Regional Sharing and Developments in the Balkan Family Forestry Report

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Peja, Kosovo
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1. Introduction

As part of the SSPDF project of CNVP in Kosovo a regional workshop was conducted with participation of REFORD and its members. Host was NAPFO Kosovo in cooperation with CNVP and REFORD. This workshop took place in Peja region, Kosovo and during 2-5 July 2015. The programme focused on Family Forestry aspects; i) forestry reform, ii) RD forestry practices such as Joint Forest Management and iii) service provision) all part of the SSPDF project activities as well as support to the REFORD organisational strengthening and assembly meeting.

The event included the official REFORD General Assembly meeting, field visit to see and discuss about Joint Forest Management as options for Rural Development, latest developments in the forestry reform processes and service provision by Associations.

Representatives from Family Forest (Communal and Private Forest Owners) Associations from Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bulgaria and CNVP representatives from Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania took active participation in this regional event.

2. Programme

The event was planned as such to cover different important aspects and opportunities for the regional Family forestry of the Balkan countries.

The objective of the workshop was to:
- Share on forestry and RD reform processes in the region and joint declaration
- Share on RD practices, review on Joint Forest Management practices in Kosovo
- Elaborate on economic service provision from associations
- Conduct the assembly meeting and improving the organizational functioning of REFORD

The detailed overall program of the event was as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Thursday</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:00-</td>
<td>Arrival of participants; Free dinner, self-organised</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 08:45</td>
<td>Welcome and intro on overall program for the three days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:45 – 09:00</td>
<td>Purpose and Objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>RD and joint forest management in Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>REFORD Assembly meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00 –</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Saturday</td>
<td>Continuation of REFORD Assembly meeting</td>
<td>Bashkim Gashi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Review on Forestry and Rural Development reform processes in the region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Workshop on service provision</td>
<td>Peter Kampen and Sheza Tomcini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participants:**

- 2 REFORD representatives from Forest Owners and Users Associations of 7 Balkan Countries (Albania, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro);
- Representatives from Sida Kosovo and/or Albania (invited)
- Representative from Local authorities (participated at the RD Joint Forest Management part);
- CNVP advisors per country from Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.

Participant list can be found in Annex 1.

### 3. Rural Development and Joint forest management

The programme started with a field visit organized to raise awareness among REFORD member about importance of Joint Forest Management as model for sharing products, responsibilities, control and decision making authorities over forest lands. The forestry sector is considered to have a high potential in increasing its contribution to the national economy and the economic development.

A field visit was made to Kaliqan village part of the Istog Municipality in Kosovo. Within Kaliqan village people are developing a Joint Forest Management model based on the traditional use and management of their forest in cooperation with the Kosovo Forest Agency and the Municipality. Therefore this field visit was used to discuss and see joint forest management as option for the Rural Development. CNVP Country Director Mr. Haki Kola and President of the National Association of Private Forest Owners from Kosovo, Mr. Bashkim Gashi, representative from the Istog Municipality, Mr. Januz Kabashi and Mr. Rexhë Arifaj representative of village Kaliqan, did a field presentation on the joint forest management model in Kosovo. Also several people from Kaliqan village were present and gave their ideas and opinions.
The field visit was appreciated a lot. Especially the welcoming and explanations given by the people were very useful in understanding the functioning of the Joint Forest Management model and situation. It helped in wider understanding and sharing among the different groups.

The detailed programme for Rural Development and Joint forest management was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker/Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
<td>Blerina Hoxha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 08:45</td>
<td>Welcome and intro on overall program for the three days</td>
<td>Peter Kampen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:45 – 09:00</td>
<td>Purpose and Objectives</td>
<td>Sebiha Ramaxhiku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>RD and joint forest management in Kosovo</td>
<td>NAPFO Kosovo and CNVP Kosovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• including a presentation on joint forest management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Field visit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Optional to present joint statement if people from authorities are present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Travel back to hotel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, please see the PDF in Annex 2

4. REFORD Organisational strengthening and Assembly meeting

The fifth General Assembly (GA) of the Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development (REFORD) was organised in Peja, Kosovo in the period of 2nd until 5th of July, at Hotel Dukagjini in Peje, Kosovo. The REFORD Assembly meeting took place within the broader programme (afternoon 3 July and morning 4 July). All members were present during the Assembly meeting except for the representatives from Bosnia-Herzegovina due to visa problems entering Kosovo.

The purpose of the meeting was REFORD members from Forest Owners and Users Associations from 7 Balkan Countries (Albania, Kosovo, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Montenegro) to review the REFORD challenges in Communal/Private Forestry in the Balkan Region. The objective of the meeting was improving the organizational functioning of REFORD.

During the assembly meeting the presentations on activities of the past period and financial report were made. Mr. Ndreu from the Federation of communal forests and pastures from Albania presented the obstacles for REFORD organisational functioning. In the discussion the participants suggested number of options on how to improve the organizational functioning. It was suggested that member associations should be more active and using the REFORD network for their lobbying interest, as well as for joint
project opportunities. Discussions were also made on the structure of REFORD and option to improve this, but it concluded that it would be good to review this first in a working group who would come with concrete solutions (draft internal regulations and potential statutory changes) to be given in the next REFORD Assembly meeting which is to be held in October 2015.

Second part of the Assembly started with the formal procedures according to REFORD statute and followed procedure to replace the former REFORD President Mrs. Albora Kacani after her resignation. Mr. Arjol Lila from NFCFP Albania was chosen as REFORD President pro tempore until the next election in October 2015.

After determination of the issues to be addressed, as the last point of discussion was appointment of the working group for adjustments of the REFORD statute and designing of an internal functioning regulation. The composition of the working group was agreed to consist of REFORD Management Board Members and with support of CNVP. The drafts will be prepared before the next Assembly meeting in October 2015.

For more information see report and minutes from REFORD Assembly meeting in Annex 3.

5. Forestry Reforms and Developments

The next part of the workshop was focused on the forestry reforms in the Balkan region. It was continued with presentations from each of REFORD members providing reviews on the Forestry and Rural Development reform processes in their respective countries. Despite the different organisational
structure and level of development of the forestry and RD sector in different countries, all participants were eager to share and learn about the recent developments from the region.

This sharing and learning from the other associations is felt as one of the most important aspects of REFORM and the regional workshop. It provides an opportunity to see other developments and learn from others. The situation and contexts are not the same but there are many similarities between the countries and the respective issues the associations are dealing with regarding family forestry. For example the issue of incorporation of forestry in rural development is something all are struggling with. The example of Croatia that is far developed in the process was very helpful and exemplary to all. It gave a lot of ideas and support for the other associations to follow in their own situation. The detailed programme for Forestry Reforms and Developments was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Saturday</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>Review on Forestry and Rural Development reform processes in the region</td>
<td>All associations representatives (10 minute each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Association power point presentations on reform processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>All participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Continuation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Drafting joint statement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the presentations made by each REFORM member a discussion was held and reviewing the main challenges for family forestry in the region. It was followed with agreeing upon the main mutual problematic topics for which a joint statement is to be addressed to the respective governments of the Balkan region.

It was agreed that the statement focus to be on the need to support family forest for sustainable management and social economic development and securing environmental services and the issues to be addressed were:

- Inclusion of forestry activities in Rural development measures;
- Enabling environment with proper legislation;
- Proper inclusion of family forest in protected areas;
- Land and user rights:
  - Disputed land
  - Involvement of local communities in state land.

