



APAPET

Asociația Proprietarilor și Administratorilor
de Păduri din Estul Transilvaniei

Socio-economic dimensions of the private forests in Romania

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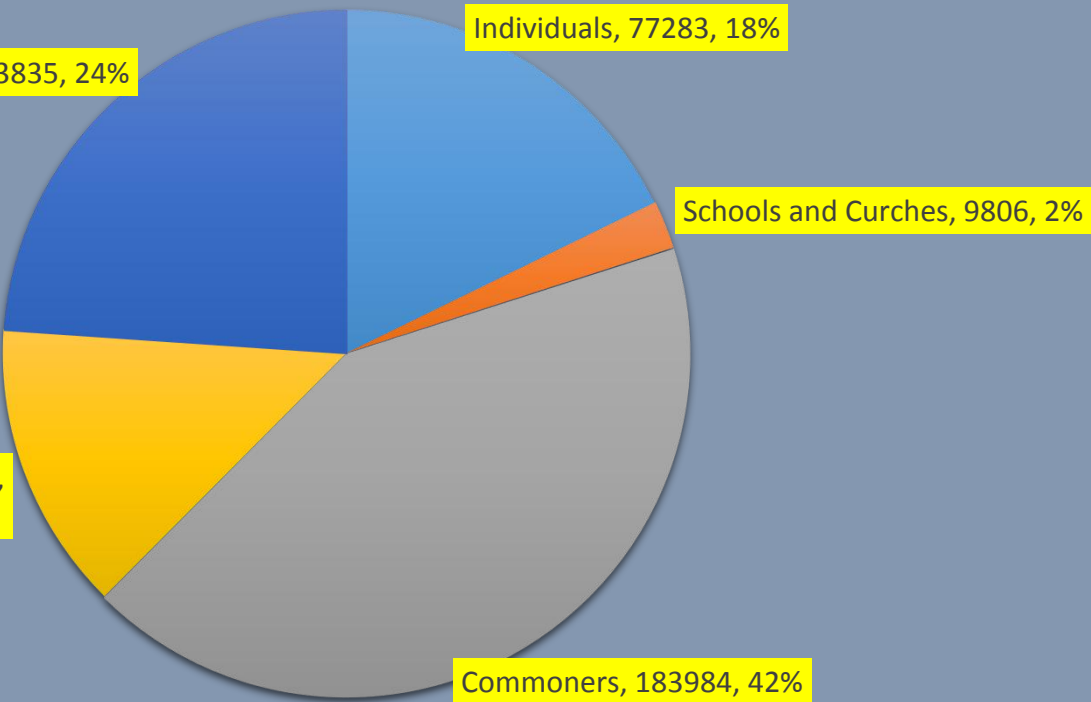
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Forest Owners and Administrators Association from
Eastern Transylvania

