Forest Policy and strategic documents for the development of the forest sector of the Republic of Bulgaria

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19.02.2015, Boyana Residence, Bulgaria
Content of the presentation

- International and European base
- Terms and conditions for strategic planning
- Short and recent history of the strategic forest planning in Bulgaria;
- Forest Act (April, 2011)
- Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forest Sector 2014-2023 (SPDFS)
- Other strategic forest documents on national and regional level
- Other national and sectorial strategic documents, related to the forest sector

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International and European base

- UN Conference for environment and development in Rio de Janeiro 1992 – three agreed conventions – biodiversity, climate changes and desertification
- United Nations Forum of Forests
- MCPFE/FOREST EUROPE

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Terms and conditions for strategic planning

- Standards for conducting consultations with the society (2009)
- Guidelines for conducting influence evaluation in Bulgaria (2009)
Policy

- Policy/Politics
- The policy and the governments are connected and bilaterally defined
- Policy is concrete plan or basic principles for acting, which the relevant organization follow for the fulfillment of relevant target
- Article. 154. (1) State policy in the filed of forestry is conducted by the Minister of Agriculture and Food through Executive Forest Agency.
Short and recent history of the strategic forest planning in Bulgaria

- National strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector in Bulgaria 2006 – 2015
- Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector 2007 – 2011
- Project ID 24505 EBRD “Support in the reform of the forest sector in Bulgaria”
- World Bank projects “Forest Policy Notes” and IDF grant „Support for the forest sector restructuring“
- Updating of the national forest strategic documents within OPAC project “Strengthening of the visibility and reporting of the activities of SFA
- Forest Act from 2011
- Monitoring report on the implementation of the national forest strategic documents
- National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013 - 2020
- OPAC Project “Strategic planning in the Bulgarian forests – guarantee for effective management and sustainable development” – developed and adopted

Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector 2014 – 2023

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The Forest Act sets the forest planning in three levels – strategic, regional and local.

In Chapter II “Inventory of the forest territories and forest planning”:

- Art. 9. (1) The forest planning is conducted in three levels and includes:
  - 1. National strategy for the development of the forest sector and Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector;
  - 2. Regional plan for the development of the forest territories;
  - 3. Forest management plans and programs.

- Art. 10. (1) The National strategy for the development of the forest sector defines the state policy for the development of forestry and includes:
  - 1. Analyses of the status and condition of the forest sector;
  - 2. Aims and priorities;
  - 3. Means to achieve the aims.
National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2020

Adopted by the Council of Ministers in November, 2013.

- Vision: *Towards 2020 Bulgaria will have vital, productive and multifunctional forests, sustainable, competitive and innovative forest sector, preserved biological diversity, quantity and quality of water resources in the forest territories. The sector will support the economic development of the country, will ensure conditions for realization of the employed persons, will contribute to maximum extent the mitigation of the climate changes effects and will guarantee the maintenance of healthy environment.*
National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2020

• NSDFSRB 2013 - 2020 is integrated document for the development of the forest sector till 2020, defining the national priorities, in relevance with the European framework for planning in the sector.

• The vision, mission and aims of the NSDFSRB 2013-2020 are defined in the context of strategic vision and main targets for the development of the country, set in the National Programme for Development: Bulgaria 2020.

• The Mission of the National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria is to ensure the conducting of consecutive and well coordinated forest policy and to create the necessary conditions for guarantee and improvement of the sustainable management of the forest sector.

• NSDFSRB is developed after broad analyses on the forest sector and on the implementation of the previous strategic documents.

• 3 strategic aims, 4 priorities and 20 measures
National strategy for the development of the forest sector in Bulgaria 2013-20
1. Ensuring sustainable development of the forest sector by achieving optimal balance between the ecological functions of the forests and their long term ability to support material goods and services;

2. Strengthening the role of the forests for supporting the economic growth of the country and more equal (balanced) territorial social-economic development;

3. Increasing of the contribution of the forest sector in the green economy.
Priorities

1. Sustaining vital, productive and multifunctional forest ecosystems, contributing to the mitigation of the effects of the climate changes;
2. Protection, restoration and maintenance of the biological and landscape diversity in the forest territories;
3. Increasing of the vitality and competitiveness of the forest sector;
4. Usage of the potential of the forest sector for the development of the green economy.
Finance sources for achieving the NSDFSRB Aims

- Main sources of financing:
  - National financing – state budget, municipal budgets, public funds, state and municipal companies, private physical and legal persons, foundations, associations, unions and others;
  - Financing from RGP, OPE, European structural and investment funds, EU scheme for trade with GHG emissions, Green investment scheme, international projects and donor programmes.

