



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

Country Report MONTENEGRO

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Tirana, Albania



Implemented by:





REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Background and introduction

Agricultural
Policy Forum

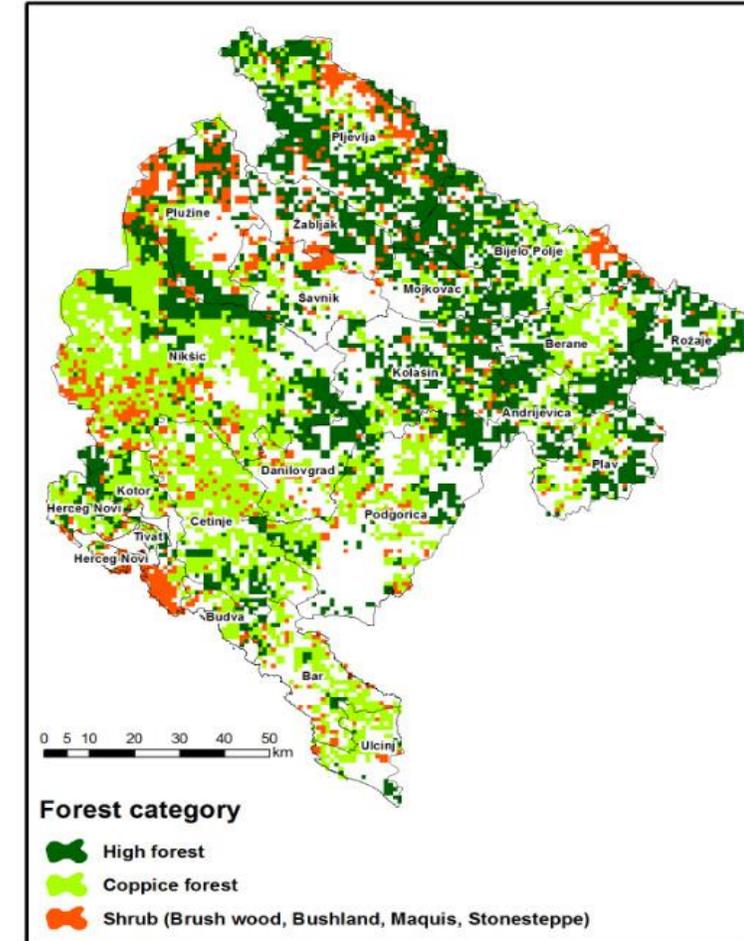
18th – 20th
OCTOBER
2022

The potential of Montenegrin forests is very significant (59.5% of the total territory or 826,782 ha of forest cover). The total depth volume of wood is estimated at 122 million m³, with a current increase in volume of 2.9 million m³.

The share of forests owned by the state is 52.3 % and that of private forests 47.7 %.

Annual felling amounts to 804821 m³, which ensures the sustainability and development of this natural asset.

- The share of forestry and wood processing in the national income is below 1%, which is insufficient and its significant increase will be one of the biggest challenges for the relevant state institutions



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Strategic and legal framework in the country/territory

- The regulation that is more closely related to the field of forestry consists of the following laws:
- Law on Forests; Law on reproductive material of forest tree; Law on Nature Protection; Law on National Parks; Hunting Act
- National Forest Policy of Montenegro- Document with 32 proclamations plagues to be crucial for forestry development
- National Forest Development Strategy for 10 years (2014-2024). The strategy was based on the concept of concession use of forests, which was then developed through long-term concession agreements
- The revised Strategy for the Development of Forests and Forestry has two strategic goals:
 - Equal and sustainable valorization of existing forest resources while increasing the wood supply,
 - Contribution to the growth of investments in forestry and wood processing, increasing competitiveness and employment, especially in the north of the country, with an increase in the use of production capacities.
- (new development goals that were in the direction of forming a state-owned forest management company and leave concessions in forestry):



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Institutional framework in the country/territory



PUBLIC SECTOR

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND WATER
MANAGEMENT

FORESTRY ADMINISTRATION -17
REGIONAL UNITS

ADMINISTRATION FOR INSPECTION
WORKS (Forestry Inspection)

