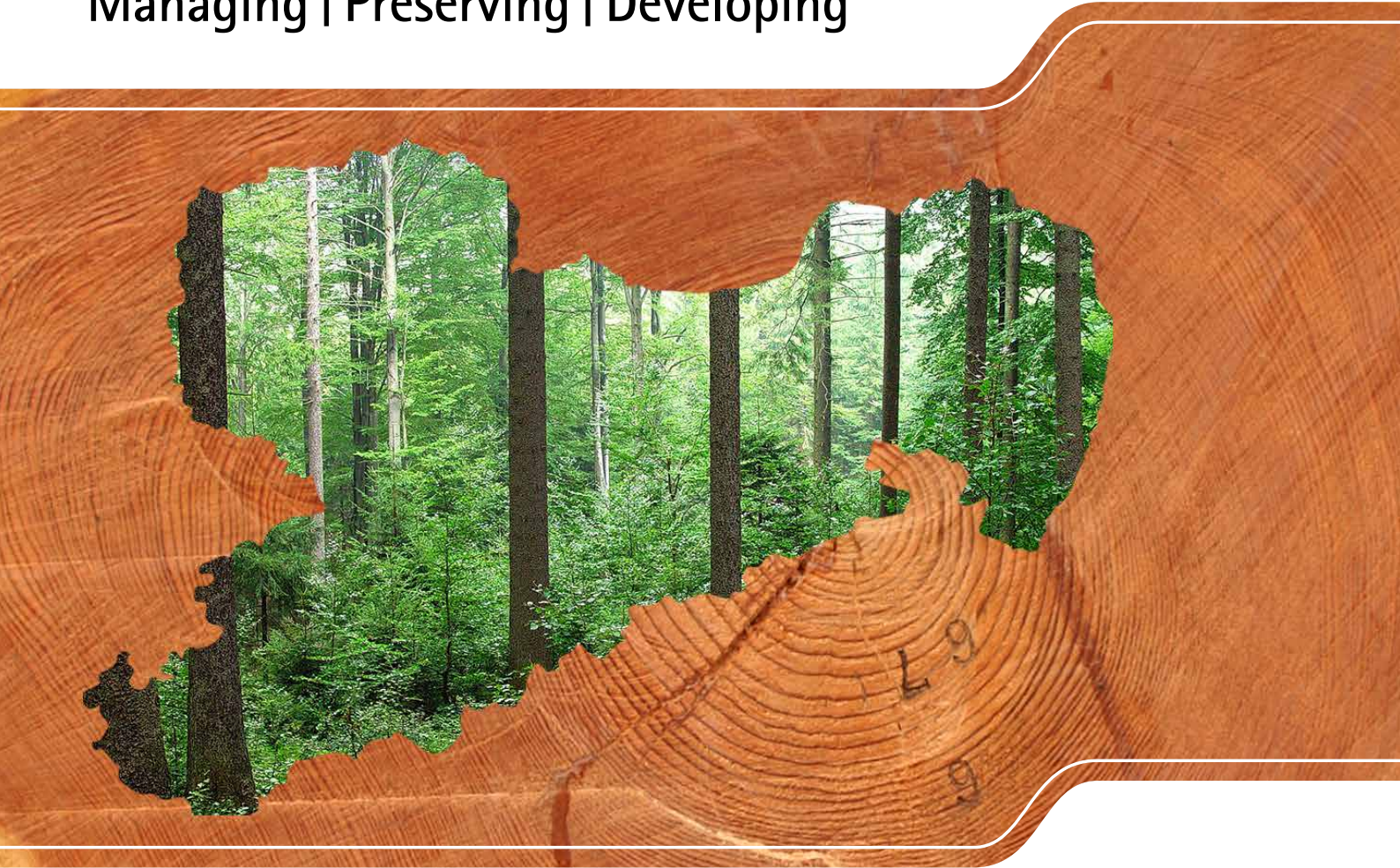


STAATSBETRIEB
SACHSENFORST



Freistaat
SACHSEN

Managing | Preserving | Developing



Sachsenforst

Over 300 years ago, Freiberg chief mining administrator Hans Carl von Carlowitz introduced the term and principle of "sustainability" into our business life. Today, this principle has significantly broadened its scope. At Sachsenforst, our daily work in the forest takes into consideration sustainable utilisation, as well as the needs of those seeking recreation and conservation aspects.



