



SUNREED & Wood Biomass Energy in Kosovo

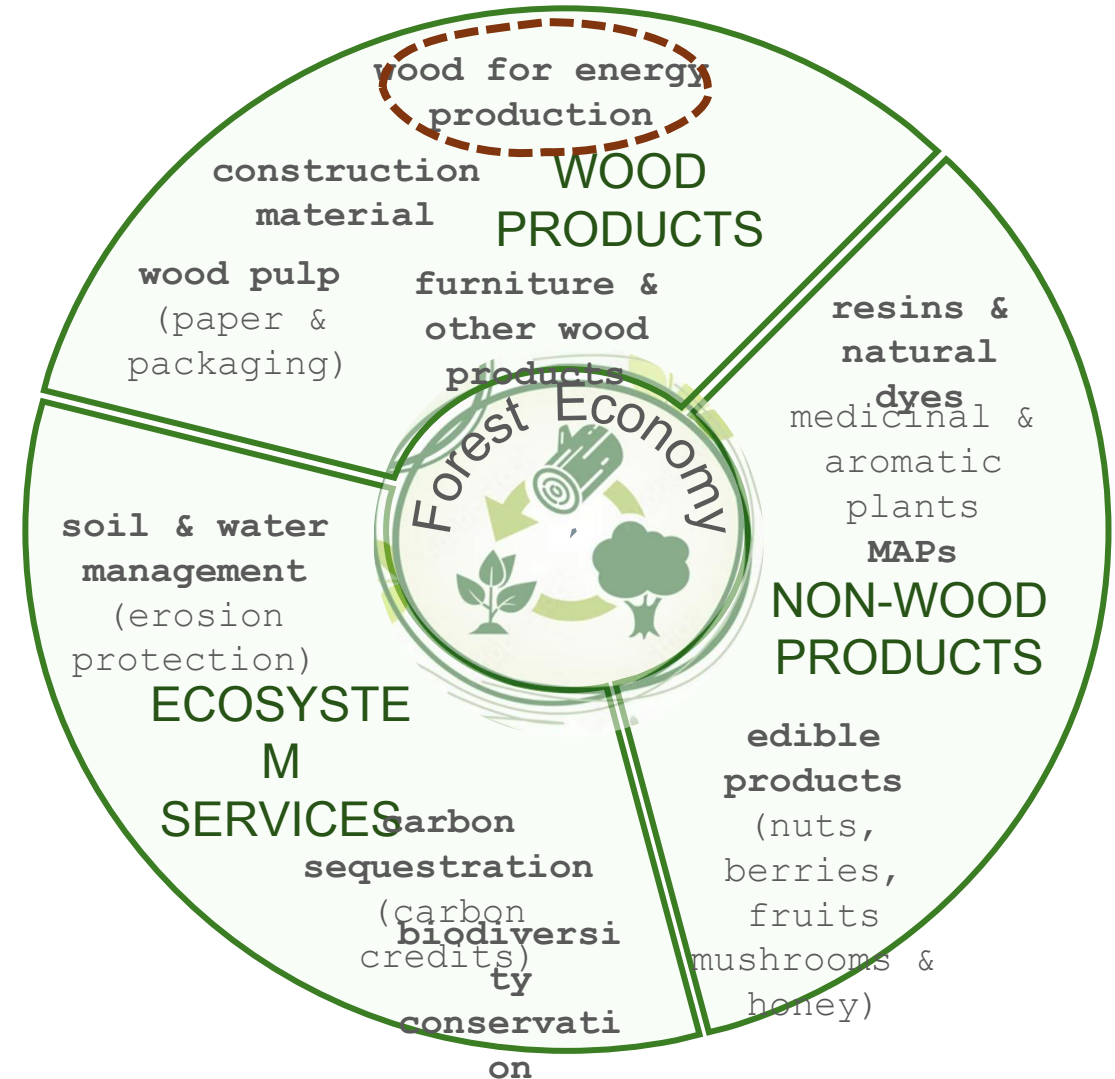
**Kosovo Wood Biomass
Energy Forum.**

December 4th, 2025.



