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# EVALUATION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN KOSOVO'S PUBLICLY OWNED FORESTS

KOSOVO CLUSTER AND BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECT



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# EVALUATION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT IN KOSOVO'S PUBLICLY OWNED FORESTS

THIS REPORT PROVIDES AN EVALUATION OF FOREST  
MANAGEMENT IN KOSOVO'S PUBLICLY OWNED FORESTS FROM  
THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOREST  
MANAGEMENT STANDARD OF THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL (FSC)

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# PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT

KCBS is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, and specifically to its Kosovo Forests Agency [KFA], in preparing for the sustained yield management of Kosovo's forests and eventually forest and chain-of-custody certifications. KCBS has identified activities that need to be accomplished to pave the way for forest certification. Some of these activities, which will be performed over the next two years, require expert specialist advice from a consultant familiar with the process and experienced in implementing the process, particularly in Eastern European countries.

The purpose of this assignment was to carry out the initial activities foreseen as necessary during the October 2006 to January 2007 time period.

## BACKGROUND

Like most of its neighbors in the Balkans, Kosovo enjoys hardwood forests with merchantable volumes, low stumpage prices and relatively low labor prices for conversion. Its focus has always been on timber as a commodity. However, unless steps are taken to have these forests certified to international standards Kosovo will be unable to participate in European and North American wood product markets.

Kosovo lags behind all of its neighbors, with the exception of Albania and Bosnia, in developing capacity to understand and apply international verification standards and practices. The most significant obstacles to a viable forest products sector in Kosovo is inadequate forest planning and management, which undermines needed investment in conversion technology.

Kosovo's forest management suffers from obsolete and incomplete forest inventories necessary to determine sustained yield; weak forest management planning capacity and multiple use orientation; an inability to identify, set aside and protect high conservation value forests; outdated harvest techniques and technologies; and harvesting practices which unnecessarily threaten groundwater resources. A major concern in Kosovo where irregular power supply is a common feature, and most households are not equipped for oil heating, is inadequate protection from illicit cutting.

A benchmark study was rapidly conducted on two forests during this assignment, which theoretically are typical of operations across Kosovo. The study observed significant nonconformities with current sustainable forest management requirements and identified areas requiring improvement in order to achieve certification. These need to be prioritized for action over the next two years. It is our opinion that certification of the better-managed public forests can be achieved within 2-3 years by developing a four prong approach. The approach involves creating a national certification working group; obtaining buy in and direct support from leading forest enterprises; improving certification incentives; and demonstrating applied success on two, or perhaps three, of the best managed forests. It is important to emphasize that this approach will surely fail without total, committed support from the Kosovo government and leadership from forest industry.

KCBS has already formed a Certification Task Group, which will be charged with fulfilling commitments and taking action prescribed for certification. Members of the Task Group include officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development [MAFRD], representatives of the public and private forest owners, and representatives of the private secondary wood processing industry. KCBS has engaged a full-time local Forest Certification Specialist to plan, direct, coordinate and monitor the activities of the Task Group.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2006, KCBS asked the consultant to evaluate the management of three forest management units in Kosovo (Deqan, Ferizaj and Leposovic), from the perspective of the FSC certification standard, and to prepare a roadmap for certification to be implemented during 2007.

This report presents the findings of the field assignments carried out within the framework of this consultancy work in Croatia (study tour for key individuals in the Kosovo forestry sector in November 2006), and in Kosovo (10-16 December 2006, and 14-20 January 2007).

The findings presented reflect the situation in Kosovo in January 2007, where a number of issues still have to be solved in order to start the certification process. These issues include a clarification of the status of Kosovo, eliminating illegal activities in forestry, and securing funding for the development of forest management plans for the areas foreseen for certification.

Recommendations presented in this report refer to activities that should be implemented by KFA/MAFRD and/or KCBS in order to improve forest management and achieve certification of the proposed forest areas.

Certification in Kosovo will be possible if some political and technical aspects are addressed. Recommendations that refer to political aspects include:

- a) Seek synergies with other donors that are present in Kosovo in order to obtain a public commitment to reducing illegal activities in forestry from the highest level possible (e.g. Prime Minister)
- b) Review engagement in the forestry sector in the absence of a clear commitment and demonstrated implementation of concrete actions at the level of the Kosovo Government
- c) Seek funding for the development of forest management plans for forests managed by KFA (in the first phase for forests eligible for the certification project, in a subsequent phase for all publicly owned forests). Funding should be sought both within the country (as an expression of commitment to the improved management of the forest resources) and also at donor level.

At technical level the following recommendations should be considered in order to achieve forest certification and promote certification in Kosovo within a reasonable time-frame:

- a) Develop and implement an initiative aimed at eradicating or significantly reducing illegal activities through a wide set of measures (improving controls, improving relationships with local population, collaboration with the judiciary, eliminating corruption, etc.)
- b) Elaborate forest management plans for the areas to be certified and also for other areas managed by KFA.
- c) Solve issues relating to the work performed by contractors in the forest (legal conditions of employment for contractors' employees, fulfillment of contractual obligations, transparency in awarding harvesting contracts, training, etc).
- d) Solve other social issues (health and safety, relationship with local communities and customary rights, etc).
- e) Incorporate management principles relating to evaluation of social and environmental impacts into forest management practiced at KFA.
- f) Develop a group certification scheme at KFA in order to allow the inclusion of new forest areas into the certified area later on.

- g) Train and build additional capacity for conducting internal audits (KFA), independent auditing (find one or two experts to train as auditors who would work with the certification body in the country), train one staff person at KCBS to develop a local working group on forest certification and a local forest stewardship standard
- h) Promote certification and chain of custody at the level of the forest-based industry.

# FIELD ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE PURPOSES

## **Field trip to Croatia**

During the week from 20-24 November 2006, 8 forestry officials from Kosovo (Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources, Forest Agency, Private Forest Owners' Association and KCBS) had the opportunity to learn from the experience of the Croatian State Forestry company (Hrvatske Sume), and several private processing companies in forest certification over the last 5 years. See brief trip report in Annex 1.

## **Field assignment in Kosovo (10-16 December 2006)**

Field visits were conducted at the Deqan forest management unit (FMU) and the Ferizaj FMU, both including a review of available management documentation and field visits in the forest. Additionally meetings were organized with an NGO, USAID and also another aid agency (Scanagri/SIDA). (See report on preliminary findings in Annex 3 and separate PowerPoint presentation prepared for USAID/KCBS).

## **Field assignment in Kosovo (14-20 January 2007)**

The field assignment in Kosovo from the 14th to the 20th of January included a field visit to the forest district of Leposovic, a two-day training course on certification, additional work with forest managers from the Ferizaj aimed at identifying concrete actions to be implemented during 2007 in order to upgrade the current management according to the requirements of the certification standard.

