



Berner Fachhochschule
Haute école spécialisée bernoise
**Schweizerische Hochschule
für Landwirtschaft SHL**
Haute école suisse d'agronomie HESA

Ressort Waldökologie

Länggasse 85
CH-3052 Zollikofen
Telefon +41 (0)31 910 21 11
Telefax +41 (0)31 910 22 99
office@shl.bfh.ch
www.shl.bfh.ch

Zollikofen, 19. November 2008

Abstract

Ecological Values of VALBRO

Valuable Broadleaved Tree Species (VALBRO) are appreciated for their high quality timber, which can be produced within a relatively short time. Some VALBROs are known for their traditional non-wood product use too, mainly appreciated in ancient times, in rural areas or nowadays for agroforestry production systems. In addition to this socio-economic value, our society has a duty to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity, as most European countries signed the International Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The positive or negative impact on biodiversity may be influenced for several decades through the management of trees in the countryside and in the forests and through the choice of tree species. The long-term effects of such management decisions highlight the importance of a sound knowledge of ecological particularities of any tree species planted or favoured to regenerate naturally in these ecosystems. VALBROs are generally known as good elements for biodiversity improvement, especially if used in mixed patterns, together with other wood species. Some specific ecological values of VALBROs will be examined and a new method, based on an evaluation scheme developed at WSL Birmensdorf (Burnand et al 2007), will be presented and discussed. This method was developed by Working Group 3 of the COST Action E42 and should help to evaluate ecological values on a landscape scale, eliminating the need for expensive records and inventories.

Urs Muehlethaler, Professor of Forest Ecosystem Management, Bern University of Applied Sciences, SHL, Zollikofen