

# Sustainable Forest Management and Forestry in Austria



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# Overview:



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## Austria is:

- a small country in the heart of Europe
- a member of the European Union
- an important timber exporter in the world
- an important tourism country (skiing, hiking, etc)
- famous for it's culture (music, historic buildings etc)

# Forests in Austria

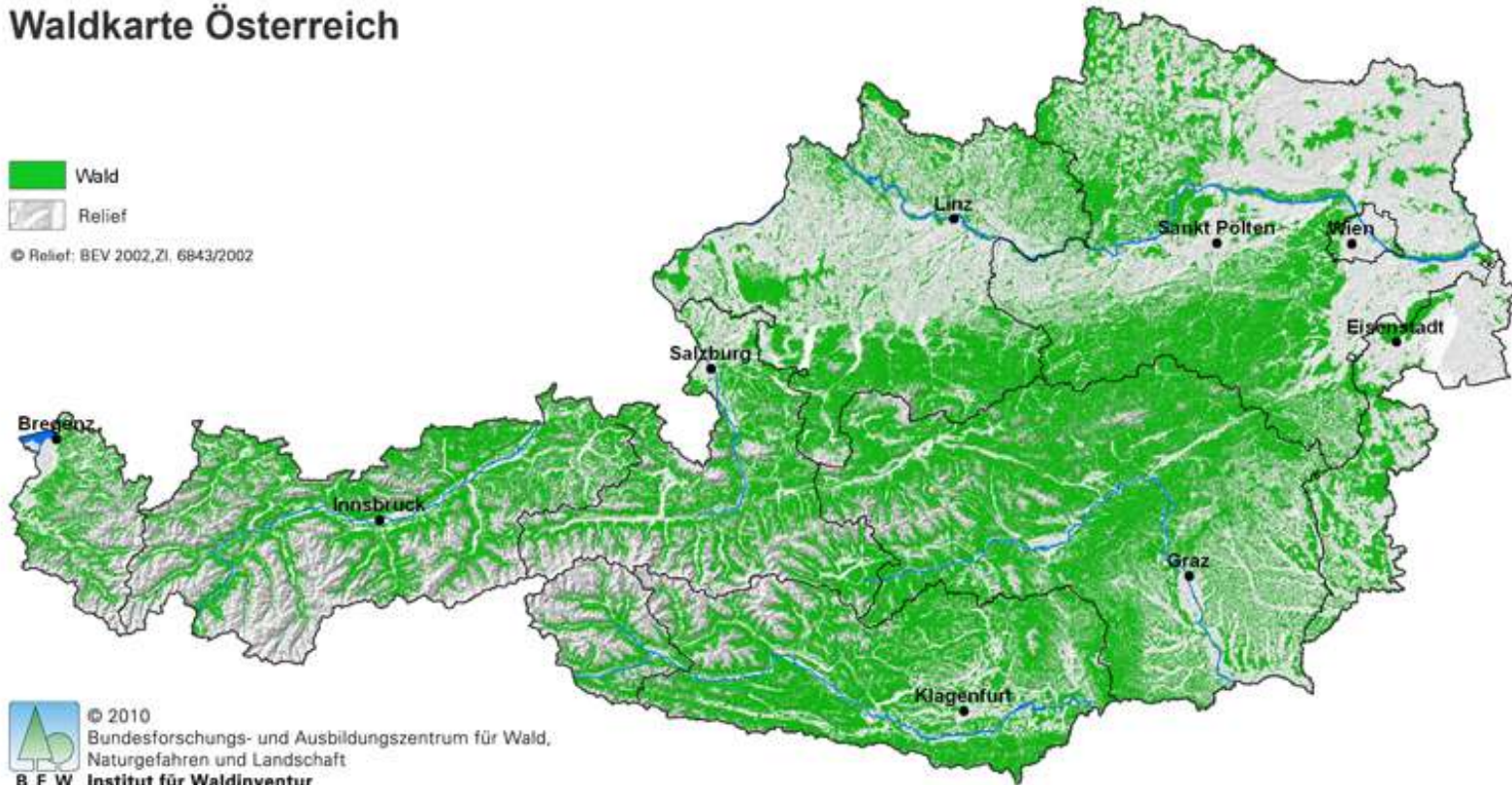


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## Waldkarte Österreich



© Relief: BEV 2002, ZI, 6843/2002



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Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald,  
Naturgefahren und Landschaft  
B F W Institut für Waldinventur