The statement addressing the above issues is prepared and shared within the REFORM network. Each member will shared it within its own network and their authorities, while REFORM will provide it to regional structures in the Balkan.

For more information about the Overview of the forestry sector current situation in the Balkan Region please the Annex 4 and REFORM’s general statement can be found in Annex 5.
6. Service provision

The last part of the programme was dedicated to service provision by associations. Provision of services to their members (family forest owners and their local associations) is an important aspect of the associations as being part of their role and mandate. In previous work attention is given to this in joint cooperation with REFORD and the associations as well in specific activities and work with the individual associations. This part of the programme is giving further follow up and support on the service provision, especially on economic service provision.

The detailed programme for service provision by Associations was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Saturday</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 – 15:00</td>
<td>Workshop on service provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Short introduction – Presentation on service provision (10 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Experience in Albania – Presentation Albania (10 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reflection and discussion on service provision (40 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:30 – 17:00</td>
<td>Continue workshop on service provision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Identify our services (10 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Group work, elaborate on services (40 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Presentation group work (40 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.00 – 18.30</td>
<td>Finalise results from the service provision workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Conclusions and next steps on service provision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Service provision is one of the two main roles of associations. The other role is related to representation of family forest owners and users. Service provision is important because:

1. Through provision of services we implement our role
2. It gives credibility and justification to our members (family forest owners and local associations)
3. It strengthens our representation role and authority to others (government, ministry, institutions)
4. It provides financial sustainability

There are different services that are needed:

**Capacity building services:**

1. Information provision: leaflets, newsletters, website
2. Awareness
3. Training

**Economic and technical services:**

1. Support on subsidy/project application
2. Forest management services (planning, legal documents, certification)
3. Joint buying or selling
4. Joint forest management, exploitation

It is important that associations further strengthen their capacities to provide services. A short presentation was given about the experiences of NFCFP in Albania with their efforts regarding developing and providing services.
In Albania good experience exist with services related to capacity building such as awareness programmes regarding communal forestry, or training and extension services for fire prevention or use of motor chainsaws. It remains more difficult to provide economic services where people are would also pay for. An option can be the support provided in property registration or support in small project proposal development for subsidy programmes. See annex 6 for the presentation.

How is service provision going?

After the presentations a short reflection was made on the positive and challenging aspects of service provision by the associations. In general the associations are taking up increasingly their role on service provision. Especially the service provision regarding information, awareness and training is already provided and developing well. The provision of economic, paid for services is in its initial steps, but first experiences exist (e.g. wood biomass production or subsidy application support).

Several services are now also provided that could be developed further in economic services towards family forest owners and users, such as mapping, application for subsidy. Some of these are just started with, currently based on project support. These however have a good potential to be further elaborated.

It remains however challenging to provide paid for services. This is partly because of capacity and organisation at the associations, but also the lack of financial capacity of family forest owners and awareness. It also relates to the attitude of the associations, not being used to provide economic services and/or asking for paid for services.

The service provision outcome can be found in annex 7.

Elaborating services

After the reflection each association (per country) has elaborated on potential services. The top three potential services were listed and one service was further elaborated on business proposal. The structure of a simple business plan was followed; what would be needed and how would it be feasible to start providing this service.
When it comes to discussion on service provision for which the users/owners need to be charged, very often the associations are less motivated. This is mainly due to the not favorable general economic conditions in the Balkan countries and the financial ability of people to pay for these services. However while sharing among each other the associations came to joint conclusion that there are different ways to charge for the provided services. Associations from different countries face different opportunities to develop their services therefore this session was in particular valuable for sharing ideas and experiences.

Most of the associations came up with idea that the association can take a brokering role and charge for the service based on received income. There are variety of brokering services such as assistance in preparing documentation (applications, management plans, mapping, etc.), negotiation and contracting. Funds could come from different sources, either from the owner itself, projects, Municipalities, or from different available subsidy schemes, like in Macedonia the subsidies for RD.

Following the necessity to charge for provided services the association from Croatia is in more favorable condition because the EU offers different lines to support the communities living in rural areas and nature protection. The experiences from the Croatia association where very much appreciated and boost positive discussion. There are many opportunities but services need to be elaborated further, for few associations even in a form of a business plan, and then followed through.

The results are presented in annex 8.

**Service provision conclusions**

In the discussion after the presentation is was stated that:

It is important to keep giving follow up on service provision;
We need to make it concrete and start working on this;
Use can be made of the ideas elaborated. The exercise was an initial start but this can be used to further develop such service.
In developing and providing economic, to be paid for services, it will increase the relevance and credibility of the associations, next to contributing to financial sustainability.
## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Participant list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>NAPFO- Kosovo</td>
<td>Blerina Hoxha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hoxha.blervina@gmail.com">hoxha.blervina@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+37744373161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>CNVP - Kosovo</td>
<td>Ardita Dinaj</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ardita.dinaj@cnvp-eu.org">ardita.dinaj@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+37744296808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>NAPFO - Kosovo</td>
<td>Agron Nikqi</td>
<td>agron - <a href="mailto:niki@live.fr">niki@live.fr</a></td>
<td>+37744291394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>NFCFPA</td>
<td>Xhelal Shuti</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fedkukes@yahoo.com">fedkukes@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>+355692371753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>NFCFPA</td>
<td>Arjol Lila</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arjol.lila@fkpkk-shqiperi.org">arjol.lila@fkpkk-shqiperi.org</a></td>
<td>+355692987734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>CNVP- Kosovo</td>
<td>Miftar Lokaj</td>
<td><a href="mailto:miftar.lokaj@cnvp-eu.org">miftar.lokaj@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+044178877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>UPVS - MNE</td>
<td>Miodrag Bakic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:privsume@gmail.com">privsume@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+38267537705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>CNVP MNE</td>
<td>Mensura Nuhodzic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mensura.nuhodzic@cnvp-eu.org">mensura.nuhodzic@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+38267227423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>CNVP – Albanija</td>
<td>Sheza Tomcini</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sheza.tomcini@cnvp-eu.org">sheza.tomcini@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+355694050288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NFCFPA</td>
<td>Rexhep Ndreu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rekrehp.ndreu@fkpkk-shqiperi.org">rekrehp.ndreu@fkpkk-shqiperi.org</a></td>
<td>+355682077157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>CROCUPFOA Croatia</td>
<td>Miljenko Zupanic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zupanicm@sumins.hr">zupanicm@sumins.hr</a></td>
<td>+38598604739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>NAPFO Kosovo</td>
<td>Bashkim Gashi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bashkimgashi@gmail.com">bashkimgashi@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+38649656444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>UPVS MNE</td>
<td>Pavle Pavlovic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pavlen@gmail.com">pavlen@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>+38269606299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>NAPFO - Macedonia</td>
<td>Borce Bojcovski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:macprifor@yahoo.com">macprifor@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>+38975358188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>NAPFO - Macedonia</td>
<td>Vojo Sokolovski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vojo.sokolovski@yahoo.com">vojo.sokolovski@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>+38976485440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>CNVP</td>
<td>Peter kampen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter.kampen@cnvp-eu.org">peter.kampen@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+30971292003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>CNVP - Macedonia</td>
<td>Anela Stavrevska</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anela.stavrevska@cnvp-eu.org">anela.stavrevska@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+38971292005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>NAPFO Bulgaria</td>
<td>Nevena Agovska</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gpk_sveti_duh@abv.bg">gpk_sveti_duh@abv.bg</a></td>
<td>+35988463040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>NAPFO Bulgaria</td>
<td>Anelia Poceksanska</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gorovladelez@abv.bg">gorovladelez@abv.bg</a></td>
<td>+359886317946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Phone</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>NAPFO Kosovo</td>
<td>Ali Thaci</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ali_thaci@hotmail.com">ali_thaci@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>+37744200730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>CNVP Kosovo</td>
<td>Haki Kola</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haki.kola@cnvp-eu.org">haki.kola@cnvp-eu.org</a></td>
<td>+37744964671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 2: Leaflet on Implementation of Joint Forest Management in Kosovo

**Approaches on calculation of area of public forest in JFM**

First, the village representatives are informed about the project. The activities are followed by the assessment of the general situation in village, agriculture, forest, pasture, livestock traditions on land use, as well the situation in private forestry in village, the shares for family, actual production, and actual supply with firewood from private forest.

