

Rural development through  
integrated forest and water resources  
management in SEE (LEIWW)

# Natural Resource Management in Southeast Europe

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SWG  
RRD

# Methodology

The main objectives of the whole report were:

- a) assessing the current situation and trends of natural resources, management, governance including the identification of gaps in the national contexts;
- b) assessing the national compliance with the EU acquis communautaire including the identification of gaps;
- c) comparing national results to be able to give political guidance; and
- d) identifying key issues and challenges that need policy intervention and formulation of policy recommendations.

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# NRM Expert group

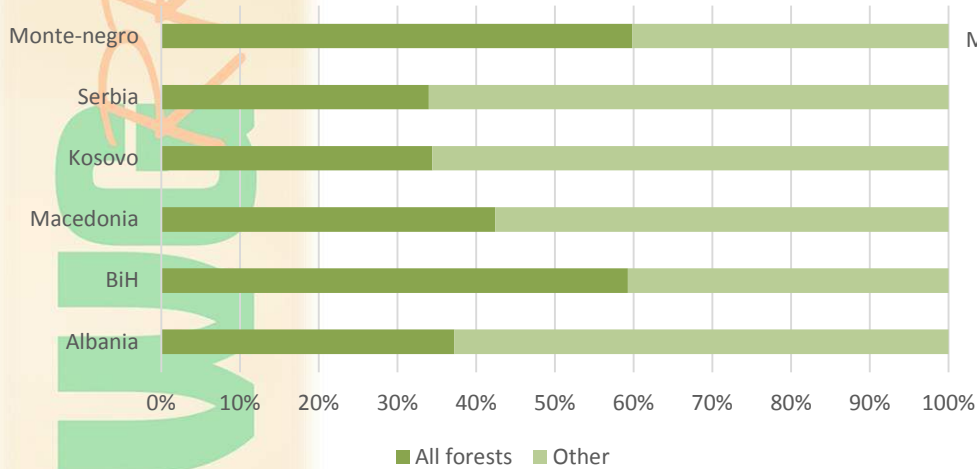
- Nada Dragovic, Ratko Ristic (Regional experts)
- Genti Kromidha, Miriam Ndini (Albania)
- Bruno Marić, Mihajlo Marković, Sabina Hadžiahmetovic, and Jugoslav Brujić (Bosnia & Hercegovina)
- Qazim Kukalaj, Avdullah Nishori (Kosovo\*)
- Ivan Blinkov, Makedonka Stojanovska (Macedonia)
- Žarko Vučinić, Momčilo Blagojević (Montenegro)
- Branko Stajić, Boris Radić, Tijana Vulević (Serbia)
- Helga Puezl and Bernhard Wolfslehner (international experts)



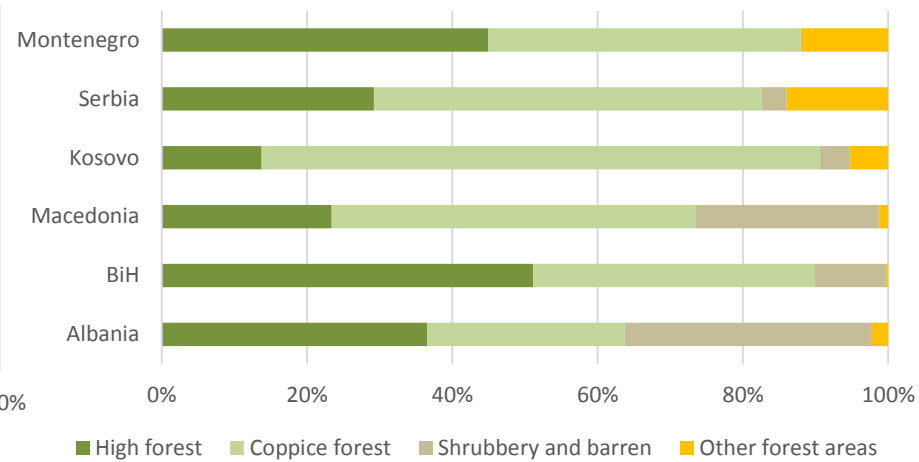
\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

