

**National Report to the Third Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Federal Republic of Yugoslavia  
(Serbia and Montenegro)**

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## **I. Key Contacts**

### **Head of Forestry in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:**

Name: Mr. Petar Trojanovic,

Title: Minister - Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade

#### Contact information:

Address: Federation Palace, Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade

Phone: + 381 11 311 70 98

Fax: + 381 11 311 25 41

E-mail: [smpuvvs@gov.yu](mailto:smpuvvs@gov.yu)

Name: Mr. Vladimir Dozic, B.Sc.

Title: Ministry assistant - Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade

#### Contact information:

Address: Federation Palace, Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade

Phone: + 381 11 311 70 98

Fax: + 381 11 311 25 41

E-mail: [smpuvvs@gov.yu](mailto:smpuvvs@gov.yu)

### **Head of Forestry in Republic of Serbia:**

Name: Ms. Andjelka Mihajlov, Ph.D.

Title: Minister - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

#### Contact information:

Address: Dr. Ivana Ribara 91, 11070 Belgrade

Phone: + 381 11 158 759

Fax: + 381 11 158 793

E-mail: [ekabin@ekoserb.sr.gov.yu](mailto:ekabin@ekoserb.sr.gov.yu)

Name: Mr. Aleksandar Vasiljevic, B.Sc.

Title: Directorate for Forestry of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Contact information:

Address: Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade

Phone: + 381 11 361 62 91

Fax: + 381 11 687 049

E-mail: [minpsum@ptt.yu](mailto:minpsum@ptt.yu)

**Head of Forestry in Republic of Montenegro:**

Name: Mr. Milutin Simovic,

Title: Minister - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management

Contact information:

Address: Business Center "Vectra", Podgorica

Phone: + 381 81 482 109

Fax: + 381 81 234 306

**UNFF national focal point for FR Yugoslavia:**

Name: 1. Vladimir Dozic, B.Sc. of Forestry, 1<sup>st</sup> Focal Point  
2. Dusan Jovic, B.Sc. of Forestry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Focal Point

Title: 1. Ministry assistant-Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade  
2. Senior Advisor-Environment Dept. of Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health and Social Care

Contact information:

Address: Federation Palace, Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade

Phone: 1. + 381 11 602 588

2. + 381 11 311 17 81

Fax: 1. + 381 11 311 75 37

2. + 381 11 142 564

E-mail: 1. [smpuvvs@gov.yu](mailto:smpuvvs@gov.yu)

2. [dusan@hera.smrnzsv.gov.yu](mailto:dusan@hera.smrnzsv.gov.yu)

**Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point:**

Name: 1. Dusan Jovic, B.Sc. of Forestry,  
2. Vidosava Jovanovic, B.Sc. of Forestry

Title: 1. Senior Advisor-Environment Dept.of Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health and Social Care  
2. Councillor-Directorate for Forestry of Republican Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Contact information:

Address: 1. Federation Palace, Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, 11070 Belgrade  
2. Nemanjina 22-26, 11000 Belgrade

Phone: 1. + 381 11 311 17 81  
2. + 381 11 363 16 65

Fax: 1. + 381 11 142 564  
2. + 381 11 687 049

E-mail: 1. [dusan@hera.smrnzs.sv.gov.yu](mailto:dusan@hera.smrnzs.sv.gov.yu)  
2. [minpsum@ptt.yu](mailto:minpsum@ptt.yu)

## **II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action**

### **General**

The FR Yugoslavia consists of two republics: Republic of Serbia in the north and Republic of Montenegro in the south of the country. Total surface area is 102,173 km<sup>2</sup>. It is a Balkan and a Mediterranean country and is also in the Danube Basin. According to its geo-morphological characteristics, the country can be divided into three macro-regions: the Pannonian Plain in the north, the hilly-mountainous region in the central part of the country, and the Adriatic coast in Montenegro. Yugoslavia is relatively rich in natural resources, high-quality agricultural soil, forests, landscapes diversity and maintains a high biodiversity level. Forest resources in Yugoslavia are of national and international significance, taking into account the numbers of tree species, their diversity and primary gene centers. Forests cover about 28% of the total land. Diverse terrain, climate and hydrography condition very rich ecosystem diversity in both Republics. Almost all the characteristic biomes of Europe are represented in FRY, i.e. 5 of 12 world terrestrial biomes, and the marine biome of the sea. About 1800 objects and areas<sup>1</sup> are protected by different forms of nature protection, covering about 400,000 ha, app. 4% of the total area.