**Population:** 8.4 Mill.

**Total Area:** 8.4 Mill. ha

**Forest Area:** 4.0 Mill. ha

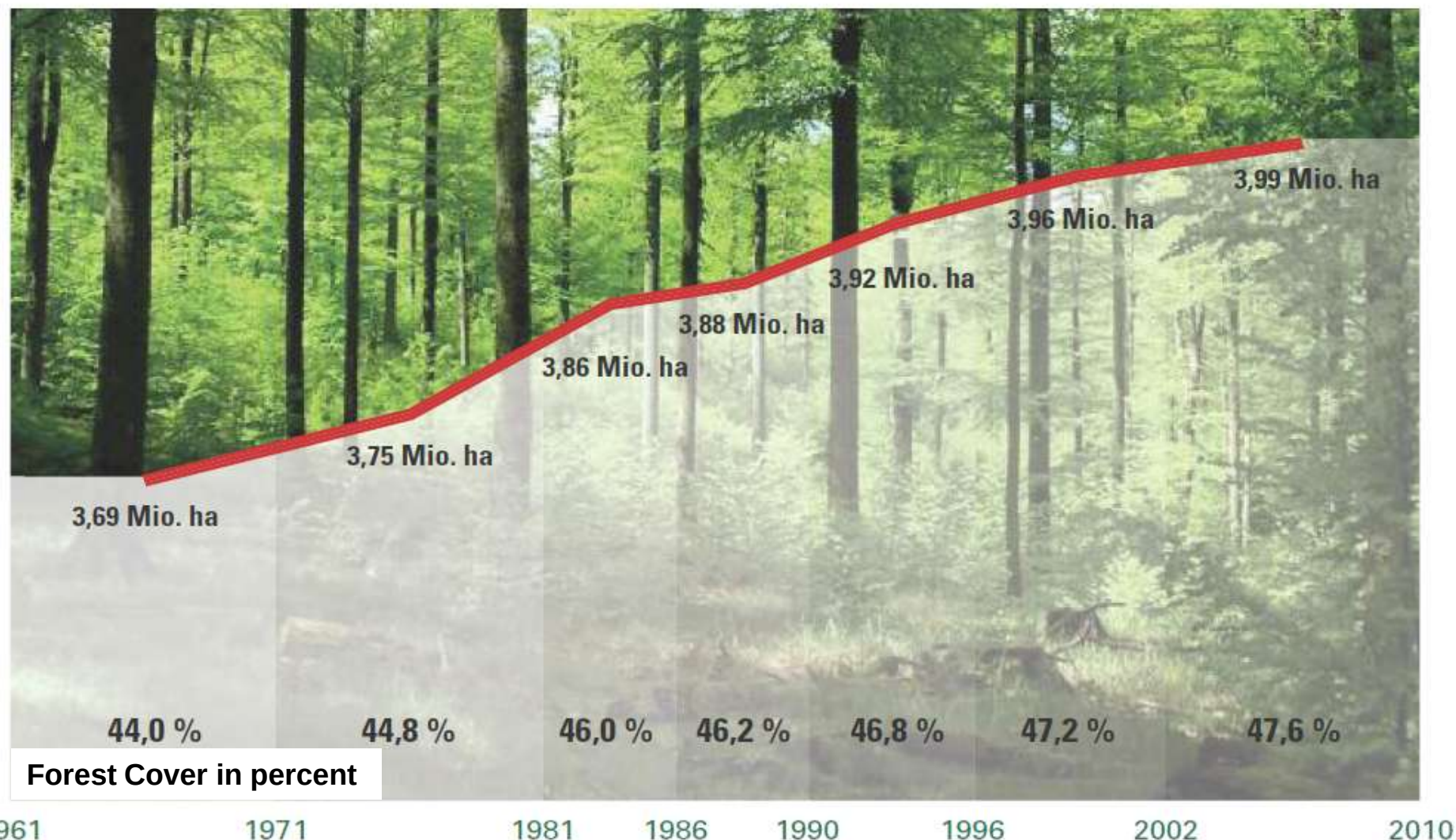
