

Forest Structures and Organisation in Germany

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100 km

Outline of the presentation

- Basic data on German forestry
- Forest functions and conflict areas between different interests
- Actual questions of forest policy
- Some remarks on the ongoing structural reforms of State Forest Services



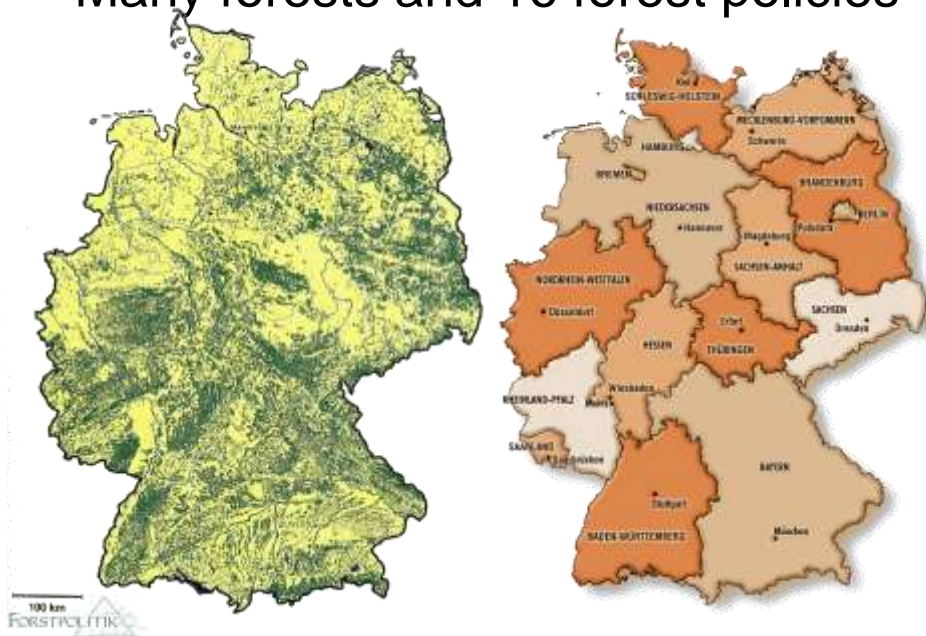
100 km

Definition of Forest Policy

- Forest policy is a social bargaining process which regulates conflicts caused by interests in the utilization and protection of forests.
- Forest policy *science* describes and analyzes the relationships in the „magic triangle“ between forests, forestry and society.



Many forests and 16 forest policies



Forests and forestry in Germany (1)

- Forests are of high importance for Germany
 - 11,1 million hectare, i.e. one third of the land's surface is covered with wood
 - share of 0,14 ha per inhabitant
 - since 1960 increase in forest area of 500.000 ha (in spite of clearings for settlements, industry and transport infrastructure)



Forests and forestry in Germany (2)

- Abundant resources of wood
 - growing stock: 3.4 billion m³ (1st place before Sweden, France and Finland)
 - annual growth: 120 million m³; of this about 64 Million m³ are used; 54 million m³ as roundwood
 - mean annual increment: 12,6 m³ per ha and year
 - mean potential of roundwood: 78 million m³ per year for the next 40 years



Forests and forestry in Germany (3)

- Forest owners are depending on wood to a large extent
- more than 90 % of the income of forest owners comes from wood (about 1,75 billion Euro per year)
- non-Wood forest products account to 10% (game, christmas trees, mushrooms, berries, fruits, sand, stone...)

