REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E MJEDISIT

MISTRINY OF ENVIRONMENT

AKPYJE
AGJENCIA KOMBËTARE E PYJEVE

"Presentation for the REUFIS Annual Meeting
14-16 October 2025"

"Invasive Plants in Albania"

NATIONAL FORESTRY AGENCY (NFA)

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Who is the National Forestry Agency?



- ***National Forestry Agency*** (NFA) is a government organization under the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE), established in September 2020;
- Its mission is "***Well management of forest, their conservation and development, the sustainable and multifunctional use of forest resources, as a natural wealth of national importance"***;
- Its responsibilities and tasks are defined in the article 15, point 2 of Law no. 57/2020, dated 30.4.2020 "***On forests***" and DCM no. 570, dated 17.07.2019 "***On the establishment, organization and operation of the National Forestry Agency***", amended;
- Although a new organization, National Forestry Agency (NFA), in the function of ensuring performance in the forest sector, is now increasingly evident as the main stakeholder in the implementation of national policies, strategies and programs in the forest fields, providing support and guidance to central and local entities, which have a role in the development and protection of forests.

FOREST IN ALBANIA

1 FOREST AND PASTURES

- **1.3** mil. ha or 46% of country area
- **550** thousand ha pastures or
- 19% of country area;
- 97% public and 3% private;
- Average: 0.42 ha/per capita.

2 CLASIFICATION ACCORDING TO MANAGEMENT%MORPHOLOGY

- 32% high forest, 46% coppice and 22% scrubs;
- 11 % conifer forest, 79 % broadleaves, and 10 % mix forest.

3 FOREST AREA DISTRIBUTION IN ALBANIA

- **41%** located in north Albania;
- **17%** in middle Albania;
- **30%** in southeast Albania;
- **12%** in southwest Albania.

4 GROWING STOCK VOLUME

- **58 milion m³ total**
- 42 million m³ in high forest;
- 10 million m³ in coppice;
- 6 million m³ in scrubs.

5 AGE CLASS STRUCTURES

- **30%** of high forest over 80 years;
- **7%** of coppice over 40 years;
- **23%** of scrubs over 20 years;

"YOUNG FOREST"



6 FOREST FUNCTIONS

- 67 % producing;
- 11 % protecting;
- 22 % Protected Area (PM)

National Forest Agency Structure



CENTRAL LEVEL

NFA GENERAL DG

ANALYSIS AND PERFORMANCE DIVISION

- Evaluation of Forest State Sector
- National inventory and Standards Defying Sector
- Advising, Projects and Research Sector

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLL DIVISION

- Information and National Register Sector
- Management and Planning Documents Sector
- Inspection and Control Sector

HUMAN RESOURCE AND FINANCE DIVISION

- Finance&Budget Sector
- Human Resource & Supporting Facilities Sector
- Juridical & Legal relation regulation Sector

MISSION and OBJECTIVES

NFA mission: "Ensuring the well management of forests at the national level,conservation, developing the sustainable and multifunctional use of the national forest fund as a natural wealth of national importance.

