



*Crna Gora*

*Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, šumarstva i vodoprivrede*

**Forests for the Future of Montenegro**  
**National Forest and Forest Land Administration**  
**Policy**

*Draft*

March 11, 2008.



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Forestry Development in Montenegro  
(FODEMO) Project – Phase II



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## Article I. Acknowledgement

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Each Working Group focused on a specific aspect of Forestry Sector, and their members and consultants had met and exchanged opinions with other groups of representatives of other Government authorities, private forest owners’ representatives, industry and wood-processing enterprises, small and medium-size enterprises, international organizations, and providers of forestry-related services in order to identify key issues, explore the best Policy options and agree on the recommended Policy priorities.



## 1 Introduction

Montenegro became an independent state in 2006 and therefore assumed full responsibility for its future development. In April 2007, the Government of Montenegro developed the National Strategy of Sustainable Development, which defines goals of future development based on the 1991 Declaration of Montenegro as Ecological State. Montenegro will achieve economically, socially and ecologically sustainable development based on its own human, economic and natural resources, within the EU integration processes, and membership in the United Nations, NATO, Council of Europe, and other organizations. Montenegro is in the process of ratification of a number of international conventions, and it also signed the Agreement with the European Union on Stabilization and Association, based on which Montenegro assumes an obligation to harmonize its legislation, economy and society to European standards before EU accession. A significant part of the harmonization refers to establishment of efficient legal and institutional structures through which the country will implement its obligations as a member state and contribute to common EU goals, and will restructure the national economy to make it competitive on the common European market.

At the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe held in Vienna in 2003, Montenegro signed Vienna Declaration “European Forests – Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities”, as well as five Resolutions. The signed documents have had an important role in defining directions for the overall reform of forestry sector in Montenegro. Vienna Resolution 1 is especially important “Strengthen Synergies for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe through Cross-Sectoral Co-Operation and National Forest Programmes”, which describes the conceptual details of the National Forest Programme. This Resolution says that the “National Forest Programme constitutes a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or sub-national level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management as defined in Helsinki Resolution H1, and to contribute to sustainable development.”

The National Forest Programme Process in Montenegro should involve:

- development of National Forest Policy,
- development of forestry and hunting laws,
- development of Forestry Sector Development Programme (strategies and budgets),
- frequent participative monitoring of the programme implementation,
- the reform of Government institutions and forestry services,
- building human resources capacities at all levels,
- the support to establishment of sustainable private sector in forestry.

The National Policy is actually the first step towards the National Forest Programme for Montenegro, and its basis is the institutional reform defined by the Forest Law of 2000, the successfully implemented Programme for Rebuilding of Forestry and Wood Processing from 2003, and the ongoing restitution process. These reforms were the basis for the wood processing privatization, which initiated a new investment cycle and facilitated the future competitiveness of wood products from Montenegro on European markets. The institutional reform established the Forest Administration as a public forestry service, which is undertaking the strengthening process to be able to implement public interests related to forests and forestry. Additionally, one third of forests is privately owned, which creates the basis for entrepreneurship development in rural areas and it establishes a new relation between private and public interest in forests.



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The National Forest Policy is a result of the work of more than 50 local and international experts within seven Working Groups and a number of consultations and workshops organized with stakeholders. According to its scope, the National Forest Policy relates to forest and forest land administration and management, which are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Departments for which forests are the main economic resource such as – forestry, wood processing and rural development. National Parks and other protected areas are the subject of this Policy only to the extent to which they work on the economic forest management.



## 2 Significance of forests for Montenegro

### 2.1 History of forests in Montenegro

From the geographic point of view, Montenegro is a very diverse country, and although it is territorially rather small, it extends over two biological and geographic regions in Europe: Mediterranean and Alpine. The development of current forest eco-systems in Montenegro started during the Ice Age, and due to southern position and diversity of habitats in the mountains of the Balkan Peninsula, many endemic plants survived such as Macedonian Pine, White Bark Pine, Black Pine, and other. In the late Neolithic period, as elsewhere in the Mediterranean, humans started influencing significantly the nature and forests.

Due to the needs related to cattle breeding, fire was used to first clear coastal areas, and later mountain pastures. As in all the Mediterranean and European regions, forests survived only in inaccessible areas, and in the regions where humans needed them as a source of stacked and fuel wood. Compared to neighbouring regions, Montenegro is still relatively rich with forests due to its topography, which is the origin of the name "Montenegro". During the history and the life which depended on nature, the population of Montenegro developed a very close relation with nature and the tradition of managing and protecting valuable forest resources, such as the rules related to managing tribal and village forests.

The statements of natural resources and care for them can be found in the oldest Medieval written documents (end of XV Century), during Hrisovulje of Ivan Crnojević the ruler of Zeta, when speaking, for example, about Lovćen region. Fauna of Lovćen is also described by Bolic in his documents from 1614, where he mentioned specific and medicinal herbs. Napoleon's Colonel, Viale de Somijera, the author of the first comprehensive book on Montenegro, which was published in Paris in 1820 dedicated a whole Chapter seven to Montenegrin forests, which he described as "perfect vegetation", outlining the first known division according to altitude of habitats.

The beginning of modern forestry in Europe in nineteenth century was also the beginning of the Government's care for utilization and protection of forests in the Principality of Montenegro, which is under the competence of the Ministry of Military Forces, which will by the early XX century issue orders and other acts towards regulating the condition and relations in forestry, hunting and fishery. During this period, forests in the coastal area are very rare, which can be noted on the first photographs from this period and their significance for the future development is recognized. The "Order on wood harvesting" issued by the Ministry of Military Forces, as competent for this field 1886, and which says: "I believe Mr. Commander that it is in the interest of every Montenegrin to tend and dignify forests, regardless whether it is a commune, village commune or individual property – because this is imposed on every Montenegrin by interest for the purpose of survival, which is our main goal ..." Around this time, the first self-initiated involvement and organization of local population to protect forests appeared. The householders from Donji Kraj near Cetinje made a written Agreement in 1865 aimed at protection of forests and they verified it with the state authorities. Householders from the Milijevici Village in Čeklići will make this type of Agreement at the end of XIX century.

From one year to another, the newspapers "Glas Crnogorca" dedicates more and more space to significance and protection of forests. The published texts indicate the significance of growing plants and forest resources, and by educating readers they influenced development of environmental culture. In mid 1896, the "Glas Crnogorca" writes the following: "forests are a source of both fortune and fertility and more than that: it is the source of health... and more ... there are more people in forested areas, and the life is longer..."



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At the same time, due to their distance from transport, the forests in the North of Montenegro are almost intact and are a great natural resource. The interest for economic exploitation of these forests appears in the second half of XIX and the beginning of XX century. In addition to modest national capital, the interest is also expressed by international capital, especially from Italy and France. In 1904, Italy clearly expresses the interest to invest in forest exploitation. The concept project for investments envisages the amount of approx. 2 million crowns and relates to construction of a port in Bar, railway Bar-Vir and a road from Tara River to Morača. The forest that would be exploited for this is estimated to be around 2 million cubic meters of fir stands, while it is stated that “there is a lot more” beech. The early development of industrial production in Montenegro is linked to forest exploitation. The first sawmill started operating in 1873 in Rijeka Crnojevića.

At the liberation of Kolašin from Turks in 1878, tribes Rovačko and Moračko gave their forests in the region of Biogradska Gora to Prince Nikola Petrović. In 1885, at the liberation and accession of Poljska municipality to Montenegro, Prince Nikola was given forests in Biogradska Gora. From that point on, these forests are called “King’s Reserve” or “Branik”. It is assumed that the complex of the King’s “Branik” extended over the region of around 1800 ha. During the reign of King Nikola, the Biogradska Gora forests, which belonged to the Petrović Dynasty, were used only for hunting. The conservation and protection of forests and hunting grounds was very strictly implemented, which positively influenced lower exploitation of nearby tribal forests, which was not the case before.

The more comprehensive regulation according to legal norms applicable to natural resources in the early years of XX century is assumed by the Ministry of Interior in 1904 with ratification of a number of legal acts, which regulate many aspects of utilization and protection of natural resources (Circulars on Forests, Hunting Law, Fishery Regulations, etc.).

The Circular (order) on forests which was adopted in 1904 is the first comprehensive state act on regulation of forest-related activities. The Order consists of 26 Articles, which are divided into four sections: I On division of forests; II On state, tribal, municipal, village and church forests; III On private forests; IV Penalties. The titles of these Sections indicate the structure of the Order, whose Articles convey prohibitions, limitation and clarifications of approach to forests for utilization, maintaining and establishment of forests. At the end of the Order, as specific attention is drawn to the state authorities working in the field: “...We especially advise tribal captains to communicate the above Order at gatherings and reason the necessity and benefits of forests, both from health and economic aspect, with a comment that everyone is obliged for own benefit to pay the highest attention to this large and invaluable natural treasure...”

At the same time, there is a high pressure on forests by clear-cutting and harvesting for exporting, and the Ministry of Interior at the end of 1904 sent a separate Circular to tribal captains, which highlights the importance of forests and insists on respecting already adopted legal act. This Circular starts with the statement that: “forestry is one of the most important branches of the national treasure, which requires close attention”, and with the reflection on the provisions of the Forest Order, it very precisely draws attention of tribal captains to the obligation to establish and ensure continuous work of local Forestry Commissions.

A more comprehensive and more precise Circular on Forests was adopted in 1909 by Montenegrin Parliament, and it will remain applicable until 1918. In the period from 1918 to 1989, Montenegrin forests were a part of forest resources of Yugoslavia, which was the basis for a substantial share of the country’s economic development. During this period, former rain forests of the north became accessible for exploitation, and harvesting caused a number of degradation processes. By 1933, the trees had not even been marked for felling, since the most elite ones were mainly cut. Negative processes continued after the Second World War in the period of the so-called



industrialization, when the most valuable forest complexes have greatly been destroyed. According to some data in the period from 1947-51 more than 1.200.000m<sup>3</sup> was cut in Montenegro annually, in 70s the scope of felling ranged little above 900.000 m<sup>3</sup> and remained at that level until the end of 80s, when in 1989 it reached the level of about 800.000 m<sup>3</sup>. All of these data should be taken as provisional, because the reliable files existed only for felling that referred to industrial needs.

At the same time, projects for planned afforestation of bare lands were initiated in craggy coastal areas, and the pasture-related pressure was reduced due to the prohibition of the authorities at the time of goat keeping. This initiated the process of natural succession based on which most of the coastal area transferred into low forests and brush-woods by the end of twentieth century.

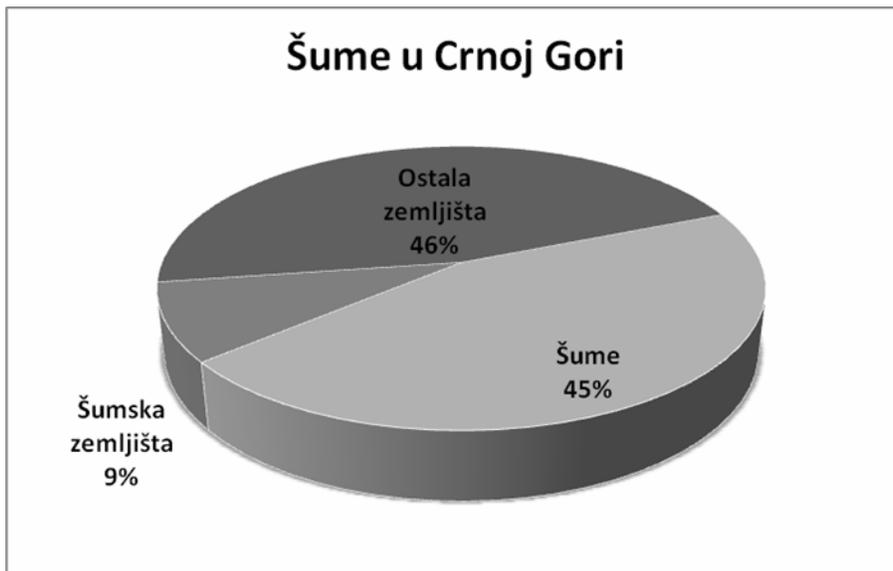
After 1989, the previous market of forest and wood products collapses, which leads to collapse of wood-industry combinates. This resulted in reduced harvesting, delays in implementing forest functions and development of forestry profession, and to uncontrolled illegal logging in some forest areas.

### **3.1 Current forest condition**

Proclaiming Montenegro as the Ecological State in 1991 has created a framework for future development of Montenegro as the environmentally friendly society. While the condition of high economic forests substantially deteriorated in XX century in terms of standing volume, forests are now one of the most significant natural ecosystems, which create the basis for sustainable development of Montenegro. Wood biomass, as a low environmental impact product, is the most significant local product for heating; trade of high quality wood and non-timber forest products (medicinal herbs, fruit and mushrooms) provide significant contribution to improved living conditions of many rural communities; they are the main game habitat which supports a substantial diversity of fauna and long hunting tradition; they represent the key factor in conservation and regulation of our watercourses; forests provide erosion protection on steep terrain and contribute to the net absorption of significant quantities of carbon dioxide. Additionally, wood industry enterprises participate in development of national economy, thus helping the development of many poor communities.

This Section gives the basic quantitative data on forests of Montenegro, which rely on the existing official statistics and records. The applicability of these data is limited by the fact that some forest areas have not been systematically planned over the past twenty years. The National Forest Inventory is planned as an objective basis for more detailed forest management planning in the next years, and the existing data, with the implementation of the precaution principle, serve as a decision-making aggregate at the National Policy level.

