



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

THE ROLE OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN URBAN FOREST PLANNING
Skopje, North Macedonia
4-6 June 2024



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Invasive alien species in Polish forests



The State Forests have has a well-established position as the largest state-owned forestry company in Europe for many years. The SF manage more than **7.6 milion hectares of forest**. We focus on sustainable development, nature protection, and restoration of these areas.





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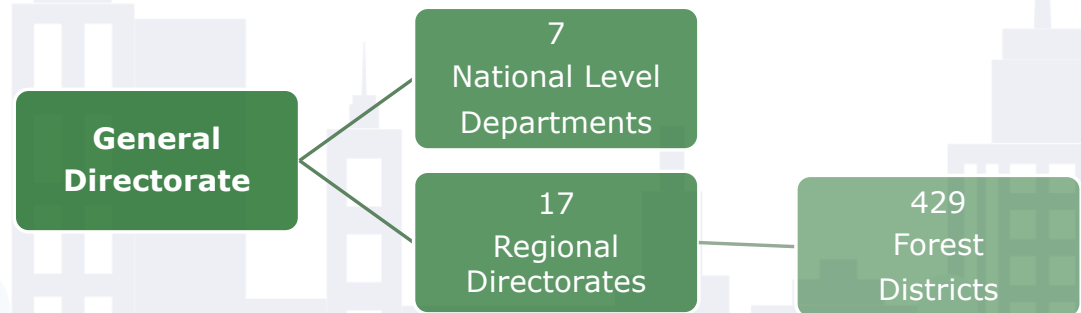


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The State Forests National Forest Holding is a Polish governmental organization that manages state-owned Polish forests on behalf of the Polish State Treasury (established in 1924).

The SF are supervised by the Minister of Climate and Environment Republic of Poland

