

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

Serbia and Montenegro



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

General

1. Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports¹ to UNFF 2, UNFF 3 and UNFF 4, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations on the following points:

- assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context
- development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests,
- international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,
- mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

The Union State of Serbia and Montenegro 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 km². 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.

According to the Constitution of the Union State of the Serbia and Montenegro, lots of competences of former federal state were relegated on the republics decision level. Same situation is with forestry which is under the responsibility of Republics Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, both Serbia and Montenegro respectively. There is no common forest policy and institution on Union level, but on Republics level. It means that Republic of Serbia and Republic of Montenegro develop their own forest policy and institutions without any interference from Union level.

In 2004 a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management was re-established in Serbia. At the same time, the Directorate of Forests was transferred from the Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and incorporated in the structure of the ministry. Accordance to previous facts, in Montenegro, situation was without changes and forestry is constantly in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

The governments are engaged in a major structural reform involving all major administrative systems, including the decentralisation of responsibilities and financial resources. At the same time, the capacity of public authorities is to be strengthened in order to be able to deliver services more efficiently and accountably, i.e. to move away from the old bureaucratic approaches towards transparent and accountable procedures.

¹ National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.jsp?siteId=2461&sitetreeId=6947&langId=1&geoId=0>, however UNFF4 reports are available only at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff4.html> at the time of writing.

The extended period of political instability and constant changes at the governmental level have made it difficult to make any new formulation of forest policies. The Forest Law in Serbia dates back to the year 1991 and is in need of renewal. A new constitution is under preparation, the results of which may have effect on the forestry sector as well. In Montenegro, several laws are already updated, like Law on Forests (2000) and Law on Hunting (1999). So far, no forest policy statement as such has been made, although policy issues have been dealt with in some documents. The lack of the general framework within the forestry sector has contributed to a situation where planning for the future is difficult.

In Serbia, this situation will be alleviated by the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management-Directorate of Forests with FAO support to finish a project of Institutional Development and Capacity Building for the National Forest Programme, which is dealing with drafting a forest policy document adapted to the present situation and future aspirations within the forestry sector. The document is expected to be adopted by the Serbian Government in year 2005.

It is also include considerations of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, among others global, regional and national actions in the context of the outcome of the UNFF. National implementation of international agreement is a significant element of the Serbia and Montenegro 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.

The past decade of transition and conflict has left the Region of West Balkan² with a legacy of inadequate growth and declining living standards. Generally, the region is extremely heterogeneous in levels of income and population, and also in structural and social development.

Serbia and Montenegro were for the past decade, under the direct influence of political happenings (disintegration of SFRY and conflicts on the area of former republics), and from 1992 under the economic sanctions of UN. During that period, were excluded from most of international processes and institutions, but since October 5th 2002 and democratic changes is re-establishing international cooperation and new institutional and legislative frames, regarding government level and forestry issues as well.

Forestry sector in Serbia and Montenegro, in last period, was constrained by number of systemic and institutional lacks, e.g. implementation of forestry policy by responsible government authorities, outdated Law on Forests (for Serbia only), deficiency of real forestry development programs, organization and way of management.

Forestry policy in Serbia and Montenegro respectively is not clearly identified through adequate law regulation, and beside that it is necessary to form new environmental policy with clear picture of future activities. In Montenegro some of elements of the future policy could be found in Law on Forestry and general developing planes. But there is not any political statement, for forestry sector.

Therefore, it is necessary to make outline of new forestry policy, change forestry legislation according to the criteria and provisions of EU regarding European forestry, develop private forest sector, adapt new organization structures due to justification of forest management, develop comprehensive human resource development program, to prepare realistic national forest program, and to help in further education of cadre in order to achieve necessary knowledge and qualifications and increase competences.

Some thematic points are separated regarding primary international obligations and initiatives important for forestry policy and legislation of Republic of Serbia as follows:

- Formation of national forestry policy and national forestry program (program of sustainable

² The West Balkan region refers to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro.

- management and forest ecosystem development), along with formation of national policy and programs related to the conservation of biological diversity;
- Development and enforcement of institutional and economic forestry frames;
 - Development and enforcement of stakeholder participation (creation of policy, and planning and management)
 - Improvement of socio-economic and rural aspects of forestry through sustainable management of the forests;
 - Development of research, education and tuition regarding sustainable management of forests and conservation of forest biological diversity.

After all political events which did mark last period in Serbia and Montenegro, it is clear that government organs are determined for improvement of relations and access to the EU, with final goal of Union, that both of state members individually, approach to the EU as the member. This process will be long and will imply step by step approaching and adjustment of national regulations to the EU.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2

Combating deforestation and forest degradation

2. preparing diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector

Forests have repeatedly been in central role supporting the economic revival of the country from wars and other difficult times in the past century. The scars are even now to be seen in the actual low productivity. In the countryside forests have traditionally been a basic factor of employment, in the form of forest works and collection of non-wood products. The collection for home use as well as hunting has always been an important addition to the livelihood. Firewood is the main source of heating especially in the countryside but also in urban settlements.

At that time of Ottoman Empire, Serbia and Montenegro had a high percentage of forest cover (above 75%) and the population density was low. After expelling Turkish Empire from a country, a hasty demographic incensement of population in the Serbia and Montenegro, followed with agricultural development and trade in wood products, brings to drastic forest destruction and produced eroded barren lands in the mountainous region. That is the period of intensive demographic immigration movement and significant increasing number of population. To provide enough agricultural land and spaces for settlements, there have been occurred uncontrolled woodcuts. It has been followed by appearance of destructive erosion processes on the huge areas in hilly and mountain region. Destructive flood with enormous negative economic effects and casualties was frequent. Regulations from 1853, 1857/58 and 1861 tried to stop or limit uncontrolled clear cuts.

Also after both world wars the forests were endangered as the most available resources used for initial impacts regarding the country development and also to provide fast and huge amount of financial resources needed for economy recovery. These periods were about 10 years after both world wars and clearcutting was almost normal manner. In the 50's of last century the average forest areas in Serbia and Montenegro was less than 20% of total land area, comparison the nowadays 28%. The difference of 8% was achieved and realized mainly because of large afforestation actions financed and organized by state through the 60's, 70's, and 80's of last century.

3. formulating and implementing national policies and strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation

Since the UN Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the need for interaction between forestry and society and the concept of public participation have been recognized as integral to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Pan-European countries further confirmed this in Resolution H1 “General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe” (*Second Ministerial Conference, Helsinki 1993*), and Resolution L1 ‘People, Forests and Forestry - Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management’ (*Third Ministerial Conference, Lisbon 1998*).

Changes in the way of maintaining the forests and acknowledgment of social, cultural, and environmental issues did result in creation of various international environmental and forestry policy agreements, which involve broader public to influence affairs related to environmental, natural and forest management issues. Related statements can be found e.g. in Agenda 21³, Convention on Biological Diversity⁴ (CBD), UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests⁵ (IPF), Resolution L1 on People, Forests and Forestry of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Forests in Europe⁶ (Lisbon 1998), UN/ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998), and other various documents on Pan European, European and EC level.

