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Ministria e Bujqësisë, Pylltarisë dhe Zhvillimit Rural
Ministarstvo Poljoprivrede, Šumarstva i Ruralnog Razvoja
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development

ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING FORESTRY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

2010 - 2020

Pristina, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since June 2008, and with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) in revising and updating policies, strategies and development programs governing forestry in Kosovo.

This document, produced by team of national experts with support of FAO, presents the measures required for the implementation of the policies and strategies adopted by the Kosovo Government.

The Action Plan outlines the main activities during a coming 10 years period, but it should be continuously updated to reflect changes in the society. The activities of the Plan are structured on three pillars: (i) tailor-made projects to raise knowledge in under-developed competence areas (ii) support to operations performance and turn-a-round actions and (iii) support to institutions having the overall responsibility for implementing the projects and activities involved in the plan.

Four main projects (i) are required for raising the competence in under-developed areas:

- A comprehensive forest management and silviculture program with the overall objective of supporting the introduction of improved forest management practices;
- Capacity building in most forestry subjects, inter-sectorial mobilization for raising the awareness of the importance of a healthy forest sector, and establishment of scientific research premises;
- Forest environmental protection and development of non-wood values with the objective of ensuring the role of forestlands as contributor to biodiversity and producer multifunctional benefits;
- Private sector development including management, owner associations, land consolidation, joint management systems and introduction of small-scale wood processing industries;

It is anticipated that the implementation of the above four projects will need international assistance and financial support from donor organizations.

Forestry planning, harvesting and transport operations (ii) are areas which despite of earlier support still are weak, and are in a need of various kinds of support. Both competence areas concerns vital parts of the forest sector and, therefore, improved performance will have great impact on the entire sector and its contribution to the national economy. Considering the support provided over the years it is assumed that concerned institutions will have the capability to, with own means or with limited technical support from the donor community, implement the required actions and changes. Changing attitudes, training, introduction of new systems and techniques will be the key tasks.

The activities of the Action Plan include technical aspects, educational, environmental, socio-economic, industrial issues, etc. Considering this complexity it is obvious that a number of other ministries and stakeholders need to be involved in the realization of the Program. (iii) To support the main implementer (MAFRD), it is recommended to establish a Management Board, which will have the overall responsibility for the long-term implementation of the Plan.

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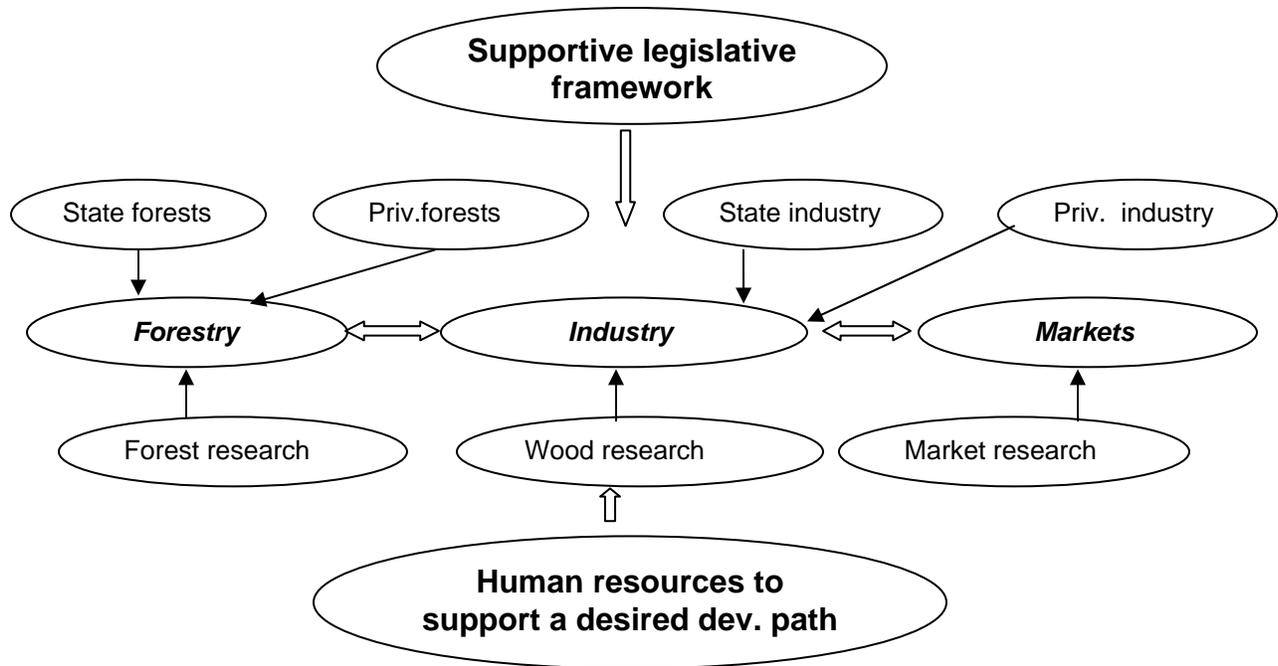
ABBREVIATIONS

ARDP	Agriculture and Rural Development Plan
DoF	Department of Forestry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRI	Forest Research Institute
EU	European Union
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency
KFA	Kosovo Forest Agency
KAP	Kosovo Agency for Privatization
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MLSW	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
NGO	Non Government Organization
SOE	Social Owned Enterprises
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency

1. THE FOREST SECTOR

1.1 Structure of the forest sector

The figure below presents the various elements that form the major constituents of most forestry and forest industry sectors. In Kosovo forest resources are most probably too limited to allow for establishing complete organizational and institutional structures. Because of this situation there are likely to be limitations on the possibilities of establishing premises for education, research and development. It must therefore always be borne in mind that because of this limitation development potentials will in some areas also be restricted.



The following chapters contains a brief description of the above elements

1.2 Legislation, human resources

The availability of a supportive legislative framework is crucial in all development processes. In 2003 a new Law on Forest was adopted bringing in elements adapted to open market principles and consistent with new European forest legislation. The law is consistent with the revised policies and strategies in 2009. Despite of some needs for fin-tuning, the law is considered as adequate, and is supported by a number of implementing administrative directions.

The availability of skilled and dedicated human resources is another crucial factor for successful development. During the last decades, and up to 2005, education and training was basically neglected. This means, and despite of comprehensive training programs during the last years, the sector is in an urgent need of further capacity building.

1.3 The wood supply chain forest – industry - markets

Forest: About 60% of the total forest area is owned by the state, and the remaining 40% by a large number of private persons (average size of holdings 1.5 ha). Up to the end of the war period operations on state forestlands were conducted by State Forest Enterprises (SOEs) using own resources or contractors.

Operations on private forestlands are mainly conducted by the owner himself, or by the assistance of contractors. In 2006 a first Forest Owners Association was established in the Western part of Kosovo. The activities are still limited, but can be regarded as a first step in organizing private forestry in Kosovo.

