

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

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**T.F.Y. Republic of Macedonia
Country Report**

In June 2006, the Government of Macedonia adopted a National Forestry Policy and Strategy (NFPS) with Action Plan (AP) 2007-2009. The process was based on world-recognized principles, inputs from experts as well as all relevant stakeholder groups and society as a whole. It sets the stage for all major decisions concerning the sector for the next 20 years.

Some of the most tackling forest related issues described in the Strategy are the National Forest Resources Assessment- Forest Inventory, Combating Forest Fires, Forest Ownership, Elaborate Program for transformation of the Public Enterprise, Adapting Forestry to global climate change, Adaptation of forestry legislation to new challenges, etc.

The implementation requires significant financial and human resources, and that is why the Government needs to provide favorable conditions for the investments in public and private forestry sectors.

The realization of the AP until today is partial. Most of the implemented Actions are financed by the national Budget. 2009 is the year when new AP will be created for the next three years in compliance with the resources planed in the Budget and previously agreed projects. Forestry Department planes to create an Implementation Body in order to avoid creation of a too ambitious AP.

The following issues arrived in the implementation process so far:

- Human resources - lack of professional training in the forestry institutions
- Small interest in participation by the donors (national and international) in achieving the Action Plan – not enough financial resources from the Budget for financing some actions. Outcomes in the Forestry are not visibly for a period of time.

The NFP provides a strategic framework for the development of the forestry sector and transformation of the policy into action in order to reach the objectives.