

Managing | Preserving | Developing

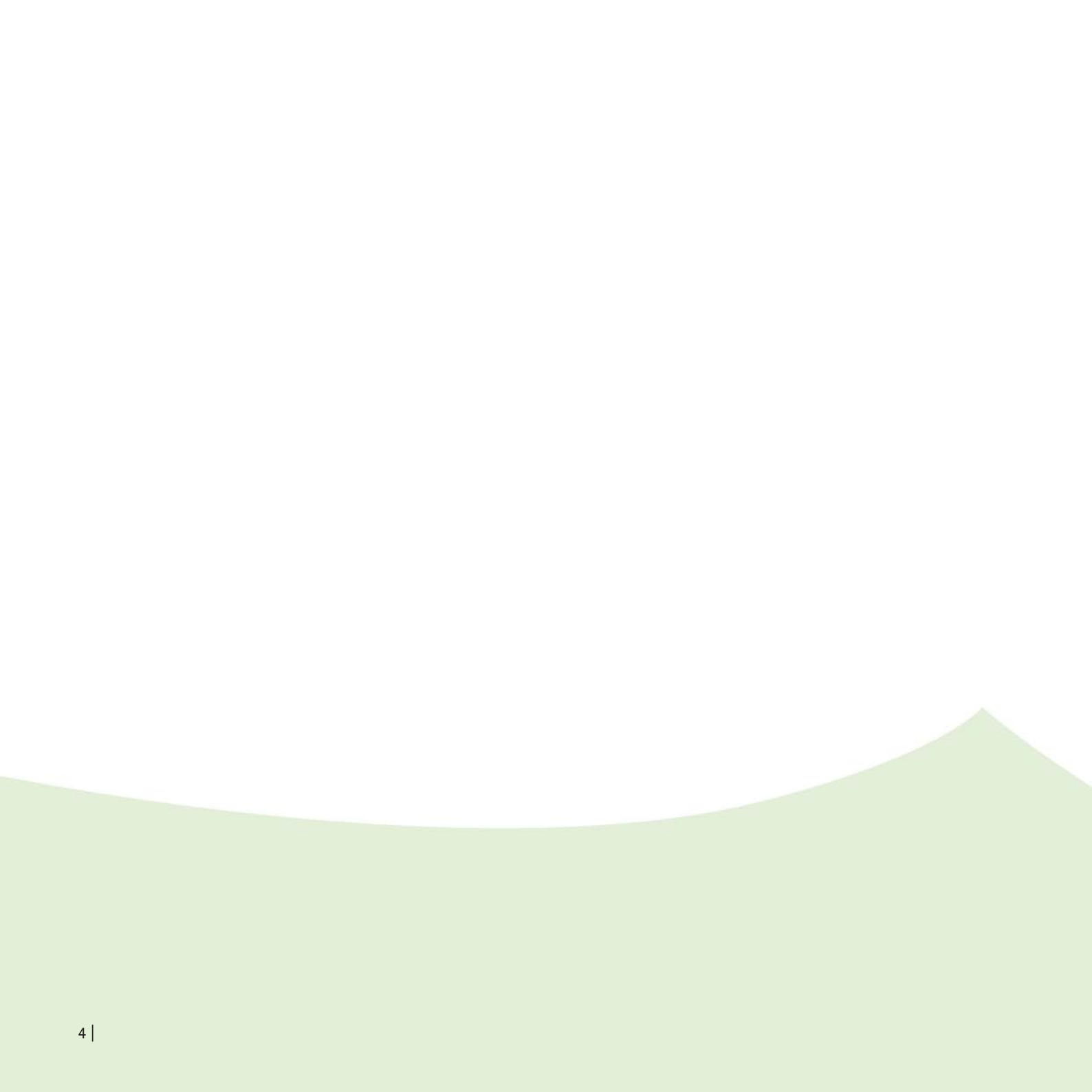






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Foreword

Over 300 years ago, Freiberg chief mining administrator Hans Carl von Carlowitz introduced the concept and principle of "sustainability" into our business life. Today, we have significantly broadened the nature and scope of this principle. At Sachsenforst, as well as focusing on sustainable utilisation and nature conservation, in our daily work in the forest we also consider the needs of people who visit these areas as places of recreation and recovery.

