

**APPROVED**

by the Minister of Environment  
of the Republic of Lithuania  
Order of September 17, 2002, No. 484

**POLICY OF THE LITHUANIAN FORESTRY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY****I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Forest represent one of the major Lithuanian natural resources serving for the welfare of the state and its citizens, preserving the stability of the landscape and environment quality. Despite the forest ownership form, forest, primarily, is the national property that shall be preserved for the future generations at the same meeting the ecological, economic and social needs of the society. Being a source of supply with timber and other forest products, forest is the essential factor of the ecological balance providing living places for numerous animal and plant species, stopping the soil erosion, absorbing the carbon dioxide and purifying the air, protecting the ground and the surface waters, providing opportunities for recreation of the urban and rural people.

With the purpose of ensuring a sustainable forestry development, satisfying of the forest-related needs of various groups of the society, and ensuring preservation of forests for further generations, acknowledging a long forest growth duration, and taking into regard the differences of the ownership forms and their relationship, by promoting conditions for proper management of forests with the purpose of economic benefits for the country, a long-term forestry policy has been formed in Lithuania in compliance to the policies of other branches of the economy of the country, based on the traditions of the country and requirements of the European Union legal norms, international conventions, resolutions, agreements, programmes, and national legal acts.

The following instruments are used for the purpose of implementation of the forestry policy: well-organised, qualified forestry administration independent from any temporal political changes; the Forest Law and other legal acts; taxes revenues and financial support; education and training; management of the forestry information; public relations.

Following the principles and directions of forming of the Lithuanian forestry policy, the strategy of the Lithuanian Forestry development shall be implemented. The main objective of the Strategy is to define the major instruments for the implementation of the forestry policy for the period until the year of 2015.

**II. FORESTRY POLICY FORMING PRINCIPLES**

The Lithuanian forestry policy is being formed upon the following principles:

**1) responsibility for the continuous and sustainable use of the forest resources**

Considering the role of forests as the major source of the renewable natural resources for the society, the forestry policy ensures the responsibility of forest owners, forest governors and users for the state of forests and a sustainable use of resources and their restoration. The state, through the execution of the state regulating functions of all forests of the country, developing of the forest infrastructure, forest protection against the natural calamities, widespread diseases and pests, provides legal, financial and other preconditions for the preservation of forests, rational use of the forest resources, meeting the social needs of the society and for the environment protection;

**2) compliance to the national legal system and international agreements**

The Lithuanian forestry policy is formed following the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts, and also the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat, signed in 1979 in Bern, the Biodiversity Convention signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and Forest Protection Principles adopted at the United Nations conference "Environment and Development", the Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, and Lisbon 1998 resolutions of the Ministerial

Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe, the principles of the European Union forestry strategies, European Union directives on forestry and environment protection issues;

3) participation and co-operation of all interested groups of the society

The policy takes into regard the opinion of all interested groups of the society, complies and balances the interests of forest owners, forest governors and users, wood processors, environmental organisations, and other social groups related to forest and forestry-related economy. All major forestry policy statements shall be in compliance with separate stakeholders and submitted for public consideration of the society;

4) variety of forest ownership forms and their equality of rights

The equality of rights for economic activities in forests of all ownership forms is implemented. Equal legal and other conditions both for the management and economic activities in private as well as state-owned forests are created. During the development of the Lithuania forestry, the market economy relationship and free competition principles are strengthened at the private as well as in the state-owned forestry sector;

5) forestry complexity

Forestry is being developed in a complex manner upon the basis of multiple use taking into regard its significance and relations to the consumers of the forest products and services, wood processing industry structures as well as other groups of society having their interests in forests and forestry;

6) continuation of the forestry traditions

The Lithuanian forestry has traditions tested through the course of time, which are taken into consideration during the transfer of the experience of foreign countries. Forestry reforms and reorganisations, implementation of novelties on the forestry management and other issues shall be performed consistently, taking into consideration the practical know-how of the specialists, public opinion, and interests of the state.

### III. GUIDELINES OF THE FORESTRY POLICY

The Lithuanian forestry policy is being formed and implemented following four guidelines: general, economical, ecological, and social.