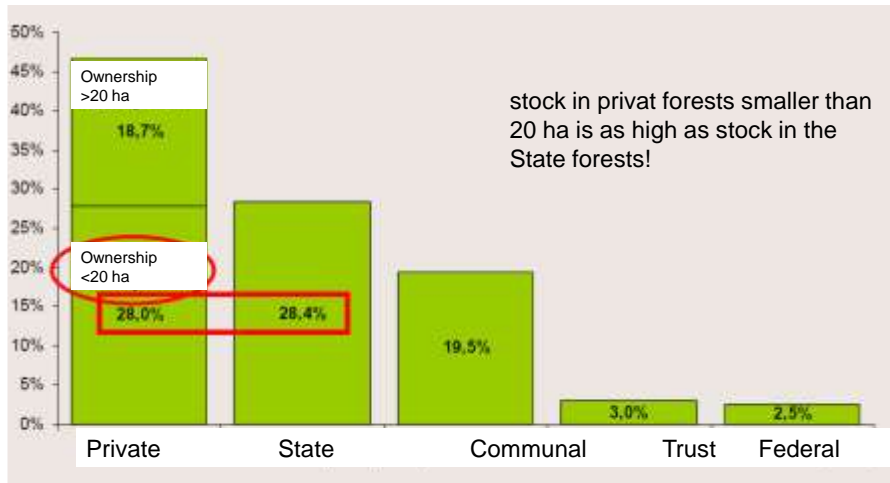


Forests and forestry in Germany (4)

- There is a high diversity concerning
 - tree species composition
 - distribution of forest areas
 - forest ownership: about 1,3 million forest owners (latest estimations are going beyond 2 million)
 - organizational models of State and Communal forestry

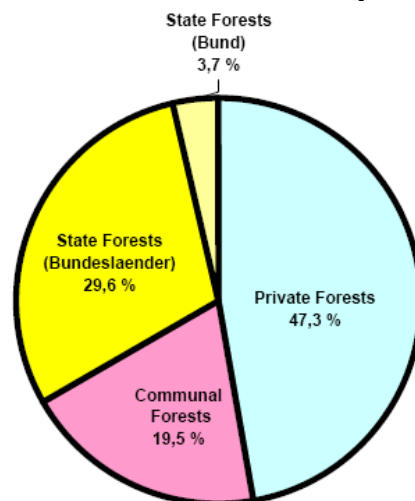


Growing stock by ownership categories (share of total stock of wood)



Polley 2007

Forest Ownership Structure in Germany

BWI² in Röhrig 2004

Forest owners in Germany

Types of owners		Enterprises by forest area		
	Area in Mio. ha		number	forest area in Mio ha
State	3,6	less than 10 ha	197 645	0,54
Community	2,1	10 – 50 ha	48 089	0,90
Private	5,0	50 – 200 ha	7 336	0,71
Total	10,7	200 – 1000 ha	3 346	1,46
		1000 ha and more	1 434	5,37

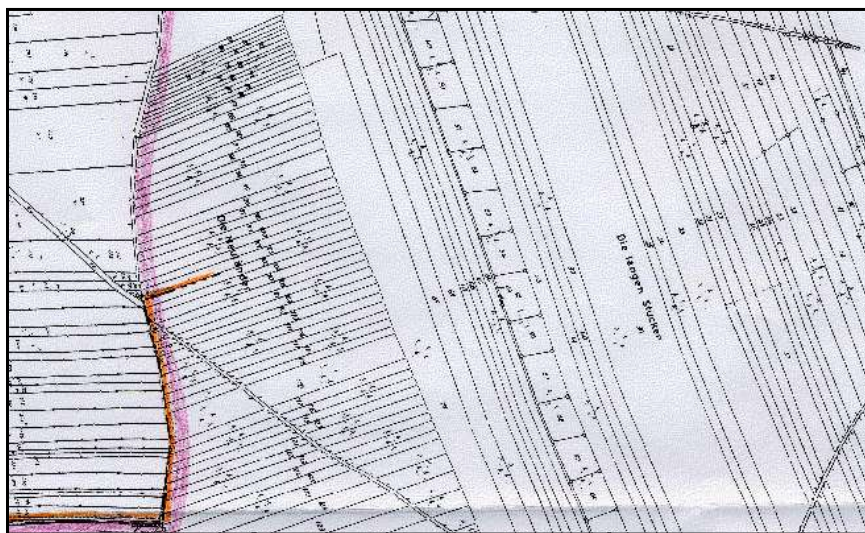
Forest cooperatives	
Number	5 403
Number of members	449 102
Forest area	3,29 Mio. ha

Comment: Including the forest owners with less than 0,5ha, who are not registered by official statistics, the number of owners is estimated to be 1,2 Mio.

