

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

Budapest, Hungary, 4-6 March 2009

**Republic of Croatia
Country Report**

Priority forest policy issues:

Legislation:

- Transposition of *acquis communautaire* into national legislation: Directive 1999/105/EC (forest reproductive material) with Amendments and Directive 1737/2006 EC (forest protection: air pollution & fires) – by the second quarter 2009.
- Amendments of Forestry Act - by the end of the 2009.
- NATURA 2000 – after accessing EU, Croatia will have to propose NATURA 2000 areas for their integration into the network. We have identified around 1000 potential NATURA 2000 areas, that would help saving around 250 species and 70 habitat types that appear in Croatia and are named in two EU directives.
- In November 2008 Croatia become a member state of OECD and, together with application of Directive 1999/105/EC, undisturbed marketing of forest reproductive material was enabled.

National Forest Inventory:

- The field work is done and the data processing is in progress.
- The completion of the project is expected by the end of 2009.

Forest classification:

- Croatia is planning to reclassify national forest types according to European Forest Types when adopted.
- Some problems with current proposal of EFT are recognized and we cannot categorise some of our important forest types (e.g. mixed silver fir and beech forests, black pine forests)

Private forests:

- Forest Extension Service was founded on 2 June 2006 by regulation of the Government of the Republic of Croatia. It started work at the beginning of 2007. It is a specialized public institution for conducting matters in part of public authorities, improving management of forests and woodlands in private forests.
- Since 2008, Forest Extension Service is developing Management Plans for all private forests that were not managed in the past (or were managed, but the continuity in management was interrupted) is in progress. The plan is to develop Management Plans for all private forests in the next 10 years (10% each year).
- Founding of associations of private forest owners (around 30 associations at this moment) is in progress. National Alliance of Private Forest Owners Associations was founded in June 2008.

Sustainable Forest Management:

- To secure a unified and lasting sustainable management of forests and other forest land on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, the Forest Management Area Plan is regularly revised every ten years (last in 2006, forest area and growing stock increased).
- Forest area under sustainable forest management corresponds with area covered with Forest Management Plan for every management unit. State forest enterprise “Hrvatske šume” Ltd. holds the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate since 2002 for all the state forests it is in charge of (78% of all forests and forest land).
- The intention is that all forests, both private and state owned, are sustainably managed.

UNFCCC:

- Croatia is a country with almost 50% covered with forests and other forest land and has a high potential for carbon storage.
- The Post Kyoto Protocol negotiations on greenhouse gas emissions are going on and Croatia will take a stand on increase in carbon storage.

Renewable energy sources:

- Several projects of producing electric and thermal energy are conducted and as a result, Croatia has 4 forest biomass power plants.
- Plan is to increase use of forest biomass for producing electric and thermal energy.

Agroforestry on other wooded land:

- Long-term, multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of society.
- In last 5 years, rising of years-long plantations of olive trees, vineyards, lavender and orchards on state owned other wooded land in coastal area and islands.
- Aims: restoration of agricultural production, increasing of employment, strengthening economy, decrease in depopulation of rural areas, decrease of forest fires

Forest pedagogics:

- Forest pedagogy is partly implemented in protected areas.
- Medium-term plan is to create standardized models for the whole country with the intention of raising public awareness on forests, forestry and their multiple values.

Science:

- EFISSEE RO is founded in Croatia. Initial funding of 150.000 EUR per year is secured for period 2009 – 2013. Scientific Journal with forestry related scientific articles from SEE is launching.
- Forest Institute Jastrebarsko has founded 5 regional research centers across the country, with the intention of strengthening scientific work and SFM.