

Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

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Tomáš Hlásny, Pavel Pavlenda. Ladislav Kulla
Slovakia

National Forest Centre, Slovakia
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
of the Slovak Republic

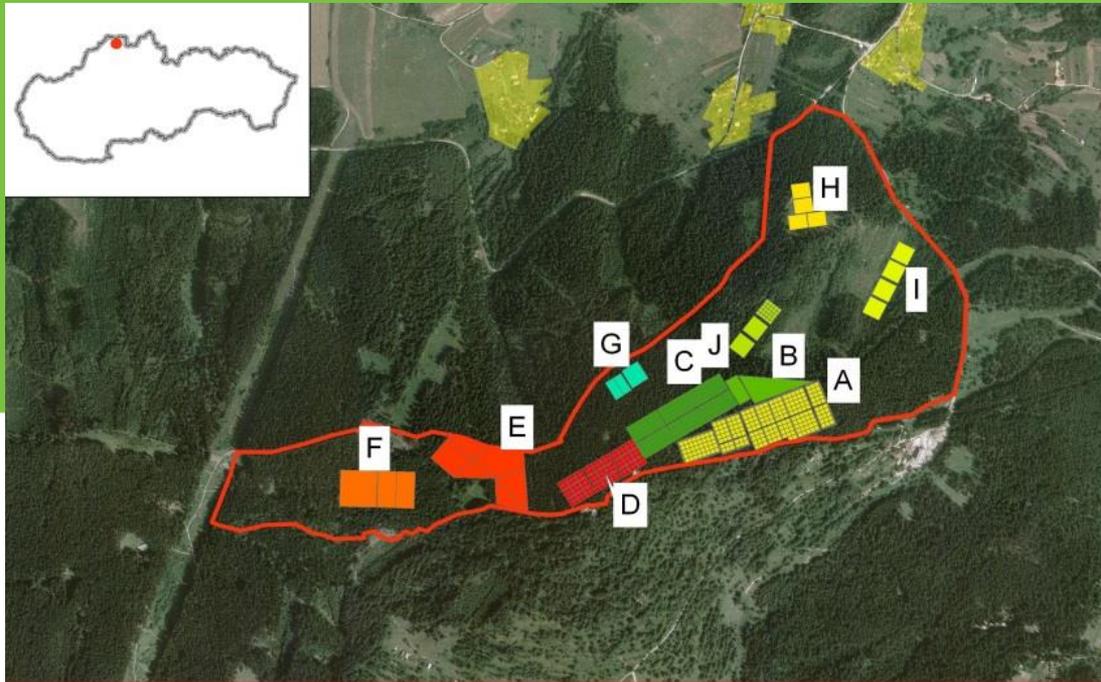
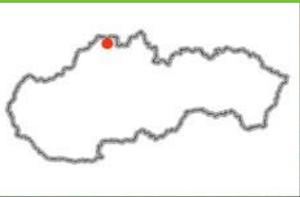


How do you contribute with your work in your country/organization to climate change adaptation activities?

- Participating in the development of national strategic materials on climate change adaptation
- Conducting research on climate change impacts and adaptation and securing transfer of research outputs to forestry decision- and policy-making
- Operating extensive field infrastructure, which supports climate change research and adaptation, including ICP Forests and biometeorological monitoring
- Operating web services and forestry ISs that support adaptation efforts
- Operating Forest Protection Service, which focuses also on early detection of invasive pests and development of strategies to combat them

Please describe a successful example of climate change adaptation measures implemented in your country/by your organization

- Establishing a so-called forest demonstration object Husárik (northern Slovakia) to test and demonstrate forest management practices aimed at forest adaptation to climate change and conversion of secondary spruce forests to more stable and resilient ecosystems
- Since 2009, area 80 ha
- Used for the testing of novel management, silviculture and protection practices, education and awareness increase
- Options for the adaptive change in tree species composition and monitoring of the effects of drought are among the objectives



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 km

A	Provenance trials of domestic and introduced species
B	Planting trials of clons and hybrids
C	Artificial regeneration trials
D	Planting site augmentation trials
E	Planting and forest restoration trials
F	Stands with fast-growing species
G	Silviculture trials I
H	Silviculture trials II
I	Silviculture trials III
J	Silviculture trials IV



Is there a national strategy (does your organization have a strategy) on adaptation of forests to climate change?

Forest adaptation to climate change is explicitly considered in national strategic materials and action plans, for example:

- Adaptation strategy of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Environment of the SR, 2014 (currently under regular revision and update)
- National Forest Program of the SR (2007), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR
- Action Plan of the National Forest Program for the period 2015-2020 (2015)

What are major challenges related to climate change and forests in your country/organization?

Challenges in terms of anticipated impacts:

- Increasing drought and its direct effects on tree growth and vitality, and indirect effect through the reduced resistance to pests and diseases
- Potential influx of new forest pests and diseases, changes in population dynamics and virulence of resident agents
- Increased frequency and severity of windstorms and related impacts on forests

Challenges in terms of ability to face the climate change (examples)

- Mostly insufficient awareness of decision- and policy-makers concerning the need of adaptation
- Persistingly high rate of forest damage -> both barriers and opportunities for adaptation
- Lacking consensus on the use of new tree species and provenances in the frame of forest adaptation
- Needs to adjust management planning system to address the climate change adaptation adequately