



Building a Greener Economic Environment

## **TORs for International Expert**

### **Project: "Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED)" Kosovo**

Topic: Support establishing tree plantations and seedling production depending on production possibilities and biomass demand.

**Contract period: 28.07.2022 – 31. 12. 2022**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

Kosovo's forestry sector has a high potential to produce forest products on a sustainable basis and to contribute to rural economic development. Such potential in forest products would contribute to economic growth, job creation, additional income, and poverty reduction.

According to the latest report produced by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) on consumption poverty, about 18% of the population in Kosovo lives in poverty and is unable to meet basic human needs<sup>1</sup>, while 5.1% live in extreme poverty and are unable to even meet basic survival needs. In addition, to the potential role that forestry can play in the reduction of poverty rates, it can also play a vital role in environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation. If sustainably managed, healthy and growing forests can contribute to carbon sequestration and biodiversity, and at the same time be an important source of renewable energy, which can substitute those that have higher greenhouse gas emissions.

CNVP Kosovo is implementing the project "Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development" (SUNREED), funded by the Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency-Sida (2022-2026).

The "SUNREED" project regarding the environment and climate change, people living in poverty, gender equality, and the conflict perspective, will directly support Private Forest Owners (PFO) and their associations in 23 municipalities and the National Association of Private Forest Owners (NAPFO) to improve their service delivery. This will be done through direct encouragement of and support to improved forest management, in the Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP), Medicinal Aromatic Plants (MAPs), and biomass production market systems development by contributing to improved policies and legislation as well as income generation for Private Forest Owners (PFO's).

The CNVP project SUNREED aims to contribute to poverty reduction through additional income and jobs derived from sustainable forest management, promotion of biomass

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<sup>1</sup> [KAS \(2019\): Consumption Poverty in the Republic Kosovo.](#)

production for renewable energy, promotion of NWFP/MAPs and carbon natural back up by enabling policy environment and supporting sustainable services provision by the National Association of Private Forest Owners (NAPFO) and the Private Forest Owner Association (APFOs).

The project will apply the Market Systems Development (MSD) approach, which will guide implementation and will ensure that the project is delivered in a way that maximizes the positive impact on poorer people. Following the MSD approach, CNVP will act as a facilitator of change. This will involve partnering with a range of actors — private businesses, public agencies, and civil society organizations such as APFOs and the NAPFO — and seeking to bring about changes in their behavior and expertise, which will result in improvements in PFOs' access to forest product markets and income.

During the implementation period of 5 years, the project will contribute to:

- a) Increasing incomes from sustainably managed private forests with attention to climate change adaptation and biodiversity and engagement in forest product market systems **(outcome 1)**, and
- b) Developing a market system for wood biomass (wood chips) to provide incentives for proper forest management and income generation for Private Forest Owners (PFOs), thereby leading to reduced greenhouse gas impacts **(outcome 2)**.

### **Short background fast-growing tree production and cultivation in Kosovo**

In the scope of the Forestry Institute in Kosovo, there was a seedling production of poplars and willows until the early 90s. Most of the seedlings have been delivered to the private sector to plant along the river basins. After the 90s, the institute didn't continue to produce these seedlings and there were no established plantations.

Wood biomass (as firewood) is currently Kosovo's most important source of heating. In the scope of the SSPDF (previous project implemented by CNVP), were established wood biomass heating systems for four schools with a capacity of 100-200 kW. On the other hand, with funding from the EU, a district heating system based on wood biomass with a capacity of 12 MW has been constructed in Gjakova municipality and started operating in 2020.

Although the above shows clear potential for further development and that the demand is increasing, the wood biomass market system in Kosovo is still in its early stages and is characterized by a lack of coordination, information, infrastructure, capacities, logistics, and supporting legal framework and policies. Therefore, the SUNREED project will work on promoting and supporting the establishment of energy plantations with fast-growing species aiming to contribute to the improvement of degraded river basins and abandoned land to increase the supply of biomass, leading to increased incomes for the rural community.

*This ToR for International Expert is related to Outcome 2 of the SUNREED*

This activity is planned in the annual work plan and budget of SUNREED for 2022 as follows:

Under *Output 2.2 Facilitation of the establishment of one pilot wood biomass collection point*, respectively, under *intervention 2.2.3 Support establishing tree plantations and seedling production depending on production possibilities and biomass demand*.

## **2. Objectives**

Through this assignment, CNVP aims to introduce best practices for establishing the fast-growing trees plantation for biomass production and seedling production. The project will also work on identifying the most suitable sites for potential nurseries for seedling production as well as plantations and providing advice and support to the potential farmers.

## **3. Tasks, responsibilities, and activities**

The international consultant will closely work with a local expert to achieve quality results in the following areas:

- Carry out desk work: review national policies on forestry, studies, and assessments on the potential for fast-growing tree (FGT) plantations;
- Meetings with main stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development MAFRD (Kosovo Forest Agency, Forestry Department, Managing Authority), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), Ministry of Economy (ME), Municipalities;
- Jointly with a local expert and CNVP advisors, identify the potential regions (riverbanks, abandoned land, degraded land, and forest land) and parcels for establishing FGT plantations;
- Provide assessment on soil condition, hydrology, and other ecosystem conditions of the potential parcels for plantation;
- Based on the conditions, propose the most appropriate species to be planted;
- Prepare a guideline and provide advice to the local farmers on the process of planting of the trees, tending plantations, and harvesting the biomass;
- Draft proposal for establishing a nursery for the production of FGT seedlings and cuttings (including tools and technology needed as well as investment costs);
- Other activities as deemed necessary

## **4. Specific Deliverables, outputs, and indicators**

- Draft proposal on potential region and parcels for establishing of FGT plantation;
- Draft measure for co-investments funds to establish FGT planation;
- Recommendations for legal framework and policies regarding FGT planations;
- Guideline for farmers on the process of planting, tending, and harvesting of biomass.
- Nursery establishment plan for the production of seedlings (including tools and technology needed as well as investment costs)
- Final report

## **5. Time frame**

The contract shall begin on 28.07.2022 and terminates on 31.12.2022. It comprises up to (30) expert days during the contract term.