
[50] Magyar Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer, *Sustainable Forest Management Requirements*, 2019, https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.org/media/2019-03/1d570696-d769-4078-9b7d-1fa946f68256/b4773505-8220-571b-af71-8dbe9f2dd277.pdf

Délalföldi Erdészeti Zrt., the ÉSZAKERDŐ Erdőgazdasági Zrt., the Gemenci Erdő- és Vadgazdaság Zrt., the Gyulaj Erdészeti és Vadászati Zrt., the IPOLY ERDŐ Zrt., the Kisalföldi Erdőgazdaság Zrt., the KEFAG Kiskunsági Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt., the EGERERDŐ Erdészeti Zrt., the Mecsekerdő Zrt., the NEFAG Nagykunsági Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt., the NYÍRERDŐ Nyírségi Erdészeti Zrt., the Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt., the SEFAG Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt., the Szombathelyi Erdészeti Zrt., the VADEX Mezőföldi Erdő- és Vadgazdálkodási Zrt., the Vértesi Erdészeti és Faipari Zrt., the Zalaerdő Erdészeti Zrt., the Budapesti Erdőgazdaság Zrt., the KASZÓ Erdőgazdaság Zrt. and the VERGA Veszprémi Erdőgazdaság Zrt.[51] These companies may also manage privately owned forests based on individual contracts.[52]

11. **Forest cooperatives**: In Hungary, a specific legal form for private forest owners is the forest association (*erdőbirtokossági társulat* – literally forest holders association), which can only be established for forest management by at least two forest owners. E.g. Ártéri Erdőbirtokossági Társulat (www.arteriebt.hu), Domaházi Erdőbirtokossági Társulat (www.domaebt.hu), Sajóvelezdi Erdőbirtokosság (www.velezderdo.hu).

12. **Other Forest organisations**

The **Hungarian Forestry Association** (OEE) founded in 1866 is one of the oldest and largest NGOs in Hungary.[53] It played a significant role in establishing and developing forestry-related literature in Hungarian and the development of forest sciences. It also supported establishing forestry education.

The **National Association of Hungarian Private Forest Owners and Managers** (MEGOSZ) is a nationwide federation for representing the interests of forest owners and forest management professionals in Hungary [54] It has approximately 1000 members, who own forest land of nearly 200 000 hectares in total. One of its key objectives is advocacy for favourable policy decisions and ensuring a clear legal framework and sustainable funding.

[51] Forest Act, Annex 1
[52] see e.g. https://parkerdo.hu/erdogazdalkodas/maganerdok/
[53] https://www.oee.hu/egyesuletunk
[54] https://megosz.org

2. Forest land ownership structure

- **According to State statistics, what is the ownership structure of the forest in your country (at State level)?** Please include relative and absolute data of forest ownership types, including average size of public and private forests and the number of area of forests in each size category)

2.1. Data on national forests ownership structure

Forests in Hungary cover ca. 2 million hectares, which is 20.9% of the country's surface area. 59.5% of the country's forests primarily serve commercial purposes (wood production), while the rest are designated for "special purposes", such as nature protection, soil or water protection, but also education, border zones, etc.[55] The dominant species in Hungarian forests are oaks (32.3%), robinia (black locust; 24.5%), poplars (10.6%), pines (9.6%), and beech (6.1%).[56]

The state owns 56% of forests and 42% are in private hands (the remaining 2% are under municipal and community ownership).[57] As municipal/community forests have less than 2% share in the total forest area, their role is rather limited within the forestry sector. Private forests are owned mostly to private persons who typically own forest in the form of undivided common ownership.

2.2. Definitions of forest ownership in your country

Please provide the definitions identified in the legislation applicable in your country following the guidelines shared with you.

- **Forest owner**

Forest owner is not expressly defined by national law. As a main rule, the owner of real estate is the natural or legal person registered in the public real estate register as an owner.[58] Domestic natural persons and EU nationals may acquire ownership of agricultural and forest land in Hungary. Ownership of land may not be acquired by third-country natural persons, by foreign states, including their provinces, local authorities, and the bodies thereof, or by legal persons except as provided by law.[59]

The usufructuary of the real estate must also be mentioned here because – if a usufructuary is registered in the real estate register – he/she is considered a forest owner under the Forest Act.[60]

- **Forest holder**

Legal definition of forest holders is not provided by national law.

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[55] KSH (Hungarian Central Statistical Office). *15.1.1.5. Erdőgazdálkodási Célú Erdőterület Az Elsőleges Rendeltetés Szerint*, 31 December 2020. https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/kor/hu/kor0003.html

[56] KSH. 15.1.1.6. *A Faállománnyal Borított Erdőazdálkodási Célú Erdőterület Megoszlása Fafajcsoportok és Korosztályok Szerint*, 31 December 2022. https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/kor/hu/kor0004.html

[57] KSH (Hungarian Central Statistical Office). *15.1.2.14. Erdők Vármegye És Régió Szerint, 2017–2021*. 2020. https://www.ksh.hu/stadat_files/kor/hu/kor0058.html

[58] Civil Code, Article 5:165

[59] Act CXXII of 2013, Articles 9(1), 10(1)

[60] Forest Act, Article 19/A(3)

- **Forest manager**

A forest manager is a lawful user of the forest who is registered in the register of forest managers kept by the forest authority. Forest management is the set of activities aimed at maintaining forests, ensuring their functions in the public interest, guarding and protecting them, expanding forest assets and, except for the exercise and exploitation of hunting rights, the exercise of forest use rights.[61]

A forest manager can be the forest owner himself or another person (a natural or legal person, such as a company, a cooperative, a forest association or even a municipality). An essential condition is that the forest manager must have the right to use the land (based on a contract, e.g. a forest lease or a right registered in the real estate register e.g. ownership or usufruct).

The legal grounds on which the right of use can be based are ownership, use of divided property (by sharing or under a multi-use agreement), usufruct, asset management, forestry cooperative, use of land for free, right of use based on lease contracts (forestry integration, forest leasehold).[62]

The forest manager does not need to have professional knowledge, however, the Forestry Act requires him to employ qualified and authorised forestry personnel to ensure professionalism in forest management.

- **Forest contractor**

The legal definition of forest contractor is not provided by national law. However, forestry works and activities are mainly not executed directly by the forest manager but by its contractors. Even the state forest companies tend to outsource forestry works rather than employ forest workers. Although the forest managers own heavy machinery and key machinery, they lend them to their contractors.[63]

- **Forest**

In terms of the Forest Act, forests are lands which are registered in the National Forest Database as forest compartments or as limited liability forests. Where the Forest Act mentions forest, only forest compartments are meant.[64] Therefore, limited liability forest lands are only subject to obligations prescribed by the Forest Act expressly.

The forest authority registers forest compartments in the National Forest Database in accordance to their degree of naturalness: natural forest, semi-natural forest, secondary forest, intermediate forest, semi-plantation forest and plantation forest.[65]

The agricultural law defines 'forest land' which covers any parcel of land registered in the real estate register as forest and woodland, including any parcel of land shown in the real estate

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[61] Forest Act, Article 5 point 9, Article 17(1)

[62] OEE, *Változtak az erdő és fásított terület művelési ágak használatára vonatkozó szabályok*, 2020, https://www.oee.hu/hirek/agazati-szakmai/valtozas-erdo-fasitott-terulet-muvelesi-ag-szabalyok

[63] Jáger, L., Schiberna, E., Ali, T. G., Horváth, K.: *Forest Land Ownership Change in Hungary. COST Action FP1201 FACESMAP Country Report, European Forest Institute Central- East and South-East European Regional Office*, 2015, https://facesmap.boku.ac.at/library/FP1201_Country%20Report_HUNGARY.pdf

[64] Forest Act, Article 6(1), (4)

[65] Forest Act, Article 7(1)

register as non-agricultural land noted under the legal concept of land registered in the *National Forest Database* as forest, as well as land directly serving forestry activities.[66]

Forest Agents or rangers: The forest manager is responsible for guarding the forest. Authorised forestry personnel employed by the forest manager may carry out law enforcement duties in the forest, on land directly used for forestry activities and on private forest roads. They have the right to investigate and take coercive measures. Complaints about these measures can be made to the forest authority, not their employer. The authorised forestry personnel are considered to be performing public functions concerning their forest guarding activities.

2.3. Forest ownership types in your country

- Please provide a **description of the types of forest ownership** (e.g. public forest, private forest) identified in the legislation applicable in your country. **Are there specific laws** for certain types of collective, communal, vicinal or neighbourhood forests?

Public forests (i.e. owned by the State or by a municipality) fall under the provisions on national assets[67] and there are **further** specific rules governing the use, management and registration of state-owned agricultural land and the exercise of ownership rights[68].

In the case of privately owned forests, the provisions of the Civil Code, Act CXXII of 2013 and Act CCXII of 2013 apply. No **specific** laws exist for collective, communal, vicinal or neighbourhood forests.

- Are there well-established programs for forest land consolidation? Are there public bodies promoting or responsible for these programs?