With the families in the selected villages is discussed about agroforestry and the impact of agroforestry in fulfilling the annual needs. An important step is the calculation of the gap between annual needs and annual potential of private forest and agroforestry in village level, leads to the decision on area of public forest needed to fulfill the annual needs on firewood.

**Steps on implementation of JFM in cadastral zone level**

First step is information of village, present the project and selection of forest commission on an open meeting with participation of all interested families in village, to involve man and women in the project as family representatives and neighbours as well.

Second step is the calculation the annual needs for forest production for family or group families, as well the annual increment and allowable annual cut off forest.

Third step is calculation of average forest area that fulfill the annual needs for firewood for one family, and for all village. Based on calculation the commission agree on average forest area for family.

Fourth step is demarcation of the total area of agreed JFM, and calculation of the areas agreed to share for each family from total. After general agreements start field work under direction of commission, agree where and when to work for each day in forest land demarcation. It is implemented based on the list of families, their phone numbers and agree on time they should be available for demarcation. In their presence are define the coordinations of each family or group families by GPS as part of JFM area, lead finally on preparation of digital maps inside cadastral zones confines and participants in each parcel as part of JFM.

KFA, Municipalities and selected villages with CNVP support, are already under project implementation based on the MoU between KFA, CNVP and municipalities. JFM is a bottom-up approach, in which local actors participate in the decision-making and the selection of priorities based on forest strategy. Involvement of local and regional governmental structures accelerate the forest strategy implementation on reducing illegal in forestry and leading on SFM. This, in turn, paves the road for a broader dissemination of the approach in all villages of Kosovo and broader on region.
Implementation of Joint Forest Management in Kosovo

The forest sector is considered to have a high potential in increasing its contribution to the national economy and the economic development. Forest provides many benefits to the Kosovo people and is among the biggest providers of employment opportunities. In rural areas, where in most of cases are rich in forests, the sector is one of the few providers of jobs. A healthy forest sector, being a renewable resource, is one of the most important sources for the development of Kosovo. According to the estimates of the two National Forest Inventories 2002-2013 realized by NPG, the total volume of wood cut in Kosovo in the last ten years is 10 million m³, 91% of which is realized in illegal way. On the other hand, the legal supply of firewood in Kosovo is significantly lower than the sustainable level of supply.

But as much as Kosovo forest, with presence of illegality, looks as a driver of conflict, the involvement of local population can change it in a driver of peace, development and effective public management. A new forest strategy (2010-2020) prepared with broad participation of main stakeholders and approved by government recommended joint forest management as a solution related to turn this illegal activities in Kosovo forest on the legal participatory forest management.

From strategy in implementation

KCA in cooperation with Gjakova, Ishog and Novo Brod municipalities supported by SSPDF project financed by Sweden Embassy and implemented by CNVP, selected villages of these municipalities and started the implementation of the JFM in Gnjilane, Kukac and Kozar. Objective is to discuss with communities living inside core areas zones and decide how to manage jointly the public forest.

What is the joint forest management?

Joint Management of forest lands is the sharing of the products, responsibilities, control and decision-making authority over forest lands between Forest Agency and local user groups. It involves a contract specifying the distribution of authority, responsibility and benefits between families in need for wood material in villages, and KFA, with respect to land allocated for Joint Management and annual wood production, or other contributions on forest rehabilitation or silvicultural works.
Annex 3: Report from REFORD Assembly meeting

REFORD General Assembly Meeting Report

2nd-5th July 2015, Peja, Kosovo
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1. Introduction

On 3rd – 4th July 2015 the fifth REFORM Assembly meeting was held in Peja, Kosovo. The president of NAPFO/Kosovo, Bashkim Gashi has opened the meeting, welcoming the participants and expressing his satisfaction for the possibility to hold the meeting in Kosovo. The assembly meeting was held during the regional workshop on service provision, forestry and rural development. This activity was enabled through the support of two projects implemented by CNVP Albania and CNVP Kosovo, respectively FLED and SSPDF Projects. In this activity participated REFORM members from six countries, respectively from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro. The seventh member from Republic Srpska-BiH was not present due to objective reasons. Guests on the GA were Agron Niqki and Ali Thaci from the association from Kosovo.

For full list of REFORM assembly meeting participants see Annex 1.

The Assembly started after the organised field visit for sharing experiences related to Joint Forest Management from Kosovo on 3 July 2015.

The detailed program for REFORM general assembly meeting was as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3rd Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:00 - 14:30</td>
<td>Analysis of REFORM work during 2013-2015 (Report in English)</td>
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<td>REFORM Presidency</td>
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<td>14:30 – 14:50</td>
<td>REFORM financial analysis for 2013-2015 (Report in English)</td>
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<td>REFORM Technical Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:50 – 15:15</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>15:15 – 16:00</td>
<td>Problems of REFORM organizational functioning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rexhep Ndreu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Discussions and proposals for improving organizational functioning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All participants</td>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<th>4th Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:00- 08:15</td>
<td>Opening of meeting;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Facilitator</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:15 – 08:20</td>
<td>Acknowledgement of present participants</td>
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<td>Board members</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:20 – 08:25</td>
<td>Approval of agenda</td>
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<td>Board members</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:25 – 08:30</td>
<td>Voting for presented activity and financial reports for 2014</td>
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<td>Board members</td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 08:45</td>
<td>Election of a new President / Management board</td>
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<td>Board members</td>
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</table>
2. **REFORD Activity, Financial reporting and internal issues**

Following the agenda the first part was prepared presentations related to activities and finances. The narrative activity report for the period of October 2013 – June 2015, was prepared by Mr. Arjol Lila on behalf of NFCFP Albania. During this period REFORD Chairperson was Ms. Albora Kacani supported by NFCFP Albania and Mr. Rexhep Ndreu.

For more information see the narrative report in Annex 2.

The second presentation on financial analysis was made by CNVP Forestry Advisor Mrs. Anela Stavrevska – Panajotova, in the role of representing REFORD’s secretariat.

For more information see financial report in Annex 3.

After the two presentations, the Assembly meeting continued with reflection on problems related to internal functioning that REFORD faced during the Albanian Presidency. Mr. Rexhep Ndreu, chairperson of NFCFP presented to the REFORD Management Board the problematic issues of functioning which have created some obstacles in well-functioning such as location of REFORD Secretariat and availability of legal and other documents in one single country become and obstacle and create delays, especially in cases of application for various projects and also another issue he addressed was improving and increasing frequency of communication between REFORD Presidency – Secretariat – Members.

