

EURAC – University of Padova

Second meeting of the WG on SARD-F of the Carpathian Convention

San Vito di Cadore
November 22–23, 2007

SOCIO ECONOMIC ASPECTS THE TOP ISSUES

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Outline

Socio-Economic aspects: the top issues

Institutional structure

- Policies
- Forest legislation
 - Forest land restitution/privatization
- Forest ownership structure
- Illegal logging
- SFM certification

Towards a Forest Protocol

- Main obstacles to the SFM of C. forests
- Some fields of action

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

Country	National level	National Forestry Authority	Regional level and institutions
Czech Republic	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of the Environment		The Forest Management Institute (FMI); The regional governments (kraje) and municipalities
Hungary	Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development	The National Forest Authority National Water, Environment and Nature Conservation Authority	11 regional offices of NFA
Poland	Ministry of the Environment	The National Forest Holding, the State Forests The Forest Co-Administration The National	Regional Directorate of State Forests or directors of territorial units by provincial authority (Forest personalia (the Institute).
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development		16 regional units Forest personalia (the Institute).
Serbia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection		State forest administration and State forest enterprises public administration departments of state-
Slovakia	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Construction and Regional Development,		State forest enterprises departments of state-
Ukraine	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Ministry of Agricultural Policy Ministry of Environmental Protection	State Forestry	State forest enterprises departments of state-

A consolidated administrative structures

State forest administration and State forest enterprises

Decentralisation process under way

Old research and university institutions

POLICIES

Three main objectives:

- **to strengthen the economic function of the forest:** importance of wood as a source of income for Carpathian countries
- **to improve and protect the environment:** maintain and appropriately enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration, integrity, health and resilience of Carpathian forest. E.g.:
 - Czech Republic: "National Biodiversity Strategy" and "Strategy for the Protection of the Earth's Climatic System" (1999) (implements the Kyoto Protocol and proposes the creation of economic tools to promote energy savings and afforestation)
 - Slovakia: "Strategy and Plan of Forestry Development"
- **to contribute to a better quality of life:** preservation and support cultural, traditional heritage and social dimension of forests (tourism). To reach these objectives, the policies maintain and enhance the protective functions of forests.

All the Carpathian Countries have adopted policies related to sustainable forestry management

Principles reflected by policies

Integration of the 12 principles of art. 7 of the Convention into the formal forestry

Principles	Y/N						
	CZ-REP	HUNG	POL	ROM	SERBIA	SLOVAK	UKRA
Sustainable management of forest resources and forests lands	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Protection of forests against pollution	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Prevention and protection against fire, pests and diseases	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Public information on forests ecosystems	Y	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Public participation in development, implementation and planning of national forest policies	N	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Recognition of vital role of forests in maintaining the ecological processes and balance	Y	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Afforestation and reforestation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Assessments of economic and non economic values of forest goods and services	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Protection of natural forest areas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Protection of ecologically representative or unique types of forests	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Consideration of alternative uses of forests	Y	Y/N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Ensure appropriate retention of precipitation in the mountains for flood prevention	N	Y/N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

FORESTRY LEGISLATION (1 / 2)

All countries have at least one general act dedicated to forests

Only **Ukraine** has Moratorium on clear cuts on mountain slopes in the beech–fir forests specific for the Carpathians

Main concerns in the national legislations: **forest management planning and conservation of biodiversity and the ecological functions of the forests**

Examples:

- **Poland** has adopted a "Regulation on the improvement of forest management according to ecological rules". It prescribes for example:
 - ◆ the maintenance of riparian forests and the protection of forest wetlands
 - ◆ the preparation of nature conservation programmes as annexes to forest management plans
 - ◆ the promotion of natural forest regeneration
 - ◆ restrictions on clear-cuts

FORESTRY LEGISLATION (2 / 2)

- **Czech** "Act on Forests" defines the preconditions for the preservation of the forests their care and regeneration and for support for sustainable forest management
- **Serbian** "Law on Forests" is in force but a new law is in preparation and the future legislation will be harmonized with the EU legislation
- **Romania**: many laws and regulations concerning forest management and logging activities which are in contradiction with the "Law on Forests" (e.g. : permission for the hunting of ungulates)
- **Ukraine**: inconsistencies between the "Law on Forests" and the "Land and Forest Code" (e.g. : sanitary cuts on the territory protection zones of biosphere reserves) while the "Forestry Code" imposes such measures

Some problems of inconsistency between legislation and law implementation (e.g. : Romania for harvesting authorization)

→ room for mutual exchange and

FOREST LAND RESTITUTION (1 / 2)

Problems caused by the restitution: creation of a very large numbers of private forest owners many with small holdings (<5ha) and limited background in forest management

In Carpathian area there are **828 000 private forests (2007)** for a total area of **2.3 M ha**

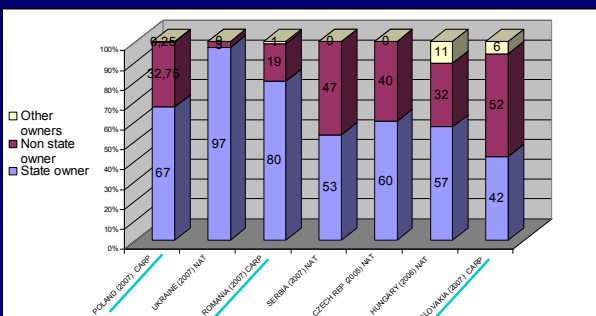
Ownership fragmentation is a special problem in the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia and Romania