The forest is habitat of numerous plants and animals, while simultaneously serving as a place of recreation for many people. Timber, a regionally available, renewable raw material, is also produced in this forest. But these elementary requirements cannot always be met equally. Multi-purpose forestry also means having a mutual understanding and to compromise.

With an ecological forest conversion, we are helping the sensitive forest ecosystem to adapt to climate change. We improve its protective function, and preserve and develop fragile landscapes. In the state forest, we also use state-of-the-art, soil-friendly forestry technology, as well as efficient, modern organisational structures, to increase our profitability. Many small and medium-sized businesses benefit from forestry work.

Eco-tourism is a priority on the agenda of Saxony's large nature reserves. Here as well as across the entire state forest, we impart environmental knowledge and awareness to young and old. Interested private and corporate forest owners receive advice and assistance from us on how to properly manage their forests.

The basis of information applied to sustainable management of all forest properties is constantly being expanded at our Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry.

Forestry in Saxony has a tradition of having an eye to the future. "Managing, preserving, developing" is what our daily work is all about.

*Prof. Dr. Hubert Braun,
Landesforstpräsident
(Managing Director)*



Sachsenforst's tasks are as varied as Saxony's forests themselves. In addition to managing the state forest*, Sachsenforst also bears responsibility for the large nature reserves, and provides extensive forest-related information gained from forest research and environmental monitoring. As a Superior Authority for Forests and Hunting, Sachsenforst helps to ensure that the legal regulations affecting the forest are complied with, and consequently that the forest can fulfil its many functions in future.

The Public Enterprise Sachsenforst founded on 1 January 2006 is the product of the former state forest administration and the Saxon forestry offices. It is part of the Saxon public administration as a special superior state authority.

Its headquarters, located in Pirna/Graupa, includes the General Management, the Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry, as well as the Superior Forests and Hunting Authority. The operational level is split into twelve forest districts and three nature reserve administrations with a total of 181 forest stations. Sachsenforst also encompasses one forestry apprenticeship and further training centre, three forest schools, two machinery stations, one seed kiln, three forest-tree nurseries and the Moritzburg wildlife park. Sachsenforst currently employs around 1,450 staff, who, along with the outsourced services, make it one of the biggest rural employers. Sachsenforst is supervised by the Saxon State Ministry for the Environment and Agriculture (SMUL) and its administrative board.



* The term "state forest" as used in this publication exclusively denotes the forest owned by the Free State of Saxony.

Managing, preserving, developing

We're taking responsibility preserving Saxony's forest, with its functional and structural diversity, and constantly adapt it to changing environmental conditions!

The forest as a whole

We increase our profitability in the state forest while preserving the consistency of all its functions!

Usage

We improve protective functions, and preserve and develop fragile landscapes within the state forest and in the nature reserves we monitor!

Preserving

We maintain and increase the recreation facilities in our forest and nature reserves in line with public needs, promote environmental awareness, and support eco-tourism!

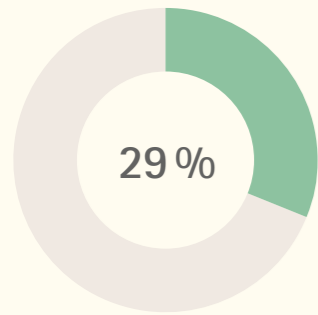
Recreation

We help private and corporate forest owners to manage their forests!

Private and corporate forests

We develop the information basis for sustainable management of all forest properties!