Forest owners in Covasna and Harghita county (Eastern Transylvania),

source: RNP Romsilva 2019/ Tamás

László, 2017



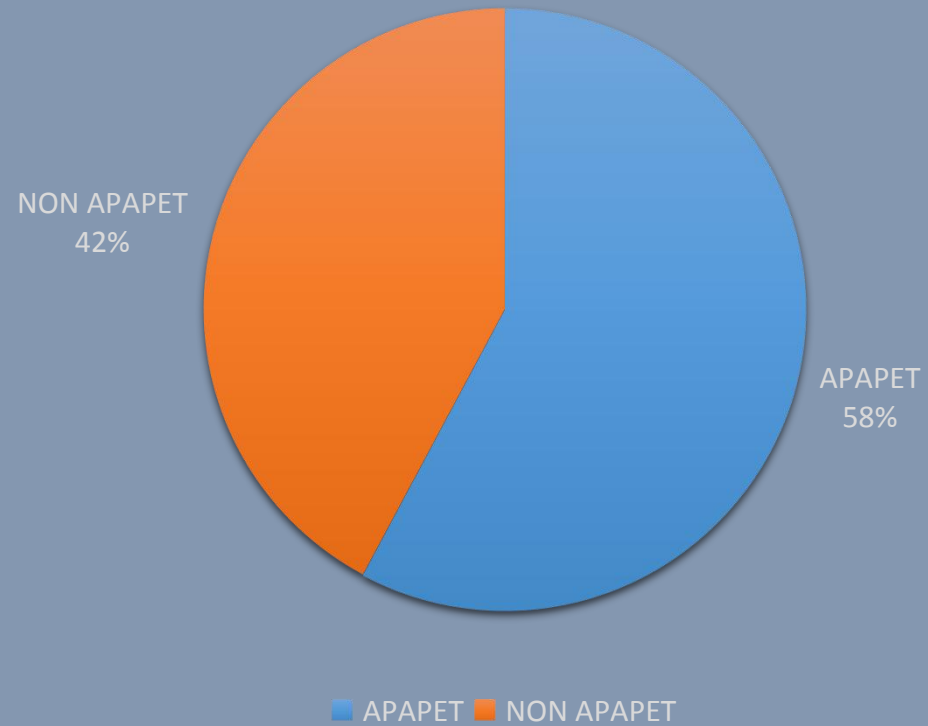
■ Individuals ■ Schools and Churches ■ Commoners ■ Administrative-Territorial Units ■ State



APAPET – 250938 ha – 13 Private Forest Districts

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Forest surface 430282 ha – Eastern Transylvania





The situation of non-state forests in Romania

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- 52% of the forests in Romania are non-state forests;
- The most forests in private and administrative-territorial units property the forestry activities are managed by private Forest Districts;
- Many of private forests are owned in Common ownerships not by individuals;
- An other important forest owner is the church (orthodox, catholic, protestant, etc.).



The Common ownership - Commoners

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- In the region of Eastern Transylvania almost every village has a specific organization, which owns forests and pastures in property, named Commoners;
- This organization type is found in other regions of the country too;
- The Commoners were created in the beginning of XIX. Century, and helped local communities over centuries.



The role of Commoners and Private Forest Districts

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- The Private Forest Districts were created by private forest owners and administrative-territorial units for the management of the restituted forests;
- These structures are based on the **principle of subsidiarity**, decisions are taken at the level where the problems appears;
- The owner of the forest is the community and according to this the Commoners take many **social roles of community development**, for example gives scholarships, supports cultural activities organized in the villages, supports with equipment voluntary fire brigades, etc.;
- The Commoners are **self-sustainers**;
- The income of the forest returns to the peoples and to the community.



Laws and government of the private forests

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- The governing law and the principles of forest management are the same for state or private forests in Romania;
- The forestry activity is ruled by a plenty of laws, government decisions, ministry orders and norms (more than 300), changing day by day;
- The basic law - Forest Code (46/2008), was changed 6 times in the Parliament of Romania in the past 5 years;
- Operates the Integrated National Computer System for Wood Tracking (SUMAL) based on GPS, generating specific codes for every transportation;



We lost the forest owner somewhere on our route

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- The OWNER of a forest has to:
 - Assure the guarding of his property only with rangers
 - Pay the management plan for his forest
 - Measure and mark the limits of his property
 - Inexistent compensations for forest properties situated in NATURA 2000 areas despite of management plans restrictions
- The forest owners has very little influence on legislators, their needs are not being taken into consideration



The current situation with the eye of a forester who owns property in Common Ownerships

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- A never ending bureaucratic and ever changing situation in forest activities regulation process;
- The regulations for private and administrative-territorial units forest owners should be more simple as for state forests;
- The regional specificities of the forests are not taken into consideration;
- The interest of the forest are secondary, is more important for the authorities to respect the rules;
- Double control for foresters – from authorities and property owners;
- Our compensations for restrictions are absent or are paid very late (1-2 years).



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Our needs

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- Today we work with very restrictive laws – are needed not less restrictive ones, but more **simple** ones, and stable ones;
- Compensations are needed, not only restrictions;
- The whole forestry concept has to be changed and reformed to simple things easily understood by every private forest owner;
- The public founding from national and European sources of the forest sector has been at insufficient levels, this level of funds can't allow the development of sustainable forest management.



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Thank you for your attention!