

Agora International Scientific Workshop
Adapting Mediterranean Forest to Climate Change

Adaptation of national forest policy systems in South-East European Countries

(Albania, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia)

on international governance principals

(Research Proposal)

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Problem statement to SEE region

Countries with economies in transition have heavily shaped *social, economical and political* realities :

- Unprecedented scale of socio-political changes
- EU integration processes – prevailing agent of change to promote acceptance of internationally recognized principles
- New modes of management – role of national forest authority - not totally excluded but significantly reduced
- **Forest governance** approach – new internationally accepted doctrine

Problem statement to SEE region

- Hierarchical top-down approach - poor governance is the major impediment to achieving development of forest sector
- Financing arrangement for improving the state of art in SEE forest sector
 - *Developing NFP (national forest program)*
 - *Promoting forest certification*
 - *Combating illegal logging*
 - *Transfer of management rights to lower administrative level*

This research intends to explore

- How the forest policy actors (*particularly state forest administration as most powerful forest policy actor*) in SEE countries **understand** the complexity of good governance concept ?
- How they **implement** the principles of good forest governance in practice ?

Theoretical approach

- **Governance** – a varied set of factors and multiplicity of actors
- To identify the gap between the theory and practice , a systematic diagnose of good governance principles implementation is needed
- In this context, it is necessary to identify “**losers**” and “**gainers**” - forest policy actors who **promote** implementation , but also those who **oppose** the reform processes

Theoretical approach

- Theoretical approach in research on implementation of good forest governance principles in SEE forestry will be based on **Governance Theory**

Governance signifies “*a change in the meaning of government, referring to a new process of governing or a changed condition of ordered rule or new method by which the society is governed*”
(Rhodes 1996)

Governance “*Exercise of political power to manage a nation’s affairs*” (**World Bank**)

Theoretical approach

World Bank conceptual framework for forest governance assessment
(World Bank 2009)

The Building Blocks of Forest Governance and Their Principal Components

Transparency, Accountability, and Public Participation

Transparency in the forest sector

Decentralization, devolution, and public participation
in forest management

Accountability of forest officials to stakeholders

Accountability within the forest agencies

Stability of Forest Institutions and Conflict Management

General stability of forest institutions

Management of conflict over forest resources

Quality of Forest Administration

Willingness to address forest sector issues

Capacity and effectiveness of forest agencies

Corruption control within the forest sector

Forest monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Coherence of Forest Legislation and Rule of Law

Quality of domestic forest legislation

Quality of forest law enforcement

Quality of forest adjudication

Property rights recognized/honored/enforced

Economic Efficiency, Equity, and Incentives

Maintenance of ecosystem integrity: sustainable
forest use

Incentives for sustainable use and penalties for
violations

Forest products pricing

Commercial timber trade and forest businesses

Equitable allocation of forest benefits

Market institutions

Forest revenues and expenditures

Research questions

- How forest policy actors in SEE countries perceive and implement the concept of forest governance ?
- To which extent their understanding of international forest governance principles differs from the meaning presented in the World Bank Analytical Framework ?
- What is the current level of implementation of the international forest governance principles in SEE countries ?
- To which extent are key forest policy actors capable to implement international governance principles in SEE countries ?

Research questions

- What are the barriers and the perspectives for implementation of international governance principles in SEE countries ?
- Who among the forest policy actors at the national level are the “**supporters**” and “**opponents**” of changes/reforms of forest sector ?
- To which extent the World Bank Analytical Framework (and other indicators) can be used to assess the level of implementation of forest governance concept in SEE countries ?
- What recommendations can be drawn for further forest policy development in SEE countries and in region ?

Methodology

- Multiple case study (SEE countries)
- Qualitative research methods
- Exploratory and descriptive research design
- Inductive/ deductive research approach
- Target group – forest policy actors (particularly state forest administration)
- Face to face interview (questionnaires)
- Data collected (coded and transcript) – computer based analysis “MAXQDA plus”
- Cross-countries comparison

Expected outcomes

- Developing a common and comprehensive understanding of the complexity and the implementation level of forest governance and the roles of various stakeholders related to this concept in SEE countries
- Assessment of state level capacities for international forest governance principles to be implemented in SEE regions

Expected outcomes

- Discovering the differences of SEE countries related to understanding and implementation of international governance principles
- Assessing the World Bank Analytical Framework , whether it is comprehensive enough for evaluating forest governance in SEE countries

Thank you for your attention