Thus, public participation in forestry can be defined as “*various forms of direct public involvement where people, individually or through organized groups, can exchange information, express opinions and articulate interests, and have the potential to influence decisions or the outcome of specific forestry issues*” (FAO/ECE/ILO Joint Committee, 2000).

Formulation of a new Forest Policy of Serbia took place in a period 2003-2005. with a help of FAO through the Project TCP/YUG/2902 “Institutional development and Capacity building for the national forest programme of Serbia”. Draft of a Forest policy is in a public debate and it is expected to be adopted by the Serbian Government in a first half of 2005. Forest Policy document was developed through process of participation of most of the stakeholders in forestry cluster (forestry industry, wood processing industry, representatives of environment protection, private forest owners and local communities). More than 20 workshops were organized with app. 250 people actively participating in creation of FP goals and measures. One of the main problems was how to motivate private forest owners in creating associations in the aim of better expression of their interests. The results of such activities, at this point of development of forestry institutions, are modest (3 new forest associations) which shows in what direction future activities of present forest administration should go.

On the other hand in Montenegro participation processes regarding to the formulation of national forest policy are still in the preparation phase.

4. raising awareness of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests

Public awareness of forestry and environmental issues is rather low and is focused mainly on accidents. The public is more oriented to political and economical issues. Environmental and partially forestry subjects are a part of basic education, beginning in elementary school (generally from the fourth grade). However, there is still a lack of coherent staff training for integral forestry and environment protection and improvement, as well as for sustainable development, especially at the highest levels of education.

³ Article 23.2; 11.3.b.

⁴ Article 8j.

⁵ Proposal for Action 9 (NFP).

⁶ L1 General Guidelines

Environmental NGOs play an important role in raising public awareness in forestry and, to date, have contributed to biodiversity protection, the development of Local Environmental Action Plans, and different actions related to increased public participation in different local, regional and national forestry and environmental issues.

It has been generally assessed that education has not been appropriately organized, and there is a notable lack of planned activities on awareness rising on the need of environmental protection. Education of the professional staff for integral environmental protection in forestry context is unsatisfactory.

However, on the other hand, it must be emphasized that ecology and environmental protection were included in preschool, primary and secondary education and in four-year university study long ago.

According to currently valid program, ecology is, both regarding the content, and regarding the number of classes, generally well represented, much better than forest issues, especially in the primary school programs. The courses of environment protection are included in the curricula of many universities, although the approaches of some faculties differ. These differences were conditioned not only by the structure and nature of the faculty, but also by the subjective attitudes of the responsible.

Taking into account the actual state, the following tasks are priorities: adequate and competent analysis of all program contents of education in general; amendment of current ecological education program contents with the elements and the concept of sustainable development; introduce the concept of sustainable development to all other education segments in which ecological, forest related, education has not been present to date.

Underdeveloped communication, low level of public relations and extension programmes to create public awareness of the beneficial roles of trees, forests and wildlife, and of the need for protecting and managing them wisely for future generations are general picture of the forestry public relations in Serbia and Montenegro respectively.

The support and cooperation of educational institutions (not only forestry schools and Faculty of Forestry), the mass media, the scientific community and professional organisations, private enterprises, public agencies and non-governmental organisations concerned with forestry and environmental matters are not at the satisfactory level. Adequate training of staff for these tasks is also absented.

Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

5. creating or expanding protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems and their full range of values and, developing and applying criteria and methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in protected forest areas
6. developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector, indigenous people and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation
7. giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development and improving the coordination among such policies and programmes

Biodiversity can be increased and protected, both in protection areas and in managed forests. The greatest threat for the maintenance of preservation areas is a lack of funding. National parks as public utilities are increasingly forced to sell timber from their forests in order to meet financial needs.

In some national parks, the pressure of increased tourism is threatening biodiversity. Municipalities are contributing to this through liberal land-use planning, construction permits, etc. in order to increase economic activity in the depressed rural communities.

Growth and protection of biodiversity has not been taken into account in forest management. The lack of education and the limited awareness of biodiversity are evident at all levels of organisations, both in state and in privately owned forests.

There is probably great potential to increase and protect biodiversity in private forests. However, there is no relevant data available, since the inventory of private forests was stopped by the period of international isolation, which started in the 90s. Harvest and management, in general, has been very limited in private forests during the last decades.

Quickly developed connections and cooperation to other European countries have increased the environmental awareness amongst people in Serbia. The latest environmental trends have been actively introduced in numerous projects dealing with development, education and research. Serbia and Montenegro's nature represents unique diversity in Europe which gives justified reasons to measures of preservation.

According to the modern approach to the development of protected areas, multi-functional objectives are core elements of sustainability. The management takes equally into account cultural, ecological, economical and social aspects of the development in the protected sites and surrounding areas. In Serbia and Montenegro's conditions this requirement calls for great change in attitudes in order to create new partnership amongst various stakeholders. Adopting the concept of multi-functional protected areas forestry may provide both concrete livelihood and preconditions for improved diversity in rural areas.

Nevertheless, 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.

Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

8. expanding forested area, establishing and managing plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, while avoiding the replacement of natural ecosystems, and recognizing the role of imports in satisfying the needs for forest products and services
9. promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities to promote effective participation in decision making, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies
10. improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources

The Serbia and Montenegro is not a low forest cover country.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

11. promoting the creation of new forest resources through plantations and recognizing their role in rehabilitation of degraded lands and forests in environmentally critical areas
12. promoting policies to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management.

Forest makes an essential part of the national identity of Serbia and Montenegro. According to an old tradition, in some parts of country, fathers planted trees as a son was born. When the young man became about 20 years old he made furniture of these trees for his becoming home.

Forests are the main element of landscape together with the mountains of Serbia and Montenegro and plains of Vojvodina and with the great rivers Danube, Sava, Morava, Drina, Tara and Moraca create unique landscape diversity.

The first afforestation in today's Serbia and Montenegro started on Subotica-Horgos sand in 1717 year. Till 1981 year, over 78% of these sands have been afforested.

The first organized afforestation on the largest - Deliblato sand started in 1808 year. Dynamic of afforestation on Deliblato sand till 1968 year has been from 1808-1918: 19,683 ha, from 1919-1941: 2,018 ha, from 1945-1968: 6,041 ha, that means totally from 1808-1968: 27,720 hectares. From the totally afforested area, under the forests has been maintained 65% that is 18,032 hectares. Taking into consideration extremely bad ecological conditions that are quite satisfactory result.

For today Serbia and Montenegro, the mentioned sand is not the largest ecological problem. They are already solved. But, there exist the huge eroded barren areas in hilly and mountainous region of Central Serbia, and Montenegro, where erosion processes endanger over 1,000,000 hectares, producing infertile, lifeless "stone-deserts". The afforestation is the only way to stop these negative processes.

Afforestation continued all over Serbia and Montenegro, but it was as much as possible in the economic limits of impoverish and by the war destructed small state of Serbia and Montenegro, respectively.

Those facts illustrate the registered abundant of afforestation. Starting from the fact that it is period of establishing numerous private regional and local societies for afforestation, it is quite possible that all the activities on afforestation haven't been registered in accessible archive documents. It can be assumed that afforestation of that period has been more intensive than in the previous table. During the period of First World War, all the activities on afforestation have been stopped.

