

Forestry and Biodiversity Statistics, 2024

Tirana, on 08 September 2025: In 2024, Albania's forest and pasture fund covered an area of 1,731,891 hectares, representing 60.2 % of the country's total area.

According to the Cadastral Balance of the Forest and Pasture Fund:

- 66.2 % of the fund is covered by forests (1,146,723 ha),
- 25.9 % by pastures and meadows (449,167 ha),
- 7.9 % by area with forestry flora and unproductive (136,001 ha).

The total volume of forests in 2024 reached 53,145,660 m³, of which 93.9 % are public forests, and 6.1 % are private forests.

Protected Areas

In 2024, the network of protected areas in Albania consisted of 777 zones, covering an area of 624,611 hectares. Compared to 2023, when there were 776 zones with an area of 626,045 ha, there is a slight increase in number, but a decrease of around 1,434 ha in total surface.

Changes by category

- National Parks: Decreased from 13 in 2023 to 12 in 2024. Area declined from 315,304 ha to 313,924 ha. National parks remain the most important category, covering 50.2 % of the total protected area.
- Natural Monuments: The number remained unchanged (724), but the area decreased significantly, from 1,585 ha to only 86 ha. This drop is linked to methodological changes in measurement and classification. They now represent only 0.01 % of the protected area.
- Managed Nature Reserves / Nature Parks: The number decreased from 30 to 28, and area from 222,049 ha to 217,385 ha, covering 34.8 % of the protected areas.
- Protected Landscapes: Increased from 9 to 11 zones, but area dropped from 87,107 ha to 81,917 ha. In 2024, they represent 13.1 % of protected areas.

For publication 08/09/2025

Continues

- **Managed Resource Areas:** This category includes 2 zones with a surface of 11,300 ha, representing 1.8 % of the total.
- **Strict Nature Reserves:** No zones have been designated in this category.

Percentages relative to national territory

In 2024, protected areas accounted:

- 36.0 % of the forest and pasture fund, and
- 21.7 % of the total surface area of Albania

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

Year	Forest		Pasture		Area with forestry flora and unproductive		Total	
	Area.Ha	%	Area.Ha	%	Area.Ha	%	Area.Ha	%
2022	1,146,725	66.2	449,175	25.9	136,001	7.9	1,731,901	100
2023	1,147,281	66.2	449,436	25.9	136,152	7.9	1,732,869	100
2024	1,146,723	66.2	449,167	25.9	136,001	7.9	1,731,891	100

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 Forest Agency and the National Agency of Protected Areas

According to Council of Ministers Decision No. 433, dated 8.6.2016, regarding the transfer of ownership of public forests and pastures to municipalities, municipalities have a legal obligation to report every three months to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The legal basis for collecting forest and biodiversity statistics is the Official Statistics Program 2022–2026, applying national and international classifications and definitions.

Definitions

Forest Cadastre: It is an official document (register) in which the initial data for each forestry economic unit or for catchment areas are recorded, reflected, maintained, and updated. It also includes data on periodic changes in volumes, areas, and the corresponding maps.

Forest Fund: It is the area covered by forests, shrubs, and forested land, including bare areas (clearings, rocks, dunes, and screes), agroforestry systems, protective belts, related infrastructure, as well as associated non-forest assets that create a unique environment with the forests and forest soil.

Pasture Fund: It is the area of natural pastures and meadows, whether state, municipal, or private, their infrastructure, and parts of the forest fund with trees and shrubs used as pastures, including bare rocky areas within them.

Land with Forest Vegetation: These are lands with trees and shrubs over 0.5 ha, with a coverage rate of up to 10%.

Protected Area: According to IUCN, it is “a clearly defined, recognized, dedicated, and managed geographical space, through legal or other effective means, to ensure the long-term protection of nature and associated ecosystem services, as well as cultural values.

National Park: Large territories, usually not smaller than 1,000 ha, unique for their national and international values, which are preserved and managed to protect ecosystems and species, for education and recreation (leisure and entertainment), and to regulate the sustainable use of natural resources by humans.

Natural Monument: A small area or natural feature with special scientific, historical, aesthetic, or cultural values, legally protected to preserve its unique characteristics. This includes caves, springs, rare trees, rock formations, waterfalls, etc.

Managed Nature Reserves: Areas where a natural ecosystem is preserved and managed, allowing controlled interventions to protect biodiversity and habitats. Natural parks are larger areas with ecological and cultural values, aiming to conserve landscapes, flora, and fauna.

Protected Landscape: A territory characterized by a distinctive harmony between nature and human interventions, with high natural, cultural, and aesthetic values, maintained to preserve these characteristics.

Managed Resource Areas: Areas dedicated to the sustainable management of natural resources, where the use of forests, flora, fauna, or other natural resources is controlled to ensure their long-term conservation.

Strict Nature Reserves: Areas with maximum protection where human intervention is not allowed, except for scientific research, aiming to preserve natural ecosystems in their original and natural state.