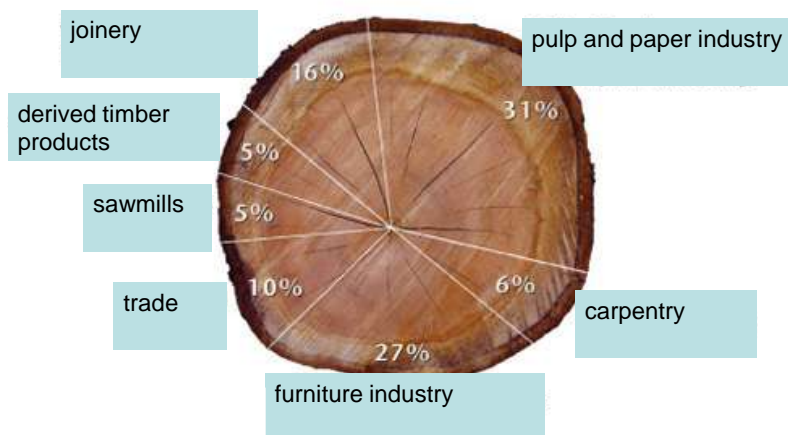


Source: aid Infodienst; Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung, Landwirtschaft e.V., Bonn, 2004; taken from Krott 2004

xxs forest parcels, former Forest District of Großenhain (Saxony)



Wood-working industry in Germany (in % of turnover)



DHWR 2006

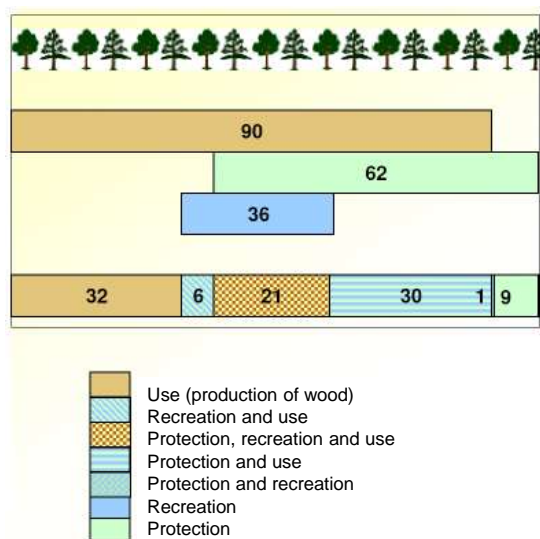
The forest cluster in Germany (according to the definition of EU)

- about 2 million forest owners
- 185.000 enterprises
- 1,3 million employees
- turnover 181 billion Euro
- More people are working in the wood chain than in electrical industry (810.000), car industry (780.000), chemical industry (465.000)
- Even if the printing industry and sub-contractors are not taken into account, forestry and wood technology employ 950.000 people → most personal-intensive sector in Germany