Although the First World War has great influence on degradation processes, disappearing of woods and enlarging the areas of eroded bare lands, newly established state, first Serbs, Croats and Slovenians, and later Yugoslavia, has not paid attention to restoration of forest ecosystems.

It was a period of inconsiderate exploitation of most valuable forest ecosystems.

The last World War contributed the destruction of huge areas of our forests. The result was excessive erosion, frequent floods and torrents. That was the reason that immediately after War has been organized massive actions on afforestation large areas of degraded bare lands. The participation take great number of population, primarily from the rural regions where were the largest surfaces of degraded bare lands. At the beginning, it was relatively spontaneous voluntaries actions, and later more and more organized, expertly directed with financial participation with restricted funds of state administration. This after war period is characterized by relatively intensive dynamic of afforestation, though the oscillations from year to year are obvious. The reasons for that are different: different access to organization of afforestation, dynamic of payment, relatively frequent changing inside organization of administrative and legislative system etc.

Oscillation of afforestation intensity by five-year periods can be notice. That is the consequence of frequent socio-economic reorganization of state management and the way of providing financial funds for infrastructure investments in enlargement of forest ecosystems.

The positive ecological effects of the projected afforestation can be observed from the aspect of narrower - regional significance (within the country), and broader-planetary significance, because they surpass the boundaries of the region and contribute to the ecological enhancement of the planet.

Afforestation of 1,200,000 hectares of deforested land attacked by destructive and severe erosion of the 1st and 2nd categories and 150,000 ha of land attacked by erosion of the 3rd category will prevent the transport of 80% of the present sediment yield, i.e. 13,842,010 m³ annually from the total afforested land,

or 1,025.33 m³ per 1 km². This means that afforestation of deforested hilly and mountainous lands sloping above 15% and exposed to severe erosion of the 1st to 3rd categories, will protect from destruction annually about 6,900 ha with soil layer 20 cm deep.

The establishment of forest ecosystems will intensify the recultivation of the degraded lands, resulting in the gradual re-establishment of the productive soil.

The newly established forest ecosystems, by their effect on the hydrological cycle, will return balance to the disturbed hydrological regime. By their effect on runoff and retention, they will lead to permanent and uniform water availability that is essential for water supply in hilly and mountainous lands.

Streams will have a balanced course of pure water without solid particles and in this way they will slow down significantly, and even control the silting up of the constructed small and large reservoirs and thus reservoir life will be sustainable for a long time. Destructive torrents and river floods whose sources are within the country boundaries will be reduced to the lowest possible degree.

The establishment of forest ecosystems will lead to continuous enrichment of biodiversity, which is important because of the fact that urban agriculture and the development of anthropogenic environment endanger biodiversity permanently and significantly.

The established anthropogenic forest ecosystems, by their hydrological function and by regulating effect on the local climate, will lead to increased agricultural production on the surrounding conserved agricultural lands.

By their positive role in environment conservation and protection, forest ecosystems will contribute to the revitalization of settlements in the hilly and mountainous region, to the development of tourism, and other types of utilization of the newly established forest resources, based on the principles of sustainable development.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

13. valuation of forest goods and services (this may include, among other things, the development and use of new valuation methodologies, valuation of a wider range of goods and services, and policy decisions that reflect a more comprehensive assessment of forest values)
14. the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes
15. use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)
16. efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,
17. participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and
18. efforts to reduce illegal trade (exports from or imports into your country) in wood or non-wood forest products. Please indicate achievements made, lessons learned, constraints encountered, and planned initiatives.

Former Yugoslavia, now Serbia and Montenegro 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 Serbia and Montenegro can be characterized as unsatisfactory because of the insufficient growing stock, unfavourable age structure, unsatisfactory stocking, density and forest percentage, unfavourable 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 Serbia and Montenegro average annual number of forest fires is 200, mainly caused by the human factor), it can be concluded that in the nineties, forestry in Serbia and Montenegro was in a very difficult position.

Economic parameters clearly show that in the last decade, gross domestic product and national income in forestry decrease every 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.

Non-wood forest products such as game meat, deer horns, pelts, forest seeds, fruits, berries, edible mushrooms, honey, cork, resin, moss for pharmaceutical industries and medicinal plants are also an important resource of economic significance, especially in rural areas. Utilisation of non-wood forest products has also declined in the past decade. It needs to be revitalised. Development of non-wood forest products through integrated forest management involves fundamental changes in the approach to ecological, silvicultural, socio-economic and trade issues associated with forestry. Non-wood forest products are the basis of the concept of integrated and sustainable management of forest resources. Small-scale enterprises based on non-wood forest products provide off-farm employment and income to rural households. In particular, the wildlife resources of Serbia and Montenegro offer considerable potential for commercial utilisation.

The volume of trade in these products has also declined in recent years. Forest seed production, for example, has declined from 1 289 tonnes in 1983 to only 9 tonnes in 1996 and collection of medicinal plants from 344 tonnes in 1987 to only 4 tonnes in 1996. These figures do not reflect trade in the grey economy sector that has grown as a result of recent economic and social changes. Current revenue from hunting is about US\$ one million, down from US\$1.5 million in 1991.

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 issue of forest certification has certainly changed forest policy in several aspects. The first is the contribution of private policy actors to establishing a benchmark for the definition of sustainable forest management and operationalising that concept to be applicable on the field level by means of guidelines, criteria and indicators. The second is the strengthened role of non-governmental policy actors in forest policy. Both factors might stand out as major overall effects of the whole certification issue in the long run.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management-Directorate of Forests, in cooperation with the other relevant Ministries, should develop and implement a National Forestry Strategy, which will be

based on multifunctional forest management, taking into account international forest certification principles. This should be done in co-operation with all stakeholders, by using transparent and internationally recognized procedures.

In efforts to reduce illegal trade in wood or non-wood forest products, in Serbia and Montenegro, 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. Laws on environmental protection ensure 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

19. If damage to forests from air pollution is a significant problem in your country, please provide information on recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution. Please indicate if your country is involved in any international cooperation efforts aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge, increasing information access or reducing the impacts of long-range air pollution on forests, as well as your views on the role of enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.

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 monitors the appearance, number and the spread of forest pests and diseases, and recommends 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.

In response to widespread concern that air pollution could affect forest condition, the International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) was established under the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) in 1985. Former 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.

Also, in 1986, the European Union adopted the scheme on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and with Regulation (EEC) No. 3528/86 the legal basic for co-financing of relevant assessments was provided. This was replaced by a new Regulation (EC) No. 2152/2003 (Forest Focus) adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2003. The monitoring activities pursue the objectives of Resolution S1 of the Strasbourg, Resolution H1 of the Helsinki and Resolution L2 of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The results of ICP Forests also contribute to the discussion on global forest policy, such as the UNFF.

Since 1986 the monitoring of forest condition and its development has been carried out under both programmes in close cooperation.

Results of ICP Forests provide the scientific basis for political decisions on air pollution control and thus contribute to the elaboration and review of protocols of the Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). In particular, ICP Forests monitoring activities can be expected

to contribute to other aspects of relevance for forest policy, such as effects of climate change on forests, sustainable forest management and biodiversity in forests.

National Focal Centre of International Cooperative Programme on the Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) is the Institute of Forestry.

