



Agricultural Policy Forum 2022

Agriculture and Rural Development in the context of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans: Overcoming the Impact of the Global Challenges

Working Group 2: Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans

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Background and introduction

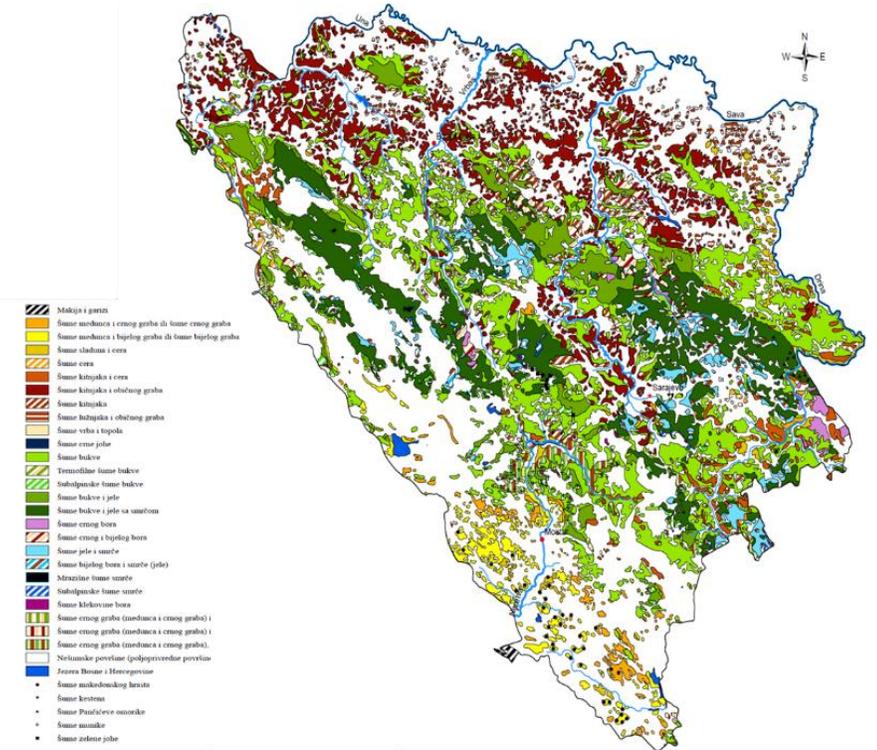


Size of forest area by management and protection regime

Vegetation form	Available surface				Protective forests ha	Total ha
	Economic forests	Non-economic forests	Protected forests	Special purpose forests		
	ha	ha	ha	ha		
1. High forest	1.329.500	46.300	5.200	8.800	262.600	1.652.400
2. Coppice forest	843.200	158.700	1.600	2.400	246.300	1.252.200
1+2. All forests	2.172.700	205.000	6.800	11.200	508.900	2.904.600
3. Shrubbery	52.700	41.100	0	100	36.700	130.600
4. Barren	55.700	88.400	800	3.400	38.900	187.200
3+4. Shrubbery and barren	108.400	129.500	800	3.500	75.600	317.800
5. Other forest areas	3.300	3.100		100	2.600	9.100
FAO forest (1+2+3+5)	2.228.700	241.600	6.800	11.400	548.200	3.035.700
6. All forest and forest land	2.284.400	337.600	7.600	14.800	587.100	3.231.500

Source: USAID, 2012

Types of forests in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Source: Forests of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2013



Structure of forest areas and forest lands

Vegetation form	Area ha	%
High forest with natural regeneration	493.479,1	40
High degraded forests	14.898,8	1,2
Forest plantations – cultures	60.517,5	4,9
Total high forest	568.895,4	46,1
Coppice forest	257.879,6	21,0
Overgrown unproductive areas	17.809,3	1,4
Total overgrown forest land	844.584,4	68,4
Productive barren land	159.913,5	13,0
Total for management	1.004.497,9	81,4
Non-productive areas in terms of forestry	104.185,5	8,5
Mined surfaces (in all forms of vegetation)	125.124,2	10,1
TOTAL	1.233.807,5	100

Wood stock, annual volume increment and annual allowable cut

WOOD STOCK					
Vegetation form	Conifers m ³	Broadleaves m ³	Total m ³	m ³ /ha	%
All high forests	76.706.825	80.393.412	157.100.237	311,3	88,5
Coppice forests	0	22.915.992	22.915.992	88,9	11,5
TOTAL	76.706.825	103.309.404	180.016.229	236,8	100,0
ANNUAL VOLUME INCREMENT					
All high forests	1.878.920	1.581.486	3.460.406	7,36	80,6
Coppice forests	0	833.990	833.990	3,23	19,4
TOTAL	1.878.920	2.415.476	4.294.396	5,94	100,0
ANNUAL ALLOWABLE CUT					
All high forests	1.418.218	1.319.404	2.737.622	4,85	89,8
Coppice forests	0	310.869	310.869	1,21	10,2
TOTAL	1.418.218	1.630.273	3.048.491	3,51	100,0