The total size of the Republic of Montenegro is 1,381.200 ha, of which, according to the statistical indicators 743.609 ha or 54% is under forests and forest land, and about 60% of population is connected to the village and areas that are abundant with forests.



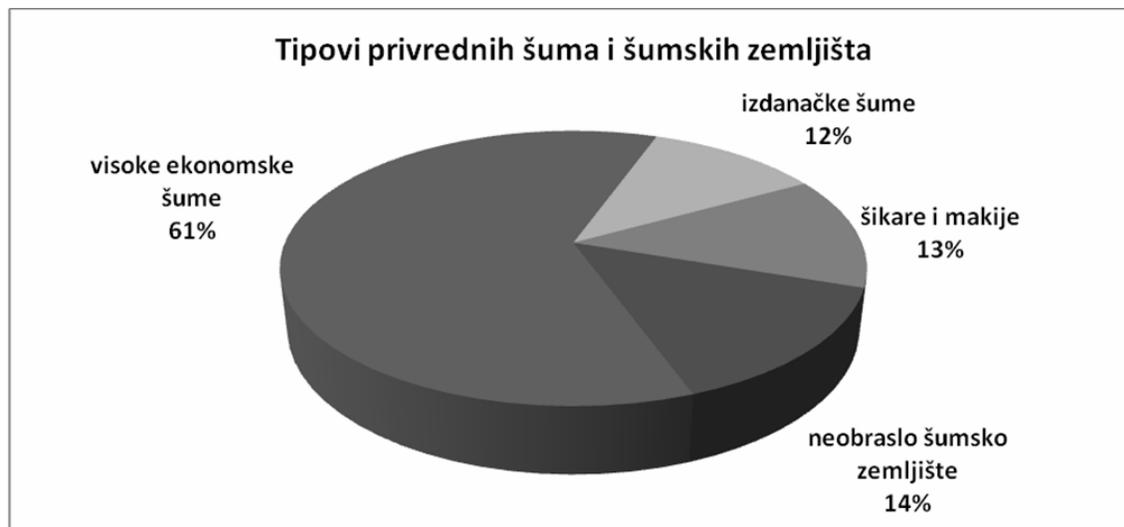
According to the value of forest areas, level of conservation, regulation, diversity, management and impact on environmental protection, even taking into account areas damaged in the past, our forests are among the most quality forests in Europe. According to the level of forest coverage Montenegro belongs to the countries with the biggest forest cover in Europe. Namely, with Scandinavian countries with 0.9 ha of forests per capita, Montenegro is one of the most forested countries in Europe, with high values and enormous potential for sustainable tourism – Slovenia has the forest coverage of 58% (0, 6/ha per capita); Croatia 37% (0,447 ha per capita); Serbia 25% (0,3 ha per capita); B&H 41%; Spain 30%; Austria 38%...



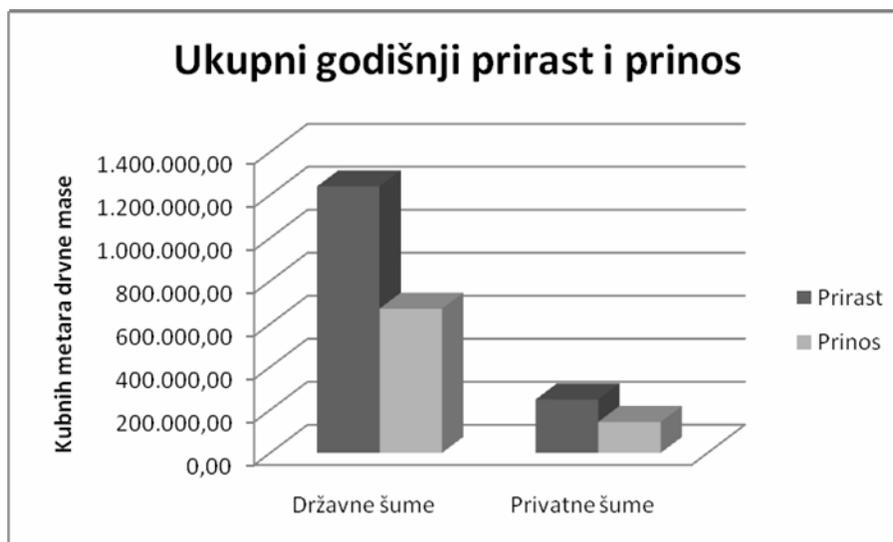
Forests cover 621 thousand hectares of total area, while barren forest land covers 123 thousand hectares. State owned forests and forest land cover 500.000 ha or 67%, while private forests make 244.000 ha or 33%. Total growing stocks in forests of Montenegro are estimated to around 72.000,000 m<sup>3</sup>, of which 29.5 million m<sup>3</sup> or 41% are conifers and 42.5 million m<sup>3</sup> or 59% of broadleaves. According to functions, the forests intended for timber



production involve 348.000 ha or 81% of all forests. The share of main types of silviculture and utilization is presented in the Graph below.



Protection forests are determined at 66 thousand ha or 16%, while forests of National Parks cover 12.975 ha or 3%. The total increment in all forests is estimated to be 1.5 million m<sup>3</sup>.



The Forest Administration launches a tender every year to give concessions for utilization of slightly more than 400 thousand m<sup>3</sup>, and if we add the needs of population for fuel wood to this, as well as retail, and sanitary felling, it leads to the conclusion that the annual harvesting in our forests is around 700 thousand m<sup>3</sup>. The overall harvesting is lower compared to the previous year, and it is at the level of designed quantities and allows substantial accumulation of biomass in forests.

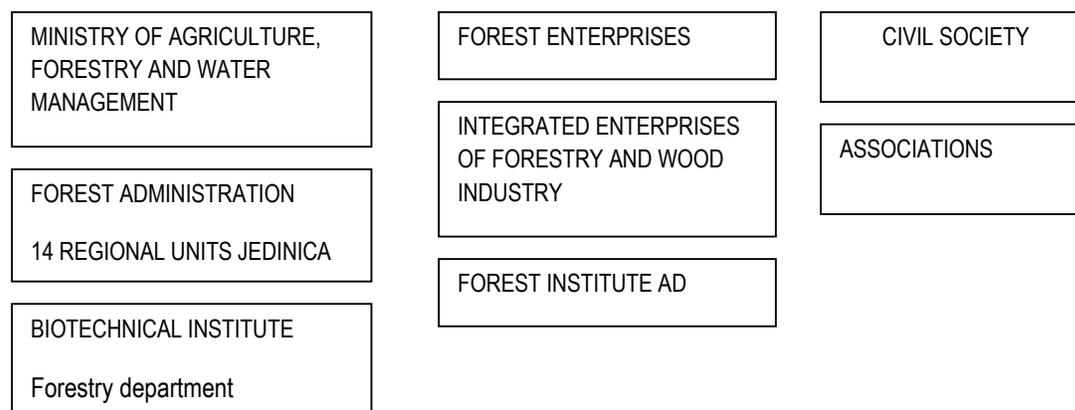


It is interesting to highlight also that in Montenegro we have a substantial natural expansion of areas under forests, which resulted from not only artificial afforestation but also from the spontaneous expansion of forest vegetation for the account of agricultural land.

## 2.3 Forestry sector

Forestry sector in Montenegro is facing the challenge of improving the forest administration practice in order to implement the vision of forestry, to improve the current condition of all forests as to ensure the balance of protection, environmental, social and economic functions and to ensure the sustainability. Over a longer period in the past, the economy forestry sector had experienced different institutional and organizational changes, depending on the social and political regime, and economic and development needs. The most recent significant changes happened in 2000, by adoption of the applicable Law on Forests and institutional reform carried out in that respect.

The Table below presents the current framework:



## Public Sector

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is the Government authority that in the hierarchy has the leading role in the process of forest resource management, and in development of economic and other sectoral policies, which it accomplishes by proposing to the Government of Montenegro, and by implementation of these policies. In organizational terms, forestry sector in the Ministry is divided into three departments: Strategic Planning Unit, Planning and Monitoring Unit (CMMU) and Inspection.

Forest Administration is the state administration authority responsible for forest management, and according to the Law, its responsibilities include the following:

- improvement of silviculture, protection and forest utilization,
- adequate tending, reforestation, establishment and melioration of forests (biological reproduction), selection of seed stands – health status examination and provision of seed and planting material,
- conservation of natural and created forest values, prevention and elimination of harmful impacts of all biotic and abiotic factors, which put those values at risk, and recovery of the current condition,



- protection of forests and forest land from usurpation and illegal utilization, fires, etc.,
- managing the reporting and prognostic unit,
- forest management planning, which is implemented through development of general and operational management plans, programmes and forest management plans, implementation projects and afforestation plans and programmes for bare land,
- development of forest roads programmes,
- tree marking, measurement and stamping trees and issuing certificates of origin for forest assortments,
- releasing state forests for utilization through contracts, and following tenders, keeping records and forestry databases (informational system),
- professional development (counselling, courses, etc.).

According to authorizations given by the Forest Law, the Forest Administration manages state forests and executes professional activities related to private forests management (planning, tree marking, protection, etc.). Organization wise, it is divided into 15 regional units and the Head Quarters in Pljevlja. While execution of works in forests and processing of forest products is left to private sector and the market, the Forest Administration will have a key role in accepting and practical implementation of EU standards.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is responsible for nature protection, including establishment of Natura 2000 network, environment protection and tourism development in Montenegro.

**Municipalities:** The Law on Local Government does not define municipal responsibility for forests and forestry, but generally prescribes that municipalities are responsible for environment protection, municipal services and spatial regulation. The Law on Public Administration also prescribes that certain functions of the state administration, for the purpose of their more efficient and more economic implementation, are legally decentralized to local government, i.e. entrusted to the local government, institutions and legal entities. According to the Law on Local Government, municipalities receive 30% of fees paid for utilization of forests in their territory. These funds are considered to be a share in natural resources benefits and the support to building and maintenance of local infrastructure in forest areas.

## Industry and service providers

Forest Enterprises AD resulted from transformation of the Public Enterprise "Crna Gora Šume (Montenegro Forests)" in 2000. Almost all of these enterprises have been privatized.

Merged forestry and wood industry enterprises resulted from vertical merging of forest enterprises and former state-owned wood industries, according to the Governmental program of recovery and revitalization of forestry and wood industry. By long-term contracts, these enterprises have committed to execution of certain forest management functions. Also, almost all of these enterprises have been privatized.

Biotechnical Institute organizationally involves Forestry Service, as a researching and scientific unit.

Forestry institute AD was transformed from the state ownership into the shareholding company at the end of 90s of the last century. Company is dealing with planning and forecasting in forestry.

Secondary school Berane is the only school in the country which has forestry and wood processing curricula.



## Non-Governmental Organizations

There is a number of non-governmental organizations related to forestry, which advocate different social aspects. The non-governmental organizations addressing environment protection matters advocate protection and sustainable forest administration as a significant part of nature. Hunting associations manage hunting grounds and advocate interests of hunters and game. Associations of private forest owners, industry and professional associations are in early phases of establishment or functioning, and still cannot fully meet the requirements of their role.

## Legal Framework

In the light of EU accession process, the forestry-related regulations of Montenegro are undergoing the phase of adoption and incorporation of European norms and standards into national legislation. The Constitution of the MNE has determined the development of Montenegro as an ecological state, which represents the main direction of forest resources management based on sustainability principles and appreciation of strict nature and environment criteria.

### SECTORAL LAWS

LAW ON FORESTS ("Off.Gazette RoM", no. 55/00)

LAW ON FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL OF ("Off.Gazette RoM", no. 37/07)

HUNTING LAW ("Off.Gazette RoM", no. 47/99)

### LAWS INFLUENCING THE SECTOR

SET OF NATURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS

SET OF ECONOMIC LAWS (Law on Property, Concession Law, etc.)

LAW ON PLANT PROTECTION

LAW ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Forest Law and the Law on Game and Hunting are undergoing changes. Elements of this Policy will be used in the process of changes to abovementioned Laws.

## 2.4 Future needs for services offered by forests

Globalization, rapid economic development, urbanization of the country and climate changes alter the role of forests and demands of national and international public for the services they provide. Forests are increasingly considered to be complex eco-systems and common resource, which contributes substantially to protection of the Planet and the quality of life in the following way:

- sustainable management supports sustainable development of well-being of Montenegrin society,
- it is a substantial natural resource for rural development as one of the challenges in the development of Montenegrin society as a whole,
- provides national renewable raw material and energy source,



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- plays active role in counter fighting adverse impacts of climate changes, in mitigating these changes and in measures of adjusting to these changes,
- by sustainable management, it maintains, renews and improves biodiversity, including genetic resources,
- maintains and improves the quality and quantity of waters and mitigates impacts of natural disasters such as flood, drought, avalanche, land slide and erosion,
- offers opportunities for numerous economic and social activities (recreation and tourism),
- allows spiritual relation with nature and the related cultural heritage.