The general guideline of the Forestry Policy:

- 1) preservation and enrichment of the forest resources
- 2) ensuring of the variety of forest ownership forms
- 3) participation of the society in the solution of the major forestry issues
- 4) information to the society about the forests of the country, their condition and management
- 5) development education and research on forestry issues
- 6) strengthening and development of international relations

The economic guideline of the Forestry Policy

- 1) a rational, even and continuous use of the forest resources, increase of forest productivity, and improvement of the quality of the grown timber
- 2) increase of the economic efficiency of forestry

The ecological guideline of the Forestry Policy

- 1) ensuring of the sustainability of ecosystems
- 2) preservation of biodiversity and improvement of forest healthiness

The social guideline of the Forestry Policy:

- 1) meeting the general forest-related needs of the society
- 2) development of state and private forestry sectors in the context of rural development

#### IV. ANALYSIS OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR

Forests represent one of the most important Lithuanian natural resources having a fundamental economic, social and ecological significance.

At the present time, forests in Lithuania cover about 2 million hectares, or about 31 per cent of the territory of the country. The total timber volume accumulated in the forests of the country reaches 371.7 million m<sup>3</sup>. Forest area per one inhabitant of the country reach 0.57 hectare or 106 m<sup>3</sup> of timber volume accordingly. The forest resources permanently increased during the last fifty years and, at present time, they are sufficient for ensuring a balanced fulfilment of the public needs.

*Strengths: Sufficient forest resources for ensuring a balanced fulfilment of the public needs and forestry development*

The forests of strict reserves, special-purpose (ecosystem protection and recreational) forests, and protective forests cover 571 thousand hectares or 28.3% of the total forest area of the country. About 19% of all Lithuanian forests are under protected territories, with forests at the same time making up about 50 % of the total protected areas. The Lithuanian forests can be described for a variety of species and mixtures.

*Strengths: Substantial forest areas for forest ecosystem, soil, air, and water protection, recreation, performing of other ecological and social functions*

71.1 % of forest lands are covered by the fourth-group (commercial) forests, in which the main objective of the economic activities is to form productive forest stands for a permanent timber supply. The average site class quality is 2.0, the stocking level 0.71, growing stock volume – 193 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, with the average current increment reaching 6.1 m<sup>3</sup>/ha annually.

It shall be noted that the annual felling amount in the forests of the country was 3.0-3.2 million m<sup>3</sup> 10 years ago. Due to the increasing areas of premature and mature forest stands and their volumes in the forests of the country, forest cutting volumes are gradually increasing. During the recent years, about 5 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber was cut in the Lithuanian forests annually, whereas the total annual current timber increment reached 11.7 million m<sup>3</sup>. Forest cutting volumes might reach 6-6.5 million m<sup>3</sup> per year in the nearest future.

*Strengths: Productive forest stands predominate, and forest felling volumes enable to ensure the supply of the industry and inhabitants with local forest materials, export of wood products and raw material*

At present, there are about 400-500 thousand hectares of abandoned and unusable agricultural land, exploited pits and peat-bogs as well as other abandoned land plots, which could be afforested. In such a way the forest cover of Lithuania would be increased by several per cent and approximate the forest cover of other Baltic countries. This would ensure an economically rational use of uncultivated and poor-quality lands.

*Opportunity: After planting of forests on poor-quality and abandoned lands, the Lithuanian forest cover would increase by several per cent and approximate the forest cover of other Baltic countries*

In Lithuania, forest seedlings are grown at more than 500 nurseries. The majority of these nurseries are small-size and non-perspective and the quality of the forest seedlings grown in some of the nurseries do not comply to quality requirements because an efficient use of modern machinery and application of advanced forest seedlings growing technologies is impossible in small-size nurseries. The majority of the nurseries produce little of the deciduous trees, ornithochoric trees and bushes, the variety of forest plants is poor for the increase of the forest biodiversity and establishment of new forests in the agricultural land.

**Weakness:** *Small-size nurseries do not ensure quality of seedlings, their growing costs are high, limited possibilities for use of modern machinery and application of advanced technologies; the majority of the nurseries produce insufficient assortment of the deciduous trees and bushes*

Following the results of long-term forest condition observations (regional forest monitoring in Lithuania is performed since 1987) the condition of all kinds of trees deteriorated till 1995. A tendency of forest condition improvement was observed from 1995. At present moment, the general condition of the deciduous trees is worse if compared to the condition of the coniferous. The same is observed in other European countries. If compared to other European countries, the condition of the Lithuanian forests is average.

**Opportunity:** *Due to the decrease of air pollution and by applying the necessary forest pest, disease and other forest damaging factor prevention means, the condition of the Lithuanian forests could further improve*

State forest inventory is performed at all forests of the country. Upon this data, state cadaster (register) of forests is performed which covers the data about forests, their ownership, forest resource quantity and quality as well as the economic value. This data is actualised periodically and is used for the strategic forestry planning. All forest holdings have forest management plans upon which the forestry is organised and all reforestation, forest use, and forest land management activities are performed.

