

## **Sylviculture of Mixed Stands with Valuable Broadleaved Tree Species**

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### **Abstract**

The forestry sector in Switzerland is under heavy economic pressure. As a result, sustainable forest management is being increasingly called into question. It is therefore urgent that new management strategies with improved cost recovery be developed, taking in account social and ecological aspects too. One possibility is to increase the share of valuable broadleaved tree species. Indeed, these forests are not only aesthetically interesting but also play a role in forest biodiversity and enable silviculturists to limit the risks of production.

A large number of very experienced foresters in the silviculture of mixed forests with broadleaved tree species are currently active in Swiss forests and some of them are shortly before the retirement. Developed over many years, their knowledge and skills represent a real potential for the promotion, development and evolution of mixed forests with valuable broadleaved tree species. The aim of this project - financed by the State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) of Switzerland - was to collect, analyse and systematise this knowledge of the experienced foresters to ensure its preservation and transmission through practical guides and excursions.

In 2007, twenty-six foresters were interviewed and, for each of them, one mixed stand with valuable broadleaved tree species was inventoried in order to be used as demonstration plots for excursions with students and also for continuing professional development with foresters. The goal is to increase the exchange of knowledge between experienced and young foresters and students too. A description and a map of the inventoried stands will be published on the web page of the "Swiss Community for Poplar and Valuable Broadleaved Tree Species" to promote the exchange of silvicultural information between practitioners.

The analysis of the interviews will be the basis for the development of the practical guide. This guide will be published in the form of a frequently asked questions register. A wide literature search will complete the information acquired during the interviews and will be added to the register.

The end of the project is scheduled for 30th November 2008 and the all results will be published in early 2009. The first results and methodology will be presented at the conference.

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