



Posoški razvojni center



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR
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MOUNTAIN FOREST

Characteristics of mountain forests



short life cycle



less intensive growth,
long-term and steady
increment



slow response
to change



prevent erosion, hold water,
affect local climate etc.



vulnerable
ecosystems



provide opportunity
for recreation,
connecting with
nature, tourism

Roles of mountain forests

Production roles

A forest is a source of income for its owner. Wood is by far the most important product harvested from forests, hence timber production is the most important role a forest plays for the majority of owners.

Different roles: timber production, extraction of other forest goods, hunting management.



Social roles

A forest provides a host of opportunities for recreation, relaxation and meditation, as well as tourism. Forests play an increasingly important social role and, in some places, the value of social role already surpasses the economic value of timber.

Different roles: tourism and recreation, aesthetics, heritage and protection, education, research, defence.

- all forests above the altitude of 700m within the limits of the Alpine Convention,
- outside the limits of the Alpine Convention, all forests above the altitude of 700 m with a surface area of at least 3,000 ha for one single area.

According to this criteria, the total surface area of mountain forests is equal to 435,223 ha, which amounts to roughly 37% of all forests in Slovenia.



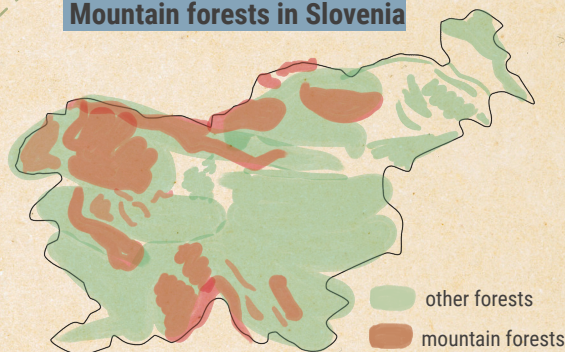
Ecological roles

Forests have a significant impact on the environment, not only locally but also globally. These impacts stem from their ecological and environmental roles. Their roles make forests an important factor in the mitigation efforts that address the consequences of climate change.

Different roles: protection, hydrology, climate, hygiene and health, biology.



Mountain forests in Slovenia



Main three altitudinal belts and their forest stand

Alpine zone: the highest peaks above the tree line.

Subalpine zone: it stretches above the montane zone where growing conditions are harsh and life cycles short. As the altitude increases, the trees grow sparse, low and gnarled. Denotes the tree and forest line. In the Alps, there is mugho pine (*Pinus mugo*), interspersed with an occasional larch (*Larix decidua* Mill.), while stunted, gnarled beech trees grow in the Dinarides (the Snežnik mountain).

Montane zone: the high karst plateau in the Notranjska region, Kočevski rog, the Trnovo Forest Plateau, Jelovica, Pokljuka, the Karawanks, the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Pohorje Massif. Large and dense stretches of forest in the Kočevje Highlands and the Notranjska region. Mostly beech, fir, spruce, also Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), and beech and larch in the Alpine zone.

