

**Code:** TCP/YUG/3201 (D)

**Title:** WOOD ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Country:** Republic of Serbia

**Starting date:** September 2008

**Expiring date:** July 2010

**Contact:** Regional Office for Europe

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### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Government of Serbia has requested FAO to provide technical assistance for the use of woodfuel as a sustainable energy supply. To meet the country's energy requirements, Serbia is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, the costs of which have risen sharply as oil and gas prices have soared. A great portion of the imported fossil fuels is used for electricity production for space heating. Bioenergy, specifically woodfuel, is a locally available and cost-effective source of fuel. While bioenergy cannot completely replace external energy sources it may contribute significantly to Serbia's energy needs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the process. Serbia is currently investing heavily in the overhaul of local, regional and national space heating networks. Once these gas and heavy fuel oil boilers have been renewed and unless immediate action is taken, the opportunity to increase the use of woodfuels would be lost.

The Government has already approved the "Strategy for the Effective Use of Energy in Serbia". Among other measures, the strategy expects a doubling of the consumption of woodfuels in the country by 2010. In line with this strategy, a "Programme for the Rational Utilization of Bioenergy" is now under preparation. Within the framework of this programme 50 distant heating systems, 100 industrial heating systems and 5 000 individual heating systems are planned in different parts of the country. The estimated amount of wood biomass in Serbian forests which could be used as fuel is 1.65 million m<sup>3</sup> per year and the energy potential of forest biomass left to decompose after wood extraction is estimated at 15.6 million GJ/annually.

The main outcomes of the project are: (i) a national wood energy development programme for increased wood energy production and utilization as a source of energy that is integrated within the forestry and energy programmes; (ii) enhanced national capacities for planning, implementing and monitoring sustainable woodfuel production and utilization (energy) systems through the development of the infrastructure and human resources of the Directorate of Forests (DF) and related partners; (iii) a national Wood Energy Information System (WEIS) at the DF; (iv) new methodologies for wood energy planning and policy development; and (v) strategic studies on several crucial aspects of woodfuels related to the identification, evaluation and implementation of wood energy initiatives and their respective investment plans.

The project will provide FAO technical support services for a total of about 2.3 person months, TCCT consultants for about six person months and national consultants for a total of about 14 person months. In addition, the project will provide supplies, equipment, travel, training and general as well as direct operating expenses.

### **National Counterparts**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

### **Funding Source**

FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

### **Budget**

USD 350 000