

## France – significant, predominantly semi-natural, forest resources



France's forest resources are among the largest in Europe, covering around 17 million hectares and accounting for a third of the country's land area. The average figure per capita is 0,3 hectares.

The majority of French forests are classified as semi-natural with a relatively small proportion of plantations. About two-thirds of the forest is composed of broadleaved species, predominantly Oak and Beech, but many other species including Hornbeam, Poplar and Chestnut are also found. The most common conifers are pines, spruces, silver fir and Douglas fir. A quarter of the country's forests are public, with ownership divided among the State, Communes and Municipalities. Ownership of most of the remainder is divided among several million individuals, and some private institutions.

The level of forest utilization in France is particularly low. Less than half of the annual increment is harvested. Forest cover is growing about 30,000 ha a year through steady encroachment on former agricultural land, partly because of natural expansion and partly because of planting.

More than 95 per cent of French forests have free public access. Apart from wood production, other important forest functions are hunting, recreational activities, the gathering of non-wood forest products such as berries, medicinal plants, honey, pine gum and ornamental plants, and soil protection in mountainous zones.



## Wood from sustainable and legal sources

Forestry issues in France are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. The Forestry Policy law combines the concept of sustainable forest development with the aim of making forest production, harvesting and the processing sector more competitive.

Most of the forests are open for the supply of wood. About half of them are high canopy, while the rest are divided between coppices and coppices-with-standards. There is also a small area of poplar plantations. There are several forest protection programmes in France which are taken into consideration when planning harvesting activities.

Almost a quarter of French forests are PEFC certified. Over 50 per cent of the wood supply area around UPM's Stracel mill is certified. All deliveries of roundwood and chips are covered by a PEFC certified chain of custody and the origin of wood is known down to forest level. The wood supplied to UPM comes from the regions of Alsace-Lorraine and Franche-Comté, and from the German region of Baden-Württemberg.

## UPM Forestry and Wood Sourcing in France

Two departments at Stracel – one for wood supply and one for harvesting – are responsible for supplying the Stracel paper mill with the wood it requires. They employ 20 people and the main office is at the Stracel mill.

Stracel uses 600 000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood raw material, Silver Fir and Norway Spruce, per year. The wood consists of roundwood (50%) and chips (50%). The roundwood is purchased from French and German harvesting companies and the chips are sourced from French and German sawmills. About 90 per cent of the wood is from thinnings, but other harvesting methods including clearcut and shelterwood fellings are used as well. The wood is transported to the mill by road and rail.



Tree Species



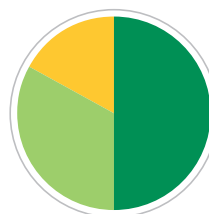
- Oak 31%
- Fir / Spruce 10%
- Beech 10%
- Other conifers 26%
- Other broadleaves 23%

Forest Ownership



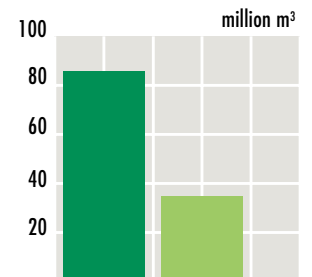
- Private 74%
- State and communities 26%

Origin of wood



- Import 50%
- Public forests 33%
- Private forests 17%

Annual increment vs annual cut



- Annual increment 86 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Annual cut 35 million m<sup>3</sup>