As mentioned above, most private forests are undivided common properties in Hungary. The widespread emergence of undivided common ownership resulted from the compensation proceedings after the regime change. In the more than 30 years since then, the fragmentation caused by inheritance has exacerbated the situation. The highlighted objective of forestry policy is to improve the structure of the over-divided real estate system that hinders private forest management and the establishment of viable management organisations and partnerships.[69]

Undivided common ownership by means of land conversion or civil proceedings was not effective to solve this problem. In 2020, Act LXXI of 2020 was adopted, which aims to speed up the settling of ownership relations of undivided common land for agricultural and forestry purposes, so that a property structure with optimal size and transparent usage and ownership conditions can be established. This act provides rules regarding the termination of undivided common ownership by dividing the property, the termination of undivided common ownership by taking the property into the ownership of a single co-owner, and common rules for property acquisition.

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[66] Act CXXII of 2013, Article 5 point 5a.
[67] Act CXCVI of 2011 on National Assets (*2011. évi CXCVI. törvény a nemzeti vagyonról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-196-00-00
[68] Act LXXXVII of 2010 on the National Fund of Land (*2010. évi LXXXVII. törvény a Nemzeti Földalapról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2010-87-00-00
[69] Magyarország Kormánya, *Továbbra is fő cél az osztatlan közös földtulajdon felszámolása*, 2023, https://kormany.hu/hirek/tovabbra-is-a-fo-cel-az-osztatlan-kozos-foldtulajdon-felszamolasa

The termination of common ownership is not carried out by the State, as in previous programmes, but by the owners themselves. However, the legislation provides simplified processes. Until 2023, 2,200 proceedings were initiated, covering 29,500 hectares of agricultural land (including forests).

2.4. Proof of ownership: Land registry and Cadastre

- How is ownership proved?

Ownership of any type of real estate property (including agricultural and forest land) is registered and evidenced by the real estate register, which contains a publicly available and authentic record of the legal status of the property. The real estate register contains the details of the real estate, the relevant rights and facts relating to that, and the data necessary to identify the persons registered as title holders. The creation, amendment and termination of rights and entitlements are considered effective when those are recorded on the title deed in the real estate register. [70]

Forestry Management Information System operated by the Ministry includes the publicly accessible National Forest Inventory Database, the registers of forest managers and qualified forestry personnel.

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) is a large-scale statistical data collection that records a wide range of parameters at nearly 11,000 sampling points across the country. In addition to individual-level assessments of tree stands, it also records stand characteristics and information on site conditions and ecosystem status, making it an important source of data with multiple economic and environmental uses. The NFI provides the results of two consecutive five-year survey cycles of the Hungarian NFI (2010-2014 and 2015-2019). [71] This covers statistics on forest areas according to tree species group and ownership category; however, data of owners is not included.

- **Is there a legal obligation to register ownership/property?**

No. However, in the event of failure to have the rights and entitlements registered on the title deed in the real estate register, the right-holder cannot enforce them against a bona fide third party.[72]

- Is there a registration fee?

Yes. For the land registration procedure (including the registration of any rights concerning the real estate), a fee of 10.600 HUF (ca. 27 EUR) shall be paid per real estate affected by the change.[73] The amount of the fee does not depend on the size of the land.

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[70] Civil Code, Article 5:165(1), 5:168(1)
[71] https://nfi.am.gov.hu (in English)
[72] Civil Code, Article 5:168(4)
[73] *1/2024. (I. 30.) KTM rendelet az ingatlan-nyilvántartási, a telekalakítási, a földmérési és térképészeti tevékenységgel kapcsolatos eljárások, továbbá az ingatlan-nyilvántartásból és az állami alapadatbázisokból történő adatszolgáltatások igazgatási szolgáltatási díjairól*, KTM Decree 1/2024. (I. 30.) on the administrative fees of procedures relating to real estate registration, land readjustment, land mapping, and the provision of data from the real estate register and the state basic databases, Articles 6(1), 7(1) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2024-1-20-9D.6

- **Is there an official register of forest owners and of forest holdings? Is it shared with agricultural registers? Is it harmonised with the general property/ownership register?**

The National Forest Database is the official register of forests, but not of forest owners. The National Forest Database contains, inter alia, real estate identification data of the land.[74] If the classification of the land registered in the Database and in the real estate register does not match, the forest authority initiates modifying the data in the real estate register.[75]

- **Is the Cadaster/register well updated and reflecting real forest owners/holders?**

Yes, as it is in the forest owner's interest to request that their ownership right be registered in the real estate register.

[74] Forest Act, Article 38(2) point b)
[75] Forest Act, Article 38(7)

3. Rights and obligations: forest owner/holder and forest contractor

3.1. Overview

- **According to the legal and regulatory framework what are the rights and obligations of forest owners/holders and forest managers in your country?**

4.1.1 Rights and obligations of forest owners and usufructuaries

- *Rights*

Ownership covers

- the right of possession,
- the right of use, the right to utilise and
- the right to dispose over the property.

The owner also has the right to avert all forms of unlawful intrusions concerning the object of the ownership. The owner has the right to surrender the possession, use or utilisation of a thing to another person. The ownership of real estate property may not be abandoned.[76]

Tax exemption for forest owners may apply concerning personal income tax.

The **right of harvest** also belongs to the owner, however, exercising this right depends on the agreement concluded with the forest manager.

In relation to the limited liability forest, the forest owner has the **right to decide about the forest management practices**. However, this right is limited in forest compartments (subject to forest planning). The owner is also entitled to apply for the authorisation to **change the land use** of the forest land and **hunting rights** are not separable from real estate ownership.

The legislation on forests generally refers to the owner as the rightsholder. However, this also covers the usufructuary of the forest land, if there is any. The usufructuary may possess, use, utilise, and collect the proceeds of a property owned by another person. Usufruct remains in force even if ownership of the property is transferred. Limitations are that the usufructuary does not have the right to dispose over the property, hunting rights or he may not change the use of the land.

- ***Obligations***

In the case that there is no forest manager in charge, the owner is obliged to ensure the professional restoration of the forest, the protection of forests against damage and harmful activities, the elimination of the effects of damage that has occurred, and the protection of forest soil. According to the local tax rules adopted by the local municipality, the forest owner may also be subject to local tax on real estate.

[76] Articles 5:13, 5:30, Civil Code

4.1.2. Rights and obligations of forest holders (forest managers)

Forest holders are not defined by national law. Besides the owner and the usufructuary of the forest, a forest manager may be the lawful user of the forest. Forest management is the set of activities aimed at maintaining forests, ensuring their functions in the public interest, guarding and protecting them, expanding forest assets and, except for the exercise and exploitation of hunting rights.

- *Rights*

Based on ownership, usufruct or a contract, the forest manager has the right to possess, use and utilise the forest. The owner and the usufructuary may also manage his/her forest if he/she is registered as a forest manager with the forest authority. In other cases, the right to use the forest can be obtained by concluding a forest management lease, a forest management integration contract, a forest management contract, or a contract for land-use for free.

Forest managers can obtain different subsidies if they meet the requirements applicable to the given subsidy.

The forest manager - with the consent of the owner – may request the forest authority to **change the forest's function.**

The right to use the forest and benefit from timber harvesting belongs primarily to the forest manager. The content of the **right to harvest** depends on the agreement between the forest owner and the forest manager. The forest manager may carry out afforestation, reforestation and logging activities after notification to the forestry authority before the start of the activity, in accordance with the requirements of the forest plan.

The forest manager is entitled to **determine the conditions for the exercise of forest use rights** in accordance with the relevant legal requirements

The forest manager may temporarily restrict and impose conditions on access to certain parts of the forest.

- *Obligations*

The person having the right to use the land may start forest management activities once the forest authority has registered him/her as a forest manager (registration obligation). Most of the obligations set out by the Forest Act and the forest plans pertain to the forest managers. When registering the applicant in the forestry register, the forest authority sends the forestry manager the respective forest plan for the forest area concerned, and the forest manager must comply with it.

The forest manager shall employ qualified and authorised forestry personnel who declare in advance on the registration form that they will carry out any subsequent forestry management tasks.

The forest manager must take the necessary measures **to prevent and control damage** to the forest from harmful effects (including fire).

Forest managers are subject to several professional and administrative obligations, such as **reporting, record-keeping and forest management planning.**

In 100% state-owned forests, the forest manager **has to tolerate** the collection of mushrooms and the public use of forest land.

Forest managers must pay certain **taxes and contributions** according to the general tax rules applicable to other business organisations and enterprises.

3.2. Legal rights of the forest owner/holder

- **Right to financial support/tax exemptions/subsidies? What are the requirements?**

Tax exemption for forest owners applies concerning personal income tax. The income from leasing the use of forest for at least five years and from forest management or associated forest management for at least five years is exempted from personal income tax.[77]

Forest managers can obtain different subsidies if they are registered and have an approved forest plan for the given forest compartment. Main subsidies under the CAP 2023-2027 are the „Natura 2000 compensation for forests" (code: RD34_F01_NAF_72)[78] where forests under Natura 2000 protection and forests under nature protection can be subsidised; the subsidy for the „Restoration of forest potential following abiotic or biotic damage" (code: KAP-RD41-2-24) [79], „Support for the nurturing of young forests" (code: KAP-RD40-1-24) [80] or the subsidy for „Investments for the environmental sustainability of forestry" (code: RD41_F08_INN_73).