Ministry of agriculture, water management and forestry of the FBiH, 2021

Strategic and legal framework

- BiH Constitution provision, entity responsibilities
- The small forestry department within the state Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER) has some responsibility concerning international relations and forestry
- In 2009, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry (FMAWMF) initiated the process of drafting the Forest Program of the FBiH (FP FBiH), completion by February 2011, but general part of FP FBiH, which has been completed and accepted by the FBiH Government in 2017. and its adoption by the FBiH Parliament has been extended until the adoption of the Law on Forests
- Law on forests from 2002 by Decision by the Constitutional Court of the FBiH from 2009 was no longer in force
- Regulation on Forests (December 2011), after Law on Forests hasn't been adopted yet, the forest sector is legally unregulated at the level of FBiH
- 2017 Draft Law on Forests prepared by FMAWMF was sent to the parliamentary procedure
- Nine cantons passed their own laws on forest



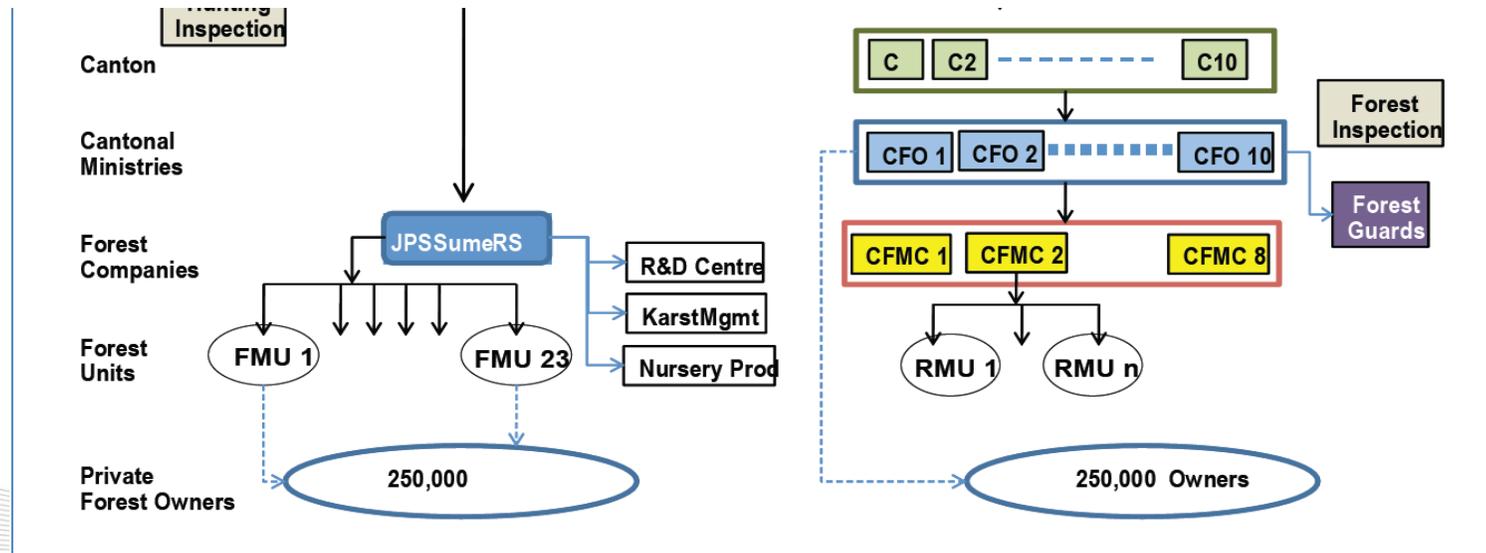
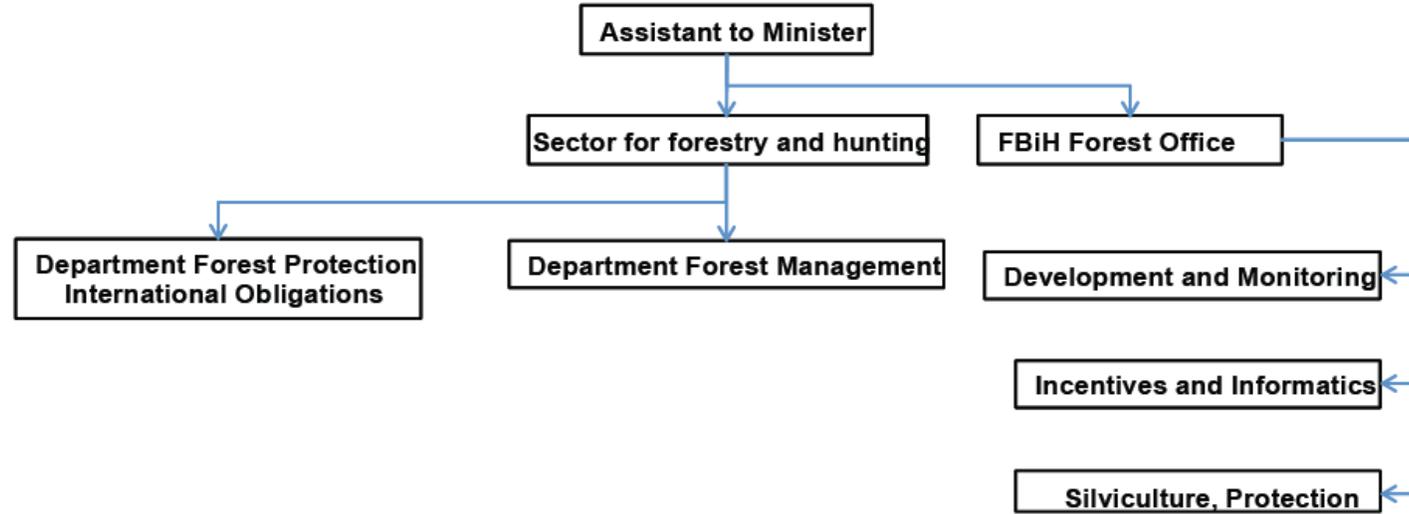
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Institutional framework





