

FORESTRY

As far as BiH forestry is concerned, it may be noted that BiH forestry is very diversified and rich in forests. Forests and forestry land covers about 2,7 million ha of land. The share of ownership structure is about 80% is state owned and 20% is privately owned.

The BiH forestry sector has been regulated on entity level, while the coordination activities for outside have been the responsibility of MoFTER BiH. Pursuant to existing Laws, the owners of the forests are FBiH, RS and BD BiH.

Article 17. of the Law on Forests (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 20/02, 29/03 and 37/04) regulates making the *Forestry Program* of FBiH. This Program has to follow internationally taken obligations and agreements, and it needs to define general forestry policy as well as management of the wild animals in the forests of FBiH. Moreover, it has to be oriented toward preserving and longevity of forest management including maintenance and improvement of biodiversity of forests and forestry land. Forestry program consists of two parts, as follows: general part has to be made by the FBiH Parliament, and executive part by the FBiH Government.

The Counsel for the FBiH Forestry Program has been established in 2008. They have already designed the plan and activity plan with budget. The program completion is expected in 2010.

However, some activities relating to new Law on Forests have started. A working group has been established and it includes all stakeholders. Draft materials have been prepared and submitted for comments to all stakeholders. Activities on Law preparation should be completed in the first quarter of 2009.

It is necessary to harmonise Law on Hunting, Law on Forestry and Horticultural Seeds and Seedlings with *Law on Violations*.

In the period from 2009-2010 the following activities have been planned:

- Carrying out activities on designing new Law on Forests, amending and harmonisation of Law on Hunting, Law on Forestry and Horticultural Seeds and Seedlings;
- Taking on steps in overall implementation of Law on Forests including establishment of cantonal forestry institutions ;
- Amending the Article 60, Section 6 of the Law on Forests – control of calculations and deadlines for payment of fees for use of forest functions (make a new rulebook as well as authorise Tax Administration for supervision of implementation of measures);
- Amendments of the Rulebook on procedures and timeframes on forest sale (Official Gazette FBiH No. 19/04) – amendments relate to the establishment of cantonal committee that would be responsible for field inspections;
- Further activities on establishment of new hunting zones in FBiH pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Hunting (Official Gazette FBiH No. 4/06);

- Monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Law on Hunting and By Laws (highlighting establishment of new hunting zones and their management);
- Monitoring the implementation of provisions of the Law on Forestry and Horticultural Seeds and Seedling and By Laws (Official Gazette FBiH No. 71/05);
- Involvement into joint activities relating to harmonisation of the rules with EU rules and regulations;
- Making comments, recommendations, suggestions on the other draft laws.

Moreover, it includes other activities such as the following ones:

- Monitoring and implementation of the components of the „BiH Forestry Development and Protection Project“;
- Continuous monitoring and data collection on implementation of II National Forestry Inventory on a large scale areas of BiH;
- Initiating activities on Action plan on preventing illegal activities in forestry sector and wood industry, i.e. collection of all relevant data and their annual presentation at the joint meeting with the World bank, OHR, USAID, all forestry stakeholders and institutions, non governmental organisations as well as wood industry;
- Monitoring implementation of the provisions of the Decision on general conditions of state owned timber products selling within FBiH (Official Gazette of FBiH No. 13/08) by cantonal forestry companies;
- Continue the activities initiated in 2008 in cooperation with Federation Advocacy relating to registry of stat forests and forestry land of BiH-FBiH;
- Active involvement, to the extent of its authorities, in the process of extraction and protection of forestry eco systems, especially those ones with biodiversity values;
- Ongoing activities (permits, decisions, administrative acts based on Law on Forests, Law on Hunting and Law on Forestry and Horticultural Seeds and Seedlings).

New *Law on Forests* has been enacted in 2008 in the RS as well as the *Law amending the Law on Hunting*. Additionally, a *Draft Law on Hunting* has been prepared as well as all supplementary By Laws resulting from the *Law on Forests*, but not being published in 2008.