After the presentation by Mr. Ndreu the floor was left to discussions and proposals for improving the organizational functioning of REFORD. There were discussions by the participants on how to improve the organizational functioning, but as conclusion the concrete solutions are to be given in the next REFORD Assembly meeting which is to be held in October 2015. Mr. Miljenko Zupanic reminded the delegates that any change of statute must be pre discussed. As a conclusion it was proposed that the board will discuss online about internal related issues and prepare better for the next Assembly.
3. Approval of the agenda

Second day of the Assembly started with the formal procedures. The Associations from Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia and Bulgaria were present and the association from Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was absent. It was acknowledged that the Assembly has sufficient number of present participants in being able to vote.

The right to vote by the association from countries:
- Albania - 2 members
- Kosovo - 2 members
- Montenegro - 2 members
- Croatia - 1 member
- Bulgaria - 2 members
- Macedonia - 2 members
- Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was absent.

11 votes were present in the meeting (in the absence of Srpska)

The representative from Albania presented the agenda of the GA, there were no comments and changes to the agenda. Herewith it was concluded by Mr. Arjol Lila that the agenda is approved. Assembly members all agreed that Mr. Ariol Lila will continue leading the meeting and Ms. Blerina Hoxha will keep the meeting minutes. The GA meeting further continued according to the approved agenda.

4. Election of the Interim President and Management Board

After approving the agenda the assembly members voted for accepting the activity and financial reports (presented in the first day) for the period of October 2013 – June 2015.

Further a clarifying discussion was opened regarding REFORM statutory procedure to replace the former REFORM President Mrs. Albora Kacani after her resignation. Taking into account that the presidency mandate is with a two year period, REFORM presidency will change in October 2015 based on alphabetical rotation scheme. However the discussion showed that there is a need for a new decision to be made on procedures in case of President Resignation.

Mr. Arjol Lila from NFCFP Albania was chosen as REFORM Interim President until the next election in October 2015 (refer annex 4 for the decision).
After determination of the issues to be addressed, as the last point of discussion was appointment of the working group for adjustments of the REFORM statute and designing of an internal functioning regulation. The composition of the working group was agreed to consist of REFORM Management Board Members and the Executive Director of CNVP.

It was agreed that the Management board should remain with 7 members. Each association selected a member to be part of the Board, and the selected members remain as:

1. Vojo Sokolovski (Macedonia)
2. Miodrag Bakic (Montenegro)
3. Dusko Topic (RS/BiH)
4. Milenko Zupanic (Croatia)
5. Arjol Lila (Albania) – already elected as President
6. Blerina Hoxha (Kosovo)
7. Aneliya Pochevenska (Bulgaria)

The secretariat role will continue to be supported by CNVP and Mr. Peter Kampan suggested that the management board and the secretariat together deal with all further required documents and regulative according REFORM statute and respective laws of the registering country (Macedonia). In this line it was agreed that the board members are part of the working group that will further work online to adjust REFORM statute and designing of an internal functioning regulation. The drafts will be prepared before the next Assembly meeting in October 2015.

The president of REFORM thanked all REFORM members for their participation and contribution, CNVP staff and NAPFO Kosovo representatives for the hospitality and organization. With this REFORM Assembly meeting was closed and minutes will be shared by end of July 2015.

5. Joint Statement

After the closure of the formal Assembly meeting of REFORM the regional workshop continued with sharing the last developments in Forestry, Rural Development and Service provision of each REFORM member. Representative from the Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners Associations, Miljenko Zupanic, presented REFORM with a power point presentation in the Assembly of CEPF. This presentation provoked big interest among CEPF board members. Becoming member of CEPF has a very high cost however Mr. Miljenko advised to start discussing the options of becoming CEPF member and in the meantime a common or shared
interest may be found from both sides. Since the membership procedures are time consuming
his advice was to start the discussions as soon as possible.

Each association made a presentation on situation of the forestry sector in their respective
countries. After the presentations a discussion followed where all REFORDB members agreed
upon the main mutual problematic topics. Based on the mutual problems that associations are
faced it was decided to prepare a joint statement that will be shared with all respective
governments of the Balkan region.

It was agreed that the statement focus will be on the need to support family forest for
sustainable management and social economic development and securing environmental
services and the issues to be addressed were:

• Inclusion of forestry activities in Rural development measures;
• Enabling environment with proper legislation;
• Proper inclusion of family forest in protected areas;
• Land and user rights:
  – Disputed land
  – Involvement of local communities in state land.

The Joint statement is attached in Annex 5.

REFORD meeting ANNEXES:


- **Workshop on Sustainable Forest Management Standards and Forest Certification, 12 June 2015 in Prishtina, Kosovo.** CNVP organized through REFORDB a workshop on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) standards and Forest Certification. From REFORDB their member organizations the National Associations of Private Forest Owners from Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro and the National Association of Communal Forests and Pastures of Albania as well as representatives from Kosovo forest institutes (KFA and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development) participated.

- **Representation of REFORDB at CEPF meeting, ……, Croatia, date ……** The aim of this representation was for building partnerships, lobbying and better positioning of REFORDB at international level.

- **Meeting with REFORDB Presidency and Secretariat with CNVP, 15 June 2015, Struga, Macedonia.** The objective of the meeting was to improve understanding of FLED and SSPDF project management, regional activities coming from these two projects, REFORDB’s role in implementation of the regional activities and CNVP role in overall management of the above mentioned projects and activities.
- **Linking the voices of family forestry in Balkans**, meeting held in Tirana, Albania, **October 28, 2014**: All members participated actively addressing the main challenges of their respective countries. The meeting concluded with a Letter of Support for the NAPFO of Macedonia and a Position Paper addressed to decision and policy makers of seven Balkan countries.

- **The 4th General Assembly of REFord, 30th September – 03rd October 2013**, Kolašin, Montenegro: Two new members were welcomed (Croatia and Republic of Srpska – Bhi); the New President and Management board were elected.

- **REFORD members participated at The FAO Technical Workshop: From 29 to 31 of October 2013**, REFord members participated at the Technical workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the context of National Food Security. The workshop was held in Sofia, Bulgaria and it was part of FAO’s strategy to raise awareness on the Guidelines and discus their use and implementation in European regions. The REFord representatives had the opportunity to promote REFord as an existing network in the Balkan region.

- **Celebrating the European Forest Week, Forest Fest 2013 –under the slogan “Every tree has its own family”, Berovo, Macedonia on 07-08 of December**. To promote family forestry highlighting the contribution of forests, forest products and services to a green economy. This activity was supported by CNVP in partnership the National Association of Private Forest Owners in Macedonia (NAPFO), Municipality of Berovo. REFord member organizations from Bulgaria, Kosovo and Albania participated on the Festival and shared good experiences on the multiple services forests contribute to our daily lives.

- **Celebrating Terra Madre Day and European Forest Week, 13-14 of December 2013**. This activity took place in Shkoder, Albania, supported by CNVP (Connecting Natural Values & People) Foundation and REFord (Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development). Participated members of REFord network from Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, Kosovo and Monte Negro. In the framework of this event, was held a workshop where except the other participants joined representatives of local government units, local producer’s organizations, educational institutions, etc. REFord made a presentation on forestry situation in the region, forests in rural development, REFord network and activities and challenges in the future. A discussion was organized, where representatives from REFord, women's producer groups, LGUs, chestnut and medicinal plants collectors were invited.

