

Forest Statistics, 2019

Tirana, 09 September 2020: In 2019 the forest and pasture fund of Albania covers a total area of 1,740,307 (ha) and 60.5 % of the total area of the country.

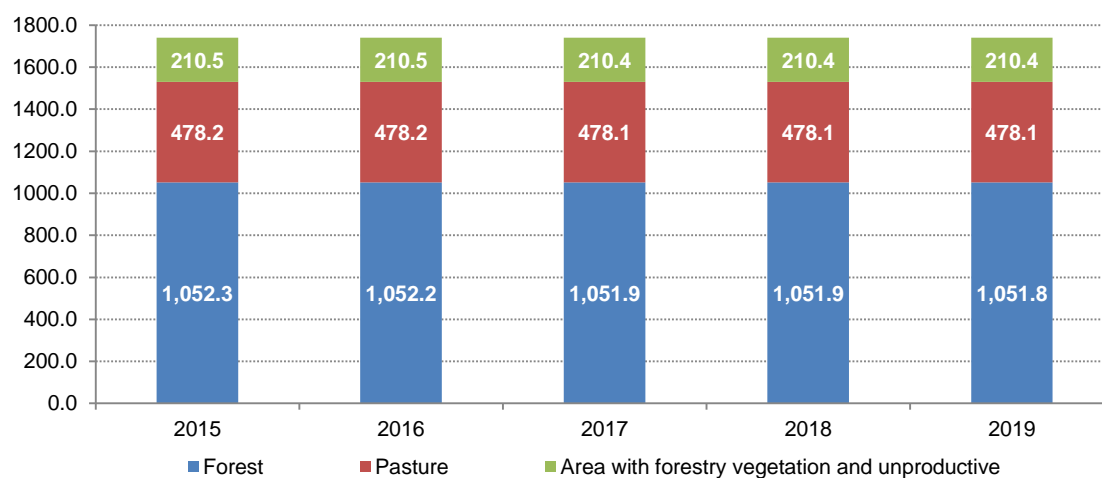
Tab.1 Cadastral Balance of Forest and Pasture Fund of Albania

Year	Forestry		Pasture		Area with forestry flora and Unproductive area		Total	
	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%
2015	1,052,253	60.4	478,188	27.5	210,456.3	12.1	1,740,897	100
2016	1,052,237	60.4	478,188	27.5	210,456.3	12.1	1,740,880	100
2017	1,051,871	60.4	478,081	27.5	210,387.8	12.1	1,740,339	100
2018	1,051,859	60.4	478,081	27.5	210,383.4	12.1	1,740,324	100
2019	1,051,843	60.4	478,081	27.5	210,382.5	12.1	1,740,307	100

In 2019 forests cover an area of 1,051,843 (ha) representing 60.4 % of the forest and pasture fund. Pastures and meadows have an area of 478,081 (ha) or 27.5 % of the forest and pasture fund. Areas with forest vegetation and unproductive that are part of the forest have occupied a 210.382 (ha) or 12.1 % of this fund.

On the surface of the forest and pasture fund in 2019, as a result of natural phenomena and human activities is noted a decrease by approximately 17 (ha) compared with 2018.

Fig. 1 Surface of the Forests and Pasture Fund (000/ha)