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 full results and monitoring of the Level I and partially Level II in Serbia and Montenegro.

For purpose of obtaining the relevant data it was performed 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 and II levels.

In Serbia, forest tree crown condition, and soil chemistry were studied at 103 sampling plots. Based on the analysis of defoliation and discolouration in the framework of monitoring of forest tree crown condition, the degree of damage was calculated for the study tree species.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

20. Please indicate progress made and lessons learned in efforts to harmonize or to make compatible policy frameworks in your country (e.g. national forest programme or a similar policy framework for forests, biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plans to combat desertification, etc.) that collectively address the full range of forest values.

To date, Serbia and Montenegro has not had a comprehensively founded and defined forest policy. Forest policy has been defined by legal regulations and individual strategic documents, as the base of the forestry sector development. The global forest policy is subject to significant conceptual changes from an exclusively economic orientation, to an increasingly important protection role in all forest functions. In harmony with the European and the world forest policy trends, forest policy in Serbia should find the balance in meeting all the forest functions (economic, ecological, and socio-cultural). The last official documents which can be taken as the components of forest policy are the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia and the Forest Law in 1991. As these documents are out of date and as there are no other strategic documents, it is necessary to formulate the National Forest Policy of the Republic of Serbia, as a long-term strategic document which should address all the significant elements and factors of Serbia's forestry.

There are numerous and significant development initiatives, relevant to the forestry sector. The Government of the Republic of Serbia has launched the initiative to reform the public sector and to restructure the State Enterprises to upgrade the work and rationalise the business. Special attention is focused on the role of rural regions and their development. The Agricultural Strategy, which also contains the elements of forest policy as the inseparable part of rural development, is being prepared for adoption. The forests offer multiple benefits: they provide raw materials for renewable and ecologically sound products and they have an important role in economic welfare, biological diversity, global carbon cycling and water balance. Forests are vital for the ecological, protection, social and recreation services, especially in the increasingly urbanised society.

By stating the above concerns, by launching wider activities towards the changes and by assigning the adequate significance to forestry for the country and the people, the goal of Forest Policy is to provide the directions to sustainable development of the forestry sector. As the response in the context of changes, the Government has initiated the Strategy of Sustainable Development of the Republic of Serbia (SSDRS), a broad initiative for the reform of all sectors, including the forestry sector, through the definition of a new policy, laws and institutional changes. The new Forest Policy is only a part of the process, and SSDRS will help implement the policy through the analysis of the sector legal framework, development of the

National Forestry Programme, the reform of key institutions and the implementation of a new sectoral co-ordination framework.

Based on above the Directorate of Forests of the Republic of Serbia confirming finally that each sectoral policy, and also forest policy, is a component of the total policy of sustainable development of our country, which will provide the framework for a more detailed planning within each sector, enacts the draft version of National Forest Policy of the Republic of Serbia in the year 2004. Expected adoption by the Serbian Government is planned in 2005 after completing the process of public participation.

21. Please provide information on recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood, non-wood forest products and services and whether your country's national forest programme or similar policy framework for forests takes into consideration future needs for forest goods and services. Please provide views on how enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action

Internationally and by United Nations, efforts have been made to reduce the exploitation of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and to support sustainable development (Agenda 21-Rio), meaning that the resources can be used only without compromising the survival of future generations.

As it is known that forest ecosystems are the most significant ecological supports of the biosphere, and that they participate with 33% in the total production of organic matter and as they occupy 27% of the land, then it is evident that their effect on biosphere exceeds considerably the level of effects of other ecosystems. This justifies the inestimable significance of forest ecosystem sustainability.

Forestry in Serbia and Montenegro has the potential to make an important contribution to the country's economic and social development. There is an overwhelming difference between what the forest resources are presently providing, and what they could provide. In spite of this, however, the sector is not receiving the emphasis it deserves. It needs higher emphasis and support in order to mobilize all available resources and means for its development. In order to justify adequate emphasis and support, as well as to perform effectively, it is essential that:

- The forestry administration and management respond to the requirements of the emerging market economy and new demands on the forest resources, and make structural adjustment accordingly.
- Attempts are made to produce supporting information to promote forestry development such as:
 - Supply and demand prospect; to determine possible gap or surplus.
 - Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) potential, market prospect, training, and organizational requirements.
 - Rural dependence on forest resources, subsistence forest production, employment, and community- resource relations.
 - Plantations; economics of plantations, type of plantations required, incentives, promotion and organizational aspects.
 - Government forest revenues; stumpage/royalty fees.
- Private forests are revitalized so as to prevent nearly 40% of the country's forest resources sitting idle and vulnerable to further deterioration.
- Rural community involvement in forest development is promoted to ensure additional income.
- Privatization is effectively used as a vehicle to relieve management organizations, which are ill-equipped to perform all functions.
- Rural forest communities are organized and trained to take an active role in privatizing forestry activities e.g. logging, NWFP.
- Possible NGO involvement in forest communities to fill the lack of forestry extension service.
- Forest management planning is reformulated and upgraded to become "Multi-purpose Forest Resource Management and Planning".

- Forest information system developed and established to ensure adequate database for planning.
- Institutions and organizations adopt multi-purpose forest resource management planning and implementation.

It is apparent that there are several issues with regard to forest resource management and its financing that require consideration and commitment. First of all the unbalanced approach to forest administration and management policy that gives higher emphasis to the state forest and forestland needs to be addressed and corrected. It is believed that private forests, with the potential they have, deserve at least equal emphasis.

There are various areas where investments are required. The investments pertaining to institutional strengthening and capacity building should have priority. There are a number of donor-funded projects that would support institutions and provide a sound basis for development. Additional donor funded projects need to be sought, to relieve the government from the heavy financial burden.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Social and cultural aspects of forests

22. promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements

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.

A great biodiversity of autochthonous plants and animals' species in Serbia and Montenegro, not only in regional - Balkan, but also in European proportions, has been verified by numerous scientific material proofs. Unfortunately, it is evident that in the past several decades, different, primarily inadequate external and internal anthropogenic activities and pressures seriously endangered a huge and unique biodiversity, which also includes the cultivated, i.e. autochthonous domestic species.

The scientific-research institutions in the period 1989 – 1992 kept 58 collections with about 32,000 samples. Based on the previous collections, Plant Gene Bank of Serbia and Montenegro took over 5,228 samples, i.e. 3,016 seed samples and 2,212 samples of plant species for conservation *in-situ* with the data on the degree of processing. In the meantime, the collection and acquisition of some samples from active collections of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Institutes was continued, so that the National Collection of Plant Gene Bank now has 3,793 seed samples and 1,408 other samples (*ex-situ* and *in-situ*). It is important to emphasize that all samples are situated on different locations, and in the different institutions, because the National Plant Gene Bank doesn't have appropriate building for all different collections.

The creation of cultivars and hybrids in breeding processes is based on a great number of wild relatives of cultivated species and wild species from the territory of Serbia and Montenegro. For numerous cultivated species, the Balkans is the centre of origin or domestication. All the above mentioned species show a high degree of genetic variability.