The State Forests structure

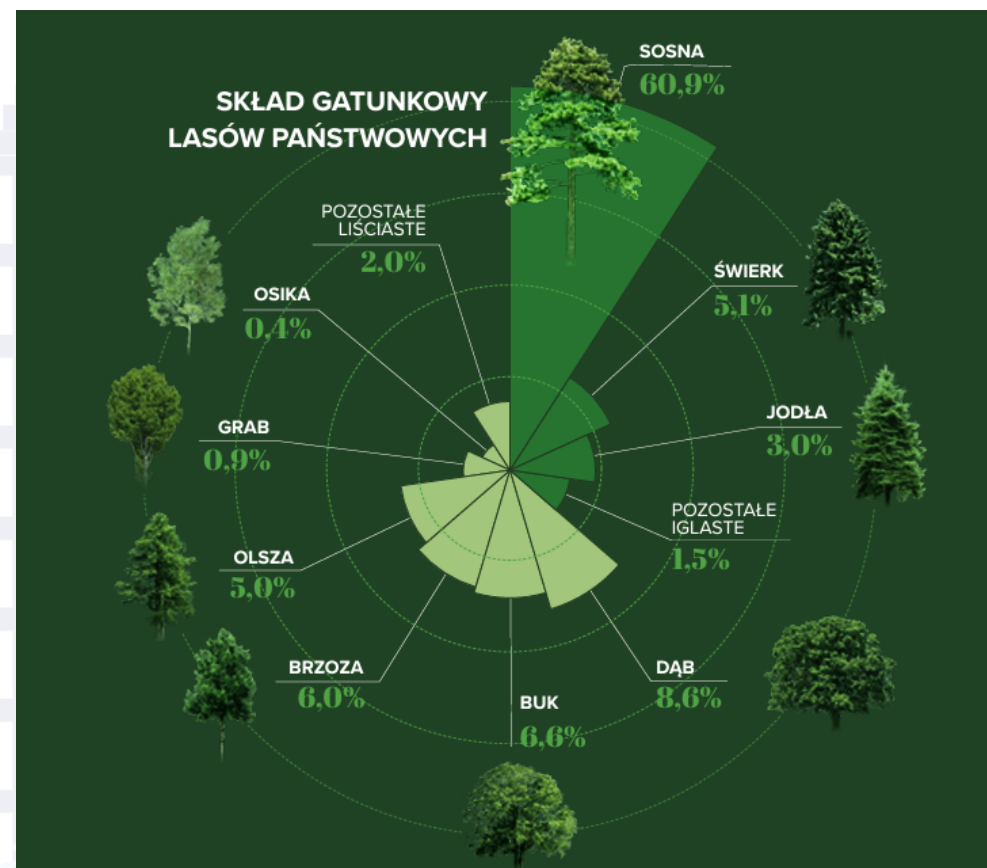


The organization of the SF is based on the principle of self-financing. As a result, the State Forests do not benefit from the taxpayers' money. Self-financing is possible because of the existence of the so called Forest Fund.



Species composition of forests

On lowlands and highlands the most common tree species is Scots pine.
In the mountains the dominating species is spruce (Western part) or spruce and beech (Eastern part).





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Polish law

ACT of August 11, 2021 on alien species
(Journal of Laws of 2021, item 1718)

Regulation of the Council of Ministers on the list of invasive alien species posing a threat to the Union and the list of invasive alien species posing a threat to Poland, remedial actions and measures aimed at restoring the natural state of ecosystems of December 9, 2022 (Journal of Laws of 2022 item 2649)

Obligations of foresters under the law:

- performing tasks related to preventing the spread in the environment of IGOs posing a threat to the Union or IGOs posing a threat to Poland or IGOs that probably meet the criteria for recognizing them as posing a threat to the Union, to the extent specified in the Act on Alien Species
- determining species results in the obligation to carry out remedial actions "in an appropriate manner and to the extent appropriate to the nature, scope and extent of the negative impact of the alien species on the species or natural habitats"





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Precautionary principle

- Monitoring
- Observations
- Remedial actions
- Reducing occurrence through active control

- Remedial actions for this category of species do not have to lead to elimination, and their goal may be to "control" the species. Entities carrying out remedial actions are obliged to monitor the effectiveness of the actions and their impact on unnecessary species.





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IAS Species in forest

• **Plants**

• **Animals**





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IAS Species in forest

Mushrooms

Aureoboletus projectellus came to us from North America. Within the limits of its natural range, it establishes symbiotic relationships with many species of pine trees, and in Poland it enters into closer relationships with Scots pine and mountain pine. Until recently, in our country it was recorded on the Hel Peninsula and in the coastal forests from Łeba to Białogóra. Today it is also found in Silesia, Podkarpacie, Mazovia, Kujawy, Lubusz Land, Western Pomerania and Podlasie. It reigns in the forests and also in the media. Could this species pose a threat to native species?



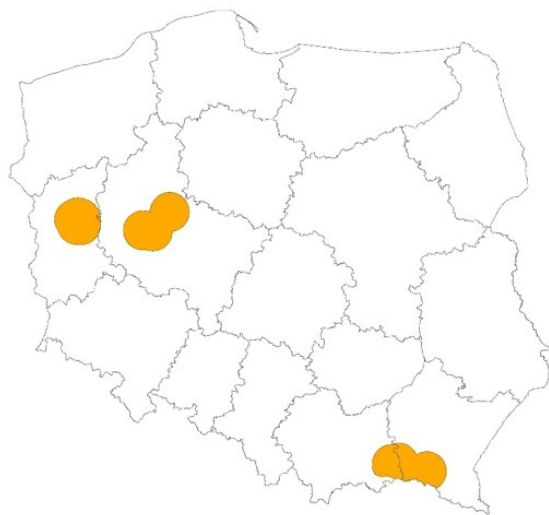


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Case study

Celastrus orbiculatus



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Habitat degradation IAS

Forest

Prunus serotina In forest ecosystems susceptible to invasion by the species, dense bird cherry undergrowth limits the regeneration of native tree and shrub species. The negative impact of the species on the regeneration of native trees brings losses. Moreover, the growth and growth of this species worsen the growth conditions of forest crops and young forests.