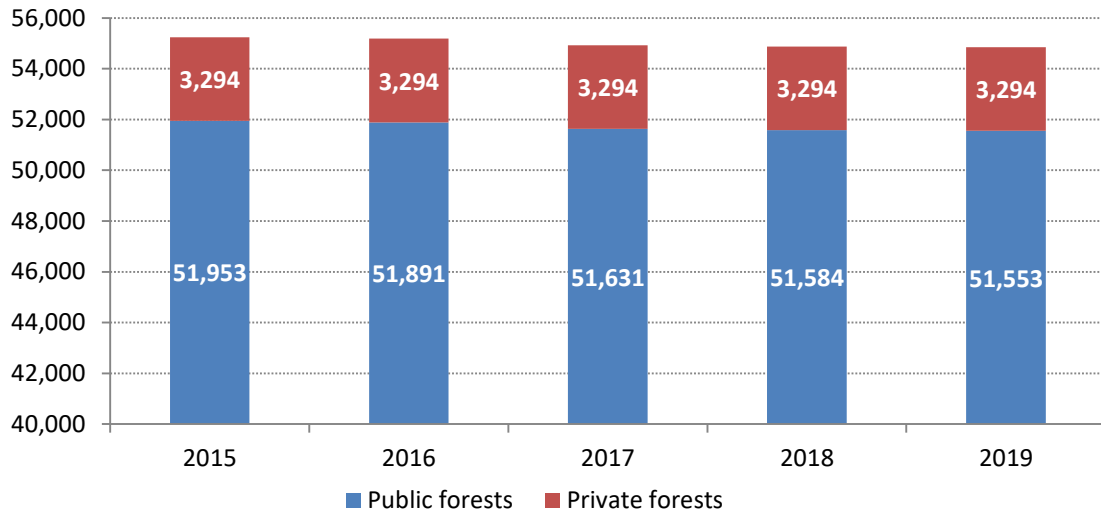


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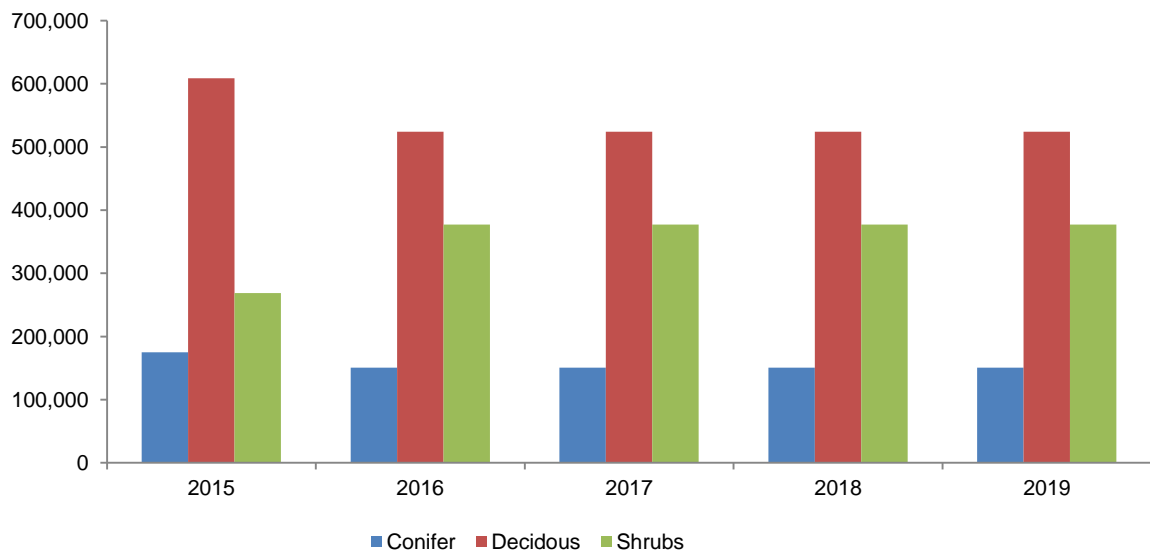
In 2019 the total forest volume was 54,846,686 (m3) and 94.0 % of this volume consisting from public forests and 6.0 % from private forests. As a result of exploitation and fires volume decreased by approximately 31,316 (m3) compared to 2018.

Fig. 2 Total Volume of Forestry (000/m3)



In 2019 in the forestry fund by species the largest surface is covered by deciduous with 49.8 % followed by shrubs 35.8 % and conifer 14.3 %.