Forest industry: Up to the end of the war period state forest industry was organized in seven large Wood Combines which were involved in both primary processing (sawmilling) and downstream processing. Today, only two combines in the Northern part of Kosovo is still operating. The remaining five entities are either closed down or are operating at a very limited scale. All combines were equipped to produce nearly the same range of products i.e. lumber for its own downstream production and wood products mainly for internal use. They all had a higher design capacity than what was actually utilized.

The private industry sector includes a large number of small and often family owned sawmills (200 - 300). The machines are usually of low capacity and of old design resulting in difficulties in finding spare parts. As many of these mills operate on “custom saws”, i.e. sawing only when an owner of logs comes, production is very limited. The situation in the downstream processing (windows, doors, furniture, and kitchen cabinets) is slightly better. Production is in most cases based on a wide range of manually operated standard carpentry machines.

Wood markets: Generally speaking the quality of the coniferous saw logs is low, since a large portion of the logs comes from over-matured forests, grown at high altitudes and on sloping ground. The main use of such saw logs will be low-middle quality lumber for construction purposes. Furthermore, the volumes available for industrial processing are limited, and does not allow for economies of scale in production. The volumes needed for the different products made from conifers can easily be found in the international market in qualities and prices difficult to compete with in Kosovo. There is also an environmental concern of harvesting some of the older coniferous forest. Cutting in these forests should be stopped or severely restricted. This would be both for economic and environmental reasons.

The quality of the broadleaves seems to be of a satisfactory level and can be used for production of middle-high quality solid wood products. Compared to the conifer wood available volumes are much larger, especially small-size logs, and will allow for expanded production.

The demand for wood products in Kosovo will always exceed the local supply potential. This means that market opportunities will always exist for local manufacturers who are able to maintain cost competitive production.

1.4 Research facilities

Up to mid 90's research in forestry was conducted at the Forest Institute in Peje. After this date the resources were gradually dismantled and most of the activities were concentrated to Belgrade. Today, the activities of the Institute are in practice limited to production of seedlings. Considering the actual status of the Institute, and the needs for maintaining capacities for applied research, health monitoring, etc. it is important to restore the resources. In this respect the needs for building up capacities in the areas of environment and non-wood products should also be

considered. In the wood processing sector, and wood markets, support is provided by the Faculty of Technical Applied Sciences, Department of Wood Technology in Ferizaj (Part of Pristina University) and through the Wood Processors Association.

Research institutions in Kosovo need to establish cooperation with similar institutions in other parts of Europe. To be part of a wider network, giving possibilities for exchanging information, sharing of costs for development activities, etc. is a must for both forestry and forest industry in Kosovo.

1.5 Forest sector assessment

In a survey of the forest sector conducted in March, 2007 public and private sector representatives expressed their priorities for development of the Forest Sector. Generally speaking these priorities are confirmed by the members of the Working Group assigned to the policy and strategy project.

- Forestry is an important provider of energy i.e. firewood – and a provider of corresponding employment opportunities in the rural areas with highest unemployment. Careful harvesting of firewood will also create better and more valuable forests in the future since firewood cutting will be a tending operation and thus the forest will in the future contain more of valuable timber trees;
- Continued capacity development and training is needed to improve skills and competence at all levels i.e. managers, technicians and workers. The human resource development will also lead to changes in attitudes;
- The forestry sector – its organizations with their mandates and the legal structure - is not yet optimal and the reform and upgrading program is in need of continued support. The forestry sector has to contemplate on the issue of decentralization and de-concentration. The municipalities' role in forestry may hold opportunities but the competence issues and the municipalities' commitment to sustainable management is uncertain;
- Forest management plans needs to be reviewed, forestation of barren lands needs to continue, the forest products sector need to be improved including introduction of technology for small sized logs, and the privatization/liquidation of Socially Owned Enterprises needs to be accomplished.
- The illegal harvesting creates sub-optimal collection of revenue for the government, inhibits the development of efficient logging and processing entities, leads to poor forest management and low wood utilization, and creates social tensions;
- The awareness of the forests' role and positive contribution to Kosovo's development should be brought forward. This will over time reduce the public's involvement in illicit forestry. It will also over time build momentum for better forest practices as demanded by the public;
- The government staff should support and work with private forest owners and contractors and facilitate well-planned harvesting and silviculture work. Licensing of harvesting and bidding procedures should be transparent – and provide for more long-term operations;
- Forest Owner Associations (FOA) can be useful organizations that can promote the interests of private forest owners. In the early stages the FOA can propose policy changes related to forest management and other issues. In a later stage, and when more developed, FOA may provide various kind of services to its members;

- All actors in the forestry sector – public and private – need training and education. Silvicultural interventions (foremost commercial thinning) are needed to create good forests for the future. The upkeep of forest roads is a necessity.

1.6 Roles and responsibilities of the Government

The overall objective of the Government's support to the Forest Sector is to increase the contribution of the sector to the national economy through sustainable use of the forest resources, taking into consideration as well the multi-functional role of forestry. To comply with this overall objective the Government will (i) develop and maintain a supportive institutional and regulatory framework, (ii) introduce decentralized and transparent supervisory and management systems allowing for rational use of all forestland, (iii) protect forest environmental values, (iv) maintain international contact networks allowing for exchanges of knowledge and experiences, (v) strive to optimize the social benefits from forest operations in both short- and long-term perspectives and (vi) take the overall responsibility for the implementation of policies and strategies.

2. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Implementation structure

The activities of the Action Plan bases on the table presented in the Policy and Strategy Paper and are structured on three pillars: (i) tailor-made projects to raise knowledge in under-developed competence areas (ii) support to operations improvement and (iii) support to institutions having the overall responsibility for implementing the projects and activities involved in the plan. The next chapters outline the main projects included in these three pillars which will constitute the basis for the drafting of full proposals and other instruments required in the implementation process.

2.2 Content of pillars

These sections summarize the main content of each of the three pillars.

Pillar I is focusing on projects required for raising the knowledge in underdeveloped competence areas. Four main projects are defined: (a) improved forest management, (b) capacity building, (c) forest environmental protection and development of non-wood values and (d) development of the private sector. The implementation of these projects will need considerable international assistance and financial support from donor organizations;

Pillar II focuses on improving the functions of the Forest Sector in a wide perspective. Two competence areas are identified as vital: Improved forestry planning and improved harvesting and transport operations. Despite earlier support, these competence areas are still weak and have for this reason urgent need for support to reach its full potential. Improved management, consistent planning and the use of appropriate methods and technologies are fundamental factors of sustainable forestry.