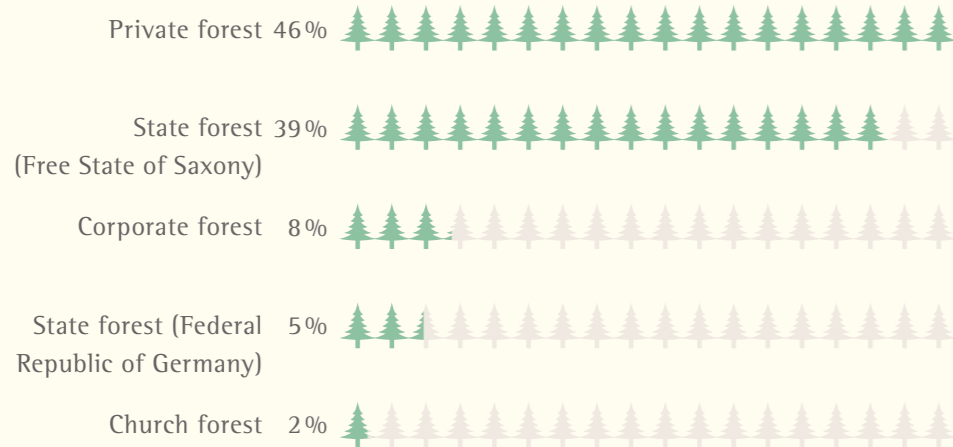
Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry



of Saxony's total area is forest. This corresponds to

533,000 hectares.

Who owns Saxony's forests?



15,000

consultations performed every year with over 8,000 private forest owners.



75,000

interested learners make use of our forest education services every year.

Sachsenforst are:

1,454

employees, including

145

trainees

12

forest districts

3

nature reserve administrations

181

forest stations



13,000 km

of trails are available to visitors in the state forest.



invested every year in forest conversion and remedy of forest damage.



spent on average per year on conservation.

800

Over identified biotope tree groups which have been preserved create a habitat for many different species in the state forest, and help to increase biodiversity.



64 million m³

of timber in the state forest.



12.2 m³ of timber

grow in one hectare of forest every year.



Around **1.3 million m³**

used every year as part of forest maintenance and timber harvesting.

On approx. **1,200 hectares**

we plant and sow a new generation of trees every year as part of the forest conversion scheme. In terms of plants, that means:



3 million European beeches

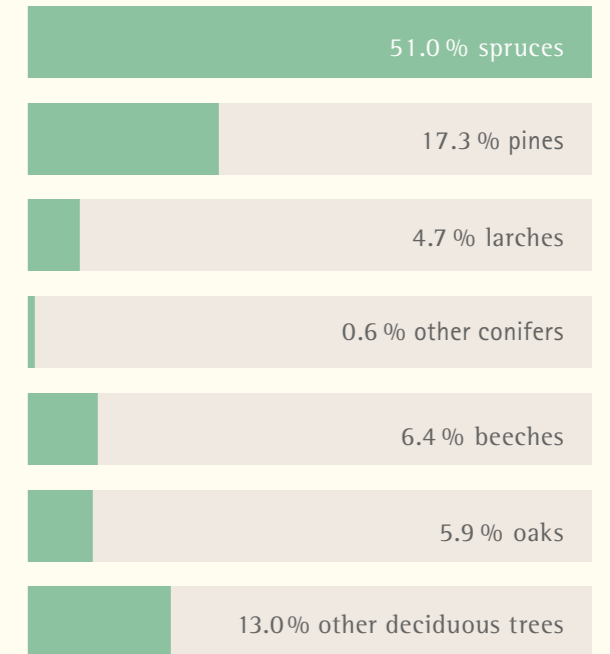


1 million oaks



1 million silver firs

Which types of trees grow in the state forest?



Sources: German Federal Forest Inventory 2012, Management Report 2015



Romi Seibel works in the management's HR division. Together with her colleagues, she looks after Sachsenforst's 1,450 staff, and ensures all the talent and diligent hands remain in the company.



Florian Strauß works as a forester in the Neustadt forest district and, like many of our specialists, learned his profession at Sachsenforst. His tasks include planting, forest maintenance, timber harvesting and building recreation facilities.



District forest official **Janina Albrecht** runs the Glauchau forest station in the Chemnitz forest district, where she is the first contact person for local private and municipal forest owners seeking information and advice on forest management.



Lorenz Richter watches over the animals and plants in the biosphere reserve Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft as a ranger. He knows all the region's unique habitats and rare species, explaining their importance to many visitors on tours through the nature reserve.