The two-day certification training addressed major issues relating to the understanding of the forest certification concept at global level, explained the certification standard requirements for forest management and also for chain of custody. The course was implemented through a combination of presentations/lecture and participatory techniques, such as brainstorming and group work followed by presentation by group representatives and discussions in a workshop setting. The agenda of the training course is presented in a separate file, attached to this report. The responses and analysis of the participants regarding the questions that were raised and discussed are presented in Annex 4. The course managed to address most expectations of the participants as stated at the beginning of the two-day course.

On the 18th and 19th of January, special attention was dedicated to the Ferizaj district. This followed a strategic decision at KCBS to focus on a smaller forest area for which funding could be secured in order to develop a management plan, an area that could achieve certification within a reasonable timeframe. However, this must be seen in the context of the wider forest management practices implemented by the Kosovo Forest Agency, and, based on the recommendations included in this report and the evolution during the coming months, this approach should be reviewed carefully during 2007, as other areas might also be eligible for the first phase of the certification process.

A detailed presentation of actions to be undertaken by the managers at Ferizaj in order to improve forest management is included in Annex 5.

# TASK FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## The “political” level

### *Findings*

Besides USAID/KCBS, there are many other donors in Kosovo interested in improving forest management practices on the ground, in order to fulfill their own aid objectives. During several meetings with KCBS and Scanagri (SIDA), and considering the magnitude and seriousness of the issues to solve (e.g. illegal activities, and forest management plans), it became evident that there is a need for more donor coordination in Kosovo in order to generate synergies, reach “critical mass” and induce change in the forestry sector from the highest level possible in the Kosovo Government. USAID has taken the lead on this issue and has planned meetings to address this during January 2007.

Based on the participation of staff from the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD), and the Head Office of the Kosovo Forestry Agency (KFA) in activities organized within the framework of this consultancy, there are some serious reasons to doubt about these organizations’s commitment to the certification initiative KCBS is promoting.

Additionally, considering the high level of illegal activity in Kosovo’s forestry sector and the way the Ministry is setting budgetary priorities, (MAFRD has requested funding from the central budget for 2007 in order to conduct reforestation activities at a time when all forest management plans have expired) there are several serious reasons for concern about the viability of the certification process in Kosovo. The lack of updated and precise qualitative and quantitative information about the forest resource is a serious obstacle to the eradication (or at least minimization) of illegal activities.

However, Government officials at higher level (MAFRD and KFA Head Office) have repeatedly expressed their commitment to improving forest management in order to initiate the certification process.

Similarly, there seems to be commitment from forest managers at local level in the three regions visited (Deqan, Ferizaj and Leposovic), even if the high level of illegal activity in Deqan, associated with a poor management performance in the field, is casting doubts over the ability of the current management to engage in a certification process. From the perspective of illegal activities in forestry, based on the information provided by local managers, the situation at Ferizaj and Leposovic seems to be better than at Deqan. (However, the accuracy of the information provided by local foresters was not further evaluated through inspection of records, stakeholder consultation or other means, as this would go beyond the scope of the present assignment).

### *Recommendations*

- a) Seek synergies with other donors that are present in Kosovo in order to obtain a public commitment to reducing illegal activities in forestry from the highest level possible (e.g. Prime Minister)
- b) Review engagement in the forestry sector in the absence of a clear commitment and demonstrated implementation of concrete actions at the level of the Kosovo Government
- c) Seek funding for the development of forest management plans for forests managed by KFA (in the first phase for forests eligible for the certification project, in a subsequent phase for all publicly owned forests). Funding should be sought both within the country (as an expression of commitment to improved management of forest resources) and also at donor level.

## **The technical level**

### ***Major gaps in forest management according to FSC standard requirements***

#### ***a) Legal compliance (FSC Principle 1)***

During the field visits at Deqan, Leposovic and Ferizaj, several serious instances of non-compliance with legal requirements were either observed directly (e.g. illegal loggers and inappropriate marking of trees at Deqan) or they became evident as a result of interviews conducted with local KFA staff and other stakeholders. A list of widespread illegal acts that are currently common in Kosovo's forestry sector is presented in Annex 2. According to some estimates, based on official harvesting data, the consumption of forest products in Kosovo, and the trade balance, the volume of illegal harvesting is similar or even larger than the volume harvested legally in Kosovo.

An additional problem relating to legislation at Leposovic is the fact that in this area the Kosovo legislation is not used as a legal basis for forest management. Forest managers at Leposovic are using the Serbian legislation for planning and implementation of forestry activities. This raises the question of the validity of the legal framework in all considered cases, taking into account the fact that even if at Deqan and Ferizaj Kosovo legislation is applied, the status of Kosovo has not been clarified yet. This is both a technical and a political issue that cannot be solved until decisions are taken with regards to the status of the province and the situation of the Serb population.

It is hoped that decisions on Kosovo's status will help clarify this issue, and that all management units considered for certification will act according to one legal framework. However, under the present conditions, certification of forest management does not yet seem to be feasible. If KFA will develop a group certification scheme, as recommended, all members will have to follow the same legal requirements.

#### ***b) Lack of valid management plans (FSC Principle 7)***

In all three visited areas (the situation is similar for all forest areas managed by KFA), forest management plans have expired during the last two to three years, and they have not been updated by the competent authorities (KFA). In addition to a major obstacle to improved forest management, the lack of updated management plans is favoring illegal activities, as the knowledge base about the forest resources is out of date, making a precise accounting of forest product volumes and volumes of residual stands difficult.

The existence of updated forest management plans is a prerequisite for the certification of forest management in Kosovo. The available information is not adequate for management purposes, and cannot ensure long term, sustainable forest management.

#### ***c) Worker's rights (FSC Principle 4)***

Current management practices lack essential elements relating to health and safety; contractors and their workers do not use appropriate protection equipment, contractors are hiring workers without following current regulations, there are no appropriate written mechanisms and procedures for resolving complaints and disputes within the organization, and training offered to workers is not sufficient to ensure a proper performance in the field.

While some training has been offered in the past, the current performance in managing the forests reflects a need of more training. This is particularly important if the management is to be upgraded to respond to the requirements of the certification standard.