In legal terms, the binding international documents the State of Montenegro committed to represent a very important item (Conventions, Agreements), as well as the commitments that result from the EU integration process (Directives, Recommendations, Guidelines and Criteria from Ministerial Conferences on Protection of Forests in Europe), such as:

- Agenda 21 (1992)
- Framework UN Convention on Climate Changes (UNFCCC) (1992)
- Convention on biological diversity (2001)
- Convention on long-term air pollution (1979)
- Convention on swamps of international importance (Ramsar) (1977)
- Convention on international trade with endangered species (CITES) (2001)
- Protection of World's cultural and natural heritage (1972)
- Directives and the Resolution of Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (2003)
- Council Directive no. 43/92 on conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna (1992)
- Council Directive no. 409/79 on conservation of wild birds (1979)
- Council Directive no. 105/99 on market of forest reproductive material (1999)
- Council Directive no. 2158/92 on protection of EU forests against fire (1992)
- Council Directive no. 3528/86 on protection of EU forests against atmospheric pollution (1986)
- Council Directive no. 1615/89 on implementation of information communication system for European forests (1989)
- Council Directive no. 89/68 on outline Law of member states on classification of forest raw materials (1968)
- Council Directive no. 1232/98 on statistical classification of products according to the activities in EEC (1998)

These demands and needs for various services require integral but multifunctional administration of forests as a full eco-system. The current situation of Montenegrin forests provides a good foundation for:

- ensuring availability of timber as environmentally acceptable material and source of energy, and other quality services from sustainably managed forests,
- contributing to adjustment to climate changes,
- development of positive relation of public, Government structures and private sector to multiple forest and forestry benefits,
- building competitiveness of forestry sector, i.e. the profession and enterprises in forestry,
- provision of employment opportunities in forests and forestry sector, education, training and communication,



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- quality administration and enforcement of the Forest Law to ensure effective forest protection, to prevent illegal logging and the related forest products trade,
- establishment of coordination of sustainable forest management and integrated management of water resources,
- improved understanding between policy-makers, operational forestry and science for improved use of scientific knowledge and the research results, which are relevant to forests and forestry sector as the sound basis for making quality decisions,
- researches, especially of the role of forests in mitigating climate changes, adjustment of forests to climate changes, and functioning of forest eco-system, protection of biodiversity, use of timber and biomass, relation between forests and water, competitiveness, rural development.

Based on the abovementioned needs and demand for forest services, this Policy is an important step away from the previous forest management, which primarily assumed ensuring standing volume as the raw material for industry, towards modern sustainable forest administration and management, which uses natural characteristics and processes, and human knowledge to meet the needs of present and future generations for forests and forest products.



## 4 Policy objectives

### 3.1 National Strategy of Sustainable Development

In April 2007, the Government adopted the National Strategy of Sustainable Development as the most important document which sets the goals and priorities for guiding the future development in all areas. The overall goals of the Strategy are:

1. *Advance economic growth and development, and reduce regional development disparity,*
2. *Alleviate poverty; provide equal access to services and resources,*
3. *Ensure efficient control and reduced pollution, and sustainable management of natural resources,*
4. *Improve the system of administration and public involvement; mobilize all the actors, with capacity building at all levels,*
5. *Maintain cultural diversity and identities.*

The Strategy elaborates on the situation and defines priorities for different fields, which are related to forests and forestry. For forests themselves the Strategy says:

*"In order to resolve the existing problems and overcome challenges, it is necessary to work on upgrading the regulations, system of planning, management instruments and system of monitoring and control, as well as on promotion of multiple forest functions and fair distribution of benefits that are generated by forest eco-systems."*

Action plan, which is accepted as the enclosure to the Strategy anticipates the following tasks and measures:

Priority tasks	Measures	Deadlines	Responsibility	Indicators
Ensure sustainable forest administration and get FSC certificates (overall objective 3)	Development of National Forest Policy of Montenegro	2007	MAFWM	NFP adopted
	Develop new Forest Law, Hunting Law, as well as the relevant by-laws	2007	MAFWM	New laws and by-laws adopted
	Improvement of the system of monitoring and control of planning and management in forestry and hunting, with adequate foundation in legal acts and by-laws	2007 - 2008	MAFWM	Regulations that define competencies in the system of monitoring and control adopted; improved system implemented
	Develop institutional capacities to implement improved methodology of forest inventory	2007 - 2008	MAFWM Forest Administration	Training (number of trained people)



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For other areas that are related to forests and forestry, the Strategy defines the following priorities:

**Regional development and employment:** *“Priority NSSD tasks are: a) development of MSEs and increasing employment in sustainable forestry (priority being given to northern region, that is, to mountains and eco-tourism, food production, especially healthy food, and sustainable forestry); and b) upgrading infrastructure (traffic, water supply and sewage, power supply) as the prerequisite of development.”*

**Rural development:** *“Measures that are related to rural development primarily involve provision of more substantial support to areas where economy is aggravated, upgrading of rural infrastructure and provision of different sources of income.”*

**Energy:** *“Priority NSSD tasks in the field of energy are: a) rational consumption of power with increased energy efficiency by 2010 by at least 10% compared to 2005, and b) relieve the dependence on imported energy by optimum utilization of available national resources and with the priority given to renewable energy sources.”*

**Tourism:** *“Priority NSSD tasks are: a) development of more diverse tourist offer (development of rural, agro, eco, mountainous, cultural, sports and other types of tourism, especially in the North of the Republic) for purposes of prolonging the tourist season, more quality offer and attracting guests of better payment abilities (ultimate objective being the increase of direct and indirect tourism-based revenues); and b) integration of sustainability criteria into the process of approving the tourism development projects (that is, development and evaluation of plans), especially for coastal and winter mountainous tourism.”*

**Industry:** *“Main activities in industrial sector in the next period will include further privatization and restructuring process, creation of legal conditions for liberalization of markets of industrial products and development of small and medium-size industry enterprises, which should result in improved competitiveness. Specific attention should be paid to social and other programs for redundancy, which results from the privatization process.”*

**New technologies:** *“Priority NSSD task in the field of new technologies is encouraging research, development and innovations. Measures for implementation of this task include preparation of the Strategy for research and development, development of economic incentives for research and provision of technical assistance in initial phases of application of new technologies, increased expenditure of both public and private sector in this field, then improvement in technological education and more substantial involvement in international projects.”*

**Protection of biodiversity and conservation of natural values:** *“Priority objectives of the NSSD are: a) increase nationally protected nature areas to 10% of the territory and protect at least 10% of the coastal area by 2009.; while identifying protected nature areas use European typology of protection-relevant habitats (EMERALD, Natura 2000), and make sure that all the representative eco-systems are covered; b) establish an efficient management system for protected areas (harmonized with the IUCN management categories, with provision of participatory management approach); and c) upgrade legal framework for protection of biodiversity; strengthen human resources capacities and build an effective system for biodiversity monitoring.”*

**Water:** *“... priority NSSD tasks: a) provide sufficient quantities of drinking water and b) introduce integral management of watershed areas, with necessary legal and institutional changes and advanced quality control and water monitoring.”*

**Land:** *“Priority NSSD task is to improve land resource management and eliminate causes of degradation and land damages. The measures and activities to be undertaken in order to accomplish this task are: a) improve monitoring and development of maps of the content of dangerous and harmful substances in soil; b) prevent, i.e. minimize undedicated utilization of agricultural land; c) ratify the UN Convention on Fighting against Desertification (UN CCD) and implement measures foreseen by this Convention; d) introduce a system of soil fertility control and rational use of fertilizers in arable areas of a large number of households, e) gradually recultivate damaged soil (priority given to the region of Pljevlja); and f) map erosion according to the types and strength, and elaborate measures for protection and regulation of eroded areas.”*



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**Spatial planning:** *“Priority tasks of the NSSD regarding spatial planning are: a) passing the new and updating existing spatial plans at all levels (from SP of the Republic to the municipal detailed urban plans- DUP), and integration of sustainability requirements into the physical planning documents; and b) protection of natural and cultural landscape.”*

**Climate changes and protection of ozone layer:** *“... ratification of international Conventions about the quality of air, climate changes and ozone layer, that is, implementation of the resulting commitments, represent important tasks for the next period (this especially refers to implementation of all the commitments resulting from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Changes and according to the Vienna Convention on Protection of Ozone Layer). To that end, the priority NSSD task in this field is related to the implementation of obligations committed to, based on international Conventions related to climate changes, and reduced use of substances that affect the ozone layer. The measures that have to be implemented in order to accomplish this task include preparation of the National communication on climate changes (which comprises inventory of greenhouse gases, plan for reducing emissions and program for mitigating consequences), ratification of Kyoto Protocol and the implementation of the program of gradual elimination of substances that affect the ozone layer.”*

**Administration and public involvement in decision making:** *“Priority NSSD tasks are: a) improved enforcement of Laws, strategic documents, plans and programs; ensure adequate public involvement in the process of their preparation; b) corruption control; and c) decentralization.”*

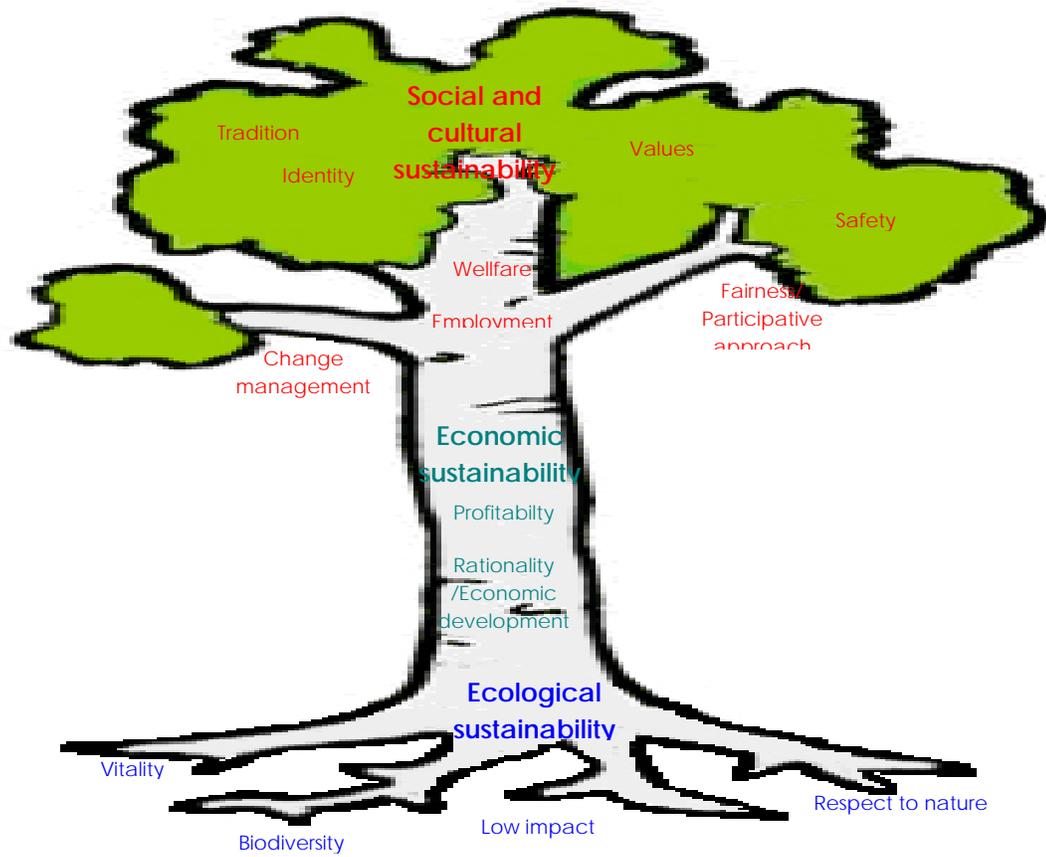


## 6.2 General objectives of the Forest and Forest Land Administration Policy

In order to contribute to the implementation of goals and priorities of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Forest and Forest Land Administration Policy sets out five general objectives:

1. *ensure and improve long-term resistance and productivity of forests and other eco-systems, and maintenance of plant and animal species,*
2. *administration of forests and forest resources ensures sustainable implementation of social, economic and environmental forest functions,*
3. *forests contribute to sustainable social and economic development of rural areas,*
4. *the Strategy for Wood Industry Development ensures long-term development and competitiveness of wood industry,*
5. *long-term development of forestry profession and forestry-related operations.*

These general objectives are related to environmental, economic and social forest functions presented in the following Illustration:





## 4 Principles

### Sustainability (ecological, social, economic)

Sustainable management of forest resources implies fulfilment of social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of the existing and future generations for forest products and services, such as timber and timber products, water, food, energy, medicinal products, shelters, game habitats, reservoirs of carbon dioxide, employment, recreation, landscape and other forest products. Acceptable measures should be undertaken and aimed at protection of forests against harmful effects of pollution, including air pollution, pollution resulting from forest fires, pests and plant diseases aiming at complete conservation of their values. The criteria defined for sustainable forest management are: sustainability of forest resources; biodiversity, optimum health status and vitality of forest resources; productive function of forest resources; protective function of forest resources; socio-economic functions and legal, political and institutional framework.

### Eco system approach to forest management

Eco system is a group of plants and animals in an area (habitat) characterized by different mutual interactions and inter-dependence. Eco-system based approach to forest management assumes that forest management activities should be subjected to minimized impact on natural characteristics of eco-systems, and at the same time the impact has to be measurable in order to be able to control these activities.

### Synergy between forest functions

Principal motives for multipurpose use of forests are related to a wide range of products and services offered by forests and forest land. However, there is a synergy between some forest functions when speaking about utilization of certain products or services. In that context the following classification can be applied: products and services that can simultaneously be used in fixed and variable proportions; competitive products and services; complementary, additional; and antagonistic products and services.

### Value of resources

Forest resources have multi functional character and provide a number of products and services. Consequently, their valuation in material sense is very complicated. There are some functions, whose value can be determined by certain parameters, and for many of them the value cannot be reliably expressed in material terms, or can only be estimated (environmental, landscape, social, ...). The valuation of forest products and services is the basis for setting forest administration priorities, investments and fair sharing of benefits generated by forest eco-systems.

### Precaution

All forest interventions should be planned and executed with the lowest possible risk of damages or the reduced value of forest resources, biodiversity, environment and humans. The lack of scientific knowledge related to endangering forest eco-systems cannot be a reason for not implementing measures to protect them.