# Status of forest resources in SEE

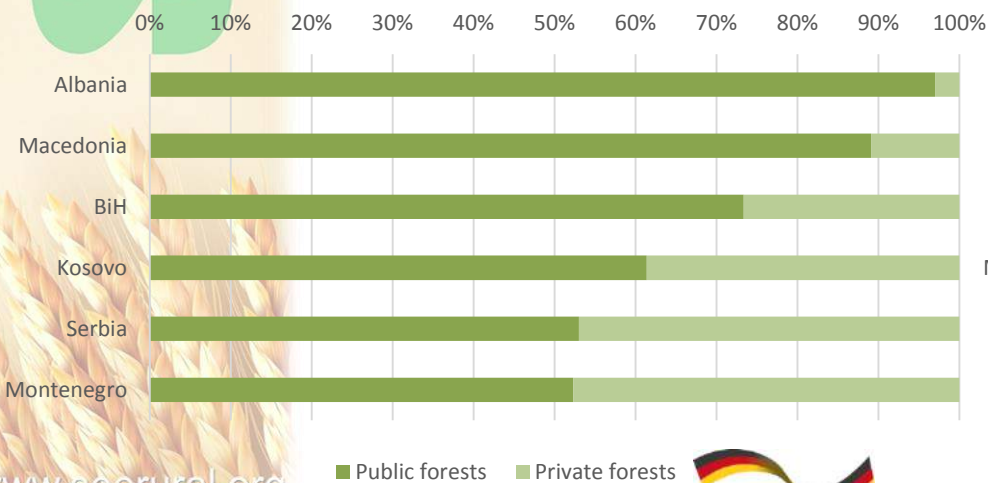
Forest cover in SEE countries



Forest management types



Forest ownership



Growing stock



# Status of forest resources in SEE

## Forest damages

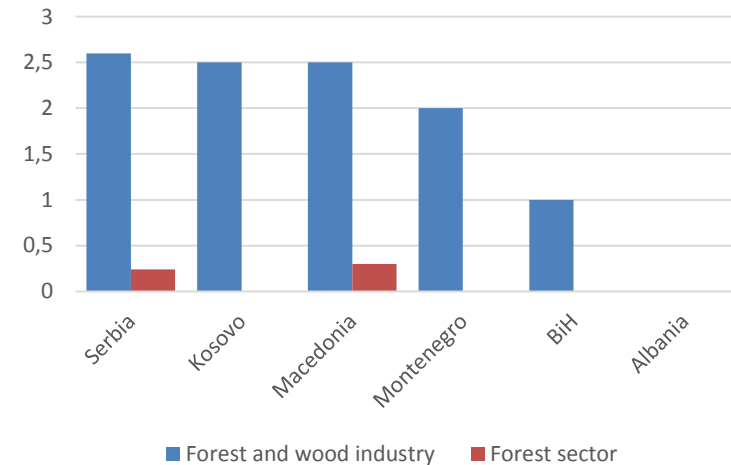
	Albania	BiH	Kosovo	Macedonia	Montenegro	Serbia
	Total for period 2011 to 2015 (1,000 m <sup>3</sup> )					
Human made	43,574	531	600	114,157	20,457	95,530
by insects	-	252	909	4758	3,979	48,781
Natural disasters	-	430	258	26,471	-	1,664.701
by plant diseases	-	29	1,119	-	235,868	41,448
by forest fires	8,400	1,162	459	35,291	-	105,287
Other	-	-	36,042	-	10,932	4,728

- SEE is dominated by broadleaf and deciduous forests,
- The most common species are beech and oak
- In most SEE countries, there is no relevant data on the amount of carbon stock.
- The collection of data and the monitoring of the forest status are dispersed to different institutions

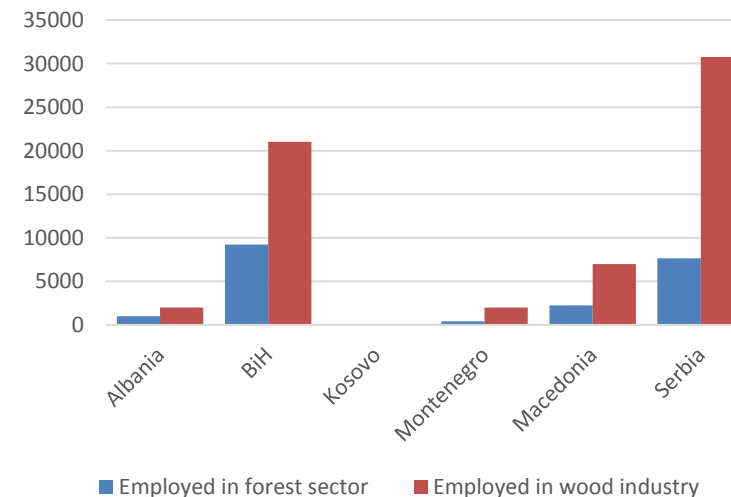
# Socio economic aspects

- The contribution of the forestry sector into the economic development of the SEE countries is limited
- Wood is the most important product
- NWFP provide significant revenues for rural population.
- Trade balance is positive for BiH, Serbia and Montenegro and negative for Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo\*
- Processed wood materials are the main export/import products
- There is almost no assessment and consideration of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Illegal logging is perceived as one the major issues in relation to forestry in the SEE.