#### ***d) Utilization of forest products (FSC Principle 5)***

Forest products are not properly valued, in some cases (Deqan) standing timber is being sold to contractors at excessively low prices without a reasonable justification. Additionally, there is a certain level of illegal hunting and commercial harvesting of berries in all visited areas, which is also illegal.

e) Environmental and social impact (FSC Principles 4 and 6)

Some of the observed forest management practices (e.g. selection of trees for harvesting at Deqan, road building and maintenance in all three visited areas, lack of legal access to firewood for the local population) have a serious environmental and social impact. Very few forest managers are aware of the concept of environmental and social impact evaluation relating to forestry activities, and these concepts are not sufficiently internalized by current forest management in the areas that have been visited.

f) Monitoring (FSC Principle 8)

Forest management is monitoring a series of indicators, but since management plans have not been updated, the results of such monitoring are not used properly. Monitoring needs to be upgraded and its results should flow into management planning.

g) Ownership to the land (FSC Principle 2)

During the December field assignment, the issue of ownership and use rights was raised. While this seems to be clear to KFA and MAFRD, (use rights are currently based on written agreements between the Kosovo Trust Agency and KFA), special attention should be given to how ownership and use rights are regulated in the context of Kosovo receiving official status. Unclear legal ownership titles and/or use rights can be a serious obstacle to certification.

h) High conservation value forests (FSC Principle 9)

High conservation value forests are not an issue per se in the evaluated areas, because KFA is only starting to prepare for certification, but in order to achieve certification, the forest management in Kosovo has to develop the concept, identify potential high conservation values, consult stakeholders and define whether any such values are present in the forest.

**Recommendations:** The recommendations mentioned in this section are resulting from the evaluation of forest management performance at the three evaluated forest management units.

- a) Legal compliance: While legal compliance in forestry in Kosovo is a difficult issue, at operational level, it seems that more could be done to reduce illegal activities. This is the case for all three visited areas, but the situation seems to be extremely critical at Deqan. Some simple measures, such as functional check points on key forest roads, seem not to be sufficiently effective the way they are currently set up. The set up of the checkpoints and the implementation of surveillance activities should be reviewed by KFA at central and at local level.

It is important to highlight in this context the fact that even if only a small area will apply for certification in a first stage, it is essential to reduce illegal logging in all forests that KFA is managing. Due to the FSC partial certification policy, and the fact that KFA would apply for certification and a certificate would be issued to this institution, if widespread illegal activities persist on areas managed by KFA, it will not be possible to have any forest certified to FSC standards.

Another aspect that relates to legal compliance is the relationship with local communities. A social communication plan of the individual forest management units, that is properly implemented, could help minimize illegal activities. To some extent this is being practiced at Ferizaj, but it should become formally included in forest management planning and proper records should show clearly the contacts with the local population and the issues addressed.

Transparency in awarding harvesting contracts is also an issue that needs to be addressed. The current practice of establishing agreements between KFA and

socially owned enterprises covering harvesting activities, without following legal requirements for public procurement should be reviewed, as the current practice seems to indicate that KFA is not implementing properly existing legal requirements.

A further issue is the legal framework for applying penalties relating to illegal activities. The current regulations are not being applied properly; there are different penalties depending on the amount of damage, which results in arbitrary implementation of such penalties. KFA and the Ministry should evaluate whether the current requirements need to be changed in order to minimize illegal activities. KFA should establish a closer relationship with the judiciary sector in order to collaborate on tackling illegal activities. Currently, judges seem to be lenient with illegal loggers, applying the minimum penalty which is ineffective. Additionally, cumulative penalties do not seem to be considered in all cases, and the damages are not being paid back by perpetrators of illegal activities.

- b) Forest management plans: The elaboration of forest management plans is a precondition for certification. In addition to local legislation, forest management plans should be developed following the requirements included in the certification standard (FSC Principle 7).

It is important to highlight the fact that the Leposovic region declared it would have a forest management plan in place within a few months. However, the difficulty here seems to be the legal basis for forestry activities, which in this case is the Serb legislation, and not the Kosovo legislation as in the other areas. Forest managers at Leposovic have stated their intention to follow both legislations in the future (Serb and Kosovo). However, it should be clarified whether this is possible. In case management plans can be developed to comply with both sets of regulations, Leposovic could also be eligible for certification once the legal situation is clarified.

Similarly, the area for which forest management plans are currently being developed in the Deqan region, could also be considered for certification.

- c) Contractors: Considering the current practice of managing and harvesting Kosovo's forests, there are several important issues that need to be solved in relation to how contractors work in the forest, including:
- Contractual relationship to be reformulated in order to comply with standard requirements.
  - Contracts to be awarded according to current legislation, and in a transparent way
  - KFA must develop its capacity to verify compliance by contractors with their contractual requirements and take appropriate action in case contractors do not fulfill their obligations (e.g. it seems to be common practice that the selling price for standing timber is lowered to take account of contractor's road maintenance work, but roads are not being maintained and are in a terrible shape in all visited management units)
  - Contractors must fulfill local legal requirements when hiring workers, this is not happening at this time.
  - Workers of the contractors must be trained to implement standard requirements that relate to their work, (such as health and safety regulations, forest protection, road maintenance, etc.).

The aspects mentioned above relate to different standard Principles, such as 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8.

- d) *Social and environmental impacts:* Social and environmental impacts should be properly evaluated and their evaluation and monitoring should become an integral part of the forest management. New forest management plans should reflect the fact that social and environmental impacts evaluation is an integral part of forest management planning and implementation.
- e) *Other social issues:* Formal complaints and dispute resolution mechanisms must be developed and implemented. This refers both to the relationship with local communities, and to the relationship between KFA as an employer and its employees.

A further issue is the relationship with local communities. While at Ferizaj it seems that this relationship is good, and the local population collaborates with the forest managers, reporting observed illegal acts to the foresters, it is not clear how this relationship is in the case of Decan and Leposavic. KFA should develop a social communication plan, should promote it and formalize the relationship with its stakeholders (communities, NGOs, unions, etc).

According to forest managers at Ferizaj, current legislation does not allow the sale of firewood to the local population, which generates pressure on the forest resources, and more illegal activities. According to some of the interviewed forest managers, about 50-60% of the illegal acts could be avoided if villagers had the right to gather firewood or to buy it at a convenient price. The solution to this problem is either to change the current legislation, giving to the local population the right to harvest firewood, or to use existing loopholes in legislation to achieve this objective.

- f) *Group scheme:* In case certification is sought for more than one forest management unit (as initially proposed), KFA would have to develop a system for the operation of a group scheme, according to current certification requirements for group schemes. This issue was addressed during the course offered by the author of this report in Pristina on the 16th and 17th of January 2007. Unfortunately, the person designated by KFA for this task, Mr. Ergin Hajredini, could not participate in the course.

A group scheme would allow KFA to manage forest districts/management units that wish to adhere to the certification scheme in the future, and manage the FSC certificate as such. In case of group schemes, responsibilities are split between individual group members and the group entity.

- g) *Training and capacity building:* Forest management staff at KFA should be further trained on the implementation of the certification standard, and also on quality management. Some of the individuals met are interested in the certification process, and, based on their current roles and their background, could become key staff in the implementation of certification requirements.

Mr. Bronimir Popovic, from the Leposovic district, Mr. Bekim Topalli, from the Ferizaj district, and Mr. Ergin Hajredini, Chief of the Division of Forest Inventory & Management Planning at KFA, in charge of following up on certification issues at KFA, should be trained as internal auditors in order to improve their understanding of the certification standard, and their ability to conduct self evaluations according to certification requirements. (This training should be a combination of ISO quality

management and FSC requirements. In case this recommendation is to be implemented, more detailed content requirements could be elaborated to meet the specific needs of these individuals and the KFA).