The area of tree stands covered by bird cherry accounts for over 20% of the forest area

- Peat bog
Spiraea tomentosa ->
The spread of the meadowsweet is a serious threat to species found in peat bogs, moist meadows, swampy forests and on the edges of ponds and drainage ditches.
- dominance of the species in peat bogs in western Poland





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Reports from the public citizen science



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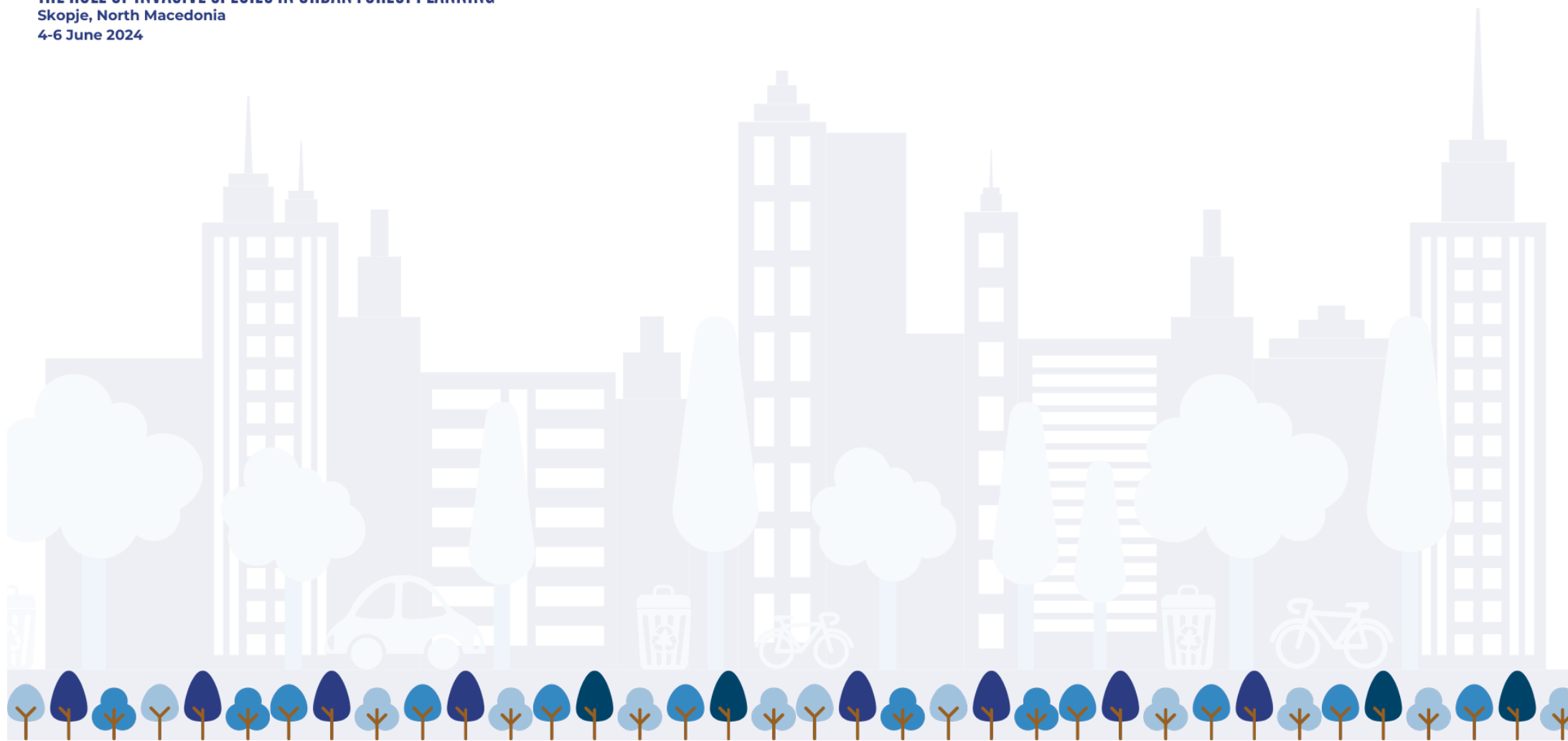
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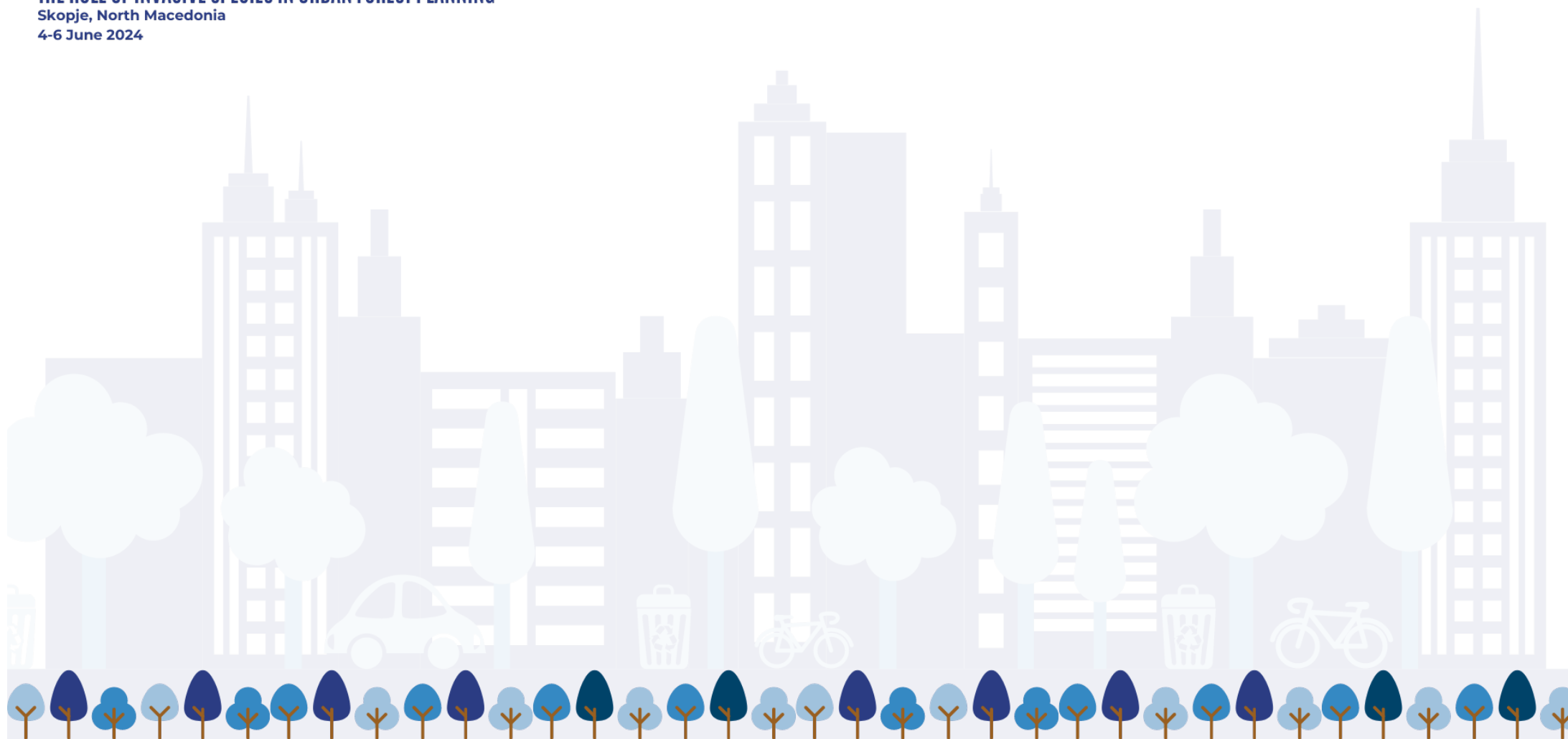
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100 YEARS
1924 – 2024
State Forests Poland

Thank you for your attention !