Contribution to the GDP



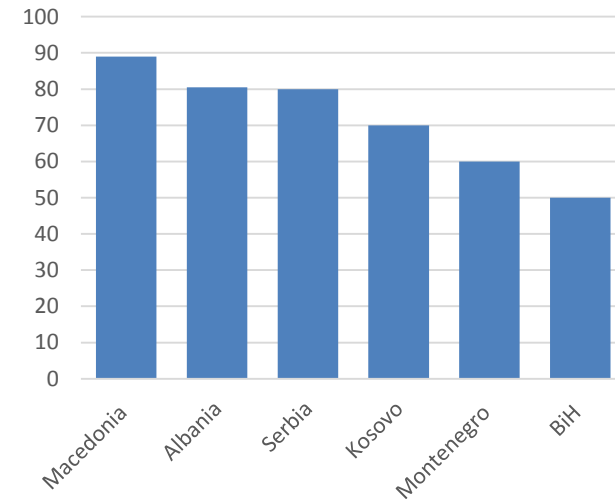
Employment



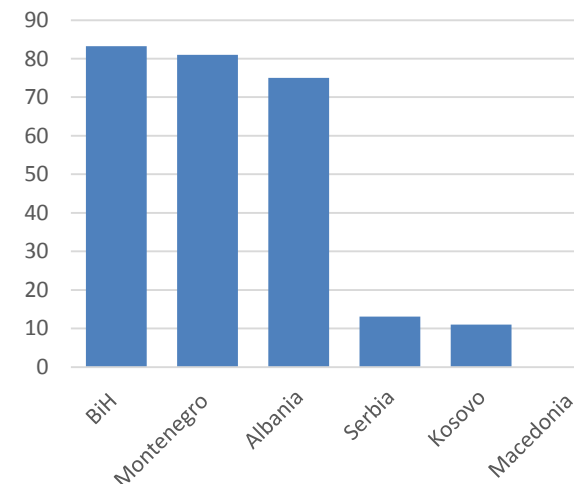
# Status of water resources in SEE

- Hydrographically, SEE countries/territories belong to the three different sea basins
- The main hydrological feature in SEE countries is the spatial and temporal unequal water distribution.
- The urban population in the SEE region has a much higher level of availability to public water supply systems than rural population.
- The surface and groundwater water quality is relatively good but quite uneven.
- Water quality assessments need classification systems based on EU-WFD characterization
- Agriculture activities, untreated municipal and industrial wastewater are key sources of pollution of the surface and groundwater.
- Water losses are very high in the SEE region.
- The problem of droughts is evident and affects the agricultural production, water supply, as well as some associated phenomenon (forest fires, plant diseases).

Water supply coverage



Use of underground water



# Status of flood prevention in SEE

- The SEE region is affected mainly by torrential and river floods, as well as erosion processes and landslides.
- Generally flood protection in the region is still not at satisfactory level and shows a weak institutional support and organization.
- Preparation of flood risk management plans (FRMP) it is still in an initial stage in the SEE region.
- Early warning systems were established just at a few watercourses in the region.
- Numerous large dams with reservoirs were built for flood protection, with a retention volume of 100 - 800 millions of m<sup>3</sup>.
- in the last 20 years there is a lack of ETCWs and preventive measures related to the concept of integrated management in torrential watersheds.



# Status of Water management in SEE

- River basin management in SEE countries is influenced by structural and political organization in certain countries, on the basis of national Law on Waters and EU Directives.
- The SEE region has strong potential for irrigation on huge surfaces (more than 2 million hectares), but effective irrigation is performed on a much smaller area.
- Many existing irrigation systems are not in use due to inadequate maintenance, indifference of owners and users and lack of financial sources.

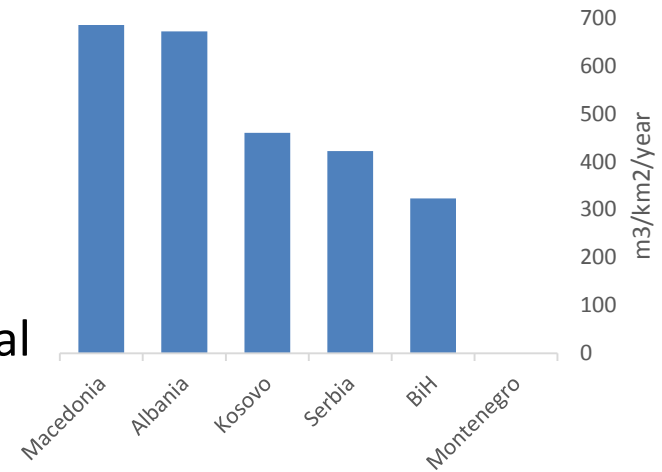
# Status of soil resources in SEE

- SEE countries/territories are characterized by pedological diversity.
- In this region automorphic soils cover most of the territory, hydromorphic soil occupies a smaller area, while halomorphic soil occurs in an insignificant percentage.
- In most of the SEE countries soils were classified according to the FAO soil classification compliant with World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB) criteria (except Albania, Serbia)
- A functional system for soil monitoring in countries SEE, however, has not yet been established.
- A soil information system was not established in most SEE countries/territories (only Macedonia).

