

## Our Origin

After 1990, non-state forest owners in the Banská Bystrica region—particularly joint ownership entities (urbariáty), as well as municipal and family forests—began taking a renewed interest in managing their forests. The reprivatization of forestland brought a host of administrative, legal, and practical challenges. Out of these challenges grew a simple idea: join forces and help one another, chiefly through education and shared expertise.

One of the first associations of non-state forest owners in central Slovakia took shape at a general meeting of communities and private owners on **November 30, 1991**, in Zvolen, under the name **Association of Owners of Private, Community, and Municipal Forests of the Zvolen–Hont Region**. As our scope evolved, a general meeting on **November 20, 1993**, approved a new name: **Association of Private, Community, and Municipal Forest Owners in the Pohronsko–Novohradský Region**. A decade later, the general meeting on **April 27, 2002**, adopted our current name: **Association of Community and Private Forests Owners in the Banská Bystrica Region**. Meanwhile, municipal and town forests established a separate association to reflect their specific needs better.

Our objectives and tasks are defined in the Association’s **Statutes**, registered by the **Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic** on **June 11, 2002**, under number **VVS/1-900/90-9425-1**. We focus on delivering advisory, consulting, legal, professional, and service support to our members. The Statutes also set out members’ rights and obligations, ensuring transparent governance and accountable representation.

To strengthen capacity, we organize **professional seminars** and publish **practical literature** addressing current topics in forestry, hunting, environmental stewardship, land ownership, and—especially—relevant legislation.

The Association is proud to be an active member of:

- **Union of Regional Associations of Non-State Forest Owners in Slovakia**
- **Council of Associations of Non-State Forest Owners in Slovakia**
- **PEFC Slovakia**

Together with our partners, we continue to build a knowledgeable, resilient community of forest owners committed to sustainable, lawful, and responsible forest management in the Banská Bystrica region.

#SMURFProject

