



How climate change has been addressed by forest policy in the WB region

Country/territory: Kosovo

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Has climate change been recognized as a problem for forestry?

What figures or studies project changes in key forest parameters like precipitation and temperature?

In order to deal with issues related to climate change, Kosovo has drawn up several documents that deal with these problems in detail. These documents are:

- The EU Twinning Project Further support for sustainable forest management in Kosovo has drafted the Climate Protection Strategy in the Forestry Sector in Kosovo.
- Forestry Development Strategy (FDS) 2021-2030
- Forestry Action Plan 2021-2030
- Action Plan for the Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo, 2016
- Climate Change Framework Strategy for Kosovo, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo, 2014
- CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2019- 2028 ACTIO PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2019-2021 (Government of the Republic of Kosovo) ([CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2019-2028 ACTIO PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2019- 2021 \(Government of the Republic of Kosovo\)](#))

Does a climate change action plan exist, and how is forestry addressed in it?

- Kosovo has developed a National Climate Change Strategy, including plans and measures for tackling climate change across various sectors, including forestry. This strategy generally aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve environmental resilience, and promote sustainable development.
- In terms of forestry, actions typically include:
- **Afforestation and Reforestation:** Planting new forests and restoring degraded ones to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.
- **Forest Management:** Enhancing sustainable forest management practices to maintain ecosystem health and prevent deforestation.
- **Forest Fire Prevention:** Implementing fire management and prevention measures to reduce the loss of forests to wildfires.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** Protecting biodiversity to ensure ecosystem stability and resilience against climate change.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving local communities in forest conservation efforts.



How is the role of forestry distinguished in other sectoral policies?

Can you provide examples?

In Kosovo, forestry plays a supporting role in several other sectoral policies, given its importance for ecosystem services, economic livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate resilience. There are close and indisputable links with:

- Energy Policy
- Agriculture Policy
- Tourism and Rural Development Policy
- Water Resource Management Policy
- Climate Change and Environmental Policy
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management
- Educational policy and
- Health policy

What measures does forest policy prescribe for climate change mitigation and adaptation? Can you give examples of financial, educational, or legislative instruments?

- To achieve the strategic objectives, the general measures of the sectors for adaptation to climate change are:
- 1. Flood protection
- 2. Droughts, small streams and lack of water
- 3. Management of forests and biodiversity
- 4. Public health
- 5. Management and exchange of information
- 6. Capacity building, training and awareness raising
- 7. Finance, cost recovery and risk management
- 8. Cooperation structures

**Are there secure monitoring and research instruments in place to track climate change?
If yes, can you provide examples?**

Yes, Kosovo has been working on developing and improving monitoring and research tools to track climate change and environmental changes in the country. The main focus has been on enhancing the capacity of institutions and using modern technology for climate and environmental monitoring. Some examples of monitoring and research instruments and practices include:

- Meteorological Stations
- Remote Sensing and Satellite Monitoring
- Forest Inventory Systems
- Air Quality Monitoring Stations
- Water Quality and Hydrological Monitoring

These monitoring systems provide Kosovo with valuable data needed to assess climate change impacts, make informed policy decisions, and improve resilience.

What gaps exist in current forest policy regarding climate change challenges?

Kosovo's forest policy, while increasingly geared toward addressing climate change, faces several notable gaps and challenges. Here are some areas where improvements are needed to better tackle climate change in the forest sector.

Here are some areas where improvements are needed to better tackle climate change in the forest sector:

- Lack of Comprehensive Data and Monitoring
- Insufficient Funding and Resources
- Weak Enforcement of Forest Regulations
- Limited Community Involvement and Awareness
- Climate-Resilient Forest Management Practices
- Integration with Broader Climate Policy
- Incentives for Sustainable Forest Management
- Enhanced funding, technology, enforcement, and community engagement are essential for tackling climate challenges within Kosovo's forestry sector.

What objectives and measures would you recommend to address these gaps?

To address the climate change gaps in Kosovo, particularly in the forest sector, these measures should be taken:

- Substantial research is needed on the carbon impacts of a range of mitigation activities such as, silvicultural treatments, to increase carbon stocks or the magnitude of harvest and post-harvest biomass losses from illegal logging in different forest types and environmental conditions.
- Strengthen Data Collection and Monitoring Systems
- Increase Funding and Resource Allocation for Climate Resilience
- Strengthen Enforcement and Compliance with Forest Regulations
- Promote Community Involvement and Public Awareness
- Implement Climate-Resilient Forest Management Practices
- Integrate Forest Policy with Broader Climate Policy
- Establish Economic Incentives for Sustainable Forest Management

Next steps

To effectively reduce the impacts of climate change in Kosovo, institutions across various sectors need to collaborate, implement robust policies, and enhance capacity. Here are some recommended next steps for Kosovo's institutions:

- Reduce illegal logging and increase legal harvesting
- Implementation of the forest silvicultural measures (cleaning, pre commercial and commercial thinning) in young dense forests
- Increase prevention and suppression rate to combat forest fires with the main focus on developing the fire prevention infrastructure
- Strengthen Reforestation and Sustainable Forestry Initiatives
- Strengthen Climate Policy and Regulatory Framework
- Increase Investment in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Engage and Educate Communities on Climate Change
- Increase Access to International Funding and Technical Support