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Capacity Building in forest policy and governance in Western Balkan region

TN1401 CAPABAL

FOREST POLICY AND GOVERNANCE STRATEGIC REGIONAL RESEARCH AGENDA

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Strategic Regional Research Agenda

Table 1. Main strategic topics according to three defined Pillars

| Pillar 1 | Pillar 2 | Pillar 3 |
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| Policy development | Policy implementation | Policy communication |
| Overarching topics | | |
| National Forest Programs | | |
| Importance from all three pillars' points of view as a framework for policy development, implementation and monitoring of achievements. | | |
| Criteria and Indicators of SFM | | |
| C&I of SFM are formulated and recognized by formal forest policy processes, whether C&I of SFM are integrated in day-to-day forest management/use and what are roles and relations between several forest policy actors in designing and implementation of C&I of SFM. | | |
| Green Growth Indicators | | |
| Environmental and resource productivity is of utmost importance for WB countries and it is important to see how the concept and green growth strategy is taken by those countries. | | |
| Harmonization of cross-sectoral policies | Economic valuation of forest ecosystem services | Cross-sectoral cooperation & coordination in forestry |
| Forests and forest-related sectors are constantly under pressure so is necessary to harmonise forest-related policies on national level. | The concept of forest ecosystem services embraces a multitude of diverse services from forests. It is of great importance for the WBs to recognize their contribution to the human wellbeing and the society and economy in general. | Forest governance claims a paradigm shift from top-down approach in forest policy development and implementation towards more transparent, participatory, and cross-sectoral decision-making. |
| Role of forests as renewable energy sources in relevant policies and strategic documents on national level | Market analysis | Role of forests for rural development |
| Driven by climate change and increased industrial needs, production of energy from renewable sources become important issue in forestry. All WB countries have relevant strategic documents recognizing it as an important source of biomass for energy. | Having in mind importance of forestry and wood-processing industry for national economies in some WB countries, comparative forest market analysis is necessary, including themes such as: supply and demand analysis, characteristics of marketing mix, domestic and export market, etc.). | Better understanding and sound recognizing a social role of forests in rural areas (employment possibilities, poverty alleviation, preventing migration of local rural population, etc.) is a crucial precondition for appropriate integration of forestry in rural development programmes and policies. |
| Bio-economy strategy | Value chain analysis of forest products | Perception of forestry, forests and forest functions |
| There is need for developing bio-economy strategies in WB countries. In that context it is important to know how the professionals, administration or managers perceived the bio-economy in relation to forestry. | The value chain development of forest products is in correlation with national legislation and market conditions. The WB countries implement different standards and certification schemes in wood assortments selling process. | Scientifically based studies on perception of forests, forest functions (economic, ecologic and socio-cultural) and forestry by different actors (e.g. citizens, experts, NGO) are largely missing in the WBs. |