- It is foreseen that main part of the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the NSDFSRB to be formed from national public financing and RDP 2014-2020.

- The concrete activities for the implementation of the aims of the National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020 and the instruments for their funding are pointed in the Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector.
Forthcoming, set in the NSDFS RB 2013-2020

- Update of the “Strategy for protection of the forests from fires 2003”
- Concept for ecosystem services and their sustainable and socially acceptable management
- Development and introduction of National plan for development of the forest infrastructure;
- Development of National plan for the development of the non state forestry.
OPAC project “Strategic planning in the Bulgarian forests – guarantee for effective management and sustainable development”

- Applied from EFA on 30.11.2011 in OPAC, officially adopted from Ministry of Finance with contract from 03.09.2012
- Main target: Improvement of the strategic planning in the forest territories for more effective management of the forest sector and protection and sustainable development of the Bulgarian forests
- Implementation period: 18 months
- Achieved results from the project implementation:
  ✓ Developed analyses for the implementation of the Strategic plan for the development of the forests sector 2007 – 2011;
  ✓ Collected information for EU experience referring the development and implementation of forest policies;
  ✓ *Developed and adopted Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector 2014 – 2023 г., incl. Rules for monitoring of its implementation (published and distributed)*;
  ✓ Developed Guidebook for development of regional plans for the development of the forest territories (published and distributed);
Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector for the period 2014 - 2023

- Reason for broad public discussion: Forest Act, Art. 9, para.3 “the National strategy for the development of the forest sector and the Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector are adopted, respectively approved after conducting of public discussion”

- With Order № 362/26.05.2014 is established Consultative council, including representatives of: EFA, RFD, STU, MAF, MEW, MRD, all state forest companies, branch organizations and unions in the sector NGOs, UoF, FRI/BAS, unions of forest owners, UFB, Bulprofor, National hunting and fishing union – Union of the hunters and anglers in Bulgaria and others.
Organized and conducted are two official meetings of the Consultative Council for revising and discussing of the draft SPDFS (the Council members had a Questionnaire, which was filled, sent back and taken into account in the finalization of the Plan)

On 17.06.2014 the first draft of the SPDFS 2014-2023 was published on: www.strategy.bg; www.iag.bg and www.sprgs.bg

For the conducting of broad public were organized and conducted six regional round tables in Varna, Stara Zagora, Veliko Tarnovo, Smolian, Vratsa and Sofia, in which participated more than 300 representatives of the main stakeholders in the forest sector

From the conducted public discussion were received 510 comments (as a result of 34 written statements, 6 regional round tables, 2 Consultative Council meetings and 2 Expert Councils of EFA)
On 28.07.2014 the final version of the SPDFS is reviewed and adopted by Expert Council of EFA.

On 05.08.2014 the approved SPDFS by the Minister of Agriculture and Food was presented during National Round table in Sofia.

Part of the SPDFS 2014 – 2023 are the key indicators and the Rules for monitoring of its implementation, as are foreseen two interim implementation evaluations in 2016 and 2020, and one final in 2023. Preliminary assessment is also developed.

The Plan has 20 Operational targets (OT), corresponding with the NSDFSRB and 102 Activities for their achievement.
I. Introduction
II. Policy of the EU in the filed of protection and sustainable management of the forests
III. National framework and policy documents
IV. The forests and forest sector in Bulgaria – actual status, challenges and perspectives
VI. Activities for realization of the targets
VII. Common evaluation of the necessary resources
VIII. Responsible and engaged institutions
IX. Partnerships and initiatives for strengthening of the public involvement
X. Communication and media policy
XI. Implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation
XII. Risks and restrictions
XIII. Annexes
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SPDFS 2014 - 2023

