

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: November 10-13, Tara National Parc, SRB

in co-operation with Ibar Development Organisation

Background

Sustainable forestry is one of the topics Forum Synergies is focusing on. After a first workshop held from 17-20 March 2016 in Milverton, UK we now hold the second in a planned series of four workshops.

After an inaugural meeting in 2012 a small working group started to plan the activities and set up a workplan. This group brought together representatives from 4 countries who agreed a programme to deliver four workshops based around the following **topics**:

- (1) To raise **awareness** of the different services provided by sustainable forest management
To analyse **strategies** of how forests can be a lever for local development in rural communities
- (2) To share **experiences** of how rural communities are involved in looking after woodlands
- (3) To give local actors and authorities better **access** to practical knowledge about sustainable forest management

What we want to reach:

- (1) To understand and communicate what **sustainable forestry means in practice**.
- (2) To disseminate the **EU Forestry Strategy** amongst practitioners and civil society.
- (3) To help formulate realistic, complementary and consistent **policies in and between member states**.
- (4) Propose **actions** and recommend **support**.

We have identified so far these **main elements** which are important factors in the context of sustainable forestry and which will have to be taken into consideration in the process of discussions:

- Sustainable management across the main European forest types (Mediterranean, Central European, temperate, Scandinavian)
- Dissemination of good practice at stakeholder level
- State Action Plans and programmes
- Member state coordination/cooperation/consistency at the stakeholder level and where appropriate try to link up rural development funding between and across state boundaries to improve consistency of management, sustainability and communication
- The role of forests at the heart of Europe's Green Infrastructure and in delivery of the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy
- Promotion of woodland and wood products and the communication of forestry benefits to decision makers and civil society.
- The cultural role of woodlands to communities and in the landscape
- The role and importance of small woodland owners
- The development of information systems
- Climate Change mitigation
- Forestry policy coordination at the National and European levels
- The impact of forests as a source for "green electricity", renewable resource
- The "access to forests" as an upcoming conflict between big companies and small owners.

Results of the 1st workshop, held from 17-20 March 2016 in Milverton, UK

In the first workshop we discussed many different aspects and definitions of forest management and resolved not to strive for any standard definitions of sustainable forest management, but rather to focus on the values and principles which may guide the efforts to achieve sustainability, which we see as a process rather than a static measurable condition.

We therefore agreed upon four key principles:

- A holistic respect for the health of woodlands and forests as natural organisms and systems, which have a validity and even sanctity in their own right, regardless of human intervention
- A sense of stewardship of forests on behalf of humankind now and in the future, rather than selfish or short-term exploitative use of forests
- A sense of communal responsibility for, and pride in, the forests; and of fairness in the provision and allocation of forest-based benefits and resources
- A global perspective, based on care for all the world's forests and on awareness of the fragility of global ecosystems and climate.

These principles need to be held against the competing interests in forests from those who make a living from woodland products to those people who live in and around them through to the wildlife that depends on the habitats that woodlands create and maintain.

We need dialogue about all these interests to ensure that that they are complementary and not competitive.

Main objectives of the 2nd workshop

Main objectives are to discuss and define main recommendations about

- the condition of forests in the Balkan region and the policies and actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management in that region
- the development of small forests managed by private owners (with special attention on existed experience in ex-Yugoslavia, ex-socialist countries from East and Central Europe and EU countries),
- sustainable forest management in protected areas and
- sustainable development of mountain communities based on forestry and activities linked to forests.
- to produce a report on the workshop proceedings, in a form which builds upon and complements the report of the first workshop, with recommendations for policy and action.

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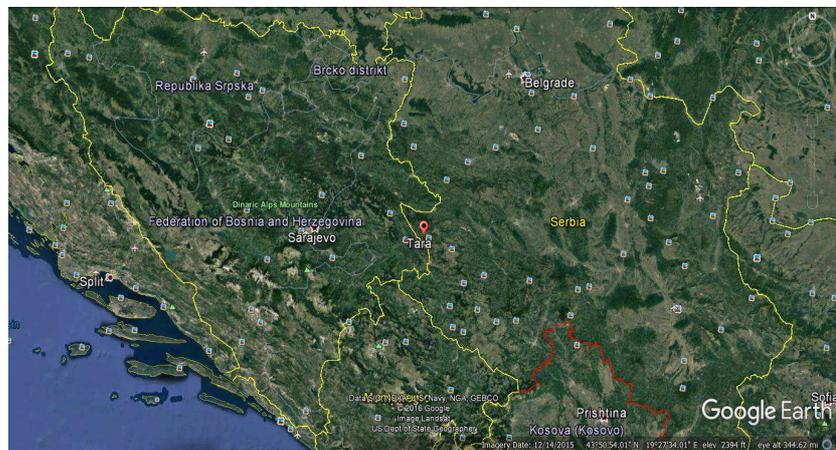
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Venue

