



SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Forest policy advice within the APD SEE framework

Project aims to improve framework conditions in the priority areas of climate change and biodiversity, taking into account EU requirements



PROJECT TITLE

Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany – South East Europe (APD SEE): Regional working group on close-to-nature forest management

TIMEFRAME

07/2024 to 12/2025

AS OF

October 2025



Sustainable Multifunctional Forest Management



Balanced International Forest Policy

With support from



Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity

by decision of the German Bundestag

Forestry in South East Europe

Forest management in the Western Balkans is only partially in line with the objectives of the EU Forest Strategy 2030, which calls for nature-friendly management to protect biodiversity. In view of this situation, the Regional Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (REAWG-SFM) of the Standing Working Group (SWG) has agreed to improve the policy framework for biodiversity monitoring, adaptation to climate change, and further education and training in the forestry sector, to prepare the sector for EU integration.

The Project

Within the framework of the project, national experts analyse climate change and biodiversity challenges in forest policy areas in order to improve forest governance. Based on their findings, the state enterprise HessenForst provides suitable advice. The recommendations will then be presented, discussed and adopted for use in the partner countries. Furthermore, the implementation of the recommendations in the target countries is supported in order to achieve improvements for public and private forest managers.

Project Goals

1. Implementation of recommendations to improve forestry conditions in the Western Balkans in line with EU objectives and requirements.
2. Increasing political decision-makers' knowledge of applied forest management.
3. Regular exchanges within the REAWG-SFM, including an annual technical information trip to Germany and on-site demonstration workshops.



During the 2025 exposure visit, areas for ex-situ conservation of forest genetic resources at the Northwest German Forest Research Institute were visited. Considerable interest exists in further exchange on the topic with the Western Balkans, whose current climate is considered a possible future scenario for Germany.



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As close as the countries of the Western Balkans are to each other, the natural and legal conditions for forest management vary greatly. What they have in common is the need for an adequate legal and technical framework to keep these forests thriving while delivering goods for the rural population.

Results and Successes

The countries are about to implement their approaches to measuring forest biodiversity, which were developed and discussed at regional and national workshops. Before that, biodiversity and climate change adaptation have been central tasks for the REAWG-SFM in the forest governance of individual countries by the end of 2024. Accordingly, in June 2025, the working group visited political, scientific and practical institutions in Hesse for a mutual exchange.

Project Partners and Cooperations

- Ministries of Agriculture and state forestry enterprises of the partner countries
- Universities and research institutions in South East Europe and Germany

Project Partner on Operational Level

- The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe

Implementing Organisation

- The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe
- IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH
- Landesbetrieb HessenForst



South Eastern Europe
SWG
Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group



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**Bilateral Cooperation
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