Overview of SUNREED

- SUNREED is a five-year project **implemented by CNVP** Kosovo and **funded by Sida**.
- SUNREED is supporting the development of a **sustainable forest economy in Kosovo**, one which contributes to local economic development and the improved management of Kosovo's forests.
- The **forest economy** can be understood as the **range of products and services that forests provide** which create economic value, employment opportunities and wider value for society.



Wood Biomass Energy Context

- **Biomass energy** is the largest source of renewable energy globally, accounting for almost **55% of renewable energy and over 6% of global energy supply** (source: International Energy Agency).
- **Biomass energy is playing an important role in EU's renewable energy transition.** Kosovo has aligned its renewable energy policies with the EU's Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and aims to achieve a 32% share of renewable energy in its gross final energy consumption by 2030.
- Wood biomass energy can play an important role in achieving Kosovo's RED target *if* the **biomass is sourced and consumed sustainably and efficiently**. SUNREED aims to contribute to this objective.

Wood Biomass Energy in Kosovo

- Wood biomass is the main source of energy for heating and cooking in rural Kosovo – typically, firewood burned in old inefficient fireplaces, boilers & stoves. Current consumption levels are unsustainable though.

Annual Forest
Growth

1.5M

m³/year

Annual Firewood
Consumption

2M

m³/year

Sustainability
Deficit

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0.5M

m³/year

- Solution is not to phase out or ban use of wood for energy production. **Solution is to ensure wood biomass is sourced sustainably and consumed efficiently.**

SUNREED Biomass Energy Strategy

- Wood biomass energy can contribute to rural economic development, energy access and improved forest condition in Kosovo provided it is based on **sustainable forest management practices**, and **when the biomass is used efficiently**.
- This **requires an integrated approach that addresses the entire supply chain**, from forest to furnace.
- What does this look like?



Forest Management

Sustainable Practices

- Management plans defining harvesting rules & schedules
- Fast growing plantations to reduce pressure on forests
- Regular silviculture interventions to improve forest conditions

Key Systemic Enablers

- Public support/subsidies for forest management plans for private forests
- Adoption of EU sustainability criteria for wood biomass for energy use
- Training/extension services for private forest owners on sustainable forest management



Collection & Processing

Sustainable Practices

- Prioritisation or utilisation of residues for energy use
- Use of low emissions or fossil-free equipment
- Processing of biomass into high-quality woodfuels

Key Systemic Enablers

- Private sector investment in biomass collection infrastructure & equipment (e.g. woodchippers)
- Coordination between forest owners & biomass collection businesses
- Adoption of standards & voluntary certification systems for woodfuels



Distribution & End-Use

Sustainable Practices

- Short/local supply chains for wood biomass, minimising emissions from distribution of woodfuels
- Adoption of efficient biomass heating systems (e.g. district heating, woodchip boilers)

Key Systemic Enablers

- Policy support/subsidies supporting investment in efficient biomass heating technologies
- Awareness campaigns to build consumer understanding of modern, efficient woodfuels & heating technologies

SUNREED progress to date

- **Forest Management - Protecting the source**
 - **Management plans developed for 1,000 hectares** of privately owned forests in partnership with local wood biomass collection businesses and private forestry owners.
 - **Five-hectare pilot fast-growing plantation** established (using species such as poplar and black locust) in partnership with local landowners.
- **Collection & Processing - Making better use of biomass**
 - **Partnerships with wood biomass collection and processing businesses** supporting investments improving the sustainability & quality of the wood fuels they produce.
- **Distribution & End-Use - Clean & efficient consumption**
 - **10 feasibility studies** developed for biomass district heating systems.
 - **Study tours** organised for local stakeholders.
 - **Three partnership agreements signed sharing investments** in new

Thank You!!