We are happily looking forward to our upcoming meeting on SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT we will meet in the National park "Tara" in South West Serbia, close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The region is rich in examples of the work of national organisations and other local initiatives which is an attempt to bring management to protected areas and management woodlands. Others include significant local development initiatives related to wood processing, art based on the wood and tourism (Miladin Lekić, sculptures, Radovan Rašković, producer of tar from pine stumps, company Gorstak). Additionally the other stakeholders from Serbia and the region have different initiatives related to sustainable management to reinvigorate native woodlands and improvement of local economic activities.

Accommodation: Participants will stay in Hotel "Omorika" Tara
<http://www.hotelitara.mod.gov.rs/sr/hoteli/hotel-omorika/>



Gathering Information

International Sustainable Buffet:

All participants are invited to contribute a speciality from their region for our international sustainable buffet that will be offered on 11_11-2016.

Market of initiatives: During our "market of initiatives" we offer you the opportunity to share your project/ experience with other participants in a "market place" (with tables to put posters, leaflet etc.) and also to make a brief presentation of your initiative (with video or powerpoint).

Costs :There is no fee for attending the workshop. Meals and overnight accommodation will be funded by Forum Synergies and the local host organisation. Participants are asked to pay for their travel to and from Tara. The organisers may be able to make a contribution to these travel costs, where participants have good reason to ask for such help

Transport : The organisers will be able to arrange to pick up participants arriving at Belgrade airport and at Bajina Basta Bus Station

Draft programme

Arrival: 10 November 2016 Arrival of participants and welcome

- Welcome by our hosts and Forum Synergies
- Informal buffet supper

Day 1: 11 November 2016 Discovering the region and activities

Day 1 will be dedicated to understanding the situation in the region - from policy framework to local reality.

At the end of the day we intend to have a clearer view on :

- a) what sustainable forestry is
- b) which economic activities related to forests are currently relevant for society

09:00 - 10:00: Opening the workshop

- Introduction by Forum Synergies: Thematic Exchanges - focus on sustainable forestry, Simone Matouch
- Introduction by IDA
- Introduction by National Parc Tara
- Introduction by Municipality Bajina Basta (TBC)
- Presentation of NP Tara (TBC)
- Main questions to be raised and discussed during the field trips; Simone Matouch, Forum Synergies

10:00 - 16:45: Field visits with lunch 10:00 departure from Hotel Omorika

Group 1 FORESTRY (forest management) visit several field experiences including discussion with stakeholders

10:00 - 11:15 Locality Barski Do - presentation the way of forest management

12:00 - 12:30 Visit Visitor Centre of Tara NP at Mitrovac (traditional and naturalistic exhibitions)

12:30 - 13:00 Visit "Crveni Potok" natural reserve

13:20 - 13:45 Visit Zaovine Lake, dam Lazici - area where Pancic's spruce was discovered and area that was affected by a large fire in 2012

13:45 - 14:40 Driving from Zaovine to Bajina Bašta with a stop on the lookout "Kozja Stena"

14:40 - 15:40 Lunch at the restaurant „Dve lipe“ in Bajina Basta

15:40 - 16:10 Visit Visitor Centre of Tara NP at Bajina Basta

16:10 - 16:45 Driving back to the hotel

Participants will be asked to bring findings to the working groups

- 1) How does what you have seen fit with the 4 principles set out in the first workshop?
- 2) Is there anything that does not fit with the 4 principles?
- 3) Who or what benefits from the forest management you have seen? Are all the stakeholders benefiting? Is there any dialogue between them? What pressures are

acting on the various stakeholders? What can be done to resolve issues and problems?

- 4) What elements of sustainable forestry management are used?
- 5) What is the balance between environment protection and commercial activities in woodland?
- 6) Private forest owners and sustainable forestry?
- 7) Which woodland services can be detected?
- 8) What is the regional experience in sustainable management?
- 9) Importance of forestry for local communities and people?

Group 2 ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FORESTRY - visit several field experiences including discussion with stakeholders

11:15 - 11:45 Production of tar from pine stumps Radovan Rašković

12:15 - 13:00 Visit manufacturing plant "Gorstak" (sawn wood, pellet, furniture, prefabricated houses...)