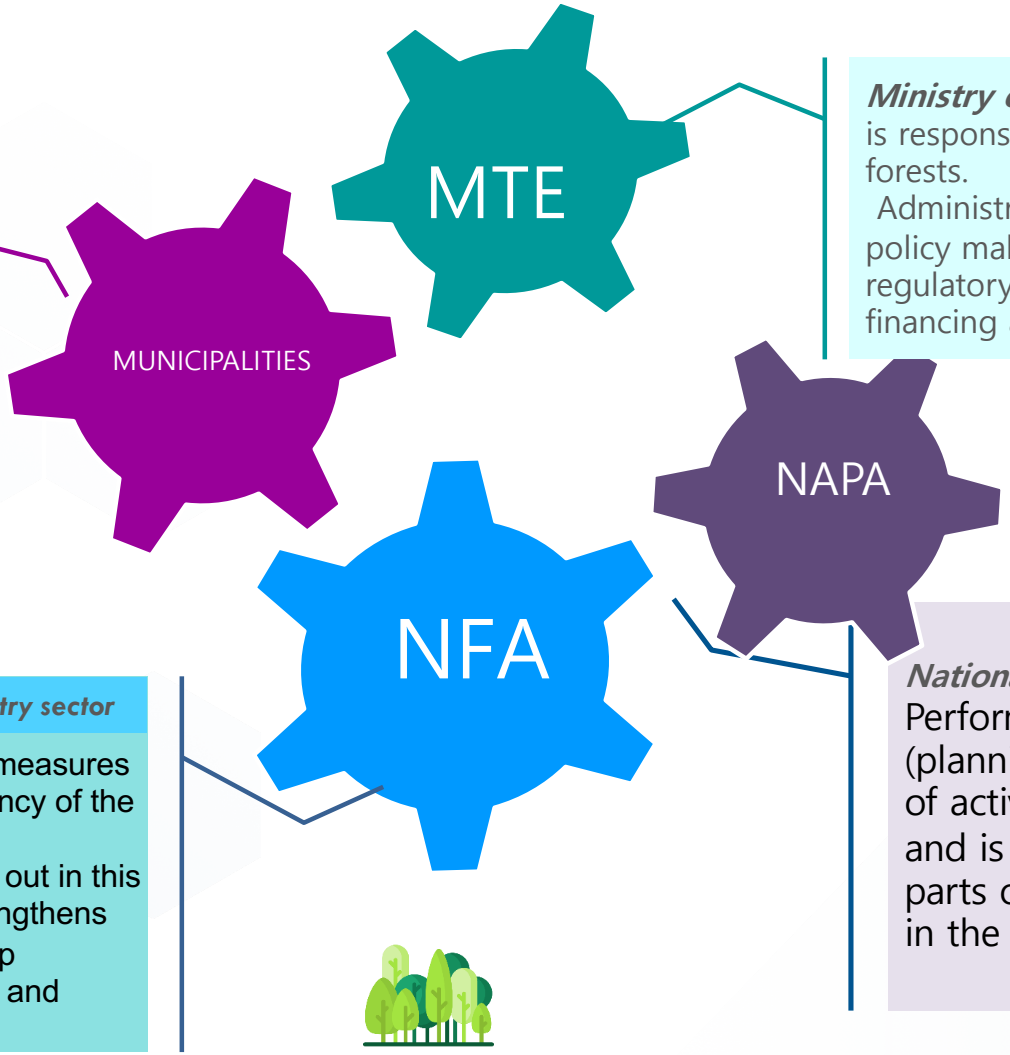
NFA has the role of an authority that measures the performance and guarantees the efficiency of the sector, develop standards and methodologies for the activities and actions of the sector, involve stakeholders and strengthens the coordination between them. Develop a suitable system for data collection and knowledge transfer to the field. Concludes and implements cooperation agreements with various stakeholders of common interest.



NFA is a public budgetary organization under the authority of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE);
Responsible for guaranteeing performance and standards in the forest fields;
NFA has the status of a state legal body, funded from the state budget and from the resources it provides itself.

INSTITUTIONAL INTERACTION

MUNICIPALITIES:
perform operational & management functions;
According to the law, they manages, inspects, has advisory and technical attributes for the owned national forest fund;



Ministry of Tourism and Environment:
is responsible for the administration of forests.
Administrative functions include:
policy making;
regulatory functions,
financing and development.

National Agency of Protected Areas:
Performs management functions (planning, execution and supervision of activities and services in the forests) and is operational in relation to the parts of the forests that are included in the Protected Areas.

NFA – Has management functions in the forestry sector

NFAA has the role of an authority that measures the performance and ensure the efficiency of the forest sector, develop standards and methodologies for the activities carried out in this field, involve the stakeholders and strengthens the cooperation between them. Develop appropriate systems for data collection and knowledge transfer in this area.

Main activities accomplished by NFA

National Forest Inventory of Forest and Pastures (ANFI 2021)

Conclusion of area indicators calculation, forest composition, timber wood volume, biomass, carbon sequestration etc. and documentation related. At the end of these activities and tasks, one of the most important objectives of the National Forestry Agency was achieved;

Output "Final Report of the National Inventory of Forests and Pastures 2021" and the publication of a booklet "National Inventory of Forests and Pastures in Albania ANFI 2021, Inventory Methodology and Results".



Download a copy from our webpage: Manual për mbrojtjen e pyjeve nga zjarri AKP - Agjencia Kombëtare e Pyjeve
www.akpyje.gov.al

Standardization of the forestry sector

The National Forestry Agency has worked in collaboration to draft standard models

of a number of projects carried out in forests.