The forest provides a habitat for countless plants and animals, while simultaneously serving as a place of recreation where people can get away and recharge their batteries. Timber, a regionally available, renewable raw material, is also produced in this forest. But it is not always possible to perfectly reconcile these fundamental requirements. Multi-functional forestry also means demonstrating understanding for each other and being willing to compromise.

The goal of our forest conversion scheme is to help the sensitive forest ecosystems adapt to climate change. We work to improve protective functions and preserve and develop fragile natural habitats. At the same time, within our state forests we also employ state-of-the-art, soil-friendly forestry technology and combine this with efficient, modern organisational structures to increase profitability. Many small and medium-sized businesses benefit from our work in the forests.



In the large protected forest regions of Saxony, the preservation and development of protected biotopes, habitats, and species are right at the top of the agenda. Both here and across the wider state forest areas we also teach environmental knowledge and awareness – to audiences both young and old. We provide advice to private and corporate forest owners where requested and offer them assistance with the proper management of their forests. At our Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry, we are constantly striving to broaden the knowledge and information base for sustainable forest management in relation to all forms of forestry ownership.

Forestry in Saxony has always been very forward-looking. "Managing, preserving, developing" is what our daily work is all about.

Utz Hempfling
State Forestry President

Our duties

Sachsenforst's tasks are as varied as Saxony's forests themselves. In addition to managing the state forest*, Sachsenforst also bears responsibility for the three largest nature reserves in Saxony, and it provides extensive forest-related information gained from forest research and environmental monitoring. As the upper forest and hunting authority, Sachsenforst helps to ensure compliance with the legal regulations relating to forests. This ensures that the forest will continue to be able to perform its wide-ranging functions in future.

The state-owned enterprise Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst was founded on 1 January 2006 and arose from the former State Forest Administration. It is part of the Saxon public administration as a special superior state authority.

The headquarters of Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst are located in the Graupa district of Pirna. The headquarters include the General Management, the Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry, as well as the Upper Forest and Hunting Authority. The operational level is split into twelve forest districts and three nature reserve administrations with a total of 194 forest stations. Sachsenforst also encompasses one forestry apprenticeship and further training centre, three forest schools, two machinery stations, one seed bank, three forestry and tree nurseries and the Moritzburg wildlife park. Sachsenforst currently employs around 1,400 members of staff. Together with the services outsourced to external companies, this makes it one of the biggest rural employers in the region. 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 forests owned by the Free State of Saxony.





■ Forest development

Sachsenforst meets its responsibility for the preservation and development of the forests in Saxony with its functional and structural diversity – even in the face of changing environmental conditions.

■ Forest teaching and environmental education

Sachsenforst promotes learning about forests and the environment among the wider population as part of education for sustainable development. This supports understanding of forests and acceptance of forest management and nature conservation.

■ Utilization

Sachsenforst ensures the continuity of timber production and safeguards profitability within the state forest while preserving and/or regenerating all forest functions. By doing this, Sachsenforst aids the conversion of the forestry sector to a bioeconomy based on sustainable raw materials and renewable energy.

■ Protection

Sachsenforst safeguards the protective functions of the state forest while preserving and developing sensitive natural habitats in the major nature reserves in Saxony in line with relevant objectives. Sachsenforst pursues an integrative approach to state forestry management, i.e. concerns relating to nature conservation are fully incorporated as part of the multi-functional forestry management.

■ Recreation and recovery

Sachsenforst maintains, improves and develops recreation facilities based on public need in the forests and nature reserves and supports eco-friendly tourism.

■ Private and corporate forests

Sachsenforst provides advice and support for private and corporate forest owners to help them with proper, appropriate management of their forests in a manner that focuses on maintaining vital forest functions.

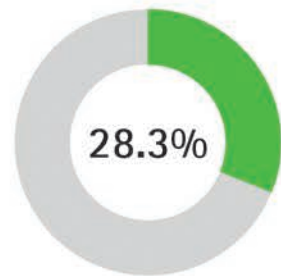
■ Competence Centre

Sachsenforst develops the knowledge and information base for sustainable forest management in relation to all forms of forestry ownership.

■ Personnel, organisation, information technology and communication

Sachsenforst improves its image and attractiveness as an employer. Sachsenforst promotes the performance, flexibility and motivation of its employees with the aid of efficient IT and communication structures that deliver effective and targeted support for the standardised and continuously optimised business processes.

