

**RESTORATION OF HIGH DEGRADED FOREST ECOSYSTEMS
IN SITHONIA CHALKIDIKI, NORTH GREECE**

Thekla K. TSITSONI

*Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Department of Forestry & Natural Environment,
Laboratory of Silviculture, P.O. Box 262, 54 006 - Thessaloniki, GREECE
E.mail: tsitsoni@for.auth.gr*

ABSTRACT

This study deals with the results of the experiment carried out in the Porto Koufo area, Sithonia, Chalkidiki, aiming at the restoration of the highly degraded forest land. The experiment consisted of three experimental plots, in which two plant species (*Pinus halepensis*, *Spartium junceum*) were planted, three replications in three different locations. The results showed: regarding *Pinus halepensis* plantations, one or two year old seedlings are recommended of good quality, 20-30 cm height, with rich and fine root system. *Spartium junceum* can be used either as containerized or as bare root seedlings and the seedlings must have at least 25 cm height. The parent material (bedrock) strongly affected the species survival having better results in schists comparing to the results in the granites. The protection from grazing is necessary at least for a period of 7 years after the plantations or for the period which the seedlings are in danger for survival. In no case soil compression and degradation should occur.