

## **Women in forestry – graphic novel**

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Throughout history, forestry was often considered an occupation reserved for men. Jobs related to forests—such as logging, planting, protection, and managing forest resources—were seen as difficult, demanding, and physically exhausting, so women were rarely mentioned in this field. However, time has shown that this division was wrong, as today women participate equally in forestry, bringing not only strength and knowledge but also a special sensitivity toward nature and its preservation.

The forest has always been a source of life for humankind. It provides wood, food, oxygen, medicine, and shelter. In societies closely connected to nature, women have long played an important role. They were responsible for gathering fruits, medicinal plants, and maintaining harmony with the environment. Their knowledge of nature was passed down from generation to generation. Yet, it was only with the development of education and the achievement of the right to schooling that women began to formally enter forestry as engineers, researchers, workers, and guardians of nature.

Today, in many countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, women increasingly hold positions in forestry institutions. They work as forestry engineers, scientists in the field of ecology, environmental protection inspectors, as well as field foresters. Their role is not only in the scientific or administrative sphere but also in practical work, from afforestation to monitoring forest use. In this way, women show that strength is not only physical but also intellectual and moral.

The female perspective in forestry is especially significant. Women often approach nature with more care and empathy. They think about the future and about the world we are leaving to our children. For this reason, they are often the initiators of projects for forest conservation and the fight against deforestation. In many international organizations dedicated to environmental protection, women hold leading roles. Their courage and determination show that caring for nature is as important as any other social struggle.

Of course, women in forestry also face obstacles. They often have to prove that they are as capable as their male colleagues. At times, they encounter misunderstanding because of the lingering belief that forestry is a man's job. Nevertheless, through their work and achievements, women are breaking down these prejudices, showing that nature belongs to everyone and that everyone has the right and responsibility to take care of it.

In an era of climate change and accelerated deforestation, women in forestry have an even more important mission. They are not only protecting trees but also safeguarding the balance of entire ecosystems. Their work ensures the preservation of clean air, drinking water, wildlife, and healthy soil. In this sense, their contribution is invaluable, because caring for forests means caring for life itself.

Moreover, the presence of women in forestry also carries strong symbolic value. It demonstrates that society is progressing toward equality and fairness. When young girls see successful women working in this field, they are encouraged to follow their own dreams, regardless of prejudice or obstacles. In this way, women in forestry contribute not only to nature protection but also to social development, inspiring new generations to believe in themselves and their abilities.

For all these reasons, we can say that women in forestry are not only workers in a single economic sector but true guardians of nature and the future. Their role shows that gender equality is not only a matter of justice but also a matter of human survival. When women and men work together to preserve forests, nature has the greatest chance to endure and remain a treasure for generations to come. Their dedication and efforts remind us that the forest is not only an economic resource but a living organism that connects us all and to which we owe gratitude and care. Whoever protects the forest protects life itself—because without forests, humanity has no future.

