

Status of Forest Biodiversity in the Western Balkans

Montenegro

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



- The Law of Forests recognizes the importance of forest protection in order to preserve and improve the biological and landscape diversity of forests. The law stipulates that the Forest Management Plans in protected areas must contain a description of the state of biodiversity, especially an analysis of the state of indicator species and habitat types of protected areas, management and conservation goals of indicator species and habitat types, and conservation measures. Also, if the Forest Management Plans includes Natura 2000 areas, it must contain a description of the state of biodiversity, especially an analysis of the state of the target species and habitat types of the ecological network area, management and conservation goals of the target species and habitat types, and conservation measures. Finally, the law emphasizes that forest monitoring pays particular attention to forest biodiversity.
- The Forest Development Strategy 2025-2030 has the strategic goal of increasing the area of protected forests, protecting biodiversity and landscapes. Within that strategic goal, seven operational goals were developed, and all of them are directly or indirectly in the function of preserving the biodiversity of forests in Montenegro.

Does forest biodiversity is part of the national forest inventory and forest management planning process?

- The national forest inventory is the basic source of data for the strategic development plans, specifically the Forestry Development Strategy at the state level.
- In addition to the static assessment of the condition, the real data on the condition of the forests, evaluated in relation to the previous ones, clearly indicate the dynamism of changes over time due to the dynamism of the ecosystem, then the realization of strategic goals, operational goals and measures, as well as changes due to the unwanted effects of risk factors.
- Also, considering that forests cover over 60% of the territory of Montenegro, the national forest inventory is one of the most important sources of data for strategic documents in the field of nature protection, specifically the Biodiversity Protection Strategy.
- The national inventory on the territory of Montenegro registered 68 tree species (57 deciduous and 11 coniferous), which indicates the great diversity of the forests of Montenegro.
- In the process of forest management planning, field measurements collect a significant amount of data related to forest biodiversity. In addition to the identification of tree species, indicator species and ground vegetation are also recorded, as well as information on the natural rejuvenation of stands.
- Planning documents certainly contain measures to preserve biodiversity, especially in protected areas.

Describe which data has been collected by National Forest Inventory or FMP process as part of biodiversity monitoring:

- Regarding biodiversity, the national forest inventory collects the following data:
- Presence of key biotopes,
- Presence of artificial structures (buildings, roads, power lines, etc.),
- Number of terrestrial vegetation species,
- Tree species composition,
- Indicator tree species,
- Ground vegetation,
- Shrubs,
- Introduced species,
- Relict and endemic species,
- Rare and endangered species.

Do you have any instruction or biodiversity guidelines that support forest biodiversity monitoring?

Please describe content in bullet points or give a pictures or link to document:

- The European Commission will present a legislative proposal for a framework for forest monitoring, reporting and data collection.
- This will establish an **integrated framework** for forest monitoring across the EU, using remote sensing, technologies and geospatial data integrated with ground-based monitoring, which will improve the quality of monitoring.
- Although the global importance of this information is indisputable, it is at least equally important for the national level in order to lead a **realistic policy of sustainable forest management**.
- As for monitoring, the instructions are to focus on better reporting and updating of data on priority topics relevant to EU policy, such as the effects of climate change, biodiversity, and current data collection on the use of wood for various socio-economic purposes.



Is there any intention or projects that foreseen introduction of forest biodiversity monitoring?

If yes, please give short content of project objectives:

- **New Forest Law - Article 17**
- Paragraph 6
- The forest management plan, in addition to the above, contains a description of the state of biodiversity, in particular the analysis of the state of indicator species and habitat types of protected areas, the goals of management and conservation of indicator species and habitat types, conservation measures, activities to achieve goals and assessment of the implementation of the basis of forest management.
- Paragraph 7
- The forest management plan, which includes the areas of the ecological network, in addition to the above contains a description of the state of biodiversity, in particular the analysis of the state of target species and habitat types of the ecological network area, the objectives of management and conservation of target species and habitat types, conservation measures, activities to achieve goals and assessment of the implementation of the management basis.