

predgovor

Gozd je glavna prepoznavna značilnost Slovenije, saj porašča okoli 60 % površja. Zaradi biogene zgodovine ozemlja predstavlja in vključuje Slovenijo med pomembna žarišča biotske pestrosti v Evropi. Zaradi zgodovine gozdarstva na večjem delu ozemlja Slovenije pa so ti gozdovi nadpovprečno naravno ohranjeni, kar omogoča tudi ohranjanje vseh organizmov, ki soustvarjajo razmere za naravno dinamiko razvoja gozdov v spreminjajočem se okolju.

Pomen gozdov za ohranjanje živega okolja, vode in tal, je v Sloveniji poudarjen že več stoletij; priporočila za trajnostno gospodarjenje z gozdovi zaradi preprečevanja razgalitve kraških tal oziroma matične podlage so znana še iz časov Marije Terezije; pomen načrtnega in trajnostnega gospodarjenja z gozdovi pa je zapisan že v prvih gozdnogospodarskih načrtih.

Ohranjenost slovenskih gozdov so zagotovili pomembni gozdarji - načrtovalci in gojitelji v zgodovini gospodarjenja z gozdovi na Slovenskem. Med temi imajo posebno mesto gozdarji, ki so gozdnogospodarsko načrtovanje vgradili v sistem gospodarjenja z velikimi površinami gozdov veleposestnikov. V jugovzhodni Sloveniji je dr. Leopold Hufnagl prvi izločil posamezne odseke gozdov iz sistema pridobivanja lesa in jim namenil funkcijo ohranjanja narave in raziskovanja naravnega razvoja gozdov. Na tej osnovi so bili ohranjeni sonaravno gospodarjeni veliki gozdni kompleksi na Kočevskem ter ostanki pragozdov bukve in jelke v osrčju tega območja.

Ohranitev in raziskave pragozdnih ostankov je razširil v mrežo pragozdnih rezervatov starosta sodobnega sistema gojenja gozdov v Sloveniji in svetu, prof. Dušan Mlinšek, ki je v sproščeno tehniko gojenja gozdov vključil izsledke povojnih gozdno-vegetacijskih raziskav z načeli (dr. Maks Wraber in dr. Vlado Tregubov) in izvedbo (dr. Miran Brinar) gojenja gozdov v luči gozdne genetike.

Mreža pragozdnih rezervatov je postala 'gozdna učilna' serije generacij študentov - gojiteljev in načrtovalcev - in raziskovalcev gozdov in gozdnih ekosistemov. Ohranjanje in raziskave so omogočili in uresničevali nasledniki, gozdnogospodarski načrtovalci na tem območju. Vendar so slednji v sistem gospodarjenja vključili nove dimenzije - prikaz značilnosti pragozdov splošni javnosti, vključitev in navezavo gozdov in gozdarstva na tehnično in kulturno dediščino - ter vzpostavili sistem izobraževanja prav tam, v 'gozdni učilni'. Anton Prelesnik je približal pragozd gozdarjem, mladini in ljubiteljem naravoslovja, Tomaž Hartman pa znanje, spoznanja in doživetja pragozdov in kočevske krajine predstavi vsakemu obiskovalcu odprtih oči in srca.

In prav vsakdo ob obisku pragozdov, kot jih predstavi Tomaž Hartman, zasluti veličino, povezanost, spremembe v času in prostoru, v vseh velikostnih skupinah, med vsemi organizmi in okoljem teh dinamičnih spomenikov večstoletnega razvoja dinarskega jelovo - bukovega gozda v osrčju dinarskih Alp.

Monografijo je, kot pravi avtor, 'nosil v srcu' in dopolnjeval z učenjem v gozdovih več desetletij; ob pomoči so-avtorjev, mojstrov naravoslovne - gozdne fotografije, mu je uspelo pripraviti enkratni prikaz trajnosti in minljivosti našega vpogleda v časovne dimenzije pragozda; bežno nam pomaga zaslutiti, kaj slovensko gozdarstvo uvršča med začetnike 'trajnostnega gospodarjenja z večnamenskim in mnogopomenskim gozdom'.

Hojka Kraigher

foreword

Forest is a major distinguishing feature of Slovenia, covering as it does about 60% of the country's area. Due to its biogenic history, this area locates Slovenia as an important biotic diversity hotspot in Europe. Thanks to the history of forestry over most of Slovenia's territory, these forests are preserved to an above average degree, enabling also the conservation of all the organisms that play a role in the natural dynamics of forest development in a changing environment.

The significance of forests in conserving the living environment, water, and soil has been emphasized in Slovenia for several centuries; recommendations for sustainable management of forests to prevent denudation of karst soils and parent material were known as far back as during the rule of Maria Theresa, and the importance of planned and sustainable management of forests was noted in the earliest forest management plans.

The preserved state of Slovenian forests was ensured by important foresters, planners and growers over the course of the history of forest management in Slovenia. Among these a special place is held by foresters who built forest management planning into the system for managing extensive areas of forests held by large landowners. In southeastern Slovenia Dr. Leopold Hufnagl pioneered the exclusion of particular sections of forests from the timber production system, giving them a nature conservation and research function in order to study the natural development of forests. On this basis sustainably managed large forest complexes in Kočevje were conserved, including remnants of virgin forests of beech and fir in the heart of this area.

The conservation and research of virgin forest remnants was expanded into a network of virgin forest reserves by the doyen of modern silviculture in Slovenia and the world, Prof. Dušan Mlinšek. He included the findings of postwar forest vegetation studies in adaptable silvicultural techniques based on the principles (Dr. Maks Wraber and Dr. Vlado Tregubov) and practice (Dr. Miran Brinar) of silviculture in light of forest genetics.

The network of virgin forest reserves became a "forest classroom" for a series of generations of students– silviculturalists and planners – and researchers of forests and forest ecosystems. Conservation and research were made possible by successors, forest management planners in this area. However, the latter have included new dimensions into the management system– a presentation of the features of virgin forests to the general public, the inclusion and linking of forests and forestry in technical and cultural heritage, and the establishment of an educational system on-site, in the "forest classroom". Anton Prelesnik brought virgin forest to foresters, young people, and natural science lovers, and Tomaž Hartman presents skills, knowledge, and experience of virgin forests and the Kočevje landscape to any visitor with open eyes and heart.

And every single person visiting virgin forests as they are presented by Tomaž Hartman senses the vastness, connection, changes in time and space, in all size groups, among all organisms and the environment of these dynamic monuments to the centuries-long development of the Dinaric fir-beech forest in the heart of the Dinaric Alps.

As the author says, this monograph was "carried in [his] heart" and enhanced by study in forests over several decades; with the help of co-authors and masters of natural science and forest photography, he has succeeded in creating a superb display of the permanence yet transience of our insight into the time dimension of virgin forest, giving us a glimpse into what ranks Slovenian forestry among the pioneers of "sustainable management of multi-purpose and multi-significant forest."

Hojka Kraigher