SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Forest policy advice within the APD-SEE framework

The project aims to improve the political framework in priority forestry areas, taking into account EU requirements.

PROJECT TITLE

Agricultural Policy Dialogue Germany - South East Europe (APD-SEE): Regional working group on close-to-nature forest management

TIMEFRAME

07/2024 to 12/2025

AS OF

October 2024

Sustainable Multifunctional Forest Management

Balanced International Forest Policy

With support from

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

by decision of the German Bundestag

Agroforestry in South East Europe

Forest management in South East Europe is only partly in line with the objectives of the EU Forest Strategy 2023, which calls for nature-based management to protect biodiversity. In view of this situation, the Regional Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management (REAWG-SFM) of the Standing Working Group (SWG) has agreed to improve policy frameworks for

- biodiversity monitoring,
- further education and training, and
- small(est) private forest owners.

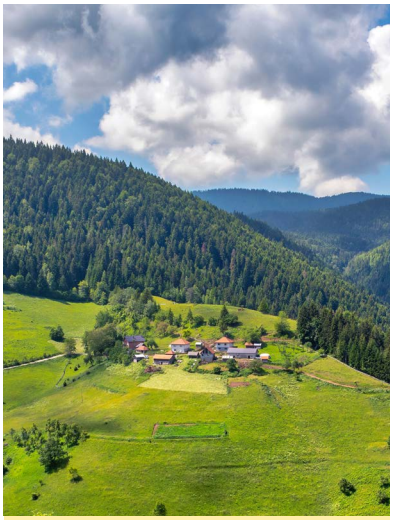
The Project

Within the framework of the project, national experts analyse challenges in priority forest policy areas in order to create the basis for adapted advice by the HessenForst state agency. The recommendations will then be presented, discussed and adopted for use in the Western Balkan countries and Moldova at the regular REAWG-SFM meetings. Furthermore, the implementation of the recommendations in the target countries will be supported in order to achieve improvements for public and private forest managers.

Project Goals

1. Operationalisation of the REAWG-SFM
2. Conducting a study to assess the forestry situation in the Republic of Moldova
3. Implementing recommendations to improve forestry conditions in the Western Balkan countries in line with EU objectives and requirements
4. Increasing policymakers' knowledge of applied forest management at the national level.

The first trip to Germany took place in 2023. The HessenForst state forestry service provided an impressive demonstration of how forest management planning can be implemented in practice with the help of management guidelines.



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The forests of the Western Balkans are characterised by a high level of biodiversity, with timber utilisation being of great importance, too. In line with the guiding principle of 'protection through use', the preservation of the unique forests of the Western Balkans is supported by promoting close-to-nature forest management.

Results and Successes

A first working group meeting with representatives of REAWG-SFM took place at the beginning of August 2024. Based on this, the SWG, together with the HessenForst state forestry office and representatives of the target countries, will prepare specific action plans for the respective fields of action, which are to be discussed and adopted at the next REAWG meeting in Skopje in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Project Partners and Cooperations

- Ministries of Agriculture of the partner countries
- Universities and research institutions in South East Europe and Germany

Project Partner on Operational Level

- The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe

Implementing Organisation

- The Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG) in South East Europe
- IAK Agrar Consulting GmbH
- Landesbetrieb HessenForst

Agricultural Policy Dialogue

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