The entire forest ecosystem is a very important resource of international significance, so the management and protection of forest ecosystems must be assessed globally and in conformity with the commitments undertaken by our country by the ratification of international conventions on the protection and enhancement of forest biodiversity.

Due to the economic and political sanctions imposed in the middle of 1992, utilization of natural resources intensified during the last decade, including those under special protection. This posed a greater threat to natural and cultural resources and reduced the society's capacity to invest in environmental protection measures. NATO bombing in 1999 caused additional environmental degradation.

After the years of international isolation, we are trying to emphasise and to improve international cooperation and to improve complete state of forests and forestry in our country. Forestry sector is in the process of transition, as the whole economy of FR Yugoslavia. Main characteristics of this process are the changes in organisation and management system in the companies for forest managing in the public sector.

Management of natural and environmental resources must be given high priority in FRY's bilateral and multilateral development assistance and forest measures will be given a central role. In this context, a challenge will be to harmonise forest-related measures of the development assistance policy with the outcomes of the international forest dialogue.

Numerous activity were attribute this year<sup>2</sup> especially very intensive cooperation with many international organisations and governments, like FAO, CIC, MCPFE, UNDP, UNECE (Timber Committee), OSCE, UPOV, IPGRI, EUFORGEN, UNESCO, IUCN, IUFRO and World Bank, as well as with government representatives of Norway, Finland and Japan. Also, numerous institutes and individuals are members of IUFRO different divisions and EFI. In addition, the procedure started for establishment of Biosphere Reserves at Tara and Djerdap (in the sense of their nomination as such to UNESCO). It comprises international co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania, respectively. The Convention is being prepared on Carpathian Region, similar to the Alps Convention, and this country is actively participating in it.

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<sup>1</sup> Valuable targets for environment and biodiversity protection include eight internationally protected areas, nine national parks, 16 regional natural parks, 26 splendid areas and 89 nature reserves.

<sup>2</sup> Country profile of the FR of Yugoslavia, Chapter 11, Cooperation

FR Yugoslavia is actively involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity, among other ratified conventions (64).

There are ongoing activities for creation of national bodies that should be responsible for development and implementation of National Forest Programme (NFP). We do hope that our NFP will include principles of sustainable forest and nature management.

It will also include considerations of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and national actions in the context of the outcome of the UNFF. National implementation of international agreement would be a significant element of the FRY national forest policy. A systematic assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action will initiate in the near future important components for the creation of the national forest programme.

### **Economic aspects of forests, including trade**

Yugoslavia has started the economic reforms successfully, and has a good economic program for the next midterm period in which it has verified the transition flow and the way of its conducting (this is the evaluation of IMF executive committee).

The present forest condition in Yugoslavia can be characterized as unsatisfactory because of the insufficient growing stock, unfavorable age structure, unsatisfactory stocking, density and forest percentage, unfavorable stand condition with a high percentage of stands with broken canopy and weeded areas, and unsatisfactory health condition.

Forest management (felling, tending and protection) is performed according to plan documents. In the past ten years, the percentage of felled volume compared to increment varied, but in general felling decreased (54% of the increment in 1991 to 45% of the increment in 2000). On the other hand, forest tending decreased drastically (from approximately 20% in last decade, compared to the previous decade), as well as afforestation (from approximately 23 % in last decade, compared to the previous decade). If illegal felling (especially in Kosovo and Metohija, about 70% of all illegal felling) is taken into account, and other anthropogenic damage in forests (in FRY average annual number of forest fires is 200, mainly caused by the human factor), it can be concluded that in the nineties, forestry in FRY was in a very difficult position.