As head of the Oberlausitz forest district, **Holm Karraß** is responsible for almost 130,000 hectares of forest and some 60 staff. Together, they ensure that the forests can fulfil its utilisation, protective and recreational functions, both today and in the future.



Ulrike Gemballa is a member of the research team to help Saxony's forests at the Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry. She works in the laboratory, examining environmental impacts on forest soils, and therefore on tree growth.



The landscapes in many regions of Saxony are dominated by forests. It is part of our culture, represents a yearning for nature, but is also an important economic factor. Humans have long held significantly influenced the forest's appearance by using its resources, particularly timber.

According to our legally stated exemplary function, we manage Saxony's state forest properly, harmoniously and sustainably.

MANAGING

We're planting the future



The forest is changing. There are historic reasons for the pure spruces and pine plantations, which continue to characterise Saxony's forests until today: In line with the social requirements of the time, these tree species supplied the necessary construction and industrial timber quickly and with relatively little production expenses. Coupled with this, seeds for deciduous tree species were only available to a very limited extent.

In future we will face new challenges. Forests need to be more adaptable, particularly due to the ongoing climate change. A semi-natural mixed forest of coniferous and deciduous species, for example, is more resistant to storms, wild fires and harmful insects, such as various bark beetles and butterflies. It also provides a habitat for a lot more types of plants and animals.

The conversion needed to change the composition of the forests requires time and patience – it's a task for generations. Sachsenforst is helping with this conversion, which will see appropriate mixed forests established over some 1,200 hectares in the Saxon state forest alone every year. Million young trees, particularly European beeches, oaks, sycamores and silver firs, will also be planted or sown, resulting in some 15 million Euros being invested in the future of Saxony's forests every year.

We're securing a balance

Hunting also plays a key role in securing the investments in forest conversion. It guarantees the maintenance of an ecological and economic balance in terms of game numbers. Sachsenforst is striving for woods, able to rejuvenate themselves naturally by spreading their own seeds and largely without any additional protective measures against damage from bud browsing and bark peeling (e.g. fences).

The large, herbivorous wild animals (in Saxony primarily red and roe deer) often cause significant damage to the trees as a result of bark peeling, rubbing off velvet or browsing. Heavily affected forests are then particularly susceptible to other harmful factors, such as bark beetles or storms.

Bark peeling = gnawing and removing the trunk bark

- ▶ rotting caused by fungi, tree weakening, in some cases extreme decrease in timber quality

Rubbing off velvet = the male animals rubbing off the protective skin (velvet) on their newly grown antlers on the trunks of young trees

- ▶ bark damage, growth limitations and even dieback

Browsing = biting off buds and leaves

- ▶ delayed growth or dieback of plants, lack of mixed tree species in the next generation

Sachsenforst has put in place a comprehensive monitoring system to protect Saxony's forest. Numerous kinds of environmental data (climate data, soil condition, plant nutrients) are collected and used to draw conclusions about the forest management. Sachsenforst's staff constantly monitor major forest pests to determine potential hazards, and take appropriate measures to prevent and combat these.



We manage sustainably

Humans have been using timber for millennia. A simple principle must be observed to ensure that this popular, long-lasting, native, renewable natural resource continues to be available: Only fell as much timber as can be regrown. This principle of sustainability was first formulated in 1713 by Saxon chief mining administrator Hans Carl von Carlowitz as a way of making sure the mines could be permanently supplied with timber from the Ore Mountains.

In keeping with this principle, Sachsenforst fulfils its role of managing the Saxon state forest in an exemplary manner. The aim of developing and preserving stable, profitable forests and producing high-quality timber requires continuous maintenance and harvesting.

As part of the forest management scheme, Sachsenforst provides over one million cubic metres of timber for the woodworking industry, craftsmen and even firewood customers every year. But the forests are far from being overused: Recent records show that only about 60 percent of the annual timber increment in the state forest is harvested. These findings are incorporated into the forest management plan to ensure that sustainability can be maintained over the medium and long term.



The Saxon state forest has been certified in accordance with the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) criteria since 2001. This involves regularly assessing the sustainable forest management system in terms of ecological, social and economic aspects.

