



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 Serbia
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Tirana, Albania



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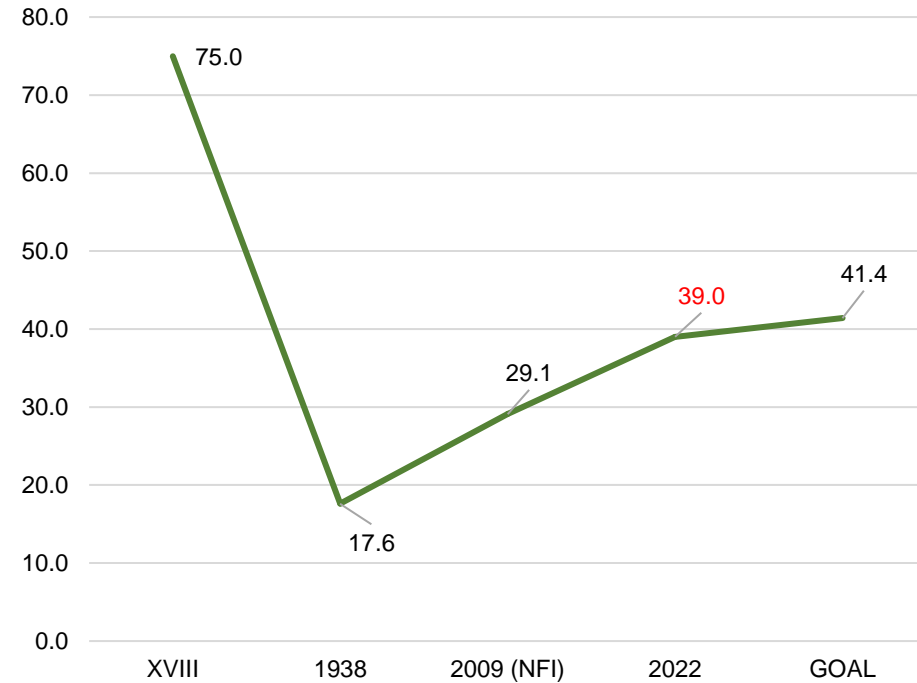


Background and introduction



- 53% - State
- 47% - Private
- 37.6% in Central Serbia
- 7.1% in Vojvodina
- 64.7% - Coppice forests
- 40.5% - Beech forests (V)
- 1.7% - Poplar plantations
- 37% - Felling out of increment

FOREST COVER %





REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Background and introduction

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Tirana, Albania



84 Forestry nurseries

320 horticultural nurseries

Production – 7 to 10 mio of seedling annually

Annual felling
3.35 mio m3
(2021)

4903 employess
(2019)

53.000 employees
(Forestry and Wood industry - 2019)

Export 1.2 billion
EUR (2020)

PE „Srbijašume“ –
53 PAs
(338,620 ha)

PE
„Vojvodinašume“ –
17 PAs
(70,686.35 ha)

State Forests certified by FSC



Forestry development strategy (2006)