### Cooperation of all the stakeholders

Cooperation is a process of joint decision making with the involvement of all the stakeholders and shared responsibility in implementing the decisions. The involvement in that sense is a voluntary process where



participants exchange information, express their opinion and articulate their interests, thus influencing the decision making and the results of the measures undertaken. Such approach is very important for the forestry, especially for defining the Forestry Policy, planning and forest management. It relates to cooperation amongst the Government sectors and Economy, state and local institutions, and between public, private sector and civil society.

## **Economics**

The aim of all forest functions should be optimum proportion of investments (costs) and benefits. In terms of investments, this can be achieved by adequate appreciation of certain forest functions, by avoiding unnecessary or counterproductive functions and benefits by optimum use and valorisation of forest products and services.

## **Monitoring and evaluation of the results**

Monitoring implies continuous follow-up of the condition of forest resources, both in view of their health status and in implementing forest management activities in respect of their social, economic and environmental impact. The purpose of monitoring is a periodic evaluation of achieved results.

## **Quality of work**

Public functions, professional services and operations in forests are implemented in accordance with internationally acceptable quality standards, including planning and silviculture, Forest Geographic Information System, use of forest techniques and technologies, which are environment friendly and „adjusted“ to humans and nature, safety and work and other fields of common interest. All the stakeholders in Forestry Sector will gradually accept the agreed standards.



## 5 Definitions

### **Sustainability**

*'Sustainable management' assumes the silviculture and use of forest land in a way, and to the extent, which ensures conservation of their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global level, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems (MCPFE 1993).*

### **Administration**

'Administration' assumes a set of formal and informal measures taken to regulate the disposition of forest resources. It defines forms of ownership, legal entities in utilization of resources and defines the purpose of some sections of forest resources and forest management.

### **Management**

Management assumes a number of measures and activities implemented to conserve, protect and use forest resources.

### **Corporate management**

Management of a part of state forests by legally established "local association", such as Association of Private Forest Owners, based on long-term utilization contracts.

### **Administration Plan**

This is the document used to plan disposal of and to define directions of the forest resources administration. It replaces the previous general forest management plans at the level of regional units. (Detailed description is given in the Policy Statement 21).

### **Management plan**

This is the document, which is used to identify the status of resources, define management measures and plan activities for their implementation. It replaces former operational management plans prepared at the level of management units. (Detailed description is given in the Policy Statement 21).

### **Operational Plan**

This is the Plan that defined implementation of activities in accordance with the Management Plan at the level of a compartment or a plot in a private forest. It involves goals and silviculture measures for some stands, plans harvesting, method of harvesting and forest roads. It is prepared for a period of one year for state forests, and for a number of years for private forests, i.e. until the plan is fully implemented.



## **Contract for using forests and forest land**

This is a contract between forest owner and another party, which ensures sustainability of forest eco-systems through the rights to use forests and forest land and/or managing specific resources in a given forest area (selling standing timber, long-term contracts, concessions, use of non-timber forest products).

## **Protection**

A system of measures aimed at conservation of natural values of resources, prevention of harmful impact and removing damages caused to the resources.

## **Protection forests**

Parts of forests and forest lands, which are primarily intended for environmental functions, such as protection of water resources, protection against erosion and avalanches or biodiversity protection. These forests are administered and managed together with other forests, but the management in these forests is in protection purposes.

## **Natura 2000**

The network of protected areas of European Union according to the Council Directive 43/92 on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (1992), and the Council Directive 409/79 on the conservation of wild birds. Every member state should have regulations to identify protected areas and animal and plant species of European importance, and to manage them in accordance with the goals of biodiversity protection. They need to develop administration plans for these areas and priority species to ensure good protection status.

## **Forest Geographic Information System**

It involves all the existing equipment and information, which describe the status of forests and activities planned and implemented in forests and in relation to forests.

## **State forests**

All forests and forest land, which are not under any other legally defined ownership and are administered by the Forest Administration. State forests are held in trust and are managed towards optimum benefits for all citizens of Montenegro.

## **Forestry Sector**

All forest areas and the related owners, institutions, enterprises, actors and rules involved by administration, management organization and use of forest functions.



## 6 Policy Statements

### 7.1 Quality forests meet the needs of Montenegro

#### Policy Statement 1: Forest have multipurpose and are managed in line with multipurpose

Forests are ecosystems, which provide humans, animals and plants with a variety of services and products. Some of the forest functions are the following:

- Environmental:
  - regulation of waters regimen,
  - climate regulation,
  - habitat for animals and plants (protected and unprotected),
  - diversity of genetic fund,
  - accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.
- Economic:
  - timber production,
  - non-timber forest products (medicinal herbs, mushrooms, fruit, honey...),
  - hunting,
  - capital reserve for the owners,
  - recreation and tourism,
  - revenues based on financial instruments for CO<sub>2</sub> absorption.
- Social:
  - supplying local population with energy and timber,
  - recreation and tourism,
  - landscape development,
  - education and researches,

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Define services and forest functions
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest purposes by functions and utilization of their synergies within plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Valorisation of non-market functions

The aim of forest administration and forest management should be fulfilling all of these functions to the highest possible extent in a sustainable and balanced manner. This assumes integration of objectives and environment protection measures, non-timber forest products and recreation and tourism into forest administration and forest management plans. These functions, in most cases, support one another (for example, higher standing volume allows higher allowable cut, and ensures better regulation of climate and waters regimen, and is also an interesting place for recreation and tourism), and achieving their objectives can and should be implemented in the same area and in the same period. In the areas where this is not possible, and where environmental function is important, forests are strictly intended for protection and are declared as protection forests.

Forests have the status of public resource, which is implemented by ensuring universal access to forests, so that people can use forest functions to meet their own needs. The use of forest resources by an enterprise, which makes profit by cattle-breeding and selling plants; extraction of minerals; organizing tourism, recreation and sport activities or by using forests for specific purposes is considered to be management. Forest management is a subject to forest ownership, planning, permits, fees and monitoring by the Forest Administration. The access and use of forest may be limited and prohibited if it is in the interest of forests and biodiversity protection.

According to the new methodology of the forest administration and forest management plans, all the functions will be taken into account in defining goals and measures for certain plans. Some of the functions and forest



purposes and forest land purposes will also be identified in spatial terms. In order to ensure maximum benefits from forests, economic valorisation of forest functions should be conducted according to purposes. In order to facilitate use of maximum forest benefits, economic valorisation of forests should also be conducted by purpose. Gaining knowledge about financial value of forest functions, which are marketed such as timber production and production of non-timber products, will be used in identifying priorities and public investment in forest management.

## **Policy Statement 2: Maintaining the current size of forests and forest land**

Over the last decades, forests have extended substantially to former agricultural land and bare land, which have been afforested or became covered with forest vegetation. Consequently, forest land is now covered with high and low forests, and also involves bare lands, pastures and other types of land, which are functionally related to forests. Since Montenegro has one of the biggest forest land in Europe, their size should not expand further in areas that allow agricultural activities or areas with high biodiversity. The expanding should especially not happen to agricultural land and due to landscape preservation, protection of habitats of rare species and protection against fires in some areas is aimed at bringing areas back to traditional agricultural use. These areas are identified by forest management plans. The results of the planned National Forest Inventory will be the base for identifying the target share of forests and forest land in the country.

On the other hand, forest land should be protected against usurpation (construction of buildings on forest land). To ensure this, cadastre data on forest and forest land should be updated, and the Forest Administration should be trained to perform monitoring of land utilization. Due to large sizes of forest land and priorities related to protection of fertile agricultural land, the purpose of forest areas can be switched to urbanization, but only in the process of physical planning and in compliance with the regulations applicable to strategic and project assessment of environmental impact.

### List of tasks

- Define forest land purpose in forest administration plans
- Define forest land purpose in physical plans
- Define forest land in cadastre
- Support maintenance and rebuilding of bare areas determined by administration plans
- Record and supervise all forest land
- Assessment of environmental impact of changes to forest land purposes



### Policy Statement 3: Forests have a significant role in fighting against and adjusting to climate changes

Forests have a multiple role in the context of climate changes, which endanger forest ecosystems by climatic stress, higher risk of fires and other calamities resulting from climate changes. The resistance of forests to climate changes depends on their size, the level of natural biodiversity, structure and standing volume. Forests can absorb and accumulate CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, and timber is renewable source of energy, and in environmental terms, forests are a very efficient construction and production material. Given that Montenegro is forests-rich country, forests are a very significant factor in fighting climate changes and adjusting to climate changes. In these terms, forests fulfil international commitments of the country referred to in the Convention on Climate Changes and the Kyoto Protocol.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess to what extent are forests at risk caused by climate changes
<input type="checkbox"/> Include parameters related to climate changes in the forest inventory
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess potential for accumulating CO <sub>2</sub> in forests and opportunities for international "carbon credit" financing
<input type="checkbox"/> Include goals of fighting climate changes in administration and management plans

In order to ensure easier and better adjustment (adaptability) of forests to climate changes, the management should be adjusted in terms of better diversification of species and structure of forests, having in mind that stands which are the closest (the most similar) to natural stands (by tree species, crown, etc.) are optimal for the habitat and most resistant to various abiotic and biotic adverse impacts. The increase of standing volume in forests will improve their resistance, and at the same time will improve accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub>. The forest inventory and monitoring results may allow rising funds for "carbon credits" within the Kyoto Protocol and the future post-Kyoto mechanisms.

### Policy Statement 4: Improving structure and standing volume in forests

While forest are in a relatively good condition compared to global situation of forests on the planet and they spontaneously expand in Montenegro, their structure should be improved, and the stock should systematically be improved by silvicultural measures and activities. The following should also be ensured:

- Maintain and improve forest habitats and biodiversity;
- Improve forest diversity (diversity of species, habitats and ecosystems);
- Increase the share of highly-productive forests compared to low-productive forest types;
- Rebuild, i.e. reconstruct devastated forests;
- Create conditions for production of non-timber plant products and for improving the number of forest fauna;
- Intensify growing of autochthonous species, especially broadleaves and fruit-trees;
- Maintain the existing and establish new protected forest areas.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce goals and measures to improve the quality and stock in forests in the forest administration and the forest management plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify seed stands for autochthonous species and the planting material quality control
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce production of autochthonous broadleaves planting material and fruit-trees

The ecosystem-related administration guarantees that the management of natural resources (wood, flora, fauna, water, land, etc.) is compatible with long-term forest sustainability. The forest reconstruction should primarily use



natural regeneration, and the quality autochthonous planting material should be used where planting is required. In all this, we should look after the protection of genes of commercial and endangered types of forest vegetation.

### Policy Statement 5: **Silviculture and protection of forests in the coastal region**

Over the last decades, large areas of former bare lands, pastures and agricultural land on the coast have been afforested or they have become forests by natural process. These, mostly young, low and coppice forests have a very significant protection role in karst areas, and a number of other functions important for the coastal region. The main limiting factor for development of these forests is uncontrolled urbanization and forest fires.

The main priority for forest management on the coast will be demarcation of forest areas and areas intended for urbanization by harmonizing forest administration plans and urban plans and protection of forest land from usurpation.

In the future, management and administration of these forests should be intensified, in order to achieve the following:

- better structure and productivity of forests,
- production of fuel wood/ biomass to supply the southern region of Montenegro,
- mosaic structure of forests and open areas for the landscape quality, maintenance of habitats for rare plants and animals and protection from fires.

The young forests of good site classes will be transferred into high forests by thinning, and for coppice forests, coppice management system for biomass will be further developed. For the purpose of more intense administration, silviculture and fire protection, the priority investments will be made in the construction of forest roads, especially near settlements. The process of preparation of management plans will identify all areas, which should be cleared of forest vegetation and these will be brought back to agricultural function. As for the forest utilization, a possibility of joint forest management with Association of Private Forest Owners will be discussed in line with the Contract with the Forest Administration and the conditions to be determined by the competent Ministry.

Since olives and olive groves are protected and regulated by the Law on Olive Growing, their administration is not subject of this Policy, although their protection and growing is compatible with forest administration. Forest administration will encourage revitalization of abandoned olive groves and growing olives in areas identified for that purpose.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare administration plans for forests in the coastal region
<input type="checkbox"/> Intensify silviculture activities and utilization of forests
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish fire-protection areas in terms of areas which should be cleared from forest vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Release state forests in the coastal region for utilization in the context of joint private forests management



## Policy Statement 6: Integration of national and international environment protection objectives into forest administration

Since Montenegro is committed to joining European Union, it will have to assume a number of international commitments related to nature and environment protection. The Directive on Natural Habitats and Flora and Fauna and the Directive on birds and habitats are especially important for forest management, which request from every member state to protect all the areas under Natura 2000, which are important for conservation of European priority habitats and species, such as, for example, bear, wolf and lynx. The primary requirement for these areas and some species is to achieve good conservation status for some habitats and species through management plans and their implementation.

In Montenegro, most of these areas will be a part of forests and forest land, which is not protected as per regulations on environment protection, such as National Parks. This means that biodiversity protection should be an integral part and one of the key indicators of future forest management plans, including specific measures for protection, conservation and improvement of biodiversity within forest ecosystems. Protected flora and fauna species as per the EU Directives, areas, stands and individual trees which are significant for environment protection, water courses and other elements of forests and forest land that are important for environment protection will be identified in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and authorities, who work on the protection of nature.