There are also urgent needs of improving the use of wood biomass for energy production, improving the road net work system, implement systems for forest fire control, etc. Improved operations will have great positive impacts in most aspects: Increased profitability of harvesting operations, reduced impact on flora and fauna, better access to cost-efficient wood products. These are the reasons for giving high priority to improving forest operations;

Pillar III is designed to support the implementation of the entire Action Plan. The activities of the Plan ranges from pure technical aspects of how to manage with forestlands to educational, environmental, socio-economic, industrial issues, etc. With this background it is obvious that a number of ministries and stakeholders need to be involved in the realization of the Program. This complex situation, and the duration of the plan, is the reasons for a strong coordination and monitoring of all implementation activities.

The next chapters 3, 4 and 5 includes a description of competence (intervention) areas systemized on plan pillars which together with the analysis constitutes the basis for the formulation of projects which then are summarized in a table at the end of each of the chapters. The tables follow the structure elaborated through the Policy and Strategy Paper.

3. PROJECTS INCLUDED IN PILLAR I

3.1 Project for improved forest management

The overall objective of this project is to support the introduction of improved forest management practices leading to increased yield of forestlands in both medium- and long term perspectives. Five main fundamental elements have been identified, each of them requiring special attention to reach its full potential.

Capacity development

In practice, capacities for undertaking forestry research do not exist. The Forest Institute in Peje is only manned with one professional staff member and there is a need to restore some of the former capacity of the Institute, and with focus on applied research and forest health monitoring. It is recommended to also analyze the appropriateness of allocating research activities related to environment and non-wood products to the Institute. The activities of the Institute can be supported by activities under intervention area Higher Forest Education. It is also suggested that upon their return to Kosovo the Institute shall be prepared to employ some of the students currently studying at overseas Forest Faculties.

Plantation management

During the last three decades in Kosovo 15 000 - 20 000 ha of plantations have been established. Many plantations have failed, and there is an urgent need of re-directing plantation programs. This work has to include inventories of the existing plantations to decide their status, calculate the areas suitable for planting and selection of most appropriate species and provenances for a future extended plantation program (species-site matching). Along with this work, it may also be necessary to improve the seedling production capacity. To the extent appropriate planning of planting sites shall be combined with management planning.

Monitoring of forest health

The overall objective of this activity is to reduce the risks of forest production losses resulting from attacks of insects and fungus. During the last decade many coniferous forests have been exposed to heavy attacks from insects. The reason for this situation is bad forest hygiene resulting from improper operational planning and uncontrolled harvesting that had put at risk the survival of thousands of hectares of valuable coniferous forest. A radical change of current harvesting practices, together with enforcement of strong control mechanisms, are required for saving these forests. The resources required are suggested to be part of a reorganized Forest Research Institute. Related intervention areas are forest inventories, forest management planning and environmental protection.

Tending of young forests

Management of young and middle-aged forests has previously largely been neglected resulting in large areas of over-dense forests which are in urgent needs of interventions ranging from pre-commercial to commercial thinning. This situation is justified by the results of the forest inventory conducted during the years 2003 – 2004. Large scale interventions will result in considerable quantities of small-size logs and wood for heating purposes. Related intervention areas are forest management planning and small-scale industry development.

Tending of young forests is very labour intensive activities and will provide employment opportunities in rural areas. Other positive effects are that the wood produced through the intervention will cover (in most cases) the costs of the work, and that the status of the forest will be improved.

3.2 Forest education and training project

This project will, in relevant parts, build on the achievement of the previous SIDA sponsored project on forest education and training. The main focus is on vocational education and training, and the organization of higher forest education.

Forest vocational education

During the last decades education and training opportunities have been limited. This situation is seriously affecting the performance of all sectors, and in this respect forestry is no exception. To change this situation the establishment of high quality education and training opportunities for all categories of personnel working in the Forest Sector must be given highest priority. Against this background a high quality pre-university vocational education for forestry profile shall be established. This ambition will be realized through the establishment of a Secondary Forestry Vocational School at national level. The school shall meet all European standards for forestry educational profiles and become one of the centers of excellence for forestry vocational education and training in W Balkans. Related intervention areas are private sector development.

Forest vocational training

The availability of a skilled labor is of fundamental importance for improving the standard of forest operations. For this reason a key issue will be to establish premises for training forest workers. In this respect one of the most important actions will be to establish a Forestry Vocational Training Centre to increase the skills of forest workers. The Center shall be organized to operate all over Kosovo. To meet the various requirements training shall be provided on a modular based systems. Vocational training will also contribute to better opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship and safe working methods. Related intervention areas are private sector development.

Higher forest education, research and development

Since the mid 90's higher forest education in Kosovo has practically been disrupted, and only a very few students have been able to obtain graduation in forestry (at the Forest Faculty of Tirana) during the last 15 – 20 years. This situation is seriously affecting the entire forestry sector and is limiting many prospective development options.

To overcome these acute problem two options exists: to open a faculty for forestry in Pristine, or to organize opportunities for students to studying forestry abroad, or a combination of both options. Presently a number of students are attending foreign faculties and will return to Kosovo upon their graduation. A final decision about the organization of Higher Forest Education will have to base on the experience from education at foreign faculties, and the availability of funds for establishing domestic education premises.

Despite of how future higher education will be organized important activities includes curricula development, assessment of training needs and ensuring funds for higher education (covering the costs of scholarships and/or funds for domestic education). Other important actions will be the organization of resources for applied research, either through establishing new institutions or strengthening of existing premises, and secure the availability of state of the art technology through linking forestry researchers in Kosovo to similar international research institutions. Related areas are forest management and environmental protection.

Awareness raising campaigns

In cooperation with other institutions the Secondary Forestry Vocational School shall be responsible for conducting awareness campaigns for promoting the importance of forestry. Activities will include, but not restricted to, media campaigns, organization of debates and

compilation of information material to be included in schoolbooks. Related intervention area is environmental protection).

3.3 Project for improving the protection of forest environment

This intervention area includes three main elements which also have bearing on the development of non wood products. For that reason a project has been formulated to cover both intervention areas (see 3.4).

Capacity development

Kosovo is a relatively dense populated country. This situation put pressure on land for urban and infrastructure development, food production, wood and other consumables. With its relatively young population it is expected that the population will continue to grow at a high rate, which means that during a foreseeable future the pressure on land for various purposes will remain high. This pressure on land also affects forestry in Kosovo.

The country is a net-importer of wood for construction purposes, and large quantities of firewood are also cut for heating houses. This situation, with a high demand for wood products, is not expected to drastically change during the years to come. Furthermore, increased standard of living also means that the demand for recreation facilities in various forms will increase.

In summary, it can be noted that increasing population pressure combined with improved standard of living will put a constant pressure on forestlands. Considering the fact that forest is an important tool not only for preserving the biodiversity but also for the entire society in terms of cultural needs, recreation, etc. the capacity and power of the institutions responsible for protecting the environment must be strengthened. Related intervention areas are forest management and drafting of legislation for non-wood products.

Biodiversity Action Plans

Compilation of Biodiversity Action Plans is a complex exercise requiring comprehensive understanding not only for biodiversity issues but also for the multifunctional role of forests in terms of science, education, protection of cultural heritages, recreation, esthetics aspects influencing tourism, etc.

