



# DEVELOPING THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN KOSOVO

The forests of Kosovo have great ecological, social and economic potential, which is only marginally realized. It is envisaged that if professionally and sustainably managed, the forestry sector could be an important source of employment for the rural poor, and in general greatly improve the living conditions in the countryside. However, forestry in Kosovo is facing many difficulties, and the country recovery efforts require improvements in both the public and private sector. A Policy and Strategy Paper on Forestry Sector Development 2010-2020 (PSP) addresses these challenges and forms the basis for the development process in the country's forestry sector. The project supported the Government's efforts in the implementation of recently adopted forest policy and strategy for strengthening the forest sector.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The capacities of the Government of Kosovo were strengthened, and interministerial arrangements for supervising and monitoring the implementation of the PSP were created and made operational. The project supported the establishment of participatory processes in strategic forest sector planning, as well as in forest management planning at field level. Basic forest legislation, namely the new draft of the Law on Forests, was formulated in consultation with all stakeholder groups, and harmonized with the sector's new policy and strategy. The Kosovo Forest Information System (KFIS), an Information Communication Technology (ICT) tool was developed for facilitating evidence-based decision-making through storing, processing and exchanging relevant forestry data and sector information. Furthermore, forestry staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), Kosovo Forest Agency KFA and local authorities, including those from the northern Kosovo forestry offices, were familiarized with Kosovo's PSP and the most recent forest legislation. Together with temporary workforce, local staff were also trained in the tending of young forests stands, as well as in afforestation and reforestation activities, including safe and proper use of chainsaws in logging operations.

## IMPACT

The project helped to increase the contribution of the forest sector to the national economy, through sustainable use of forest resources. It also contributed to reducing tensions among ethnic groups, and to establishing a basis for the provision of long-term employment opportunities. In addition, introducing sustainable forest management practices, applying a participatory approach in developing forest management plans, and offering organized ways for wood supply will contribute to reducing the scale of unregulated activities in the forest sector, as well as to improving the health of Kosovo's forests.

### KEY FACTS

#### Contribution

USD 5 137314

#### Duration

March 2011 – December 2017

#### Resource Partner

Government of Finland

#### Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)

#### Beneficiaries

People from vulnerable groups (youth, women, small-scale farmers, unemployed), local/regional forestry staff and forest owners



## ACTIVITIES

- Action Plan related to the implementation of the PSP was formulated and used for operational activities.
- A system for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the PSP was designed and used for annual forest sector progress reporting.
- Joint Annual Reviews were introduced and became a regular institutional practice for discussing annual progress in developing the sector.
- An information and communication strategy concerning the relevance of the forest sector for Kosovo was successfully developed and implemented.
- The Forest Management Board for supervising the implementation of the PSP was established and functional.
- An assessment of gender issues and analysis of women's role in the forestry sector in Kosovo was conducted; and recommendations for applying gender mainstreaming approaches in relation to sustainable use and management were provided.
- Two long-term integrated management plans for low and degraded forests were prepared.
- A ten-year National Programme for Forest Health was drafted.
- A ten-year National Programme for Afforestation and Reforestation, including a Management Inventory of Forest Plantations and a Development Plan for Forest Nursery in Peja, was prepared.
- Staff from the Government of Kosovo were trained in good practices for forest health protection and the implementation of International Phytosanitary Standards in forestry.
- A study on Wood Biomass Integrated Supply and Demand in Kosovo was conducted and published.
- The use of wood energy and its potential for climate-change mitigation was assessed, and results from the studies were submitted to decision-makers.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Project Code

FAO: GCP/KOS/005/FIN

### Project Title

Support to Implementation of the Forest Policy and Strategy in Kosovo

### Contact

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