The abovementioned species and areas may be protected by strict protection, adjustment of management or even active measures of habitat maintenance, as in the case of grass ecosystems. National action plans will be prepared for priority animal species, which depend on large areas (bear, wolf, lynx, grouse), and these national action plans will be harmonized with neighbouring countries, with which common populations are shared. In order to integrate biodiversity protection into forest administration and management, the data on protected/ endangered plant and animal species, and habitats will be a part of the Forest Inventory and as such will be fed into the Forest Geographic Information System.

New mechanisms for charging for services related to protection of nature and environment will be studied based on the defined goals and characteristics of protection of nature in forests and on forest land.

### List of tasks

- Introduce European regulations applicable to biodiversity protection into legislation
- Define responsibilities of the Forest Administration for implementing Natura 2000 in forests and forest land under the common supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- Prepare professional criteria and guidelines for integration of biodiversity objectives in cooperation with professional institutions
- Identify the Natura 2000 area until EU accession
- Integrate biodiversity goals into forest plans
- Develop action plans for priority animal species



**Policy Statement 7: Improve conditions for wild fauna in forest ecosystems and increase the number of hunting game and protected species**

Forests are also important habitats for wild animals, including some hunted and protected species. Forest management should also take into consideration needs of animals in terms of food, space and shelter. At the same time, management of animal population should take into account the impact and stability of forest ecosystem as a whole. Communities of most of the game in Montenegro are smaller than they should be. Consequently, the goal for the next period is to increase and stabilize these communities. The coordination of forestry and hunting in the integral forest management is very important here, including management of game communities and protected animals.

Within the National Forest Inventory Process, there should also be inventory of game and other significant species throughout the country. Based on this inventory, and with the involvement of stakeholders in the planning process, the support to animal species will be integrated into forest administration plans for the municipalities. These plans will create a framework for planning hunting in some hunting grounds, which are regulated by the Law on Game and Hunting. The planning process will define measures, which are needed to improve capacities of ecosystems for some species, measures necessary to reduce potential damages made to forests in terms of animals and coordination of activities of all actors involved in the implementation of plans. Information and results of monitoring animal communities and hunting-related activities will be a part of integral Forest Information System.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Harmonize the Forest Law and the Hunting Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate responsibility for preparation and approval of hunting plans and plans for managing protected species, including the responsibility of the Forest Administration
<input type="checkbox"/> Inventory of animal species and establish regular monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrate goals of animal species protection in the administration plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Include hunting in preparation and implementation of administration plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare hunting plans for hunting grounds in compliance with forest administration plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation of foresters and hunters on the ground

**6.2 Forests as the basis for the society and development of national economy**

**Policy Statement 8: Forests are a part of national treasure**

The state owns the state forest land and the resources on it on behalf of the citizens of Montenegro. These forests have deep social and cultural values. The state will, therefore, at national level, give and manage this land to optimize benefits for the society. The public has the right to know more about this national treasure (detailed information on forests and how these should be managed), to be involved and to influence the procedures of management planning, and to monitor the performance of the state in managing this public property. The state will not pledge, or in any other way allow alienation of the state forest land or allow the change of purpose without the Government decision, and the assessment of impact of environment and society, which efficiently eliminates or mitigates various adverse impacts.

Forests on privately owned land also represent substantial public resources, and while the ownership of the land and forests is private, private forest owners may use their forests and respect public resources and services they provide. On the other hand, the state recognizes that private forests create public resources and the state will



provide support and services to private forest owners to ensure protection of public resources (this is discussed in more detail in the Policy Statement 10).

## Policy Statement 9: Forests have a significant role in rural development

Along with agricultural sector, forests in Montenegro are the most significant resource for rural areas in environmental, economic and social terms. They provide protection to enable life in these areas, offer substantial economical security to private owners, meet the needs in terms of fuel wood and construction material, and timber and non-timber forest products, recreational and tourist opportunities, and create the basis for entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

In order to contribute to faster economic growth of rural areas, especially in the North, to reduce poverty and regional differences, and in order to ensure equal access to services and resources, the goals of rural development will be integrated in forest administration, forest management and forest land management. This will be ensured by access and instruments given in the text below. This specifically refers to:

- all forestry plans will be integral in terms of involving state and private forests and economic, social and environmental aspects,
- involvement of population in decision-making process regarding forest administration and forest management,
- establishing associations (private owners, harvesters of non-timber products...),
- acceptance and support to entrepreneurship in forestry (wood-processing, non-timber forest products, improve finalization, processing of non-timber forest products),
- joint planning and maintenance of forest and local roads with local communities,
- collaborative forest management,
- support of the Forest Administration and its advisory services in education, information and organization at local level,
- support in organizing sale of timber from private forests and non-timber forest products in order to optimize revenues for the state and private owners,
- allocate part of the fees paid for the use of forests and functions of forest eco-systems to local communities.

### List of tasks

- Establish an advisory body of the Forest Administration for every municipality
- Integrate goals and needs of rural development in forest administration plans and their implementation
- Respect traditional rights to use forest resources
- Involve local entrepreneurs and owners in the forest management process
- Programme for constructing and maintenance of forest roads
- Include forestry in rural development programmes



**Policy Statement 10: Private forests provide environmental services to public, and the Government offers expert services and other incentives to owners**

33% of forests are privately owned, and this proportion will probably increase by the completion of the restitution process. The sustainable private forest management offers environmental services of public interest, which is equivalent to environmental and social importance of state forests, and due to nearness of settlements, the compliance with agricultural landscape is sometimes higher. The Government recognizes the significance of private forests and contribution of their owners, who assume responsibility for their maintenance and cultivation. Consequently, the Government will accept and support private initiatives, as long as it is within protection of public interest in sustainable forest resources management. The Law on Forests and implementation of the National Forest Programme will determine procedures for any form of limited use of private forests and incentives for their sustainable management.

The administration and the forest management plans will be prepared for geographic units (municipalities and management units) regardless of the forest ownership, and with involvement of private forest owners (Policy Statement 21 gives the details of the future planning system). The process of planning and implementing plans, which should also relate to non-timber forest products, recreation and tourism, and animal communities, within the legislation and sustainable forest management will primarily respect interests and benefits of private owners. For some cadastre units, the Forest Administration in agreement with the owner will prepare long-term operational plan, which should define goals of forest cultivation, silviculture, harvesting, construction of forest roads and method of execution of works.

The National Forest Programme will establish a system of incentives for forest owners, including:

- services related to tree marking and development of operational harvesting plan for appropriate compensation,
- free-of-charge forest management planning,
- subsidies for revitalization and silviculture in forests,
- subsidies for construction, or construction itself of forest roads.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve communication between the Forest Administration and owners based on partnership
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension services
<input type="checkbox"/> Review opportunities to reduce fees for tree marking in private forests
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint forest management planning for state and private forests
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop long-term operational plans for some private forests according to the needs of owners
<input type="checkbox"/> Government incentives for reconstruction and cultivation of forests, and for construction of roads

**Policy Statement 11: Take into account the results of the restitution process in managing forest resources and provide a clear definition of ownership for the future**

A clearly defined and legally grounded ownership is a key precondition for a long-term and sustainable forest management or for managing any land. The restitution process is ongoing, which according to legally grounded procedures, returns forests to former owners and their descendants. In order to avoid transitional difficulties in managing these forests, there should be expeditious

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Database on forest estates as a part of the integral Forest Information System
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish GIS of forest areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify and mark borders in the field



and efficient system to identify and document ownership. The Forest Information System should contain a database on the owner, size, borders, and forest inventory and planning data. This database should allow:

- integral planning,
- planning and monitoring in individual units,
- free access to data for the owner,
- public access to information in accordance with the Law on Free Information Access, including local level.

This database should be updated within regular forest activities and in the inventory and planning processes.

### Policy Statement 12: Possibility to use basic and general functions of private and state forests by local communities

The legislation already offers local population opportunities to use forests for fuel wood and stacked wood for own needs under favourable conditions. These traditional rights will continue to be taken into account in planning and forest management, and in case that local community organize and create conditions for utilization of forests, the Government will also offer a possibility to take over priority utilization of state forests in the region of the respective local community.

These traditional rights will continue to be taken into account in planning and forest management. Joint ventures for municipal territories, which are used based on concessions, will be offered opportunities to be granted the right to use some of the functions under the same conditions.

The option of having private owners associations manage these forests will be discussed for the purpose of improving management efficiency in the regions with forest holdings in state and private ownership. The Government will encourage private owners to establish such associations and improve the condition of forests, with the priority given to the neighbouring state forests in terms of utilization according to long-term contracts signed with such associations. This will establish joint management of state and private forests in such areas.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal framework and conditions for using general functions of forests by local communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify forest areas measured for the purpose of joint management or utilization by local communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Train associations and local communities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilot projects on the limited number of areas
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of pilot projects
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application through the stewardship and management plans, and contracting based on experiences

### Policy Statement 13: Systematic construction of forest and local roads for the need of forest management, rural development and forest protection

The availability and accessibility of forests by roads and skidding roads will be a precondition for sustainable forest management, including silviculture, harvesting and skidding with minimum negative impact, protection from fires, harvesting of non-timber products and tourism and recreation. At the same time, forest and local roads are of vital importance for survival and development of rural areas. In order to be able to construct and maintain local infrastructure in areas where state forests are utilized, local governments receive 30% of the fee for forest exploitation. As for construction of forest roads, one of

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest Administration to prepare programmes for construction of forest roads
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget for investing in forest roads
<input type="checkbox"/>	Designing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring



opportunities is to have these built by the Government or by the private forest owner, and another option is to outsource construction and maintenance of roads to the user of state forests.

Within the process of the National Forest Programme, the Forest Administration will prepare a programme for construction of forest roads. The construction of roads in line with the programme will basically be a responsibility of forest users, and some roads will be built with budgetary funds according to priorities. The construction priorities will be defined by the following criteria:

- economy (value of standing volume, access to non-timber products, tourism and recreation),
- link to the construction of local roads conducted by the local government,
- requirements of administration and management plans,
- fire protection;
- environment protection (roads are not built in wild areas and habitats of priority animal species).

In the design phase, some projects for construction of forest roads will be subjected to the Assessment of Environmental Impact.

### Policy Statement 14: Non-timber forest products and forest services

Non-timber forest products (medicinal plants, mushrooms, forest fruit, honey) make a significant source of income generated from forests and forest land for the local population and for national economy. There is still a substantial potential for better utilization of forest functions, such as hunting, holiday, recreation, tourism, education, scientific researches.

Sustainable harvesting of other forest products and development of other forestry activities will be ensured through their recording in the Forest Inventory and GIS, and through involvement in forest management and administrative plans. Within this process, with involvement of their users, there will be a fair share of benefits, and conditions will be created for valorisation of other forest functions in terms of defining goals, management measures and exploitation manner, and also involvement in terms of monitoring and protection of forest resources.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inventory of the potential of non-timber forest products and forest services within the inventory and the GIS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incorporate potentials of non-timber forest products into administrative and management plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Record users and the existing rights or utilization manner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Involve users in forest management planning and forest administration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor harvesting of non-timber products and services

### Policy Statement 15: Transparent market for forest products and services in forestry

Along with joining European Union, Montenegro will enter common European market, which offers opportunities in terms of marketing and valorisation of all forest products, but also requires high quality and competitiveness. In order for enterprises and private owners to prepare for competitiveness within EU, Montenegro should gradually establish profitable and transparent market for round wood, semi-final timber products and products, as well as the market for non-timber products and services in forestry, such as silviculture, construction of roads, skidding, harvesting, transport and professional services. The development of this market will be the responsibility of the Forest

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service for monitoring and encouraging market within the Forest Administration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuous monitoring and publishing of prices
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize auctions for timber from private and state forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor trends on the market and adjust harvesting volume and marketing of wood volume



Administration, who needs to:

- influence the market stability through regulated marketing of timber from state forests,
- transparent contracting of expert and operational services,
- establish a Unit for monitoring market trends and encouraging market transparency,
- monitor trends on national and international market and propose harmonization of production in state and private forests.

A Unit for monitoring market trends and encouraging market transparency should be established within the Forest Administration to regularly publish prices of timber and timber products, and to offer support to all stakeholders, especially private forest owners with sale of timber by providing information on prices, organizing auctions and offering advice. The integration of EU regulations on classification of raw timber into the legal system of Montenegro will encourage more efficient functioning of timber market, from stumps to final processing and enable more quality execution of contracts on forest utilization.

In order to ensure the highest possible level of utilization of standing volume and efficiency in dealings, for long-term forest users, the Forest Administration will support transparent common market for timber and semi-final products. Forest users, who for whatever reason will not process certain volume, will be obliged to offer that timber on auctions under the supervision of the Forest Administration. This will ensure marketing of quantities and classes of timber whose processing is not profitable for an enterprise, and at the same time will improve accessibility of wood material.

The process of giving forest resources to be used and administered based on mid-term and long-term contracts will be gradual and flexible. Not all the state forests will be used and administered based on long-term contracts in order to ensure the following:

- the Forest Administration can efficiently influence/regulate the market through lower or higher supply of logs on local market,
- sound competition between small and bigger sawmills in relation to their needs for basic material,
- sufficient access of small processors and new actors to timber market,
- market prices to gradually reach the realistic level,
- Forest Administration may test different contracting mechanisms (long-term or short-term contracts) and assess real market demand before allocating forest resources according to one or the other contracting model.

The timber from state forests, which is not under long-term exploitation contracts, will be sold on auctions by the forest road or from storages. Specialized and licensed contractors will be hired to work in such forests, and it will ensure transparency of prices. For the purpose of high impact and efficient sale, the Forest Administration will make efforts, whenever applicable, to market these volumes together with the timber from private forests or timber from long-term users.



