

If art and wine are not really your thing, you could even think of investing in Ireland's future - including the option of investing in our forests. To date there have been 12 Forestry Investment Plans, all of which were oversubscribed, and each offered a 10 year lump sum investment plan which facilitated the buying of bare land for forestry. The advantages, outside of the ecological wellbeing of the nation, were that returns on the investment were tax free.

Emphasis has now switched to Forestry Growth Plans, which will concentrate on the purchase of semi-mature forests. Again, this is a tax free lump sum investment (minimum €750), which projects a compound return rate of 8.5% per annum, with the main difference between the FIP and the new plan being that the Forestry Growth Plan is a 12 year investment. The aim of the Forestry Growth Plan will be to raise €2.5m to purchase these semi-mature woodlands. The forests are managed on behalf of the Company by IFS Asset Managers Ltd.

For information on how to invest in the Forestry Growth plan, visit www.irish-forestry.ie