The forest manager, as the beneficiary of the application, has to submit the application in accordance with AM Decree 15/2024 [81] on the procedural rules for certain agricultural to the Hungarian State Treasury (MÁK).

- **Is there a right to decide about the forest management practices in their forest land?**

The forest owner is free to decide about the forest management practices concerning the limited liability forest. However, the exercise of this right is regulated in the case of forest compartments (which are subject to forest planning). The forest management practices applicable in a given forest are influenced by the forest's function and degree of naturalness. Unless a nature conservation, soil protection or other public interest prevails, the forest authority determines the forest's function at the request of the forest manager.

However, the owner's consent is required for the declaration or deletion of the forest' function on request.[82]

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[77] Act CXVII of 1995 on personal income tax, Annex 1 point 9.8.1. (*1995. évi CXVII. törvény a személyi jövedelemadóról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1995-117-00-00.212#PR

[78] *Erdőterületeknek nyújtott Natura 2000 kompenzációs kifizetések*, Natura 2000 compensation for forests (code: RD34_F01_NAF_72), 2024, https://kap.mnvh.eu/news/2024-03-19/092035/megjelent-az-erdo-teruleteknek-nyujtott-natura-2000-kompenzacios-kifizetesek

[79] *KAP-RD41-2-24 - Az erdőpotenciál abiotikus vagy biotikus károkozást követő helyreállítása*, 2024, https://kap.gov.hu/tamogatas/kap-rd41-2-24

[80] *KAP-RD40-1-24 - Fiatal erdők állománynevelésének támogatása*, 2024, https://kap.gov.hu/tamogatas/kap-rd40-1-24

[81] AM Decree 15/2024 (9.IV.) on the procedural rules for certain agricultural subsidies that may be applied for by means of a single application *(15/2024. (IV. 9.) AM rendelet az egységes kérelemmel igényelhető egyes agrártámogatások eljárási szabályairól)* https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a2400015.am

[82] Forest Act, Article 23(1),(2), (3)

- **Is there a right to harvest?**

Yes. This right depends on the agreement concluded with the forest manager, who is entitled to determine the conditions for exercising the right to harvest. The use of the forest (harvest) may include logging, the collection of forest reproductive material, the collection of deadwood and branches and the felling of dead, dry branches, the collection of twigs, cones, the collection of mushrooms, wild fruit, flowers or herbs, the production of sticks, reeds, sedges, beekeeping, the collection of pine resin, the harvesting of shrubs and the gathering of shrub shoots, forest grazing and commercial exploitation of forest services for public benefit and exploitation of forest spring water. The main principle is that these activities must not damage or threaten the forest biodiversity, surface and groundwater, soil, natural regeneration, renewal, protected natural values and the forest community.[83]

3.3. Limitations to the rights of forest owner/holder

- **Is there a limitation to change the land use of the land (from forestry to agriculture and/or urbanisation)?**

Yes, the rules depend on if the use of forests for any other purpose (even for agriculture, urbanisation or industrial) would be temporary or final. Both final and temporary land-use change require the permission of the forest authority. The authorisation might be granted under exceptional circumstances in accordance with the public interest. If the use for another purpose is not commenced within 4 years, the authorisation becomes invalid. Temporary use of the forest for another purpose can be permitted only for 5 (or 10) years.

For the authorised use of the forest for another purpose, the user has to pay a forest contribution.[84]

- **Is there a legal limitation to the right to harvest? Is there a ban on clear cutting?**

The forest manager is entitled to determine the conditions for the exercise of forest use rights in accordance with the relevant legal requirements. The main legal limitation is that these activities must not damage or threaten the forest biodiversity, surface and groundwater, soil, natural regeneration, renewal, protected natural values and the forest community.[85] For nature conservation purposes, the forest authority may restrict or prohibit the felling of shrubs, the collection of deadwood and branches, and the collection of shoots of shrubs in forests.

In state-owned forests, the forest manager has to tolerate the collection of mushrooms, wild fruits, herbs and spring water in quantities not exceeding individual needs.

Clear-cutting is regulated and even prohibited by the Forest Act[86] in particular forests. Ban on clear-cutting applies in the following forests owned entirely by the State:

[83] Forest Act, Articles 68, 69(1),(4)
[84] Forest Act, Articles 77(1), 78(1), (2), 81(1), 84
[85] Forest Act, Articles 69(1)
[86] Forest Act, Article 10(2)

- forests of which primary function is nature conservation, Natura 2000, landscape protection or public welfare;

- natural forest, semi-natural forest, secondary forest (based on the degree of naturalness);

- forests suitable for natural seed regeneration.

In other cases, depending on the primary function of the forest, the size of the clear-cut area is limited.[87] It has to be noted that due to Gov.Decree 287/2022, this ban does not apply in certain nature conservation forests.[88]

- **Are there limitations to carry out non-forest activities in forest land (like mining, energy plants, etc.)?**

Yes. For carrying out non-forest activities in forest land, the rules on using the forest for another purpose apply (see above).

- **Are there specific limitations to carry out agricultural activities, like extensive grazing or temporary cultivation, on forest land?**

Yes. Regarding temporary cultivation, the rules for using the forest for other purposes apply (see above). In the case of forest grazing, the Forest Act provides specific requirements.[89]

Only horses, cows and sheep may graze or rest in forests and on land directly used for forestry activities. In particular, forest grazing may only take place in certain areas. These include, for example, semi-plantations and plantations adjacent to agricultural land used for grazing. Appropriate measures must be taken during forest grazing to prevent grazing animals from entering another forest.

Forest grazing may be carried out with the consent of the owner and the forest manager, and under permanent supervision. The forest authority must be notified of grazing in forests. If the forest is part of the Natura 2000 network, this notification must be submitted at least 21 days before.

- **Is hunting right linked to ownership right? Is it considered a forest activity or does it have specific regulations?**

Yes. Hunting rights are not separable from real estate ownership. A special rule is that the owner has the right to hunt, even if another person has the right to usufruct. [90] Although the right to hunt is also a forest use, it is subject to separate act supplemented by the Forest Act.

In the hunting season, the holder of the hunting right may temporarily restrict access to the forest with the consent of the forest manager.

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[87] Forest Act, Article 74(1)
[88] Gov.Decree 287/2022, Article 1(2) point b)
[89] Forest Act, Article 76/C
[90] Act LV of 1996 on hunting, and the protection of game and game management, Article 3(1), *(1996. évi LV. törvény a vad védelméről, a vadgazdálkodásról, valamint a vadászatról)* https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1996-55-00-00

The exercise of hunting rights must not damage or threaten the forest biodiversity, surface and groundwater, soil, natural regeneration, renewal, protected natural values and the forest community. [91]

- **Are there citizens' rights to collect wild products in forest land? Are they linked to the ownership right or not?**

Yes. In 100% state-owned forests, the forest manager has to tolerate the collection of mushrooms, wild fruits, herbs, and spring water in quantities that do not exceed individual needs.[92] The extent of individual needs (e.g. 2 kg of mushrooms, 2 kg of wild fruit, etc.) is determined also by law.[93]

- **Are there rights to access (walking) on forest land? Are there specific regulations for public use of forest land, hiking, riding, biking, etc.?**

Yes. The Forest Act provides detailed rules on the conditions for the public use of forests.

Generally, for recreation, leisure, sport and excursions, anyone may use a forest road on foot, by bicycle, on horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle for sport or tourism at their own risk. Visitors to the forest must not cause damage or unreasonable inconvenience to others or must not disturb forest management activities.

Restrictions apply to using vehicles (including horse-drawn vehicles and bicycles with a rated motor power of more than 300 W) in forests and accessing forest reserve areas. The use of quad bikes, off-road motorcycles, mopeds and motorcycles, except for forestry vehicles, is prohibited in the forest and on forest roads.

Certain recreational activities such as camping, pitching tents or organising sports competitions may be carried out with the consent of the forest manager. The forest manager may temporarily restrict and impose conditions on access to certain parts of the forest if such access endangers human life or hinders the carrying out of certain forest management activities. [94]

3.4. Forest owner/holder obligations and requirements.

- **Which requirements or obligations regarding forest management are imposed on owners?**

Most of the obligations set out by the Forest Act pertain to the forest managers. If there is no forest manager in charge, the owner is obliged to ensure the professional restoration of the forest, the protection of forests against damage and harmful activities, the elimination of the effects of damage that has occurred, and the protection of forest soil.[95]

[91] Forest Act, Articles 69(1), 94(2)
[92] Forest Act, Article 69(7)
[93] FM Decree 61/2017, Article 42(2)
[94] Forest Act, Articles 91-95
[95] Forest Act, Article 17(3)(b)

- **Is there a tax imposed on forest ownership?**

Yes. Local municipalities have the right to impose local taxes on real estate, including forest lands, in their area of jurisdiction.[96]

- **What type of permits the forest owner needs to manage their land?**

As mentioned above, the forest owner also can manage his/her forest. The conditions for this are that he/she has the right of use (which is relevant in the case of undivided common ownership or usufructuary), he/she is registered in the forest managers' register kept by the forest authority and he/she ensured the employment of qualified forest personnel.[97]

- **How is the control of forest harvest determined? Is there an obligation to mark every tree to be cut or retained?**

Logging in the forest may be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the forest plan. During the work, the person carrying out the felling work (the forest contractor) must carry with him the forest operation form issued by the qualified forestry personnel, authorising him to carry out the logging, and must present it to the authorities if necessary.

