

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

Sustainable forest management in the Republic of Srpska - *Progress report*

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Background and introduction

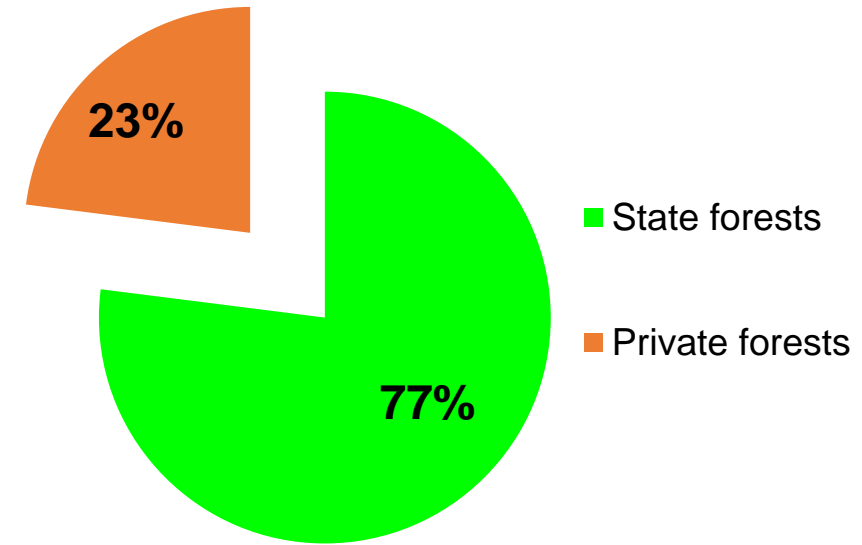
Coverage and stock

- Forest and forest land **53%** of the total area – **1.3 million ha**
- **High forests** – **0.57 mil. ha** or **44%**
- **Coppice** – **0.42 mil. ha** or **32%**
- **Total wood stock volume** - **254 million m³**
- **Annual increment** - **6.5 million m³**
- **Total harvested gross wood volume** - **3 million m³**

Species

- **66%** broad leaf: **34%** conifers
- The most common species: **beech, fir, spruce**
- **Oak** mostly in private forests

Ownership structure



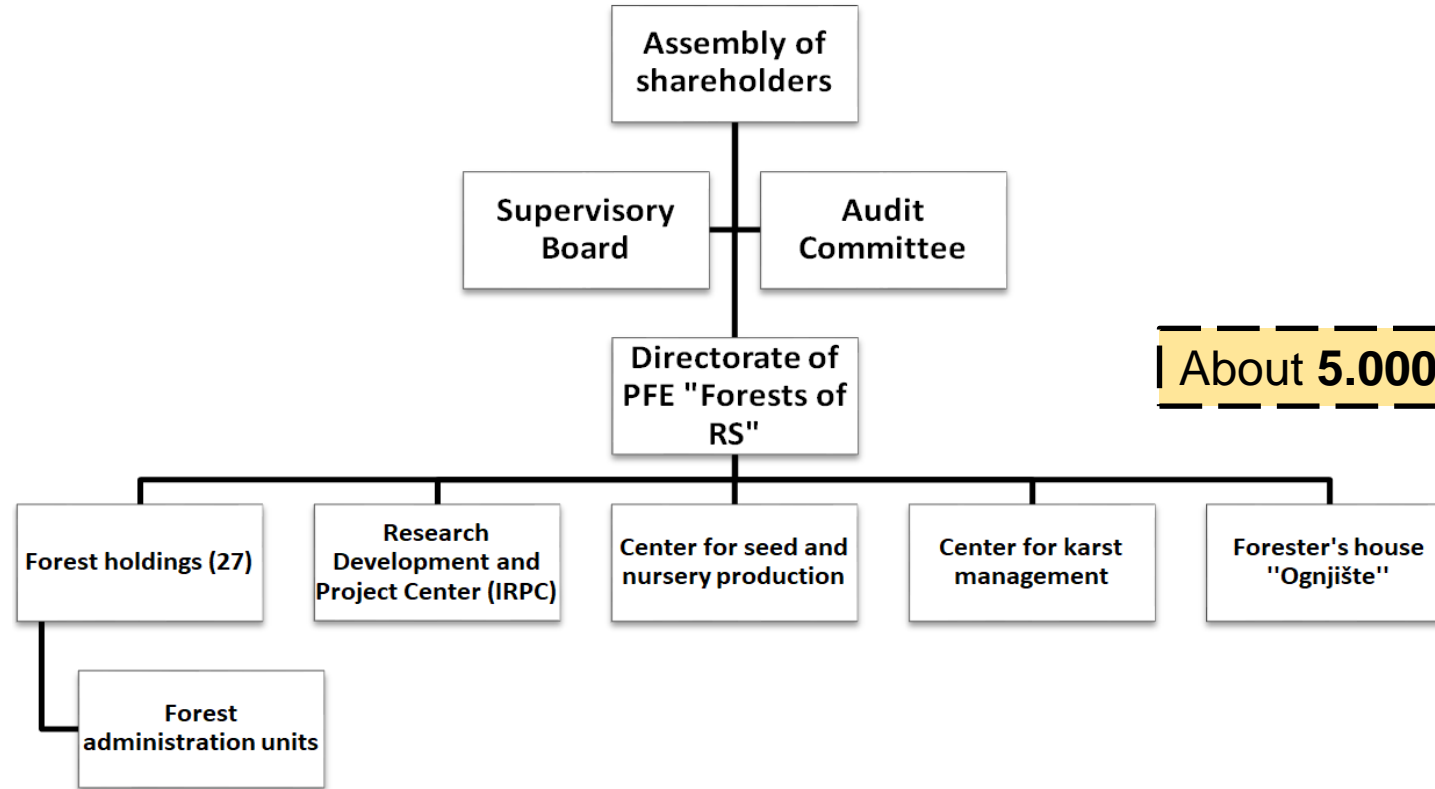
- **All state forests are FSC certified**
- **Less than 3%** of the territory of the RS, or **68,000 ha**, is under different protection regimes