- **Poland**: Polish State Liberation Committee (Decree of 12 December 1944): private forests owners (> 25 ha) loose properties in favour of the (State) Treasury
National policy excludes privatisation of the State Forests. Restitution only after payment
- **Hungary**: the process has been declared ended after:
 - ◆ Law on compensation (passed in 1991; entered into effect in 1992)
 - ◆ Law on the dissolution of socialist co-operative farms (1992)

FOREST LAND RESTITUTION (1 / 2)

- **Romania**:
Law no 18/1991: approx. 0.3 M ha of forests were returned to private;
Law no 1/2000: approx. 1.9 M ha of forests were returned to the private owners;
Law no 247/2005: approx. 0.3 M ha were returned (at the end of 2006)
- **Serbia**: restitution of forests to churches in Serbia is not performed yet
- **Slovakia**: final phase. Still 7% of private forests
- **Ukraine**: restitution not the main issues in forest policy reforming. Two reasons:
 - different historical developments of Western and Eastern Ukraine (problems to find information about former owners before Second World War)
 - a fear that forests would be destroyed immediately if privatized

FOREST OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE



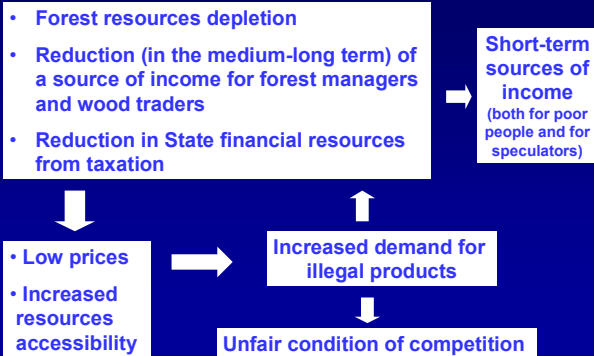
ILLEGAL LOGGING

A sensible problem for the public

Country	Volume of forest area for policy (1000 m3 (2003))	Percentage of total volume logged	Carpathian Region	
			The volume logged illegally (1000 m3 (2007))	Percentage of the total volume logged (2007)
Slovakia	62.4	~1%	62.4	~1%
Ukraine	83.8	<1%	11.1	0.26%
Romania	80.8	<1%		
Poland	34.6	~1%	15.3	0.3%
Czech Rep(2001)	148	1%		

Source: UNECE/FAO 2004 (Illegal logging estimates from country reports)

Direct effects



SFM CERTIFICATION (2007)

	PEFC National Data		Carpathian Regions		FSC National Data		Carpathian regions	
	ha	forest	ha	forest	ha	forest	ha	forest
CZECH REP	1 940 142	1	0	0	14 554	4	0	0
SLOVAKIA	537 120	2	537 120	2	162 251	6	162 251	6
HUNGARY	0	0						0
POLAND	0	0						3
UKRAINE	0	0						2
ROMANIA	0	0						1
SERBIA	0	0				1	0	0
TOTAL	2 477 262	3	537 120	2	7 585 532	48	1 941 812	12

SFM standard development → room for mutual exchange and harmonization

Source: www.fsc.org and www.pefc.org

Independent forest monitoring



ACHIEVEMENTS

- The state of the Carpathian forests
- Biodiversity : indicator of the good health of Carpathian forests
- In **Czech Republic** three protected landscape areas and small natural reserves together with the adopted Natura 2000 sites create a **strong network of well-preserved forests** with appropriate management
- **Environmentally friendly management of forests**: promising trend In **Hungary**: achieved by the National Forest Service
- **Growing focus on non-profitable functions of forests** as well as on **cooperation and exchange of experience between foresters**

Towards a Forest Protocol



SOME OF THE MAIN OBSTACLES

- **Lack of financial tools** to turn private owners and forest managers towards sustainable forestry
 - ◆ **traditional method of logging** (large clear cuts) used of past
 - ◆ introduction of **non-natural species**
 - ◆ inadequate **wildlife management**
 - ◆ ...
- **Technical support** to private forest owners and **forest associations**: inadequate support for forest protection, logging techniques and forest planning
- A **low awareness** among the public and **lack of understanding** among State authority representatives and forests managers
- **Participative approaches** and the role of civil society in forest resources management

Model forests



SOME FIELDS FOR ACTION

- **Action plans regarding afforestation and timber cut** should be adopted including the change to selected cuts (close to nature silviculture).
- **Action against illegal logging** (FLEGT and ENA-FLEG):
 - law implementation, also against organized criminals
 - poverty alleviation in rural areas
- Promotion of agri-environmental practices and traditional products (NWFP) and forest-environmental schemes (→ tourism): **payments for environmental services**
- **Virgin forests**: improving protection, monitoring, networking, + corridor
- Improvement of the system of **environmental assessment** of forestry activities
- **Establishment of forest resource database** for the