The forestry authority may prohibit the felling of certain trees or groups of trees to protect water bodies, water catchment areas, the habitat of protected species and the areas of nature protection.

The felling may only be carried out if the trees to be cut have been marked correctly in advance. Exceptions to this rule are clear-cutting and final-cutting. Furthermore, in plantations and semi-plantation forests, trees do not need to be marked before felling.[98]

- **Are there technical, administrative or economic specifications on the forest products market? Are forest harvest contracts legally defined for public or private forests or for some specific types?**

Yes, the Forest Act provides detailed administrative provisions on certifying the origin of wood products and the tasks and competence of the authority, implementing Regulation 995/2010/EU.[99] Private persons and economic operators placing or trading wood and wood products on the internal market must provide proof of origin. This is checked by the forest authority (the NÉBIH), which can, inter alia confiscate the products, suspend the company's operating licence and impose a forest protection fine.

There are no specific type of forest harvest contracts for public or private forests.

- **Is there an obligation to prevent forest fires or other risks?**

Yes. The forest manager must take the necessary measures to prevent and control damage to the forest from harmful effects (including fire). The forest manager shall create the conditions

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[96] Act C of 1990 on local taxes, Article 20(1) point c) (*1990. évi C. törvény a helyi adókról*)
https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99000100.tv
[97] Forest Act, Articles 17(1), 97(1); Civil Code, Article 5:74
[98] Forest Act, Articles 70(1), 71(3), 73(1)
[99] Forest Act, Articles 90-90/N

necessary for protecting the forest against fire. During periods of increased fire risk, the forest manager may restrict or prohibit access to and presence in the forest. [100]

- **Is fencing or the use of forest roads regulated?**

Yes. Fences and forest roads are forestry facilities. The construction, extension, modernisation, removal or change of use of such facilities require the authorisation of the forest authority. The permit is valid for five years.

Forestry facilities might be erected, installed, and operated in a way that causes the least possible damage or endangerment to forest habitats, forest biodiversity, surface and groundwater, and soil. When planning forest facilities, the functions of the forest and the applicable restrictions have also to be considered.[101]

- **Is there an obligation for forest owners and/or forest managers to be associated?**

Yes, in a specific case. If the owners have decided by a two-thirds majority to form a forest association, the remaining minority owners are obliged to join the association as members and implement its decisions. This obligation applies if the conditions for establishing a forest management unit are not otherwise met. [102]

3.5. Forest manager/contractor obligations

- **Which requirements or obligations on forest management are legally imposed on forest managers/contractors?**

Forest management planning is highly regulated and centralised in Hungary. Forests are divided into forest planning districts, as determined by the Ministry of Agriculture, and these districts are the units for planning and controlling sustainable forest management activities. The forest administration prepares and approves forest management plans and monitors the implementation thereof. The forest law allows participation in the planning process for the forest owners and forest managers. Aggregate data on forests is collected and maintained in the National Forestry Database (*Országos Erdőállomány Adattár*), from which public data is accessible online[103].

Forest managers are subject to several professional and administrative obligations, such as reporting, record-keeping and forest management planning. Forest management obligations are laid down in the Forest Act, FM Decree 61/2017 and more specifically in the forest plan.

For forests managed under the transitional and evergreen sylvicultural regime, the forest manager shall prepare a conversion, reforestation or evergreen forest management plan and submit it to the forest authority.

The forest manager may carry out afforestation, reforestation and logging activities after notification to the forestry authority before the start of the activity. The further development of

[100] Forest Act, Articles 56(1) point e), 57 point b), 64, 67(2)
[101] Forest Act, Article 15(1),(2), (5)
[102] Act XLIX of 1994, Article 25(3)
[103] NÉBIH, Erdőtérkép, n.d., https://erdoterkep.nebih.gov.hu

completed afforestation and reforestation shall be ensured by nurturing the forest in accordance with function, sylvicultural regime and natural state of the forest.

The forest manager shall ensure the restoration of the forest, monitor the health of the forest, take the necessary measures to prevent and control damage to the forest from harmful effects and employ qualified forestry personal to ensure the professionalism of forest management activities.[104]

- **What legal rights does the forest manager/contractor have in your country?**

The right to use the forest and benefit from timber harvesting belongs primarily to the forest manager. The rights and obligations contained in the forest plan pertain to the forest manager. As a general rule, the forest authority determines the forest function at the request of the forest manager. If, however, the forest is designated in the public interest, the forest manager is entitled to compensation for any damage and additional costs incurred. Also, in the event of a significant restriction of forest management in the public interest, the forest manager is entitled to compensation.

The forest manager may request the authority to modify the sylvicultural regime of the forest, but this requires the owner's consent as well. In the forest district planning procedure, the forest manager is considered as interested party and has legal standing in the administrative procedure. In periods of increased fire danger, the forest manager may restrict or prohibit access to the forest. A forest manager may exercise forest usufruct and/or determine the conditions for the exercise of forest usufruct. He/she has the right to consent to collecting underground mushrooms in the forest.[105]

Is there a requirement of a forest management plan? Are there detailed prescriptions on that?

Yes. The basis for forest management is the forest district plan prepared by the forest authority. The Forest Act regulates the planning process[106], and the detailed requirements are set out by FM Decree 61/2017[107]. For forests managed under the transitional and evergreen sylvicultural regime, the forest manager shall prepare a conversion, reforestation, or evergreen forest management plan and submit it to the forest authority. In the case of afforestation, the forest manager may commence the activity if the forest authority has approved the afforestation plan.[108]

[104] Forest Act, Articles 29(7), 41(1), 51(2), 53(1), 57, 97
[105] Forest Act, Articles 33(7), 23(4), 28/E(3), 29(6), 33(3), (9), 41(3), 67(2), 69(2), (4), 76/A(1)
[106] Forest Act, Article 33
[107] FM Decree, Articles 12-24, Annexes 5, 6, 7, 10-11
[108] Forest Act, Article 44(2)

- **Is there an obligation to register the responsibility of forest manager/contractor?**

i. Is registration based on product income?
ii. Is there a registration fee?

Yes, because only the person registered in the register of forest managers is considered a forest manager. The registration obligation is general, i.e. it does not depend on other conditions, such as product income.

No administrative service fee is payable for the registration procedure.[109]

- **Is there a tax imposed on the forest manager? Is it based on income or hectares?**

No. Forest managers must pay certain taxes and contributions according to the general tax rules applicable to other business organisations and enterprises. Income-related taxes are personal income tax, corporate income tax, and social contributions. Sales-related tax is the VAT, property-related taxes is the weight tax (on motor vehicles). Applicable local taxes can be the tax on real estate (if the forest manager is also the owner), municipal tax, and local business tax.

[109] Forest Act, Article 105/B(2)

5. Forest Management plans

- Are forest management plans required in the legislation of your country?
  - ☒ Yes
  - ☐ No

  Specify where and the conditions as well as the amount of forest land with plans

Forest areas are divided into forest planning districts determined by the Ministry.[110] These districts are the basis for planning and controlling forest management activities.[111] As scheduled for each forest district, the forest authority carries out the forest district planning every ten years. During this process, the authority collects forest managers' proposals for forest management in the coming period.

The forest area subject to forest district planning is 2,072.2 thousand hectares, according to statistics from 2022.[112] 56% of the forest area under forest planning is state-owned. 42 % of forest areas are not used for economic purposes. The area of (unplanned) limited liability forests is 14.1 thousand hectares.[113]

- **Are there other type of plans required such as:**
  - ☐ Technical Plan
  - ☐ Financial Plan
  - ☐ Exploitation Plan
  - ☐ Fire prevention Plan
  - ☒ Hunting Plan[114]

The forest manager must prepare a plan for certain activities and submit it to the forestry authority. For forests managed under transitional and evergreen sylvicultural regime, the forest manager shall prepare and submit to the forestry authority a conversion, reforestation or evergreen forest management plan. Afforestation may be carried out based on an afforestation and reforestation plan approved by the forestry authority.[115] These forest plans' formal and content requirements are set out in FM Decree 61/2017.
The rules for hunting planning are laid down in the hunting legislation and the hunting authorities control its implementation.