**Policy Statement 16: During the pre-accession period, Montenegro encourages redevelopment of wood industry based on the local timber**

After the privatization of big enterprises is completed according to the Programme of rebuilding wood industry from 2003, the timber processing in Montenegro will be at a new development stage. Currently, the total processing capacities exceed the planned harvesting in forests, majority of the capacities are outdated, and the finalization level is low. Before accessing the EU, wood industry should be restructured to achieve the following development objectives:

- sustainable use and cultivation of forests,
- maximum valorisation of available standing volume,
- improved finalization, and newly created value,
- reduced export deficit through reduced import and increased export of final products,
- increased number of staff and wages,
- ability of industry of pay the full timber prices, including costs of forest administration, construction and maintenance of forest roads, and other infrastructure in rural areas.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	renew a restructuring wood-processing programme and harmonize it with the National Forest Programme based on the dialogue between industry, Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish Association of Wood-Processing Industries on new grounds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test different mechanisms for contracting sales of forest products
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gradual giving of forests to enterprises to use them with their own capacities and based on public tender
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploitation contracts for 5 to 10 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce measures to discourage export of round wood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce modern technical standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support programmes for exporting final wood products

The restructuring of industry assumes a new investment cycle, which will ensure harmonization of capacities with the available timber volume, modernization of competitiveness within European Union, both in terms of the quality and prices.

After the privatization of wood industry and logging companies, the key responsibility for restructuring, investments and development will be borne by the wood industry itself, which should establish institutions within its associations to provide common services, establish expert cooperation and provide training, and new added values. A significant role in motivating this development will be played by municipalities, where industries are located in terms of establishing urban and organized zones and public utilities maintenance of existing buildings.

During the pre-accession period, and within legally provided opportunities, the Government will support a new development cycle with the following measures:

- signing contracts for exploitation of state forests with enterprises according to their capabilities, processing capacities, finalization level and the number of jobs they create,
- providing support to a transparent internal market for standing volume and timber products,
- evaluate options for time limited protection of local market by charging export tax for unprocessed timber,
- development of modern laws, standards and licensing systems,
- measures to support industrial development such as guarantee funds, support to researches and development, providing incentives to exporters of final products, employment policy, education and training of workforce,
- revising the Programme for Restructuring Wood Processing Industry of 2003 and harmonizing it with the National Forest Programme. Develop new programmes and budget to support industry development.



## Policy Statement 17: Forest exploitation contracts comply with forest management and socio-economic goals

Forest utilization contracts will be in the function of achieving goals of this Policy and overall goals of sustainable development of Montenegro. In order to achieve this, the Forest Administration will further develop the system of contracting based on:

- administration and management plans,
- planned harvesting and silviculture,
- principles for tree marking by the Forest Administration,
- programmes for construction of forest roads.

The utilization contracts will involve:

- longer-term contracts (five years +) with an option to extend the contract for wood-processing enterprises based on pre-qualification. The smallest unit for this type of contract will be a Management Unit,
- giving state forests to be used by associations of private forest owners in areas under joint management. The smallest unit for this type of contracts will be some compartments,
- using state forests for fuel wood and stacked wood for the needs of local population. In the short run, an option of giving forests to be used by interested and capable local communities will be discussed,
- short-term contracts (up to one year) for the use of standing volume after auctions. The smallest spatial unit for this type of exploitation will be a compartment.

### List of tasks

- Guidelines on technical and technological criteria for forest users
- Tender process for pre-qualification of forest users
- Split forests in lots to be used
- Tender for long-term exploitation contracts
- Exploitation contracts
- Monitor execution of works by users
- Harmonize fees with market prices
- Evaluate results achieved by users

Technical and organizational criteria will be identified for long-term concessions, including processing capacity, which should be met by potential users to participate in tendering procedure for winning a contract. The timber volume to be used will be split into lots proportional to the capacities of potential candidates in order to ensure fair distribution of access to timber. In the initial phase, these criteria will take into account the existing condition of wood-processing and forestry enterprises, and in the pre-accession period, they will introduce international standards and good practices in quality assurance, technology, organization, safety at work and environment protection. The exploitation contracts will define responsibilities and duties of users, which may include responsibilities related to silviculture, construction of forest roads, forest protection, prevention and protection from fires under the supervision of the Forest Administration. These responsibilities and duties may increase depending on long-term contracts, whereas these responsibilities will be retained by the Forest Administration in case of short-term contracts.

The amount of utilization fees will be identified in the tendering process, and after signing of contracts, these will be harmonized with market trends. In those terms, these will depend on:

- tree species and classes, forest accessibility, transporting distance,
- the harvesting intensity per ha,
- the market value of assortments,
- the capacity of the concession holder to take on management-related responsibilities in relation to implementation of forest functions.

The amount of utilization fees to be paid will be identified in the tendering procedure, in accordance with applicable regulations (auction, public tender, etc.), and after signing of contracts, prices will be adjusted to trends on the market of wood assortments, which will also be defined by contracts. The renewal of utilization contracts



will depend on the results achieved by users in the previous contractual period and on fulfilment of technical and organizational standards. The smallest unit for long-term concession contracts will be Management Unit.

Licensing of enterprises will be under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management based on the opinion of the Forestry Council with an obligation to develop Guidelines on Licensing, which will define the criteria to be met by enterprises in order to get a license.

### **Policy Statement 18: Certification of forest sustainability and forest products according to international standards**

The structure and high proportion of natural forests in Montenegro place Montenegro amongst lead countries from the sustainable forest administration point of view. In order to ensure sustainable forest management and their valorisation on international markets, voluntary standards for sustainable forest management and wood-processing have been introduced over the past decade. The broadest of these standards are the global FSC and the European PEFC. Montenegro has already prepared Draft National FSC Standard and established the National Certification Body. This National Standard may serve as a technical standard for sustainable forest management.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Accept national FSC standards
<input type="checkbox"/> Functioning of the Certification Body
<input type="checkbox"/> Certification of forests in National Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Gradual certification of state forests
<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate options for group certification of private forests
<input type="checkbox"/> Certification within the chain of custody (COC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduce standard criteria into licencing requirements

Over the forthcoming period, the Government will support forest certification and certification of forest products regardless of the administration and ownership type by creating appropriate environment to implement the National Standard in practice, i.e. certification of interested forest areas and support functioning of the Certification Body. One of the proposals for forest certification is to start with forests in National Parks - NP Durmitor and NP Biogradska gora for forest management. Forests in some areas of NP are managed in accordance with the standards set for protected areas, which provokes strong public interest. Certification and independent verification may ensure sustainability and legitimacy of such management. Another option is that state forests are certified by Management Units with the preparation process and acceptance of new forest administration and management plans.

The forest certification will also facilitate certification of forest users and wood-processing enterprises, and ensure better accessibility to market for products from Montenegro. The certification of enterprises will be sufficient, and if most of them are certified, this standard may be used as a part of the licensing request. For private forests, an option of introducing group certification according to FSC will be analysed, and introducing PEFC standards, which is more appropriate for small forest holdings. With both options, a significant precondition for certification is establishing associations of forest owners.



### Policy Statement 19: Promotion of timber products as construction material and source of energy

Worldwide, timber is more and more recognized as environmentally and economically very friendly construction material and energy source. In environmental terms, timber as construction material has a few times lower overall negative impacts on environment compared to bricks, concrete or steel. At the same time, it is a great insulator and creates comfortable environment in apartments. Using timber for construction reduces emission of CO2 in the production of material and with heating and cooling. As a source of energy, timber (biomass) is a renewable energy source, which contributes reducing emissions as per Kyoto Protocol. Additionally, especially with the use of modern burning technologies, it is cheaper than oil and reduces the need to import oil and gas. This way, timber can help with export balance in a way that is not currently integrated by trade statistics. For the purpose of energy, wood waste may be valorised in the form of pellets or cuts, which improves economic status of wood-processing. Using timber for construction and heating maintains newly created value in the country and contributes to its economic development. With improved city insulation, timber could in the long run meet a substantial proportion of heating needs in the country and reduce dependence on import of energy.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilot projects of low-energy buildings made of wood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilot projects for biomass-based heating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce new construction and energy standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote timber for construction and heating through spatial and urban plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Valorisation of wood waste for production of pellets and cuts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analyze options to fund biomass projects through "Clean Development Mechanisms" - CDM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Define incentive policy for households to procure equipment and heating installations using biomass

The Government will encourage the use of timber for construction and for producing energy through pilot projects of wooden low-energy buildings, technical standards for construction and heating systems, encourage building biomass heating plants, especially near wood-processing plants, and encourage valorisation of wood waste used for producing energy. For new public buildings, such as schools, administrative buildings, etc., timber will be priority material and biomass will be used for heating wherever applicable. For this purpose, donor funds may be mobilized, as well as the "Clean Development Mechanism" funds under the Kyoto Protocol.

### 6.3 Modern and competitive forestry sector

#### Policy Statement 20: Adjustment and harmonizing legislation with the EU legislation and the Policy objectives

Based on this Policy, all the existing forestry legislation will be harmonized and a legal framework will be created to support long-term sustainable forest management. Also, coordination will be established with the legislation in agriculture, hunting, waters and integration of requirements of regulations for environment protection (Environmental Impact Assessment of Forestry Activities – EIA, SEA, protected natural areas, protected species ...), provisions from Conventions/ international agreements, which are significant for environment protection (Convention on Biodiversity, CITES, Bern Convention, etc.).

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes to the Forest Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harmonize the new Law on Game and Hunting with the Forest Policy and the Law on Forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	By-laws



## Policy Statement 21: Integral forest administration and planning in the whole territory and harmonization of sectors' plans

The forest administration and planning is based on the principle of ecosystem management, which assumes review of all ecosystem components and involvement of users of ecosystem functions in the planning process. The Forest Administration, as set by laws, is responsible for integral administration of all forests in Montenegro, in cooperation with forest owners and forest users. The planning process should rely on the forest inventory and monitoring data, which are integrated into the Geographic Information System and the Forestry Information System. The planning will be implemented at four territorial levels:

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Guidelines on the content and the process of preparing plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Test the methodology on pilot plans and adjust them before the full implementation
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare and accept some plans

- **Government:** the National Forest and Forest Land Administration Policy, National Forestry Strategy (National Forest Inventory, training and education, incentives) and budget forestry programme approved by the Government of Montenegro.
- **Regional unit = municipality:** Administration Plan / Forest Management Plan for the period of 10 years, which is approved by the Forest Administration with the involvement of local public and approval of the competent Ministry. This plan defines the purpose of forests and forest land, administration towards forest functions such as non-timber forest products, recreation, tourism, biodiversity protection (Natura 2000), and waters, etc., management of wild animals' communities, construction of forest roads, prevention and fighting fires, types of utilization of state forests.
- **Management Unit:** Management Plan for the period of 10 years, which is approved by the Forest Administration with the approval of the competent Ministry, which defines specific measures for implementing goals set out in plans, such as allowable cut, silviculture, forest infrastructure, preventive measures against fires, etc.
- **Compartment or a parcel in private forests:** Operational Plans, which are approved by the Forest Administration (for private forests based on the consultations with owners), identify silvicultural objectives, define allowable cut based on tree markation, works in forests and exploitation method. For state forests, these plans are prepared annually, and for private forests these plans are applicable until the owner implements them.

At the level of forest administration plans, there will be harmonization with other planning documents, such as spatial and urban plans, hunting plans, watersheds administration, regional and rural development plans, protected areas administration plans, etc. The Forest Administration can outsource development of plans to qualified or licensed contractors.

The introduction of the new planning system has already been initiated through technical assistance project in pilot areas within the Central Monitoring Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. These activities will continue through preparation of the National Forest Programme, Forest Inventory and training of the Forest Administration for planning and monitoring. The whole country should be covered by the new generation of administration and management plans in the next ten years, which will partly be prepared by the Forest Administration, and partly by private qualified contractors, who will sign contracts with the Forest Administration. Involvement of private forests in integral forest management plans will reduce overall planning costs and help overcome the problem of organization of owners in order to finance and develop management programmes. This way, the Government offers planning services to owners with no extra costs or charges.



The process of preparing administration plans will especially involve local communities and all the stakeholders such as forest owners, local population, hunting associations, NGOs and public institutions, whose responsibilities are related to forests and forestry. This will ensure adequate balance and synergy between economic, social and environmental functions, i.e. all the forest aspects. Administration plans will also be subject to strategic assessment of environmental impact.

In addition to territorial forestry planning system, the Forest Administration will also introduce chase forest management system. The responsibility for all aspects of the Forest Administration's work in relation to forests in a chase territory, under this system, will be borne by the chase forestry expert, with a tendency for mid-term plan to have highly competent expert (Forestry Engineer) responsible for the chase.

## Policy Statement 22: Monitoring as the basis for management and as an instrument for controlling results

Monitoring or supervision of condition of forests and activities in forests is necessary for sustainable forest administration. Information on the condition and dynamics of forest resources is necessary for planning at all levels, and for control of the results achieved by implementation of measures, and achievement of the defined goals.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest Monitoring Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest inventory in Montenegro
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish GIS database
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor harvesting, works and other activities in forests

Over the next years, the inventory of forest resources will be conducted following modern methods and based on the monitoring plan as one part of the National Forest Programme and indicators harmonized with the EU standards. Also, in addition to wood resources, a specific attention will be paid to information on various forest functions. The monitoring plan will also define permanent monitoring to be conducted by the Forest Administration, forest users and private forest owners as part of their regular work. Additionally, monitoring will include harvesting records/ realization of allowable cut and operations in forests and monitoring of events, which are significant for the stability of forest ecosystem (fires, illegal forest exploitation and illegal harvesting of forest products, excessive harmful insects, rodents and other animals, massive diseases and drying caused by pollutants). According to the assessment of the risk for forests outlined in administrative plans and acute risk, surveillance service will be organized for fires, and diagnosis and prognosis service will be responsible for other calamities.

