

Forest Statistics 2021

Tirana, 09 September 2022: In 2021 the forest and pasture fund of Albania covers a total area of 1,716,824 (ha) and 59.7% of the total area of the country.

Tab.1 Cadastral Balance of Forest and Pasture Fund of Albania

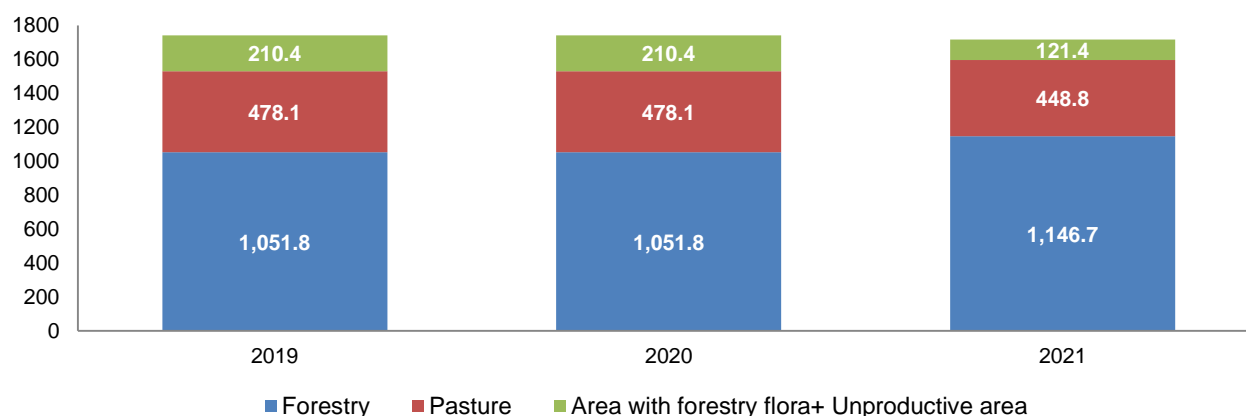
Year	Forestry		Pasture		Area with forestry flora and Unproductive area		Total	
	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%	Area/Ha	%
2019	1,051,843	60.4	478,081	27.5	210,382.5	12.1	1,740,307	100
2020	1,051,841	60.4	478,081	27.5	210,382.1	12.1	1,740,304	100
2021	1,146,724	66.8	448,750	26.1	121,350.5	7.0	1,716,824	100

Source information: Ministry of Tourism and Environment/National Forestry Agency

In 2021 forests cover an area of 1,146,724 (ha) representing 66.8% of the forest and pasture fund. Pastures and meadows have an area of 448,750 (ha) or 26.1% of the forest and pasture fund. Areas with forest vegetation and unproductive that are part of the forest have occupied a 121.350(ha) or 7.0% of this fund.

In 2021, the areas of forests located in protected areas are also included and as a result there is an increase of 94,882 ha, compared to 2020.

Fig. 1 Surface of the Forests and Pasture Fund (000/ha)

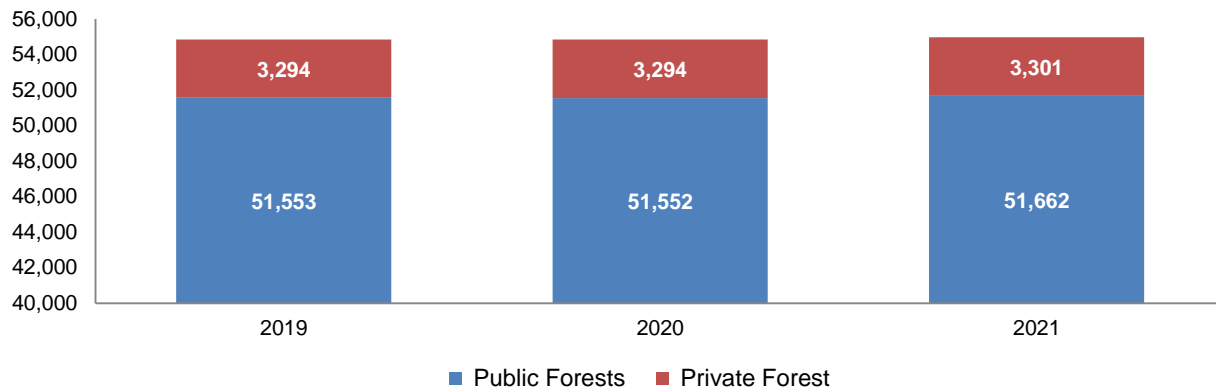


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In 2021 the total forest volume was 54,963,150 (m3) and 94% of this volume consisting from public forests and 6% from private forests. In 2021 there was an increase of 117,576 (m3), compared to 2020.