- **Application for projects**
  - January 2014, IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Kosovo-Macedonia
  - March 2014, REFord to be engaged with CEPF (as an associated member)
  - The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP), Tailor-Made Training Programme
April 2014, call for Regional and Global Grants from Forest and Farm Facility (establishment of the working group)
Letter of support, to collaborate with the project “FORESEE”.
- **Workshop on best practices for forest owners associations.** The workshop took place in Skopje, Macedonia from 17-19 September 2014. It was organized by CNVP Foundation in cooperation with US Forest Service. Members of the REFORD network from Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania, where part of the workshop and were actively involved.

**Importance of activities related to sectorial needs**

Initiatives undertaken by the respective governments and various donors in the region for development of forests and pastures are highly appreciated by REFORD. Nevertheless, despite the progress and development, as result of discussions between REFORD members, so far the long tradition of a strong forest administration and state forest enterprises dominates in most of the Balkan countries. The main challenges remain poverty in rural areas and constraints for the traditional use of coppice forests, which have led to illegal cuttings and forest degradation. Interests of forest owners/users are entirely on the hands of state forest administration. This situation is not in compliance with the democratic systems.

Effectively, more than twelve representatives of the forestry sector from seven countries are actively involved in discussions, generating more opinions and thoughts, which are presented at the National Conference from each state, at the Assembly of REFORD and later at decision-making institutions to aid establishment of a more efficient, competitive and sustainable sector. This analysis will lead the sector toward making more effective the use of its natural resources. All national and regional actors of the forestry sector will join their forces to define a vision for the future of forests with clear strategic objectives. As well, they take over the tasks defined in a Strategic Action Agenda and its implementing in continuity.

**Policy Framework**

Governments in all states of the region have made a series of changes in bylaws and regulations which comprise the political and legal structure of forestry. These changes should continue, as the government and the society gain experience and identify the needs for adjustment of policies.

**Goals of the Forestry Sector**

Orientations of Governments, along with the positive experiences in forests and pastures and different materials drafted by working groups at regional and local levels are a basis for definition of the forest sector’s goals, improvement of respective policies and legal provisions. Meanwhile, should be taken into account the external influences on the sector, such as: economic, political, demographical and social developments, which influence in formulation of forest national policies and institutional adjustments, on private and communal forest management.
Creation of an adequate institutional framework is necessary for development of forests and pastures in the future. Moreover, it is needed an adequate institutional system with competences and the authority for conduction of charged activities.

Importance of activities and the need for changes

In the road toward membership in EU it is required that the policy, legal and institutional reforms to be approached to the European standards for preservation and sustainable governing of forests. Analysis conducted on the state of forests and recommendations emerged are serving to incite policy-makers and decision-makers for drafting policies and taking decisions in line with the EU legislation and in benefit of improvement of the state of forests, but even local communities, mainly of the rural areas, which are more depending on forest and pasture resources. This because restoration of the rights of local people on forests is essential, likewise the increase of responsibility of the state administration for forest protection, both elements that are treated in detail bringing the best practices of the Balkan and EU countries. All our activities influence and will raise awareness and encourage communities of the rural areas to protect and enhance forests, what will simultaneously provide to them improvement of their livelihood. The impact is obvious even in the civil society, as the activities have taken into account even the communities organized in communal forest and pasture user associations, where the best national and international practices give a very important role to involvement of the community in management of forest resources. This process is in line with their mission, where they can play a catalytic and supportive role in forest preservation and rural development.

Communication of results

Communication of results has taken a particular place in this period, as in this way can be ensured the support and the validity of the proposals made. The results are communicated through REFORD Assembly, where have attended the most important actors of the civil society from seven countries; through social media, website, “Jeto Gjelber” newsletter, “Mjedisi Sot” magazine, and periodic publications in the national print media.

Promotion of results and submission of recommendations to the state actors

The working group designed a detailed plan, where initially promotion of the results was made in the Assembly of REFORD. At the end is agreed a proposal-document with recommendations for the strategic action agenda for improvement of the state of forests in the Balkan. This document is addressed in the form of a memo to all central policy and decision maker institutions via official post to the Presidency, Parliament, Council of Ministers, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal, Ministry of Justice and all other important institutions. This memo also will be delivered to important diplomatic headquarters, such USA and EU Embassies.
Review of challenges in the communal and private forestry

Property issues in the communal and private forests are not solved yet. Reforms for decentralization (transfer of properties and competences, registration at cadaster and forest fragmentation) should be addressed in continuity.

Forestry is necessary to be recognized in the crosscutting strategies in rural development.

Non-governmental and governmental organizations need further support for improving and enhancing capacities and knowledge on forestry, as well as for further measures for education and awareness raising.

Except forest non wood products, the private and communal forests provide even environmental services, which are not recognized by states, even in countries such as Kosovo, Albania, Croatia lots of private properties are declared protected areas and national parks, without consulting and agreeing with the legitimate owners.

Communal and private forestry need further improvement of the respective legislation and regulations. Conflictive and incomplete legislation is hampering the sustainable management. Currently complete reforms are required:

- Less bureaucratic procedures to facilitate owners and users;
- Further decentralization of properties and competences;
- Legislative and policy reforms should go on with a broad participation of the interest groups.
Annex 4: Presidency decision

On its General Assembly meeting on 3rd July 2015 in Peja, Kosovo REFORD discussed and reviewed the procedure for election of the President.

In accordance with the Statutes, article 23, 24 and 28 regarding the election of the President, the following is decided:

In case of President Resignation, based on article 23 the assembly has all the rights in the organization. The country holding the presidency has the right to propose a person replacing the president. Following article 24, the Assembly has all rights to re-elect a new President in case of a resignation.

The new President will be elected through majority voting by the General Assembly.

Herewith as decided by the General Assembly, held in Peja, Kosovo, on 4th July 2015,

The President of REFORD

_______________________________
Name, date
Annex 5: REFORD joint statement

Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development
“Veljko Vlahovik”22/2-1,
1000 Skopje, R. Macedonia
E-mail: contact@refordcentre.org
Website: http://refordcentre.org

Peja, Kosovo, July 5, 2015

STATEMENT

Local communities, drivers of forest management in the Balkan

REFORD (Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development) is a networking organization of private and communal forest owner and user associations from seven Balkan countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Srpska Republic-BiH.

REFORD highly appreciates the initiatives taken by the respective governments of the region and the various donors in developing forests, pastures and protected areas.

REFORD and its members at the meeting held in Peja, Kosovo on 3rd to 5th July 2015 reviewed the developments in forestry in relation to rural people, especially family forests. It shows that the family forest has yet remained an issue of concern. Forest degradation from illegal cuttings in the Western Balkan countries has deep roots in history. As long as the basic forest owner and user rights are not provided fully to the people, to sustainable manage their forest and fulfil the basic needs for firewood for heating as minimum to avoid the energy poverty in rural zones, this trend of illegality and degradation will continue. In the long historical battle between local population and forest administration, the final results show that the consequences are in forest mismanagement and degradation and the forest administration failed on the implementation of manifold used slogan on “forest protection”.

Most families living in rural areas in the region are highly depended on forest resources. Legalizing them, with full rights, as owners or users of the forest – which they consider as their family’s forest – provides them the opportunity to fulfil their needs for heating and cooking. It also gives the opportunity to increase their family incomes and guarantees the long term sustainability of forest development. Property rights issues in private and communal forestry, which are not solved yet, and lacking of funding support for forest owners and users associations for realizing public awareness raising activities, impact negatively in forest preservation, development and sustainable management.