We're trailblazers



Sachsenforst maintains an extensive trail network. The Saxon state forest is home to some 13,000 kilometres of forest roads and trails, which serve as an elementary basis for sustainable forest management, but also as a means of pure natural and recreational enjoyment. Approx. 3,600 kilometres of these are officially designated as hiking trails, while a further 1,300 kilometres are bridle paths.

For Sachsenforst, it goes without saying that, following forest management measures like timber harvesting, these trails must be restored to a condition enabling use by visitors and pleasure-seekers.

Even special recreational facilities, including mountain-bike tracks and cross-country ski runs, can also be arranged on suitable trails in consultation with Sachsenforst. This always involves weighing up conservation aspects, forestry aspects, and the needs of forest visitors.

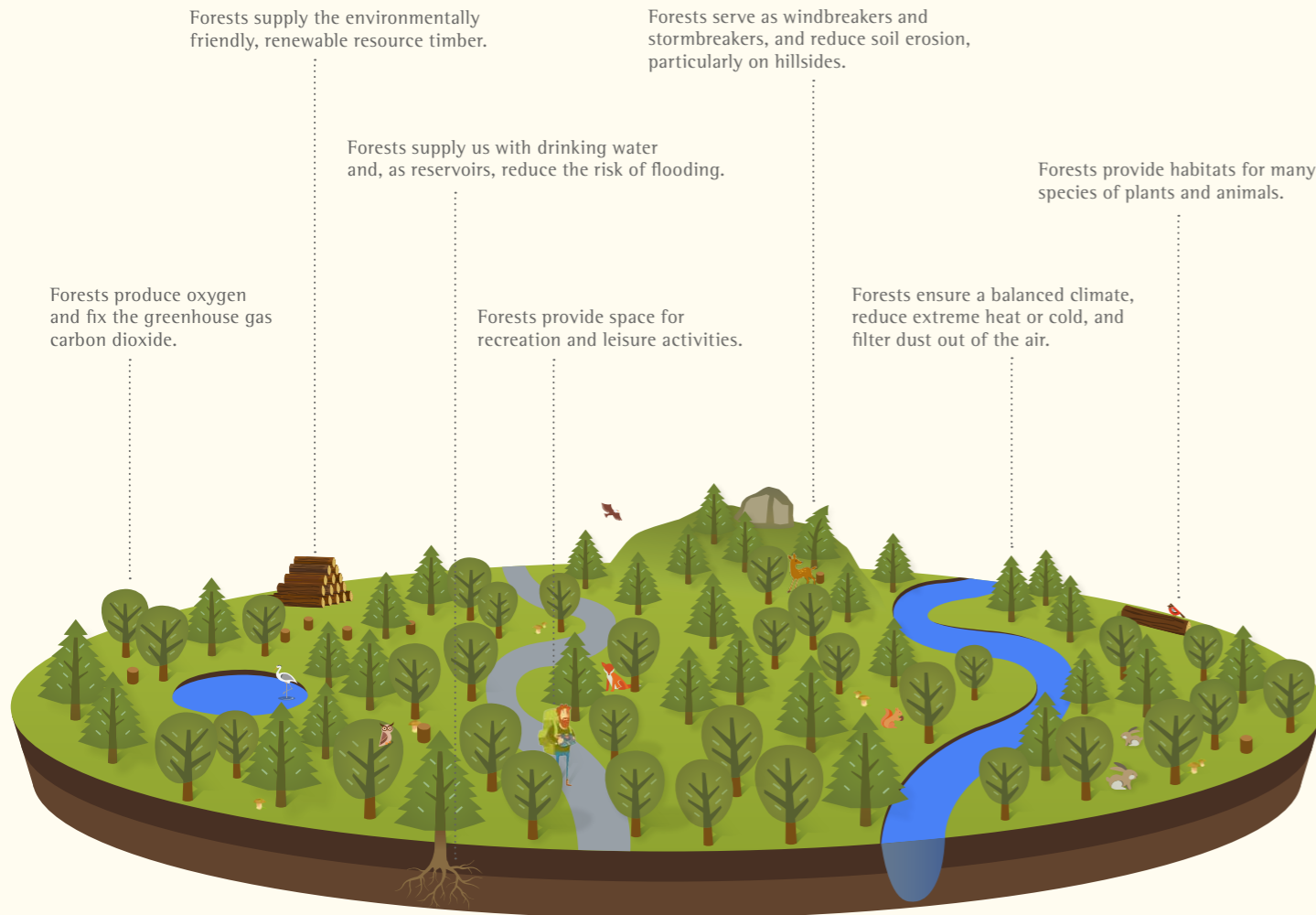
The forest has many different ways of preserving the bases of human existence. As a habitat of rare and protected species, it is of particular importance to conservation efforts in today's intensively used landscape. "Close-to-nature" forestry preserves and improves biodiversity, providing an opportunity for conservation.

