

Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans (REAWG) - country report - North Macedonia -

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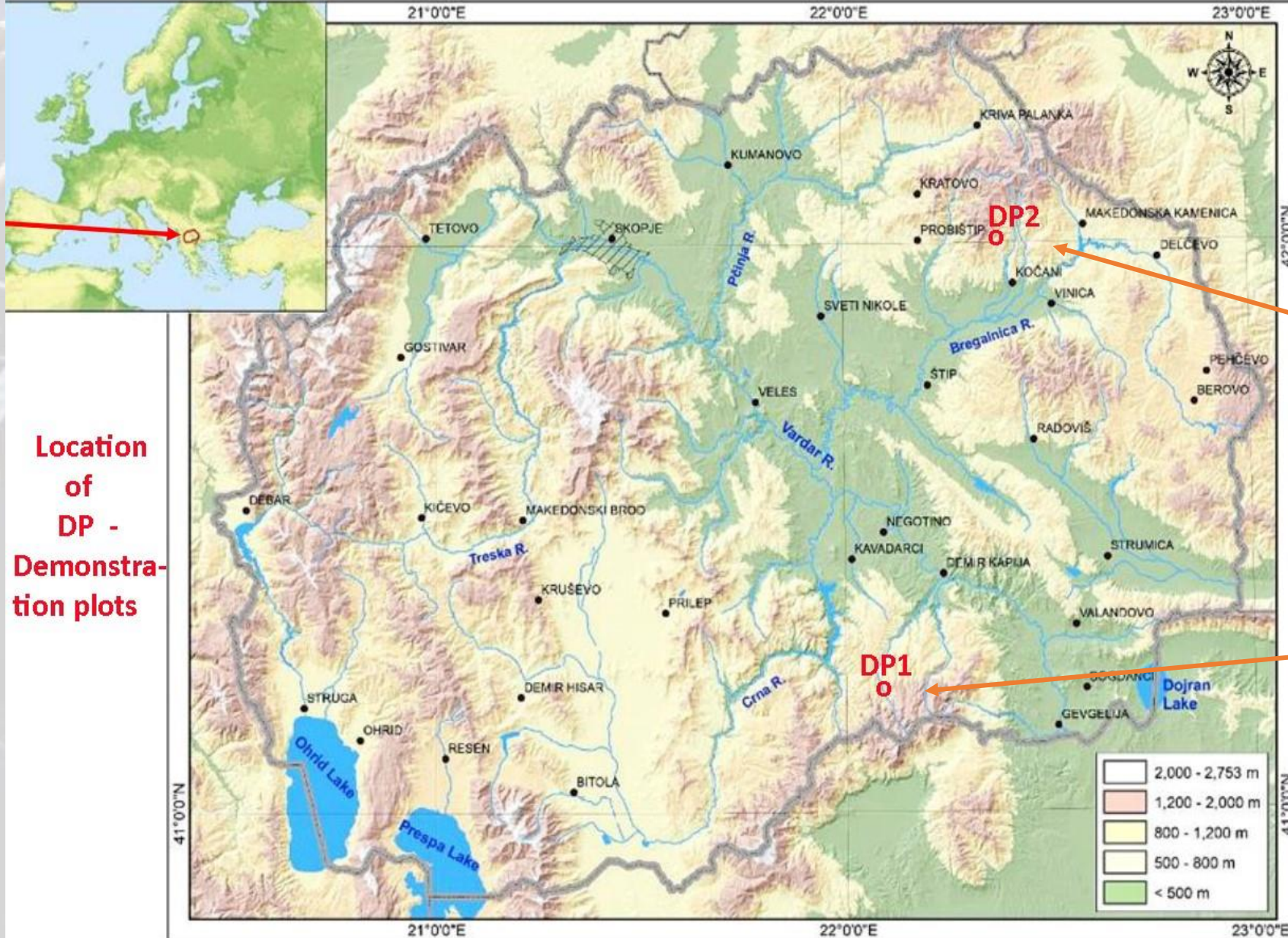
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1 - UKIM – HEF, 2- MAFWE, 3- SVS - GP

Third Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management in the Western Balkans (REAWG), organized as part of the framework of the Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany – Western Balkans.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS

- DP2 - Forest management unit „Ocorobo-I“, - Osogovo mountain



Location
of
DP -
Demonstra-
tion plots



DP1 - Forest management unit „Mihajlovo“- Kozhuf mountainin.



DEMONSTRATION PLOT 1, MIHAJLOVO, KOZUF MT.



Dimensions 50x40m.
Area 2000m² = 0,2ha.
Altitude 1130 m.
Exposure northwest
Stand type pure high beech
Age.....uneven-age
Number of trees on the plot 123
Wood mass on the plot 70m³
Number of trees on 1 ha 615 n/ha
Wood mass on 1 ha 350m³/ha

DEMONSTRATION PLOT 2, OSOGOVO MT.