In order to guarantee a long term solution related to family forestry (private and communal forestry), we, the Private and Communal Forest Organizations of the Balkan united in the Regional Network, called REFORD do recommend:

- Acceleration of the reforms related to land tenure, property and user rights in communal and private forests. Solving land disputes and property registration, further decentralisation of
competences including support joint forest management with inclusion of local communities especially in degraded land and based on traditional rights;

- Full inclusion of forestry measures and activities within Rural Development programmes and policies in support of family forestry;
- Acknowledgment of and inclusion in policies and regulations of environmental services provided by private and communal forests (family forest) and application of payments for ecosystem services;
- A further enabling environment for family forest in forest and related legislations leading amongst other to less bureaucratic procedures to facilitate forest owners and users sustainable forest management and economic utilization;
- Proper inclusion of family forest (private and communal forests) in protected areas. Ensuring the right and obligations to the rural families and compensation for deprived forest utilization rights in protected areas;
- Support for non-governmental organizations of forest owners/users to further increase their capacities in education and awareness towards communities in rural areas, family forest owners and users.

We express our belief that putting the local communities as drivers of forest management is the right way to get the best solutions for forest development, employment and poverty reduction in rural areas of the Balkan region. We hope that our recommendations will become part of your political and development agenda.

Respectfully,

REFORD Organization (Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development) and its members;

National Federation of Communal Forest and Pastures of Albania
National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria
Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners Associations
National Association of Private Forest Owners of Kosovo
National Association of Private Forest Owners of Macedonia
National Association of Private Forest Owners of Montenegro
Association of Private Forest Owners of Srbska Republic
Annex 4: Presentations of Associations on Forestry Reform and Developments

The current situation of the forestry sector in the Balkan Region

ALBANIA:

The new Albanian Government which took place in June 2013 is now implementing the Administrative-Territorial Reform by organizing local government into 61 municipalities out of 374. The new territorial organization aims to empower the new municipalities by enhancing their capability to provide high quality and timely services to citizens and increasing the efficiency of local governments’ resource management.

The Administrative-Territorial Reform effects directly the management of forests and pastures in Albania. Due to this reform all forests and pastures (except of national parks) will be transferred to the local government. This big change needs to be integrated in the draft law on forests and pastures which has been discussed and consultations have been made since 2013. NFCFPA has been part of the consultation process and submitted concrete written comments in terms of recognition of user ship and ownership rights to local communities.

Recently on 8 of June NFCFPA sent to all state institutions a memo on the forestry reform and Forest and Pasture Law in the Republic of Albania.

On 9 of July 2015 a public hearing on the draft law was organized by the Ministry of Environment with all the relevant stakeholders where NFCFPA had the opportunity to express its view. Despite this reform, referring to the current laws of forests and decentralization, rights and responsibilities of the stakeholders (LGs, state authorities, forests and pastures users associations, local communities) are still unclear.

Currently the reform is being implemented without the new law for LGs and without the approval of the new Forests and Pastures Law.

After the new LGUs (61 Municipalities) will start operating there will be just the government decision the forest and nothing else, dated from 2008.

This legal and institutional gap, can "contribute" to damage the fragile forest, which is improving in recent years. The forest boundaries among villages, communes and districts are not yet known. Currently the map is a paper that divides 61 new municipalities, when in fact it should be accompanied by clear physical separation of the territory which can allow better planning and bring obvious benefits for Albanian citizens across the country.

Significant changes occurred also during 2014, with the release of two decisions of the Council of Ministers, one for the establishment of the State Forest Inspectorate no. 46, on 29.01.2014 and the other for the establishment the National Agency of Environment, Forestry and Water no. 47, on 29.01.2014. These decisions had an impact on increasing responsibility for the protection of forests and protected areas. The two Agencies began to function as independent from the management structures within the Ministry of Environment.

In the framework of ongoing reforms taken by Albanian Government concrete changes need to be done in forest legislation in Albania and the government must take the next steps in support of people who care about their forests.
Challenges which should be addressed in Albania remain:
- Recognition of ownership and use ship rights on forests and the right to sell wood and non-wood forest products;
- Recognition of forestry contribution in rural development;
- Recognition and assessment of environmental services provided by forests.

BULGARIA

Forests structure and timber production:
In Bulgaria there are 968,893 forest estates, of which 292,134 are state owned, 63,062 municipal owned, 606,809 private owned, 4,556 owned by public organizations, 618 owned by religious organizations.

With an area up to 2 ha there are 496,344 forest estates and over 50 ha there are 472,549 forest estates. The total annual usage from all forests reaches 6820000 million cubic meters (14.1 million cubic meters and 48% of the annual growth) and the annual usage from non-state forests reaches 1.95 million cubic meters. The total timber reserve in Bulgaria is around 590.8 million cubic meters, including non-state forests with 119.8 million cubic meters.

As to afforestation situation in Bulgaria in 2013 in municipal forests there is an augmentation of 307.3 ha, and in non-state forests 436 ha were afforested.
237 (out of 266) municipalities are forest owners: Up to 500 ha – 142 municipalities; from 500 ha to 1500 ha – 29 municipalities and over 1,500 ha – 66 municipalities.

Forestry practice and registered foresters:
In Bulgaria there are registered 7,700 foresters and 2,715 traders.

Trends in private forests:
Non-state forestry has the potential to contribute significantly to sustainable development. The dialogue between state administration and private forest owners is a guarantee for the realization of economic, social and environmental potential of non-state forestry.

Associations of private forest owners are important partners to achieve the objectives of national forest policies.

Guidelines for the development of non-state forestry:
Management using modern forestry approaches and comprehensive management of natural resources;
Active and regular participation of forest owners in the processes of decision-making;
Limiting the restrictions of the rights of use for the private forest owners, as far as possible;
Compensation for economic losses caused by legal restrictions of the property use rights.

Functions and role of non-state forest administration.

Recent changes:
Transfer of the bulk of the duties and responsibilities to private practice foresters and owners of private forests;
Limiting the restrictions on forest use;
Creation of specialized structures in place;
There is project readiness to supplement and improve the legal framework.
CROATIA

The Croatian Union of Private Forest Owners Associations was established in 2008 as a national organization for the local private forest owners and land users’ associations. Today CUPFOA has 36 member organisations, which makes it an umbrella organization of private forest owners associations in Croatia. The fundamental goal of the CUPFOA is to improve the quality and economic value of forest products as well as to improve the management of private forests in Croatia through the use of planned mergers and different activities of private forest owners associations, and also through the participation in the implementation of projects in the field of forestry. The union pursues the mutual interests of and increases the cooperation among its member organizations and among forest owners.

The CUPFOA was in last two years involved in preparation of several legal documents which are very important for private forest owners in Croatia: Changes of Forest Law, Rural development program, National Forest Strategy, Law for biomass production. The main goals which were obtained with changes of forest law are: changes in green tax found – PFO participate in Committees and have better control of it; reestablishment of Forest advisory service (it is now part of one common Advisory service in Croatia) and especially one of the biggest achievements is that private companies can also be licensed for tree marking and issuing of wood delivery documents so private forest owners can decide who will do this in their forest. National forest strategy process is just in initial phase and it is expected a lot from it. The law for biomass production is at the coordination phase with other ministries and stakeholders and if will not be any major changes the biomass production will be possible also on abandoned agricultural land. The biggest achievement of CUPFOA participation was in preparation of rural development program. There are some measures (forest roads, conversion of degraded forest) which are really important for PFO and give them opportunities to prepare and implement a lot of projects.

