



REFORD – Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development

Report

REFORD – assistance to associations of private and communal forests of Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania

2011 Activities: cross border cooperation and UN Year of Forest

Skopje, 20 December 2011

Introduction and background

SNV - Netherlands development organization working in the Balkan in five countries (Albania, Bosnia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia) and has been involved since 1999 in Communal Forestry in Albania. In 2005 SNV started its programme in Macedonia including forestry and in 2009 as well started a programme in Kosovo with a focus on private and decentralised forestry development. The main actors SNV is working with are the respected private and communal forestry associations from Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania.

In the end of 2010 after many years of cooperation between the private and communal forest organizations in the Balkans REFORD (Regional Centre for Forestry & Rural Development) was established as umbrella between those organizations from Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania.

During 2011 SNV started cooperation with REFORD – Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development as a networking organization between the associations in the region and was engaged in different projects. REFORD was as well engaged as Local Capacity Builder to set up the internal organizational structure, improve the provided services and coordinate regional activities related to private and communal forestry development.

Main aim of REFORD was bringing bringing the collaboration between the Balkan PFO associations on a higher level creating more opportunities and improving the services they provide to members.

Activity report

The overall objectives of the collaboration between SNV and REFORD in the framework Sida Kosovo & Regional project were: Preparation of internal structure REFORD, Support associations on SFM practices, including UN initiative `International Year of forests 2011` and preparation and facilitate the cross border cooperation between the associations.

All these objectives were followed with specific activities for which REFORD was engaged.

✓ SFM Trainings in Macedonia

In 2011 REFORD delivered 9 trainings to NAPFO Macedonia in 6 municipalities where NAPFO Macedonia has their branches. All 9 trainings were on topic Extended Biological Reproduction. This topic was chosen from the members of the association as most interesting and in the same time topic that was unfamiliar for the private forest owners. The total number of participants was 116 forest owners.

Training schedule

Place	Date	Participants
Pehcevo	14-10-2011	13 forest owners
M.Kamenica	19-10-2011	12 forest owners

Kratovo	21-10-2011	6 forest owners
Delcevo	07-11-2011	15 forest owners
Novo Selo	10-11-2011	15 forest owners
Berovo, v. Budinarci	17-11-2011	20 forest owners
Berovo, v. Mitrasinci	17-11-2011	18 forest owners
Berovo, v. Rusinovo	18-11-2011	9 forest owners
Berovo, v. Vladimirovo	18-11-2011	8 forest owners

All trainings were done indoor and the trainings were divided in two parts. First part of the training was presentation of the possibilities that forest owners have for afforestation and first tinning by using Government subsidies, how they can apply, what services NAPFO Macedonia can offer them and what are their and NAPFO Macedonia obligation if they apply for subsidies through the association.

The second part was questions and discussion with the members from the association. This topic was very interesting for NAPFO Macedonia as a part of their business plan and services that NAPFO Macedonia can offer to their members. Members were also very interested in this topic because of the subsidies for reproduction that they can get from the State and services that NAPFO Macedonia can offer them.

At the end of these 9 trainings around 50% of the participant's members of the association were registered in NAPFO Macedonia office as possible applicants for 2012 for subsidy scheme.



✓ **Organized REFORD technical meetings**

REFORD organized three technical meetings with the technical board in which there were members from the three associations Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania and organizing the General assembly.

The main goals of the technical meeting were preparing the internal structure of the organization and preparing the draft version of the statute for the General assembly.



✓ **Organized REFORD assembly meeting**

General assembly was held on 02 December 2011 in Tirana Albania. REFORD engagement was in organization, preparing and translating all documents for the assembly and sending the invitations to the members and guests.



The main objectives on the GA were:

- Finalising the REFORD structure to allow full organization functioning and election of new Board
- Learning on business service provision by associations towards forest owners and users

On the GA were invited the delegates from the member associations, SNV and guests from National Associations from Bulgaria, Montenegro and Arno Willems forestry consultant from The Nederland's.

Participants

- 2 people, NAPFO Macedonia
- 2 people, SNV Advisors Macedonia
- 2 people, NACFP Albania
- 2 people, SNV Advisors Albania

- 2 people, NAPFO Kosovo
- 2 people, SNV Advisors Kosovo
- 1 person, REFORD
- Arno Willems
- 2 guest Bulgaria NAPFO
- 2 guest Montenegro NAPFO
- 1 SNV Advisor Montenegro

The outcomes of the second General assembly of REFORD were:

- Set up the internal structure of REFORD
- Finalized and approved version of the statutes for REFORD
- Elected new president
- Elected management board
- Elected supervisory board
- Bulgarian Association become fourth official member of REFORD
- Montenegro Association is interested and will check internally before officially applying

✓ **Coordinating small cross border grants**

Engagement of REFORD under SNV – SIDA Kosovo & Regional project was preparing guidelines, application format and coordination of Cross border cooperation between associations.