Dimensions 50x40m.
Area 2000m² = 0,2ha.
Altitude 1350 m asl
Exposure northeast
Stand type pure coppice beech
Age..... 60 yeras
Number of tress on the plot 176
Wood mass on the plot 24,40 m³

Number of trees on 1 ha 880 n/ha
Wood mass on 1 ha 122,0 m³/ha

Which institution was present at the meeting

- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Hans Em Faculty of Forest Sciences, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Engineering (UKIM – HEF)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia (MAFWE)
- Public enterprise National forests, branch office “Osogovo”- Kochani
Public enterprise National forests, branch office “Golak” - Delchevo
Public enterprise National forests, branch office “Plackovica” -Vinica
Public enterprise National forests, branch office - “Kratovo” - Kratovo

What was positive and what they see as negative in MG and CNF concept

Positive aspects

- Everyone agrees that it is a contemporary and useful concept of forest management – It enable possibility of increasing the value of forests
- This concept allows stability and diversity of forest
- It enable improve of the image of the forestry in society

Negative aspects

- Planning documents are produced in an extensive manner and do not correspondent with modern approaches
 - A problem with the control, i.e. a forestry inspection that only follows what is foreseen in the plan, and does not follow new approaches in forestry
- Insufficient field work experience
- Lower financial income in the beginning, and higher costs

Recommendation from participants

- Training of professional staff is required
- It is necessary to modernize the production of planning documents
- It is necessary to train the the inspectors for forestry, for the new trends in forestry
- It is necessary to exchange knowledge and experiences with colleagues from neighboring and other countries
- Financial resources are needed to work on more experimental areas
- Realization of longer-term projects is necessary

General prospect of the future implementation of the MG (management guidance) and close to nature forest management

- The implementation of SFM and CNF is foreseen in the strategic documents of North Macedonia, which opens the way for their implementation.**
- However, it should be taken into account that in the country there is very low knowledge about the practical application of SFM.**
- It is necessary to start with the implementation of the criteria and guidelines for SFM and the preparation of some parts for the application of the concept of SFM - closer to nature forestry**
- The large number of degraded and coppice forests (70% of all forests in the country) reduce the space for the implementation of these concepts.**
- Problems with illegal logging and forest fires also negatively affect the implementation of these ecoconcepts.**
- Despite the desire for faster and greater application, slower progress should still be expected.**
- If funds for a larger campaign and training of professionals would be found , progress can be expected.**
- The results will largely depend on the success of the upcoming reform processes in forestry.**

Forest policy items that have relevancy for sector in the future

- The goal of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is to through sustainable forest management to increase the contribution of the forestry sector to the national economy and rural development, providing renewable resources and protection of the local and global environment, thus ensuring an improvement in the quality of life to all citizens.
- The goals and priorities for forestry development are described in the Strategy for Sustainable Development of Forestry of North Macedonia.
- The strategy from 2006 was updated in 2023 and harmonized with new global trends, i.e. with the European Forest Strategy (2021-2030) , European Green Deal, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, FLEGT, ICF and the and other various world policies related to forestry (UNFCCC , UNCBD, UNCCD, Eco-DRR etc.).
- The NEW Law on Forests.