In June 2015 CUPFOA had the opportunity to organize the CEPF General Assembly meeting and during this meeting activities and achievements of REFORM was presented to all participants. CUPFOA also actively participate in COST Action FP1201: FACESMAP (Forest Land Ownership Change in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy) which also has meeting in Croatia.

MACEDONIA

Following the needs and the interests of the private forest owners (PFO) in Macedonia as well as for the implementation of the program objectives, The National Association of Private Forest Owners (NAPFO) has opened a broad debate on the current situation in forestry and the implications they have on PFO.

One of the most popular topics that had been raised was the relationship of the institutions (Ministry, Land, PE Macedonian Forests, etc.) and SPSH, the current legal framework and the necessity of amendments and changes to the existing legal framework, even adopting a new law on forests. Attention was also paid to the part where PFO allocate funds in the reproduction but do not participate in the use of funds from the same program although it is regulated by law.

There were offered possibilities by the rural development program and it was noted that this should be the pillar of development of rural areas in Macedonia.

Issues of concern in Macedonia:
- Low participation in decision making;
- Lack of database on property, quality and type of forests;
- Lack of political will for reforms/unattractive sector;
- Big issue for illegal logging and timber trade activities;
- No “free will” in forestry planning;
- Lack of state financial/logistical/protective support for Private Forest Associations;
- Low awareness for the PFOs on the values of forests;
- Lack of support for the PFOs from rural development schemes.

**MONTENEGRO**

Although private forests are not in good condition and have a small potential for quantitative and qualitative wood production and income, but significant one for NWFP, they are very important for rural and, particularly, the forest households’ economies in Northern Montenegro. Improvement of private forests, as a basic precondition for more prosperous forestry, could only be expected, under better introduction of sustainable forest use practices. These would be hardly possible without wide state support from corresponding forestry technical, education and advisory services to the financing and co-financing of priority forest and forestry measures.

National documents and acts adopted which related to private forestry and rural development in MNE are as following:
Forest policy (2008); Forest law (2010); Forestry Strategy (2013); Agricultural and rural development law (2009); IPARD 2014 – 2020 Programme for Montenegro, Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014 – 2020; Annual work programs of the MAFRD.

Through all the above mentioned documents that were adopted, defined numerous of important measures to support the private forestry, such as: professionally-technical assistance, forestry extension, forest subsidies, improvement of training skills; encourage reforestation and conversion of coppices forest which are dominant in private forests, prevention and restoration of damaged forests, improving resilience and environmental value of forests, improvement of management of private forests and the system of marking of trees, support to construction of forest roads for raising openness of forests to enable sustainable forest utilisation, strengthening the role and participation of PFO in joint RD programmes, diversification of economic activities in rural areas through promotion of forests and forestry, support to sustainable processing and use of NWFPs.

Based on the above mentioned measures as defined in mentioned documents (the highest number in the Forestry Strategy), we could conclude that/will be the situation in private forestry in Montenegro is perfect. But the main problem encountered for years is poor implementation of adopted documents. The most common reasons for this are lack of financial resources, and also the lack of professionals for implementation of certain activities, although it is often the case and the lack of will and fear of certain institutions of the changes, or do not want to promotion of the private sector. One of the reasons why the implementation of the strategy had not started was because detailed plan for implementation has not been developed yet, and that financial implementation of the forestry strategy is mostly expected to use the IPARD funds, for which the financial quotas available for forestry are not yet known, the strategy and plan needs certain adaptations and harmonization with the mentioned documents.

In terms of current forest law implementation, the main obligation and challenge for both, the Forest Administration and the PFO, would be to implement following: elaboration of management plans for private forests, introduction of licences for marking of trees for felling, starting with transfer of responsibilities for issuing the proofs to PFO, starting with the forestry extension activities within the FA and non the last, assuring the state budget funds for co-financing private forest measures.

Opportunities for development and support to private forestry, arising from the forestry strategy, forest law and IPARD programme are – as already presented – various. A precondition for the PFO is a good
advisory support and self-organisation. NAPFO must, among other things, have developed capacities towards lobbying for the implementation of certain activities in these documents, concerning directly PFO interest.

Key problems of private forestry from the eyes of PFO, which were the basis for associating of PFO in Montenegro were related to the following issues: (1) restitution of forests, (2) unresolved problems of delineation of state and private forests; (3) high restrictions and administrative barriers in terms of utilization of private forests, (4) lack of any data and management plans for private forests, (5) too low allowable cut in private forests, (6) inappropriate treatment of private forest ownership within national parks, (7) lack of modern forestry extension service, (8) poor social condition of PFO, (9) lack of financial support to private forests and (10) lack of permanent dialogue and confidence between PFO and the FA. As a result of involvement of the PFOA in the development of the forest policy and forest law a few of these problems has been positively resolved.

KOSOVO

The total area of forests and forest land in Kosovo according to the last forest inventory reaches around 464,800 hectares or 42.7 % of the total area of the territory of Kosovo. The public forest area is 278,880 hectares or 60% and private 185,920 hectares or 40%. Contribution of the forest resources in GDP is around 1.8% with an increasing possibility up to 6 – 8% in case of sustainable management of these resources. The official data show that over 1 million cubic meters of wood is cut illegally each year or in monetary value is equal to € 50 million, whereas as legal cutting is registered around 200 thousand cubic meters.

Role of National Association of Private Forest Owners for development of private forestry in Kosovo:

NAPFO Kosovo is established in November 2005. From 2009 with the support of Sida -SNV/CNVP project “Strengthening of private and decentralized forestry in Kosovo” there are 18 local association at the municipality level under NAPFO umbrella. The process of participation and membership included a considerable number of private forest owners. The number registered is almost 4000 members. Through the years NAPFO Kosovo has reached several achievements dealing with: capacity building in advocacy, lobbying, and practices of SFM from the region and other countries, training of trainers, methods for self-assessment of organizations.

An important activity has been lobbying on interest of private forest owners at the level of ministry to Assembly related to barriers for management of their forest. Issues of concern which are addressed have been the main requirements of PFOs for changes in the Law of Forestry; simplifying legal procedures of cutting and support for management plans and including private forest owners in the subsidy schemes.

Due to persistent work and the right determination of the potential solutions NAPFO already has become an important actor of the forestry sector in Kosovo and now is member of the Board for Forest Management at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, member of the working group for the new forest law, also is an accepted partner at the level of municipality through its APFOs with Kosovo Forest Agency (KFA) and Municipalities.

A milestone for Kosovo is application of Joint Forest Management, which actually has been envisaged in the Forest Strategy 2010 – 2020. Concrete steps are already taken in three regions of Kosovo: Istog, Gjakova, Novoerve. Three APFOs in cooperation with KFA and respective municipalities have signed
agreements on JFM (sharing the products, responsibilities, control and decision making authority over forest lands between KFA and local users groups). It involves a contracted responsibility and benefits between families in need for wood material in villages or other contributions on forest rehabilitation or sylvicultural works.

The actual approach of the policy makers in the Forestry sector resulted in not-logical share between legal and illegal wood production leading in forest degradation and social conflicts. In the last 15 years MAFRD and KFA did a lot of efforts to fill the gap between the annual planned forest harvesting and rural people needs for firewood. Actually Kosovo forests are very young dominated by small diameters. Private companies are not interested to tender for small diameter trees. UA no 14/2011 foresees to fulfill the rural family needs on firewood up to 7 cubic meters per family. The planned supply did not change after 2011, and the trend of legal production was decreasing. Kosovo forest strategy calls for joint forest management especially in the areas with high needs on firewood.