**Forest Cover:** 47.6 %

**Wood:** 310 cm/ha

# Increase in Forest Area



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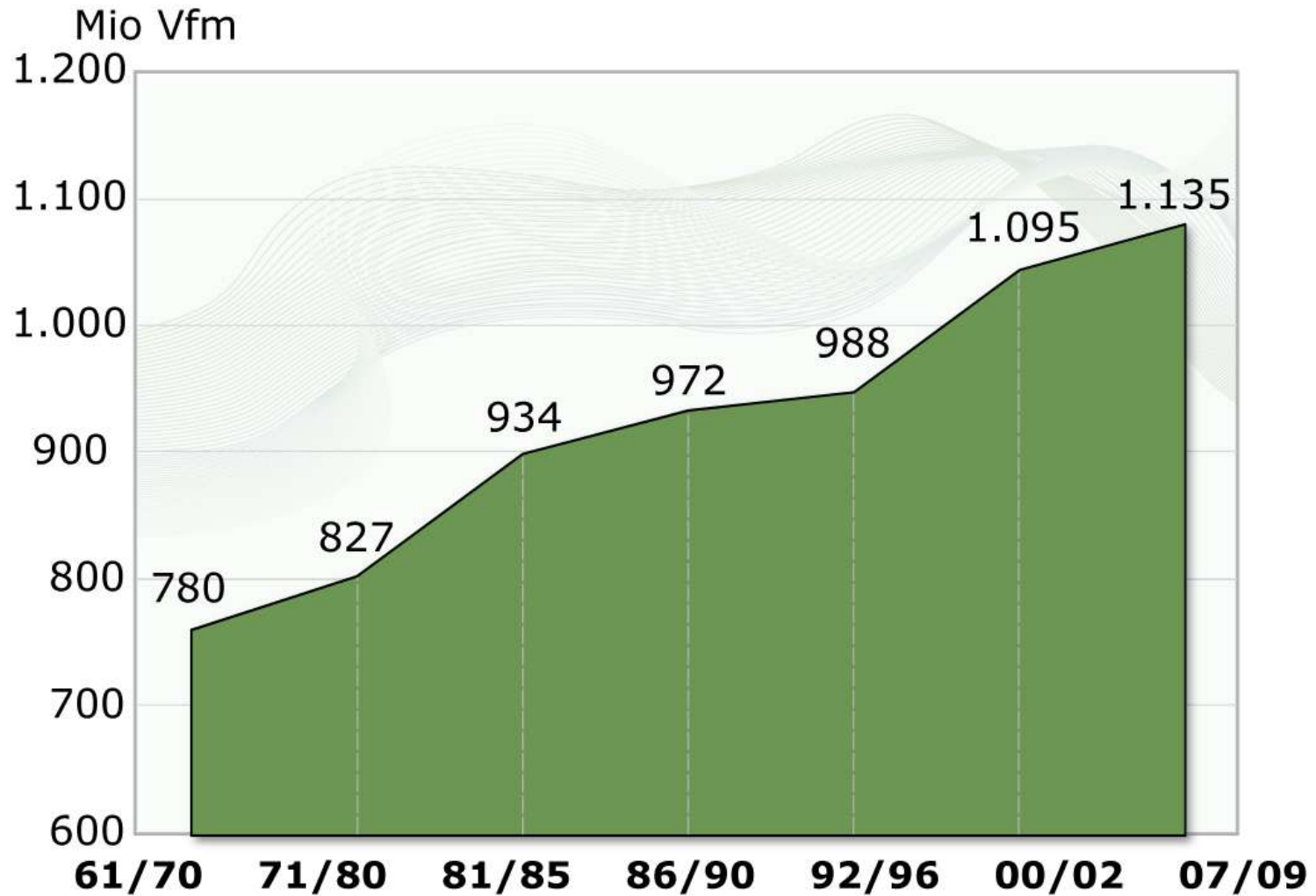


