

The State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic manage 960 thousand hectares of forest land. It equals to almost 50% of all Slovakia's forests. In spite of prevailing semi-natural condition, also these forests are haunted by multiple harmful factors, the effect of which is high incidental felling. Sustainable forest management therefore needs new silvicultural approaches and active involvement of forest managers.

The Forests of the Slovak Republic are aware of the practical need to pursue progressive ideas and innovative methods promoted by the Pro Silva movement. We provide our employees a space for a better perception of close-to-nature forest management, and also support its practical execution.

Dr. Jozef Mindáš,
Director general

The State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic:

- Accept the call of the rules and principles of Pro Silva.
- Advocate close-to-nature forest management.
- Support the research of silvicultural methods Pro Silva.
- Cooperate in publishing professional and educational publications and handouts.
- Ensure public information regarding Pro Silva activities.
- Organize courses, forestry days, excursions and study tours to Pro Silva objects.
- Provide public relation support at its website (www.lesy.sk) and in the company newspaper.
- Co-finance Pro Silva activities.

THE CONCEPTION OF CLOSE-TO-NATURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Internal policy document of the state enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic, adopted 2005.

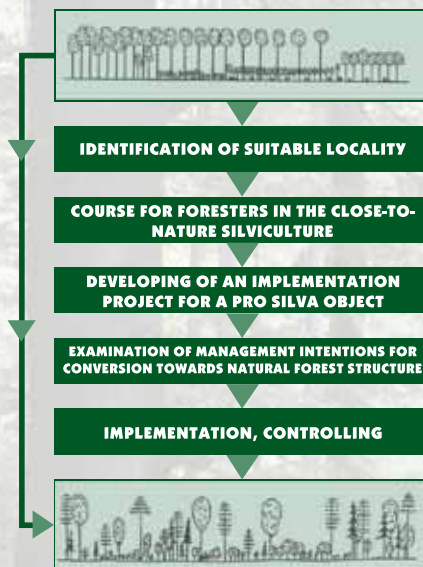
Objectives

- Restitution of close-to-nature forest structures.
- Enhancement of ecological stability.
- Cost rationalisation in forestry activities.
- Improving the quality of growing stock.
- Compatibility of forestry activities with nature conservation requirements and public demands on forest functions.

Implementation

- It relies on the step-wise involvement of foresters in the process by means of creating Pro Silva demonstration objects in their forest

Process



THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING PRO SILVA OBJECTS

- Active response to the call of Pro Silva Europe.
- Conservation and improvement of forest complexes with rare and valuable forest associations and forest tree populations.
- Presentation of the interest of the Forests of the Slovak Republic in supporting close-to-nature forest management.
- Creation of educational objects to attract the interest of another foresters.
- Presentation of advanced forestry methods to the professional and general public.
- Consistent implementation of milder silvicultural systems and permanent appraisal of their efficiency.
- Harmonisation of forest management with the demands of nature conservation.



The Pro Silva object Smolnická Osada with the area of 2,300 ha is a training centre for close-to-nature forest management.



RESULTS

The Forests of the Slovak Republic have established 110 Pro Silva objects with the area of 31,500 ha in 2005-2007. Many of these objects were managed using conventional shelterwood system and compartment cutting formerly but their tree species and spatial structure have been suitable for the use of close-to-nature methods. Eighty gene reserve forests with the area of 25,000 hectares were declared as the Pro Silva objects first. Conservation of valuable genetic resources is done by means of development of nature-conforming forest structure there. Further objects have been proposed by foresters that are interested in conversion of their forest units into close-to-nature forests. The optimum size of Pro Silva objects is 100-200 hectares. Their management must pursue detail projects, which goals, principles and methods are elaborated by the foresters themselves. The implementation is subject to controlling, and all interventions are compared to the plan.

I appreciate active pursuing of Pro Silva principles in the silvicultural practice at The Forests of the Slovak Republic. By means of the establishment of Pro Silva objects, they provide conditions for application of diverse close-to-nature methods, and for their practical and scientific evaluation.

Prof. Dr. Milan Saniga
Chairman of Pro Silva Slovakia

Establishment of further Pro Silva demonstration objects continues... A close-to-nature forest management gradually becomes a common practice for still more forest managers.