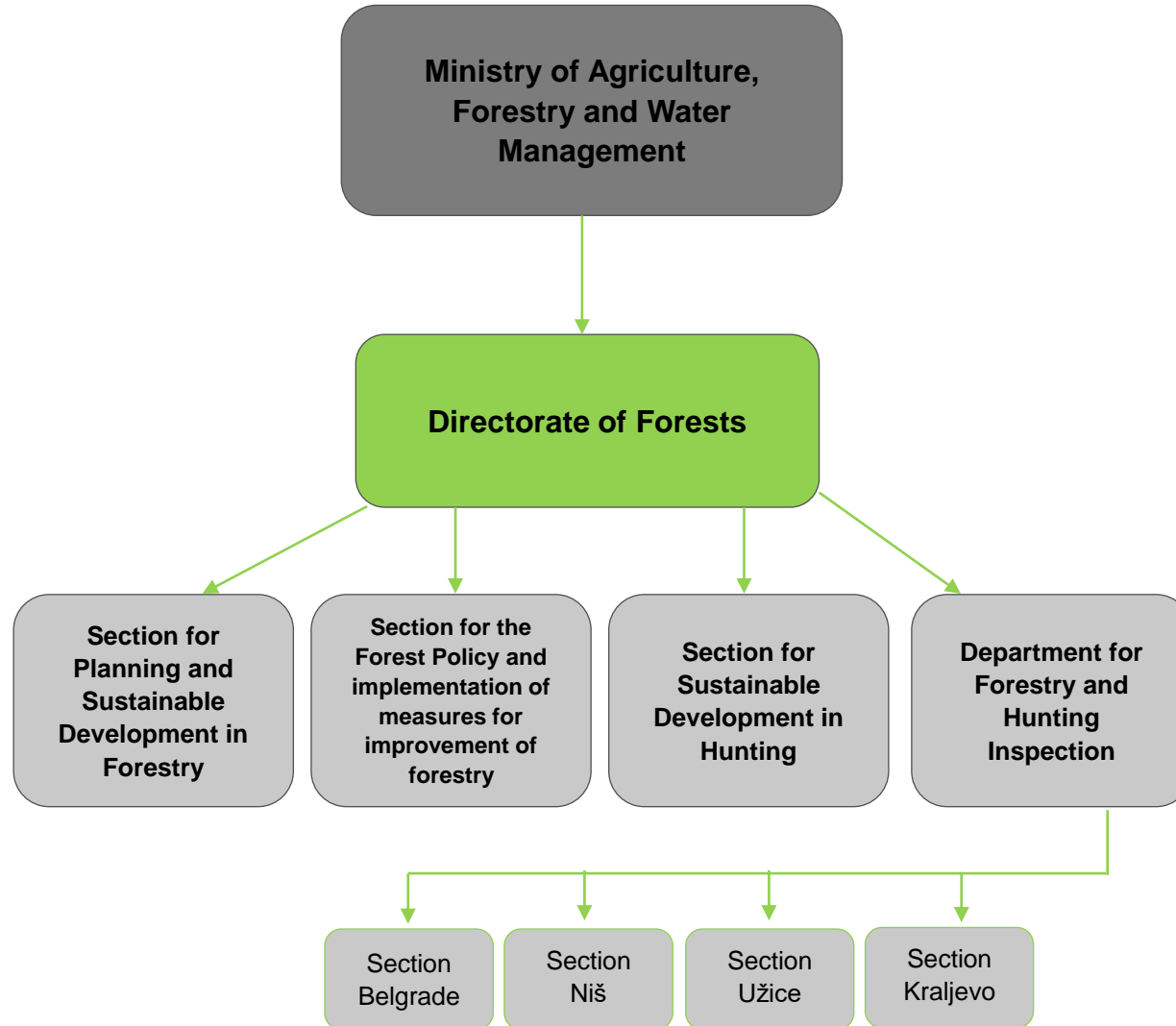
Objective: „Conservation and improvement of the state of forests and the development of forestry as an economy branch“

Law on Forests (2010, 2012, 2015, 2018)

- Supports the achievement of FDS objectives
- Provides the conditions for sustainable forest management
- Defines forest as a good of general interest
- Prohibits forest devastation and clearing



Institutional framework in the country



Ministry of Agricultures, Forestry and Water management – DoF

Provincial secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry

STATE FORESTS

- PE „Srbijašume“
- PE „Vojvodinašume“
- PE Nacionalni parkovi: Đerdap, Tara, Kopaonik, Fruška Gora
- Ministry of Defense
- Water Management Companies
- Municipal companies



STATE FORESTS

- Service providers (SMEs)
- Own mechanisation

PRIVATE FORESTS

- Forest owners
- Pes for technical services
- PFOs Associations (30+)
- Church forests: own companies+ private companies



PRIVATE FORESTS

- PFOs + PFOAs
- Service providers



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

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Finished international projects

1. „Innovative Forest Management Planning“ (BMEL) 2015-2017
2. „Vocational and Postgraduate Training in the Forestry Sector“(BMEL) 2017-2019