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| <p>Effects of COP 21 Paris on forest related policies in WB countries</p> <p>The Paris Agreement, as an international political initiative, aims to achieve global legally binding agreement on response to climate change. It requests from each country that ratifies the Agreement to set a target for emission reduction.</p> | <p>Forest biomass for energy (bio-energy)</p> <p>Several economic aspects of forest biomass for energy should be analysed, such as: demand/supply at domestic and international market, costs and availability of forest biomass, price trends, distribution channels, competitiveness of energy produced from forest biomass, incentives for producers, cogeneration possibilities, etc.).</p> | <p>Role of communication in accepting the need for radical change in all aspects of life and production and promotion of use of wood</p> <p>How to improve communication between forestry and society to better understanding of society to forestry activities also putting wood as material into the intensive everyday use.</p> |
| <p>Forest policy response to climate change</p> <p>There is increasing scientific evidence of importance of forests in responding to climate change. The role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation has to be recognized by forest policy. The issues of risk assessment as well as adaptive forest management based on practical experiences and scientific findings are pertinent for WB countries and need to be addressed.</p> | <p>Distribution of income from forestry</p> <p>In this context, the term "income" refers to state forest using compensation, revenue and profit of public forest enterprises, compensation for forest ecosystem services (known as "<i>Payments for forest functions of public benefits</i>") as well as all others forms of financial means generated from state forest management.</p> | <p>Local administration involvement/participation in forest policy</p> <p>As the results of serious changes in socio-political conditions within last few decades, some new actors have emerged and influenced forest policy processes in the WBs to a large extent. Among them, local administration (municipalities) seems to be the most active and powerful driver of changes.</p> |
| <p>Nature protection policies</p> <p>Nature protection policies as a topic is very important due to the numerous EU or global processes that take place also in the WB countries.</p> <p>Natura 2000 and many other schemes of protection or conservation should be investigated from forestry point of view.</p> | <p>Microeconomic indicators of forest enterprises as a basis for benchmarking in forestry</p> <p>There is a clear need to determine a set of microeconomic indicators for public forestry companies in the WBs. These indicators may be used to create some management instruments (for instance, sustainable balanced score card) following the logic of benchmarking and strategic planning.</p> | <p>Innovative approaches in collaborative forest management and planning</p> <p>Several approaches combining innovative organisational aspects and collaborative forest management/planning deserve to be tested and applied in forestry sectors of the WBs.</p> |
| <p>Policies that regulate water management related to forestry</p> <p>The relationship between forest and waters is one of most important for solving sustainability of both resources and thus the policies should be harmonized and connected. Mutual understanding from both sectors is of crucial importance for its successful implementation.</p> | <p>Economic aspects of multifunctional coppice forest management</p> <p>Coppice forests or similar types of low-intensity managed forests cover relatively large forest areas in the WBs. To be able to mobilize economic potentials of these forests (but also of all other forest functions) it would be useful to discuss whether and how they should be managed.</p> | <p>Urban forest governance</p> <p>With humanity becoming increasingly urban, role of trees, parks and forests in urban areas have been gaining more importance. Urban forest governance is particularly complex and differs from traditional rural forest governance as well as urban environmental governance, involves various stakeholders, is subject to a variety of policies and happens at multiple levels.</p> |

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| <p>Policies that regulate cultural conservation in forests and related to forests</p> <p>Conservation policies are usually developed without consultation with forestry sector and many of cultural monuments are placed in the forest or forest land. That should be taken into consideration when planning forestry work. There is need for improvement of communication between two sectors.</p> | <p>Methodologies for assessment of forest damages caused by natural hazards</p> <p>Due to several biotic and abiotic factors, forests are exposed to different agents that cause damages (such as floods, ice-break, wild fires etc.). Methodologies for economic assessment of these damages are not well known or even do not exist in some WB countries.</p> | <p>Demands and characteristics of private forest owners (PFOs) and their property</p> <p>There are many changes in state-of-the art in private forests and in private forestry. Furthermore, the role of PFOs should play more important role in forest policy processes. Understanding of demands and characteristics of PFOs as well as their property should lead to better perspective of private forest ownership in the WBs.</p> |
| <p>Relations between smart regulation principles and mix of forest policy instruments</p> <p>If smart regulation in designing forest policy is considered as less use of regulatory instruments, appropriate combination of multiple policy instruments as well as involvement of broader range of actors, it is interesting to analyse whether the mix of forest policy instruments in the WBs is "smart regulated" (what is the ratio between regulatory, economic and informational instruments of forest policy).</p> | | <p>Land use conflicts</p> <p>In modern society, demand for land is high and land use conflicts inevitable. The same is true for the WBs as well. Better understanding of causes, types and actors of land use conflicts (both, within forestry sector and among different sectors) should lead to integrated policies founded on participatory approach.</p> |
| <p>Regional comparison/analysis of incentives for private forest owners</p> <p>In comparison to many European countries, incentives for private forest owners in WBs are quite modest and insufficient. Percentage of private forest differ across the WBs (from 10% to 80%), but there is a potential for transfer of knowledge and experience among these countries in terms of purpose, modality and amount of these incentives.</p> | | <p>Higher education in forestry as precondition for forest policy and economics capacity building</p> <p>Traditionally, forestry education in the WBs is largely focused on biotechnological disciplines such as silviculture, forest protection, forest management, and planning and forest utilization. There is a need to analyse current teaching programs at forestry faculties in WB region, compare them with European trends in forestry education and market demands, as well as to discuss what to do in order to strengthen forest policy and economics capacities in long-term.</p> |

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