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[110] Forest Act, Article 16(1)
[111] The details of forest planning districts are available: https://erdoterkep.nebih.gov.hu
[112] Data on forest planning processes and archived forest planning plans: https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/Erdotervezes_news_342, https://foldalap.am.gov.hu/Korzeti_erdotervek_archivuma_news_314
[113] Statisztikai közlemény a „Beszámoló az erdőterületről, az erdősítésekről és a fakitermelésekről" c. 2022. évi adatfelvételről. https://fataj.hu/2023/12/nfk-erdoterulet-erdosites-fakitermeles-2022/
[114] https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1996-55-00-00 Articles 42-47
[115] Forest Act, Articles 29(7), 44(2)

- **Please indicate the minimum size of forest requiring a forest management plan?**

There is no minimum size of forest requiring a forest management plan.

- **On which legal basis are they required? Are they legally binding or only guidelines?**

Yes, they are legally binding. The rights and obligations contained in the forest plan are the rights and obligations of the forest manager..[116]

- **Who has the responsibility for the implementation of forest management plans**? Please include national, regional, and local levels as appropriate. Please distinguish between state and private ownership. Please distinguish between different protection status.

The forest district plans are prepared and approved by the Head Department of Forestry of the Agricultural Ministry with the involvement of other authorities (e.g., the water management or the water protection authority) and the forest managers concerned. Forest managers are responsible for implementing forest management plans in public and private forests, too.

The forestry authorities ensure the proper implementation of the forest management plans through a system of notification, permitting and control of forest management activities.

- **Are forest management plans being enforced?**

Yes. The forestry authority monitors if the forest manager complies with the relevant laws and the forest plans. In the case of infringement, it may prohibit the violator from carrying out its activities, take measures and impose a fine.[117] The forestry authority may also order the restriction or suspension of the activity, the removal of the person or undertaking from the register of forestry undertakings or the prohibition of his re-registration. The forestry authority may order to carry out forest management activities, if the non-performance of such activity endangers the forest or afforestation.

- **Is there an obligation to maintain a Forest Book (linked or related to the Farm Book of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)?**

Concerning logging, the operations must be recorded by the forest personnel on a forest operation form („*műveleti lap*").[118]

Before the logging starts, the qualified forestry personnel employed by the forest manager informs the forest manager of the work process and draws up a forest operations form. The operation contains, inter alia, the forest stand, the forest manager's details, and the details of the professional staff. In the operation sheet, the forestry personnel provide information on the objectives of the planned work, the technical specifications, the technology to be followed, and the approximate trails to be established. The forest operation form must be kept by the forest manager and the authorised forestry personnel for 5 years from the date of issue.[119]

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[116] Forest Act, 33(2)
[117] Forest Act, 105/E(1)
[118] Forest Act, Article 97/A(1) point e)
[119] FM Decree 61/2017, Article 43

- **How often do forest management plans need to be updated? Who is responsible for the update?**

Forest district planning is carried out by the forest authority every 10 years, as scheduled by law for each forest district.[120]

- Are specific mechanisms put in place to guarantee that national legislation is in line with European guidelines and **criteria on forest management plans** (i.e. Natura 2000 Forest Management Plans?

Specific mechanisms have not been found in this respect.

The Forest Act refers to that in the case of forests under Natura 2000 protection, the forest's primary function shall be the Natura 2000 function.[121] Specific restrictions apply for forests with nature conservation and Natura 2000 functions. Further, where the nature protection authority initiates, the forest authority may apply even stricter limitations to maintain the favourable status of the Natura 2000 site.[122]

- Are there any specific requirements for the **forest management plans** in terms of content, structure or criteria? If yes, please elaborate.

Yes, based on the main aspects and requirements of forest district plans provided by the Forest Act, FM Decree 61/2017 specifies the planning process and the content thereof.

The function, the degree of naturalness and the sylviculture regime of the given forest are determined in the forest district plan prepared by the forest authority. Depending on the function, the degree of naturalness and the sylviculture regime of the forest, the legislation also provides the applicable restrictions and conditions relating to forest management activities which must be included in the plans.

Other forest management plans, such as the plan for afforestation, plan for forest transition, restoration, or evergreen management plans, must be prepared by the forest manager and submitted to the forest authority. The structure and technical content of these plans are regulated in detail by FM Decree 61/2017.[123]

As a special rule, the forest manager has to develop a self-monitoring method when preparing the management plan for the evergreen forest. Self-monitoring includes determining the current state of the stand as established in the evergreen forest management plan, the difference from the target state, and the improvement between the two statuses.

In the preparation of the conversion and restoration plan, the area of the forest compartment shall be divided into planning units, where the type of harvesting operations and, in the case of end-use, the type and target stock of reforestation are determined.

[120] Forest Act, Article 33(1)
[121] Forest Act, Article 23/A(1),(2)
[122] Forest Act, Articles 27-28/A(1)
[123] FM Decree 61/2017, Articles 24/B, 30-36, Annexes 10-11

- **Are there any supporting mechanism for the management plans? If yes, please elaborate.**

  N/A

- Are **there impact assessment required** in your country in relation to the adoption of the forest management plans? What mechanisms are in place in your country to ensure that forest management plans are developed to ensure sustainable forest management practices? If yes, please elaborate.

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is required for forest management plans if the plan sets the framework for future official authorisation of activities or installations that are listed in an annex to the specific legislation on environmental impact assessment or that may have a significant adverse impact on a Natura 2000 site or a site or water body protected for water protection.[124] The environmental impact assessment legislation lists the following activities in the field of forestry: use of forest for other purposes and planting of forest. [125] Therefore, if these conditions are not met, an SEA is not mandatory for the forest management plan.

Where Natura 2000 forests are involved in the forest district plan, a Natura 2000 preliminary assessment is carried out during the planning process to determine whether a full impact assessment is required. Based on the data on the biota of the Natura 2000 area, the Ministry assesses the likely impact of the planned forest management on the conservation status of the species and habitat types underlying the designation of the Natura 2000 site (Natura 2000 preliminary assessment). [126] The result of this assessment, i.e. the decision on whether an appropriate assessment is necessary, is issued by the Ministry in a communication.

The Forest Act refers to sustainable forest management as a priority in its several provisions. The districts on which forest planning is based are determined by the Minister by decree, considering the requirements of sustainable forest management.

The forest manager is responsible for implementing the measures in the forest plan. Qualified forestry personnel are also required to ensure that forest management is carried out in the public interest of sustainable forest management.[127]

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[124] Gov.Decree 2/2005 (I.11.) on environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, Article 1(2) (*2/2005. (I. 11.) Korm. rendelet egyes tervek, illetve programok környezeti vizsgálatáról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2005-2-20-22

[125] Gov. Decree 314/2005. (XII. 25.) on the environmental impact assessment and the consolidated environmental permit, Annex 1 point 2, Annex 3 points 7-8 (*314/2005. (XII. 25.) Korm. rendelet a környezeti hatásvizsgálati és az egységes környezethasználati engedélyezési eljárásról*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2005-314-20-22

[126] Gov.Decree 433/2017. (XII. 21.) on certain procedures, notifications and registers of the forest authority, Article 4(1) (*433/2017. (XII. 21.) Korm. rendelet az egyes erdészeti hatósági eljárások, bejelentések, valamint hatósági nyilvántartások eljárási szabályairól*) https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2017-433-20-22

[127] Forest Act, Articles 16(2), (3), 30(1) 97(6)

- Are the **Natura 2000 sites plans already implemented and well-coordinated or integrated** with forest management plans? Are traditional forest activities recognised in those plans? Are there guidelines for small forest owners and managers on what they can and can't do?

In this respect, the Forest Act requires that, if the nature conservation authority initiates, the forest authority may apply stricter restrictions for forest management in line with the Natura 2000 management plan.

WWF Hungary prepared guidelines[128] on proper management of Natura 2000 forests for forest owners and managers.

[128] WWF Hungary, *Natura 2000 erdőterületek kezelése*, n.d., https://wwf.hu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/NATURA_2000_erdoteruletek_kezelese.pdf

6. Sustainable forest management.

6.1. Sustainable forest management definition and forestry practices

- **Is sustainable forest management (SFM) defined in your country?**
  - ☒ **Yes**
  - ☐ No

According to the Forest Act, in the course of sustainable forest management, especially in the case of forests 100% owned by the State, in accordance with the requirements of sustainable use, efforts must be made to use methods that ensure that the forest preserves its biological diversity, its naturalness, productivity, renewable capacity, vitality, and also meet the protection, public welfare and economic requirements in line with social needs, fulfill its role for nature and environmental protection, public welfare (health-social, tourism, and education and research) goals and the possibilities of managing forest assets are preserved for future generations. In sustainable forest management, the most important tasks of public interest are the preservation of the diversity of forests, the maintenance and restoration of forests, and the provision of protection and public welfare services, which the state ensures with appropriate means.[129]

- **Does the definition of SFM include specific objectives?**
  - ☒ **Yes**
  - ☐ No

The specific objectives are the preservation of the diversity of forests, maintenance and restoration of forests, and provision of protection and public welfare services.[130]

- Does your country have specific guidelines **on Sustainable Forest Management**? If yes, are those mentioned in the legislation?
  - ☐ Yes, they can be found here:
  - ☐ No
  - ☒ **Other sources defining or implementing Sustainable Forest Management**

FM Decree 61/2017 sets out further provisions to consider sustainable forest management in forest planning. In addition, Hungary achieved PEFC forest certification in 2017, and the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Requirements[131] also provide detailed guidance in this respect.