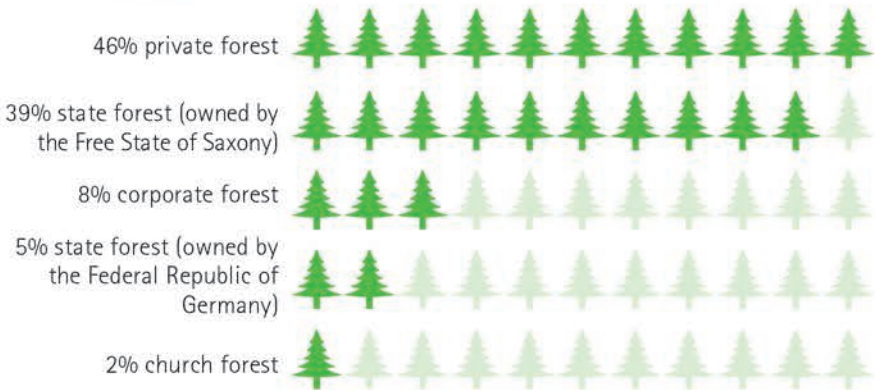
Sachsenforst in figures



of Saxony's land area is covered by forest.
This corresponds to

521,489 hectares

Who owns Saxony's forests?



13,650

consultation sessions held every year with
over 7,000 private forest owners.



59,600

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



13,000 km

of trails are available to
visitors in the state forest.

Sachsenforst includes:

1,426

employees,
including

141

trainees

12

forest districts

3

nature reserve administrations

194

forest stations



€15 million

is invested by Sachsenforst every year in transforming forests and remedying forest damage.



€6.4 million

is spent by Sachsenforst on average per year on nature conservation measures.

Over **1,500** identified biotope tree groups in the form of near-natural mature stocks create a habitat for many different species in the state forests and help to increase biodiversity.



The state forest has a timber stock of

67 million m³.



2 million m³

of new wood grows in the state forest every year.



We use around **1.5 million m³** 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, this means approximately:



1.5 million
European beech trees

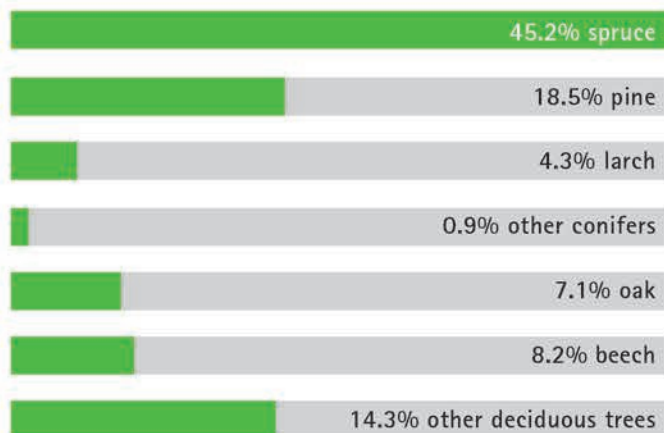


1.5 million
oak trees



almost
1 million
silver fir trees

Which types of trees grow in the state forest?



(Source: German Federal Forest Inventory 2022)

We are Sachsenforst



Romi Seibel

... works in the HR department of the General Management. Together with her colleagues, she looks after Sachsenforst's 1,400 members of staff and does her part to make sure the company always has enough clever minds and hard-working hands at its disposal.



Florian Strauß

... works as a forester in the Neustadt Forest District and, like many of our specialists, he learned his profession at Sachsenforst. In addition to planting, forest maintenance, and timber harvesting, his tasks also include the construction of recreation facilities.



Kerstin Rödiger

... serves as district forest official and manages the Stolpen forest station in the Neustadt Forest District. She is primarily responsible for forest management, forest conversion, and hunting, and is the first point of contact for all questions relating to her district.



Lorenz Richter

... watches over the animals and plants in the "Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft" biosphere reserve as a ranger. He is very familiar with the region's unique habitats and rare species. During guided tours of the protected area, he explains its importance to the many visitors.



René Klages

... is the head of the Neustadt Forest District, where he is responsible for almost 43,000 hectares of forest land and nearly 40 members of staff. Together with forest owners and partners, he ensures that the forest successfully balances timber production, nature conservation, and outdoor recreation.



Nadine Schulze

... is a member of the research team at our Competence Centre for Wood and Forestry, where she monitors the health of Saxony's forests. In the laboratory, she examines how environmental impacts affect forest soils and tree growth.