Although, forest species in Serbia and Montenegro comprise 205 autochthonous tree and shrub species of which 32 are in the group of endangered species of the first, second and third degree of risk. The

accession to the European program for forest genetic resources (EUFORGEN) was done with the decision to conserve the genetic potential of forest tree and shrub species and to enhance their utilization in Serbia and Montenegro.

Around 1,600 wild plant and animal species considered internationally significant species live on the territory of Serbia and Montenegro. The exceptional richness of plant and animal species and their communities also includes 4,182 species of higher plants, around 1,400 species of freshwater algae, 1,500 species of marine algae, 565 species of mosses, 516 species of lichens, and 650 species of macromycetes¹⁰. A certain number of plant species from the flora of the Serbia and Montenegro are included in the Red Lists of European and World Flora, such as *Ramonda serbica* and *R. nathaliae*, rare living representatives of the Tertiary tropic -subtropics flora that inhabited the Mediterranean and Europe over 500,000 year ago.

Among rich dendroflora, there are three sorts of crab apples (*Malus*), four sorts of common pear tree (*Pyrus*), and seven sorts of cherry tree (*Prunus*), which represent important genetic resources in pomiculture. The richness and peculiarity of the fauna in many caves in the Karst region (Eastern Serbia, Montenegro, etc.) are to be seen not only in numerous endemic species, but also in endemic genera and families.

Management of natural and environmental resources in Serbia and Montenegro was given high priority in bilateral and multilateral development assistance and forest measures will be having 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.

Serbia and Montenegro is actively involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity, among other 64 ratified environmental conventions.

23. strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management

According to Work Relations Act women and men are completely equal in work. Still, the unwritten law is that employer will rather choose a man, when a woman applies for the same position with same qualifications.

As to the specific role of women in forestry, the sector is still seen as a “world of men”. Only 18 % of the employees in forestry Public Enterprise are women, and very rare woman has been elected as executive manager of any sector of an enterprise since its corporation. Women are mostly working in forestry directorates, lumber-camp directorates and nurseries in administrative positions, technical services, supervising tasks and in control of production process both in state and private forests.

No woman has ever been appointed as director of a lumber-camp regardless of the fact that women fulfil competence requirements of a graduated forestry engineer. Women working with forestry enterprise have an education as a forestry engineer or other university degree such as economist, lawyer, etc., forestry technician or secondary or lower education.

Although there are a few exceptions, women are mostly employed in assisting jobs and non-core activities, which will be the first ones to be externalized in the restructuring process. It is likely that it will be mostly women who would face the consequences of privatization, including eventual unemployment.

24. integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities

Due to the 15 years of isolation from the international community, the forestry sector in Serbia and Montenegro is not yet in a position to track international development. New concepts and holistic approaches in managing economic, ecological, social and cultural sustainability are relatively unknown. The same situation holds true with research in forestry and technical applications. War and the consequences of social disruption resulted in a decrease of production and processing of wood; increasing the unemployment in forest regions. Private enterprises exploited the situation with refugees, by giving them low salaries and neglecting payment of social security and taxes.

There is a need for improving knowledge of non-wood forest products utilisation, like ecotourism, extension, collection and trade of berries and mushrooms, etc.

Current regulations i.e. the *Forest Law of the Republic of Serbia* (1991), prescribe that "... forests as public welfare must be maintained, regenerated and utilised in such a way that their values and multiple benefits are conserved and increased, sustainability and protection is ensured, and increment and yield are permanently increased" (Art. 2). In this aim, forest regions were formed by the same Law "...to carry out rationally the measures of management in forests, woodland and other forest potentials in a defined territory" (Art. 5). They include both state-owned and private forests (Art. 21). In this way, all forest management operations and tasks must be equally implemented in all forests, disregarding the category of ownership.

The development of forest ownership is characterised by the fact that it was started from the forest as a public welfare, owned by the society and the people in general. Different forms of forest ownership were then formed very soon (private, communal, rural), which was the logical consequence of the sequence of social development. After the Second World War, the process goes on in the opposite direction, and social attention is drawn to state or public sector of forestry. Today we are in the transitional phase of ownership transformation forests are returned to their former forms of ownership, although all previous forms of ownership do not exist.

In a post-war period numerous administrative measures had been taken to stop further deterioration and to improve private forests. Those measures didn't give desired results in spite of significant finances from budgets of municipalities and counts spent. By legal regulations related to private forests a management in these forests was indented to regulate, without interfering in a right for ownership.

At this moment, forestry in Serbia and Montenegro is characterised by two types of ownership, state and private. State forests occupy about 60%, and private forests are 40% of the overall forest area, which are 2,810 *ha*. State forests form larger complexes and they are characterised by better quantity and quality structure compared to private forests. Private forests are smaller complexes and their size is usually 0.50 *ha* per owner.

Chiefly, the issues of protection, supervising of wood trade had been solved the measures for improvement of management written etc. Nevertheless, the executing of these measures was mainly an issue of municipalities, which most often didn't use legal authorizations, and also in municipalities didn't exist an organized forest department with skilled employees, who would execute the written measures.

It can be concluded that not enough attention had been paid to the management of forests in private ownership, although this sector covers almost half of total forest area in Serbia and about 30% in Montenegro. The least attention had been paid to silviculture and meliorations of these forests, and an effort had been made to increase production in them, which not brought a decline of the existing condition of private forests. Until now measures of forest policy haven't been taken in this regard, and because of that the private forests present a great forest-economic problem. The importance of this problem is not only economic, but also of general society.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

25. inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders
26. supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices

Due to recent political and socio-economic changes, a new urgent requirement has arisen, namely the establishment of a system of forestry extension and consultancy to ensure that the basic principles of sustainable management are observed and applied in the practice of private forestry in accordance with the Forest Law. The organs and organisations of the public forest sector will provide extension services according to their particular professional competence. These will include technical guidance and advice, market information, supply of services needed by owners, training and publication of manuals for use by private forest owners dealing with correct field practices, forest policy, legislation and other relevant issues related to private forestry. Attention will be paid to the special needs of private forest owners. Employers will be responsible for further training of forest workers that will be provided mostly on a self-financing basis.

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), there are also Spatial Plans of the Republic of Serbia and Republic of Montenegro, which provide the directives for forest management on the entire territory of the Serbia and Montenegro, as well as the Republic Laws on Forests and Republic Laws on Hunting. Although, the Forest Laws 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 Laws.

Scientific forest-related knowledge

27. disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks
28. enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making

Professional education in Serbia and Montenegro is given at the *Faculty of Forestry* in Belgrade and technical education at the 3 high schools, in *Forestry School* in Kraljevo, *High School for Nourishment, Forestry and Chemistry* in Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia) and *Forestry School* in Berane (Montenegro).

Faculty of Forestry of Belgrade University provides forestry education at professional level. The faculty has a four years course, which may be followed by postgraduate courses for Master and Ph.D. levels. There are four different courses given; (a) general forestry, (b) landscape architecture with horticulture, (c) wood processing, and (d) soil conservation and erosion control.

The objective of forestry policy in education is to prepare qualified employees for the forestry sector capable of carrying out their tasks efficiently and effectively. These tasks are aimed at sustainable management and development of forest resources, with due consideration being given to environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts. The state will be responsible for the development, organisation and maintenance of the national forestry education and training system. It will create suitable conditions for the education and training of the requisite number of qualified employees for all forms of forest ownership.