[129] Forest Act, Article 2(1),(2)
[130] Forest Act, Article 2(1)
[131] Magyar Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer, *Sustainable Forest Management Requirements*, 2019, https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.org/media/2019-03/1d570696-d769-4078-9b7d-1fa946f68256/b4773505-8220-571b-af71-8dbe9f2dd277.pdf

Does your country have a Forest Strategy and/or Forest Management Policy setting policy priorities that implement a SFM approach?

☒ **Yes, they can be found here**: *Nemzeti Erdőstratégia 2016-2030* (National Forest Strategy 2016-2030) https://erdo-mezo.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nemzeti_erdostrategia_2016.pdf

☐ No

☐ Other sources setting the Forest strategy/policy

The National Forest Strategy 2016 – 2030 refers to the Carpathian Convention and its Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management, as the international obligation guiding sustainable forest management. As mentioned above, the Convention requires the Parties thereto to pursue policies aiming at promoting and supporting the use of instruments and programs, compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management.[132]

- **Which requirements/obligations result from the legally binding requirement for SFM?**

SFM is among the basic principles and objectives of the Forest Act, which, however, does not provide for related criteria or indicators, nor does the National Forest Strategy, which rather lays out the general and strategic objectives of the Strategy per issue area and provides recommendations and their technical justification and expected impact. Actual criteria are specified in the Hungarian Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, which achieved PEFC certification in 2017. However, these are not legally binding, and officially must be met 'only' is the forest owner wishes to obtain PEFC SFM certification. It is also important to note that the majority of forests is state-owned in Hungary and run by 22 state forest companies. However, as of yet, none of these companies are brought under these requirements, those hence have limited practical impact[133].

The obligations set out in the Forest Act are legally binding, the Act defines the functions of forests and the different forest categories according to the degree of naturalness and then requires their management according to these categories.

1. For forest owners

Most of the obligations set out by the Forest Act pertain to the forest manager in Hungary. If there is no forest manager in charge for the management of the given forest land, the owner is obliged to ensure the professional restoration of the forest, the protection of forests against damage and harmful activities, the elimination of the effects of damage that has occurred, and the protection of forest soil.[134]

2. For forest managers

Forest managers (including the forest owner registered as the forest manager) are obliged to perform management activities in accordance with the forest district plan applicable to that

[132] Gov.Decree 306/2005. (XII. 25.) on the framework convention on the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians, Article 7(3), (*306/2005. (XII. 25.) Korm. rendelet a Kárpátok védelméről és fenntartható fejlesztéséről szóló Keretegyezmény kihirdetéséről*) ,https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0500306.kor

[133] PEFC, Introduction to the Hungarian national system, presentation of 5 February 2024

[134] Forest Act, Article 17(3)(b)

relevant forest plan. Forest plans are adopted by the forest authority, taking into account the objective of sustainable forest management.[135]

- Are **specific criteria and/or indicators** to determine whether SFM is being achieved? Where are they described (see table below)?

Yes, under the Sustainable Forest Management Requirements of the Hungarian Forest Certification System (Magyar *Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer*)[136].

- Are some **forest managers implementing sustainable forest management practices voluntarily**? If yes, how are these voluntary management practices taking place? Through citizen initiatives, local initiatives, or other ways? Please explain how forest managers ensure that forest management practices are sustainable.

PEFC certification is voluntary in Hungary. Information on forest managers voluntarily implementing SFM practices has not been found. .

- Which mechanisms are put in place to support the implementation of SFM? Which measures are in place to monitor implementation of the SFM?

The forest authority is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measures in the forest plans and compliance with the restrictions. In addition, the law requires forest managers to employ qualified technical personnel, who are also required to take sustainability into account in the performance of their duties.[137]

- Which forest management practices are required or prohibited by law in your forest/country? Please check below the proposed forest management practices and add supplementary ones if missing (Please include explanation of the legal requirements of the relevant techniques).

☐ Closer to nature silviculture practices
☒ **Clear-cutting**
☒ **Shelterwood system**
☒ **Selective logging**
☒ **Afforestation and reforestation to enlarge forest areas**
☐ Controlled burn
☐ Mandatory salvage logging
☐ Other .....

[135] Forest Act, Article 30(1),(2)
[136] https://cdn.pefc.org/pefc.org/media/2019-03/1d570696-d769-4078-9b7d-1fa946f68256/b4773505-8220-571b-af71-8dbe9f2dd277.pdf
[137] Forest Act, Article 97(6) point b)

The Forest Act differentiates between certain types of forest management practices (silvicultural regimes), such as shelterwood cutting practice, evergreen forest practice, transitional practice, and non-wood producing practice. The forest authority determines the applicable forest management practice (sylvicultural regime):

- shelterwood cutting: forest management involves the maintenance and cultivation of a stand of trees of nearly the same age in the forest, which is subject to a regular cyclical spatial and temporal pattern of final use and regeneration;
- evergreen forest management: forest management does not involve end-use harvesting in the forest, which gives rise to an obligation to regenerate the forest, and the forest is managed in accordance with the forest maintenance plan, with a varied composition, age and spatial structure, thus ensuring continuous forest cover;
- transitional mode: the main objective of forest management is to switch from cutting to evergreen forest management or to maintain a more continuous forest cover than in cutting mode by increasing the structural diversity of homogeneous, near-aged stands in small areas, in accordance with the conversion or restoration plan;
- non-timber operation: logging might be carried out only for experimental, conservation, nature protection, public welfare, restoration or other public interest purposes.[138]

Clear-cutting is possible only in the cases and under the conditions provided by the Forest Act[139]. However, as mentioned above, due to the exceptional legal regime, in Gov.Decree 287/2022, the Government laid down an exemption from the strict conditions on clear-cutting in nature protection forests.

- Are there limitations on the management models to be applied, like clearcuttings or their sizes? **Is there a ban on clear cutting linked to SFM?**

Yes. The long-term objectives, opportunities and constraints of sustainable forest management are determined in accordance with the forest's purpose, which can be conservation, public welfare or economic purpose.

For planning sustainable forest management, the most important is the forest's primary purpose, which is established by the forest authority. Nature conservation purpose is always considered as the primary designation.[140]

Clear-cutting is prohibited under the cases specified by Article 10(2) of the Forest Act. However, as mentioned above, in Gov.Decree 287/2022, the Government laid down an exemption from the strict conditions on clear-cutting in nature protection forests.

[138] Forest Act, Article 29(2)
[139] Forest Act, Articles 10(2) and 74(1)
[140] Forest Act, Articles 22(1), 23/A(1),(2)

- **Is there a defined/legal target for forest land to be managed for conservation and species protection objectives in your country or region?**

Yes, it is defined in a certain proportion of particular forests and depends on the level of naturalness of the forest as provided by Article 7 of the Forest Act[141]. In natural forests, semi-natural forest, secondary forests, which are 100% state-owned,

- after the first forest district planning, at least one-fifth of the forests in mountain or hilly areas and **at least one-tenth** of the forests in lowland areas,
- after the second forest district planning, at least one-quarter of the forests in mountain or hill areas and **at least one-eighth** of the forests in lowland areas,
- after the third forest district planning, at least **one-third** of mountain or hill forests and **one-sixth** of lowland forests after the third forest planning district,

evergreen, non-wood producing or transitional forest management shall be carried out.[142]

This obligation applies only to forests with Natura 2000, nature conservation, soil conservation, landscape protection function, or forests with a primary public welfare function.

- **Are there forest owner obligations related to forest restoration after harvest?**

Restoration obligation pertains primarily to the forest manager in Hungary. The forest owner shall ensure the professional restoration of the forest, if there is no forest manager in charge.[143]

The Forest Act requires that the forest's tree population must be restored in the following cases:

- following the final harvest,
- if the forest has been destructed in an area of more than 5,000 square metres,
- if its tree crown cover has been reduced to less than 60 %, or 30 % in the case of an open forest or 50 % in the case of a forest under soil protection, in an area of more than two hectares.[144]

The detailed conditions for forest restoration are laid down by Articles 51 to 54 of the Forest Act and Articles 31 to 37 of FM Decree 61/2017.

6.2. "Closer-to-nature" guidelines and practices

(This section relates to the Commission Guidelines on Closer to nature forest management but also Commission guidance on payment schemes for forest ecosystem services both aiming to provide information and guidance for sustainable forest management)

- **Has your country incorporated the newly published Commission guidelines in their legal or regulatory framework?**

No legal requirement referring to the Commission guidelines has been found.