Managing

As part of an ecological approach to forest management, Sachsenforst ensures sustainable utilization of wood in the state forest and works to preserve and improve biodiversity.



Planting for the future

The forest is changing. There are historic reasons for the pure spruce and pine plantations that continue to characterise some parts of Saxony's forests to this day. In line with the social requirements of the time, these tree species were particularly well suited to supplying the timber required for construction and for industrial purposes quickly and with relatively low production outlay. At the same time, there was also only very limited availability of seeds and seedlings for deciduous tree species.

However, the future brings new challenges. Forests need to become more adaptable, particularly due to the increasingly tangible effects of climate change. For example, a mixed forest of with an appropriate blend of coniferous and deciduous species for the region will be more resistant to storms, forest fires, and insect pests, such as various species of bark beetles and butterflies. It will also provide a habitat for far more types of plants and animals.

The conversion needed to change the composition of the forests requires time and patience – it is a task that will take generations to complete. Sachsenforst is supporting this conversion process, which will see site-appropriate mixed forests established over some 1,200 hectares in the Saxon state forest alone every year. To do this, 9 million young forest trees, particularly European beeches, oaks, sycamores and silver firs, are planted or sown, resulting in an investment of some €15 million in the future of Saxony's forests every year.



Striking the right balance

Regulated hunting also plays a key role in securing investments in the forest conversion process. It is a critical management tool for maintaining ecologically and economically balanced game populations. The goal of Sachsenforst is to ensure that the forests are able to rejuvenate themselves naturally by spreading their own seeds – largely without any additional protective measures against damage from bud browsing and bark peeling (e.g. by using fences).

■ Bark peeling

Gnawing and removal of trunk bark

Rotting caused by fungi, tree weakening, in some cases extreme deterioration of timber quality

■ Velvet shedding

Male animals rub off the protective skin (velvet) on their newly grown antlers on the trunks of young trees

Bark damage, restricted growth and even dieback

■ Browsing

Biting off buds and leaves

Delayed growth or dieback of plants, species missing from the next generation of mixed-tree growth

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

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



We utilize wood sustainably

Humans have been using timber for tens of thousands of years. To ensure that this popular, long-lasting, native, and constantly renewable natural resource continues to be available, it is vital that a simple principle is observed: Timber must never be felled faster than it can grow back. This principle of sustainability was first formulated in 1713 by Saxon chief mining administrator Hans Carl von Carlowitz to ensure a continued supply of timber from the Erzgebirge (Ore Mountains) for the mines.

In keeping with this principle, Sachsenforst leads by example when it comes to managing the Saxon state forests. The goal of developing and preserving stable, profitable forests and producing high-quality timber requires continuous maintenance and harvesting.

As part its approach to forest management, every year Sachsenforst makes around 1.5 million cubic metres of timber available to sawmills, to the woodworking industry and to firewood customers. But this still represents a highly sustainable level of forest usage. Recent records show that around 75 percent (according to the 4th German Federal Forest Inventory) 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 criteria (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes) since 2001. This involves regularly assessing the sustainable forest management system in terms of ecological, social and economic aspects.



We are 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 not only as a foundation for sustainable forest management, but also as a means of undisturbed 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, after forest management measures like timber harvesting, these trails are restored to a condition that allows them to be used by visitors to the forest.

■ Solid cubic metre

A unit of wood volume representing a solid block of timber without bark or air gaps, measured in cubic metres (m^3 [solid]); similar to a solid wooden cube measuring one metre on all sides.

■ Stacked cubic metre

A unit of volume measuring a neatly piled stack of timber, which includes both the bark and the air gaps between the logs. It is expressed in cubic metres (m^3 [stacked]). The conversion factor from m^3 [solid] to m^3 [stacked] is 0.6 to 0.7 (depending on the length and grade of the stacked timber).

Even special recreational facilities can also be arranged on suitable trails by arrangement with Sachsenforst. In addition to mountain bike tracks and cross-country ski runs across the region's state forests, Saxony's first PEFC certified recreational, spa and healing forest has now also been established in Bad Elster. Setting up this type of forest area always involves weighing up the potentially contrasting needs of nature conservation, forestry management and forest visitors.





Preserving

Forests protect our livelihoods in countless ways. As vital habitats for rare and protected species, they are essential hubs for conservation in modern, developed landscapes. Close-to-nature forestry maintains and enriches biodiversity while actively supporting local conservation. At Sachsenforst, we proudly embrace our responsibility for these entrusted conservation areas and are dedicated to restoring natural ecological balances and preserving sensitive habitats.



