Forest Sector – Reforms, Initiatives, Challenges
Vizion

- “Forests for people, livelihood and poverty eradication”

- “Conservation and improvement of the forest state and the development of forestry as a key element of rural development, integral part of EU forestry”.
• Albania has a total surface area of 28,748 km²,
• Population of approximately 3.5 million.
• It is administratively divided in 12 prefectures, 36 districts, 315 communes and 2900 villages.
• The general length of the state border is 1049 km, with 657 km land border, 316 km sea border, 48 km river border and 72 km lake border.
• More than 50% of the population live in rural areas.
• Forest per capita 0.44 ha
Important Figures

• **Forest area statistics**

  High forest  295,000 ha  
  Coppice     405,000 ha  
  Shrubs      242,000 ha  
  TOTAL       942,000 ha (33 %)

• **The main forest species are:**

  Beech (*Fagus silvatica*), in 160,000 ha (= 17%)
  Pine (*Pinus spp.*), in 142,000 ha (= 15%)
  Fir-tree (*Abies spp.*), in 130,000 ha (= 2 %)
  Oak (*Quercus spp.*), in 300,000 ha (= 32%)
  Other species with wideleaf in 510,000 ha (=34%)
Pasture Resources

- Pasture areas 480,800 ha – 0.141 ha per capita;
- Sheep: 1,938,700
- Goats: 1,103,600
- Pasture area per head: 0.158
- Summer pastures: 59.63%
- Winter pastures: 40.37%
Important Figures

- Annual increment of Albania forests is 1,800,000 m³/year
- Albania need 2,300,000 m³/year firewood and 360,000 m³/year timber;
- from which 1,600,000 m³ rural population
  - In these circumstances:
    - Transfering process must to continue dynamically, and to go dippely up to the end users (traditional users)
    - Strengthening and building capacities for sustainable management of forests must to continue parallely with the process of transferring,
    - On the presence of big forest stands, unaccessible, far way of dwelling centers or under the condition of missing of state enterprises for forest harvesting the best way for efficient use is the partnership with the business (concension)
    - Promoting production of energy from biomass residues (pellets, bricets, chips etc.)
Degradation of Forests and Pastures

• Strong degradation of forests starting end of 80ies. Deforestation by 15% between 1988-1993

• **Causes of deterioration**
  • Uncontrolled wood cutting and grazing
  • Collapse of control mechanisms during transition phase
  • Privatization of agricultural land: family plots too small
  • Increase of livestock numbers for additional income generation
  • Illegal logging for commercial purposes
A new Strategy for the Forestry & Pastures

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The National Strategy for the Forestry & Pastures

- National Strategy for the development of the Forestry and Pastures in Albania (approved in 2005) is a very important document for the sustainable forest development because of:
  - Providing the basic orientation for the new structures and development of public institutions and agencies that will guide the implementation of the sector program;
  - Underscoring the linkages and fundamental importance of the forestry and pasture sector the development objectives of other sectors..
  - Contributing in the growth of awareness of higher livel governmental authorities, communities, of the public in general...
  - Contribution of WB Projects in the implementation of the Strategy
Challenges for the near future

- In terms of Institutional reforms and policy development, to fully harmonize the resilience and adaptability.
- To achieve the objective for a reflexive governance as governance in the public interest;
- To fully harmonize protection of forests and enhancement of people’s economic prospects and living standards with decentralisation; commitment among local people; capacity-building.
- To implement reflexive mechanisms’ to improve sustainability governance of the forests.
- To achieve the balance between annual growth and annual harvesting within next five years.
Based on these circumstances:

Forestry System an integral aggregate

- Harmonization of the legal and institutional framework with those of EU;
- Continuing the process of decentralization, increasing the capacity of the sustainable management of communal forests through the involving of the local government to planning processes, training and competitiveness;
- Increasing of economic and energy efficiency from the sustainable use of state forests, decreasing informality in partnership with business;
- Improvement of forest data base, digitalization of management plans and information system;
- Strengthening of research, technological development and innovation system in forestry;
- Intensification of the regional cooperation in terms of experience exchanging, common application on international programs and unification of methodologies;
Increasing the capacity of local government to sustainable management of communal forests through the training, know-how and competitiveness;

- Decentralization of forest management to the communities is at the core of the policy reform
- Continuing the transferring of the forests to local government;
- Establishing Forestry Service in Forestry.
- Promoting sustainable management of the forests;

- Strengthening of capacity building through training and education;
- Establishment of mechanisms for environmental services;
- Promoting multifunctionality of forest
Improvement of forest data base, digitalization of management plans and information system
Strengthening of research, technological development and innovation system in forestry;

“best practice standards to promote environmentally sound, socially just, and economically viable forest management”

- Forest monitoring system to established;
- Forest inventory;
- Improving education system;
- Institutional cooperation and coordination
Intensification of the regional cooperation in terms of experience exchanging, common application on international programs and unification of methodologies

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FOREST BALKANS
Thank you for your attention!

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