Fig. 3 Forest Fund by Types Structure (ha)



Protected areas

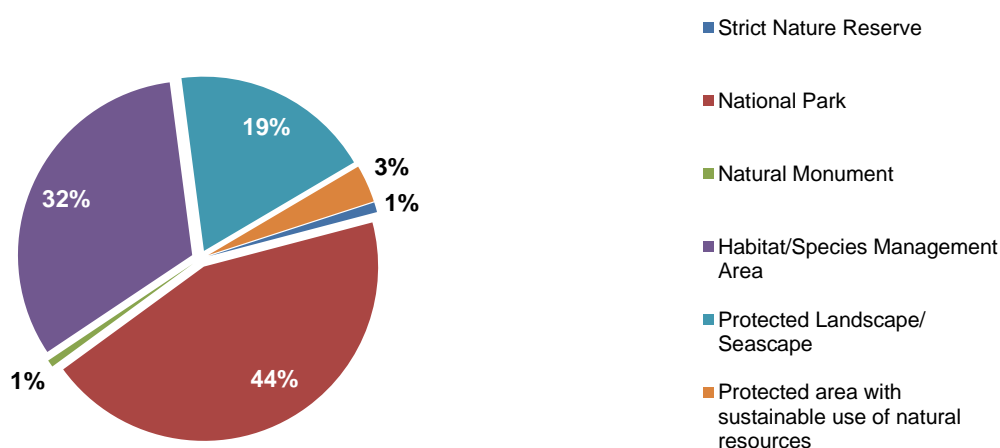
Protected natural and tourist areas in our country are considered as protected land and water areas due to the biodiversity of the natural and cultural assets they offer. They are divided into 6 categories by relevance:

Tab. 2 Number and area of protected areas

Categories of protected areas	Number/(Nr)					Area (Ha)				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Strict Nature Reserve	2	2	2	2	2	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
National Park	15	15	15	14	14	210,501	210,501	210,501	230,707	230,707
Natural Monument	750	750	750	750	725	3,470	3,470	3,470	3,470	3,470
Habitat/Species Management Area	24	24	24	25	25	144,685	144,685	144,685	169,275	169,275
Protected Landscape/Seascape	5	5	5	6	6	95,864	95,864	95,864	97,333	97,333
Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	4	4	4	4	4	18,245	18,245	18,245	18,245	18,245
Total	800	800	800	801	776	477,566	477,566	477,566	523,831	523,831

Protected areas in 2019 occupy a general area of 523 831 (ha), equivalent 30.0 % of the forest found and around 18.0 % of the total area of the country. In 2019 there were changes in the number of protected areas, as for the approval of the revised list of Albanian natural monuments, the review of this category has been done.

Fig. 4 Area of protected areas, by categories (%)



In 2019, the largest surface of protected areas is occupied by national parks by 44.0 % followed by Habitat/Species Management Area with 32.3 % Protected Landscape/ Seascape with 18.6 %, Habitat/Species Management Area 3.5 %, Strict Nature Reserve 0.9% and natural monuments 0.7 %.

Methodology

Data on forest and biodiversity statistics are based on administrative data on annual basis. The institution responsible for collecting this data is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other responsible institutions under its authority as the National Environment Agency

According to Council of Ministers Decision No 433, date 8.6.2016 on Transfer Ownership of Municipalities Forests and Public Pastures Information is collected in all the municipalities of the country which they have a legal obligation to report every three months to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

The legal basis for the collection forest and biodiversity statistics is the Law No. 17/2018 on Official Statistics and Official Statistics Program 2017 - 2021, applying the classifications and definitions according to the relevant EU regulations.

Definitions

Forest Cadastre: is an official document (register), where evidenced, reflected and updated initial data for each forestry unit or for catchment basins, data on periodic changes in volumes, surfaces and relevant maps.

Forest fund: are all forest and non-forest surfaces, forest and non-forest resources accompanying, relevant infrastructure, including bare surfaces, which create a harmonious environment with forests and forest land, rocks, dunes and sandbanks, defensive forests, isolated groups trees and shrubs.

Protected areas: (PA) can take on many different forms, such as national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas, nature reserves and privately owned reserves. According to IUCN, "A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values."