Forests protect the basis of our existence



We safeguard the forest's protective functions

Forests are fundamental to life on Earth and offer wide-ranging positive effects, both for humans and for flora and fauna.

By preserving the forest and adopting a multi-functional approach to its management, Sachsenforst is making a significant contribution towards ensuring that the forest will be able to maintain this role in the future.

Sachsenforst takes this into account in drinking water dams, for example, where the use of machinery and choice of tree species are focused on sustainable preservation of 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, this is also considerably upgrading the functionality of these fragile and largely protected biotopes.

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

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

Together with the moorland recultivation measures, the stable forests we aim to establish through forest conversion will guarantee long-term and optimised carbon sequestration 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 responsible for large nature reserves, Sachsenforst assumes special responsibility for the large protected areas in Saxony: the Saxon Switzerland National Park, the "Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft" biosphere reserve, 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 celebrated well beyond the state's borders. Together with the landscape conservation area, it forms the Saxon Switzerland National Park Region. The National Park and Forestry Administration is responsible for this area in its capacity as the specialist nature conservation authority and forestry administration. The spectacular landscape attracts three million visitors to the region every year. At the same time, nature is able to develop unhindered by human activity across three quarters of the territory. Striking a harmony between these conservation objectives and the long-standing importance of the Elbe Sandstone Mountains for regional tourism is a major challenge.

The UNESCO biosphere reserve "Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft" is characterised by all kinds of habitats, such as forests, lakes, heaths and inland dunes. Unlike the Saxon Switzerland National Park, human management plays a key role across most of the area. The cultivated landscape has grown historically and is to be preserved through sustainable usage, e.g. via the centuries-old fish farming industry, to ensure that otters, sea eagles, cranes and water lilies can continue to find a habitat here in the future.

Saxony's largest nature reserves, the "Königsbrücker Heide" and "Gohrischheide/Elbniederterrasse Zeithain" wilderness reserves, were established under completely different circumstances. They were used as military training areas for over 100 years. This form of use and the relative isolation from public access allowed unique habitats to develop, particularly on open-ground sites, and offered a place of retreat 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 an important task for Sachsenforst.







Developing

Society increasingly places very different – and in some cases conflicting – demands on the forest. This is why our work focuses on striking a balance between the interests of the general public and the needs of forest owners. For this to work, broad knowledge of how the complex forest ecosystem works is absolutely essential – and this knowledge needs to be communicated to large sections of the population. By passing our knowledge onto others, we are actively helping to shape the future of Saxony's forests.



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 regular basis. Building on 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 partners at state and national level to carry out research projects, e.g. on the conservation of genetic diversity within endangered tree species and on the ability of different tree species to adapt to climate change. Publication of these results enables a transfer of knowledge both into everyday forest work and to society in general. Regular forest inventories and operational plans based on these are key instruments for achieving proper, sustainable forest management. Sachsenforst generally formulates this planning for municipal, church and state forest enterprises every ten years.





We train the next generation of foresters

*Sachsenforst passes on its
forest knowledge to
future generations of foresters.*

By providing vocational training in the field of forestry and forestry career courses, we ensure that highly qualified staff are always available to perform the wide-ranging and varied tasks associated with forest management.

In addition to this, a research and teaching agreement is in place between the Forestry Faculty at Dresden University of Technology and Sachsenforst to ensure that a professional exchange already takes place during university studies.

Sachsenforst also offers needs-based advanced training in order to keep its employees, staff at subordinate forest authorities and third parties, such as the forest owners, up to date with latest developments at all times.

We bring the forest to life

The forest as a green and natural classroom offers countless ways of experiencing its diversity with all the senses.

This is something that 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 all of our responsibility for sustainable development across society as a whole. At three forest schools and other forest education facilities, the Moritzburg wildlife park and the visitor centres at the major nature reserves, Sachsenforst offers many different ways for anyone who is interested to explore the secrets of the forest. In addition, the forest districts and nature reserves also run numerous events, such as the "Forest youth games" and forester hikes.





We are partners for forest owners

Over half of Saxony's forests is owned by around 85,000 private, church and municipal forest owners.