There were selected three projects from the three member associations on the topics:

1. "Visit the city's crown of the diocese, to see the effects that we have come from ignorance of forest property", held in Diber region-Peskopi, in Albania.

The main objectives of the project were:

- Visit to the crown of the city of the diocese, in an area which has been totally naked, to see the situation change after a few measures and activity made in this area
- To see if these measures and interventions have been necessary
- What are other activities that may intervene
- What has brought the fact that property is not legally recognized

At the end of the visit of the crown of Peskopi there was a presentation and discussion of before and after the interventions done in that area.

After the discussion with all participants of the round table conclusion and recommendations were drawn for further development of the crown of Peskopi.

2. "Ways and methods of lobbying by the Private Forest Owners Associations during the drafting and implementation of legal acts in Forestry", held in Kosovo.

The main objectives of the project were:

- Discussing with all relevant stakeholders in the working groups
- Exchanging experiences with the association of forest user from Kukes

During the project were done two workshops. Both workshops were done in cooperation with Federation of Forest in Kukes where they exchange experiences about lobbying and Management plans for private forest owners. It was presented the methodology and experiences in the lobbying process during the process of new forestry legislation in Albania which can be used as a method of lobbying in drafting the new forestry law in Kosovo.

Also on the second workshop was presented the model of the Management Plan for private forest owners as a new experience and requirement of the private owners. This is another possibility that can be implemented in the new forestry law in Kosovo and can be supported by the Government and donors in the first stage till the establishment of the Forestry Fund of the Republic of Kosovo

3. "Improving the implementation of NAPFO Macedonia business plan through accumulation of experiences from neighbouring Associations", held in Csepelre Bulgaria.

The main objectives of the project were:

- Get familiarized about the process of private forest engineers work in Bulgaria;
- Research practices and experience of renewable energy - forest residue biomass use;
- Promoting REFORD and its goals

After finishing the cross border project NAPFO Macedonia gained great experiences from the Bulgarian colleagues in the field of renewable energy – biomass use. During the presentation colleagues from Bulgaria explained all advantages and disadvantages of using various types of wood biomass. As part of this activity we were shown an object that is heated by wood chips boiler, than various details in wood-waste residue manipulation and storage of wood chips to the boiler and docking facilities.

Also they got more familiarized about the process of private forest engineers work in Bulgaria which they can use as example in Macedonia. After presenting REFORD work in front of the colleagues from NAPFO Bulgaria the Bulgarian Association showed interest to become fourth official member of REFORD.



4. "Sharing all experiences from the cross border and Year of Forest activities", planned by NAFPO Kosovo.

NAPFO Kosovo proposed an additional cross border activity in which all experiences and learning will be shared from the three cross border activities. This was not feasible to be done within 2011 and will be implemented in the beginning of 2012.

✓ **Support events for "International Year of Forests 2011"**

At the beginning of this year UN General Assembly launched the Year 2011 as International Year of Forests. And many different institutions, organizations, local governments, local, national and international NGO's from different countries started marking these "International Year of Forests 2011" with different events around the globe.

SNV Albania-Macedonia-Kosovo in the framework of Sida Kosovo & Regional project in close collaboration with REFORD and the Private and Communal Forest Associations in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo decided to mark this event as a special event in the above countries. In the three countries were held three separate events, but with same goal to combine efforts of the local people and their children in raising the awareness of the important role that forest have for our communities.

The main objectives of these events was to join private forestry owners to promote development and sustainable management of forests, protected and added values of agro forestry, job development at the local level, for the new family generations.

In Kosovo the event was held on November 17th in village Vraniq in Municipality Suhareke. Followed with three exhibitions with photos, drawings and essays on the topic "My Forest" and the awards were given to nine school children, for each of three categories. In the same time were organized round tables with representative of Ministry and Municipality discussed about importance of awareness program for young people that can become future owners of the family forests, importance of understanding the concept of multiple use management of forest resources, and importance of management these resources.



The program included also an open discussion with the children and their teachers where the focus was given to role of forestry, renewable and non-renewable resources, life of a tree, environment etc.



In the celebration event for International Year of Forest 2011, the book kit "My Forest" was presented. The book contains 9 chapters starting from forest resources, dendrology, changes in forestry, life of a tree, forest management, measurements and other related themes that are followed with the practical work and exercise description. At the end the event was followed with the taste of forest and rural products brought from different parts of forest area.

In Macedonia the event was held in the yard of the kindergarten "23 August" in Berovo.

At the event in front of the mayor of the municipality of Berovo, representatives of the local state institutions and guests from the municipality of Goce Delcev from Bulgaria, was officially opened the new children playground called "Wooden Town". In the same time as a part of the official opening day, an art exhibition on the subject "Forests through the eyes of the children" was organized in the local elementary school "Dedo Iljo Malesevski".





After the ceremonial of the opening, guests had the opportunity to taste some homemade traditional meals.