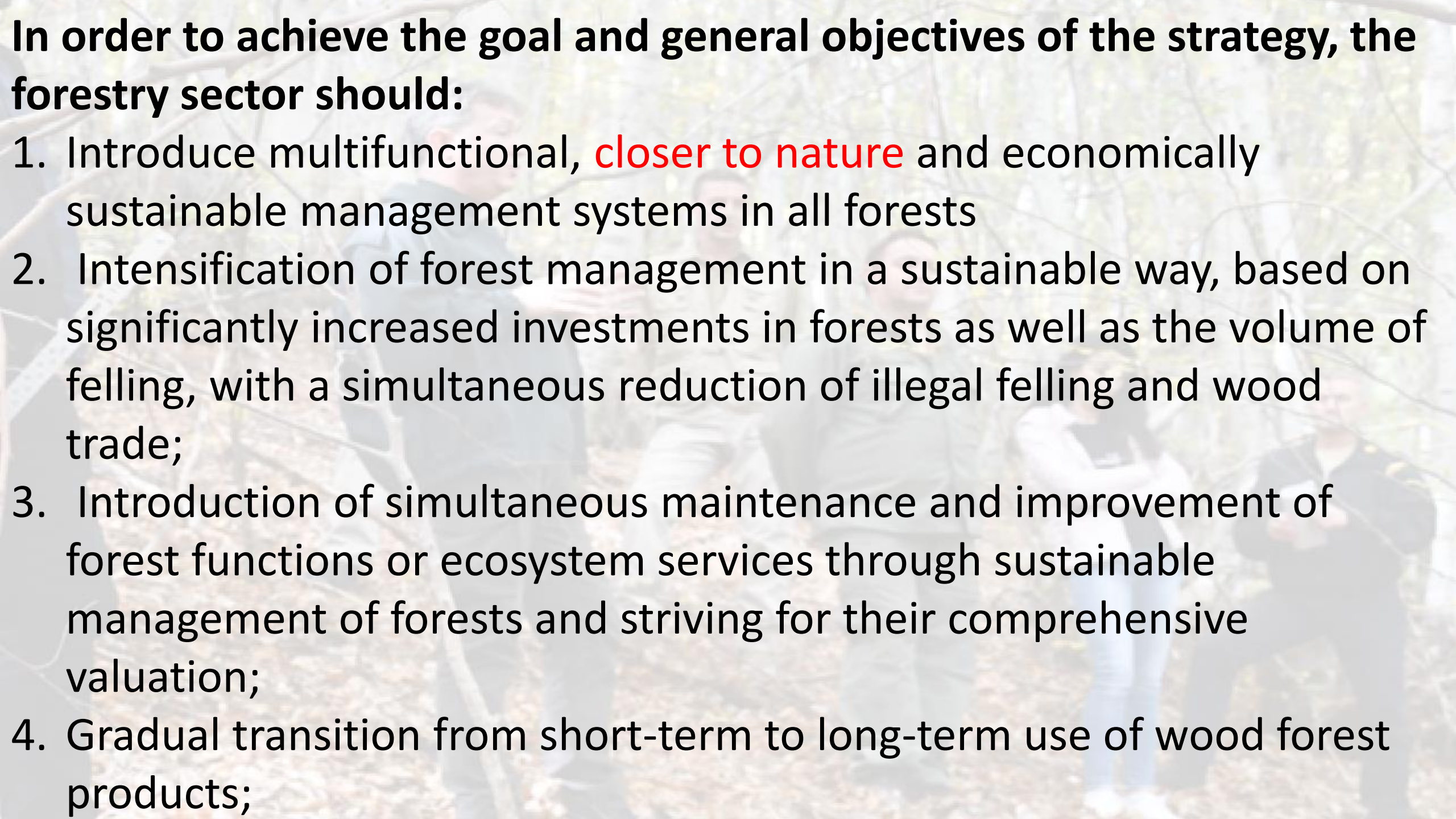
Forest policy items that have relevancy for sector in the future

The main guidelines of the National Policy are:

1. Expansion, improvement of the quality and protection of the forest fund in accordance with the Spatial Plan of the Republic of North Macedonia
2. Multifunctional forest management and sustainable development of economically viable forestry, in accordance with the Forestry Strategy of the European Commission (European Commission, Forestry Strategy, 1998).
3. Overall valorization of the ecosystem services as an integral part of the overall assessment of the sectoral development strategy.
4. Determination of the conditions for finding national and international funds to support the development of the sector
5. Harmonization of forestry legislation with national interests and international obligations.

The general objectives of the forestry sector are:

