

*“Identification of opportunities and bottlenecks for forest certification at Balkan countries”*

REFORD signed agreement with Food and agriculture Organization of the United Nation -FAO, where is agreed that FAO will support financially REFORD in providing services and support in *“Identification of opportunities and bottlenecks for forest certification at Balkan countries”*. With this agreement FAO and REFORD intends to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable forest management (SFM) by implementing sub-regional study and workshop on SFM standards for private forest stallholders.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a concept accepted worldwide as a way of securing future forest resources from extinction, providing raw material, home for wild species, firewood and food for rural people, securing water and soil resources and fulfilling their multiply roles in the life of present and future generations. All of this gives importance to manage forest in line with SFM standards on the Balkans

The main objective of the Agreement is to implement a sub-regional survey and compile a study on *“Identification of opportunities and bottlenecks for forest certification at Balkan countries”* and sub-regional workshop organized in Tirana, Albania, in order to provide a broader view on the aspects of forest certification in the countries of REFORD’s presence (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska), Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro), and to identify ongoing developments and bottlenecks for forest certification.