

> Forest Report 2015

Condition and Use of Swiss Forests



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> Forest Report 2015

Condition and Use of Swiss Forests

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> Abstracts

The Forest Report 2015 provides information about the condition of the Swiss forests. It is based on the internationally recognised and standardised indicators of Forest Europe and is an international reference for sustainable forest management. The data basis is derived from comprehensive monitoring of the forest, which has been established during recent decades, and which enables the condition of the forest to be analysed in more depth. The Report takes a look back at the development since the publication of the last Forest Report in 2005, and can thus answer questions about complex forest ecosystems and how to manage them. The Report allows insights into the Swiss forest in all its facets, and serves as a reference book for both experts and laypeople.

Keywords:

Forest Europe, wood, indicator, monitoring, resources, forest services, forest use, forest condition

Der Waldbericht 2015 informiert über den Zustand des Schweizer Waldes. Er basiert auf den international anerkannten und standardisierten Indikatoren von Forest Europe und ist eine internationale Referenz für nachhaltige Waldbewirtschaftung. Die Datengrundlagen stammen aus einem umfassenden Waldmonitoring, das in den vergangenen Jahrzehnten aufgebaut wurde und eine vertiefte Zustandsanalyse erlaubt. Der Bericht schaut zurück auf die Entwicklung seit dem Erscheinen des letzten Waldberichts im Jahr 2005. Damit beantwortet er Fragen rund um das komplexe Ökosystem Wald und seine Bewirtschaftung. Der Bericht vermittelt Einblicke in den Schweizer Wald in all seinen Facetten und dient als Nachschlagewerk für Fachleute und Laien.

Stichwörter:

Forest Europe, Holz, Indikatoren, Monitoring, Ressourcen, Waldleistungen, Waldnutzung, Waldzustand

Le Rapport forestier 2015 entend renseigner sur l'état de la forêt suisse. Il s'appuie sur les indicateurs standardisés paneuropéens de Forest Europe et constitue une référence internationale pour la gestion forestière durable. Les bases de données sont issues d'un monitoring complet des forêts, mis en place au cours des dernières décennies. Il permet une analyse approfondie de l'état des forêts. Le rapport dresse une rétrospective de l'évolution depuis la parution du rapport précédent, en 2005. Il répond ainsi aux questions sur cet écosystème complexe et sur sa gestion. Il donne un aperçu de toutes les facettes de la forêt suisse et sert d'ouvrage de référence pour les spécialistes et les non-spécialistes.

Mots-clés:

Forest Europe, bois, indicateurs, monitoring, ressources, prestations forestières, utilisation de la forêt, état de la forêt

Il Rapporto forestale 2015 fornisce informazioni sullo stato del bosco svizzero. Si fonda su indicatori standardizzati di Forest Europe, riconosciuti a livello internazionale, e rappresenta un riferimento internazionale per la gestione forestale sostenibile. I dati provengono da un esteso monitoraggio forestale che si è costituito negli scorsi decenni e che permette un'analisi approfondita della situazione attuale. Il presente rapporto ripercorre l'evoluzione dei boschi rispetto al precedente Rapporto forestale, pubblicato nel 2005, e risponde agli interrogativi in merito al complesso ecosistema bosco e alla sua gestione. Inoltre fornisce uno sguardo sul bosco svizzero, considerato in tutte le sue sfaccettature e rappresenta un'opera di consultazione sia per gli addetti ai lavori che per i non esperti.

Parole chiave:

Forest Europe, legno, indicatori, monitoraggio, risorse, prestazioni del bosco, utilizzazione del bosco, stato del bosco

> Preface

The forest is important for Switzerland. It covers around a third of the country's surface area, shaping the landscape and influencing our quality of life. It performs valuable public services, such as providing protection against avalanches or rockfall, and reducing water discharge. It provides wood, a renewable resource that can be sustainably produced. In addition, it is an indispensable near-natural habitat for many species and a key recreation area for people. Roughly 94 per cent of the population go to the forest regularly. Most people feel refreshed and more relaxed afterwards.

But how is the forest doing? What functions does it perform? And how sustainable is it? The Forest Report 2015, written by scientific and professional experts, explores these issues. It provides information about the forest in all its facets and describes its development since the last Forest Report in 2005. Answers differ according to the focus of the question, including whether it is about the condition of the protection forest, the development of biodiversity or how successful forestry has been.

On the basis of this report, two general conclusions can be drawn. First, the condition of the forest is never static, as it is continually adapting to changing environmental conditions. Such change is not always easily visible to the human eye, but the Report shows impressively what change is happening, thanks to long-term forest observations. Second, the authors consider the condition of Swiss forests, taken as a whole, to be relatively good at the moment. Nevertheless, the changes in the past and the great challenges that are becoming apparent for the future raise the question: will it remain like this for the next 10 years, or are we currently experiencing the quiet before the storm? Some of the challenges we face are already making themselves felt. These include not only climate change, but also harmful and dangerous organisms unknown here up to now. The past also shows that new threats, which we cannot foresee today, may time and again arise.

Forest monitoring and reporting about the forest therefore continue to be needed in order to identify new developments early enough in future to be able to provide the public, the actors in forest policy and the decision-makers with reliable facts about the condition of the forest and how it is changing. Only in this way will it be possible for us to continue to make the best possible decisions about the forests of our children.

We wish you an enjoyable and informative read, and hope that this valuable fund of findings will give you the information and support you are looking for.

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