Another aspect that relates to the development of local capacity is the preparation of potential local auditors. FSC-accredited certification bodies work with local forestry experts. If a certification process starts in Kosovo, it would be very important to have at least one auditor prepared for forest management and one for chain of custody (or one person prepared for doing both).

Similarly, Mr. Hysen Shabanaj, from KCBS should be trained on the development of a national working group on forest certification, on the development of national forest stewardship standards and also in auditing to FSC standards (forest management and chain of custody). Developing a national working group on forest certification is an important aspect of certification, as a standard setting process in Kosovo would help aggregate all interests linked to forestry around the issue of standard setting, with positive effects in terms of pressure for good forest management. The Kosovo Government should participate in such a working group, but should not lead or dominate it.

In relation to standards development, KCBS should consider a regional approach, as similar standards setting initiatives are active in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Croatia.

- h) Chain of custody: Even if certification in Kosovo cannot be achieved within a short period of time (not less than one year), it is important to promote the concept of certification at the level of the forest-based industry as well. Since there is demand for certified products that could be produced in Kosovo using local wood supply, for the time until forests will be certified in Kosovo, certified forest products suppliers could try to find certified raw material supply in the wider region (two forests have been recently certified in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Croatian State Forests enterprise Hrvatske Sume is certified in Croatia). It is recommended to start certification on the chain of custody side, in order not to lose potential clients. Certified operations, in order to minimize costs, would put more pressure on the local government in order to ensure that forests in Kosovo achieve certification soon.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY

The roadmap towards certification in Kosovo involves the following issues to initiate the certification process:

- eradicate or, at least, significantly reduce illegal activities
- develop forest management plans for the areas considered for certification, taking into account the certification standard
- ownership/use rights of KFA to be clarified in the context of Kosovo receiving official status (or any other form of autonomy).

Other important technical issues to solve during the process are:

- upgrade management systems according to detailed recommendations in Annex 5
- implement management systems to respond to standard requirements
- review legal requirements and revise if needed
- sort out contractor issue (from a legal, contractual, monitoring and performance perspective, as well as transparency in contract award, train contractors in harvesting according to certification requirements)
- develop the management system for the operation of a group scheme at KFA
- train key staff to become internal auditors
- train a person to take the lead in the development of a national/regional certification initiative and a forest stewardship standard
- formally launch a national working group for certification, and formulate a first draft standard for Kosovo, building upon work done in other countries in the region, such as Croatia and Montenegro; seek synergies with similar working groups; integrate into FSC's European network.

The Table below incorporates a proposed timeframe for the preparation of KFA for forest certification, indicating also the responsible body for each of the activities considered.

**Table 1:**  
Roadmap for certification: tasks for the parties involved

| Nr. | Activity   | Time       | Responsible                                    |
|-----|--|------------|--|
| 1.  | Eradicate/significantly reduce illegal activity  |            |  |
|     | ✚ prepare action plan  | 28.02.2007 | MAFRD/KFA                                      |
|     | ✚ implement action plan/campaign   | 30.06.2007 | MAFRD/KFA                                      |
|     | ✚ monitor progress and report  | 30-09.2007 | MAFRD/KFA                                      |
| 2.  | Forest Management plans and related documentation and implementation   |            |  |
|     | ✚ clarify funding  | 15.02.2007 | MAFRD/KFA/KCBS/USAID<br>Other potential donors |
|     | ✚ prepare new forest management plans  | 30.11.2007 | MAFRD/KFA                                      |
|     | ✚ prepare additional documentation/management system update (see annex 5)  | 30.11.2007 | MAFRD/KFA                                      |
| 3.  | Review legal requirements with regards to access of local population to firewood, or find solution based on current requirements | 30.04.2007 | MAFRD/KFA with support from KCBS if needed     |

|    |   |            |                 |
|----|---|------------|-----------------|
| 4. | Address contractor issues   | 30.11.2007 | MAFRD/KFA       |
| 5. | Develop group scheme at KFA   | 30.11.2007 | MAFRD/KFA       |
| 6. | Training and capacity building  |            | KCBS/ MAFRD/KFA |
|    | 🚧 staff at KFA for internal auditing  | 30.06.2007 | KCBS/ MAFRD/KFA |
|    | 🚧 potential auditors in Kosovo for FM and COC   | 30.11.2007 | KCBS            |
|    | 🚧 one individual (Hysen) for working group and standard development, potentially also as FSC auditor (FM and COC) | 30.06.2007 | KCBS            |
| 7. | Clarify ownership/use rights for KFA according to Kosovo status   | 30.11.2007 | MAFRD/KFA       |
| 8. | National Working Group on forest certification  |            |                 |
|    | 🚧 Launch working group  | 01.04.2007 | KCBS            |
|    | 🚧 Produce first draft standard  | 30.09.2007 | KCBS            |

# ANNEXES

|           |   |
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| Annex I   | Travel Report: Croatia November 2006  |
| Annex II  | Illegal Activities in Kosovo forestry as observed or reported by different parties during the field assignments |
| Annex III | Evaluation of Forest Management Practices at the KFA (Decan and Ferizaj)  |
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# ANNEX I

## **Travel report Croatia 19-24 November 2006**

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27 November 2006

The study trip of 8 individuals from Kosovo, representing the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources, the Kosovo Forest Agency and the Private Forest Owners Association (participants list available at KCBS), followed the schedule prepared together with Ms. Zelika Ivanovic and Ms. Danijela Novota from Croatia (agenda available at KCBS).

The study trip benefited during the morning of November 20<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon of November 23<sup>rd</sup> from the presence of high-level government officials such as Mr. Herman Susnik, State Secretary at the Croatian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources, as well as from the presence of Mr. Miroljub Stojanovic, Assistant Minister at the same ministry.

Additionally, the participants had the opportunity to:

- Learn about the activities of the Croatian state forests, certified to FSC standards since 2002, (the Croatian certification history explained by the person who was most involved during the certification process, Mr. Ratko Matosevic).
- visit two of the most successful Croatian companies producing and exporting a wide variety of certified products, such as wood flooring, veneers, doors, furniture and chairs.
- have a presentation of the FSC National Initiative in Croatia by the FSC Contact Person in Croatia, Ms, Danijela Novota
- meet the representatives of an FSC-accredited certification body (the SGS-Qualifor Program) in Croatia
- meet other members of the Croatian national initiative, mainly from the economic and environmental chamber

During a working session held at the beginning of the meeting, the author of the present report asked the participants which were the most important expectations they had from this study trip. The responses included the following:

- Support for finding new markets
- Learn from the Croatian model, including from mistakes
- Learn about the process for developing national standards
- Look at the Croatian organizational model
- Learn about the first steps in certification
- Find solutions to specific problems (like illegality, lack of staff with good knowledge)

Discussions held with different members of the Kosovo delegation showed an encouraging level of interest in making certification work in Kosovo, with most of the participants embracing the idea enthusiastically. However, from the Government side, after discussions

with Mr. Quazim Kukalaj, it became evident that the issue should be dealt with carefully, in order for the government not to feel “pushed” towards certification. There was also a clear indication that in the end the government will make its own decision, taking into account various factors that are essential for such a decision.

