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MAKING EUROPEAN FORESTS WORK FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

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KEY MESSAGE

Towards more responsive forest governance

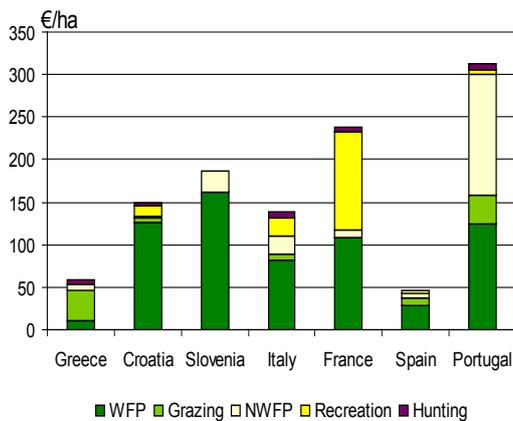
Even though the forest area in Europe is expanding, European forests are under increasing pressures due to economic competition and increased demands for diverse ecosystem services. The opportunities and risks involved cannot be efficiently addressed under the existing sector-based administrative institutions alone. To achieve effective governance, we need to involve both public and private sector organisations, enterprises, the science community and civil society, who all have an interest and stake in forests.

Key policy challenges arise from maintaining simultaneously the competitiveness of the European forest sector and the sustainable management of forests.

Maintaining competitiveness is at risk with slower growth in traditional forest industry production in Europe and the increasing role of fast-growing plantations in industrial timber supply. Forest sector needs to structurally renew through technical and social innovations. The opportunities to forestry arising from bioenergy markets are yet to be seen.

Securing forest ecosystems' goods and services will require further protection of forest biodiversity. Good results have been achieved through voluntary conservation measures in the past, and these can be effective tools for the future.

Enhanced **multifunctional use of forests and the market creation** for the ecosystem services - like nature tourism and recreation - and for non-wood forest products will help to increase the visibility and social acceptance of forestry, especially in Northern and Western Europe.



The direct use values of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and ecosystem services often rival and sometimes exceed timber values in European countries. The contribution of NWFPs, such as cork, mushrooms and berries, is considerable, especially at the local and regional level in south and east Europe, while hunting is a major non-wood forest benefit in north and central Europe (data by Merlo and Croitoru 2005).

POLICY-MAKING FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

Sectoral policies need to work together

The increasing interdependencies, complexity and internal dynamics between and within sectors are a challenge for policy implementation and especially for inter-sectoral coordination. The challenge for policy integration is perhaps most acute at the local levels, where concrete decisions need to be made to implement multifunctional and sustainable forest and land management.

Reconsidering current governance

At each level, from sub-national to global levels, an increasing number of stakeholders are active. In particular, governance needs to become

- more anticipatory and responsive to existing and foreseen future societal needs,
- more flexible in adapting policies to reality on the ground,
- enabling and supporting policy coordination across sectors and enhanced interaction with stakeholders at all levels, and
- more result-based for effectiveness in policy implementation.

Recommendations for science-policy interaction

To improve policy responsiveness to needs

- Reorient research agendas towards addressing the future needs of the society.
- Support culture that promotes more radical ideas and knowledge generation.

For better policy coordination and collaboration

- Implement a more structured interaction between policy makers and research institutes.

For result-based policy implementation

- Enforce interaction in knowledge creation and sharing between policy, science and practice.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for effectiveness of policies.

The full policy brief Making European Forests Work for People and Nature can be accessed at:

www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_policy_brief1_net.pdf

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