Biodiversity Action Plans is the base for establishment of protected zones. Compilation of plans, and the establishment of protected zones, requires increased competence and power of responsible institutions. To ensure the inclusion of all related aspects close inter-sectorial cooperation must be established. Planning activities should, to the extent appropriate, be harmonized with Forestry planning activities.

Establishment of Protected Zones

Establishment of protected zones affects many interests, not at least commercial, since the establishment may imply certain management restrictions on possibilities of utilization. Careful and transparent planning processes leading to consensus about protection requirements and schemes shall always be applied. Management responsibilities and other technical and administrative issues must also be defined and agreed upon.

In relative terms, it is expected that the needs for protection (and the importance of non-wood products) will increase over time. The reason is a growing demand for the various benefits that forest and forestlands may offer. Planning activities should be harmonized with forestry planning activities.

3.4 Project for enhancing the use of non-wood forest products

Drafting of legislation

Of particular importance is the drafting of a law for regulating the collection of medical and aromatic plants following international standards (ISSC –MAP). The implementation of such a law will create the base for harvesting, collecting, processing and trading with medical and aromatic plants.

Respecting sustainable harvesting principles, and protecting the biodiversity, will also create incomes for the rural population and secure the consistency with the Millennium Development Goals (UN 2005). The law text has to harmonize with the Law on Forest and with other legislation related to environment and land use. Related intervention area is forest management (capacity development).

The definition of non-wood products does not include products and services regulated through other legislation i.e. hunting and extraction of sand, gravel and stones.

Potential for non-wood products

Non wood forest products (forest fruits, mushrooms, medical and aromatic plants, eco-tourism) is of considerable economic importance for the rural population. For fully benefiting from these products and services supportive legislation needs to be developed.

In addition to the collection of medical and aromatic plants in some areas picking of berries is also of considerable importance. For this reason the policy shall be to encourage the use of non-wood forest products through integrated management of forestlands following the principles of sustainable utilization of all types of non-wood forest products.

In addition to conducting separate inventories of the potential for non-wood products it is suggested to investigate the possibilities of extending forestry planning work to also include parameters with bearing on non-wood products.

3.5 Project to enhance the development of the private sector

The private sector will play a key role in the future development of the forest sector. This is the reason for drafting this project. The project includes six main elements, each of equal importance. Some of the activities drafted under this project are already touch upon by other ongoing projects raising a need for careful coordination to avoid duplications.

Privatization of Socially Owned Enterprises (SOEs)

Up to the end of the war period public forest in Kosovo was managed by about 25 Forest SOEs located in the municipalities. Upon payment of a fee, and within the actual municipality, the enterprises were given the right of harvesting wood on public forestlands. The enterprises were under a constant pressure to increase the employment living little funds over for necessary investments in forest management, equipment and infrastructure. The result of this over-staffing, and many years of extensive harvesting reducing the forest resources, made it impossible for the SOEs to continue its operations under open market conditions. Today, the overwhelming part of harvesting operations on public forestlands is conducted by private companies. Only a very few SOEs are still active and use sub-contractors for their operations. It is suggested that the privatization shall be completed in accordance with existing policies regulating the privatization of state enterprises.

Supports to Forest Owners Associations

Forest Owners Associations are formed with the objective of establishing a pool of resources that could be used for various purposes. Common tasks have been to represent the interest of private forestry in policy making, lobbying, etc. and to provide support in marketing and sales of wood products. Other tasks have been provision of services, forestry planning, management agreements, etc. In many cases three different consecutive development phases can be distinguished: (i) interest representation, (ii) introduction of service concept and (iii) establishment of industries making possible for the Forest Owner to benefit from value added production.

It can be concluded that the tasks and roles of the associations depends to the greatest extent of factors as size of holdings, the distribution of the total forestlands between owner categories and the structure of the wood market. In Kosovo it is expected that the first main task will be to represent the interest of private forestry in policy making, lobbying and other issues as coordination of training and supply of seedlings. Private forest owners are in great needs of training, and it is foreseen that the group may benefit from the activities of the capacity building project.

Training in entrepreneurship

It is assumed that the private sector will play an important future role in forestry and forest industry development, and replace the old structure represented by the Socially Owned Enterprises (SOE) and the large Wood Combines. Private entrepreneurs and companies will also have the possibilities to engage in harvesting and silviculture work, undertake management responsibilities on certain areas of public forestlands, establish small-scale industries (separately or combined with forest activities), etc. For this reason training activities has to include broad spectra of activities ranging from pure technical issues to management and administrative ones. Most of the training can be provided, or organized, by the activities of the capacity building project.

Another important factor is the creation of a favorable business climate. This will include, but not necessarily be restricted to, application of fiscal policies to support a desired development path, establishment of financing facilities offering investment capital at low interest rate and with grace periods, etc. The importance of a favorable business climate is equally important in the future development of a small-scale wood industry sector equipped for processing small size logs, and providing employment opportunities in rural areas.

Development of a privately owned wood processing sector

Forest inventory results clearly show the needs for management interventions in young-middle aged forest. These interventions will in turn result in considerable quantities of small size logs which the current primary wood processing industry is unable to efficiently process. Therefore, a future forest industry, based on private investments, has to be designed to match with the composition and location of the future harvesting volumes. To the extent possible selection and design of production concepts shall take into consideration the needs for supporting the development of rural areas. An important issue will be the creation of credit facilities to support investors. Related areas are forest owners associations and bio energy production.

Bio energy production

Development of the bio energy sector includes three main activities: estimation of potential supply of wood raw material, identification of viable systems and establishment of an investment portfolio. As for the wood processing sector a crucial issue will be the availability to credit facilities.

Generally speaking there is no reliable data about the potential supply of wood bio mass which best use is production of energy. Forest inventory figures indicate gross volumes in the order of 600 000 – 800 000 m³ solid volume, but net volumes might be lower due to technical, logistic and economic restrictions. For this reason a first step must include an analysis of the net available raw material resources. A next phase has to concentrate on analyzing potential systems, which will base on the available bio mass resources (volumes, composition and location).

In a third step, and based on bio mass resources and identified viable systems, an investment portfolio of bankable projects should be identified. The projects shall be designed to fit the capability of local investors and build on locally sourced wood bio mass which best use is for energy production (small size wood, wood waste, wood residues). Related intervention areas are Forest owners associations and wood processing.

Land consolidation processes

The average size of private forest holdings in Kosovo is only about 1.5 ha. Such small holdings cannot sustain living, which means that forest owners have to create supplementary incomes. In many cases a forest owners also own agriculture lands, and run the operations as a combined agriculture and forest estate. This category of owners can be categorized as active, and the portion of incomes from the two branches depends on where in Kosovo the estate is located. Other forest owners are not active with their forest. They are either living on other places or are retired.