The monitoring data will be collected within the Forest Information System and will be made available to public and users. The monitoring function will require building institutional and material conditions for collecting and exchanging information and for the purpose of efficient communication within the Forestry Sector, with other sectors and at international level.

Monitoring of the Policy implementation and implementation of its objectives will be subject to periodical assessment with the involvement of public in the National Forest Programme. The monitoring plan with the baseline parameters and performance indicators will be approved together with the National Forest Strategy Document.



### Policy Statement 23: Common but shared responsibility for forest protection

One of the forest administration objectives is establishment of integral forest protection against negative impact of all biotic and abiotic factors, including antropogenous (with preventive, prophylactic, repressive, technical and biological methods). The responsibility for the overall protection and coordination of activities is borne by the Government (Forest Administration, Unit for Emergency of the Ministry of Interior, and the MoAFWM and MI), and immediate activities may be delegated to owners, forest users, capable or licensed organizations and individuals. These may include surveillance, diagnosis and prognosis, silviculture, road infrastructure, etc. The effective forest protection requires involvement of local community through development of planning documents and raising awareness of the importance of forest protection and reconstruction. The Communication Programme will be elaborated for the purpose of encouraging public to protect forests, and it will define communication tools for informing public on developments in the forestry sector (promotional material, media).

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrate protection measures in plans at all levels
<input type="checkbox"/> Include funds for forest protection in the National Forest Programme
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Communication Programme
<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate protection and protection-related responsibilities based on contracts

The legislation and exploitation contracts should clearly define roles and levels of responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in forest protection (for example, forest fires). Protection of state and private forests should be integral. Natural forests are the most resistant, and for that reason they should have the priority of biological method of forest protection. In those terms, the preference is given to the method of reforestation and environmentally acceptable technology in silviculture, protection and exploitation of forests. It is necessary to maintain the existing and establish new protection forests and to ensure prevention in protecting endemic and rare forest species. The use of chemical substances (pesticides, etc.) is allowed only in cases when it is necessary to avoid more negative impacts.

### Policy Statement 24: Coordination in protecting forests from fires

Forest fires are the natural factor, which occurs in many forest types and is a part of dynamics of these ecosystems. But due to human factor, fires occur more often than by natural cause and may cause unacceptable damages to forest resources and property of population. Given the geographic position on the Mediterranean and climate changes, Montenegrin forests are especially at risk of fires.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess risk of fires according to the inventory results
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop plans for prevention and fire fighting within administration plans
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement preventive measures, such as construction of roads and establishing non-forest areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment, training and joint fire fighting exercises
<input type="checkbox"/> Work with neighbouring countries and the EU

Consequently, prevention and fire fighting should be an integral part of tasks of all stakeholders in forestry. The fire fighting preventive measures involve cultivation of broadleaved and mixed stands, which are less susceptible to fires, establishment and maintenance of the composition of forest and non-forest plots, alienation of forests from settlements, construction of roads and placing water tanks where these can be used for fire fighting. For the purpose of fire fighting, it is important to plan potential interventions and the required resources, procurement or contracting equipment and workforce, training and exercises of stakeholders and the centralized coordination of interventions. The prevention programmes and fire fighting programmes should be an integral part of forest administration and management plans. In coordination with the Ministry of Interior, immediate management of interventions should



be with the Forest Administration, and these should involve forest owners and forest users, local government, as well as fire fighting services and volunteers.

There are good reasons for working closely with neighbouring countries and the European Union in fire fighting, given the common risk of fires, and exchange of experiences and efficiency in using technical equipment such as planes for extinguishing fires. Montenegro will be actively involved in this cooperation.

### Policy Statement 25: Building and adjusting state institutions to new tasks

After ratification of the Forest Law in 2000, the reform of Forest Sector was implemented, which harmonized its institutional structure with market economy and it is comparable to the structures in the EU member states. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management is responsible for legislation, policy and monitoring, and it also involves Inspection for Forestry and Hunting. The central role in implementing public functions, as outlined in the Law, belongs to the Forest Administration, with head office in Pljevlja, and it provides:

- improvement of cultivation, protection and exploitation of forests,
- adequate silviculture, reforestation, establishment and melioration of forests (biological reproduction), identification of seed stands – health examination and provision of seed and planting material,
- maintaining of natural and newly created forest values, prevention and elimination of negative impacts of all biotic and abiotic factors, which put these values at risk, and resolving of the current condition,
- protection of forests and forest land from agricultural encroachment and exploitation, fires, etc.,
- managing reporting & prognosis service;
- forest management planning, which is implemented through general and operational plans, forest management plans and programmes, implementation projects and programmes and plans for afforestation of bare land,
- construction of forest roads,
- tree markation, measurement and stamping trees and issuing certificate on origin of forest assortments,
- releasing state-owned forests for utilization based on contracts, and following the tendering procedure launched prior to that, keeping records and forestry database (information system),
- professional development (counselling, courses, etc.).

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish new functions within Forest Administration
<input type="checkbox"/> Train the Forest Administration staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Do a needs analysis for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in terms of human resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire staff for vacant positions in the Forestry Sector of the Ministry and strengthen it further
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide training to the Ministry in the field of international cooperation

Within these responsibilities, the tasks of the Forest Administration also involve: building public support for sustainable forest management, linking all stakeholders to all aspects of forest administration, including planning, implementation and monitoring, providing support to private forest owners in managing and marketing forest products through advisory services.

The process of implementing EU policy and standards will require additional education and training of employees of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Forest Administration, and the forestry experts in private sector, foresters and private forest owners. The Forest Administration will be harmonized with the requirements of the National Forest Policy and the EU standards. In this context, functions such as forest management planning, managing habitats and species, prognosis & reporting service, professional development,



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etc. will be institutionalized. In order to ensure adequate personnel and their motivation, mechanisms for performance-based rewards will be introduced. Upon the completion of training process, the Forest Administration will implement its functions in the field through the system of foresters, who have the knowledge in the field and will be responsible for all aspects of work in that particular area, and they will be supported by extension services in the head office and regional units.

In addition to building the existing capacities of the Forest Administration, it is important to build Forestry Sector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, which should manage preparation and implementation of the National Forest Programme and monitor the work of the Forest Administration. Within this Sector, the Strategic Planning Unit is responsible for:

- Forest Policy formulation,
- preparing draft laws,
- planning and monitoring National Forest Programme,
- budget planning and control,
- involvement in cross-sectoral coordination (sectoral plans and SEA),
- international relations,
- public relations.

The Monitoring Unit is responsible for:

- monitoring of professional operations of the Forest Administration,
- development of a comprehensive Forest Geographic Information System,
- collecting national data on forests and submitting them to relevant national and international institutions,
- monitoring and analysis of the National Forest Inventory,
- analysis and approval of forest management plans,
- analysis and proposal for approval purpose and changes to ownership of forest land,
- supervising management efficiency.

The Department for inspection in forestry, hunting and plant protection in forestry is responsible for:

- supervising compliance of the Forest Administration with laws and regulations,
- supervising private sector and forest owners,
- supervising operations in forests, and the quality and legality of forest products in the market.

### Policy Statement 26: Training of advisory service for private forest owners

The owners of forests, which are not state-owned, should be provided with technical, financial and forest management assistance. Advisory services related to sustainable private forest management should be substantially improved. The key objective is to build the knowledge of private forest owners on economic, environmental values and forest functions, and to increase sustainable forest revenues for their private owners in balance

#### List of tasks

- Establish Extension service within the Forest Administration
- Train local foresters to provide advisory services and their support
- Communicate with forest owners and develop services



with forest functions of common interest. Advisory service for private forest owners will be established in the Forest Administration. This Service will have the following tasks and responsibilities:

- promote and establish private forest owners associations and develop their organizational skills,
- identify services, methods to improve the knowledge and skills of forest owners,
- define qualifications and communication skills of forest advisors,
- train foresters to provide advisory services to private forest owners,
- provide advice, assistance and training to private forest owners; and
- identify certificates for implementing operations in forests,
- exchange information with stakeholders on good examples and practices,
- organize round table meetings, seminars, consultations and expert meetings,
- organize competitions of foresters in traditional forestry-related operations,
- coordinate and elaborate studies and programmes for sustainable private forest management.

Advisory services provided to owners will be free of charge or calculated into the fee paid for tree marking. It will use decentralized approach and system, and will use improved mechanisms to provide training and advice. One of the tasks of advisory service will be to promote association of private forest owners and build capacities of their organization. This will make partnerships with owners easier, and will also help state forestry institutions to successfully provide educational services in forestry. In the future, some of the services offered to owners may be delegated to forestry experts in private practice.

### **Policy Statement 27: Establish association of owners, forestry experts and wood industry**

In order to establish a dialogue with key groups and ensure their representation in developing and implementing the Forest Policy, it would be meaningful for the forest owners, wood industry and contractors working in forests and forest experts to establish their own associations. Therefore, the Government will support establishment and functioning of these associations by involving them in the planning process and the Policy implementation process and, as need be, provide financial support to cover the basic costs. These associations will be autonomous in their establishment and decision-making.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish and train associations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget for grants to associations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Involve associations in the decision-making process

The associations of private forest owners on national, municipality and local level will ensure:

- better cooperation between forest owners and Forest Administrations,
- private forest management – preparation of forest administration and management plans,
- improved knowledge of private forest owners.

The function of the Wood Industry Association should involve:

- advocating interests of wood industry before the Government and other partners,
- definition of technical standards,
- certification and licensing of contractors,
- education and training of staff.

The function of the Association of Contractors, which may be linked with the Wood Industry Association, will be:

- advocating interests before the Government and other partners,
- definition of technical standards,



- certification and licensing of contractors,
- education and training of staff.

The Association of Forestry Experts should promote development of forestry profession in all organizations and the positions held by forestry experts.

### Policy Statement 28: Partnership: Council at the national and local level

The National Forestry Council and Councils within municipal Forest Administrations will be established in order to facilitate institutional dialogue between partners at the national and local level. These Councils will be composed of representatives of stakeholders in forestry, representatives of wood industry and forest enterprises, representatives of forestry profession, representatives of NGOs, Government, professional and local institutions. The role of the Council at national level will be:

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal grounds for the National Forestry Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominate the Council members
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a Council at municipality level
<input type="checkbox"/>	Functioning of the Council

- giving opinion about draft regulations,
- involvement and giving opinion about the National Forestry Programme and monitoring its implementation,
- monitoring forest management standards and giving opinion about the monitoring and planning system in forests,
- monitoring and giving opinion on distribution of forests and timber volume to be used for pricing,
- define standards and working on establishing the Forestry Geographic Information System,
- encourage and monitor cooperation between partners in the sector,
- define professional, technical and safety standards in forestry,
- define education and training programme,
- monitor expenditure of local administrations, which receive 30% of concession fees.

The Law on Local Government gives certain rights and responsibilities in relation to administration and management of local natural resources to municipalities. Municipalities also receive 30% of fees paid for utilization of local natural resources (including forests), which makes them an important partner in implementing this Policy at local level. For the purpose of partnership at the local, i.e. municipal level, Councils will:

- coordinate involvement of stakeholders in preparing and approving forest administration and management plans,
- coordinate cooperation between partners at local level,
- coordinate programmes of advisory service, education, training and introduction of standards,
- monitor expenditure of local government, who receives 30% of concession fees.

The function of the Secretariat for the Council at the national level will be conducted by the Ministry, and by the regional Forest Administrations in cooperation with municipalities.



### Policy Statement 29: Forest Geographic Information system

It is necessary to quickly introduce information technology to ensure effective and efficient work of institutions, users, contractors and owners. The current low information level and small country size offer opportunities to establish one information system for all users in forestry, which will rely on Geographic Information System and exchange and on availability of information on the Internet. The Information System will service various activities in forestry, from identifying ownership and planning to monitoring of wood assortments. All the data, other than the data sensitive in terms of environment protection and commercial interests of users, will be publicly available.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Define requirements of users for the information system
<input type="checkbox"/>	Define standards for receiving and exchanging data/ information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Define common technological platforms for all users
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop applications, testing and training of users
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disseminate technology and its use in regular work

The Government will create technical assumptions, and the Forest Administration will ensure its infrastructure and functional basis to support establishing of this system. Based on the results achieved within the GIS project, all the stakeholders involved in the National Forestry Council will also be involved in the process of establishing information system. The data and the process of acquiring information will be standardized within this process. All the data will be made available on the Internet portal, whereas ownership and validation of the data will be retained by the users who generate the data.

### Policy Statement 30: Introducing standards in forestry, licensing, capacity building

The process of introducing standards, licensing and building capacities of all stakeholders in forestry will be initiated within the National Forestry Council. The objective of this process will be to develop an organizational structure in the sector, which will facilitate implementation of the sustainable forest management principle.

European and other international technical and safety standards in forestry will be introduced and adjusted to Montenegrin conditions through dialogue with private sector and forest owners. Implementation of the sustainable forest management standards, such as FSC and PEFC will also be promoted.