# Wood Production – Growing Stock

since 1961

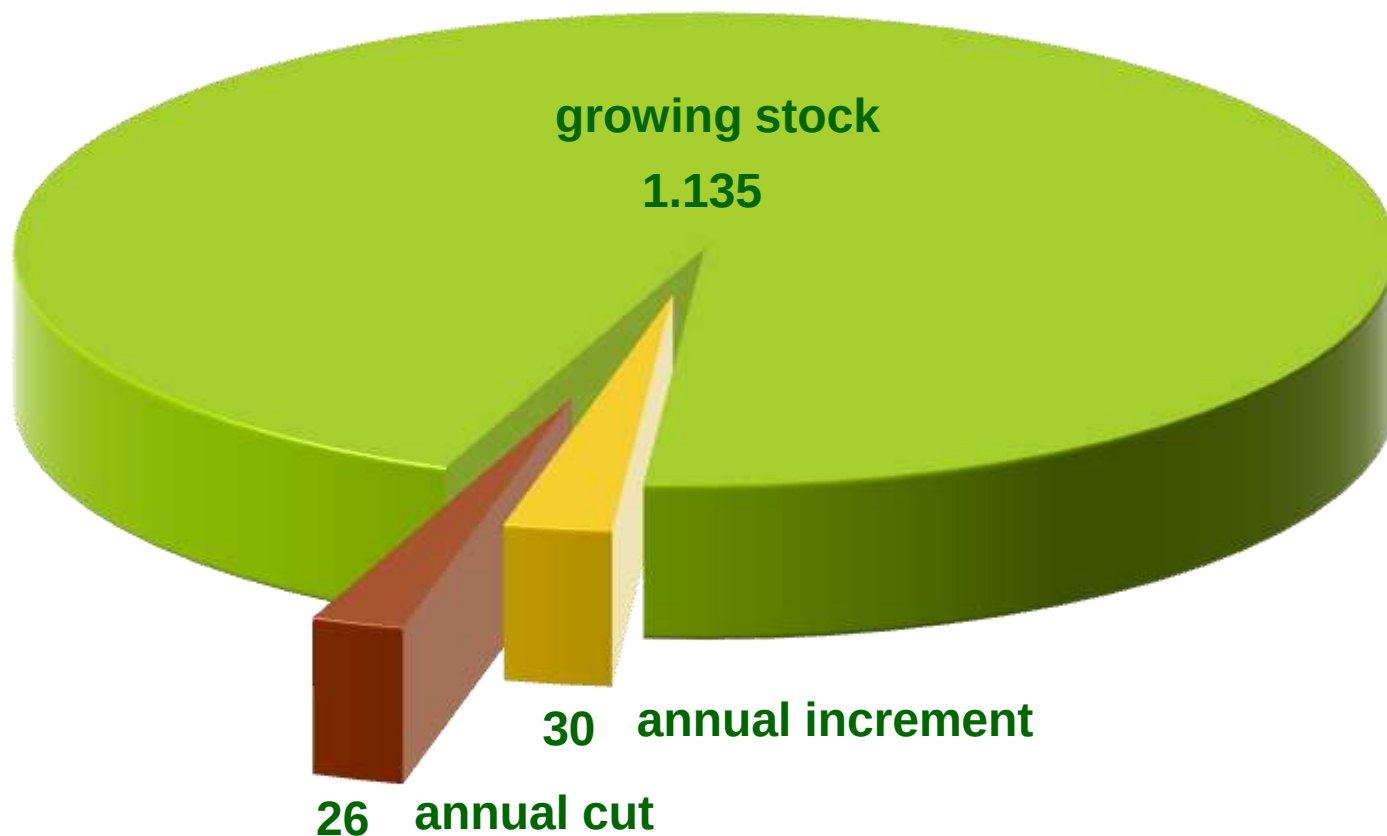


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# Wood Production

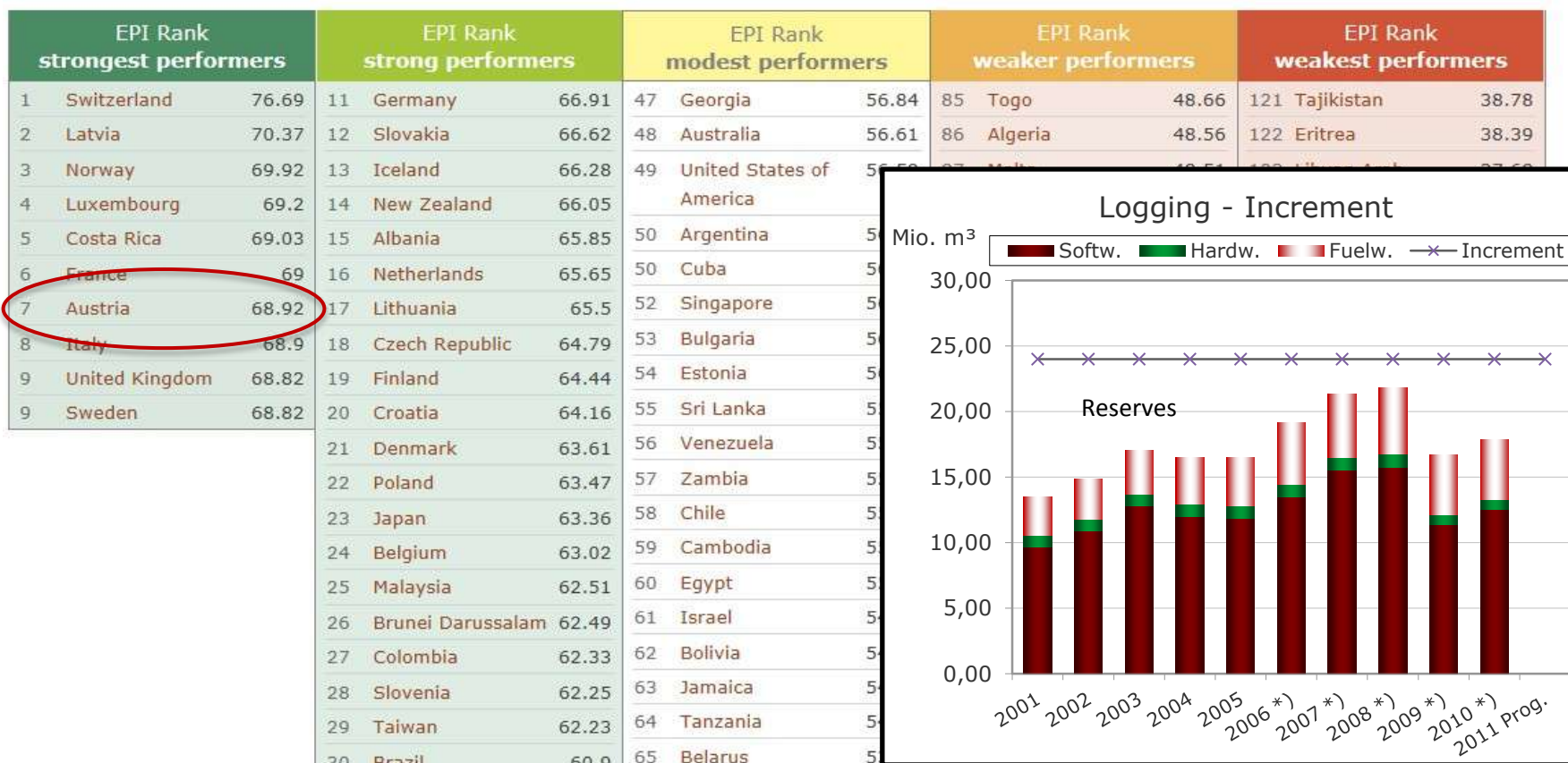
in million cubicmeters over bark



Source: Austrian Forest Inventory 2007/09

# Environmental records

The University of Yale publishes an “**Environmental Performance Index**” (**EPI**) - for each country – in general Austria is placed at the 7<sup>th</sup> rank globally. More than 90% of Austrian biodiversity hotspots are in forests.



# Historical Background



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Great history in deforestation

Ancient and medieval times

- Agri: Livestock grazing, pastures
- War: crossbows, bows, lances

Industrial (pre-coal) – worst (19<sup>th</sup> century)

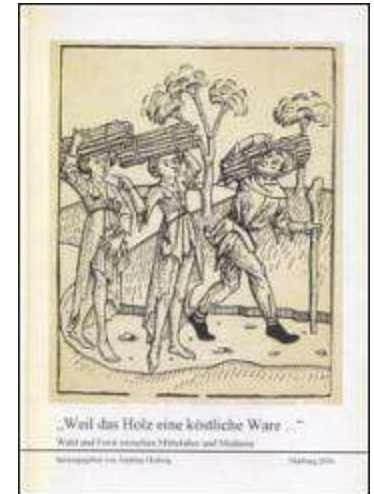
- Iron- and steel industry (charcoal)
- Saltern (fuel wood)

But as well in “Sustainability”

