Government Cooperative Programme
Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe

Project Brief

Support to Implementation of the Forest Policy and Strategy in Kosovo
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Political and economic changes, together with the expected integration processes towards the European Union underline the importance of multifunctional forestry, in which not only economic aspects are taken into account but conservation and recreational values are given due attention. Concurrently with these changes, Kosovo is expected to join several international agreements on forests and environmental protection, which all will have a bearing in its own forestry sector.

Kosovo is currently in the process of harmonizing its legislation and standards with the European Union and once this is complete it is expected that the various sectors of the economy will be modernized and restructured. In this context, the forests have great potential for providing sustainable development in the country in general and for improving the quality of life of the rural poor in particular. It is expected that the forests as a renewable natural resource will gain even more importance in the future. A Policy and Strategy Paper on Forestry Sector Development 2010-2020 (PSP) address these challenges and forms a base for development process in the forestry sector.

With the generous support of Government of Finland the above mentioned processes will become possible. Managed by FAO in close cooperation with the Kosovo's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development the project "Support to Implementation of the Forest Policy and Strategy in Kosovo" is a backbone of the development trends initiated.

The overall objective of the intervention is to increase the contribution of the forestry sector to the national economy through sustainable use of forest resources, taking into account multipurpose forestry and including the economic, social and environmental benefits as well as its contribution to climate change mitigation.

The project has three components:

- Institutional support for the implementation of forest policy and strategy;
- Integrated forest management and practices;
- Forestry sector and climate change

The project "Support to Implementation of the Forest Policy and Strategy in Kosovo" aims at

- Strengthening the Kosovo Government capacities to Coordinate and Implement the Action Plan (AP) as formulated in the Policy and Strategy Paper 2010–2020
- Upgrade and harmonize the corresponding forest legislation with new policy and strategy
- Develop and implement an information/ communication strategy on the importance of the forestry sector
- Support the completion of the decentralization process in forestry
- Improve condition of degraded forests through promotion of contemporary forest management and silvi-cultural practices
- Update information on the status of existing forest plantations
- Improve the health of Kosovo forests
- Increase the understanding and capacity to combat climate change in the forestry sector

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