[141] Forest Act, Article 7 (degrees of naturalness: natural forest, semi-natural forest, secondary forest, intermediate forest, semi-plantation forest and plantation forest)
[142] Forest Act, Article 10(1)
[143] Forest Act, Article 17(3)(b)
[144] Forest Act, Article 51(2)

- **Has your country recognised under law/regulatory measure a closer-to-nature approach in forest management? If yes please provide the source where this is explained and elaborate below.**

  ☒ Yes: in the Forest Strategy of Hungary for 2016-2030 that can be found here: https://erdo-mezo.hu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nemzeti_erdostrategia_2016.pdf

  ☐ No

With regard to naturalness, according to the Forestry Act, forest management activities must be carried out in such a way that the natural state of forests is not degraded as a result of forest management. One of the strategic goals of the Strategy is to improve forest management methods based on natural processes. This covers developing near-natural silvicultural practices and identifying more extensive areas of application, examining the ecological impact of certain forest management methods and exploring the potential of management methods that promote continuous forest cover (Point V.9.2. of the Forest Strategy).

The Forest Act does not explicitly refer to close-to-nature approach, however, the classification of forests based on the degree of naturalness and the applicable forest management practices serve this purpose.[145]

- Does your country have legislation/measures setting specific biodiversity targets/management objectives for sustainable forest management at a national or regional level?

  ☐ Yes, at national level – they can be found here:

  ☐ Yes, at regional level – they can be found here: .....

  ☒ No

  Please describe them and elaborate:

No specific objectives have been identified in this respect.

The National Forest Strategy 2016-2030 sets a specific objective to increase the area of forest stands of native tree species, giving preference to the regeneration of forests with native tree species and local genetic-regeneration material, considering ecological and climatic conditions, and implementing adaptive management.

The Forest Act allows for forest planting with both native and non-native tree species suitable for the place of production included in the list of forest tree species.[146]

[145] Béla LETT–János GÁL– Magdolna STARK– Norbert FRANK: Development and Possibilities for Close-to-Nature Forest Resource Management in Hungary, University of West Hungary, 2016, https://journal.uni-sopron.hu/index.php/aslh/article/view/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073

[146] Forest Act, Article 45(1)

6.3. Climate change and Forest carbon absorption

- Does your country have legislation/measures setting specific climate change targets or objectives for sustainable forest management at a national or regional level?

The national legislation does not set specific climate change targets or objectives for sustainable forest management.

Among the objectives of the Forest Act we find that it aims to make a special contribution to:

- the reduction of the effects of climate change,
- the preservation of biological diversity,
- the protection of surface and underground waters,
- protection of topsoil and agricultural land,
- ensuring clean drinking water,
- production of healthy foods.[147]

[147] Forest Act, Article 1, pts a), b), e), f), h) and i)

7. Forest land market

NOTE: The key objective is to identify and present information on the basic legal framework regulating market of forest land and inheritance processes.

- Are there specific legal requirements or limitations when selling and buying forest land?

Yes. The general rules on limitations and conditions on selling, buying, leasing or lending agricultural land and forest land are laid down by Act CXXII of 2013. The further specific rules applicable to forests are provided by Act CCXII of 2013.

Concerning the acquisition of agricultural and forest land by inheritance, it has to be added that the Civil Code provides a specific rule on inheriting such lands. To prevent further fragmentation of agricultural lands, the civil law provides that the heir may refuse the heritage of the land if he or she is not involved in agriculture while keeping other pieces of the heritage.[148] This is the only case when the heir may choose which part of the heritage he/she would like to accept; in other cases, the heir can only refuse the heritage as a whole.

The purchase of agricultural lands (including forest land) falls under specific and complex procedural rules compared to other real estate. Once the contract for the sale of the agricultural land has been concluded, the parties submit the contract to the county government office for preliminary examination. The notary of the local municipality concerned publishes the contract for 30 days. During this period, the persons having a right of first refusal can buy the land on a priority basis. The rightsholder must notify his/her claim to the notary, who will check whether he/she is eligible to buy the land.

- **Are there limitations to divide the land by selling or inheritances?**

The Forest Act sets out a general division limit for forest land. The division may only result in forest lands with a width of at least thirty metres on average and an area of more than one hectare.[149] The only exception is when the divided land is will be used for other purposes and not as forest.

- **Are there institutions/bodies providing information related to the forest land market?**

No institution obligated to provide information in this regard has been identified.

Note: Updated data on real estate property sales and changes of ownership and rights can be obtained from the real estate register. It ensures access to the information on each property; however, the public cannot retrieve aggregated data or lists (e.g. filtered only the changes in ownership rights concerning forest lands) from that database.

[148] Civil Code, Article 7:89(2)
[149] Forest Act, Article 86(1)

Are there institutions/**bodies contributing to dynamise that market,** like forest land banks or advisory bodies (similar to the CAP advisory bodies) and others? Is there regular information on the amount of forest land transferred and the prices of transmissions? (Information on this market is usually missing)

As regards advisory activities for stakeholders of forestry, the following bodies can be mentioned:

- the Head Department of Forestry in the Ministerium of Agriculture (https://www.foldalap.am.gov.hu/erdeszeti_foosztaly),
- the forestry departments of County Government Offices (www.kormanyhivatalok.hu)
- the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture (NAK, www.nak.hu) and
- the NÉBIH (www.portal.nebih.gov.hu).

The Hungarian Association of Private Forest Owners and Managers, the MEGOSZ, also shares information on its website (https://megosz.org), which is useful for forest owners and managers.

Publicly available information on the amount of forest land transferred and the prices of transmissions have not been found.

- Are there **regulations of forest land leasing**? Are they common with agricultural land or independent and with specific requirements?

Yes. The right of use in the case of forest lands can be obtained on the grounds specified by Act CCXII of 2013.

The right to use forest land can be based on

- a forest management lease contract,
- a forest management integration contract,
- a forest management contract, or
- a contract of land use for free.[150]

Act CCXII of 2013 also governs the required content and other conditions of such contracts.

- **Are there obligations and or access to insurances for forest land or forest activities?**

There is no legal obligation to have insurance for forest land or activities, but there is access to such insurance products provided by several insurance companies (https://nakrisk.nakplusz.hu).

According to the information from 2015, the proportion of forests covered by insurance did not reach 5% of forest lands.[151]

[150] Act CCXII of 2013, Article 68/B(1)
[151] MTI, *A magyar erdők 5 százaléka sem biztosított*, 2015 https://hirado.hu/2015/01/07/a-magyar-erdok-5-szazaleka-sem-biztositott/

- Are there specific regulations providing, **facilitating or limiting access to financial credits** for forest activities or mortgages on forest land?

As a main rule, legal persons are not entitled to obtain ownership of agricultural or forest land in Hungary, which could limit access to financial credits. However, Act CXXII of 2013 provides an exemption[152] in this regard. Acquisition of land ownership by a mortgage credit institution is possible as provided in the Mortgage Credit Institution and Mortgage Bond Act[153]. Agricultural and forestry land may only be owned by a mortgage credit institution on a temporary basis for a maximum period of one year from the date of acquisition by means of liquidation or enforcement proceedings. In the case of the credit institution cannot sell the land within one year, the land will become the property of the State.

[152] Act CXXII of 2013, Article 11(2)(b)

[153] *1997. évi XXX. törvény a jelzálog-hitelintézetről és a jelzáloglevélről*, Act XXX of 1997 on Mortgage Credit Institutions and Mortgage Bonds, Article 10(4)-(5), https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1997-30-00-00.37#CI

8. Forest companies, Forest incentives and taxation.

Forest Companies

- **Is there a register of forest industries? Is there a register of forest contractors?**

Yes. Data on forest managers (including both corporate and individual forest managers) are contained in the forest manager register[154], from which the public can obtain data upon request. The competent county government office (as forest authority) provides individual data on forest managers. Collected data on all the land used by a certain forest manager may only be released to the forest manager concerned.

- Is there any specific **regulation on forest ownership, forest cooperatives or other types of forest companies or are they all regulated under the** Company Law?

The legal form for forest owners to perform forest management and related tasks is "forest association" (*erdőbirtokossági társulat*). A forest association is a legal person, and it can be established by at least two forest owners[155]. Establishing cooperatives and business associations in the forest sector is regulated under the general civil law on cooperatives and companies.

- **Do small forest owners have access to the status of forest companies?**

Under the general company and cooperative laws, small forest owners (natural persons or legal persons) also may form a business association or a cooperative. In addition, the legal form provided specifically to perform forest management and related tasks is "forest association" (*erdőbirtokossági társulat*).

Where the owner of the forest is a civil association (as a legal person), the association cannot be converted into a business association; however as a member/shareholder, it can participate is the establishment of a company or forest association.

Forest incentives and taxation

- Are there **effective subsidies** for forest owners and managers to implement SFM? And/or to carry out biodiversity conservation measures? If it does exist, please compare the total amount paid at national level in the last 3 years with available information with the amount defined as necessary at the Prioritised Actions Framework.