Schulte 2005

Forest Functions in Brandenburg



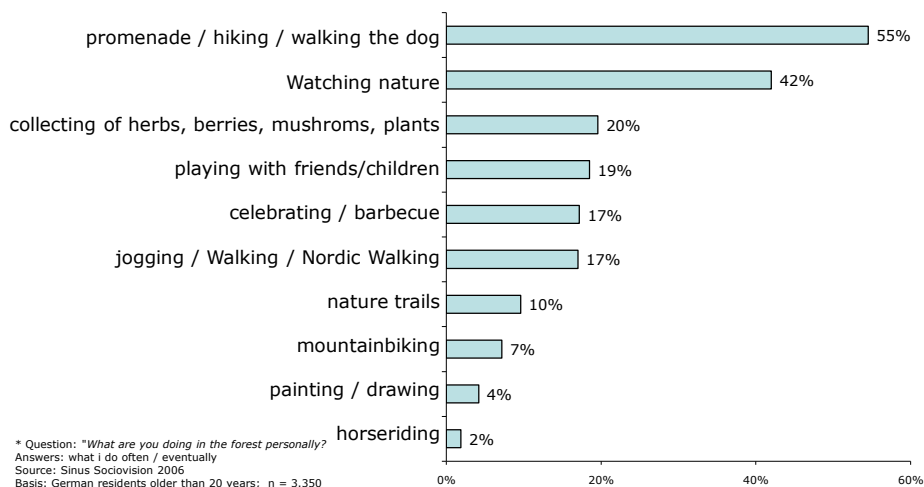
MLUR Brandenburg 2007

Forest Recreation

- about 1,5 billion visits per year in all German forests
- manifold activities of people in the forests:
 - hiking, jogging, picnic, horseriding, (mountain-)biking;
 - winter sports (cross-country ski)
 - collecting mushrooms, fruits and berries;
 - observing of wild animals



Leisure activities in the forests



© Sinus Sociovision 2006

Forests in Protective Areas



Form of Protection	MCPFE class	IUCN class	forest area (ha)	forest area (%) ¹
Conserving Forest Biodiversity	1	I, II, IV	2,138,422	19.9
<i>No active intervention</i>	1.1	I	0	0.0
<i>Minimum intervention</i>	1.2	II	90,631	0.9
<i>Conservation through active management</i>	1.3	IV	2,047,591	19.0
Protection of Landscapes and Special Natural Elements	2	III, V, VI	4,686,038	43.6
Forests with Protective Functions	3	---	2,980,850	27.8

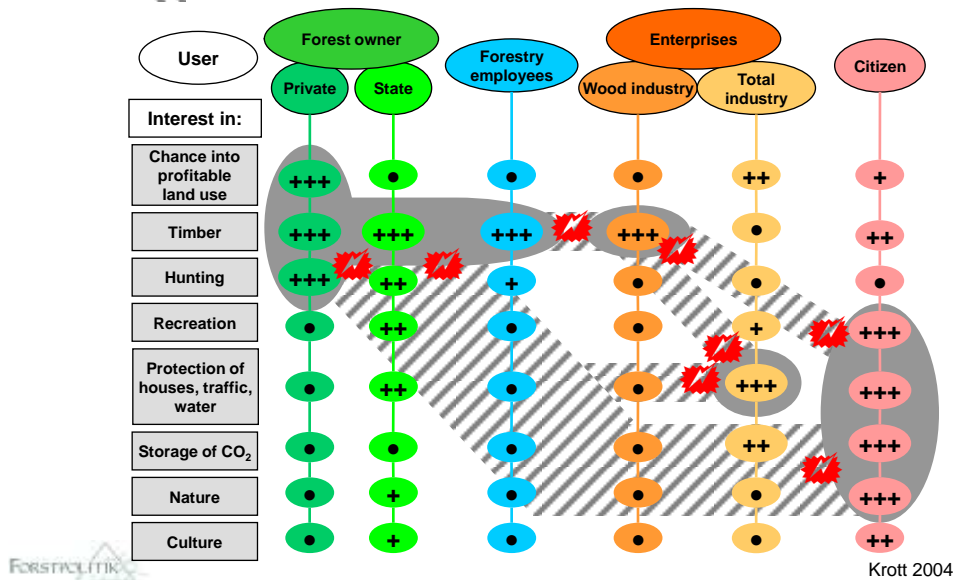
Source: Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, Bonn



Forest policy issues and conflicts

Interests of users: +++ very strong; ++ strong; + medium; • existing

Zones of conflicts  between main areas of interests 



Actual Questions of Forest Policy

(1)

- Storm Kyrill, January 2007: 37 million m³ in two days
- Forests and Nature Conservation (Natura 2000)
- Certification/public procurement:
 - PEFC: 65% 7,18 million ha
 - FSC: 566.000 ha
- Wood mobilization („renaissance of renewable resources“ since 2005) → increase of wood prices
- Use of wood as material or bioenergy?
- Organisational reforms of the State Forest Services

Actual Questions of Forest Policy (2)

