



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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Tirana, Albania



Implemented by:



Kosovo Forest Resources I



- Based on the National Inventory of Forest from 2012;
- The total forest area in Kosovo is 481.000 ha;
- 75 800 ha is classified as high forest;
- 397 800 ha is classified as coppice and mixed forest;
- About 350 000 ha is in need of different kinds of treatment. The most urgent needs are cleaning and thinning operations; (a specially pre-commercial activities)
- 278 880 ha is classified as public forestlands
- 185 920 ha as private forestlands.



Kosovo Forest Resources II

Broadleaved forest covers more than 90% of the forest area.

Dominant broadleaved species are beech and oak.

Coniferous forest, covering 7% of the total.

Dominant conifer species are *Abies alba*, *Picea abies* and *Pinus* species

The total standing wood volume in public forest lands is 27.5 million m³

Private forest land has standing volume 12.7 million m³

The annual increment is 1.556 million m³

The annual allowable cut is 1.240 million m³

40% of public forestlands and 29% of private forestlands are subject to unregulated harvesting activities



Strategic and legal framework in the country/territory

LAWS

- Law no. 2003/3 on Forests (14.10.2004)
- Law 03/L-153 on amending Law on forestry 2003/3
- Law No. 04/L-087 on national park "Sharri" and
- Law No. 04/L-086 on national park "Bjeshkët e Nemuna"
- There are 45 by-laws (administrative instructions)
- There are about 13 laws that are directly or indirectly related to forests.



Implemented by:



Policies

- Forestry Development Strategy (FDS) 2021-2030
- Forestry Action Plan 2021-2030
- In the process of developing the new National Development Strategy (NDS)
- The Government program of the Republic of Kosovo 2020-2023
- The Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)
- There is the National Forestry and Reforestation Program of Kosovo (NFRP) 2018-2027
- National Forest Health Program (NFHP) 2018-2027



Implemented by:



Policies

- The Strategy for Climate Change (SCC) 2019-2028
- The Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development (PARD), within Measure 5 of Chapter 4
- National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (NAPRE, 2011-2020)
- 10-year management Plans for around 90% of the Forest Management Units in Kosovo
- Management Plan-10-year management strategy 2014-2023 on Sharri National Park
- Biodiversity strategy and Action Plan 2011–2020



Implemented by:



Institutional framework in the country/territory

- **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)**
 - Kosovo Forest Agency
 - Regional offices 6 on the all Kosovo
 - Department of Forestry
- **Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI)**
 - Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
 - Directorate of Sharri Mountain National Park
 - Directorate of Albanian Alps National Park
- **Municipalities**



Other Governmental Institutions which are indirectly connected with forestry sector

- Ministry of Industry, Enterprise and Trade (MIET)
- Ministry of Education Technology and Innovation (METI)
- Faculty of Forestry "Ukshin Hoti" University Prizren
- Kosovo privatization Agency (KPA);
- Ministry of Labor Finance and Transfers (MLFT)

Non-governmental Institutions

- Association of Wood Processors of Kosovo (AWPK);
- National Association of Private Forest Owners (NAPFO);
- Chamber of Commerce of Kosovo (CCK).





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



Year	Surface	Budget	Notice
2017	585	315,210.90	*295 ha maintenance of afforestation
2018	296.65	212,331.24	
2019	376	257,503.78	
2020	235	112,175.00	
2021	276	206,041.70	
Total	1,768.65	1,103,262.62	Afforestation projects

Year	Surface	Budget	Notice
2017	17,488.75	50,725.60	
2018	22,032.37	55,206.52	
2019	9,776.92	33,793.24	
2020	10,768	34,363.24	
2021	-	22,908.00	
Total	60,066.04	197,000.00	Forestry management Plans



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

International projects (last 5 years)

- FAO-Support to strengthening sustainable and multipurpose forest management, to improve rural livelihoods and address climate change in Kosovo.
- JICA- Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR (5-year project).
- CNVP- “Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED)” Kosovo

On the last 20 years in Forestry sector Of Kosovo are implemented more the 20 International projects, from different organizations and states.





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



Nr	Project	Objectives	Threats	Comment
1.	Forest Inventory	The purpose of NFI is to provide information for the government to helping develop the forest sector, to assess forest management sustainability and to fulfill potential international reporting obligations in the land use-, land use change- and forestry sectors.	Very high implementation cost	It's a basic document on Forest Managing
2.	Forest cadastre	Forest Cadastre - Register of the Forestry Fund of Kosovo (RFPK) is the official register of cadastral data of the national forest fund, organized at the central level, in which all basic information and periodic changes in ownership, real rights, cartographic position, area, volume, etc., accompanied by the geographic information system (GIS), necessary for forest administration and planning.	Insufficient budget from the state	Donations should be requested
3.	Drafting of management plans in the multi-purpose aspect, based on the value chain	The multi-use forest management planning approach (MUFMP) enables the implementation of the principle of sustainable forest management; in simpler terms, the balance of ecological, economic and socio-cultural values in forestry.	Their correct implementation	It is being implemented in the Radusha Management Unit
4.	Implementation of the national afforestation and reforestation program, based on the National afforestation plan	The increase of forest areas, has a direct impact on the sustainable management of forests	Limited budget	The percentage of seedlings occupancy should be higher
5.	Collection of local seeds and production of seedlings with indigenous local seeds.	This project will guarantee a higher percentage of seedlings in the planted areas	The seeds bought from abroad are not well adapted to the terrain conditions	
6.	Creation of a forest nursery at an altitude above 1000 meters, cultivation of species that are planted in high areas	The seedlings planted in this nursery, will have better opportunities to adapt to the climatic conditions of the high areas.	Finding the right plot	Till now, the percentage of acceptance of seedlings was very low
7.	Training in the selection of logs for cutting, classification according to technical classes, maximizing the extraction of industrial wood	This project will contribute to the preservation of new forests, and their better management	Luck of forest engineers and technical staff	Until now, a high percentage of technical wood is used for firewood
8.	Treatment of young Forest	6.000 ha during the three next years. These silvicultural activities will affect the improvement of the quality of forests, and conversion from low to high forest.	Luck of staff, to do the selection of trees	Based on previous practices, these activities were very successful for Kosovo forestry.
9.	Project for the establishment of the sectors and sub-sectors of the management of wild animals in the hunting special importance in Blinaja.	More diversity values		There is no satisfactory increase in the number of wild animals, because their young can be harmed by other animals.



Conclusions

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- Combating Illegal activities in forest
 - Combating forest fires
 - Low budget for the sector
 - Lack of technical and human capacities
 - Lack of support in the forestry sector
 - Problems on being part of the International professional organizations
 - The usurpation and change of destination of forest lands
 - The insufficient forest infrastructure (forest roads)
 - Non-inclusion of the forestry sector in support measures – (subsidies & grants, measure 202 for the establishment and protection of forests through IPARD)



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Recommendations



- Empowerment of Forestry Institutions
- Developing other alternatives for heating.
- Establishing of a training / educational Centre for forestry trainings
- Trans border cooperation in forest sector e.g. management of forest fires etc
- Register of Forest and Forestland / Forest Cadaster;
- Forest fires in border zones, co-operation;
- Regional co-ordination and co-operation in the areas of combating effects of global climate changes, against pests and diseases in forest, and Invasive Alien Species;
- Exchange of experiences for Green Agenda for WB;
- Methodology of Forest Inventory and Forest Multipurpose Management Plans;
- Forest Information System;
- Establishment of forest monitoring system in Kosovo through remote sensing every year to identify any misuse and damage of forests