BIOTECHNICAL FACULTY
Forestry Center

PRIVATE SECTOR

PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS

FORESTRY COMPANY (forest users
and forestry service providers, e.g.
Institute of Forestry AD Podgorica)

ASSOCIATIONS OF PRIVATE FOREST
OWNERS

NGO SECTOR

NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS



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- **The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management** is an institution that hierarchically plays a leading role in forest resource management processes.
 - **The Forestry Administration** is a state administration body responsible for forest management .
 - **The Biotechnical Faculty** has a Center for Forestry in its organizational structure, as a scientific research organizational unit.
 - There are several associations of **private forest owners**, one operating at the national level while the others are locally oriented.
 - **concessionaires** are companies engaged in wood processing and forest use.
 - **Forestry companies** deal with the use of forests in state and private ownership , production of forest reproductive material, forest management and other professional work in forestry.

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

- In the past five years we didn't have any bigger project in forestry.
- Currently, we expect FIS project (Forest Information System) which should be applied through the IPA III instrument. COVID-19 pandemic postponed project activities from 2019 till now.
- COVID-19 also delayed the start of the regional project "Fire Landscape Management", in which Montenegro also participated, which was supposed to start implementation at the end of 2019. Finally, during the year 2022, the realization began.
- During 2022, JICA (Japanese International Development Agency) (also after the postponement of the start of the project that was supposed to start in 2020) activated with Montenegro the further realization of the project "Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR,,.
- In October 2017, the Government of Montenegro considered and adopted a proposal for the reorganization of the concept of concessional use of forests and instructed the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to conduct pilot projects, analyze, prepare the estimation of fiscal effect, and afterwards prepare draft a model of reorganization of the forest management system in Montenegro. Program is prepared, but not yet implemented.



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

- Montenegro has a high percentage of forest cover, but we have high share of coppice forest. According to NFI results, 48,4% forests are coppice or degraded high forests.
- The key gap in ecological sense related to threats for forest resources in Montenegro from forest fires and excessive cutting of forests in private ownership. In some years, forest fires burned large areas of forests. In 2017, about 7% of the forest affected by fires, which according to the classification of vulnerability, is highly damaged.
- In economic sense, gaps is refers to low level of valorization of forests and, accordingly, the low level of income, as well as the financing of the sector. In a word, we have a resource but we do not have adequate income from forests.
- Consequently, lack of income leads to a lack of funds for improving the state of forests.



Conclusions

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- The necessity of reforms is obvious if you take into account the fact that Montenegro is the only country in Europe where wood from state-owned forests is sold predominantly in the standing volume. Furthermore, the financing of the sector is unsustainable, because municipalities receive 70% of the revenue from concession fees, and the Forestry Administration does not have enough financial resources to implement forest management plans. The conclusion is that international projects and cooperation are lacking for sustainable forest management.
 - The impact of climate change on forests is obvious, and the fight against forest fires, prevention of forest drying and monitoring the health status of forests must be priority.
 - In the end, the general conclusion from interactions with interested parties and when informing the public is that the forestry sector (both public and private) has a matured attitude that reforms are necessary and that they can only bring changes for the better, given the current situation.
 - The state of private forests is unsatisfactory, even though they cover 50% of the area of Montenegro (the forests are not inventoried, there is no planning documentation, the properties are fragmented)
 - There is lack of forest engineers and professionals in forestry sector
 - Absence of scientific research work

- Establishment of a new forestry organization in Montenegro
- establishment of a state enterprise that will manage the forests
- abandon the model of concessions for the use of state forests
- sale of wood assortments at forest depots instead of wood on the stump
- Protection of biodiversity and other forest ecosystem services
- Inventory of private forests
- New plans in forestry must include the requirements of Natura 2000, the introduction of an ecosystem approach in forest management and nature protection
- Establishment of forest certification
- Recommendation regional and European initiatives and practices in sustainable forest management, which we should improve on national level in our forestry sector