One important aspect and concern for the Kosovo Government representatives seems to be the current discussion in Kosovo about forest areas considered for certification, that will likely become part of a future National Park. In this context, it is important to clarify that in case a certain level of management (including even harvesting activities) will be allowed in the future national park (depending on the level of protection in different areas), certification would be a good tool for ensuring good management of these areas.

Some members of the Kosovo delegation understood from discussions with a few Croatian individuals met during the study trip that certification in national parks is not possible, a misunderstanding that was clarified before the end of the study trip. (certification is possible in any forest areas, but, depending on the level of legal protection, decisions should be taken on a case by case basis, because, for example, it might not be a sound economic decision to certify areas under total protection)

In case decisions in this regard will be taken during the coming weeks, it is very important for decision-makers to have a clear picture about which instruments can achieve a certain level of protection or a combination of protection and recognition for management on the marketplace. This is a point that USAID should monitor closely.

**During the closing meeting of the study trip, participants were asked to express their opinion about how their expectations, presented at the beginning of the study tour were fulfilled. The unanimous opinion was that the learning objectives and expectations (see above) were all met.**

The author of this report learned also some lessons that could be applied in Kosovo in order to make the process more efficient than it was in Croatia:

1. In addition to forest evaluations and gap analyses during the coming few months, it is highly recommended to start the development of a national initiative as soon as possible, balancing economic, social and environmental interests and raising awareness about certification, what it can and what it cannot do for forestry, forest management and the forest-based industry in Kosovo.
2. Develop the national initiative as a body that is independent from government, with government participating actively as a key actor, but not dominating the process.
3. Involve the private sector (private forest owners and processing industry) from an early stage. (The representative of the private sector in the delegation from Kosovo was enthusiastic about moving forward with certification in this country and will spread the word about the learning experience in Croatia).
4. A main issue in Kosovo will be the preparation of management plans for the areas selected as a pilot project for certification. Funding opportunities should be sought for this activity.
5. The study trip did not touch upon the situation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the processing industry, as the Croatian side wished to show their experience from the best side. The situation of these companies in Kosovo should be assessed in the context of forest certification and the potential benefits they might achieve.

## ANNEX II

### **Illegal activities in Kosovo forestry as observed or reported by different parties during the field assignments**

1. Illegal cutting of trees
  - a. Performed by poor people for subsistence
  - b. Performed on a commercial basis by illegal loggers (organized crime)
2. Illegal transport, green-washing of illegally harvested timber (false transport documentation)
3. Illegal award of cutting permits (social enterprises do not participate in tenders), lack of transparency in procurement
4. Contractors to KFA do not respect contractual obligations without this having any consequences for their future employment.
  - a. Do not maintain roads even if the price they pay for standing timber is discounted to take account of road maintenance and other investments
  - b. Harvested volumes are higher than allowed harvesting concession
  - c. Hire workers illegally (without proper working contracts), without respecting health and safety regulations
  - d. Income from timber sales not channeled through official financial/accounting system (mainly in cash)
5. Private owners harvest illegally in neighboring public forests
6. Marking of trees for felling does not follow current regulations (cases observed at Deqani where selection and marking of trees for felling were not appropriate because they were biased towards the extraction of the most valuable trees, a practice that fails to maximize the net benefit from the forest in the long run), even if KFA local staff performing the marking activity were experienced and trained
7. Calculation of “stumpage fees” against current regulations, especially when contracts are awarded directly (without tender)
8. Harvesting area changed after the approval of operational plans, without any authorization or justification
9. Managers at local level not aware of budgetary planning and expenditure, they had to insist for obtaining such information from KFA, without any success (there is a legal requirement relating to transparency in the operation of public authorities)
10. Illegal hunting and collection of non-timber forest products for commercial purposes.

# ANNEX III

## Kosovo assignment for the evaluation of forest management practices at the Kosovo Forest Agency (Decan and Ferizaj districts)

### Objectives of the Kosovo assignment from 10-16 December 2006:

- ✚ Identify and evaluate major gaps in forest management at the Decane and Ferizaj forest districts, from the perspective of the certification standard
- ✚ Identify organizational and operational limitations at the level of the FA
- ✚ Identify areas for training to be implemented in January 2007
- ✚ Explore options for removing barriers to compliance with the certification standard

### Preliminary results:

#### A. Major issues to be addressed before the two forest management units can apply for certification.

##### a. Illegal acts in forestry

Clear evidence of illegal acts at **Decan**, (also indications of probable illegal acts also at the level of the forest administration), generating a non-sustainable use of the forest resource. The forestry authorities (Ministry of Agriculture and Forest Agency must demonstrate a clear commitment and also concrete results in tackling illegal acts perpetrated by third parties and also the apparent lack of full compliance with current legislation by forestry authorities. Illegal activities seem to be under a better control at **Ferizaj**, at least at the level of the FMU that is being proposed for certification (ca 2,700 Ha). However, at the level of this region, which is considered to be in a better situation from the perspective of illegal harvesting, in 2006, the volume of illegally harvested wood is estimated at 1,500 m<sup>3</sup>, about 15% of the legal harvest. For management planning purposes, FA staff needs to take into account the estimated amount of illegal harvesting in order not to overharvest and damage the resource. There are clear numbers relating to illegal harvesting at Decan, but the problem seems to be much more serious in this area, even if the management is claiming some progress, achieved through the introduction of new checkpoints.

Illegal activities have multiple root-causes and minimizing them is a significant challenge that requires commitment at highest level, and also inter-agency collaboration (e.g. between forest authorities and the justice system).

A process for identifying illegal acts and proposing solutions with all involved parties was suggested, without a clear response from the FA and ministry. Not addressing illegal harvesting and other illegal acts could lead to public protests from the civil society during 2007.

##### b. Forest management plans

At both areas (Decan and Ferizaj), forest management plans (fmp) have expired several years ago and they have not been updated. A valid fmp is a precondition for certification. The lack of updated management documentation would preclude certification, especially in the current context of forestry in Kosovo.

During a meeting with FA representatives it became clear that the Agency has budgeted 400,000 Euro for the elaboration of forest management plans on 80,000 Ha during 2007. During the previous week, the budget commission has rejected this project due to other priorities. However, a reforestation project was approved for 180,000 Euro. The FA would accept to finance the elaboration of fmps for the areas proposed for certification from this budget, provided the Finance Ministry approves the use of at least a part of these funds for activities that differ from the approved activities (reforestation). Support from KCBS/USAID at political level in this regard would be welcome.