**Strengths:** *All Lithuanian forests and their resources are inventoried data periodically actualised and used for the forestry practice*

The ownership structure of the Lithuanian forests changes due to the ongoing Land (and forest) Reform. According to the Forest Law of the Republic of Lithuania, forest can belong both to the state, and also to the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania on the basis of private ownership. On January 01, 2002, there was 521 thousand hectares of private forests, or 26% of the total forest area of the country. It has been estimated that private forests will make about 40-45 per cent of the total forest area of the country after completion of the Land (forest) Reform.

**Opportunity:** *Private forest ownership creates conditions for forming of the forestland market and competition in the forest sector of the country as well as in the foreign markets*

The Land (forest) Reform lasts for ten years already. However, the ownership rights were restored to half of the forests areas only, i.e. for the areas in which private ownership rights could be restored. About 500 thousand hectares of forests are reserved for the restitution of the ownership rights and there are no economic or commercial activities performed in these areas. This is why the forest resources of the country are used insufficiently.

**Weakness:** *A slow-proceeding Land (forest) Reform due to which the forest resources of the country are used insufficiently*

During the course of the Land (forest) Reform, small forest ownerships emerged (as for January 01, 2002, the average size of a private forest holding was about 4.4 ha), the network of forest owners co-operatives and other economic entities developed very slowly, and the Lithuanian Forest Owners Association covers only a very small number of the total forest owners. At present time, a quarter, and after the completion of the reform- almost a half of the Lithuanian forests with all their functions they perform will be managed by private forest owners, the estates of which are small-sized, giving little income, their forest management knowledge is insufficient, and the ownership duty concept is poorly developed for ensuring a observance of the sustainable forest management principles.

**Weakness:** *Small-sized private forest holdings, weak co-operation of forest owners and lack of forestry know-how hinder the development of private forestry.*

Lithuania has a common fire emergency and sanitary forest protection system, which now ensures fire emergency and sanitary protection of all forests of the country completely. This system has been developed and adopted to big forest management entitles, and primarily to the state forest enterprises. Due to the increase of small-sized private forest estates, this system might be insufficiently efficient in ensuring fire-emergency and sanitary protection to all forest ownership forms.

**Threat:** *Due the increasing number of small-sized private forest estates, the existing forest fire-emergency and sanitary protection system may become inefficient.*

Forestry is important branch of the Lithuanian economy. The surplus value of the Lithuanian forest sector (forestry, together with wood industry, including timber and wood product production, fibre, paper and paper items, furniture production) made 3.6 % in 2001, with the forestry sector sharing about 0.6% of the GDP. Forestry activities are not subsidised from the state budget. At present, the state forest enterprises act like state enterprises upon the Law of State and Municipal Enterprises and pay all taxes foreseen to the state enterprises. The state forest enterprises give about 100-130 million LTL to the state budget in forms of various taxes and deductions.

**Strengths:** *Forestry activities do not need to be subsidised from the state budget.*

The increasing areas of private forest decrease respectively the state forest areas managed by state forest enterprises. Some state forest enterprises become too small in size for performing efficient economic activities and for ensuring implementation of all reforestation, forest protection, and maintenance instruments.

**Threat:** *Due to the decrease of state forest areas, part of the state forest enterprises may become economically inefficient.*

Forestry specialists with university, college, and secondary-school level education have been prepared from the third decade of the last century in Lithuania. Qualified forestry personnel education traditions have almost eighty years. The greater part of the forestry study graduates work in the forestry sector. For example, about 60 per cent of the 1990-2000 year graduates of the Lithuanian Agricultural University, Forest Faculty work at state forest enterprises or other forestry-related enterprises and organisations. The general qualification of the specialists working in the forestry sector is high enough now.

**Strengths:** *A sufficiently high qualification of the specialists working in the forestry sector*

The wood cut in the Lithuanian forests is prepared in assortments most often, its transportation using forwarders and self-loading trailers is increasing. In 2000, the state forest enterprises prepared about 96 per cent of timber in assortments, and only 4 per cent in stems or semi-stems. Almost two-thirds of the timber produced at state forest enterprises were transported out of forests using forwarders or self-loading trailers.

