PROMOTIONAL FOREST COMPLEXES AS ELEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST HUSBANDRY IN POLAND

Marcin Nawrot, Marek Szymanski, Marta Zlota, Monika Starosta
The August Cieszkowski Agricultural University of Poznan

Promotional Forest Complexes (PFCs) associate functional areas of aims of economic and aims of active nature protection. Promotional Forest Complexes popularize new, environmental friendly technologies and sciences investigations. As for now Poland has 19 PFCs. Education, although very important, is only one part of many elements, for realize which PFCs was erected, and is functioning. PFCs have to be mainly places where multifunctional forest husbandry is promoted, as an element of sustainable development. Thanks to forest promotion and its opening to social needs PFC given a possibility to not only making oneself acquainted with principles of leading the ecological forest management, but also lively, real contact with nature without any of bigger limitations of the admission and getting about forest, what is essential at the education of children and young people.

Key words: Promotional Forest Complexes, sustainable development, nature protection

Introduction
Promotional Forest Complexes – areas of pro-ecological policy of the state, encompassing the most interesting forest areas characteristic of given territory. They are function units without separate administration. PFCs were brought into being under the General Director of State Forests regulation number 30 from December 19, 1994. PFC foundation was a result of “The Earth Summit” arrangements in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro and forest ministers declarations concerning forest protection given in Strasbourg in 1990 and Helsinki in 1993. Thanks to the State Forests policy of ecological forest economy promotion, 19 LKPs of area of 990,500 ha were created to the end of 2005. The last PFC was brought into being in 2005. It was PFC – “Lasy Warszawskie” (not far away from Warsaw). This way PFC foundation process was finished. At present there is PFC within every of 17 regional administration areas of the State Forest (Regional Directorate of State Forest).

There are 19 of PFC. These are: 1) Bory Lubuskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Zielona Gora), 2) Bory Tucholskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Toruń), 3) Lasy Beskidu Sadeckiego (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Krakow), 4) Lasy Beskidu Hlaskiego (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Katowice), 5) Lasy Birczacskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Krosno), 6) Lasy Gostyninsko-Wloclawskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Lodz and Torun), 7) Lasy Janowskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Lublin), 8) Lasy Mazurskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Olsztyn and Białystok), 9) Lasy Oliwsko-Darłowskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Gdansk), 10) Lasy Puszczy Bialowieskiej (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Białystok), 11) Lasy Rychalskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Poznan), 12) Lasy Spalsko-Rogowskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Lodz and Warsaw Agricultural University – Institute in Rogow), 13) Lasy Warcinskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Szczecinek), 14) Lasy Warszawskie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Warszawa), 15) Puszcza Koziemiecka (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Radom), 16) Puszcza Notecka (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Pila, Poznan and Szczecin), 17) Puszcze Szczecinieckie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Szczecin), 18) Puszcza Hwietokrzyska (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Radom), 19) Sudety Zachodnie (Regional Directorate of State Forest in Wroclaw). Poland is one and only European country, that like Canada initiated using as an example PFCs, realisation of multifunctional forestry assignments, that is going to be continued with participation of society. It brings us closer to new forestry paradigm formulation (Paschalis – Jakubowicz 2004).

The objectives of establishing the Promotional Forest Complexes are:
- comprehensive recognition of current state of forest biocenosis on the area of PFC, its conditions and trends of changes;
- permanent preservation or restoration of forest natural values by means of rational forest economy based on ecological background;
- integration of sustainable forest economy and active environment protection;
- promotion of multifunctional and sustainable forest economy by making use of native and foreign financial support;
- conducting researches and forest experiments in order to draw conclusions concerning possibilities of spreading of the rules of eco-development within the area of State Forest;
• training of the State Forest Service and ecological education of society;
• biological and ecological forest protection methods dissemination;
• adjusting of forest development to economic and social conditions of forest husbandry functioning.

The statutory task of PFC is, as the name suggests, promotion of modern forestry and its role within country development. Promotion mean not only popularization of such forestry “outside”. It is also a form of spreading results of scientific and technological progress within forestry among foresters.

PFCs are to show that permanent sustainable multifunctional forest economy can prevent dangers to forest ecosystems caused by rapid civilization development. It is a space to test new forest technologies and train Forest Management Staff, to conduct researches and experiments, effects of which are later implemented within the whole area of State Forest spreading eco-development rules in all managed by this organization forests.

PFCs are also a cooperation forum for foresters and society. There are representatives of self-government authorities, authorities on science, non-government (also ecological) organization representatives but also representatives of timber industry, local media and people who are given a trust from local societies and so on.

PFC proves that harmonious and rational usage and renewing forest resources does not have to decrease forest productive capacity either its non-production functions. PFC illustrate the thesis that foresters do not care only for a forest. Forest housing areas and settlements, municipal objects and public utility buildings are connected to thermal networks that use ecological burning technology. Biological sewage treatment plants and recycling of waste units are built. Small retention structures are built in forest areas that compromise economy objectives set within the forest. Not less important are shaping of the ecological awareness and correct attitude to forest and forestry and also development of multilateral and rational co-operation with environmental protection organizations and ecological associations.

Achievement of these objectives became feasible thanks to developed educational-tourist infrastructure accessible to the public free that had been created within PFC and consist of centres of ecological education (14), forest – natural chambers (17), educational paths (84), education points (374), dendrological parks and gardens (12), green school and so an.

Idea of permanently sustainable development is visible in forestry methodology as search for a compromise between timber production, environment values preservation and making the forest human friendly in every respect. The breakthrough in thinking of goals and methods of forest economy was such big that required practical examples that are worth learning and following. Scientific-Social Boards within PFC are very important forum of cooperation between foresters and local societies. They consist of foresters, scientists, self-government and timber industry representatives and also members of non-governmental ecological organizations.

PFCs became such examples propagating multifunctional forest economy, suitable for idea of eco-development. Nevertheless are PFC perceived as “national parks of State Forest they are not really objects of conservatory’s preservation but a place of wide area preservation compromising according to bio-diversity convention, economy and preservation goals, preserving all organisms living in forest, supporting specially these most valuable for people, including species and biocenosis and their habitats protected by the law or deserving such protection.

Conclusion

Promotional Forest Complexes are model forest areas that compromise economy objectives set to forests and active environment protection. They are training areas used to test new technologies, conduct diverse scientific researches.

Statutory goals of PFC will be achieved when PFC forests gives pleasure to the eyes of people who are delighted with richness of natural forms, openness to visitors, when job and social education is constantly improved and simultaneously the sale of timber and other products and services meets all or at least the most of necessary expenses, and at last when finally all forestry managements of the State Forest follow economy and preservation methods worked out in PFC (Szujecki 2003).
References

3. Strona internetowa PGL LP [Internet web page of the Polish State Forest]: www.lp.gov.pl
4. Zarzadzenie nr 30 Dyrektora Generalnego LP z dnia 19.12.1994r. w sprawie lesnych kompleksow promocyjnych [General Director of State Forests regulation number 30 from December 19, 1994; in the matter of Promotional Forest Complexes]
5. System Wymiany Informacji o Roznorodnosc Biologicznej w Polsce [System of exchanging information about biodiversity in Poland (in Polish.).]: www.biodiv.mos.gov.pl