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AFFORESTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

in conjunction with the 24th session of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on
Forest Technology, Management and Training

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**The National Programme for the Augmentation of Forest Cover and its Implementation in the
Region of Warmia and Mazury**

Basic paper by Mr. Stanislaw Dabrowski

Summary

The National Programme for the Augmentation of Forest Cover, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Poland in 1995, addresses basic tasks to the State Forests and anticipates an increase in the proportion of the country under forest from 28% to 30% by 2020, and 33% by 2050. This is to be achieved through the afforestation of land deemed economically unsuitable for agriculture.

The programme envisages the afforestation of 600,000 ha (250,000 ha state-owned and 350,000 ha privately owned) former agricultural land over the period 1995-2020. It assumes that an area of about 100,000 ha (20,000ha to year 2000, 40,000 ha to 2010, and 40,000 ha to 2020) will be covered by forest in a process of natural succession. The plan of work is as follows.

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Task</i>	<i>State-owned (ha)</i>	<i>Privately owned (ha)</i>	<i>Total (ha)</i>
I (1995-2000)	Afforestation	50,000	50,000	100,000
	Natural succession	20,000	-	20,000
II (2001-2010)	Afforestation	100,000	140,000	240,000
	Natural succession	40,000	-	40,000
III (2011-2020)	Afforestation	100,000	160,000	260,000
	Natural succession	40,000	-	40,000
Total		350,000 ha	350,000 ha	700,000 ha

It is envisaged that the costs of afforestation of state-owned areas will be covered by the State budget (30.8%), the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (23.0%) and the Ecofund, Forest Fund and (in 1995-97) the PHARE programme (46.2%). It is envisaged that the costs for the afforestation of areas under private ownership in the Warmia and Mazury Region will be covered by the owners (66.8%), the Forest Fund (28.2%), the Budget of the Regional Government (1.8%) and the Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (3.2%).

The target for the first stage of the National Programme was exceeded, with an area of 110,000 ha afforested: 69,000 ha state-owned and 41,000 ha under private ownership (compared to the set ratio of 50:50). During Stage I, 13,000 ha were afforested in the Region of Warmia and Mazury: 12,000 ha state-owned and 1,000 ha under private ownership. As a result of afforestation, forest cover in the Warmia – Mazury Region has increased from 19.8% in 1945 to 29.3% in 2000, with a projected figure of 31.4% by 2020.