## **B. Other issues to be addressed during the preparation phase for forest certification**

### **a. Quality management**

The FA should consider an investment in the development of quality and environmental management systems. The first step would be to have at least a few staff members (at engineer level) trained in ISO 9000 and/or ISO 14000. These individuals could take the lead in the development of quality and environmental management systems at the level of the FA.

### **b. Staff training**

Staff training at all levels in forest certification requirements for forest management enterprises. There is potential for collaboration with SIDA/Scanagri on capacity building. Training should focus on the development of a solid documented system in support of the forest management plan, on skills for improving social communication, the evaluation of social and environmental impacts of forest management activities, and the ability to evaluate social and environmental aspects relating to standard compliance.

### **c. Operational model for the use of the forest resource**

Improve the current operational model, where contractors are buying standing timber at a very low price, (about 15 Euro/ m<sup>3</sup>), compared with the market price of this commodity (about 100 Euro/ m<sup>3</sup>), with large benefits for contractors, important revenue losses for the FA, and significant externalities (bad road infrastructure). The head of the FA indicated that there are some efforts ongoing to change this situation. However, it is not yet clear how this will be solved.

### **d. Communication with civil society**

There seems to be little communication between forest authorities and the local population, which can affect negatively forest management and prevent the FA from finding effective solutions to illegal harvesting. One way of improving this aspect is the formation of a working group aimed at elaborating forest management standards for Kosovo, with a balanced participation of individuals and organizations from the social, environmental and economic sector, including government. KCBS/USAID is recommended to support the activities of such a group, and strive to keep it balanced, avoiding that any one group dominates the process. With the government being the most important and powerful forest owner in the country, there is a risk that the government dominates the process, which would damage the process and its outcome (lesson learned from the experience in Croatia).

## ANNEX IV

Answers from course participants to questions addressed during the certification course (information compiled by Hysen Shabanaj, translated into English, based on information in Albanian and Serbian on flip charts)

Q: What are your expectations from this course?

A: Participant expectations:

- advanced forest management
- new knowledge for certification process
- learn for tasks after the certification
- new possibilities to penetrate in new markets with wood products
- to gain knowledge how to achieve chain control
- prepare operating plan for forest certification
- to gain knowledge, how to fulfill certification standards
- to identify problems that Kosovo have in certification process

Q: Is certification important for the forest sector in Kosovo? What are the benefits you expect from certification of forest management in Kosovo?

A: Certification important for a better perspective of Kosovo

- Protect the environment and forest development in long terms
- Better management
- Increase wood value, expand the market, community benefits, increase value of specific forest zones, better management for those who works in forestry
- Protecting risked types
- Select specific rivers zone to be protected
- Protecting specific zones with fauna

Certification important for a better perspective of Kosovo

- Better protected forest, less illegal cutting and damages in environment aspects
- Achieve forest generation and higher wood quality in the future
- Environment protection "Healthy environment"
- By certification we will know forest origin that would affect positively in market
- In general better management
- Higher benefits- economical because of the quality and international standards
- Benefits for forest users – wood volume will be more sold in international market

Certification important for a better perspective of Kosovo:

- to know the wood origin, structure, quality and type. Also to find market.
- Certification has effects on forest protection, environment and management

In general helps population and community:

- Adapt long term plans for management
- Long term benefits and increase wood price in market
- Increase wood quality

Certification important for a better perspective of Kosovo:

- more advances management in forest
- effect on environment protection
- effect on social and economical problems
- penetrate in international markets with final wood products
- long term benefits – helps population in economical, social and environment aspects
- support maintaining, protecting and forest management planning
- increase wood value

Q: What illegal activities you know in the Kosovo forest sector?

A: Illegal activities are

- activities in contradiction with forest law and regulations
- cutting the forest and transportation without necessary documentation
- forest land usurpation
- not identifying persons that are doing illegal activities
- not follow up the process, court procedures for illegal activities
- no co operation with court and police for stopping illegal activity on forest
- not registration the forest damages
- not reporting to the responsible management

Q: What are the criteria you would use to select protected areas?

A:

- higher biodiversity
- high value of forest
- places where there are better conditions to grow animals (fauna)
- places with rivers
- places with low vegetation
- places with no natural reproduction
- places with specific trees
- places with high slant
- places with higher risk for fauna and flora
- legal base to regulate these zones

Q: As a forest manager, how would you demonstrate compliance with legal requirements

A: FSC requirement Principle 1

- forestry law and administrative directions
- management plans
- maps
- protecting plan
- lack of the international convents and agreements
- involve in protection-collaboration with community to prevent forest from illegal cutting
- collaboration with institutions

FSC requirement Principle 1

Office manager should have:

1. international conventions
2. management plans
3. list of the main partners

4. maps for the operative places
5. publicity material

Office manager should possess:

1. law, regulations and administrative directions
2. environment limits
3. internal supervising programs
4. training procedures
5. structure and organizational responsibilities

Q: Identify social and environmental impacts relating to your forest management activities

A: FSC requirement on Social and Environment affects

- a. Social affects: to hire local community, train, aware, organize meeting and be in close contact with management.
- b. Environment affects: to create condition according the direct intervention and in this way save the flora, fauna etc.

During the forest administration, use has especial affect on

1. land erosion
2. rivers
3. biodiversity
4. flora and fauna
5. climate

FSC requirement on Social and Environment affects

- forest development in long terms
- improved forest management
- Increase wood value,
- expand the market,
- community benefits,
- increase value of specific forest zones

## ANNEX V

### Findings of forest management systems evaluation at the Ferizaj district and activities to be implemented during 2007 in order to ensure compliance with the certification standard

In the absence of a local standard for Kosovo, the forest management at the Ferizaj forest district was evaluated against the indicators of the Soil Association standard for Croatia, as an official standard used by a certification body during a certification assessment. In order to have a complete overview over how the certification standard might be looking like in the case of Kosovo, forest managers were advised to consult also the draft standard produced by a standards working group in Montenegro, and the certification standard used recently for the certification of two forest management units in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

The evaluation of forest management practices at the Ferizaj forest district took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2006, and also on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2007. The recommendations included in this annex that require concrete follow up by forest managers either at KFA central office or at field level, which are marked with ***bold italic characters***, are also valid for the other evaluated management units (Decan and Leposavic).

Not all indicators were evaluated, for example principle 3, which does not seem to be relevant for Kosovo, and Principle 7, relating to the elaboration of forest management plans.