At Sachsenforst, we're committed to taking responsibility for the nature reserves in our care, preserving and promoting the forest's protective functions, and protecting particularly fragile areas.

PRESERVING



Forests protect the basis of our existence



We safeguard the forest's protective functions

The forest is an important basis of existence with a number of positive effects, both for humans and for flora and fauna. By preserving the forest and managing it in a multi-purpose manner, Sachsenforst makes a significant contribution towards ensuring the forest can keep rendering these services in future.

Sachsenforst takes this into account in freshwater dams, for example, where the use of machinery and choice of tree species are focused on sustainably protecting water quality. In a bid to prevent flooding, streams, rivers, wetlands and moors are being renatured, enabling them to store and retain more water. At the same time, these fragile and largely protected biotopes become more considerably valuable.

But biotope maintenance is not just limited to bodies of water and wetlands: By preserving deadwood and retention trees, maintaining open-ground biotopes, landscaping the forest outskirts and performing large-scale forest conversion, Sachsenforst plays a major role in creating a biotope network in Saxony. Special species protection measures, e.g. for the silver fir, stag beetle and various bat species, ensure their populations are safe and can develop positively.



Sachsenforst places particular emphasis on protecting forest soils, since these are the foundations for long-term, sustainable forest management. Based on a virtually full-scale recording of soil properties, known as forest location mapping, relevant measures, such as the use of soil-friendly timber harvesting technologies or the liming of heavily acidified forest soils (particularly in the Ore Mountains), are identified and implemented.

The stable forests aspired to through the forest conversion, along with the moorland recultivation measures, guarantee optimum, long-term storage of carbon in Saxony's forests. This process is accompanied by nationwide research projects, which Sachsenforst is part of.

We preserve national natural landscapes

As an authority for large nature reserves, Sachsenforst is particularly responsible for the large Saxon reserves, namely the Saxon Switzerland National Park, the biosphere reserve Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft and the nature reserves Königsbrücker Heide and Gohrischheide/ Elbniederterrasse Zeithain.

With its fascinating rocky landscape, the Saxon Switzerland National Park, founded in 1990 during German reunification, is highly regarded well beyond the state's borders. Its 700+ climbing peaks and some 400 kilometres of hiking trails attract three million visitors to the region every year. Another aim pursued by national parks is to ensure the natural environment

spanning three quarters of the area can develop without human management. Sachsenforst wants to achieve this by 2030. It is a huge challenge to harmonise the conservation objectives with the Elbe Sandstone Mountains' long-standing importance for the region's tourism industry.

The UNESCO biosphere reserve Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft is characterised by all kinds of habitats, such as forests, water, heaths and inland dunes. Unlike the Saxon Switzerland National Park, human management plays a key role across most of the area. The traditional cultivated landscape is to be preserved through sustainable usage, e.g. the centuries-old fish

farming industry, to ensure otters, sea eagles, cranes and water lilies can continue to live here.

Two of Saxony's largest nature reserves, the Königsbrücker Heide and Gohrischheide/ Elbniederterrasse Zeithain district, were established in completely different circumstances. They were used as military training areas for over 100 years. This use and their relative isolation from public access facilitated the formation of unique habitats, particularly open ground, and retreats for rare and heavily endangered species of plants and animals.

Protecting, maintaining and developing these impressive landscapes and biotopes, with their diverse flora and fauna, is one of Sachsenforst's main tasks.





Society is placing increasingly varied and often conflicting demands on forests, which is why our work focuses on establishing a balance between the public's interests and the needs of forest owners. This requires large sections of the population to understand the complex forest ecosystem.