Ongoing international projects

1. Twinning project: Improvement of forest management in Serbia as a contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation (EU IPA) 2021-2023
2. Contribution of Sustainable Forest Management to a Low Emission and Resilient Development (GEF) 2018-2021/2023
3. Enabling environment at policy, field and market levels for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Serbia (GEF) 2021-2024

Ongoing regional projects

1. Regional program for landscape fire management in the Western Balkans (SDA) 2022-2026



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM

Forest management

- **Afforestation** as possibilities for increasing contribution of forest sector to the climate change mitigation is not used on proper level especially near urban areas:
 - Lack of coordination among legislation and financial instruments from different forest related sectors hindering unlocking afforestation and other nature based solution potential towards **land degradation neutrality** (nature protection, agriculture etc.)
- **Forest biodiversity** is not integrated in forest management planning and monitoring system (draft methodology prepared but it is not part of FMP praxis yet)
- **Concept of CNFM** is mentioned in proposed by law but it is not operationalized



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM in the WB

Forest management

- **Forest management guidelines** related to forest management (praxis oriented) which describe intervention in forest from beginning to the end of production period is missing (at the moment 20 out of 27 guidelines finished)
- **Forest inventory** is not adopted for future permanent monitoring approaches in achieving SFM and biodiversity objectives
- **Sustainable Forest Management of private forests** is great challenge especially in changed socio/economic environment and depopulation of rural areas (new generation of small scale private forest owners have different objectives than their predecessors)



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM in the WB

Education, research and knowledge transfer

- Lack of national research agenda
- **Lack of updating curriculum** at university regarding teaching approaches (service learning) and new challenges in forest sector (climate change, active management in protected areas, bio-economy)
- **Institutional set up for long term education** regarding prompt knowledge transfer from science to praxis in forest sector is missing (Chamber of forest engineers is established but not fully operationalized)
- **Long term demonstration and research set up** is missing as instrument of research, continuous education and monitoring



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM in the WB

Financial instruments

- **Payment for ecosystems services** is not existing (although such example was present in Serbia it was abolished after few years)
- **Financial instruments for mobilization of wood** from sustainable private forest management practice is not existing



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM in the WB

Monitoring and communication

- **Comprehensive forest information system** as instrument for regular monitoring of intervention into forest ecosystems and their effects on SFM is missing (by law on forest information system is adopted but process of implementation recently started)
- **Integrated forest fire information system** is missing
- **Communication strategy** towards other sectors and society is not adequate (no climate change council is established as coordination body of different sectors)



Identified deficits/gaps for achieving SFM in the WB

Legislative and institutional framework

- **Forest strategies** as future common vision of the forests is outdated (climate change, bio-economy, forest biodiversity, different forest risks should be taken in consideration)
- More flexible and **adaptive forest regulatory frame** is missing
- No **monitoring on achievement of strategic objectives** proposed by previous strategy are not done so far
- Forestry is not well recognized in **rural development programs and financing mechanism** (IPARD system is not full integrated for private forest owners)
- **EUTR FLEGT initiatives** is not accomplished although process is initiated




General recommendations (1)

- Implementation of the **Close to Nature Forest Management** with clear praxis oriented management guidelines taking in consideration climate change
- **Biodiversity aspects in forest management planning** and monitoring system should be established and people trained (could be basis for Nature 2000 in the future)
- **Sustainable forest management with wood mobilization in private forests** taking in consideration changing socio economic characteristic of private forest owners (urbanization of forest owners)
- **Unlocking potential for afforestation/nature based solution** in forest land and other land use categories taking in consideration climate change



General recommendations (2)

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- Initiate **new financial support / mechanism** for achieving SFM (payment for ecosystems services-system was already established and could be easily applied again)
 - Create **institutional set up for knowledge transfer and continuous education** in forest sector (including **demonstration and research plots** in the field)
 - Establishment of **forest information system** as monitoring instrument including different modules and capacity building for use of remote sensing in monitoring process
 - Updating or creating **adaptable new strategic and regulatory framework** based on common vision and new challenges in forest sector (climate change, bio-economy, forest biodiversity, EUTR, rural development, etc.)

THANK YOU!