The ongoing urbanization process results in a steadily increasing number of inactive owners, a process that most probably will continue during the years to come. The above situation calls for a process where active owners are provided with possibilities of extending their property through acquiring forestlands, either from the state or from private persons prepared to sell their forestlands. It is anticipated that the start up of a land consolidation process may require the involvement of a number of Government institutions.

3.6 Summary of projects included in Pillar I

Pillar I includes four projects: Forest Management, Capacity Building, Forest Environmental Protection and Non Wood Forest Products (two intervention areas merged into one project) and Private Sector Development

Intervention areas	Activities	Expected results	Institutions concerned	Year	Costs EUR
Forest Mgt	Capacity development	Improved competence in managing of forest has created more productive and valuable forests	KFA, FRI	2010-2011 Priority I	800 000
	Plantation management	Increased wood production through plantation of bare land, or currently under-utilized forestlands	KFA, FRI		
	Monitoring of forest health	Reduced risks for comprehensive outbreaks of pest and diseases	KFA, FRI		
	Tending of young forest	Increased portion of high value forest	KFA, FRI		
Capacity Building	Forest vocational education	One Forest Vocational Education School is in function	MEST, MAFRD	2010-2013 Priority I	6 920 000
	Forest vocational training	A Training Center, organized to operate all over Kosovo, is increasing the skills of forest workers	MLSW, MAFRD		
	Higher forest education	Education organized for students to either attain training in Kosovo or at foreign forest faculties	MEST, MAFRD		
	Awareness rising	The public is aware of the role of forestry as an important element of the society and as a provider of a variety of benefits	MEST, MLSW, MAFRD		
Forest env. Protection	Capacity development	Improved capacity to deal with environmental issues related to forestry, consensus regarding needs for protection/land use	MESP, MAFRD	2011-2013 Priority I-II	1 900 000
	Biodiversity Action Plans	Kosovo Institutions have capacity to implement and monitor Bio Diversity Action Plans	MESP, MAFRD		
	Establishment of protected zones	Protected zones are established and managed in compliance with national goals and international agreements	MESP, MAFRD		
Forest non wood products	Drafting of legislation	A law has been drafted regulation the collection and processing of medical and aromatic plants	MESP, MAFRD, MTI, law making unit		
	Forest non-wood products	The potential for non-wood products, including eco-tourism, is analyzed and provide a basis for further development	MESP, MAFRD, MTI, law making unit		
Private sector dev.	Privatization of SOEs	The old SOE structure is replaced with new structures with the capability to accommodate to open market conditions	PAK, MAFRD	2012 – 2015 Priority II	1500 000
	Support to Forest Owners Associations	Private forest owners are represented in policymaking, productivities and incomes have improved	MAFRD, MEST,		
	Training in entrepreneurship	Entrepreneurs are capable of conducting more efficient and environmentally friendly operations	MAFRD, MEST,		
	Wood processing	Industries for processing small-sized logs are established, and providing employment opportunities in rural areas	MTI, MEF		
	Bio energy production	Wood bio mass for heating purposes are produced and utilized in a more efficient manner			
	Land consolidation	Larger private holdings, and with a configuration that enhance the value and facilitate the management created	MAFRD, KCA		

4. PROJECTS INCLUDED IN PILLAR II

4.1 Forestry planning

Forest inventories - strategic planning

Sample plot systems, which are kept updated through re-inventories, are the most common systems for producing the data required for strategic (long-term) planning purposes. Type of information produced depends on the design of the system and parameters to be measured. Parameters as basal area, tree height, species composition, forest type, soil- and terrain conditions, age structure, etc. are the common parameters for calculating areas, standing volumes, growth, potential harvest, needs for management interventions, etc.

Through counting of stumps the system may also provide information about harvested quantities. During 2003 – 2004 a national forest inventory was conducted, and it is suggested to make a re-inventory of the sample plots as soon as possible. The needs for collecting additional data related to environmental issues should be taken into account.

Forest management planning

The objective of forest management planning is to provide data for medium-term planning (10-years) purposes and make possible a rational selection of forest stands (compartments) to be selected for management interventions. The planning process must take due consideration to environmental restrictions and requirements. Of particular importance are data for investments in infrastructure and other resource requirements during the planning period. It is strongly suggested that planning during the years to come shall concentrate on areas and forest types that are in most urgent needs for various kinds of management interventions.

Operational planning

The status of a forest stand after management interventions depends to the greatest extent on the quality of the operational planning, and supervision of operations. Crucial factors are location of roads for minimizing risks of erosion, selection of trees to be cut and cleaning of the site to avoid risks of attacks from insects and fungus. Inadequate operational planning and weak supervision of operations are, together with un-lawful or un-controlled harvesting, the main reasons for the destruction of forests that have gone on during a long period of time. Operational planning shall be supported by activities under intervention areas capacity building.

4.2 Harvesting and transport

Unlawful harvesting

Harvesting and transport of wood is regulated by the Law on Forest (2003) and subsequent by-laws. The law prescribes rules for issuing licenses to harvest, marking of trees to be cut, procedures for sales of wood and restrictions in moving and transporting wood products. With the objective of bringing down unlawful activities the rules set out are rather detailed and strict and, with some differences, enforced in both public and private forests.

In addition to common forest protection measures and control mechanisms, and with the objective of involve local communities in management of forests, the Government may consider the possibilities of introducing joint forest management systems in low forest and there the overwhelming part is firewood. To increase the availability of legally cut wood the Government shall increase the official harvesting target proportionally to the decrease of illegally harvested wood. Related intervention areas are operational planning, forest owners associations and institutional support.

Reducing the needs for control of operations

Government institutions spend much time on inspection and control of harvesting and wood transport operations. This situation reduces the capacity of the branches (especially KFA's) to undertake other important work as training, planning, supervision of forest operations, etc. The efficiency of applied control mechanisms and systems are also questionable. This statement can be supported by the fact that despite of many efforts during the last six to eight years the extent of unlawful practices is still comprehensive. To reduce the time for inspection, issuing of harvesting and transport permits, etc. other more proactive approaches needs to be introduced. In this respect one option may be to introduce simplified procedures for members of Forest Owners Associations who has committed themselves not to involve in unlawful practices. The gains might be twofold: reduced workload on Government institutions and reduced unlawful practices. Related intervention areas are private sector development (Forest owners associations).

Improved harvesting practices

Improved harvesting practices will reduce damages on remaining trees and soils and, thus, reduce risks for outbreaks of attacks by insects and fungus. The means to improve harvesting practices are implementation of Forest Certification systems, introduction of appropriate technology, education and training of contractors and entrepreneurs. Related intervention area is operational planning.

4.3 Summary Pillar II

The focus of Pillar II is improvement of forest operations and includes two intervention areas: forestry planning and harvesting and transport. In addition to these two main elements there will be need for developing a number of other activities which are in more detail presented in a Project Profile (see annex). The project is assumed to last for estimably five years, and at an annual cost of around 1.0 million EUR.