Based on the accepted standards, the Council will propose requirements for licensing users and contractors in forestry, which will gradually improve skills, professionalism and competitiveness of all participants. The introduction of standards will also facilitate building of public and private partnership in implementing standards and technological platforms.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce international standards in the national legislation and technical standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance of the national FSC standard by all stakeholders in forestry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Train the National Certification Body
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilot forest certification
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gradual certification of all state forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	Investigate options for group certification of private forests
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce technical and professional standards within associations in forestry
<input type="checkbox"/>	License users and contractors in forestry



## Policy Statement 31: Development of human resources in forestry and wood processing

The current educational system does not meet the needs for staff in terms of secondary and high education in forestry and wood-processing. Consequently, dual strategy is required for training and professional development of existing staff in the Forest Administration and private sector and formal education of young generations to work in forestry and wood-processing within the programme for development of human resources. This programme will be prepared by the National Forestry Council with the support from the Government educational institutions.

There is a need for education and training, especially for target groups of employees of the Forest Administration, forest owners and users. Education should be aimed at short courses for forestry, and study programmes leading to vocational qualifications in forestry, for example, forestry machines operator or worker in forestry ecosystems.

The Forest Administration will establish the function of professional development, which will be closely linked to advisory service and will consolidate all elements of professional development contained by ongoing projects and its task will be to implement training programmes for the Forest Administration staff in partnership with the Vocational Education Centre in the Ministry of Education and Science. The professional development programmes will be organized with the following topics:

- organization, economics, marketing and Forest Policy,
- protection from fires and extinguishing fires,
- forest management planning,
- forest inventory and monitoring,
- operational plans,
- monitoring implementation of concessions,
- giving state-owned forests for utilization (fuel wood, concessions),
- advisory services to private forest owners,
- use of GIS, information system and information technology,
- general leadership skills, including planning, budgeting, reporting and accountability,
- biodiversity protection and managing Natura 2000,
- managing visits and recreation in forests,
- biomass and fuel wood as a renewable source of energy,
- public relations including cooperation with local population,
- safety at work.

Institutions committed to development of education (mostly the Ministry of Education and Science and the MoAFWM) should formulate curricula and courses to support secondary, academic education and promotion of post-graduate researches, taking into account needs for workforce in the country. Academic and professional

### List of tasks

- Establish units for professional development within the Forest Administration
- Systematic introduction of courses for the Forest Administration and other users
- Define educational programmes for forestry
- Develop forestry study programme



qualifications in forestry should be a condition for employment in the Forest Administration and the MoAFWM, and for contract-based professional operations.

A short-term option is building capacities of existing secondary technical school in Berane and focusing on establishing Education and Training Centre. This centre could develop a programme for forestry at the level of MBA and post-graduate studies. Initially, this programme could use services of the existing structures – Biotechnical Institute or the Faculty of Agriculture or Ecology. The programme for economics in forestry and business management could use the Faculty of Economy. In the long run, after creating “critical mass” of qualified professors and solid technical basis, Forestry Faculty could also be established.

### Policy Statement 32: Scientific researches in forestry

International and European policies see international competitive and practical researches as priority objectives. The development of forestry-related researches is very important and is a basic way of defining and implementing sustainable forest management. There is a need to enrich and develop the existing national and international priority fields of researches in the following areas:

climate changes and adjustment of forests, renewable energy resources, forests and waters, environmental reconstruction, improvement of health status of forests and development of management system, taking into account all the forest values, complex management of watersheds and catchments to protect them from floods, ecological harvesting technology and tree studies.

List of tasks	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defined researching priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purpose of long-term funds within the National Forest Programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Allocate funds to quality scientific teams

Some of the new priority areas for researches are the following:

- assessment of social aspects for sustainable forest management and support to involvement of stakeholders,
- support forest organization in transition to market economy (market orientation is missing),
- assessment of economy and funding of forest management, especially forest functions, which are considered to be public resources,
- understanding criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management,
- define carbon absorption and biodiversity in forests and guide forest management (HCVF) towards these functions,
- afforestation of bare land/ marginal/ deserted areas and catchments,
- efficient maintenance and management of existing forest resources (mostly ecosystems and biodiversity of natural forests),
- wild fauna, game, and managing the communities of protected and endangered species,
- managing protected areas.

In order to meet these raising needs, the researching capacity in forestry should be built, and would have international references and would be better integrated into international research network. In order to support this, the National Forest Programme will allocate funds for researches in forestry and will define researching priorities. These funds will be intended for quality scientific teams and mobilization of national and international researching facilities.



### Policy Statement 33: Public involvement, availability of information

Raising awareness and building knowledge on protection of forests and their significance for improving the quality of economic and social aspect of life is extremely important in the overall reform of forestry sector in the Republic. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to make all the information (past, present and future) about forests and forest resources available to all the citizens of Montenegro. It is especially important to create all conditions to collect information in a way, which will be in compliance with the best positive practice.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure public access to all information in forestry and activities of public institutions
<input type="checkbox"/> Access to information within the Forest Geographic Informational System
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare and implement the Communication Strategy

The communication between state institutions and the public should go both ways, should be open and with clearly defined communication channels for some of the target groups.

Previous experiences indicate that the forestry sector has mostly been seen through a negative image of areas devastated by illegal logging, unplanned management, inadequate protection of this natural resource, whereas positive activities of foresters have been promoted in a rather “modest” manner and without a clear strategy (lack of strong message, ways to attract various key groups have not been followed). All this has led to a situation where the audience in the Republic gets a negative, unreal image when “forest” or “forestry” is mentioned, and this is a result of the information promoted every day in media.

The efforts of the competent Ministry in the forthcoming period should be focused on establishment of an information system, which would support sustainable management of forest resources through:

- availability of information (we should take into account that the public in the Northern Montenegro, especially in rural areas, does not use sufficiently modern communication channels such as email and Internet),
- raising awareness on importance of forest resources (informational material, PR activities, press statements),
- supporting sustainable forest administration,
- promote wider public involvement in managing forest resources and the control, since forests are public resource belonging to all citizens of Montenegro.

In order to achieve the abovementioned, the Ministry and the Forest Administration will build technical and human resources for public relations, and develop and implement public relations strategy to improve public opinion about forests and forestry and with clearly defined objectives, activities and expected outputs. The Communication Strategy is a document, which should define specific goals, ways to achieve those goals and the results to be achieved by the Strategy implementation. The goals of this Strategy must be based on the following:

- informing forestry stakeholders at all levels about the basic characteristics of key documents of this sector, and about other proposed activities, which will create a framework for its further development. The Government institutions responsible for forestry should be aware of their crucial role in the process of providing information to public,
- promoting the need to have a better system in forestry and benefits of sustainable utilization of forests as a significant natural resource;
- provision of timely and relevant information to all stakeholders on activities in forestry to encourage them to be involved and to contribute to designing a new model of forestry, and especially encourage them to contribute to development of key documents (National Forest Strategy, National Forest Programme, Forest Law..),



- raising awareness of decision-makers and the public on the need to establish and implement a better forestry system in line with the concept of sustainable development,
- ensuring generally outstanding role of forests through an adequate visibility campaign focused on target audience, with a specific focus on the key role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Forest Administration.

### Policy Statement 34: Funding

All the forest functions are currently financed from the sales of timber and non-timber forest products. A part of the costs are covered by forest users, and public services provided by the Forest Administration are funded from the fees paid by users of state-owned forests, fees paid for harvesting in private forests and fees paid for non-timber forest products collected by the Tax Administration, and which are allocated through the Government budget. Other forest functions, which do not reflect on the market in financial terms, represent a substantial economic and social benefit for the country, but it is very complex to charge for services or through fees and compensations.

The current level of collected compensations is sufficient for functioning of public forestry services, and it will not be sufficient to achieve all the Policy goals. In addition to 30% that are allocated to local communities for local roads and village infrastructure, the revenues from the fees paid for utilization of forests and timber sold on auctions will be dedicated to implementation of the National Forest Programmes, and for the purpose of the public interest and general useful future functions, additional funds will be invested based on valorisation of these functions. Under the National Forest Programme, the Forest Administration will use these funds for its own functioning, for National Forest Inventory, development of plans, extended reproduction, silviculture, reconstruction and protection of forests, implementation of environmental and social functions, implementation and development of new forms of management and international conventions, for the programme of construction and maintenance of forest roads, to support the work of associations in forestry, rising awareness and other tasks set out by the Law, this Policy and the National Forest Programme.

In addition to the budget allocated to the Forest Programme, a mechanism will be established for channelling the funds from international sources towards investing in forests. The priority will be given to donations and funds related to climate changes. Allocation of these funds will be defined by the National Forest Strategy based on the consultations with the National Forest Council.

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> Formulate the National Forest Programme with long-term financial plan for specific components
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial support to development of associations, researches, education, reconstruction and silviculture, construction of roads and development of entrepreneurship in forestry
<input type="checkbox"/> Valorisation of non-market forest functions
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual budgeting of the Ministry and the Forest Administration according to programmes

### Policy Statement 35: International cooperation

As a party in international conventions and agreements, the Government of Montenegro must create capacities and activate its resources to participate in international dialogue on forests and to implement commitments. International cooperation should be based on key priorities of the National Forest and Forest Land Administration Policy.

On the way to the EU membership, Montenegro could benefit from

List of tasks
<input type="checkbox"/> participate in international processes
<input type="checkbox"/> implement international conventions
<input type="checkbox"/> bilateral and regional cooperation with neighbouring countries
<input type="checkbox"/> joint projects



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regional cooperation with other Balkan countries, especially with member states and other candidate countries. The lessons learned and exchange of experiences in forestry development in these countries could be useful for the sector development. Fire fighting is a priority area for cooperation with neighbouring countries.

In order to respond to increasing tasks imposed by international cooperation in forestry, the Ministry will build institutional capacity, and human resources, and will invest in intensive training and education of specialists and experts, who will be capable of successful involvement in international dialogue.

Improved regional and international cooperation in forestry, especially in education, researches and training is considered to be an important instrument for achieving strategic goals in forestry sector. Limited and focused partnership, rather than comprehensive general programmes, will ensure a successful academic partnership.



## 7 Implementation methods

This Policy will primarily be implemented by the Ministry of Forestry and the Forest Administration, in close cooperation with all stakeholders in the sector, including private sector, local communities, NGO and the relevant Ministries.

The aspects of the implementation involve the following:

### 7.1 Sectoral planning

The National Forest and Forest Land Administration Policy will be implemented through the National Forest Strategy, which along with this Policy relies on recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Protection of European Forests in relation to National Forest Programmes. The Strategy defines short-term, mid-term and long-term objectives and programmes for areas of work and regions, addresses critical prioritized issues, defines multi-year budgetary programme and lays the foundation for detailed annual work plans and budgets. The Strategy will give a detailed definition of organizational and institutional role and responsibility in order to adjust to the new vision presented by this National Policy, and the changes will reflect in the new legal and operational frameworks.

As an immediate first step, the Ministry will prepare Annual Plan for operationalization of this Policy, which will define objectives which can be monitored and implemented during one year, and the responsibility for implementation.

### 7.2 Financing of the Forestry Sector

The National Forest Programme will be funded through:

- a. multi-year programme and annual budget of the forestry sector, which will follow the current approach to programmed budgeting of the Government,
- b. mechanisms for channelling international funds.

The budget programme of forestry will start from fees charged for forest utilization, but will gradually increase with maintaining overall forest benefits, which are higher than just market value of timber. Additionally, some additional resources could be sought from international partners for development in order to support priority investments in cases when the existing resources are not sufficient and under the mechanisms of Kyoto Protocol for compensation for CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation in forests. Most of the reform of economic sector of forestry will come from the investments made in the private sector development. While it is planned that this comes from the private sector, the Government will provide targeted support to private sector to promote competitiveness and rapid increase of production and safety standards. This support will be provided in terms of creating positive investment environment, provision of relevant services, new financial initiatives, elimination of market obstacles, clear functioning of the forestry budgetary programme and transparent and responsible system and procedures of the Forest Administration, especially in relation to the approach of the forestry sector to forest resources as raw material.

### 7.3 Cross-sectoral coordination

The coordination between the Ministry of Forestry and other relevant Ministries (especially those responsible for economic development, industry, environment & tourism, Office for Sustainable Development, etc.) will be implemented through continuous coordination structure. The planned Councils at national and municipal level



referred to the Policy Statement 28 on partnerships will be used as the main formalized mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination. Additionally, direct coordination between the Ministry and the Forest Administration with the relevant bodies will be improved by establishment of adequate human and technical capacities for regular and efficient communication.

Better mutual understanding and cooperation between all partners in forestry (Government, NGO, private sector, interested international organizations) will be achieved through training programmes for all stakeholders and by regular open forums for exchange of information amongst partners in forestry sector.

## **7.4 Legislation in Forestry**

The Government of Montenegro will analyze and revise the legal framework for forestry sector. The Forest Law 2000 will be analyzed in the light of this Forest Policy, changes and amendments will be made to ensure that legal framework supports its full implementation. The analysis will also involve the Environment Law, Draft Hunting Law (2007), the Law on Waters (2007), the Law on Local Government (2002), and other relevant laws in order to make sure they are compatible. The analysis and the review of laws will also integrate international agreements, conventions and contracts, and update sectoral legal framework.

## **7.5 Monitoring of the sector**

The guidelines defined by the Policy and elaborated in the National Forest Strategy will be regularly monitored by the Ministry, with the involvement of municipal forest councils and the National Forest Council. The impacts will be assessed based on the following:

- quantity and the quality of basic forest resources, environmental and social services these provide,
- sustainable utilization of resources,
- economic growth in economic sector related to forestry,
- alleviation of poverty of rural population, whose living depend on forests

More detailed indicators which present the progress and impact will be added as an Annex to the National Forest Strategy. The monitoring data will be incorporated into the Forest Geographic Information System and will be regularly published.