Strategic and legal framework in the country/territory

- Forest management is based on the **Law on Forests as of 2008** (Official Gazette of the RS, 75/08), and **amendments** to the law as of **2013** and **2020** (Official Gazette of the RS, 60/13 and 70/20).
- The **first Forestry Development Strategy** of the Republic of Srpska was adopted for the period **2011-2021**
- **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** is the **general goal** that guided the preparation of the new **Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period 2022-2032** (**which is in the final stage of development**)
- There is **no Forestry Program** for the Republic of Srpska!

Institutional framework in the country/territory



About **5.000 employees** in the PFE



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Description of the projects related to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the past 5 years



1. Measures for redefining the organizational and economic position of the PFE "Forests of the Republic of Srpska" JSC Sokolac (2015)
2. Program for the conservation of forest genetic resources of the Republic of Srpska 2013-2025 (2013)
3. WISDOM methodology for the consumption of wood and wood fuels in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)
4. The Master Plan of roads in the Republic of Srpska (2019)
5. Technical and technological typification of the forest terrain in the Republic of Srpska (2020)
6. The Master plan of afforestation and management of forest cultures (2021)
7. Establishment of the Diagnostic-Forecasting Service



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8. Establishment of systematic monitoring of the condition of forests in the frame of Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (2014)
9. Natura 2000 Bosnia and Herzegovina network was proposed (2014)
10. GIS database of the vascular flora of the Republic of Srpska (2020)
11. Development of PEFC National Standard for SFM in the Republic of Srpska/BiH (2021)
12. Creation of the state-of-the-art information system (GIS and SAP components) for the PFE "Forests of the Republic of Srpska" (2021)
13. Creation of an information system for Nature protection for the level of RS (2021)
14. Preparation of the Forest Economy Development Project FEDEP (WORLD BANK) (2022)



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Identified deficits/gaps for achieving Sustainable Forest Management in the country /territory



- The ecosystem approach and polyfunctional forest management planning **are not sufficiently developed** in the preparation of operational management plans and require a new approach
- Possibility for increasing protected natural areas and forests of high protective value - but protected areas **are not fully financially self-sustainable**.
- Need for the education and training of private forest owners - some of the basic problems related to unsolved property relations, a large number of private forest owners and fragmented ownership, and certification of private forests was not carried out
- Improving the relationship with the woodprocessing sector - Lack of the **Strategy for wood processing**, higher demand for wood than domestic supply can cover, still low degree of finalization of the production in a large number of companies





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Identified deficits/gaps for achieving Sustainable Forest Management in the country/territory



- **Improve organization of the forestry sector** - Significant structural changes have taken place in the forestry sector in the last 30 years, there is still a **great need to modernize the sector to achieve real sustainability and inclusion in global markets and trends.**
- Need for ensuring a **stable financial sources and access to finance** for the forestry sector as a one of the **most important precondition for all other activities**
- There are **still not enough initiatives** for the **development and promotion of the new value chains and "green" jobs** in the field of forestry, all within the concept of **circular bio-economy**, with a special focus on:
 - *plantation production of fast-growing species,*
 - *CO₂ sequestration and the generation of carbon credits,*
 - *use of biomass as a renewable energy source,*
 - *use of non-wood forest products,*
 - *ecotourism and hunting, etc.*



All activities **need to be harmonized** to implement the **strategic goals** of the forestry sector, planned to be implemented **by 2032**:

1. Increasing productivity and quality of forests, together with increasing contribution to mitigate climate change
2. Improving the multifunctional benefits of forestry, including rural development
3. Preservation of biodiversity, increasing of the protected areas and other high-value forest areas



Conclusions & Recommendations

4. Providing new and additional financial resources for sustainable forest management
5. Strengthening education, scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships
6. Increase integration, cooperation and coordination within and across sectors, at the national and international levels
7. Increase activities to promote the importance of the sector, with the aim of awareness rising and gaining the support of the wider public

Thank you for your attention!

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1. Close to Nature Forest Management
2. Implementation of EUTR/FLEGT Regulations
3. Developing/updating Strategic Framework
4. Developing/updating Legal framework
5. NFI
6. Establishing new/updating existing Organizational framework
7. NATURA 2000
8. Sustainable Forest Management of private forests
9. Introducing/enhancing C&I for SFM into FMP
10. Renewable Energy Directive (RED II/RED III)