#### ***1.1.1 Prepare list of applicable legislation***

#### ***1.1.2 have legislation available at all offices including the central office***

#### ***1.1.3 prepare and implement training on applicable legislation***

1.2.1 Needs to be verified at the central office KFA/Ministry.

1.3.1 ***Have text of international agreements at all offices, train staff on this together with national regulations. Take into account the FSC policy on the ILO conventions, which will have to be translated into the local languages.***

1.4. ***Analyze the standard and report any contradictions with legislation to the certification body before the certification main assessment.***

1.5.1 Regulation specifies what forest guards have to do in case they find illegal loggers. There are gaps in the law, guards cannot use guns, law is being changed to allow guards to be armed. Regulatory gaps in how to deal with illegal loggers when they are caught by forest guards. ***Address legal framework dealing with illegal acts in forestry.***

Guards are trained when they are hired, and they know well what their responsibilities are.

Guards gets personal information of the person, takes pictures of the place, inform the supervisor, presents a report, describing equipment, vehicles used, specify the magnitude of the damage, time, the amount of damage. Damage under 2 m<sup>3</sup> the guard has to present report within 5 days. If more than 2 m<sup>3</sup>, the person broke the law: 2 options: under 3.5 m<sup>3</sup> the same procedure if more 3.5 m<sup>3</sup> forest guard has to call police and supervisor, police has to arrest the person and take it to court. System not effective, and not working properly.

All persons doing illegal cutting should be arrested. Lack of staff in courts, cases are addressed late (after years). In 2006 there were 11,000 cases - 2,039 for forestry issues. Courts should have a person for cases relating to forestry. Would be good to regulate compensation of damage, this is not happening.

Accuracy of the guards' reports is checked regularly. Guards are responsible personally for the damage caused by unidentified individuals. Disciplinary commission (guards pay for the damage or they are suspended). Guards do not have a work schedule they set working hours themselves, but forest protection has to be ensured 24 hours a day. Not enough staff to protect 24 hours. 3 shifts necessary.

1.6.1 ***Develop written statement of commitment to forest management according to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council at the level of KFA and each FMU participating in the group.***

2.1 To be solved at KFA/Ministry level. Fill in....

2.1.2 ***Map at the level of KFA showing all areas managed by KFA.*** No map, needs to be clarified by KFA, in some areas the boundaries are not clear.

2.2.1 ***Document customary rights.*** Pasture in the forest, public holiday. They are preparing to make a suggestion to KFA to enable communities to harvest more firewood and every year there should be cleaning activities.

***Consult local communities to find out how much firewood is needed.*** List sent to central office which has not done anything on this during 3 years. Agreement signed for firewood supply. KCBS Forestry Specialist says it is an instruction from KFA.

***Prepare law amendment on how to supply the rural population with firewood.***

Ahiste needs 150-170 m3 people are ready to pay for firewood, but the law does not allow the managers to sell firewood to local population. Sales of any materials should occur only through tender. This would help also to reduce illegal logging by 50-60%, based on the experience of the local foresters. Current law difficult to apply here.

2.2.2 Legal framework does not respect traditional use rights customary rights e.g. firewood

2.2.3 ***Keep records of meetings with local communities, minutes should be also available at the local KFA office, not only at the municipality.***

Oral agreements with herders to inform the office about things they see in exchange for small amounts of wood, not formalized. Herders pay taxes for this. This is another customary right of local communities

2.3. Complaints dealt with at local level if not possible they are sent to KFA. There is a procedure for dealing with complaints and disputes. (According to KCBS Forestry Specialist). Local managers not aware, but they are implementing the system. ***Have complaints procedure in the office and be aware of its requirements.***

2.4. Local communities do not have any legal rights, but they have some customary rights that are taken care of (e.g. fire wood). In a way, the current regulatory framework does not allow the implementation of standards requirements, as local people do not have access to firewood, which seems to be a customary right. ***Clarify.***

4.1.1 No apparent problems. ***Keep records of documentation (contracts, etc)***

4.1.2 No initiatives so far. ***To be developed in the future.***

- 4.2.1 Yes. **Keep law text in office**, collective contracts not signed yet. Regulation for public service (min of public service). Unions do exist a national collective contract signed. Health care free in Kosovo.
- 4.2.2 **No risk assessment. To be done.** No regulation to compensate workers and their families for accidents or damage.
- 4.2.3 **No training. Do it and document it.**
- 4.2.4 No safety equipment. **KFA should conduct analysis regarding needs of protective equipment and provide the necessary equipment.** 2 deadly accidents plus an illegal logger.
  
- 4.3.1 **Have text of ILO conventions, evaluate required employment conditions and ask KFA/Ministry to fix.** It is expected to have a collective contract for forest workers only. Forestry union to sign with ministry within 2-3 months. All depends on the budget. 4.3.2 similar. **Ensure that ILO conventions are being respected.**
  
- 4.4.1 **KFA to support local foresters in identifying social experts to help with social impact assessment**
  
- 4.5.1 **Have the mechanisms documented at KFA.**
  
- 5.1.1 Plans do not penetrate to the local offices. Head of office involved with KFA, other managers at local level not involved. Managers do not know how budget is going to be spent, they have only a general idea about the budget. Managers say that their Director does not have access to centrally managed budgetary information.
- 5.1.2 KFA
- 5.1.3 Contractors sell mostly locally, one from Peja. Wood from Deqani goes to Mitrovica. In Ferizaj local sawmills buying lumber from contractors.
  
- 5.2.1 Residual damage controlled and monitored.
  
- 5.3.2 Contract requirements. 20% advanced payments.
  
- 5.4.1 Stone, mushrooms, blueberries, Stone extractions (quarries). Contracts are kept in the regional office. Some land leased, requests from PTK for antennas. Local communities harvest berries, not controlled. Not allowed for commercialization. There is illegal hunting, but is decreasing. Wild boar. Muslim people do not eat it, this is changing. KFOR and association of hunters responsible. Contact with the association. **Elaborate and implement plan for minimizing illegal hunting and collection of non-timber forest products.**
  
- 5.5.1 Water is used by local people. People submit a request for the use of water or springs for certain purposes. Many requests refused. Trout in one forest river.
  
