

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Country Report

Introduction

The forest resources of Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) have been managed for decades by traditional and internationally recognized systems applicable to the natural conditions. The main principle is to ensure continuous wood production and revenues from the forests. This principle well complies with the general concept of sustainable development.

There are two main characteristics that make the forestry of B&H different from that of most other European countries.

1. High share of state-owned forests (80,7%) that enables the governmental organizations to determine the intensity and quality of forest management and use of forest resources.
2. Due to the importance of forest sector to the national economy, the state has a genuine interest to foster the forestry business, preserve and enhance the forest resources and develop the resources for public service purposes.

Based on Dayton agreement from November 1995 (which at the same time presents the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina) B&H is administratively and politically divided into two entities : (i) Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – FB&H (51% of B&H territory) and (ii) Republic Srpska – RS (49 % of B&H territory).

Entities are the owners of all natural resources (including the forests); and in FB&H competency over the utilization of natural resources is divided between FB&H and cantons (there are 10 cantons).

Having in mind these Constitutional competencies there is no defined and adopted forestry policy at B&H level.

1. Forestry policy and strategies for its implementation are defined by Forest law (in FB&H and RS) and bylaws that emerge from these Laws.

Briefly stated main goals and common stands of both Forest laws are consisted of following by free interpretation:

(1) All forests and forest land have been promulgated as the general public good regardless of the ownership. This implies that forests of different ownership have been treated equally in terms of achieving goals that are defined by law and forest management measures.

(2) Primary global goal is optimum utilization on natural potentials of forest land, which in some terminal sense implies natural or at least forest close to natural ones with balanced functions.

(3) Analogously to that defined goal, forest management measures are directed toward the maintenance and protection of natural forests, that is to the reconstruction of degraded and set up of new forest in that sense to support its development based on example of potential natural forest stands of these habitats.

(4) Focus of forest regeneration is on natural second growth with obligatory artificial supplement as needed.

(5) Basic principles of forest management are as follows: sustainability, optimization of overall benefits from the forests (production + general purpose functions) and principle of economics.

(6) Law binds to the biological forest reproduction, that is regulates the minimum level of funds allocation for this purpose. Fund for biological forest reproduction is formed from funds made from sale of woods and other forest products.

(7) Forest management and administration is in charge of one Forest company (Šume RS) that is transferred by the contract to the 10 Cantonal Forest Management Companies (FB&H).

Current Forest Policy questions, remarks and problems that are of high (common) priority to B&H (FB&H, RS)

1) Improving Forest Sector Governance - Challenges

- Institutionally, the state authority functions (regulatory, supervisory and support) should be separated from that of managing the state owned forests (the ownership function);
- a supervisory institution acting as a controlling authority within a ministry should perform its duties independently to ensure sustainable forest management in line with its mandate as provided by the respective statutory acts;
- the number of civil servants (civil servants candidates) in the forest sector governance institutions is determined under optimal, following the amount of work to be done.

2) Forestry Program of FB&H and Long term program of forestry development in RS – development of these programs is regulated by Entity Forest laws.

Status: in process of development

Plan, Work program and Budget for the Forestry program of FB&H have been adopted by line Minister.

3) II Forest Inventory on large surfaces in B&H (2006-2010)

The Objectives are to receive data for:

- development of forestry strategy and long-term planning in forestry;
- monitoring of forest status; and
- setting priorities for forest research and development.

International significance of SFI

- **Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA2000, GRFA2005);**
- **Kyoto protocol:** the climate change;
- **MCPFE:** Conference for Protection the Forests of Europe (MCPFE);
- **ICP Forests** (International Co-operative Program on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on Forests)

4) Developing National Standard for SFM and forest certification (FSC)

FB&H:

- 4.72% State forest certified
- 7.40% Prepared

RS:

- 13.57% State forest certified
- 86.44% Prepared