The curricula of the forestry schools at all levels, professional, technical and vocational, should be adapted to the needs of forestry practice in the changing socio- economic, scientific and technological conditions, particularly with regard to acquisition of new knowledge in ecology, social and cultural functions of forests, forestry legislation, economics, forest business management, competition in international timber trade labour market, and forest products.

Some international projects have been started in order to fulfil the above goals. They have a financial and expert support by the world institutions and by the Governments of West European countries:

a) *Institutional Development and Capacity Building for the National Forest Programme of Serbia*, is activated on initiative of Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment-Directorate of Forests, like request for assistance in forestry sector to FAO. Project is supported by FAO, financially and technically with leading and control by Directorate of Forests. The expected results are: the definition of the national forest policy and strategy, revision and innovation of forestry legislature, creation of the institutional framework capable of ensuring the sustainable development of the forestry sector (including the development of private forestry sector), national capacity building for the development of forest policy and program;

b) *Forest Sector Development in Serbia*; support the development of the forestry sector in Serbia so as to ensure the sustainability of the use and conservation of forest resources in order to make a more significant contribution to the national economy and to the reduction of rural poverty.

The project will provide a much needed technical support for the Government of Serbia for the develop of its strategic planning process for the sustainable development of the forestry sector. It will focus on creating national capacity at different levels and amongst different forestry stakeholders, to promote their participation in the implementation of the new national forest policy and legal framework.

This support is in line with the Government overall policy of modernization for transition from a central planning economy into a market oriented economy, towards the country's integration in the European context.

By supporting the development of the National Forest Programme of Serbia, the project contributes to the country implementation of the recommendations of the international forest policy debate promoted by the United Nations since the 1990's through the IPF/IFF/UNFF process. It will follow the IPF/IFF/UNFF key elements for NFP development, which are:

- national sovereignty and country leadership
- consistency with national policy and international commitments
- integration with the sustainable development strategies of the country
- partnerships and participation

- holistic and intersectoral approaches.

The project is also a contribution to the Millennium Development Goals⁷ (MDG) number 1, 3, and 7.

c) *Program for forestry sector in Serbia*, supported by the Norwegian Government. The development of forestry sector in Serbia stagnated in the past period because of the war, isolation and lack of finances. It is necessary to improve the forestry practice, to be able to apply the modern approaches in sustainable utilisation of natural resources. In the realization of project participate by NFG (Norwegian Forestry Group) in cooperation with Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade University and Institute of Forestry, Belgrade.

d) *Public Relation Strategy* - the project for creating the PR strategy of Directorate of Forests-Republic of Serbia has been prepared in cooperation with the Canadian agency CESO. The expected results are well-trained forestry professional in PR and established plan for future training of forestry professionals in PR.

e) *FODEMO Project (Forestry Development in Montenegro)*, which has been realised in cooperation with the Government of Luxemburg (Lux Development Company). The main aims of the project are improvement of management and planning system in forestry, as well as improvement of seed and nursery production.

f) *Introduction of GIS in forestry in Montenegro*, with support and cooperation of the UNDP.

g) Several project proposals in Montenegro are recently started, like: *Forest Certification* and *Project of development and recovery of the wood industries in Montenegro*.

h) Government of Montenegro adopted the *Agenda of Economy Reform* in 2003, and with support and cooperation of World Bank, the *Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy in Montenegro (Millennium Development Goals)*. Both projects incorporated several subprojects related with forestry issues.

Along with the above projects, it should be mention the participation of the Ministry representatives at the Ministerial Conference in Vienna this year, where the Vienna Living Forest Summit Declaration was signed. Also, the signing and ratification of the Convention on the European Forest Institute (EFI) is in the procedure.

Numerous activity were attribute last few years especially very intensive cooperation with many international organisations and institutions, like FAO, CIC, MCPFE, UNDP, UNECE (Timber Committee), OSCE, UPOV, IPGRI, EUFORGEN, UNESCO, IUCN, IUFRO, EFI, UNU and World Bank, as well as with government representatives of Norway, Finland, Sweden, Luxemburg and Japan. Also, several institutes and institutions are members of IUFRO and EFI.

The system of forest management and 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 all inappropriate influences on forest.

⁷ **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**. The 8 Goals adopted by the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, New York, September 2000. Goal 1-*Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger*; Goal 2 - *Achieve Universal Primary Education*; Goal 3 - *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*; Goal 4 - *Reduce Child Mortality*; Goal 5 - *Improve Maternal Health*; Goal 6 - *Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases*; Goal 7 - *Ensure Environmental Sustainability*; and Goal 8 - *Develop a Global Partnership for Development*.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

29. improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, assisting other countries in their related efforts

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

The latest forest resource inventory in Serbia and Montenegro was taken in 1979. Its aim was to collect data for the needs of enterprises in the field of forestry and the timber industry, and make it possible to deal with forestry problems in a scientific manner. The obtained data are the foundation for pursuing a policy in this field and for the long-term planning of forestry development, as well as of the development of the dependent timber industry.

The data on the growing stock obtained in 1979 were gathered on the basis of a common methodology drawn up by the Statistical Bureau.

One of the priority needs of multi-purpose forest resource management planning is a sound and reliable database. Presently this is, to a great extent, is lacking. The existing forest resource database is old and incomplete. This is true with regard to the state forest, whereas for private forest, data as such is completely unreliable. It is a prerequisite that a comprehensive forest information system developed and established. The system should respond not only to forest resource base data but also all other data that would facilitate planning. It is further important that the new system should be in harmony with the European Forestry Information and Communication System.

The above mentioned Program for Forestry Sector in Serbia will be carried out in two parts: Pilot Project "National Inventory of Forests", which should identify the methodology and propose the implementation of the national inventory of forests, and "Introduction of GIS to forest planning and management", which should organise and functionalise the information system, with the necessary information for the sustainable management of forests and hunting resources.

Also, very similar project was prepared in Montenegro "Introduction of GIS in forestry", supported by UNDP.

A new approach to multi-purpose forest resource management and planning would call for a capacity building, and an appropriate institutional and organizational restructuring that would be required to respond to new emerging operational environment. Present institutions and organizations would be required to adopt a way, which would enable to respond to these new requirements. In this respect, in addition to the administrative and management institutions, the educational institutions, both the Faculty of Forestry and Forestry Schools, may also need to reorient their education and training, for which new curricula development may become necessary. All these institutions appear to have limited instruments and suffer the lack of financial means. Therefore, an external donor support may become highly effective in addressing this issue.

Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

30. developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes

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 within the ratification of international conventions on the protection and enhancement of forest biodiversity.

Since 1992, the international community has been engaged in a policy dialogue on the actions that are required to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) facilitated these intergovernmental deliberations by establishing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF). In 2000 the deliberations of the IPF and IFF, resulted with establishment of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

The IPF/IFF proposals for action focus on country level action to be undertaken by national government and relevant stakeholders from the private sector and society in cooperation with international forest-related organisations, instruments and institutions. The proposals are meant to promote multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral action and to elaborate upon the Forest Principles and Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), with regard to implementation, the proposals are tools for strengthening existing forest-related policy processes like MCPFE Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management; different national and international projects leading by FAO, NFG and other organisations.