Intervention areas	Activities	Expected results	Institutions Concerned	Year	Costs
Forestry Planning	Forest inventories	Strategic/policy decisions are based on accurate information	MAFRD, KFA	2010 – 2015 Priority I	5 000 000
	Forest mgt planning	Selection and treatment of forest stands is based on relevant information	MAFRD, KFA		
	Operational planning	Improved planning has reduced forest damages and contributed to a more stable and transparent wood market	MAFRD, KFA		
Harvesting & Transport	Red unlawful harvesting	The extent of unlawful harvest has decreased, and incomes to the state fiscal budget increased	MAFRD, KFA	Priority I	5 000 000
	Red. Needs for control	Agreements with Forest Owners Associations has resulted in decreased work for monitoring harvesting & transport	MAFRD, KFA		
	Improved harvesting practices	Improved methods combined with proper planning has resulted in reduced damages on forest and forestlands	MAFRD, KFA		

5. PROJECT INCLUDED IN PILLAR III

5.1 Support to institutions and organizations

Implementation of policies, strategies

The activities outlined through the Policy and Strategy Paper on Forest Sector Development are comprehensive, and will be the base for a next development phase during the years to come. It is obvious that the support to the forest sector that started immediately after the war period has enabled the sector to recover from decades of destruction. Government institutions have been established and are slowly but steadily acquiring a better control of the forest resources. New legislation has been drafted, personnel on all levels have undergone various kinds of training programs, a forest inventory data base has been established and forest management planning tools are developed, etc. All these achievements are highly positive and will constitute a base for further development work. However, and to repeat expert opinions, many things are not functioning well and there are great scope for improvements.

The successful implementation of the related development program and action plan will require a careful coordination of activities and input from various actors. Due to the character of the sector, plan it should be vested in the MAFRD. But considering the nature of the activities, ranging from pure technical aspects of how to manage with forestlands to educational, environmental, socio-economic, industrial issues, etc. it is obvious that a number of other ministries and stakeholders needs to be involved.

This complex situation, and the duration of the Plan, implies that the main actor, MAFRD, must have the capability to organize, coordinate and monitor all work. It is strongly recommended that a Management Board with the overall responsibility for implementing the Action Plan shall be created. The mandate and organizational structure of the Board shall be jointly agreed upon by concerned ministries.

Institutional and technical support

In addition to the activities specified through the Action Plan, it is foreseen that over the years various elements of the forest sector will be in a need for support to solve or deal with issues of institutional or technical nature and which cannot be covered by other ongoing development work. Examples of such activities could be establishment of international contact nets, valuations, financing issues, drafting of proposals, etc. The organizational set up, structure, etc. should be agreed upon in connection with the establishment of the Management Board.

5.2 Summary Pillar III

Pillar III includes two main activities: support to the implementation of the Action Plan and institutional and technical support that not can be covered by other projects.

Intervention area	Activities	Expected results	Institutions Concerned	Year	Costs EUR
Support to Institutions and organizations	Implementation of the Action Plan	The capacity of the Government to implement and monitor policies and strategies have improved	MAFRD, MESP, MEF and other stakeholders	2010 – Priority I	500 000 (First 12 months)
	Institutional and technical support	The capability of institutions and organizations to solve technical and institutional shortcomings have improved	MAFRD, MESP, MEF and other stakeholders		

ANNEX: Project Profiles

IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT (Pillar I)

CAPACITY BUILDING (Pillar I)

**FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT OF NON-
WOOD VALUES (Pillar I)**

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (Pillar I)

FORESTRY PLANNING, HARVESTING AND TRANSPORT (Pillar II)

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT (Pillar III)

IMPROVED FOREST MANAGEMENT (Pillar I)

Project justification

Considering the soil- and climate conditions in Kosovo the mean annual increment is low and there are great potentials for improvements. Stands established by natural seeding are relatively well stocked and is dominated by high productive coniferous and beech forest which in many cases are in an urgent need of various thinning interventions. Stands established by artificial means have a moderate growth, and includes many stands established on pasture lands and other relatively low productive soils. Coppice forest have during a long period of time been subject to harvesting of firewood using very short cutting cycles and much wood is left on ground constituting a source for development of large populations of insects. In summary it can be concluded that (i) plantation wood will always become an important source of raw material, (ii) forest inventory results clearly shows the needs of intensified management of young and middle-aged forests, (iii) the forest institutions must have permanent capacity to continuously monitor the health of the forest resources and (iv) the project is linked to government strategies. These facts are the strong justification for this project.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to support the introduction of improved forest management practices leading to increased yield of forestlands in both medium- and long term perspectives and, thus, increase the sector's contribution to the national economy, and creator of employment opportunities. Within this overall objective three specific purposes are identified:

- Increased yield of forest plantations resulting from (i) introduction of state of the art technology for plantation management, (ii) optimal species-site matching and (iii) concentration of planting to high productive forestlands where the probability of successful establishment is not put at risk by external factors;
- Reduced risks of production losses resulting from outbreaks of pests and diseases through the (i) establishment of an organization for monitoring the health of forests, (ii) to link Forest Researchers in Kosovo into a regional cooperation net work and (iii) implement results of applied research into forest management practices in natural and plantation forestry;
- Increased forest values through introduction of updated management regimes for tending of young and middle-aged forest, and conversion of degraded forests into more productive forestlands.

Activities

- Train and establish human capacities capable of introducing forest management practices inconformity with state of the art technology;
- Invent the status of existing plantations, and design a plantation management scheme that optimize the yield of forestlands suitable for establishment of forest plantations;
- Establish capacities for monitoring the health of Kosovo's forests;
- Develop and implement regimes for tending of young and middle-aged forests;

Expected results

- Improved competence in forest management has created more productive and valuable forests;

- Best available practice has resulted in healthy plantations that in a longer-term perspective will increase the availability of cost efficient wood raw material;
- Production losses resulting from outbreaks of pest and diseases are reduced through the introduction of forest health monitoring and early warning systems;
- As a result of improved tending operations the portion of high value forest is increasing;

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be forest staff at various positions. The final beneficiaries will be the households of Kosovo, for whom the availability of cost efficient wood products will improve.

Total estimated cost: EUR 800 000

Duration: 24 months

Implementing agency: MAFRD

CAPACITY BUILDING (Pillar I)

Project justification

The Forest Sector in Kosovo has suffered the so-called “decades of silent destruction”, during which the institutional set-up and educational structures suffered severe changes and the capacity to manage and develop the forest resources practically collapsed. Forest personnel in leading positions have had very few opportunities to attend continuous refreshment training, and there are urgent needs for upgrading the skills in areas as leadership, company management, public administration, etc.

Entrepreneurs, contractors and managers dealing with forest operations seldom have any forestry training (not to speak of formal forestry education). They have learnt their trade through practical work experience. This situation, together with the limited availability of a skilled labor force, is one of the main reasons for the current low productivity and low quality of work. These facts are the strong justification for further support to forestry education and training.