- OT 1 “Increasing of the forests area, growing stock and carbon storage in the forest territories”
- OT 2 “Improvement of the management and utilization of the forests”
- OT 3 “Increasing of the effectiveness of the prevention from forest fires and illegal activities in the forests and restoration of the damages from them”
- OT 4 “Increasing of the sustainability and ability for adaptation of the forest ecosystems towards the climate changes”
- OT 5 “Improvement of the system for planning and conducting of activities, connected with the protection of biological and landscape diversity in the forest territories”
- OT 6 “Development of the protected areas network, including by extending the implementation of the financial mechanisms for improvement of the forest management in the NATURA 2000 protected zones”

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SPDFS 2014 - 2023

- OT 7 „Maintenance and development of the system for protection of the forest genetic resources”
- OT 8 „Improvement and increasing of the populations of game and fish species for the protection of the biological diversity and sustainable development of the forest ecosystems”
- OT 9 „Ensuring of sustainable planning of the activities in the forest territories”
- OT 10 „Effective management and sustainable development of the state companies under art. 163 of the Forest Act”
- OT 11 „Promoting the collaboration of the forest owners and optimization of the public – private partnership in the forest sector”
- OT 12 „Effective usage of resources from European and international funds and programmes”

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SPDFS 2014 - 2023

- OT 13 „Promoting the employment and entrepreneurship in the forests and improvement of the level of the professional qualification of the work force in the forest sector“
- OT 14 „Development of the scientific-research activities and their connection with the needs of the forest business”
- OT 15 „Active participation in the preparation and implementation of the EU policies, connected with the forest sector, and in the international processes for sustainable forest management”
- OT 16 „Ensuring information, publicity and visibility, and fulfillment of the principle of partnership for the sustainable management of the forest sector“
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SPDFS 2014 - 2023

- OT 17 „Sustainable production and usage of biomass as renewable energy source”
- OT 18 „Supporting the process of certification of the forest territories”
- OT 19 „Effective and sustainable usage of the touristic potential of the forests and development of recreation activities in them”
- OT 20 „Establishment of conditions for sustainable and paid usage of ecosystem services, ensured by the forest territories”
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**SPDFS 2014 - 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Financing (in BGN)</th>
<th>% share</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OT 1</td>
<td>57 630 000</td>
<td>14,60</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 2</td>
<td>130 170 000</td>
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<td>OT 3</td>
<td>91 150 000</td>
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<td>OT 4</td>
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<td>OT 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 6</td>
<td>900 000</td>
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<td>OT 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 8</td>
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<td>OT 9</td>
<td>8 400 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 10</td>
<td>300 000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 11</td>
<td>180 000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 12</td>
<td>300 000</td>
<td>0,08</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 13</td>
<td>6 500 000</td>
<td>1,65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 14</td>
<td>5 000 000</td>
<td>1,27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT 15</td>
<td>1 000 000</td>
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<td>OT 16</td>
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<td>OT 17</td>
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<td>OT 18</td>
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<td>OT 20</td>
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<td><strong>total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>393 930 000</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OT</th>
<th>Number of activities</th>
<th>Number of evaluated activities</th>
<th>Number of activities without financial resource</th>
<th>Дял на остойностит е дейности (%)</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>OT 1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 10</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>OT 11</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>102</strong></td>
<td><strong>82</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
</tr>
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Other strategic forest documents on national and regional level

- Strategy for the development of the hunting management in Republic of Bulgaria
- Regional plans for the development of the forest territories
- Program of measures for adaptation of the forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative impact of the climate changes on them
- Long term programme of EFA for increasing the usage of resources from EU funds during the new programme period 2014 – 2020 and from other financial instruments
- Annual plans with targets and activities of EFA
- Annual plans for training of the employees of EFA/RFD/STU
- Concept for education, increasing of the qualification and pre-qualification of the working force in the forestry
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Other national and sectorial strategic documents, related to the forest sector

- Bulgaria 2020
- Partnership agreement with EC for the programme period 2014 – 2020
- Programme of the Government for stable development of the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2014 -2018
- National strategy for protection of biological diversity
- National strategy for management and development of the water sector
- Third national climate changes action plan for the period 2013-2020
- Strategy for development of the state administration
- Strategy for mitigation of the risk from disasters and National plan for protection from disasters
- Energy strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020; National action plan for energy from renewable sources and National long term programme for support the usage of biomass for the period 2008-2020
- Six Regional Development plans
- Strategy for development of the voluntary formations for protection from disasters, fires and other extreme situations in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2012 – 2020
- National strategy for the development of the scientific researches 2020

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Thank you for your attention!

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