Forest management takes place within clearly established ownership rights and with a long history of national laws and regulations based on long-term planning. Thus, the concept of sustainability has a long tradition in forestry in Serbia and Montenegro respectively.

The meaning of sustainable forest management has developed over time according to the changing needs of society. Originally, sustainability in forest management was mainly considered as the sustained yield of timber to cope with historic wood shortages.

The importance of other multiple functions of forests have, gradually been incorporated in forest management. During the last 20 years the concern about the deterioration of forests through Europe led to an increasing awareness of the economic, ecological, social and cultural values of forests by the broader public. Nowadays many important aspects of sustainable forest management are covered by national and regional laws and regulations and are ready being regularly monitored.

The wish for a concerted effort at a political level to protect and further improve the sustainable management of European forests led to the three Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Strasbourg (1990), Helsinki (1993), Lisbon (1998) and Vienna (2003).

The six Pan-European criteria, which define goals for sustainable forest management, are:

- **Criterion 1** Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles.
- **Criterion 2** Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality
- **Criterion 3** Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood).
- **Criterion 4** Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems.
- **Criterion 5** Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)
- **Criterion 6** Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions

The Pan-European criteria have been elaborated to further promote sustainable forest management in Europe by translating the international commitments down to the level of forest management planning and practices.

The Pan-European criteria are designed to be applied in the context of, and in full respect to national and regional instruments and actions. Their purpose is to identify complementary actions at the operational level which will further contribute to sustainability of forest management.

This should reflect national, economic, ecological, social and cultural conditions, research and traditional knowledge, and must respect forest and environmental legislation, decisions on protected areas, other general principles, as well as codes for forest practise such as standards used for forest management in any country.

The Pan-European criteria and indicators are designate for potential applications and users like:

- forest managers and forest owners,
- sub-national organisations,
- national/governmental decision makers,
- international forest dialogue,
- communication tools and certification systems,

It is important to emphasize that criteria characterise or define the essential elements or set of conditions or processes by which sustainable forest management may be assessed. The direction of change within each criterion is shown by periodically measured indicators.

Also, in Serbia and Montenegro it can be emphasise an apparent inadequate application of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, as well as the MCPFE Criteria & Indicators because of the nonexistent forest management plans with incorporated proposals for action, or C&I on the national level. The steps towards creation national project for implementation C&I for SFM and IPF/IFF proposals for action in Serbia and in Montenegro respectively, already started and expected outputs will be incorporate in future national forestry programmes as well.

III. Preparation of the Report

31. Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

The preparation of this report has been provided through sectoral coordination of both republic Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia and Montenegro, respectively through exchange of information and data requirement for text above. An effort has been made to collect and present relevant information regarding the report guidelines, mainly by Mr. Dusan Jovic, UNFF national focal point. Consultations have been made through preparation of report with relevant stakeholders of significant national forestry institutions as Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade, Institutes of Forestry in Belgrade and Podgorica, and also through different reports related with mentioned projects. Significant support in comments and suggestions during the preparation of report have been done by Mr. Aleksandar Vasiljevic, director of Directorate of Forests, Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and Mr. Ranko Kankaras, adviser in Republic of Montenegro, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

List of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action Related to Each of the Thematic Issues on the Agenda of the Sessions of UNFF

The proposals for action listed below have been identified as being those most relevant to each of the thematic issues on the agenda of UNFF sessions. To facilitate reporting, the proposals for action have been clustered and a summary of each cluster has been provided. These summaries are by no means meant to replace the proposals for action. Countries are urged to refer to the full text of the proposals for action as provided in the reports of IPF 4 (E/CN.17/1997/12) and IFF 4 (E/CN.17/2000/14).

UNFF 2

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to combating deforestation and forest degradation

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Studies and analyses of deforestation and forest degradation	27 (a) 27 (b) 28 (c)	64 (a) 67
Preparing in-depth diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including the impact of poverty, land tenure and processes outside the forest sector. Organize a global workshop and mobilize support for the studies and analyses.	31 (a) 31 (b) 31 (c)	
Integrated national policies and strategies for combating deforestation and forest degradation	29 (a) 29 (b) 29 (c) 30 (b)	64 (b) 64 (c) 64 (d) 64 (f)
Developing and implementing, in an open and participatory manner, national strategies and mechanisms for addressing underlying causes of deforestation, including appropriate land tenure laws, economic incentives and policies to improve access to forest resources and equitable sharing of its benefits.		
Means of Implementation: Capacity building, raising awareness and disseminating information	30 (a)	64 (e) 64 (i)
Providing reliable and accurate information on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the multiple roles of forests, for informed decision-making and raising the awareness of the general public and supporting capacity-building in communities to facilitate access to markets of goods and services.		
Means of Implementation: Transparency of financial institutions and innovative financial approaches to promote sustainable forest management		64 (h) 64 (j) 65 115 (c)
Strengthening the transparency of financial institutions to ensure that their policies support sustainable forest management and cooperating with donor and recipient countries on innovative financial approaches, internalization of externalities and providing incentives to engage in activities that avoid deforestation and forest degradation.		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Protected areas to safeguard forests and related ecosystems	46 (c) 58 (b) (v)	85 (e) 85 (g)
Creating or expanding protected areas, including ecological corridors of regional and global significance, to safeguard forests and related ecosystems and their full values and contributing to assessments of protected forest areas, as well as cooperating in developing methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in forest protected areas and surrounding landscape.		86 88 89
Partnerships for collaborative management of forest conservation areas	46 (d)	84 85 (c) 85 (d)
Developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage all relevant stakeholders in the planning and management of forest conservation areas, including protected forest areas, as well as supporting training and participatory research involving local communities.		
Cross-sectoral coordination of policies and programmes that affects forest conservation	46 (a) 46 (b) 46 (f)	85 (a) 90 129 (a) 129 (b)
Improving coordination and cooperation of policies and programmes that affect forest conservation, at both national and international levels and among different actors, giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas and recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development.		
Means of Implementation: Innovative mechanisms for financing forest conservation		85 (f) 129 (e)
Developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation and strengthening support to fragile ecosystems, including through provision of financial resources and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Promote regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas	58 (b) (iii)	41 (h)
Promoting regeneration, establishing and managing plantations, while avoiding to replace natural ecosystems, and restoring degraded forests by involving indigenous people, local communities and forest owners in the protection and management of the forest areas, with a view to enhance production of forest goods and services.		

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Means of Implementation: Capacity-building, provision of financial resources and transfer of technology	58 (b) (vi) 58 (c) 58 (d) 58 (e)	56 (i)
Improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support sustainable forest management in countries with low forest cover and assisting developing countries with low forest cover in building capacities to promote effective participation in decision-making and to monitor forest resources, and for the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, as well as access to technical know-how and knowledge.		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands	46 (e)	129 (b) 129 (d)
Raising the awareness, strengthening and further developing partnerships and collaboration among various actors to promote sustainable management and regeneration of natural vegetation, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands.		
Promotion of natural and planted forests	28 (b) 58 (b) (ii)	64 (g) 129 (c)
Promoting the maintenance and the enhancement of forest resources through sustainable forest management and the creation of new forest resources through plantations and other means, including trees outside forests and agroforestry systems.		
Means of Implementation: Transfer of environmentally sound technologies and promotion of research	46 (g)	56 (h)
Promoting and sharing environmentally sound rehabilitation technologies between countries and supporting research on: plant species for use in restoration; rehabilitation; water management techniques; and multi-purpose trees and its supply of timber and non-timber forest products.		