- 6.1.1 **Identify environmental impact assessment requirements in the country; identify potential impacts for each activity relating to forest management and how to minimize them; have training with staff to explain**
- 6.1.2 **Develop system documentation**
  
- 6.2.1 Fraxinus excelsa, Ulmus sp., Acer pseudoplatanus, Acer negundo, bear; list of protected species in the law on hunting. There is a red list of protected species at Kosovo level. List is not available in the Ferizaj office. **Get list to the office, map areas where you have protected, rare and threatened species.**
- 6.2.10 **develop system**
- 6.2.11

Other actions to undertake in order to comply with standard requirements at Criterion level:

- 6.4** *Define representative areas of natural ecosystems for protection purposes*
- 6.5** *Find solution to road building and maintenance, improve text of contracts with contractors; prepare guidelines for road construction and soil erosion*
- 6.6** *Develop documented procedures for dealing with chemicals*
- 6.7** *Develop system for dealing with waste management*
  
- 7.1** *Develop forest management plans according to standard requirements*
- 7.3** *Plan and implement training to forest workers, ensure that staff is qualified to perform the tasks relating to their jobs*
- 7.4** *Develop public summary of the forest management plan in case the whole management plan is not a publicly available document*
  
- 8.1** *Develop plan and procedures for monitoring*
- 8.2** *Define indicators for monitoring according to the standard*
- 8.3** *Develop chain of custody procedures*
- 8.4** *Make provisions for the results of monitoring to be taken into account for the update of management plans.*
- 9.1** *Conduct assessment to determine the presence of high conservation attributes in the area considered for certification*
- 9.3.** *Include measure to protect high conservation value areas in the forest management plan*
- 9.4** *Develop monitoring plan with regards to high conservation value forests*

In case plantations are established in the area considered for certification, their management should follow the requirements outlined in the FSC Principle 10.



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# **WORKING TOWARDS FOREST CERTIFICATION IN KOSOVO**

Liviu Amariei

15 December 2006



**USAID**  
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN  
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

**KOSOVO**

## Agenda

1. Objectives and preliminary results of the forest management evaluation
2. Proposed actions
3. Roadmap to certification
4. Discussion and conclusions





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## Objectives

- Identify major gaps in forest management
- Identify areas for training in January 2007
- Prepare roadmap for certification of 3 forest areas



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## 1. Preliminary results

Kosovo Forest Agency Two forest areas visited:

- KFA Peja office (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December)
  - Deqani forest area (2 forest management units)
- KFA Ferizaj office (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>)
  - Kaqanik forest area (1 forest management unit)



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## Other meetings

- Environmental Responsibility Action (11<sup>th</sup> Dec.)
- Scanagri (Pristina, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.)
- Ministry for Agriculture, Forest Agency (Pristina, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.)





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## Major issues to solve

### 1. Legal compliance

- Illegal cutting and other uncontrolled activities
- Procurement procedures

### 2. Ownership rights

- Forest areas belong to Socially Owned Enterprises.
- Current conditions agreed (MoU) between KTA, Ministry of Agriculture and rural Development and UNMIK Legal Office
- Conditions unclear (status?)



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## Major issues to solve (2)

### 3. Forest management plans

- Expired years ago
- New forest management plans needed for the areas to be certified (ca 15,000 Ha)
  - » Seek funding
  - » Find professionals to prepare the fmps
- Current work on 1,200 Ha by Inventory Division (KFA) and the Norwegian Forestry Group (NFG), to be extended during 2007



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## **Proposed actions**

### **1. Legal compliance**

- Decision and commitment at highest level
- Prepare and implement a process aimed at eradicating illegal acts in forestry (Ministry). Involve public officers at all levels, judiciary, police, companies involved in forest operations, and local communities
- Demonstrate progress in fighting illegality within a reasonable time



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## Proposed actions (2)

### 2. Ownership rights

- Clarify the situation (MAFRD, KTA and UNMIK)





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## Proposed actions (3)

### 3. Forest management plans

- Seek funding (own budget, aid agencies, e.g. NFG)
  - Use funding from approved 2007 budget for reforestation (consult Ministry of Finance, role of KCBS?)
  - Search for other budget items in own budget
  - Consult with other aid agencies present in Kosovo
- Seek specialists (own team and support from outside, role of KCBS?)



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## **Proposed supportive actions**

### **Training and systems development**

- KFA Staff training on certification and development of the management systems
- KFA Staff training on quality management (ISO 9000) and environmental management (ISO 14000)
- Development of management systems (policies, procedures, other documentation relating to the certification standard)



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## Proposed supportive actions (2)

### Launch National Working Group on Forest Certification (USAID/KCBS, other aid agencies)

- Seek funding
- Identify all relevant stakeholders
- Ensure balanced participation (economic, social and environmental stakeholders), avoid dominance of the process by any single stakeholder group
- Training
- Start working on the development of a **national/regional forest stewardship standard**
- Seek synergies with similar working groups in Montenegro, Croatia, BiH, Serbia, Macedonia
- Get integrated into the European network



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## **Proposed supportive actions (3)**

### **Chain of Custody (USAID/KCBS)**

- Support certification of processing companies
- Continue work on market linkages in order to enhance demand for good forest management



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## Roadmap to certification

### 1. Address legal compliance in forestry

- Prepare action plan (MAFRD/KFA, 28 February 2007)
- Implement a process/campaign (MAFRD/KFA, 30 June 2007)
- Monitor and demonstrate improvement/report (MAFRD, 30 September 2007)

### 2. Ownership rights

- Clarify and document (MAFRD, 30 June 2007)



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## Roadmap to certification (2)

### 3. Forest Management Plans & additional documentation

- Clarify funding (MAFRD/KFA, 31 January 2007)
- Prepare new fmps for 15-20,000 Ha (KFA, 30 November 2007), taking into account certification standard requirements in addition to local regulations
- Prepare additional documentation/management system for certification (KFA, 30 November 2007, role of KCBS?)

### 4. National Working Group on forest certification

- Launch national working group (USAID/KCBS, 1 April 2007)
- Produce first draft standard using existing standards in the region (1 September 2007)



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## **Roadmap to certification (3)**

**Apply for certification (October 2007), provided demonstrated improvement of legal compliance, clarified ownership rights and forest management plans close to conclusion**



**Thank you very much for your attention**

Additional information  
and clarifications:

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# Introduction to forest certification according to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council

Liviu Amariei  
Pristina  
16-17 January 2007

# Programme Tuesday 16 January



- ☐ 9:30 Introduction
- ☐ 9:45 Presentation of the participants and expectations for the FSC course
- ☐ 10:15 Module 1: Forest certification and the Forest Stewardship Council
- ☐ 11:00 Coffee break
- ☐ 11:15 Module 1: (continuation)
- ☐ 13:00 Lunch
- ☐ 14:00 Module 2: The FSC Principles and Criteria and their use for forest certification
- ☐ 15:30 Coffee break
- ☐ 15:45 Module 2 (cont.)
- ☐ 17:00 End of the day

# Programme Wednesday 17 January



- ☐ 9:30 The FM certification process
- ☐ 10:00 Impacts of FM: exercises
- ☐ 11:00 Coffee break
- ☐ 11:15 Module 3: Group Certification requirements
- ☐ 12:00 Module 3: (cont., workshop)
- ☐ 13:00 Lunch
- ☐ 14:00 Module 4: The FSC Chain of Custody standards
- ☐ 14:45 Coffee break
- ☐ 15:00 Closing session, feedback from participants, next steps
- ☐ 16:00 End

# Thank you very much for

- Punctuality
- Switching off your cellular phones
- Asking questions anytime
- Active participation during exercises
- Suggestions for improvement



# Additional information



## Contact:

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*Because forests matter*