The vast majority of these only own very small areas spanning less than five hectares. Just like all other forms of land ownership, forest ownership comes with its own set of rights and obligations. At the same time, we are also seeing increasing social expectations being placed on the treatment and maintenance of these forests.

Sachsenforst's advisory services and advanced training courses help forest owners to manage their forests competently and sustainably – in the interests of the owners and the forest itself. These offerings cover topics such as working methods, selection of tree species, or nature conservation in the forest.

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

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"Oberlausitzer Heide- und Teichlandschaft"

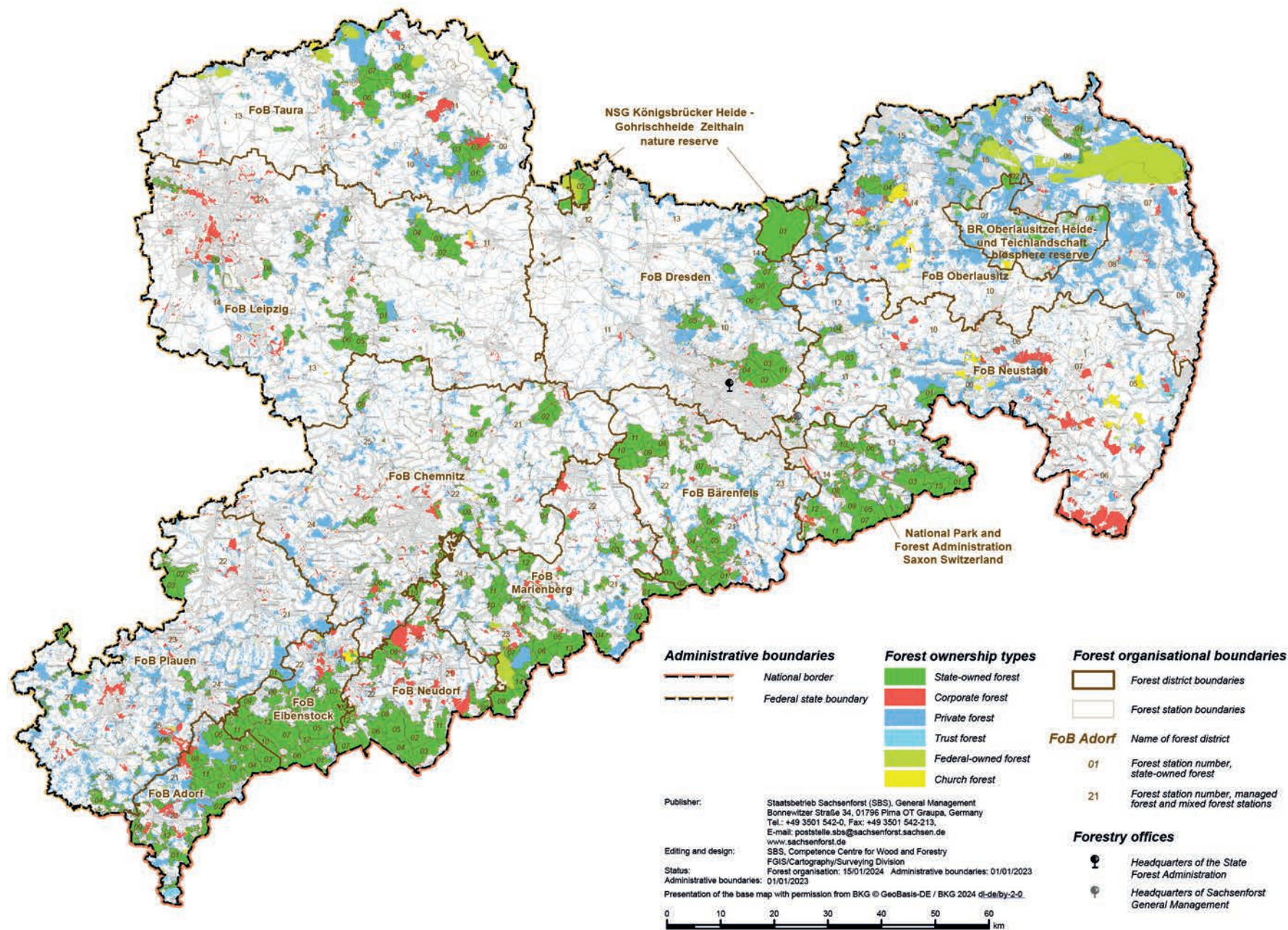
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Sachsenforst



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