UNFF 3

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to economic aspects of forests

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Valuation of forest goods and services.	58 (h) 104 (a) 104 (b)	107 (a)-(d)
Data and information on prices and markets for forest products.		41 (e) 121 (d) 122 (e)

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Full-cost internalization of wood and non-wood forest products and services.	58 (b) (iv) 134 (a) 134 (b)	41 (c) 41 (d) 64 (h) 122 (f)
Development and use of economic and policy instruments and forest revenue collection systems to increase rent capture and promote sustainable forest management.	70 (b)	115 (a)-(g) 122 (b) 122 (d)
Market and trade on forest products.	128 (a)-(c) 131 (a)-(b) 132 (a)-(b) 133 (a)-(g) 135 (a)-(b)	41 (a)-(b) 41 (e)-(g) 64 (i)

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to forest health and productivity

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Adopt a preventative approach to the reduction of damaging air pollution.	50 (a)	
Strengthen international cooperation in strengthening related scientific knowledge and information access and in reducing long-range air pollution.	50 (b)	
	50 (e)	
Develop national and regional programmes for monitoring air pollution and provide factual information about transboundary air pollution.	27 (c)	
	50 (c)-(d)	

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Assess and meet long-term trends in supply and demand for wood through sustainable forest management policies within and between the public and private sectors	28 (a)	121 (a)
(including Incorporate supply of fuelwood and wood energy as well as efficient wood energy technologies in policy development).	58 (b) (i)	122 (a)
		122 (b)
		122 (d)
Develop and implement strategies for the protection of the full range of forest values, including cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic aspects; particularly biological diversity, indigenous needs and planning and management on an ecosystem basis.		85 (b)
Improve data collection and information dissemination on forest resources, both wood and non-wood forest products and services.		121 (b)
		121 (c)

UNFF 4

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to social and cultural aspects of forests

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources		56 (j)
Promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources.		
The role of women in sustainable forest management		56 (m)
		56 (n)
Involve women in national forest programmes (NFPs), and enhance their role in sustainable forest management.		66
Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management	17 (a)	56 (f)
	17 (f)	66
Develop and implement programmes for sustainable forest management, support indigenous people and local communities by funding sustainable forest management projects, capacity-building, information dissemination and participation.	29 (c)	115 (d)
	77 (f)	121 (b)
	131 (b)	
Common Item: Monitoring, assessment and reporting on social data		121 (b)
		129 (a)
Common item: Promoting public participation	89 (h)	

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Common item: Social aspects addressed in national forest programmes		122 (b)
		122 (d)
National forest programmes and the socially relevant elements		129 (d)
<u>National forest projects and the social linkages</u>		140 (a)
		144

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to traditional forest related knowledge

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Advance use of TFRK for SFM	40 (a)	75
	40 (b)	
With the participation of indigenous people and local communities who possess TFRK inventory, catalogue, retrieve and apply TFRK for sustainable forest management.	40 (g)-(n)	
Develop intellectual property rights for TFRK and promote equitable benefit sharing	40 (c)	74 (a)-(d)
	40 (d)	
Develop ways and means to promote effective protection of TFRK and work with relevant international organizations and conduct studies to help to develop common appreciation and understanding of relationship between TFRK and intellectual property rights and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from TFRK, including consideration of payments.	40 (f)	
	40 (o)-(r)	
Means of implementation	17 (g)	
Technology transfer and capacity building: as an integral part of national forest programmes, taking account of local TFRK.		
Common items	40 (e)	
Public participation: promote participation of people who possess TFRK in planning, development and implementation of national forest policies and programmes.		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to scientific forest related knowledge

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Functional interaction between science and policy		96 (c)
		98 (b)
Improve linkages between scientific research and policy processes and involve guidance from all the interested parties.		
Setting the research priorities and addressing the knowledge gaps	46 (g)	96 (d)
	50 (b)	96 (a)
Set research needs and priorities nationally, regionally and globally, address knowledge gaps, and promote and strengthen research efforts in support of SFM.	94 (a) (i)	98 (a)
	94 (b)	97 (d)
	94 (d)	
	104 (c)	
Promote efficient sharing of information and strengthen networks	58 (b) (vii)	97 (c)
	94 (a) (ii)	98 (c)
Make results and information available for all users to support decision making, develop new and innovative means of disseminating information and technologies and promote and make use of existing networks, institutions and mechanisms in efficient sharing of information.	94 (a) (iii)	

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Means of implementation	94 (a) (iv)	96 (b)
	94 (c)	97 (a)
Mobilize funding for forest research: examine new ways to mobilize funding for forest research to accomplish its objectives and build capacity at the national, regional and global levels)		97 (b)
Common items	17 (e)	
Public participation: apply participatory mechanisms to involve research into planning process		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts, terminology and definitions

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Collection and dissemination of national information on forests	46 (b) 89 (b)	17 (a) 17 (b)
Improve national forest resource assessments and make information related to sustainable forest management widely available		
Improved and streamlined international reporting and information systems on forests	78 (a)-(c) 89 (d)-(e)	18 19 (a)
Develop improved and streamlined reporting and information systems to assist in the collection, verification, synthesis, interpretation and dissemination of information on progress in sustainable forest management and financial resources for SFM.	89 (g) 115 (e)	30 (d) 142 (c)
Concepts, terminology and definitions	58 (a) 89 (f) 115 (d)	89 122 (a)
Formulate an internationally acceptable set of definitions of key terms used in forest resource assessment and criteria and indicators of SFM, including for low forest cover, planted forests and categories of protected areas.		
Means of implementation		17 (a) 17 (e) 19 (b)
Capacity-building and financial resources: to assist countries efforts in national reporting		

IPF/IFF proposals for action related to criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Develop, test and implement criteria and indicators at national, subnational and operational levels	17 (d) 89 (a) 115 (a)-(c)	17 (d)
Develop, field test and promote the use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including by integrating them into national forest programmes and national forest assessments and using them to monitor trends and promote best forest management practices		
Promote the use of criteria and indicators at regional and global levels	115 (d)	
Support international and regional initiatives to achieve a common international understanding of concepts, terms and definitions related to criteria and indicators, mutual recognition among sets of criteria and indicators, and methods for the measurement of indicators and the collection and dissemination of data		
Further develop biodiversity indicators	115 (f)	
Encourage, within the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the development of biodiversity indicators that are consistent and complementary to existing forest criteria and indicators		

<i>Type of action called for</i>	<i>Paragraph reference</i>	
	<i>IPF</i>	<i>IFF</i>
Means of implementation	115 (c)	
Technical and financial resources: donor countries and multilateral organizations to provide adequate technical and financial assistance to countries for further development, field testing and implementation of C&I		
Common items	115 (a)	
	115 (b)	
Public participation: encourage the formulation and implementation of criteria and indicators of SFM with full participation of all interested parties		