Sylvicultura oeconomica (Hans Carl von Carlowitz, 1713)

Simplified but very effective

Over time developed to modern SFM



# Austrian Forest Act



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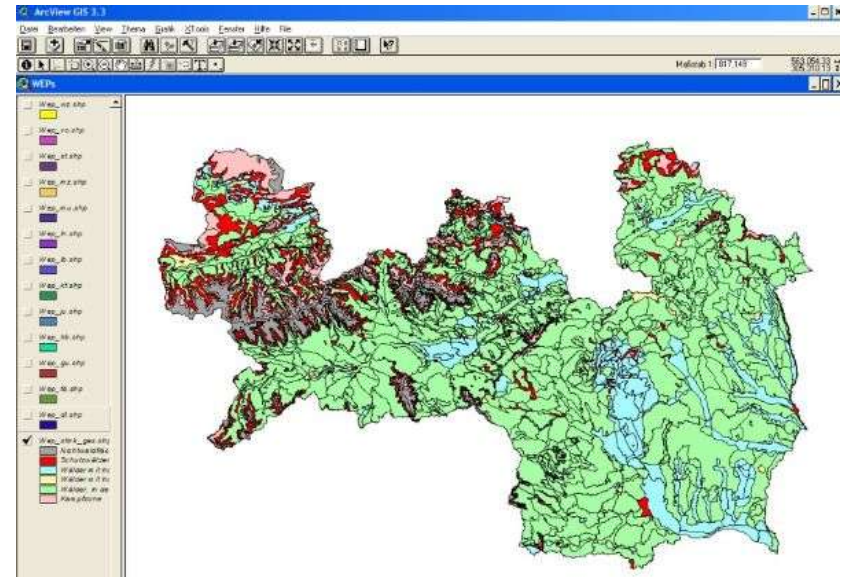
- Forestry in Austria has a long tradition
- Austria has a lot of experience in the field of forestry and sustainable forest management and land use planning
- The first comprehensive law was established in 1852 and already at that time sustainability of forests were fixed from different points of view.
- Main Goal: Maintaining the forest and the sustainability of its effects (productive, protective, environmental and recreational function)  
-> in force for public and private forests

# The Austrian Forest Act - Content



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- Definition of forest land
- Forest land-use planning
- Forest protection
- Recreational use
- Erosion control
- Logging and timber hauling
- Conservation of forests (prohibition of clearing, obligatory reforestation)
- Qualification of forest personnel
- Forest research
- Subsidies



# Forest Policy - major challenges



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- economic viability  
(small scale structure, mountainous terrain)
- mobilising timber resources
- globalisation
- multi-functionality
- natural hazard prevention and  
management of protective forests
- climate protection policy (carbon stocks)
- biological diversity
- damage control (game etc.)
- federalism



# Multi-Funktionality at the forest



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- The Austrian forest law recognises the sustainable use of the forest since 150 years
- In addition all forests in Austria has to fulfil the production, protection, recreation and "welfare" function at the same time. The priorities are different and are in a content to the situation in the field.
- We have strict regulations for the land use and many planning are done by our ministry.

# SFM in Austria incorporates...



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# The Protection Factor

As Austria is a mountainous region...



...protection from natural hazards is key

# The Economic Factor

- In terms of timber products



- In terms of non timber forest products



# The Recreation Factor

Tourism is an important national economy factor



Forests are a valid contributor

# The “Welfare” Factor

Freshwater, rural workplace, tradition and identity...