The subsidy system in forestry relies on EU co-funding. Main subsidies under the CAP 2023-2027 are the „Natura 2000 compensation for forests" (code: RD34_F01_NAF_72)[156] where forests under Natura 2000 protection and forests under nature protection can be subsidised; the subsidy for the „Restoration of forest potential following abiotic or biotic damage" (code: KAP-

[154] Forest Act, Article 17(1)
[155] Act XLIX of 1994, Articles 2(1) and 5(1)
[156] *Erdőterületeknek nyújtott Natura 2000 kompenzációs kifizetések*, Natura 2000 compensation for forests (code: RD34_F01_NAF_72), 2024, https://kap.mnvh.eu/news/2024-03-19/092035/megjelent-az-erdo-teruleteknek-nyujtott-natura-2000-kompenzacios-kifizetesek

RD41-2-24)[157], „Support for the nurturing of young forests" (code: KAP-RD40-1-24)[158] or the subsidy for „Investments for the environmental sustainability of forestry" (code: RD41_F08_INN_73).

Subsidies can effectively support new forms of co-operations among forest managers, new (mostly environment-friendly) technologies, forestry practices, and other innovations. Many of them are strongly linked to the subsidy itself, so they will disappear when they are not subsidised anymore.[159]

Specific incentives for forest owners and managers to implement SFM have not been found.

- What taxes are applicable to Forest companies and forest owners?

There are no sector-specific taxes applicable to forest companies and forest owners. The general rules on taxes apply.

[157] *KAP-RD41-2-24 - Az erdőpotenciál abiotikus vagy biotikus károkozást követő helyreállítása*, 2024, https://kap.gov.hu/tamogatas/kap-rd41-2-24

[158] *KAP-RD40-1-24 - Fiatal erdők állománynevelésének támogatása*, 2024, https://kap.gov.hu/tamogatas/kap-rd40-1-24

[159] Jáger, L., Schiberna, E., Ali, T. G., Horváth, K.: *Forest Land Ownership Change in Hungary. COST Action FP1201 FACESMAP Country Report, European Forest Institute Central- East and South-East European Regional Office*, 2015, https://facesmap.boku.ac.at/library/FP1201_Country%20Report_HUNGARY.pdf

9. Enforcement: Forest control and penalties.

- Are there specific measures in place to enforce compliance with the legal requirements on forest management?

  Please list only the legislative measures including the responsible body that are specific to forest management requirements.

Yes, under Chapter XII on Sanctions[160], the Forest Act provides that **the forest authority** may prohibit the violator from its activities, take measures and impose fines in case of infringement of the relevant forestry laws. This covers the violation of the provisions of the Forest Act, the regulations issued for its implementation, as well as the directly applicable legal acts of the European Union.

> *„Article 105/E(2) The forest authority may order the restriction or suspension of the activity and the deletion of the forestry manager from the register of forestry managers, the deletion of his or her priority classification or a ban on re-registration.*
>
> *(3) The forest authority may, in addition to imposing a sanction, order the offender to*
>
> *(a) to provide a guarantee for forest restoration,*
>
> *(b) to carry out forest management activities (...),*
>
> *(c) in proceedings relating to the supervision of the timber trade chain, to take measures (...)"*

When imposing a sanction, the forest authority considers all the relevant circumstances of the case, in particular the damage caused to biodiversity, including the costs incurred in repairing and restoring the damage, the value of the timber illegally harvested, and the degree of deterioration to natural condition.

In the Forest Act, Articles 106-107 set out the rules on **ordering to perform specific forest management activities**, Articles 108-111 lay down the **detailed rules on the forestry fine**, and Article 111/B governs ordering a **ban on activities in forests.**

[160] Forest Act, Articles 105/E to 111/B

10. Conclusions

10.1. Legal or regulatory barriers for SFM

- What are the main legal and regulatory barriers and enablers affecting the implementation of SFM in your country?

The main obstacles to improving the private forest sector are small-scale forest management and the fragmented ownership structure. The number of forest owners is constantly increasing, mainly due to inheritance, and already exceeds 500,000. In most cases, the number of forest owners of each forest land is so high that any cooperation, communication, or agreement (even to reach a simple majority) is difficult. This leads to a reduction in the efficiency of forest management and forest protection, but also significantly increases administrative burden.

A new legislation to facilitate the liquidation of undivided common property was adopted in 2020, introducing new, simplified procedures for liquidating undivided common ownership on agricultural lands. The experience of the first few years showed that a number of such procedures have been initiated by the owners.

Forest management obligations are not differentiated, although simplified management planning rules should be introduced for small forest management units.

Due to their size, areas of forest land that are not managed must also be mentioned. Forest administration's highlighted purpose is to decrease their scale and to help establish and operate long-term management structures for these lands. However, the problem is still unresolved.

A legislation, adopted in 2022 by the Government under the extraordinary legal regime, allows clear-cuts on nature protection areas without regard to other restrictions. Under that decree, forests do not have to be restored as the forest laws require. Furthermore, logging roads can be built without a permit. In forests managed by state-owned forest management companies, the Minister of Agriculture can decide on logging regardless of the restrictions in the forest management plan.[161]

To satisfy the increasing demand for cheap firewood, legislation allows exemptions from the strict conditions of clear-cutting, forest restoration, nature conservation and other obligations of the forest manager. Although these exceptional rules are to be repealed when abolishing the state of danger, the long-term effects of such provisions may cause long-term damage, hindering even the achievement of SFM.

-

[161] Ökológiai Kutatóközpont, *Az Ökológiai Kutatóközpont állásfoglalása a „Vészhelyzet alatt a tűzifaigények biztosításához szükséges szabályok módosításáról" című 287/2022. (VIII. 4.) Korm. rendeletről, amely 2022. augusztus 4-én jelent meg a Magyar Közlöny 131. számában.*, 2022, https://ecolres.hun-ren.hu/az-okologiai-kutatokozpont-allasfoglalasa-a-veszhelyzet-alatt-a-tuzifaigenyek-biztositasahoz-szukseges-szabalyok-modositasarol-cimu-kormanyrendeletrol/

- Are there specific legal and regulatory barriers or challenges to implement a closer-to-nature approach in forest management in your country?

Beyond the barriers and challenges described above, other specific legal and regulatory barriers have not been identified. Based on the literature, the obstacles to the application of close-to-nature silvicultural methods are technical. The technical background of forestry, especially living traditions of forestry technology, lacks actively applied close-to-nature methods. According to the literature, incorporating uneven-aged forests in the planning process is challenging.[162]

- What are the main legal drivers for implementing a closer-to-nature approach in forest management for relevant actors?

The Forest Act introduced the classification of forests according to their natural state, a more accurate regulation of the selection system and other silvicultural methods, and measures for the forests on applying these redefined methods.

10.2. Legal or regulatory gaps in national forest legislation

Please provide key conclusions based on the information referred to in previous sections.

The complex and lengthy procedures of purchasing agricultural lands and the costs thereof are considered an obstacle in the land market. A simplified land sale process should be introduced in case of the sale of very small forest areas (which can be even only a few square meters). Restrictions imposed on the land market also block further reduction of ownership fragmentation. In relation to the subsidies, it was found that although those effectively support new forestry practices and innovations, as these are strongly linked to the subsidy, they may disappear when not subsidised further. There is no sector-specific forest tax legislation, i.e. the general tax rules apply to the specific economic and financial processes of forestry, which leads to problems in interpretation.[163] Furthermore, there are no specific incentives for forest owners and managers to implement SFM.

[162] Béla LETT–János GÁL– Magdolna STARK– Norbert FRANK: Development and Possibilities for Close-to-Nature Forest Resource Management in Hungary, University of West Hungary, 2016, https://journal.uni-sopron.hu/index.php/aslh/article/view/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073

[163] National Forest Strategy, 2023-2030, V.1.2.

National experts on forest legislation and references

- **Please provide the names and contacts of 3 to 5 experts in forest legislation in your country,**
  - Péter CSÉPÁNYI (Pilisi Parkerdő Zrt., csepanyi.peter@pprt.hu)
  - Dr. Sándor BORDÁCS (Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem, Növénytermesztési Tudományok Intézet, bordacs.sandor@uni-mate.hu)
  - Endre SCHIBERNA (Magyar Erdőtanúsítási Rendszer Nonprofit Kft, info@pefc.hu)
  - Károly SZALAI (Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara, ugyfelszolgalat@nak.hu)

- Provide **key books or articles analysing the national and/or regional forest legislation** in your country, particularly if they compare it with other countries, if they analyse the effect in actual management of SFM.
  - Béla LETT–János GÁL– Magdolna STARK– Norbert FRANK: *Development and Possibilities for Close-to-Nature Forest Resource Management in Hungary*, University of West Hungary, 2016, https://journal.uni-sopron.hu/index.php/aslh/article/view/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073/Acta-Silvatica-Lignaria-Hungarica-2016-Vol12-No1-055-073
  - Dr. Schiberna Endre: *Az erdőtanúsítás és az erdőgazdálkodás viszonya*, Nemzeti Agrárkutatási és Innovációs Központ, Erdészeti Tudományos intézet, Ökonómiai Osztály, 2018, https://epa.oszk.hu/03400/03455/00018/pdf/EPA03455_kutatoi_nap_2018_008-014.pdf
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