- Federalism reform/new forest law
- Forest interest representation (*Plattform Forst und Holz* founded in May 2007)
- Forest and water (PES!)
- Implementation of obligations and new opportunities originating from the international, pan-European and EU level:
 - Biodiversity
 - Climate: active and passive role of forests; possibilities for forest owners
 - National Forest Programs
 - European Forest Policy (Forest Action Plan)



Einheitsforstverwaltung in Germany



Nüßlein 2005

Change of legal organisation of State Forest Services in Germany since 1999



Nüßlein 2005

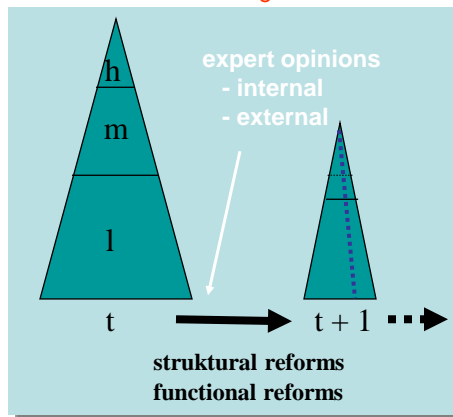
Drivers for Reform of State Forest Institutions in Germany

Legal and ordo-political discussion

Public budgets

Paradigms of solution
(New Public Management, Privatisation, Mechanisation)

Reservations towards public service/
public officers



low returns in forestry

low significance of forestry in public policy

Special situation in Eastern Germany
 • site disadvantage
 • job market
 • (re-)privatisation

Lack of knowledge in the population about use and necessity of forestry



State Forestry in Saxony: *Landesbetrieb*

- Established on January 2006 as „*Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst*“
- Increased entrepreneurial freedom combined with tasks of the former State Forest Service
- Reduction of annual state support (by 10 Million €)
- New territorial structure
 - 47 Forest Offices (Forstämter) → 15 Large Forest Districts (Forstbezirke)
 - Reduction of Forest Ranger Districts from 324 to 223 (125 State Forest Districts, 98 Ranger Districts for private and communal forests)
 - Cancellation of the Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, leaving only 2 departments

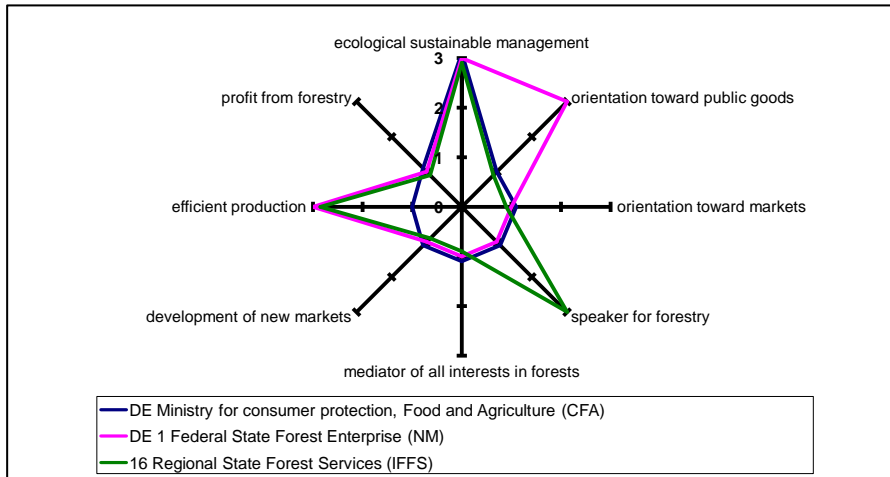


State Forestry in Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen): *Anstalt öffentlichen Rechts*

- Since January 2005: „Niedersächsische Landesforsten“, A.ö.R. (statutory corporation)
- Re-organization:
 - Reduction of Forest District Offices (Forstämter) from 45 to 26
 - Increase of mean area of Forest District Offices from 9.400 ha to 16.300 ha
 - 1.424 employees (15 % in comparison to 1960)
- Private forests are attended by agricultural offices (Landwirtschaftskammern) and private entrepreneurs



Institutional setting of public forest authorities in Germany



Some pictures of forest policy issues in Germany

Thank you for your attention!