Several results are expected from the JFM:
Increased sustainable forest management area; Traditional user rights back to the rural families; Improved relationships between KFA and local communities; Participation of entire families in public forest management men and women; Degraded forest rehabilitate, and annual increment increased; Increased legal production of firewood; Increased employment; Potential returns from JFM are large and available to the entire community; JFMPs reduce greatly the regeneration costs of degraded lands.
Another positive development is integration of private forestry in rural development also other developments are establishment of producer groups for non-wood forest products, identification and experimenting on degraded coppice forest for biomass production, processing of forest debris for wood biomass – employment opportunities.
Annex 5: Presentations on Service provision

SERVICE PROVISION BY ASSOCIATIONS
See publication CNVP Service provision, 2014
SSPDF/RECORD workshop Peja, Kosovo, July 2015

The Role of the Associations

What is the role of the Associations?

- Capacity building services:
  - Information provision
  - Awareness raising
  - Training & extension

- Networking, relations, and brokering

- Lobbying & Advocacy

- Economic services e.g.:
  - Support to project/subsidy applications
  - Joint buying and joint selling
  - Forest management services (planning, marking, legal documents)
  - Joint forest management and exploitation

- Relationship and representation of members
The Role of the Federations

Two main functions?

- Representation
- Service provision

The Role of the Federations

Why do we need to provide services?

1. Through provision of services we implement our role
2. It gives credibility and justification to our members (family forest owners and local associations)
3. It strengthens our representation role and authority to others (government, ministry, institutions)
4. It provides financial sustainability
Which services?

Two main groups of services:

Capacity building services

Economic or technical services

As well provided by associations in EU

Capacity building services

Capacity building services include:

1. Information provision: leaflets, newsletters, website
2. Awareness
3. Training
Economic & Technical services

Economic & Technical services include:

1. Support on subsidy/project application
2. Forest management services (planning, legal documents, certification)
3. Joint buying or selling
4. Joint forest management, exploitation

Joint buying or selling include:
Economic & Technical services

Joint forest management:

Farmer + association  = sellers = forest managers

Buyer

Questions?

Thank you for your attention

Peter Kampen
Forestry MSc
Executive Director CNVP
Annex 6: Service provision outcome

Inputs:

How is service provision: 1. what is positive?
- We provide technical services, training, mapping, and planning
- We provide economic services, market information,
- There is respect and loyalty of the members
- We provide training (e.g. on cultivation of NTFP)
- Diversification of farms, sustainable use of natural resources
- We have good experiences that we can use for providing services (e.g. biomass for heating)
- To prepare members and organise the process for submission of applications (from RD and Forestry finds)
- To inform members about subsidy possibilities

How service provision is: 2. what is challenging?
- Ownership not always solved or not in private ownership
- Lack of financial capacity to pay for services
- Lack of capacities of associations (experts, finances)
- We do not have sufficient materials (such as seedlings)
- Not sufficient awareness of people for the need, use of services
- Improving policy regulations that are obstacle for implementation
- To generate income from brokering services e.g. preparation and submission of applications
Annex 7: Potential Service provision elaborated

Service provision Bulgaria group
1) Training services for private forest owners of small parcels about advantages of uniting & cooperating for better and easier management & usage of their forests
2) Consulting & preparation applications & business plans for finalizing projects
3) Certification of non-state forests
   - NAPFO paying brokering role
   - A company that has a licence to do that & will issue certificate, a member of this company is a member of NAPFO
   - The cooperatives and other organizations with no equipment, when this becomes obligatory for private forests

Services Montenegro
1) Joint selling of products
2) Technical and extension services
3) Services for issuing requested documents for marking of trees applying for incentives
   - issuing documents for marking of trees
   - To do instead of PFO
   - Current member president form each municipality
   - 2 euros
   - PFO
   - Some negotiation with FA

Services Kosovo
1) Prepare projects for subventions –not forest products
2) Training on use of chain saw
3) Prepared simplified management plans
   - Prepared plan for 5-10 years
   - To offer in consultation with the owner for objectives
   - It will be offered by experts training of NAPFO
   - Will be offered ToT for the trainers of Management Plans
   - Costs are 300.00 Euro
   - The forest owner will pay the costs
   - It is needed logistic mean (GPS, other)

Services Macedonia
1) Support in preparation of application to use fund on reproduction from Ministry
2) Baying wood residues to produce biomass & selling
3) Support in preparation of applications
   - To use funds from RD programme state
   - Training members
   - Members of the association
   - 5 euro per application costs owner pay: NAAPFO income 2 euro, organized preparation, income
   - Owner pays
   - Wait for public calls, training members, find interested owners
Services Croatia

1) A common use of forestry mechanism
   - buying the machinery
   - Cost cover partially by EFARD/Members
2) Establishment web market of wood producers for PFO
3) software, cooperation with advisory service,
4) problem with prices
5) on our website

Costs
- web hosting
- software
- APP for smart
- Users pay for advertising (organizational cost for access
- Webb hosting = 20 Euro
- Software = 2000 Euro
- Cooperation with neighbours

Education for using of EFARDS = RD
- Expert presentation = preparation, organizing, presenting
- Organizing call for consultancy /services
- Costs EFARD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Type of service</th>
<th>Importance of the service</th>
<th>Demand for the service</th>
<th>Possibility to provide the service by the association</th>
<th>Option to have cost covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Signing contracts for forest use between LGU – user</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>The professional capacities and means for providing this service</td>
<td>Options exist, including the beneficiary of the service and the potential donors (Sida, WB, ILC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Writing project proposals for the ESP competitive grants for CFPUAs</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Association has all the possibilities for providing this service</td>
<td>Beneficiaries only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Preparing forest management plans</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Beneficiaries (Municipality, village, family) and donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the service?</td>
<td>How it is provided?</td>
<td>Who provides it?</td>
<td>What are the costs for providing it?</td>
<td>Who pays the costs?</td>
<td>What is needed to be able to start the service</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of maps and the respective set of documents</td>
<td>- Establishment of the village commission for defining the boundaries;</td>
<td>Experts of the organization</td>
<td>180 €</td>
<td>Beneficiaries, donors.</td>
<td>Concrete requests by the beneficiaries of the service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Measurement via GPS of geographical coordinates of forest parcels;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Elaboration of the field data and preparation of maps via GIS;</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Preparation of the set of documents (request, declaration, parcel description, preparation of the contract; contour of polygon casted on orthophoto…)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working together to grow a canopy of trees providing home, shelter, food, a livelihood as well as a place to wander

CNVP, a The Netherlands based foundation, is a legacy organisation of SNV in the Balkans. Established through a legal demerger, CNVP will continue the SNV forestry and rural development programme in the Balkans and beyond.

CNVP envisions:

- Local communities achieving their own development goals;
- Maximising the production and service potential of forests through Sustainable Forest Management and locally controlled Natural Resource Management;
- Forests contributing to equitable local economic development supporting rural livelihoods;
- Forests contributing to wider societal interests and values including biodiversity conservation and wellbeing;
- Connecting natural values and people!

Connecting Natural Values & People

Dr Kuyperstraat 5, 2514 BA

The Hague, The Netherlands