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Description of projects related to SFM



- The 2008, the EU IPA project Support to Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012–2015) came up with analysis of the distribution of habitat types and species in the country, and a draft proposal on the 122 Natura 2000 sites.
- Promoting sustainable forest management in Bosnia and Herzegovina funded by IKEA, coordinated by WWF Adria and implemented by the Faculty of Forestry, University of Sarajevo in the period 2014-2020
- GEF Project "Sustainable Forest and Landscape Management" between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- Development of the Information System in forest sector of FBiH
- Master plan of forest transport infrastructure in FBiH 2019
- Regional action for combating forest crime and corruption 2018-2021, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Supporting decision making and building capacity to support IPBES through national ecosystem assessments-Assessment of the state of nature and management of natural resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2023 IKI, WCMC



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Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM

- Adoption of Implementation Part of FP with detailed strategic and operational goals that should be implemented in practice
- Enactment of legislation in the field of forestry at the FBiH level
- Improvement of organizational structure of forest sector
- Establishment of a lifelong learning system in forestry
- Improvement of communication capacities and practices within the forestry sector
- Ensure the management of non-timber forest products within the forestry sector in cooperation with other interested parties.
- Establishment of a monitoring system and formation of a central database for monitoring climate change at the FBiH level.





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Conclusions



- It is necessary to adopt its Implementation Part with detailed strategic and operational goals that should be implemented in practice
- Despite the fact that there is no law on forests in FBiH, the forestry sector has been functioning for years through the implementation of cantonal laws on forests. In order to reach a compromise and satisfy all the numerous interest groups, the solution is to adopt an umbrella (federal) Law on Forests in which the criteria of sustainable forest management would be clearly recognized and represented
- The institutional framework of the FBiH forestry sector is quite complex because it follows the administrative organization of the FBiH
- The establishment of a unique information system for the forestry sector was foreseen in the Law on Forests of the FBiH from 2002, but this process took a long time and has not yet fully taken root. Several special modules have been established, but the problem is that, due to the lack of a legal framework at the FBiH level, data cannot be collected to create databases for certain areas in the forestry sector
- In 2013 the EUTR Action Plan for BiH was adopted with support of the USAID – FIRMA project. In 2016 the Council of Ministers of BiH adopted the Information on implementation of EUTR in BiH, which contained basic data on required activities for harmonization with this regulation
- Bosnia and Herzegovina is particularly vulnerable to climate change. FMPs in FBiH are not adequately and sufficiently addressing adaptation on climate change. Except the formal commitment and implementation of measures to implement SFM, detailed actions how to adapt on climate change are not prescribed in the FMP
- Lack of knowledge in socio-political and economic aspects of natural resource management is significant shortcoming of forestry professionals in BiH
- FMP for private forests owners are neither involved in the process of creating forest management bases for private forests, nor do they know what is foreseen in those documents as a set of management measures for the next ten-year period. As a result, the provisions of the forest management principles are insufficiently resulting in the continuous degradation of private forests



Recommendations

- The priority actions have to be relevant for rural development and in compliance with the EU requirements because the process of joining to EU is a significant driver of change in forest policy in BiH
- Forest diversity in BiH is extra-ordinarily rich and requires respective incorporation in forest management planning in a geographically heterogeneous environment
- Training and education are a major component of capacity building measures that are required in the forest-based sector in BiH to modernize operation and support compliance with EU and its acquis
- The EU Timber Regulation imposes severe changes onto the forest-based sector in BiH. Installing institutional structures for certification and collaboration with the sector is essential to guarantee business development with the EU both in the private and corporate sector
- The importance and changes in role of forest sector in rural development is not adequately emphasized by current educational systems of forest sector in BiH
- Investment need are identified in: restoration and expansion of the forest road network, investment in modern harvesting and logistics technologies, capacity building in human resources in forest management and administration
- The publishing of NFI data is mandatory for achieving a more accurate planning of mobilizing these resources, where most accurate data are required
- Private forest owners manage around 20 percent of the forests in BiH but widely lack capacities and resources to properly manage their forests. Fostering associations of forest owners and the forest-based industries is needed for a more coherent horizontal and vertical organization of the sector
- Coppice forests, many of them in private ownership, need to be specifically addressed in order to bring them back under forest management and make sustainable use of their potential role in both, biodiversity maintenance, but also biomass production