13:15 - 13:45 Visit the gallery of Miladin Lekic - sculptures made of wood

14:30 - 15:30 Lunch at the restaurant „Dve lipe“ in Šarganska osmica“ in Mokra Gora

15:30 - 16:15 Mokra gora - visit Mecavnik- wooden town

16:15 - 16:45 Driving back to the hotel

Participants will be asked to bring findings to the working groups

- 1) How does what you have seen fit with the 4 principles set out in the first workshop?
- 2) Is there anything that does not fit with the 4 principles?
- 3) Who or what benefits from the forest management you have seen? Are all the stakeholders benefiting? Is there any dialogue between them? What pressures are acting on the various stakeholders? What can be done to resolve issues and problems?
- 4) What opportunity is provided to local communities and private initiatives through sustainable forestry management?
- 5) Opportunity for private initiatives related to sustainable forestry management?
- 6) Private forest owners and sustainable forestry?
- 7) What local economic activities can be detected in area and region?
- 8) Importance of forestry and related economic activities for local communities and people?

Coffee break on return to the hotel "Omorika"

17:00 - 18:00: Working groups

- main issues / questions / ideas raised during the field trips
- conclusions and criteria

Group representatives will bring findings to the plenary

18:00 - 19:00: Plenary - feedback on field trips

- Short feedback by each working group
- debate and exchange

20:00 Dinner & international buffet

Day 2: 12 November 2016: Coordination policies (national and European), local initiatives, regional initiatives and sustainability in woodland management

09:00 -10.30 Plenary: Introduction and policy context

- Presentation of conclusions of 1st Sustainable Forestry workshop in Milverton (Gwil Wren, UK)
- Forestry and climate - examples of the impact of climate, fires, bark beetles - NP Tara
- What is regional cooperation and possibility for sustainable forestry and the services it provides?
- What is the European forestry policy?
- What are the national policies related to sustainable forestry and the services it provides?

3-4 short statements by participants about the reality of forestry policy in different countries

Summary

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00- 13:00 Market of Initiatives

- Introduction to the "market place": speakers briefly present the topic they will present
- *presentation of experiences/ projects by participants*

Proposed topics so far

1. Forest conservation and executing national law with regard to biodiversity
Kiš, Alen; Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, SRB
2. A platform for sharing knowledge from CAP international events
Miloš Homola; Ekotrend Slovakia, SK
3. GAIA Microgrants Selection Team and the Create a Climate for Peace campaign of SCI
Silva Huda; PVN Albania (Service Civil International branch), ALB
4. Project Forest fire monitoring system using fixed cameras and UAV in the area of western Serbia.
Sinisa Jovanovic; National forestry and related sectors cluster; SRB
5. Pliva Tourism
Mira Jovic; UG"EKO PLIVA"JAJCE, BA
6. Recent developments in the private forestry in the Balkan region.
Anela Stavrevska-Panajotova; CNVP- Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation, MK
7. Project: Management of forest in national parks of Montenegro
Slobodan Stijepovic; PE National parks of Montenegro, ME
8. Characteristics of drones, regulative framework for using drones
Srboljub Stojanovic; National unmanned aircrafts vehicles and related sectors cluster, SRB
9. The presentation will be on recent developments in Private and Communal forestry in the region of Western Balkans
Voislav Todorov; Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation, MK

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch, family photo and presentation of drone using

14:30 - 18:00 Introduction to working groups

The aim of these working group sessions is to stimulate dialogue and agree the main findings about sustainable forestry management in West Balkan and Europe. We also intend to build upon the conclusions of the 1st workshop:

Working groups. (Session 1 - PRESSURES)

- Group 1 - Regional cooperation in forestry
At a regional i.e. Balkan level:

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- Is what you have seen representative of Balkan forestry management?
What pressures are acting on the various stakeholders?
How do these pressures impact on the 4 principles?

- Group 2 - Management in sustainable forestry and climate change
At an environmental level:

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- How does what you have seen fit with the 4 principles set out in the first workshop?
What pressures are acting on the various stakeholders?
Do these pressures conflict with the 4 principles?

- Group 3 - Local community and forestry
At a local community level

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- How does what you have seen fit with the 4 principles set out in the first workshop?
What pressures are acting on local stakeholders?
Do these pressures conflict with the 4 principles?

