

# : On the significance of subsidies in forest management decision-making in the Czech Republic

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## ■ ABSTRACT

There is a long-lasting practice of spruce monocultures out of its natural conditions in the Czech Republic. To suggest policies that will effectively support conversion from spruce monocultures to more natural mixed forest stands, it is important to understand the motivations of forest managers. The aim of the study is to discover the importance of subsidies for decision making on forest management in the Czech Republic. Based on a questionnaire survey, we studied the attitudes towards subsidies in the Czech forest management. The 52 forest managers that participated in the study were in charge of 29% of all forest land in the Czech Republic. We analysed the part of the questionnaire survey data dealing with the role of subsidies in decision-making. We found that subsidies have a substantial incentive effect in favour of stabilising and improving species in the decision-making of forest managers who manage forests with a statistically significantly lower proportion of spruce in forest stands. However, generally the results suggested that the subsidies are not the key drivers of decision making in Czech forest management. Based on the comments of the respondents we conclude with suggestions on improving the legal and administrative framework of incentives in Czech forest management to become more efficient with respect to supporting planting the stabilising and improving species.

## ■ KEYWORDS

**Subsidies, mixed forest, spruce, decision-making, forest management, conversion**