



2011 International Year of Forests

United Nations General Assembly launched the announcement that Year 2011 as International Year of Forests. Because of that over 40 countries and more than 250 events around globe are organized and prepared by different institutions, organizations, local governments, local, national and international NGO's.



The overall objective on this celebration is to raise awareness about the need to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

SNV Albania-Macedonia-Kosovo in the framework of Sida Kosovo & Regional project in close collaboration with REFORD – Regional Training Centre for Forestry and Rural Development Private and Communal Forest Associations in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo have decided to mark this event as a special event in the above countries.



Because of that SNV Albania organized one day event on 10 November in Diber, Tomin Commune with subject: **A day in the forest; Forests for people; 2011 International Year of the Forest**

Marking of this event included different stakeholders in the region that support forestry such as representatives from Regional Council (Qark), Association of private Forest Owners Suhareka Kosovo, Prefecture, National Communal Forestry Federation, LGU-s, District Forestry Service of Diber, Bulqize & Mat, Regional Federation, Agritra Vizion, Forest User Associations & farmers.



This event included as well young generation (50 children from local school) in promoting forest values & creates awareness on management of forest and important role forests play in the community's lives & environment around us.

The event was welcomed from all the stakeholders. During the event all the stakeholders had the opportunity to express their opinion regarding the event, and focus was given on the role that forestry gives in the family income and as well on the environmental aspects.



Representatives from forestry service highlighted the role in advice, coaching of farmers in providing technical expertise, but as well the role the LGU should take in proper management of communal forests. We are now looking more and more towards private ownership to individuals, because also the forest we visited it is a real example of farmer forestry managed by the farmers. We should invest our support to farmer forestry and create models and share these experiences. Reforms done in forestry in the framework of

decentralization process, transfer of forests to the LGU was a big step done by the Albanian Government. What it is needed is further support to LGU to support the proper management of forests and the establishment of the extension service within DFS is very supportive to this. Still remain an issue the registration of forest land to the cadastre and this would give more security the farmers to protect and manage their forests.



Representatives from National Federation welcomed the idea to join in the event the children from the local school, as new generation should be in focus in order to provide the proper information and awareness of importance of forests.



The children had prepared a programme in which they focused the role forest play. They had prepared songs, poems and also drawings (drawings were all hung in the trees in the forest). During this event Forestry Expert provided some forestry practical techniques for the children.

All the stakeholders had the opportunity to go around the forest and visit the art exhibition where the children presented their drawings.



“My forest has never been so beautiful as today” said the farmer. In 1992 this forest was only shrubs, but today it is a high forest and this only through protection and care shown from my family. I have been supported from the Diber Federation & Forestry Service with their advice on how to better manage my forest. Today I get firewood, chestnuts and other products from my forest.
Daut Mera
Farmer, Tomin Commune

All participants had the opportunity to enjoy the forest products (chestnuts, walnuts) from the farm.

This event was considered as an important event in marking 2011 as International Year for Forests.

The event was broadcasted in the National TV (ABC news channel).