Economic parameters clearly show that in the last decade, gross domestic product and national income in forestry averagely decrease 3.8% per year. A modest share of forestry in the overall gross domestic product and national income, and its reduction resulted in the lack of financial sources for the investment in forest biological reproduction. For decades, the modest percentage of forestry in overall national income has been caused by the fact that forest products were under the regime of administrative control, and the prices of the majority of wood products were 2 - 4 times lower than on the world market.

Hunting, for example, as a very important activity in forestry, stagnated in the period 1991/2000, because of the reduction of the employed staff and even more because of the lower quality and quantity of the game. The difficult economic situation, out-of-date legal regulations, inappropriate attitude in hunting and lack of educated staff and capacity building, contributed largely to the poor state of hunting. The abundance of major game species (deer, roe, wild boar, chamois, mouflon, bear, hare, pheasant and partridge) constantly decrease and therefore the number of game shot, which has highly negative consequences for the trophy value and in general for the quality of game and the income from hunting.

The main tasks of forestry and hunting policy must be directed by the enhancement principle of the general state of forests. The aims of forestry and hunting policy should be precisely defined at the Federal level, compliant to the principles of sustainable development. Important issues are also the implementation

of plan documents for sustainable forest management; financial support of forestry and hunting development; conditions for solving the questions of forest ownership, selective process of privatisation in forestry, without disturbing the main forest functions; addressing the issues of management and sustainable management of private forests; adoption of international methodology of evaluation and improvement of sustainability of forest and hunting ground management; increase game abundance and quality; adapt the abundance and structure of the game in forest hunting grounds to intensive management and ensure the active protection of the populations of all wildlife species.

In efforts to reduce illegal trade in wood or non-wood forest products, in Serbia, among the others, in 1990 started the control of the use of wild plant and animal species in pharmacology and species demanded on the foreign market. High demand and export to some countries of Western Europe led to the reduction of abundance of these species populations *in-situ*. By the updated inventory in 1999, the trade and collection of 93 genera and species of fungi, plants and animals were placed under control.

Federal Law on environmental protection ensures the prerequisites for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), ratified by FR Yugoslavia in 2001.

Total financial effects show the stagnation and the drop of receipts in all segments of forestry, most of all in the export of both principal and other forest products.

### **Forest health and productivity**

The system of forest protection is organized and synchronized by the specialized services in public enterprises for forest management, by the Ministries, Institutes and through legal regulations to prevent forest damage. The greatest percent of damage in forests is caused by human factor (illegal felling, stealing of forest products, forest fires, etc.), damage by natural catastrophes and storms, and damage caused by pests and plant diseases. There is Service of Report, Diagnose and Forecast in Serbia, which monitor the appearance, number and the spread of forest pests and diseases, and recommend measures for their control. The measures of forest protection were classified in few groups: remedial and silvicultural measures, application of chemical methods, application of biological methods, etc.

Besides, FR Yugoslavia has ratified Protocol to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) in 1986. Responsible body is the Federal Hydrometeorological Institute.

National Focal Center of International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) is the Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade (Department for Fruit Growing, Viticulture, Forestry and Processing).

The experience on carrying out the monitoring of the forest desiccation according to the Handbook on Methods and Criteria for Harmonised Sampling, Evaluation, Monitoring and Analysis of the Influence of Air Pollution upon the Forests (UN/ECE) indicate partial results and monitoring only of the Level I.

For purpose of obtaining the relevant data it is necessary to perform a revision of the bioindicator points damaged or having disappeared by felling of the dry trees, as well as inauguration of the monitoring of all the parameters at I, II, III and IV levels.

