



Status of Forest Biodiversity in the Western Balkans

Country: ALBANIA

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How forest biodiversity has been addressed by forest policy in your country/territory?

- The degree of integration of biodiversity issues into the Policy Document for Forests in Albania **can be evaluated as weak**
- The current “Forest Policy Document 2030” only recognizes the importance of the forests for the biodiversity
- Law on Forests address the biodiversity in a similar way



How forest biodiversity has been addressed by forest policy in your country/territory?

- Biodiversity is mainly addressed in:
 - i. Strategic Policy Document for the Protection of Biodiversity
 - ii. Law on Biodiversity
 - iii. Law on Protected Areas
 - iv. Law on the Nature Protection

- All the above-mentioned policy documents and legislation recognizes the role of forestry related to biodiversity

Forest biodiversity in the ANFI and FM planning process

- Both planning processes of ANFI and FM addresses forest biodiversity
- Many of the parameters measured in the framework of ANFI relate to forest biodiversity
- Forest management guidelines and plans have a dedicated chapter on the biodiversity of the forest stands
- Biodiversity is not explicitly addressed in the process of proposing the silvicultural measures in the framework of FM plans



Biodiversity guidelines that support forest biodiversity monitoring

- The Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 1189 “On rules and procedures for Drafting and Implementing the National Programme for Monitoring of Environment” was adopted at the end of 2009
- Originally (2002), the DMC was drafted before the start of transposition of EU Acquis in the national legislation
- Was meant to provide the “legal context” for RoA to develop its national environmental monitoring system
- The DCM has 6 articles and an ANNEX that is containing the catalogue of the Indicators and grouped by environmental theme
- “Biodiversity” and “Forests” are two of the environmental themes



Biodiversity guidelines that support forest biodiversity monitoring

- The DCM contains one ANNEX that includes the list of indicators divided in three categories:
 - i. Environment indicators of the state of environment
 - ii. Environmental indicators with an impact on the environment
 - iii. Environment indicators of environment stress
- National Environmental Agency (NEA) which is an implementing institution of MoE is responsible for creation and maintenance of the environmental information system
- National Forest Agency responsible implementing agency for “Forests” thematic, including forest biodiversity
- “Report on Environmental State” is defined as the final deliverable of the annual monitoring process



Biodiversity guidelines that support forest biodiversity monitoring

- Environmental monitoring it is a means to get information on the quality and problems the country faces in each of the environmental media (air, water, soil), nature/ biodiversity and forests
- It is a means to support the policy making for improvements, and also to measure the degree of success with the policy implementation
- It is also a means to support the country's reporting to international conventions and agreements
- **As the transposition of EU Acquis is advancing in all the environmental thematic areas, the DCM is considered to be obsolete and redundant**

Forests Monitoring Indicators

No	State (B)	Impact (C)	Pressure (H)
	B6. Forests	---	---
	B6a) Forest fund (according to ownership, governance, species, volumes)	---	---
	B6b) surface of forests according to age, species and volume classes	---	---
	B6c) forests health	---	---
	B6d) annual growth in forests classified according to governance and species	---	---
	B6e) annual amount of forest cut, exploited, split into working material and fuel wood	---	---
	B6f) amount of biomass in forests	---	---
	B6g) biomass removed from forests annually	---	---
	B6h) annual exploitation potential	---	---
	B6i) surface of forest fires	---	---
	B6j) surface damaged by other atmospheric factors such as storm, snow, etc.	---	---
	B6k) forests species endangered	---	---
	B6l) hot spots in forests	---	---
	B6m) sites of special importance for biodiversity, tourism, etc.	---	---
	B6n) diversity of ecosystems and habitats in forests	---	---
	B6o) diversity of ecosystems and habitats in protected areas	---	---

Biodiversity Monitoring Indicators

	B5.Biodiversity:	C6. Biodiversity:	---
	B5a) genetic diversity of agriculture and livestock;	C6a) total and annual surface of destroyed forests;	---
	B5b) area under organic agriculture	C6b) total and annual surface of incinerated forests;	---
	B5c) diversity of ecosystems and habitats;	C6c) total and annual surface of diseased forests;	---
	B5d) diversity of ecosystems and habitats in the forests;	C6d) endangered species;	---
	B5e) diversity of ecosystems and habitats in the protected areas;	C6e) threatened species;	---
	B5f) diversity of ecosystems and habitats in water bodies;	C6f) disappeared species;	---
	B5g) territory, land and forest fragmentation	C6g) impact of anthropogenic and geological phenomena in the biological diversity.	---
	B5h) vicinity of transport infrastructure to the protected areas		---
	B5i) non-endemic species in rivers and lakes		---
	B5j) exposure of ecosystems to acidification, eutrophication and ozone		---
	B5k) protected and threatened species		---
	B5l) species diversity		---



Projects supporting forest monitoring systems

- The UNDP's project "Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System" (2015-2021)
 - ⇒ Supported efforts to integrate all previous official environmental and biodiversity databases into a system called EIMMS
 - ⇒ EIMMS is supposed be practical, easy to use, in line with reporting obligations and with built ownership within the Albanian institutions
- Another project which included creation of databases and management of information related to biodiversity is World Bank's project Albanian Forest Information System (ALFIS) (2015-2021)
 - ⇒ Supported efforts to create an information system about management of information related to forestry in Albania