By passing our knowledge onto others, we are actively shaping and creating the future of Saxony's forests.

DEVELOPING

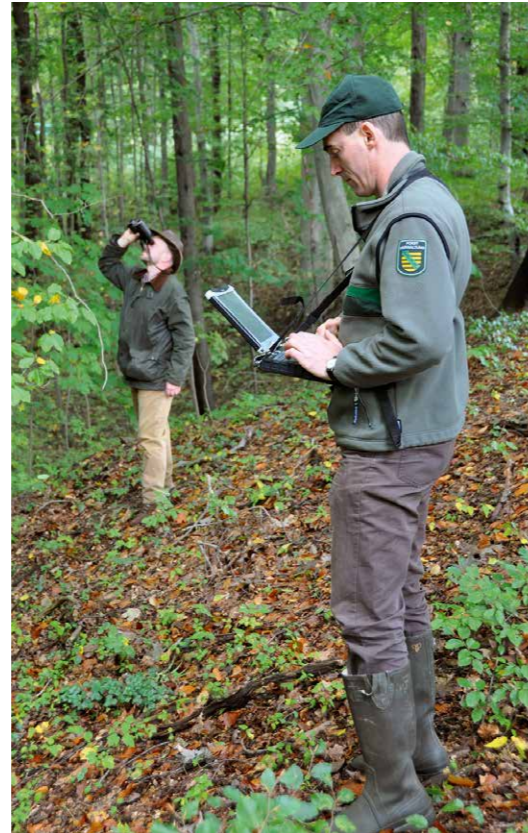
We keep an eye on the forest

Sachsenforst's Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry conducts environmental monitoring and practical research at eight permanent observation sites, ten forest climate stations and over 200 random-sampling points. Aspects such as tree vitality, soil condition, meteorological data and the growth trends of harmful organisms in the forest are recorded on a rotational basis.

Building on from these findings, long-term strategies for a stable, productive forest are then devised. The data is also made available to other authorities to assist with their work.

The Competence Centre works with various state and national partners to carry out research projects, e.g. on the gene content of endangered tree species and on tree species' adaptability to climate change. The publication of these results enables knowledge to be transferred both into everyday forest work and society in general.

Regular forest inventories and resulting operational plans are key instruments in achieving proper, sustainable forest management. Sachsenforst generally formulates this plan for the municipal, church and state forest enterprises every ten years.



We take care of aspiring foresters



Sachsenforst passes on its forest knowledge to future generations of foresters. Vocational training in the field of forestry and forestry career courses ensure highly qualified staff are always available to perform the wide, varied tasks associated with forest management.

Tertiary studies themselves involve professional exchange between the forestry faculty at Dresden University of Technology and Sachsenforst, based on a research and teaching agreement.

In order to keep its employees, the staff at subordinate forest authorities and third parties, such as the forest owners, constantly in the loop, Sachsenforst offers needs-based advanced training.

We ensure people understand the forest



The forest as a lush, natural classroom offers countless ways of experiencing its diversity with all the senses – something which is becoming increasingly important in an age where people are becoming more and more alienated from nature. Only those who understand and respect the complex forest ecosystem can help preserve it. As part of environmental and forest education services for all ages, Sachsenforst uses the forest as a teaching aid to convey humans' responsibility for sustainable development across society as a whole.

At three forest schools and other forest education facilities, the Moritzburg wildlife park and the visitors' centres at the major nature reserves, Sachsenforst offers interested persons many different ways of exploring the forest's secrets. The forest districts and reserves also run numerous events, such as "Forest youth games" and forester hikes.

We partner forest owners



Over half of Saxony's forest belongs to some 85,000 private, church and municipal forest owners. The vast majority of these only own very small areas spanning less than five hectares. Sachsenforst's advisory services and advanced training courses help the forest owners manage their forest competently and sustainably – in the interests of the owners and the forest itself.

The growing demands placed on forest management have prompted Sachsenforst to offer private owners advisory services on various topics, such as nature conservation in the forest, tree species selection and work processes, as a self-help aid. In addition

Sachsenforst performs certain support services on a contract basis for forest owners lacking forest specialists. Churches and municipalities not employing their own forest station managers can use Sachsenforst's forest district service.