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee break**Working groups. (Session 2 - SOLUTIONS)**

- Group 1 - Regional cooperation in forestry
At a regional i.e. Balkan level:

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- Could cross border cooperation benefit forest management in the Balkans?
Is there any dialogue between countries/institutions?
What can be done to deliver the 4 principles across the Balkans and resolve issues and problems?

- Group 2 - Management in sustainable forestry including nature and climate change
At an environmental level:

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- Who or what benefits from the forest management you have seen?
Is there any dialogue between them or their representatives to improve matters?
What can be done to resolve issues and problems?

- Group 3 - Local community and forestry
At a local community level

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- Who or what benefits from the forest management you have seen?
Is there any dialogue between them and others with an interest
What can be done to resolve issues and problems?

18:00- 19:00 Plenary: Finding the synergies

This plenary session will seek to bring together the themes and examples which have been offered in the market of initiatives and the working groups.

We will examine how well forestry in the Balkan Region meets the 4 principles agreed by the first workshop and how the principles of Sustainability (delivering economic, environmental and social benefits without compromise between them) are being met.

We will also consider what we should we aim to achieve in the next workshop.

18:00- 18:30 Plenary: Commitments & homework

This final plenary session will focus on the conclusions from the preceding discussion, with a view to agreeing how these conclusions might be reflected in terms of policy, practical action and contribution to continuing discussion. The session may focus on the following questions :

- Is there broad agreement on the key issues and ideas emerging from the two days ?
- What do these ideas imply for policy makers at European and national level ?
- What are the implications of practical action in the participants' own organizations and regions ?
- Should the ideas from this workshop be published in some form ?
- What message, or what suggested tasks, do we offer to the further workshops in the series ?
- Which countries, which organisations and which networks should be considered as participants for the future workshops ?
- How do we secure continuity between the different workshops, and an effective output from the overall programme ?
- What plans for the 3rd workshop: co-organising partner, location, date, finance ?

Official closure

20:00 Dinner

Day 4: 13 November 2016 Departure of participants

Annex

Background information on Tara National Parc:

Mountain Tara belongs to the internal Dinarides and it is part of Serbian Vlach mountains. It is located in the far West of Serbia encompassing an area bounded by the Drina River between Visegrad and Bajina Basta. In the narrowest part of the mountain massif Mt Zvijezda was placed and it is naturally separated from Mt Tara by the Canyon of Derventa River. Tara is medium-high mountain region, with an average altitude of 1,000-1,200 meters above sea level. The highest peak is Kozji (Goat) (1,591 meters).

The area of Mt Tara has been identified as an Important Plant Area (IPA) and important Bird Area - (IBA). In addition, since 2003 Mt Tara was proclaimed as prime Butterfly Areas (PBA) and has also been identified as important in the framework of the Emerald Network.

Mt Tara was declared a National park in 1981 with the total area of 19.175 ha. Tara National Park with Zaovine (Landscape of outstanding features - it will be merged with Tara NP) and Nature park Mokra Gora was nominated by UNESCO MAB Committee as a potential biosphere reserve, which will have a cross-border character as it will include the area of the future National park Drina in Republic of Srpska (BiH).

Tara is a typical forest area, and for its preservation and diversity of forest ecosystems (many of which are relict) one of the richest and most valuable forest areas in Europe. In forest sense Tara are covered with mixed forests of European Spruce, Silver Fir and European Beech (over 85 % of forest area) and specificity compared to other mountains of the Balkan Peninsula is the large number of relict and endemic forest species and plant communities.

At Tara was identified more than 40 broadleaf, deciduous - coniferous and coniferous phytocoenoses, then 1,156 species of vascular flora which makes 1/3 of the total flora of Serbia. From represented 76 plant species are endemic. Special value and importance of the Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*), endemic and relict species, which inhabits canyons and ravines of the middle course of the Drina River managed to survive the last ice age. According to the results of previous research, an area inhabited by Tara over 50 species of mammals, 140 species of birds, 23 species of amphibians and reptiles and 19 species of fish. This area is inhabited by the largest population of brown bears in Serbia. The best-known species, for which it may be said to be symbol of fauna Mt Tara, is endemorelict Pancic's grasshopper (*Pyrgomorphella serbica*).

Throughout the park there are numerous archaeological sites and monuments dating from the Neolithic period to modern times. Most important are the Rača Monastery, one of the most important centers of Serbian medieval literacy, and the necropolis with tombstones in Rastiste and Perucac, which are nominated for UNESCO World Heritage List.