In this context:

A number of technical documents have been drafted, such as manuals, guidelines, standards,

Model Manual - a type for drafting work projects that are mandatory for forest structures near Local Self-Govern

ment Units/Municipalities

(12 types of projects) ; (2 guidelines); (2 manuals); (2 standard models)

- ✓ Publication of 3 manuals:
- ✓ Afforestation Manual (in collaboration with the Faculty of Forest Sciences)
- ✓ Field Works Manual for the National Forest and Pasture Inventory

Manual for the Protection of Forests fire

“Invasive Plants in Albania”

Introduction

- Albania has a rich biodiversity with more than 3,200 plant species.
- Invasive species threaten forest, agricultural and aquatic ecosystems.
- They spread rapidly and replace native species.

“Invasive Plants in Albania”

Main invasive species in Albania

- Ailanthus altissima (Tree of Heaven)
- Robinia pseudoacacia (Black locust)
- Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Ragweed)
- Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)
- Chestnut Chinese wasp (*Drocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu)

“Invasive Plants in Albania”

Main Invasive Plant Species in Albania

No.	Scientific name	Common English name	Origin	Main habitats in Albania	Main impacts
1	Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	China	Urban areas, roadsides, degraded forests	Competes with native trees; releases chemicals that inhibit other plants (allelopathy)
2	Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Common Ragweed	North America	Agricultural lands, roadsides	Causes severe allergies; produces abundant, long-lived seeds
3	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	North America	Forest edges, hills, poor soils	Alters soil nitrogen; displaces native forest vegetation
4	Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	East Asia	Riverbanks, moist soils, urban areas	Damages infrastructure; forms dense, monocultural stands
5	Solanum elaeagnifolium	Silverleaf Nightshade	America	Agricultural fields, dry lands	Reduces crop yield; toxic to livestock
6	Xanthium orientale subsp. italicum	Italian Cocklebur	Mediterranean region	Riverbanks, wetlands	Competes with native species; hinders natural regeneration
7	Arundo donax	Giant Reed	Asia	Riverbanks, canals, wetlands	Consumes high water levels; suppresses native vegetation
8	Oxalis pes-caprae	Bermuda Buttercup	South Africa	Gardens, croplands	Forms dense mats; prevents native plants from growing

Chestnut Chinese wasp (*Drocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu)

The Chestnut Chinese wasp (*Drocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu) is believed to have been introduced into Albania around 2028 by exporters of chestnut (*Castanea sativa* Mill.). It was first detected in Reç, Malesi e Madhe, (north Albania) then in Tropoja, and later in central Albania and the southeast of the country. It has caused damage to the production of chestnut nuts, reducing production by 30%. Efforts have been done to combat the pest using the antagonist insect, the Japanese wasp *Torumus synensis* Linnaeus, which has been released in the Reç and Tropoja areas, and the first results in reducing the pest's range are expected.

Larvae photos of Drocosmus kuriphilus and sprouts affected by pest activity during july month (tree branch galls)







Pine processionary (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa)* Denis & Schiffermüller

Pine processionary (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa* Denis & Schiffermüller) is widespread in all black pine forests (*Pinus nigra* J.F. Arnold) in Albania, starting from 600 m. above sea level. It also affects the European pine and rarely the Mediterranean pine (*P.Pinea* L., *P.halepensis* Mill., and *P.Pinaster* Aiton) in located in coastal area of Albania. It is fought mechanically and efforts are being made to combat the harmful pest biologically. The damage caused depends on the processionary moth cycles and on climate change.











“Invasive Plants in Albania”

Problems caused by invasive species

- Reduction of native biodiversity
- Competition for resources (light, water, soil)
- Economic damage (forestry, agriculture, pastures)
- Health problems (allergies from ragweed)

“Invasive Plants in Albania”

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“Invasive Plants in Albania”

Measures and good practices

- Monitoring invasive species in forests and protected areas
- Mechanical removal and chemical control in limited areas
- Raising awareness of local communities
- International cooperation and exchange of experiences

“Invasive Plants in Albania”



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“Invasive Plants in Albania”



Conclusion

- Invasive plants are a serious threat to Albanian ecosystems.
- Monitoring, research and regional cooperation are needed.
- Albania is committed to contributing with its experience and learning from best practices of other countries.

AGJENCIA KOMBËTARE E PYJEVE

NATIONAL FORESTRY AGENCY (NFA)

THANK YOU!