The European Union, the German federal government and the Free State of Saxony have set up funding programmes for a series of forest management measures. Sachsenforst is responsible for assessing and approving forest owners' funding applications.

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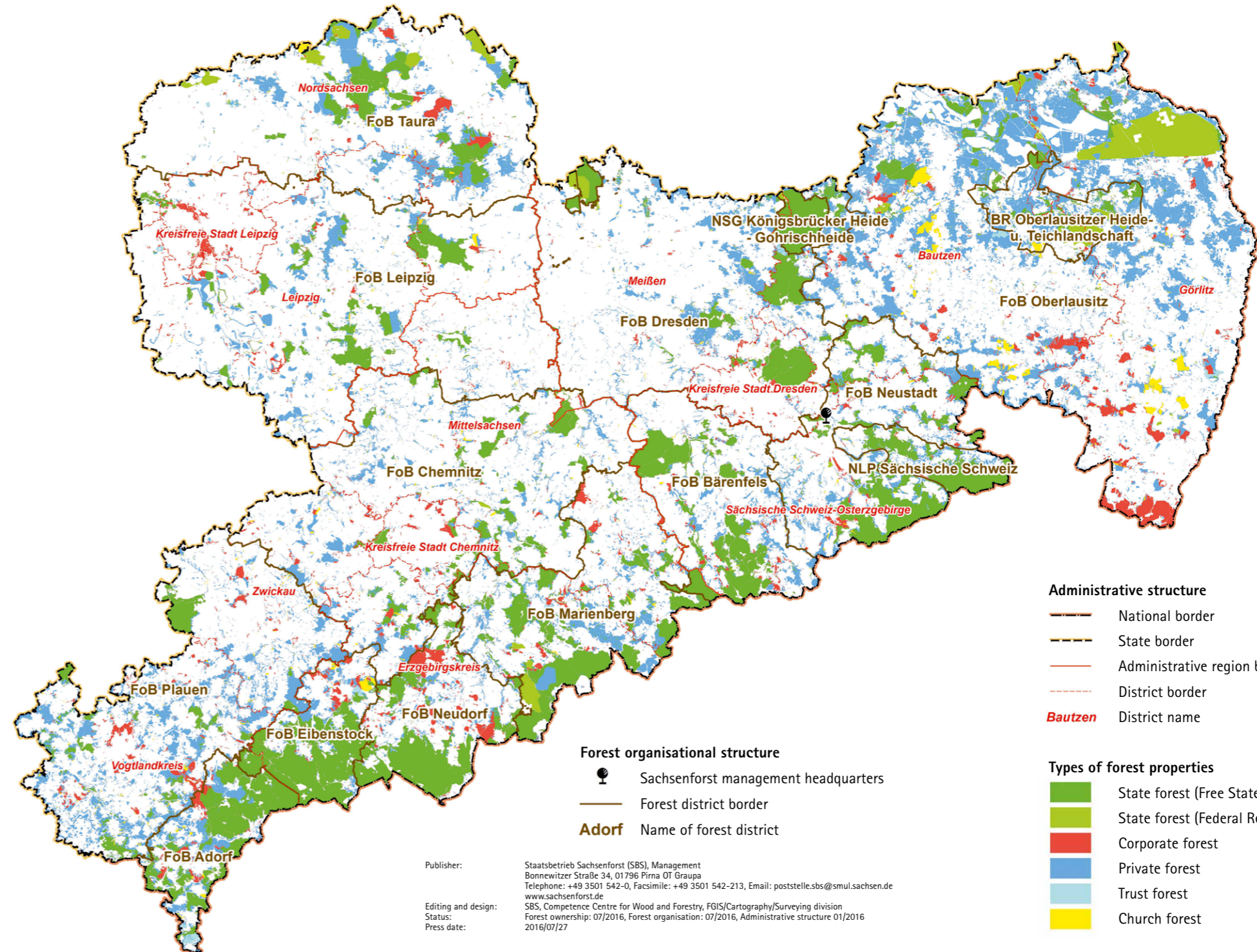
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