**Strengths:** *State forest enterprises use rational timber harvesting technologies and modern machinery*

There are about 30 thousand kilometres of forest roads in the country. This road network is well-maintained with about 20 per cent of the total road network repaired and with about 100 km new forest roads constructed annually. Such a wide and permanently maintained and renewed road network creates good conditions for timber harvesting works and arrangements of timber sales.

**Strengths:** *A sufficient road network for the forestry development*

The state forest enterprises and administrations of the national parks use the services of contractors for timber harvesting, reforestation and thinning development widely. The contractor-based work volumes increase in all of the above-mentioned forestry activities. In 2000, the contractors cut 87 per cent of trees in the state forest enterprises, and extracted out of felling sites about 32 per cent of all harvested timber. During the same year, the contractors planted 71 per cent of the total reforestation areas and landed 62 per cent of the thinning areas.

**Opportunity:** *Increasing contractor work volumes create favourable conditions for development of private contractor companies*

The greater part of the prepared roundwood is sold for the local market with quite a significant quantity exported. In 2001, 1.3 million m<sup>3</sup> of the round wood and about 750 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of sawn timber products was exported abroad (this quantity equals to approximately two-thirds of the total sawn-timber produced in the country). The volumes of imported round wood are very insignificant.

**Opportunity:** *Favourable geographical location of the country for the development of foreign trade in wood products*

**Weakness:** *Too big exports of round and primarily-processed wood*

Pulpwood makes up the majority of the exported round wood, the possibilities of the use of which are very limited in the country. At the present time, the exports of the pulpwood reached 1 million m<sup>3</sup> per year. Other types of small-sized round wood and residual products are not used efficiently in the country.

**Weakness:** *Inefficiently developed timber industry of the country*

With the support of foreign countries and international funds various international projects have been implemented on the forestry development issues in Lithuania. During the preparation for the European Union membership, the accession states receive support from the accession support initiatives, and after Lithuania becomes member, it will have an opportunity to use the structural funds of the European Union.

**Opportunity:** *Use of the support of foreign countries, international and European Union structural funds for the development of the forest sector*

## V. VISION

The Lithuanian forests – a natural element of the Lithuanian landscape distinguishing for their healthiness, biodiversity, productivity and stability, supplying with timber and other wood products, providing home for numerous animal and plant species, stopping soil erosion, absorbing carbon dioxide and purifying the air, protecting ground and surface waters, satisfying other balanced ecological, economical, and social public needs.

The Lithuanian forestry - a modern, market-oriented branch of the country's economy rationally using and increasing the forest resources, having a developed infrastructure and qualified personnel, applying modern technologies, creating working places and cosy living surroundings.

## VI. MISSION OF THE STATE

- To form and implement a rational forestry development policy, which would ensure ecologically, economically and socially balanced development of the forestry sector.
- To ensure the stability of the forest ecosystems, preservation of the biodiversity, increase of the forest productivity, improvement of their quality and healthiness.
- To preserve the valuable forest genetic fund by using the national forest genetic resources for the establishing and creating of new objects of forest seed basis.
- To increase the forest cover of Lithuania by planting forests on uncultivated and poor-quality soils as well as other non-used land areas where forest planting would contribute to the formation of the Lithuanian natural carcass.
- To ensure the variety of forest ownership forms and the efficiency of forestry state regulation.
- To ensure meeting of the general forest-related social needs of the society.
- To create a favourable legal, economic and institutional environment for the effective and competitive functioning of the forest economy, wood industry and a variety of forest business enterprises in a free market.
- To encourage innovations, competitiveness, development of markets and establishment of working places.
- To ensure the maintenance of the scientific potential and its rational application as well as the preparation of high-qualification forestry specialists.

## VII. STRATEGIC FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

### 1. Preservation and increase of the forest resources

- 1.1. A rational use of the forest resources by decreasing the share of clear-cutting, forming and establishing ecologically stable forest stands and restoring them in a timely manner.
- 1.2. Limitation of forest areas conversion into other purpose lands by applying legal and administrative means.
- 1.3. Establishing of new forests, increase of the Lithuanian forest cover by 3% during the next 20 years with the purpose of increasing the ecological stability of the country and ensuring the role of forests in the general rural development (incomes, work places, social and economic stability) as well as economically rational use of uncultivated and poor-quality soils taking into regard the environmental, landscape formation, protection of the cultural heritage, tourism development and other factors.

