

# SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE NON-STATE FOREST SECTOR IN SLOVAKIA



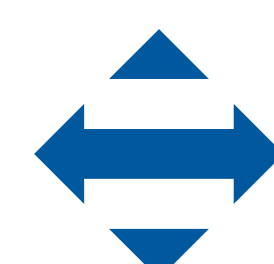
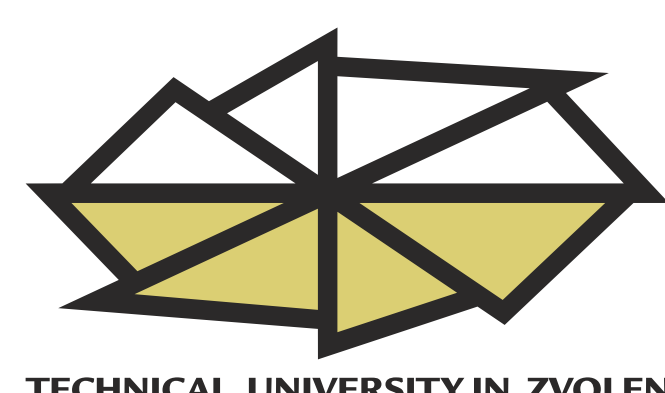
SUSTAINING FORESTS, SUSTAINING PEOPLE  
THE ROLE OF RESEARCH