The Forestry and Forest Industry Sectors will directly benefit from upgraded skills through improved professional capabilities of its Forest Workers, Forest Technicians and Forest Engineers. In a long-term perspective the society as a whole will benefit from improved performance of the Sector through increased availability of domestically produced wood products and services at competitive prices.

Objectives

The overall objective is to create facilities and systems for Forestry Vocational Education and Training and Higher Forestry Education delivering professionals that are employed by the Kosovo forestry sector. The proposed intervention is expected to contribute in a variety of ways to improving the situation both in forestry and in Kosovo in general. Therefore, the overall objective includes also specific objectives:

- Reduced unemployment and increased income among the majority rural population;
- Improved sustainable use of forest resources;
- Strengthened Kosovo economy and governance;
- Improved networks and collaboration in the forestry sector in the Western Balkans.

Activities

The project will establish and run a new system forestry and vocational education training. This implies a long term commitment by the implementing agency as well as by the donor assistance needed. For all project components are foreseen overseas training activities and study tours during implementation of project activities.

Expected results

- A sustainable and functional national vocational forestry school is established;
- A training center offering modular based forestry vocational training is established;
- Recourses for organizing domestic higher forestry education or supporting certain number of the students to attend this level of education on abroad forestry faculties are established;

- Capacities for conducting inter-sectorial awareness rising campaigns about the importance of forestry established.

Total estimated cost: EUR 6 920 000 (out of which EUR 4 500 000 for infrastructure). This cost does not include costs for organizing higher education. The cost for applied research is included in the Forest Management Project.

Duration: 48 months

Implementing agency: MEST (MAFRD)

FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT OF NON-WOOD VALUES (Pillar I)

Project justification

The Environmental strategy adopted by the Government 2004 states that protection of biodiversity, rational and sustainable use of natural resources and protection of valuable landscapes are issues of highest importance. These statements, together with the facts presented below, constitute the strong justification for the implementation of the project.

- To avoid dual responsibilities in the management of protected zones the legislative frameworks with bearing on forestry need to be harmonized;
- Collection of aromatic and medical plants needs to be better organized;
- The capacities for research and development work are insufficient. This shortcoming is seriously affecting the capacities for compiling Biodiversity Action Plans and establishment of protected zones following Natura 2000 criteria;
- The potentials for harvesting fruits, mushrooms, medical and aromatic plants are considerable. But to avoid risks of over-harvestings inventories and cartographic analysis needs to be conducted;
- Forest management planning procedures shall be harmonized with the needs for protecting the environment and preserving non-wood values. A more integrated approach is required;
- The potential of forests in Kosovo to serve as a basis for eco-tourism is not developed.

The development of non-wood forest values and preservation of ecological values are interdependent factors. Preservation of ecological values is a prerequisite for maintaining non-wood values. And on the opposite, a careful and sustainable use of non-wood values will preserve ecological values. This interdependency is the justification for drafting this integrated project.

Objectives

The overall objective is to preserve the ecological forest values and at the same time enhance the use of non-wood products. Within this overall objective the specific objects are:

- To draft or fine-tune legislative instruments for (i) regulating the use of non-wood products as medical and aromatic plants, and (ii) to harmonize legislation with bearing on forestry to avoid dual responsibilities and overlapping work;
- To improve the capacity to handle environmental issues related to the compilation of Biodiversity Action Plans, planning and establishment of Protected Zones and conduction of research and development work within the areas of environment and use of non-wood values;
- To calculate the potential for harvesting fruits, mushrooms, medical and aromatic plants;
- To promote sustainable forest management through the inclusion of parameters with bearing on forest ecological issues in all forestry planning, promote the implementation of Forest Certification Schemes;

- To maximize potential benefits in terms of incomes, employments, etc. eco-tourism shall be developed together with actors representing other relevant touristy attractions.

Activities

- Develop the capacities for handling of issues related to forest environmental protection, drafting of Biodiversity Action Plans and establishment of protected zones;
- Drafting of legislation regulating the use of forest non wood products;
- Analyze the potential for utilizing forest non wood products as a basis for implementation of further development work;

Expected results

- Improved professionalism and capacity to conduct research;
- Clarified roles in management of protected zones and legislative tools developed to regulate the use of medical and aromatic plants;
- A base for investment in production and harvesting medical and aromatic plants established;
- Needs of environmental protection is an integral part of forest planning;
- A base is established for promoting investments in eco-tourism.

Total estimated cost: EUR 1 900 000

Duration: 36 months

Implementing agency: MESP (MAFRD)

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (Pillar I)

Project justification

This project includes six main components: Privatization of state enterprises, support to Forest Owners Associations, training, wood processing, bio-energy production and land consolidation issues. All these components are in line with the Kosovo Development and Strategy Plan 2007 – 2013 which within its overall development objective has defined (i) building good governance, (ii) private sector development and (iii) human resources development as the three strategic pillars. These government commitments, together with the following facts, constitute the strong justification for this project.

- The old SOEs needs to be replaced with new management structures having the capability to accommodate to open market conditions;
- Private forestry is not developed up to its full potential;
- The capacity of the private sector to contribute in management of public forestlands is not developed to its potential;
- The wood processing industry is fragmentized, and there are great needs of introducing technologies adapted for processing of small-size logs resulting from thinning of young and over-dense broadleaved forest which best use is saw logs;
- The potential for energy savings is considerable and might be as big as 50% - 60% by introducing new technologies and better systems for supply of wood raw material;
- The demand for wood products in Kosovo will remain high. Market opportunities will always exist for local manufacturers who are able to maintain a cost competitive production.

Objectives

The overall objective is to introduce organizational structures and technologies that will allow for more productive and cost efficient utilization of forest resources. The following specific objectives are identified:

- To privatize or liquidate state forest enterprises in accordance with applied policies and strategies;
- To promote the establishment of associations representing the interests of various stakeholder groups involved in forest operations and/or wood processing;
- To support the introduction of management systems in which local communities, owners associations, etc. are given responsibilities for management of certain areas of public forests;
- To promote the creation of a favorable business climate for supporting the establishment of a cost-competitive wood processing industry harmonized with the available harvesting volumes;
- To introduce efficient wood bio mass based energy systems which will reduce the costs for heating and cooking;
- Initiate a land consolidation process that may include sales of public forestlands which potentially will have greater values under private ownership.

Activities

- Support and facilitate the coming privatization of Socially Owned Forest Enterprises;
- Support the function and further establishment of Forest Owners Associations;
- In cooperation with other projects on training provide training opportunities to entrepreneurs and other private persons, organize study tours, workshops and seminars;
- In cooperation with, and building on, support the implementation of small-medium scale technology for wood processing, including systems for production of wood based energy systems;
- In line with existing and expected changes of the legislative framework support land consolidation processes to make possible for private persons to extend their forest property;

Expected results

- A transparent and competitive wood market is established;
- Private sector representatives are involved in decision and policy making;
- The management of currently miss- or underutilized forestlands has improved and unlawful activities have decreased;
- Private persons are investing in small-medium scale wood processing industries and thus, contributing to improved standard of living in rural areas;
- The availability of cost-efficient wood biomass for heating and cooking has improved;
- Private forestry has become more productive and profitable.