Within the framework of all ongoing activities, there has been Terms of Reference designed for the RS *Forestry Development Strategy*.

Some Technical Assistance has been anticipated under the Project of Forestry Development and Protection/additional financing. The Technical Assistance is expected to support designing of the RS *Forestry Development Strategy* that will respond to the following issues:

- *What would be the sustainable direction of the RS Forestry Sector Development in the period from 2009 - 2019?*
- *What would be the ways for the RS to increase capacities of the forestry sector, improve the state of forests and create conditions in compliance with modern European Forestry?*
- *What would be the ways for the RS to identify more profitable forestry sections and timber industry within the overall development of RS?*

- *What would be the ways of implementation of the activities leading to more modern and increased efficiency in timber industry?*

Development of the Strategy should involve any potential stakeholder and institutions that are related to forestry and timber industry in any way. Aiming to design as good strategy as possible, there will be an Advisory Body. All activities will be led by the Working Group which will comprise different Focus Groups for specific subjects. The Working Group, based on the work plan, will permanently work on designing the strategy, and it will report to this Advisory body and ask recommendations for further steps. All these issues will be elaborated in many workshops and final public discussion which will enable all stakeholders to be involved in this work.

Moreover, the second phase of Forestry Inventory on large scale plots has been completed in BiH and RS. Some 500.000 hectares has been surveyed in 2008. Action plan for prevention of illegal actions in the forestry sector and timber industry in BiH and RS has been continuously implemented in 2008.

The following activities have been planned in the year of 2009:

- To enact Law on Forest Trees Reproduction Materials;
- To enact new Law on Hunting;
- To enact the RS Forestry Development Strategy;
- To enact any By Laws regulated by Law on Forests;
- To enact any By Laws regulated by Law on Hunting;
- To continue implementation of the Forestry Development and Protection Project;
- To establish Forestry Agency and secure its work.

THE BIH FORESTRY SECTOR STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES

The second inventory of forests on a large scale parcels in BiH

The Inventory will provide the latest and integrated data on the state of the forests, conditions, management quality, potential biological diversity and cadastral data. In addition, the project would ensure collection of data, in addition to inventory data, on critical forestry eco systems to serve as a basis for protection/perseverance of forests and biological diversity. Moreover, it will strongly support making the Standards in forest management in both entities.

Forestry management Information System based on GIS

The objective of this project is data standardisation based on type and size, increase level of processing in order to reduce the difference between available equipment and active processing, accelerate exchange of information amongst forestry institutions responsible for forestry management. The equipment has been procured as well as organisational model of the system. The following step is data entry, designing application and staff training. This system, based on GIS, will be used by field managers and central management offices as very important management tool for planning, management, monitoring, and

supervision on all forestry operations. The System would cover all public forests as well as private ones if the ownership has been officially registered.

Forestry Certification State Standards

A process of designing the standards has been made in accordance with instructions given by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC is an International organisation that provides systems for forestry groups in order to implement proper management of forests. State standards have been strictly following the principles and criteria of the FSC.

The following step is to work on adoption of Standards Proposal by the FSC-Counsel, followed by institutionalisation of the State Working Group.

Monitoring of health condition of forests

Monitoring of health conditions of the forests is at the stage of preparation and it will last for three years. Dynamics has been designed and presented. The next steps include bio identification spots to be set up, as well as staff training and networking into information system.

Action plan for prevention of illegal activities in forestry sector and timber industry

The Plan has been operational for three years now and it really made significant results in prevention of illegal operations in forestry sector.

Forestry Development and Protection Project

The 2008 Forestry Development and Protection Project have been successfully completed. Additional financial funds for this project become effective on the date of 26.02.2008 and it last until 2011. The additional financing project would enable the following:

- completion of Forestry Inventory, following the lessons learned in previous project as well as capacities built in the first inventory stage;
- more detailed development of the information system, bringing it closer to the objectives of the first project;
- support implementation of action plans and programs of reforms under the first project, which would improve management models.