...are provided by Forests all over Austria

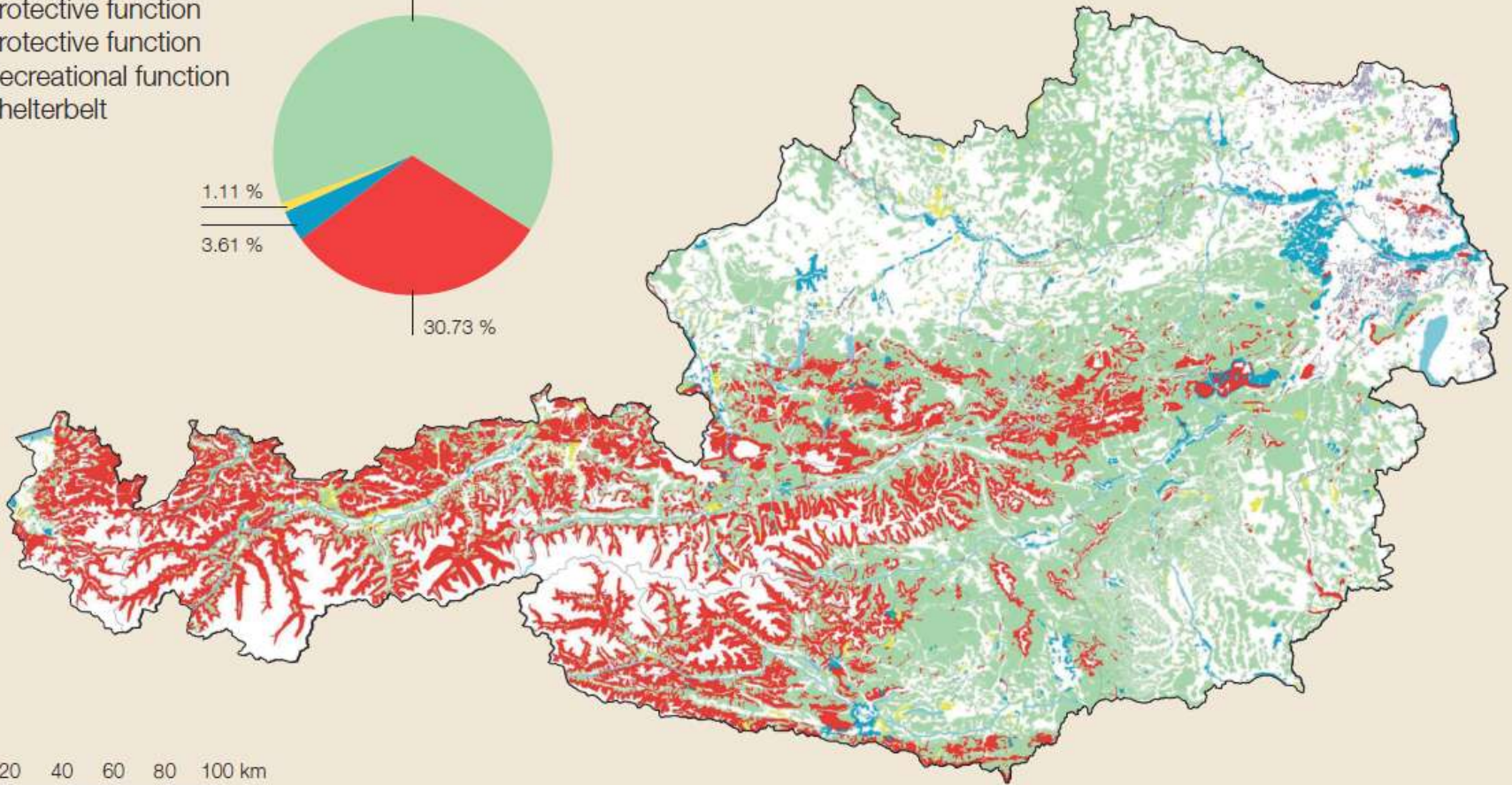
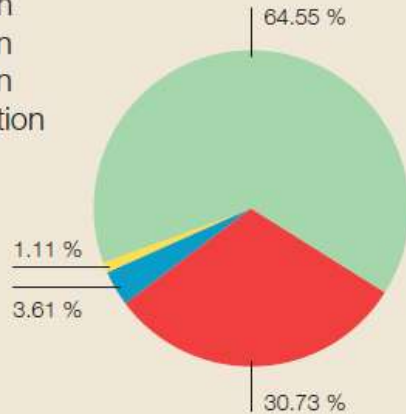
# Key Functions



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## Key functions of the Austrian forests (according to Forest Development Plan - FDP)

- Economic function
- Protective function
- Protective function
- Recreational function
- Shelterbelt



0 20 40 60 80 100 km



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Source: Ministry of Life 2011

# Future Aspects



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- Forests and rural development
- Forests and climate change
- Forests and renewable energy
- Forests and environment
- Forests and “green” jobs
- Forests and urbanisation



**Minister Nikolaus Berlakovich:**

**Preserve resources for the long term and  
ensure quality of life for us and our children!**

# Thank you for your attention!

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