

Generating momentum on water and forests in the Balkans project



Balkan GEM - “Generating momentum on water and forests in the Balkans project”

Lead partner: Research Institute for Forest Ecology and Forestry (FAWF), International Projects and Networking, Trippstadt, Deutschland

Project coordinator: CNVP – Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation

Partners: National Forests, North Macedonia; Srbija Šume, Serbia; Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Sector Forestry and Pastures, Albania;

Objectives of the project

Republic North-Macedonia, Serbia and Albania are confronted with a multitude of challenges in terms of closely related forest and water management. In these countries such challenges need to be tackled jointly by forestry and water management through greater synergy potential between forest and water administrations including concerned stakeholders.

Forest planning in North-Macedonia, Albania and Serbia shall include water management aspects in order to provide improved ecosystem services around the resource water.

The first specific objective is to develop model measures for water protection in forest areas by an integrative forestry and water management within forest planning.

As a second specific objective, forest planning capacities in North-Macedonia, Albania and Serbia are to be extended by an integrative forest management strategy with a special focus on water retention in forests.

Pan European SFM criteria and indicators are brought in Helsinki 1993, Resolution H1

PART I: GENERAL GUIDELINES

6. Forest management practices should have due regard to the protection of areas of ecological fragility, to the conservation of primary and climax forests, areas with cultural heritage, and the landscape, **to safeguarding the quality and quantity of water**, and to maintaining and developing other protective functions of forests such as the **protection of aquatic and agricultural ecosystems and protection against floods, erosion and avalanches**.

7. Forest management practices should aim at maintaining and, if possible, improving the stability, vitality, regenerative capacity, resistance and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems towards stresses, including their protection against fire, pests, diseases, game and other agents of damage such as overgrazing and unregulated browsing. The prevention and control of large-scale biotic and abiotic damage should be supported. **Special attention should be paid to maintaining and, if needed, to improving the quality of forest soils**. Silvicultural practices emulating nature should be encouraged. Practices contrary to sustainable management should be actively discouraged.

PART II: FUTURE ACTION

13. **The Signatory States** and the European Community commit themselves to preparing, without delay, **specific national or regional guidelines and to incorporating them into their forestry plans and programmes for the implementation of the above General Guidelines**, in a manner consistent with the Statement of Forest Principles, and will collaborate in the further development of these General Guidelines for the sustainable management of forests in Europe.

ANNEX 2 OF THE RESOLUTION L2, Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management

The Operational Level Guidelines form a common framework of recommendations that can be used on a voluntary basis and as a complement to national and/or regional instruments to further promote sustainable forest management at the field level, on forest areas in Europe.

Adopted at the Fifth Expert Level Preparatory Meeting of the Lisbon Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, 27-29 April 1998, Geneva Switzerland.

The Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines have been elaborated to further promote sustainable forest management in Europe by translating the international commitments down to the level of forest management planning and practices. They represent a common framework of recommendations for reference at the field level that can be used on a voluntary basis.

CRITERION 5. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)

5.1 Guidelines for Forest Management Planning

- a. Forest management planning should aim to maintain and enhance protective functions of forests for society, such as protection of infrastructure, protection from soil erosion, protection of water resources and from adverse impacts of water such as floods or avalanches.
- b. Areas that fulfil specific and recognised protective functions for society should be registered and mapped, and forest management plans or their equivalents should take full account of these areas.

5.2 Guidelines for Forest Management Practices

- a. Special care should be given to silvicultural operations on sensitive soils and erosion prone areas as well as on areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses. Inappropriate techniques such as deep soil tillage and use of unsuitable machinery should be avoided on such areas. Special measures to minimize the pressure of animal population on forests should be taken.
- b. Special care should be given to forest management practices on forest areas with water protection function to avoid adverse effects on the quality and quantity of water resources. Inappropriate use of chemicals or other harmful substances or inappropriate silvicultural practices influencing water quality in a harmful way should be avoided.
- c. Construction of roads, bridges and other infrastructure should be carried out in a manner that minimises bare soil exposure, avoids the introduction of soil into watercourses and that preserve the natural level and function of water courses and river beds. Proper road drainage facilities should be installed and maintained.

Updated indicators, Madrid 2015

Area of forest and other wooded land designated to prevent soil erosion, preserve water resources, maintain other protective functions, protect infrastructure and **managed natural resources against natural hazards**.

Are there any criteria and indicators accepted in Albania on national level?

Donor



Lead Partner



Project Coordinator



Partners