### 2. Ensuring of the forest ownership variety

- 2.1. Creation of the legal conditions for the provision of the forest ownership rights to the Lithuanian and foreign natural and legal persons.
- 2.2. Creation of equal legal conditions for natural and legal persons after the completion of the Land (and forest) Reform to obtain former reserved forest for the restitution of the ownership rights not taken by the owners, the forests which are not rational for the use of the state forest managers, and providing a priority to the state in protected areas.

- 2.3. Correction of small-area state forests interfering into larger private forest ownership areas and vice versa as well as correction of non-rational boundaries between the forests of the state and the private sector through equivalent forest property exchanges.
- 2.4. Development of private forest owners training, consulting and education system and preparation of separate education and training programmes using the existing potential of private forest owner self-governing organisations, forest research and training, consulting and education institutions.
- 2.5. Creation of legal and economic preconditions promoting merging of small-sized forest holdings, association and co-operation of the forest owners.

### **3. Participation of the society in the solution of the major forestry issues**

- 3.1. Performing of public opinion polls and sociological researches, organising of discussions in the periodical press and other means of mass media on the forestry issues, analysis and application of the obtained information at taking the state-governing decisions.
- 3.2. Co-operation of foresters and interested groups of the society for co-ordination of forestry development and solving problematic forestry issues.

### **4. Informing of the society about the forests of the country, their condition and management**

- 4.1. Improvement of a continuous and periodical forest resource and condition monitoring system and forestry sector statistics taking into consideration the criteria and indicators adopted by the European Union.
- 4.2. Preparation of a common forestry information supply system by joining databases existing at separate institutions into a common system and by creating necessary databases foreseeing information exchange not only inside the forestry sector, but with the outside information users as well.
- 4.3. Systematic presentation of information about the condition of state-owned and private forests and forestry in official periodical publications and through other mass media, as well as by issuing special statistical publications.
- 4.4. Popularisation of forest science and education activities.

### **5. Development of forest research and forest education**

- 5.1. Establishing of the fundamental and applied scientific research priorities for forest and wood industry, implementation and development of research by ensuring the maintenance of the existing forest research potential and its rational application.
- 5.2. Co-operation of the Lithuanian forest education and university, high-school non-university and professional training organisations seeking a more efficient research development and application of results for practice and training, involvement of young specialists into scientific activities.
- 5.3. Actualisation of the university, high-school non-university and professional training school programmes paying a greater attention for teaching of the market economy basics, sustainable forest management principles, application of modern technologies and use of machinery, and other urgent forest education areas.
- 5.4. Preparation of long-term co-operation programmes between research and education organisations of the Baltic and the European Union countries foreseeing teacher and student exchanges, training and research programme opportunities abroad.

### **6. Strengthening and development of international relations**

- 6.1. Co-ordination of the Lithuanian legal acts, regulating the forestry activities according to the requirements of international documents, taking into regard the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat, signed in 1979 in Bern, Biodiversity Convention signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and Forest Protection Principles adopted at the United Nations conference "Environment and Development", the Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, and Lisbon 1998 resolutions of the Ministerial Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe, the principles of the European Union forestry policies and strategies, European Union directives on forestry and environment protection issues.