Full cooperation with international organizations for monitoring in FRY is necessary. Rebuilding of the whole process needs capacity building, institutional strengthening and financial support.

## **Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs**

The development and enhancement of forestry and hunting is realized by the implementation of plan documents in the ten-year period. Along with these plan documents (Hunting and Wildlife Management Plan and Forest Management Plan<sup>3</sup>), there are also Spatial Plans of the Republic of Serbia and Republic of Montenegro, which provide the directives for forest management on the entire FRY territory, as well as the Republic Laws on Forests and Republic Laws on Hunting<sup>4</sup>.

Although, the Forest Law includes different regulations, which make the sustainable forest management possible, there are some regulations, which disable it or make it difficult. In addition, there are problems with other laws, which related to forests and forestry and are not completely harmonised with the Forest Law. In addition, there are problems with other laws, connected with forests and forestry which are not completely harmonised among themselves and current forest law.

Accordingly, Law on the System of Environmental Protection, and also two new laws, at the republican level, on hunting and forest reproductive material, as well as the Law on the Plant Health Protection, at the federal level, are now being drafted and are expected to be adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Assembly in the near future (2003).

The plans for the establishment of new forest complexes include the following: private forest owners must be stimulated to offer their lands which are not used for agriculture to be afforested free of charge; conversion of degraded forests into high (economic) forests; reclamation, reconstruction and conversion of coppice forests into high forests; modernization of nurseries and seed production, selection of high genetic value seed stock; increase of forest accessibility to optimal openness (15 m/ha); capacity building and training of professional staff, with the modernization of the scientific and teaching programs and curricula with new scientific and professional knowledge and achievements.

The entire forest ecosystem is a very important resource of international significance, so the management and protection of forest ecosystems must be assessed globally and in conformity with the commitments undertaken by our country through the ratification of international conventions on the protection and enhancement of forest biodiversity.

Connected with institutional reforms and modernization (transfer to market economy), FAO supported preparing of "Plan of the proposal for development organizing and building capacity in the sector of forestry".

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<sup>3</sup> Forest law (1991) put under an obligation elaboration of this documents.

<sup>4</sup> Country Profile of the FR of Yugoslavia, Chapter 11, Decision-Making (The following laws regulate forest issue in FR Yugoslavia: the Resolution on the Environmental Policy in FR Yugoslavia (1993); the Federal Law on the Basis of Environmental Protection (1998); the Resolution on Biodiversity Protection Policy in FRY (1994); the Federal Law on Admission of Agricultural and Forest Plant Varieties (1998); the Federal Law on GMO (2001).

At the republican level the pertinent legislation include:

### Serbian Laws

The Law on Forests (1991); the Law on Hunting (1993); the Law on Expropriation (1995); the Law on Environmental Protection (1991); the Law of National Parks (1993); the Law on Agricultural Land (1992); the Law on Planning and Organization of Space and Settlements (1995); the Law on Seeds and Seedlings (1993) and the Spatial Plan of Serbia (1996) as the strategic document.

### Montenegrin Laws

The Law of National Parks (1991), the Law on Hunting (1992), the Law on Forests (1993); the Law on Nature Protection (1989). Strategic documents for the creation of National Policy in this area are: the Declaration on the Ecological State of Montenegro (1991) and the Spatial Plan of Montenegro (1988).

The main goal of this plan, is to help the Government of Republic of Serbia, to make the strategic plan and forestry policy, to change and bring up the forestry legislations and to make the National Forestry Program. Expectable start of that Plan should be during next year (2003).

### **III. Preparation of the Report**

Report prepared by:

Mr. Dušan Jović, senior advisor; Environment Dept. of Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health and Social Care of FR Yugoslavia

Mrs. Jelena Lazarević, expert associate; Department of Fruit Growing, Viticulture, Forestry and Processing of Federal Ministry of Economy and Internal Trade of FR Yugoslavia

Mrs. Vidosava Jovanović, councillor; Forests Department of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection of the Republic of Serbia

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