

III Interim Meeting of the Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management

10 – 12 of December,
Skoplje, North Macedonia

OUTLINE

- Work on drafting the Guidelines for Forest Management for Beech Forests for Montenegro
- Results, future steps and recommendations
- Montenegro forestry sector policy analysis and policy recommendation regarding SFM under the climate change challenges
- Gap analysis to Montenegro forestry sector including recommendations for action and steps towards filling the gaps
- Final conclusions and recommendations



Concept of Guidelines for Forest Management for Beech Forests for Montenegro

- Forest management guidelines used in Germany and now in Serbia is not new matter for Montenegro's foresters. Through Fodemo project 14 years ago professors from Germany demonstrated forest management treatments for certain forest management types
- So we are actually continuing to work now
- After the training we had in the Goč, Montenegrin foresters established demonstration plot in Plužine, Management unit „Bundos“, in the beech forests. We conducted the training based on the Guidelines for Forest Management for Beech Forests, prepared through the project
- All relevant stakeholders took part in the establishment of the demonstration plot and the work on it: representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, the Forestry Administration, the Forestry Inspectorate, institutions working on the preparation of forest management plans as well as NGO sector
- Through the work on the demonstration field and after the held discussion, the conclusion is that the forest management guidelines that treat beech forests are applicable in Montenegro and that their wider practice would improve the condition of beech forests in Montenegro

Results and future steps

- After the data collected from demonstration plot we used marteloskop softver for data processing
- We work with colleagues Andreas and Sergej on data processing
- Due to the need for additional data from the demonstration field, we cannot present the results yet
- It is recommended to establish more demonstration plots with goal of obtain results for all main tree species in Montenegro (or forest stands)
- It is certainly necessary to train forestry experts from Montenegro in order to acquire broader knowledge and apply the guidelines for forest management that are used in Germany.
- **Our suggestion:** Establishment of a training center at the regional level, with tasks to training forestry engineers to practis silviculture measures in the forests according to the „close to nature management“ concept

Montenegro forestry sector policy analysis and policy recommendation regarding SFM under the climate change challenges

- Oposite the previous one, the new Forestry Development Strategy (2024-2029) at a strategic level recognizes the importance of forestry in the combating climate change
- Preserving and strengthening the capacity of forests for adaptation and resilience to climate change, including fire prevention and other solutions – strategic goal in new Strategy
- Under this strategic goal there are seven activities defined
- For all the measures Strategy give: explanation; recommended method of implementation, deadlines, preconditions for realization, and the main leaders of the activities conducting, and finally target groups
- Therefore, the new Forestry Development Strategy represents a significant step forward in relation to the previous strategy

Montenegro forestry sector policy analysis and policy recommendation regarding SFM under the climate change challenges

- In the context of the negative impact of climate change, forest fires are becoming a growing threat to forests globally, especially in Mediterranean countries, such as Montenegro
- Negative trends: depopulation of rural areas, which is accompanied by the absence of traditional agricultural activities and the reduction of forestry activities
- Results: high accumulation of combustible wood biomass in a given area and an increased connection of combustible substances
- Combined impact of the accumulation of flammable substances in the area with weather conditions favorable for the creation of fires, with the additional impact of climate change, creates very favorable conditions for the occurrence of extremely intense fires
- Such unfavorable trends must cause the special attention of the forestry profession and must provide a new conceptual framework
- An integrated approach for solutions to increase the resilience of forest landscapes
- **Our recommendation:** To build new strategic framework for forest fire fighting under the the change climate conditions, on the regional level



Gap analysis to Montenegro forestry sector

Gap analysis of forestry sustainability

Despite the fact that during the last two decades a part of the forests was destroyed or degraded by forest fires, illegal logging or in other ways, Montenegro has maintained a high percentage of forest cover

Wood volume and increment, as basic indicators of productivity, in most forest stands are below the production potential of the site

In relation to indicators of sustainability, the degree of mixed forest in Montenegro can be considered insufficient

One of the imperatives of close to nature management is actively forced and maintained diversity on small areas of forests, depending on the forest management system

Regarding the forest development guidelines, application of these guidelines in Montenegro is almost completely absent

One third of the forests in Montenegro are the even age forests



Gap analysis to Montenegro forestry sector

Gaps in the organization of forestry

- Only country in the region that does not have a state-owned company for forest management, and that sells state-owned forests in standing volume
- Use of forests by concession system showed weaknesses both for the preservation and protection of forests, as well as for the low valorisation of forest resources. Reason is that the concessionaires are not interested in these topics, but almost exclusively in making a quick profit in field of forest exploitation
- Goals of introducing concessions in forestry (development of the wood industry based on long-term supply of wood raw material through concessions) were not achieved, and on the other hand, the condition of the forests was not improved, on the contrary, in most cases there were no measures for protection and cultivation of forests in the concession areas

Gap analysis to Montenegro forestry sector

Financial gaps



- The existing system of financing the forestry sector of Montenegro is based on budget allocations for financing the implementation of planning documents in forestry
- There is no state enterprise that would finance forest management measures from its own revenues
- Instead, financial resources are based on revenues that the Budget receives from concessions and other fees from the use of forests
- 70% of the income from fees for the use of forests belong to local administrations, which do not have any responsibilities in terms of forest management by law

Final conclusions and recommendations

- New Forestry Development Strategy - the pillar on which the improvement of the sustainability of forest management and the application of the concept of close to nature management is based
- The key prerequisites:
 - - Reorganization of the sector and the establishment of a state enterprise for forest management
 - - Establishment of a new financing framework for forestry sector, which enables the generation of real income for sustainable forest management
- The key instrument: **New Forest Law**
- Recommendations for implementation of Sustainable Forest Management/Close to Nature Forest Management in Forestry sector:
 - - The use and **development of forest management guidelines** in Montenegrin forestry as an important tools for implementation of Sustainable Forest Management
 - - Implementation of close to nature management measures that increase the resilience of forest stands, previously recognized through the forest management planning process, especially when it comes to conifer monocultures and even aged forest

Thank you for attention