Fig. 2 Total Volume of Forestry (000/m3)



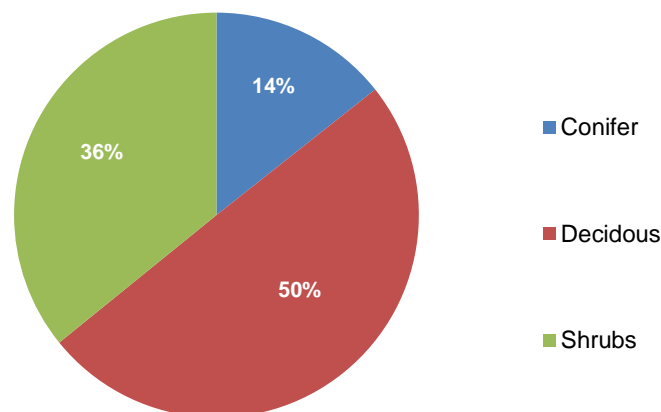
In 2021 in the forestry fund by species the largest surface is covered by deciduous with 49.8% followed by shrubs 35.8% and conifer 14.3%.

Tab.2 Forest Fund by Types Structure (ha)

Year	Conifer	Deciduous	Shrubs	Total Forest
2019	150,912	523,907	377,024	1,051,843
2020	150,911	523,907	377,023	1,051,841
2021	164,524	571,166	411,034	1,146,724

Source information: Ministry of Tourism and Environment/National Forestry Agency

Fig.3 Forest Fund by Types Structure 2021 (%)



Protected areas

Protected natural and tourist areas in our country are considered as protected land and water areas due to the biodiversity of the natural and cultural assets they offer.

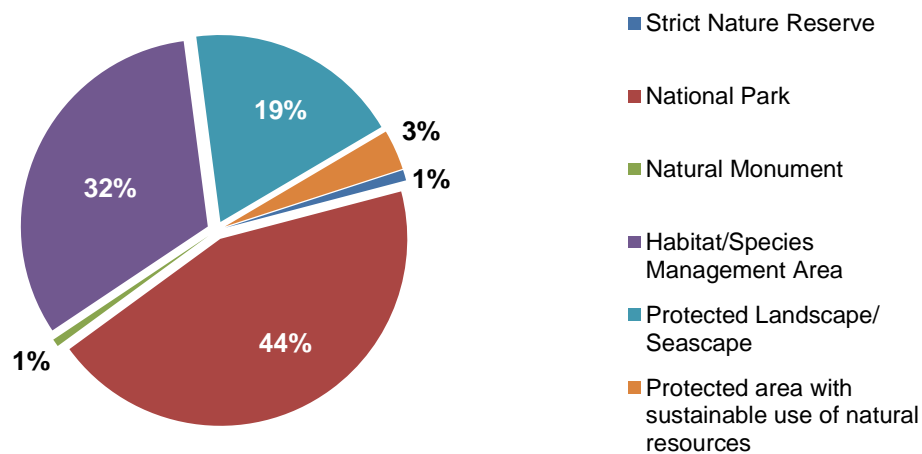
They are divided into 6 categories by relevance:

Tab. 2 Number and area of protected areas

Categories of protected areas	Number/(Nr)			Area (Ha)		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Strict Nature Reserve	2	2	2	4,800	4,800	4,800
National Park	14	14	14	230,707	230,707	230,707
Natural Monument	725	725	725	3,470	3,470	3,470
Habitat/Species Management Area	25	25	25	169,275	169,275	169,275
Protected Landscape/ Seascape	6	6	6	97,333	97,333	97,333
Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	4	4	4	18,245	18,245	18,245
Total	776	776	776	523,831	523,831	523,831

Protected areas in 2021 occupy a general area of 523 831 (ha), equivalent 30% of the forest found and around 18% of the total area of the country. In 2021 there were not changes in the number or surface of protected areas.

Fig. 4 Area of protected areas, by categories (%)



In 2021, the largest surface of protected areas is occupied by national parks by 44.0% followed by Habitat/Species Management Area with 32.3% Protected Landscape/ Seascape with 18.6%, Habitat/Species Management Area 3.5%, Strict Nature Reserve 0.9% and natural monuments 0.7%.

Methodology

Data on forest and biodiversity statistics are based on administrative data on annual basis. The institution responsible for collecting this data is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other responsible institutions under its authority as the National Environment Agency

According to Council of Ministers Decision No 433, date 8.6.2016 on Transfer Ownership of Municipalities Forests and Public Pastures Information is collected in all the municipalities of the country which they have a legal obligation to report every three months to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

The legal basis for the collection forest and biodiversity statistics is the Law No. 17/2018 on Official Statistics and Official Statistics Program 2017 - 2021, applying the classifications and definitions according to the relevant EU regulations.

Definitions

Forest Cadaster: is an official document (register), where evidenced, reflected and updated initial data for each forestry unit or for catchment basins, data on periodic changes in volumes, surfaces and relevant maps.

Forest fund: are all forest and non-forest surfaces, forest and non-forest resources accompanying, relevant infrastructure, including bare surfaces, which create a harmonious environment with forests and forest land, rocks, dunes and sandbanks, defensive forests, isolated groups trees and shrubs.

Protected areas: (PA) can take on many different forms, such as national parks, wilderness areas, community conserved areas, nature reserves and privately owned reserves. According to IUCN, “A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”