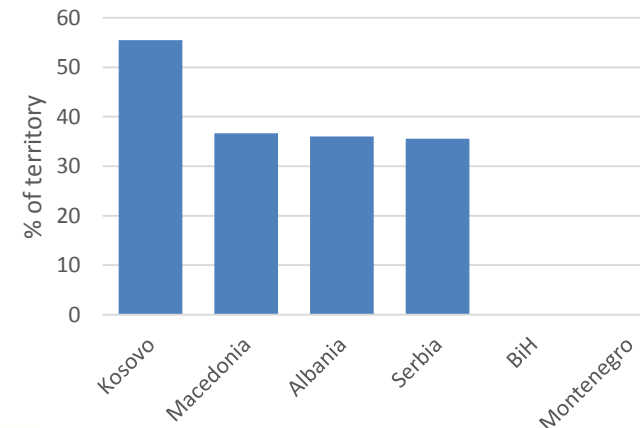
# Status of land use in SEE

- Water erosion is dominant in the whole area.
- All countries/territories used CORINE database to determine the land cover use.
- There is a trend of decreasing agricultural and forest areas in all countries.
- In most SEE countries/territories, an investigation and monitoring of contaminated sites is being performed.
- A particular problem in BiH represent landmines and other residual explosive materials contamination.

Specific annual erosion



% territory under categories I, II and III by Gavrilović



# Institutional arrangements

- A coordinated governance of natural resources is essential for maintaining the environmental assets and ecosystem services in SEE countries while providing the opportunities for rural development and creating economic niches
- A central element common to all SEE countries is a fragmented responsibility on natural resources.
- While the legal framework often looks impressive in size, non-coordinated policies remain ineffective since their implementation is too complicated or sometimes even contradictory;
- It seems that a command and control system that is not fully enforced by the respective implementation bodies.
- An effective implementation requires coordination of political goals and administration bodies, participatory planning instruments and responsible natural resource managers.

# Meeting EU requirements

- Currently Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are official candidate countries who applied for EU accession and have to comply with EU legislation and rules
- while Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\* are potential candidate countries aiming at approximating their legislation and policies.

## *With regards to EU forest-related legislation*

- Some progress is made on the harmonization of EU timber regulation requirements in Albania, BiH and Kosovo\*. Due to limited human and institutional capacities and corruption, the impact is minimal.
- All countries have adopted and implement regulations related to phytosanitary aspects and forest reproductive material. however the system of official veterinary and phytosanitary control has not been fully harmonized so far and more work needs to be done.
- Progress is being made in all countries on the harmonisation and implementation of nature protection legislation (N2000) although gaps still exists.
- No effective protection for sites is in place and its is necessary to improve institutional framework for the designation and management of future sites

# Meeting EU requirements

- ***With regards to the implementation of the EU water legislation***
- The transposition of EU water related directives is an ongoing process in all countries of the region. Progress varies from limited in Montenegro and Kosovo\*, to advanced in Macedonia.
- Different responsibilities shared among different ministries and bodies in charge make coordination a crucial need for strengthening the implementation of EU requirements.
- The institutional and administrative capacities are still weak
- ***With regards to the protection and management of soil***
- some progress was achieved with regards to awareness raising and research and the integration soil protection and its sustainable use into other sectoral strategies
- Except Serbia, no soil protection related legislation is in place so far.
- Monitoring the status and quality of soil is not being performed regularly at national scale in all the countries.



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# Key issues regarding the management of the natural resources

- Under-development of the forest-based and natural resource sector
- Uncontrolled land use to be tamed
- Ecosystem services bear great potential
- Business environment to be strengthened
- Private land owners to be activated
- Resilience is an integral concept to natural resource use
- Institutional framework needs an integrative and coordinative boost
- Capacities and education are worth investing





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# Recommendations for integrated management of natural resources in SEE

- *Pathways towards developing the natural resource sector*
- *Towards new approaches of land use planning*
- *Ecosystem services as a role play for integrated natural resource use*
- *Towards new level of business development*
- *Private land owners in the focus*
- *Resilience is an integral concept to natural resource use*
- *Institutional framework matters*
- *Last but not least: capacities and education*



# Faleminderit! Hvala! Thank you

## PREVENTION IS BETTER THEN CURE

### Cure

### Prevention