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## SWOT MATRIX

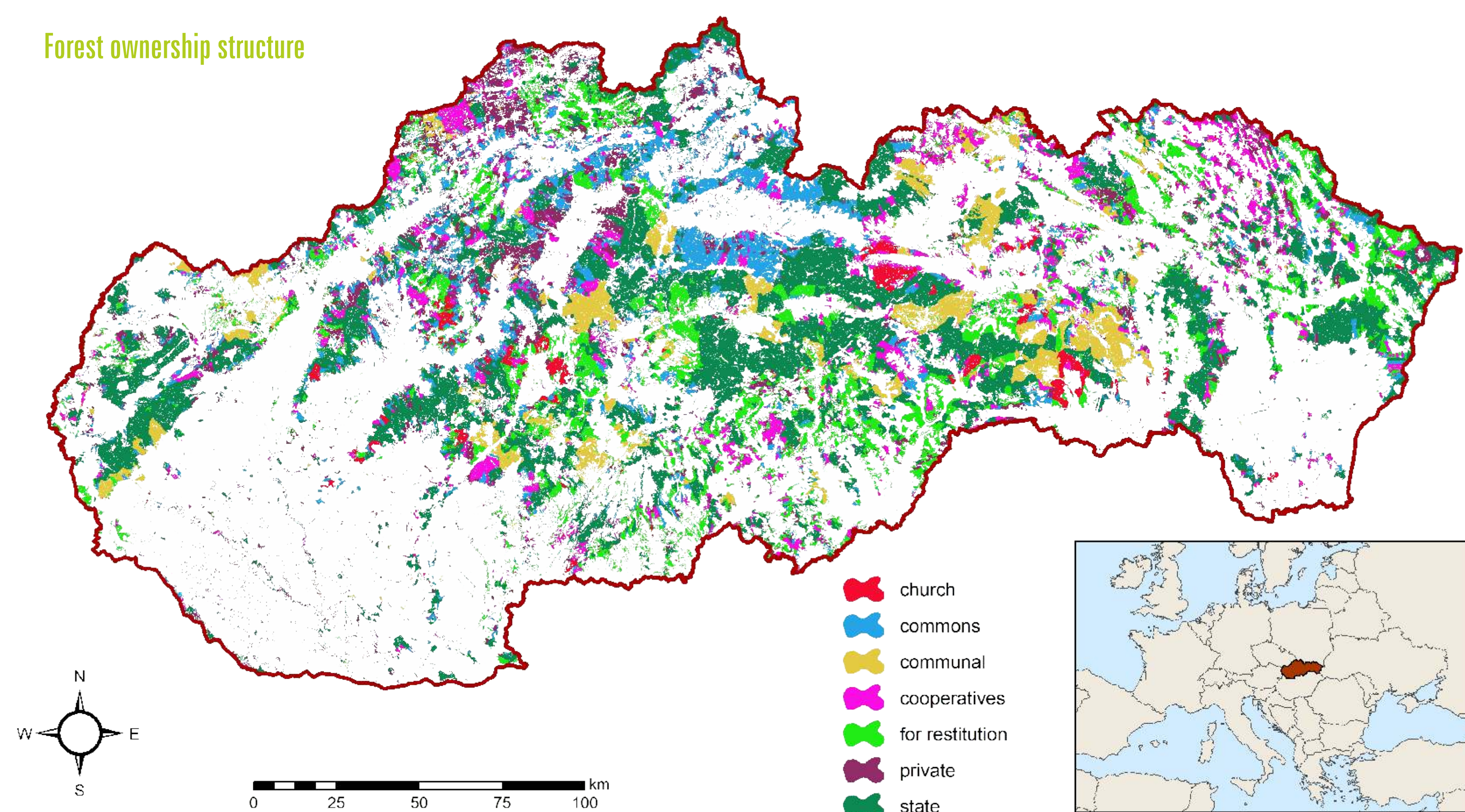


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**OBJECTIVE:** Analyze the non-state forestry sector using the SWOT methodology approach. Identify possible strategic scenarios resulting from the synthesis of the SWOT analysis outcomes.

Forest ownership structure



### THE STRATEGIC SCENARIOS:

**SO strategy** (internal strengths used to realise external opportunities) is aimed at the opportunities in private sector linked to the existence of associations, leaders and active members who are involved in fund-raising opportunities. **ST strategy** (internal strengths used to minimise external threats) uses strengths to avoid external threats and presents a more appropriate strategy due to the predominance of external threats and internal strengths. **WO strategy** (reducing internal weakness to realise external opportunities) describes opportunities to minimize or overcome internal weaknesses to exploit opportunities lies in the fragmentation of ownership and association members.

**WT strategy** (reducing the internal weaknesses to avoid external threats) is based on obtaining the relative unity of the associations to avoid the negative financial impact of the external environment.

### STRENGTH (S)

#### OWNERS

- Ensuring SFM on forest land
- Pride that non-state forests can manage their forests themselves
- Emotional bond to the forest land
- Self-determination
- The existence of well-established associations with accepted leaders
- Possibility to associate by common interests

#### ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

- High economic efficiency in forest management
- Flexible organizational structure
- Controlling only once a year (the General Assembly)
- Freedom in decisions
- Relative autonomy

#### PROPERTY

- Non-state forest owners own up to 52.3% of the forest in Slovakia
- Attractive areas for recreation and nature conservation

#### LEGAL ASPECTS

- FOAs have impact on legislation proposals

### WEAKNESSES (W)

#### OWNERS

- A large number of small forest owners without professional training in forestry
- Absentee members (many do not live in the village, they are only interested in their rents and dividends)
- Many co-owners, small possibility of an agreement
- Age structure — young generation is missing
- Lack of active members
- Weak voice in promoting their own opinions
- Personal interests of members (often contradictory), viciousness, callousness, envy,

#### ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

- Low level of joint forest management
- Various contradictory interests of individual owners and their associations
- Problems with forest land restitution
- Lack of information on forest management and supportive measures
- High influence of State administration
- Weak public relations
- Upstanding approach to transfer the state forest mode to private sector
- Weak coordination in timber market

#### PROPERTY

- Fragmentation of forests
- Shared property, joint ownership of commons, unknown owners

#### LEGAL ASPECTS

- Weak legal awareness

### OPPORTUNITIES (O)

#### PROFESSIONAL AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

- Strong professional support of non-state forestry sector
- Potential of people living in rural areas for local development
- European experiences and transfer of knowledge through international cooperation

#### ECONOMIC FACTORS

- Increasing demand for timber and timber products
- Utilisation of hunting rights by forest owners
- Marketing of NWFP (picking of berries)
- External financial sources — Possibilities to gain EU financial support

#### PROPERTY

- Natural environment with protected areas and many attractive places
- Huge potential for alternative forest management
- State interest to maintain and support commons

#### LEGAL ASPECTS

- New legislation with the separate approach for state and non-state forest sectors
- Promotion of Payments for ecosystem services and their implementation in Forest law

### THREATS (T)

#### PROFESSIONAL AND HUMAN POTENTIAL

- Influence of environmental lobby groups
- Conflicts arising from forest management (nature protection, society)
- Permanent personal changes at all level of state administration
- Professional foresters without reference
- Loss of social status of foresters

#### ECONOMIC FACTORS

- Nature protected areas with management restrictions without compensations
- Lack of lay public information on the importance of non-state forestry
- Lack of financial resources
- Dominant position of the state forest in wood trade
- Bureaucracy, tax system

#### PROPERTY

- State sector's influence on non-state forests
- Conflict of interests in forest management goals
- Fragmentation of forests
- Forest health conditions (treats and pests)

#### LEGAL ASPECTS

- Weak policy coordination
- Enforcement of law
- Illegal activities
- Specific inheritance problems — forest land fragmentation
- Big influence of financial groups on legislative process