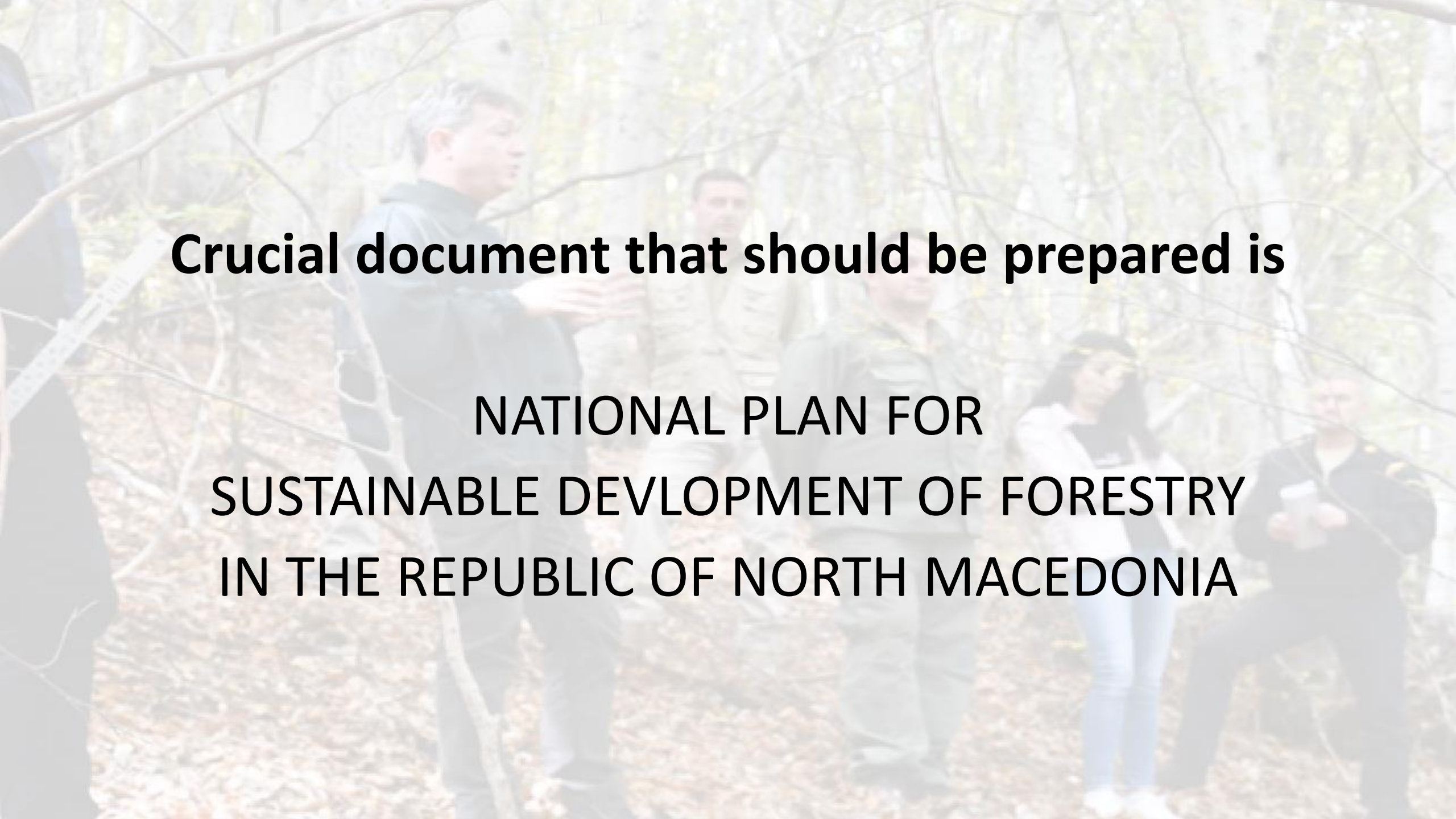
1. To ensure an increase in the area under forests and their production potential, improving the stability and quality of forests, increasing the openness of forests and improving the health of forest ecosystems and their vitality;
2. To ensure that forest production functions (timber and non-timber), including economic efficiency are enhanced in a sustainable manner;
3. To ensure that ecological and social forest functions or ecosystem services, including the conservation of forest biodiversity and landscape diversity, are maintained and enhanced;
4. To contribute to mitigating climate change by adapting the composition and structure of forests and increasing their resistance to climate change;



In order to achieve the goal and general objectives of the strategy, the forestry sector should:

1. Introduce multifunctional, **closer to nature** and economically sustainable management systems in all forests
2. Intensification of forest management in a sustainable way, based on significantly increased investments in forests as well as the volume of felling, with a simultaneous reduction of illegal felling and wood trade;
3. Introduction of simultaneous maintenance and improvement of forest functions or ecosystem services through sustainable management of forests and striving for their comprehensive valuation;
4. Gradual transition from short-term to long-term use of wood forest products;

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5. Adaptation and improvement of the organizational set-up and functioning of state forest institutions/organizations, based on the division of state/public and commercial functions and improvement of efficiency in the management of state forests;
6. Introduction and development of the system of state/public financing of forest activities and measures of public interest and ensuring the intended use of funds;
7. Raising political and public awareness of the key role of forests and their ecosystem services, including biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation
8. Attracting national and international funding for protection, conservation, restoration and close to natural development of forests and for sustainable development of the forestry sector;
9. Harmonization of forestry legislation with national needs, international and EU obligations."

A faded background image showing a group of people in a forest. A man in a dark jacket is in the foreground, gesturing with his hands. Behind him, several other people are visible, some looking towards the camera. The forest has many thin, bare trees and a ground covered in fallen leaves.

Crucial document that should be prepared is

**NATIONAL PLAN FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY
IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Close to nature forestry

- **Education –**
- To improve and support education and training related to sustainable and **close to nature forest management**, including forest biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, environmental quality improvement and economically sound and socially responsible forest management and development of the forestry sector.
- Adaptation and/or expansion of the existing programs of the education of the forestry faculty with modern contents, especially with multifunctional forestry, the conservation of biological diversity, forest functions and ecosystem services, **management of forests close to nature**, climate change mitigation and adaptation, multifunctional assessment of the forest, ecological economy and commercialization of forestry activities in a sustainable way.
- **Forests and climate change mitigation and adaptation -**
 - to adopt guidelines for closer to nature-forestry practices



Thank you for your attention