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be the private forest and forest industry sectors represented by private forest owners, entrepreneurs and forest workers benefiting from increased profitability and better employment conditions. The final beneficiaries will be the households of Kosovo for whom the availability of cost efficient wood products will improve.

Total estimated costs: EUR 1 500 000

Duration: 36 months

Implementing agency: MAFRD (MTI, KTA, MEF)

FORESTRY PLANNING, HARVESTING AND TRANSPORT (Pillar II)

Project justification

Proper operational planning, monitoring and follow up of operations are core components of sustainable forest management. These planning requirements, together with the following facts, are the strong justification for this project.

- Budgeted harvesting volumes are low, and budget deviations are mostly negative justifying that planning, supervision and monitoring of operations are inefficient;
- Uncontrolled harvesting creates sub-optimal collection of harvesting revenues, inhibits the development of efficient harvesting and wood processing entities, leads to poor forest management and creates social tensions;
- The system for awarding rights of harvesting needs to be evaluated in respect of how it has influenced the wood markets, control functions, etc.;
- The quality of field work needs to be improved. Important aspects includes marking of trees, delineation of environmentally sensitive areas, demarcation of strip roads and landings, etc.;
- The standard of the road net work is poor and needs to be improved, both in public and private forests resulting in high costs of transport and environmental concerns;
- Systems for production of wood based energy is not developed up to its potential;
- The equipment and technology for harvesting is old, and there is a need to investigate alternative methods and systems that may reduce the costs and damages on flora and fauna.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to minimize the impact of forestry operations on flora and fauna. Within this overall objective the following activities are identified:

- Review planning and approval procedures for maximizing the capacity of available resources;
- Estimate the quantities that are harvested outside the control of the Government, taking into consideration also regional differences;
- Review the Licensing System with the objective of suggesting improvements leading to (i) reduced negative impact on flora and fauna, (ii) increased profitability for both the Government and the Licensee and (iii) criteria for awarding licenses;
- Draft a training program in operational planning, organize permanent training resources and implement a project for increasing the standard of harvesting planning;
- Provide training to KFA staff to increase their skills in leadership, administration and management of operations (on-the-job training, seminars, workshops, courses, etc.);
- Survey and classify the existing road net work, estimate key investments in the road net (cost-benefit) in line with environmental best practice;
- Survey the extent in area and scale of damage by forest fires, and the causes recent years. Prepare plans to address forest fires through designing of a forest fire rating system;

- Develop a national wood/biomass energy policy based on investigation of the wood energy supply and demand, the potential supply, economic and social gains and possible green house emission reductions;
- Analyze and suggest systems and technologies adaptable to the forest types, terrain conditions, etc. that prevails in Kosovo.

Activities

- Organize and conduct a follow up of the country-wide forest inventory conducted in 2002/2003, and with particular attention of (i) assessing the damages on forest, (ii) volumes of forest removed after the previous inventory (inventories of stumps) and (iii) the potential of wood biomass based energy production;
- Support and follow up on the ongoing forest management planning activities, and with particular attention to the needs for protecting ecological values;
- Organize and conduct trainings in the various fields related to forest planning and operations, suggest modifications of the system for awarding rights of harvesting wood taking into account the impact on responsibilities of the delegation of competences from central to local governments;
- Organize and conduct training in company management, administration and leadership (together with other projects involved in training)
- Based on inventory results draft a road improvement program.

Expected results

- More reliable planning figures and less budget deviations;
- Increased understanding for the consequences of unlawful/uncontrolled harvesting;
- A fine-tuned Licensing System resulting in transparent processes, reduced conflicts and a fair sharing of benefits;
- Efficient and adequate planning procedures introduced, leading to reduced damages from forest fires, more efficient use of wood biomass for energy production and suggestions made for introduction of systems and technologies for efficient and environmentally friendly harvesting and transport operations.

Total estimated cost: EUR 2 000 000

Duration: 24 months

Implementing agency: MAFRD

IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT (Pillar III)

Project justification

Upon the adoption of new forest policies and strategies, forestry in Kosovo will enter into a new and consecutive development phase stretching over a period of 10 years. By its nature forestry includes many different elements and stakeholder interests. This situation means that a number of ministries will be concerned by the various activities included in the Action Plan. This complexity, and the shortcomings and problems the sector is facing, raises the needs for strong coordination of all activities lined out through the Action Plan.

In summary the justification of this project lies on the following fundamentals:

- The Action Plan stretches over a long period of time, is complex and involves many stakeholder interests;
- It is assumed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development will be the main implementer of the plan, but it is, however, obvious that also other ministries as Finance, Environment and Spatial Planning, Education and Science & Technology and Trade and Industry, Labor and Social Welfare needs to be involved in the implementation of the Action Plan;
- The implications on management responsibilities of the Law on Local Self government raise the needs for drafting a new Law on Forest. This fact, the conditions at the time when the existing law was drafted and a need for having legislative tools that fully supports the enforcement of new policies and strategies justify the suggestion of drafting a new law in year 2010.

Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to coordinate the implementation of the various development activities outlined through policies, strategies and the Action Plan. This will also include support to Government Institutions in technical and institutional issues critical to the successful implementation of the entire program. In particular the purposes are:

- To supervise, coordinate and support concerned institutions in their tasks of implementing new policies, strategies and related development activities;
- To secure that operational tasks, or short-term solutions, are not in contradiction to adopted policies and long-term development targets and, when necessary, implement corrective measures;
- To support the establishment of a Forest Management Board having the overall responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the program;
- To provide institutional support and advice with focus on policy and lawmaking, and provide day-to-day support to the Forest Management Board and Coordination Unit;
- To increase the awareness of the importance of a prospective and healthy forest sector.

Activities

- Advise and support MAFRD staff, the Management Board and the Coordination Unit in their tasks of directing development work in line with policies and strategies;

- To organize and implement an Awareness Raising Campaign for increasing the understanding of the importance of forestry and, thus, supporting the implementation of the entire Action Plan.
- To assist in the drafting of a new legislation on forest.

Expected results

- Projects are implemented in accordance with terms of reference and time schedules;
- Overlapping and duplicated work is avoided, and Government funds are used in a cost efficient manner;
- The forest legislation is revised to reflect changes of management responsibilities and new policies and strategies;
- Increased awareness of the importance of a healthy forest sector is facilitating the implementation of the Action Plan.

Total estimated cost: EUR 500 000 per twelve month period

Duration: 24 months (and with possible extension)

Implementing agency: MAFRD