- 6.2. Setting of priorities for co-operation with the foreign countries, preparation of a programme for practical co-operation.
  - 6.3. Implementation of changes related to the enlargement of the European Union taking into consideration the requirements of international resolutions, conventions and agreements, and in co-operation with international organisations.
  - 6.4. Information and know-how exchange on the forestry issues with international organisations and individual foreign countries with the purpose of a mutually beneficial use of information.
- 7. Rational, sustainable and continuous use of the forest resources and increase of the forest productivity**
- 7.1. Differentiated use of the forest resources upon forest groups and categories, aimed at economically valuable forest stand formation at IV and III group forests, giving a priority for the preservation of the nature values in II and I forest groups.
  - 7.2. Implementation of forest management activities in forests based on forest management plans and requirements of forest research.
  - 7.3. Control of forest resource use at forests of all ownership forms taking into regard the actual timber increment, tree species composition and age structure, and seeking a continuous use.
  - 7.4. Application of forest tree breeding means, thinning, improvement of forest infrastructure (roads, ditches, technological lines and routes) and improvement of the economic instruments, taking into regard the requirements for sustainable forest management and the abundance of small-sized private forest holdings.
  - 7.5. Improvement of forest protection against plundering and thefts with a deeper differentiation into legal liability and by developing forest protection structures.
- 8. Improvement of the economic efficiency of forestry**
- 8.1. Optimising of forestry state regulation system by preparing and implementing an optimal forestry state regulation model based on the Lithuanian forestry traditions, European Union requirements as well as the Lithuanian and foreign countries' forestry administration systems legal and economic situation analysis.
  - 8.2. Increase of efficiency of the companies involved in forest commercial activities by preparing and implementing optimal economic activity organisation models in forests.
  - 8.3. Improvement of complex forest management activities in state forests, including reforestation, maintenance, protection, rational use of forest resources, trade in round wood and other forest resources as well as low-quality wood and fuel-wood selling as non-cut forest.
  - 8.4. Improvement of the taxation system in the forestry sector taking into regard market economy conditions.
  - 8.5. Renewal of forest management activities in the forests reserved for the restitution of the ownership rights seeking to include these, as soon as possible, into forest resource use and ensure forestry incomes from these forests after the completion of the Land (forest) Reform.
  - 8.6. Use of more economically efficient forest machinery and technologies by applying of low-cost demanding and ecologically-sound forestry management systems (for example, the natural regeneration).
  - 8.7. Increase of the size of forest nurseries and their modernisation seeking to ensure the quality of the forest seedlings, decrease their growing costs, as well as to use modern and advanced forest seedlings growing technologies.
  - 8.8. Increase of a rational use of small-sized wood and felling residues inside the domestic market by developing the capacity of the wood processing industry and use of this type of wood for the energetic purposes.
  - 8.9. Introduction of a compensation system for the forest owners for their losses due to the restrictions of forest management activities in the protected areas under establishment.
  - 8.10. Promotion of investments into the forest products production and marketing.
  - 8.11. Promotion of wood product exports.

**9. Ensuring of sustainability of forest ecosystems**

- 9.1. Preparation of the scientifically-based normative proposals for the co-ordination of economic and social issues during the establishment of protected areas, revising the existing boundaries and establishing a related economic regime in these forests.
- 9.2. Inventory of natural and semi-natural forests (based on FAO classification), a more exact clarification of their protection regime and establishment of new protected territories primarily at the most valuable natural object habitats.
- 9.3. Restoration of the ecological value of degraded forest ecosystems.

**10. Preservation of the biodiversity and improvement of forest healthiness**

- 10.1. Improvement of register and protection of rare and extinction plant and animal species and their habitats.
- 10.2. Reforestation and forest planting upon the ecological-genetic basis, planting more of mixed plantations, hard deciduous, combining afforestation with the natural regeneration, paying a special attention to the formation of sustainable forest edges.
- 10.3. Increase of the assortment of forest nurseries' production seeking to ensure the stability of the planted forests and preservation of the biodiversity.
- 10.4. Distinguishing of basic valuable forest populations in the each natural forest region by preserving the natural species and genetic structure through a natural use of the genetic resources for reproduction.
- 10.5. Improvement of the unified forest fire-emergency and sanitary forest protection systems on the national level taking into consideration the abundance of small-sized private forest holdings.
- 10.6. Reduce of chemical forest protection means and their replacement with biological and mechanical means.
- 10.7. A rational use of the game animal resources with the purpose of balancing their numbers in populations, reduction of their damage for forests, and other requirements.

**11. Satisfying of the general forest-related society needs**

- 11.1. Co-ordination of forest visiting regulation taking into regard the needs of forest owners and the whole society.
- 11.2. Development of the cognitive recreation and tourism infrastructure in the forests.
- 11.3. Ensuring of the preservation of the cultural heritage objects in state-owned and private forests, taking a special regard to the specifics of small-sized forest holdings.
- 11.4. Promotion of women employment in the forestry sector.

**12. Development of state and private forestry in the context of the general rural development**

- 12.1. Creation of new working places in the forestry sector by developing various forest businesses, economical promotion of these businesses (subsidies, preferential credits, tax privileges and etc.) in the rural development context.
- 12.2. Promotion of recreational, hunting and other service providing to the society and promotion of non-wood forest product development in the private and state forestry sector.
- 12.3. Improvement of the social security for those working in the forest sector seeking to create better work safety conditions for both state and private forestry sector.
- 12.4. Integration of private forestry development into the general rural development programmes co-ordinating the activities with the rural self-governing institutions.

**VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

A plan of actions and measure shall be concluded for the implementation of the strategic forestry development objectives which shall include definite actions and means for the development of separate strategic objectives establishing the period for the implementation of these means and defining the executives in charge.

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**IN COMPLIANCE WITH**  
*Minister of Economics of the Republic of Lithuania*

*Petras Čėsna, 2002*

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH**  
*Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania*

*Jeronimas Kraujelis, 2002*