

EDITORIAL

AT THE END OF 2023

The end of the year is usually the time to make an account of what has been done in the course of 12 months. We shall make a brief review of the topics dealt with in the Editorials. The volume 1-2/2023 was devoted to the lease of forest land – a relatively topical issue in the past several years. In order to enlarge the area intended for this purpose several changes and amendments were made to the former Forest Planning Regulation, and this year to the Forest Act. Facilitating and helping livestock farming created problems for forestry and other users of the area, which will need to be rectified in the future. The Editorial 3-4/2023 was devoted to March 21st, the International Day of Forests. Forests are becoming increasingly more important not only as a natural resource but also as a source of other values. This year's theme of the International Day of Forests was Forests and Health, or Healthy Forests for Healthy People, with special focus on the health function of forests. However, the health of forests in the world and in Croatia is faced with challenges which will have to be addressed by Croatian forestry experts. The Editorial 5-6/2023 was devoted to the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology in Zagreb as the provider of education in the forestry and wood technology profession. Established in 1898 as the Forestry Academy, through 125 years of activity it has developed into a modern higher education institution ready to adapt to the needs of the times. This year's short-lived July storm will be remembered as an unprecedented disaster for forests, particularly for the most valuable stands of the Spačva basin, which was dealt

with in the issue 7-8/2023. The initial estimate on forest damage was 1.5 million m² of growing stock, but it amounted to 3.5 million m² by the end of the year. The consequences of the storm will be felt for years and regeneration of the affected stands will face enormous difficulties. The issue 9-10 was concerned with whether we should worry about the future of human resources in forestry. The attractiveness of education and employment in forestry in Croatia, along with negative demographic trends, is increasingly declining. In addition to the aforementioned problems concerning the health of Croatian forests, the future of work in these forests does not offer too much optimism.

The purpose of our editorials is not to find difficult topics in forestry but primarily to initiate changes for the better for all stakeholders of the sector, society and the state by providing reviews and opinions. Let us mark the 147th year of the publication of Forestry Journal on a brighter note. In three years, we will celebrate the impressive 150 years of uninterrupted publication of the scientific-professional and specialized journal of the Croatian Forestry Association, which ranks it among the 10 oldest forestry journals in the world. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2024 and lots of health, personal and business successes to all CFA members and their loved ones and to all readers of Forestry Journal! May you yourselves participate in the creation of new anniversaries with your contributions!

Editorial Board