In Albania on 10 November in Diber, Tomin Commune the Year of Forest event was held. Marking of this event included different stakeholders in the region that support forestry as well 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.



Representatives from forestry service highlighted the role in advice, coaching of farmers in providing technical expertise, but as well the role the Local Government Unit should take in proper management of communal forests.



Also children from local school prepared art exhibition in the forest near by (drawings were all hung in the trees in the forest) and also they prepared songs and poems about the forest as a symbolic way to mark this event.

At the end all stakeholders had a chance to enjoy the forest products from the local farm.



✓ **Overall support activities from REFORD to NAPFO Macedonia activities**

During 2011 REFORD was engaged as Local Capacity Builder under SNV – SIDA Macedonia for different activities:

- ✓ **Preparing business model for NAPFO Macedonia**
 Business model was prepared as future guideline for developing the business opportunities for improvement of NAPFO sustainability. For this purpose REFORD was engaged to collect relevant data from the field and combine with the capacity of NAPFO and to deliver a possible projection of income (business model) for NAPFO for 2011. This business model was introduced to NAPFO Macedonia members and executive board and it was adopted as a guideline for developing the business services for 2011.

From unofficial report from NAPFO is presented that from each activity at least 80% - 85% from the projection is realized in 2011. Some of the activities were depending of the current situation on the market.

✓ Engagement on renewable energy and agro forestry initiatives

Engagement of REFORD in agro forestry was to locate possible parcels for planting fast growing species for biomass (Salix alba – express), and monitoring the activities on the field. In municipality of Berovo were located three parcels and one parcel in municipality of Konçe.



The owners were obligated to prepare the soil, plant the cutting and protect the parcel for at least 3 year. Because of that the cuttings were given to them free of charge. All activities on the field were properly done.

After six mounts period was done one monitoring of the parcels and the success rate was from 80 to 85%.



✓ Engagement on Study for possibilities to use wood as renewable energy in Macedonia

Engagement of REFORD in renewable energy initiative was to contact five municipalities in Macedonia (M. Kamenica, Konçe, Caska, Probistip and Debarca) and collect relevant information about renewable energy possibilities through questionnaires with municipalities representatives, private forest owners, NGO`s and wood processing companies.(Annex 1).

All collected data were later used as start up point for developing Study for possibilities to use wood as renewable energy in Municipalities of Probistip, Makedonska Kamenica, Caska, Debarca and Konçe.

✓ Engagement on preparing programs for subsidy application

In 2011 REFORD was also engaged to support NAPFO Macedonia in preparing programs for subsidies for afforestation and first tinning for the member of the association as part of their business plan for 2011. REFORD collected data and prepared programs for 40 private forest owner. All 40 programs were approved from the ministry.



- ✓ Engagement on preparation and regular update of information for the REFORD web site

All this activities from REFORD engagement under SNV – SIDA Kosovo & Regional project were also promoted trough REFORD web page www.refordcentre.org , which was made during this year it was regularly updated.

Annex 1:

Questionnaire for Municipality:

Working place / position in municipality of the interviewed person

Vision of municipality about RE

Municipality of _____

	Facility	way of heating / consumption in m3, t, kWh					capacity of heating system (KW)	heated area (m2)	total area (m2)
		wood (m3)	gas (t)	oil (t)	electricity (kWh)	other			
1	Elementary school	30					20	200	400
2	Municipality building			4			80	1000	1000
3	Ambulance				1560		40	350	400
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									

15									
	Total								

Existing knowledge about renewable energy and biomass, products and utilization of the interviewed person

* This is only an example, the data needed will be filled by the municipality

Number of subscribers _____, total area for heating _____ m², if there is a central heating system

Are you willing to invest approximately 10.000 € or participate in projects concerning installation of new modern and efficient heating systems?

How many percents of your annual budget does the Municipality spend on heating?

What is your opinion about local actors (farmers, land owners, forest owners) as suppliers of RE products (wood chips) or energy (heat) on local market to municipality or other public buildings?

Are you willing to participate in private-public partnership for production and distribution of biomass and energy produced from it?

Questionnaire for wood processors

Company:

Position in the company of interviewed person

Primary or secondary processing of wood mass

Total produced wood (for state forest company)

Total processed wood in m³

Total waste in m³

Way of waste utilization:

- Personal use in %
- Selling in %
- Put aside, thrown in %

If you use waste for heating, specify the capacity of boiler, year of production, quantities used annually in m3.

Existing knowledge about renewable energy and biomass, products and utilization of interviewed person

Are you willing to invest or participate in projects concerning installation of new modern and efficient heating systems?

Questionnaire for PFO

Place of residency

Forest area in possession in ha

Main Tree species in private forest

Residues after harvesting, used or not used?

For which purpose residues are used?

Why residues are not used?

Existing knowledge about renewable energy and biomass, products and utilization of interviewed person

Do you have agricultural or other land near river that is not utilized?

Are you interested in cultivation of fast growing species for biomass production?