

Terms of References

For

CNVP Kosovo project “Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED)”

Topic: Develop a roadmap on wood biomass production, marketing and use

Contract period: 06. 06 – 30. 12. 2022

1. Background information

CNVP Kosovo is implementing the project **“Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development” (SUNREED)**, funded by Embassy of Sweden in Prishtina/ Sweden International Development Aid (Sida) (2022-2026).

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 needs¹, while 5.1% lives in extreme poverty and is 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.

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

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

management, income generation for PFOs and leading to reduced greenhouse gas impact (outcome 2).

Based on Kosovo National Forest Inventory, the total Forestry Area in Kosovo covers 481,000 ha (equivalent to 44.7% of the total land area)². About 62% of the forests are public or state owned, while 38% are privately owned by more than 130,000 households. The total standing volume of forests is estimated to be around 54 million m³, while the annual increment is estimated at 1.55 million m³.

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. CNVP will conduct an MSD study on wood biomass to inform the roadmap and special attention will be given to the traceability of the wood biomass to ensure that it is derived from sustainably managed forest resources and not from uncontrolled illegal logging. The project will support the establishment of a forum at the national level to guide and coordinate the development of a national roadmap on wood biomass production, marketing and use. This forum will be formed by representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development (MAFRD), the Ministry of Economy (ME), Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), the Kosovo Forestry Agency (KFA), the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund (KFEE), the NAPFO, the Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AKM) and other partners. In addition, regarding to the forum at the national level, SUNREED project will establish working groups at the municipal level to provide coordination between PFOs / villagers, APFOs and private actors at the local level for wood biomass related logistics. This working group will also provide feedback to the forum for the development of the roadmap, ensuring that the concerns, perceptions and views of women and men living in poverty are incorporated.

This ToRs for International Expert is related to the Outcome 2 of the SUNREED. This activity is planned in the Annual Work Plan and Budget of SUNREED for 2022 as follows: Under output 2.1- Development of a national roadmap on wood biomass production, marketing and use respectively under intervention 2.1.3- Draft a national roadmap on wood biomass, marketing and use.

2. Objective of the assignment

The objective of the assignment will be to draft a roadmap on wood biomass, marketing and use. Special attention will be given to the traceability of the wood biomass to ensure that it is derived from sustainably managed forest resources and not from uncontrolled illegal logging. An important aspect of the roadmap on wood biomass market and use will be to suggest the ways to tackle the identified gaps and problems in the sector and to define next steps required for the sector growth from technical, economical, legal and institutional perspective.

The roadmap should deliver information on the potentials for employment and income diversification through biomass (wood chips) activities in the different geographical regions of Kosovo in accordance with the forestry strategy 2021 – 2030 and help raising the awareness in the private sector for the opportunities offered by developing business activities.

² [MAFRD \(2013\): Kosovo National Forest Inventory 2012](#)

The **objectives** of the planned roadmap are to:

- improve the information base on the potentials for biomass production for renewable energy
- develop a set of criteria for the identification of regions/territories with potentials for biomass production;
- Outline the most suitable measures to be applied in order to utilize these potentials, and
- Elaborate recommendations for the design of EU-compliant funding mechanisms to support measure for biomass production.

The roadmap shall serve as baseline for the Forestry Department and Managing Authority of MAFRD for the design of new measures for biomass production for renewable energy. Especially, the recommendations should help public institutions in central level in the formulation of wood biomass policies, an action plan and programs for the development of wood biomass production for renewable energy. Focus groups of this road map will be the farm households as well as micro and small entrepreneurs in rural areas.

The assignment will provide information on a development of roadmap, including an estimate of the demand for wood chips and the potential supply, including the mapping of vulnerable communities. Wood chip-based heating systems can provide incentives for proper forest management, income generation for PFOs and reduced greenhouse gas impact.

Methodological approach

The roadmap should make use of all available statistical data on national, regional and in local level in Kosovo. The methodological approach shall combine:

- Review all strategic documents, programs, studies, project reports and other relevant documents;
- Stakeholder consultations with all relevant public institutions, private forestry owners, NAPFO/APFOs/NGOs and with other donors engaged in renewable energy development;
- Interviews with experts;
- Case study interviews with sawmill enterprises and small entrepreneurs (pellet, bricket, and with furniture businesses) and
- Round table discussions on the local and national level in order to present and discuss preliminary findings/gathering information about potentials of different regions for biomass production in Kosovo.

The results of the Roadmap (strategy) shall be illustrated with a set of thematic maps, so that the regional dimension of the identified potentials and recommendations can be depicted.

The roadmap shall be developed in close cooperation with members of forum for biomass production and other stakeholders involved in renewable energy (participatory approach). Therefore, the elaboration of the roadmap for biomass should be steered by a working group led by MAFRD, which should cooperate closely with the contractor and the CNVP team during the study in all steps. This process should involve all stakeholders representing all relevant sectors of public institutions in local and central level, private sector and civil society.

3. Tasks, responsibility and activities

The international expert will provide the following services:

- Draft a working plan including information on the foreseen methodological approach;
- Desk work: reviews and evaluates relevant information, strategic documents, studies, project reports, , legal framework and policies on wood biomass;
- Data analyses for the period of at least five years, in order to understand the most recent renewable energy trends;
- Preparation of an initial concept to be discussed with forum and working groups;
- Meetings with key forum representatives (MAFRD, MESPI, ME, Mayors, NAPFO) and relevant actors engaged in the wood biomass production for renewable energy;
- Meetings with working groups within selected Municipalities and focus group discussions, PFOs / villagers, APFOs and private actors at the local level for providing feedback for the development of roadmap;
- Case study analysis of PFO and sawmill enterprises;
- Further data collection according to the above mentioned methodological approach;
- Develops a set of criteria for the identification of rural (forest) areas in Kosovo with high potential for wood biomass production;
- Analyses the needs, potential and feasibility of measures to facilitate wood biomass (chips) production for renewable energy;
- Facilitate the preparations of national workshop and participate with presentation on interventions on the production, marketing and use of biomass;
- Presentation of draft roadmap at the joint workshop with forum representatives at national level and working groups at municipal level;
- Presents the results by end of the assignment ;
- Prepare recommendations for further guidance on wood biomass production, market development and use in Kosovo and
- Further activities if considered necessary for the outcomes of the assignment.

The International expert will cooperate closely with CNVP team and with other international and local experts contracted by CNVP SUNREED project.

4. Specific Deliverables

Roadmap document in English language, including:

- Outline of the methodological approach;
- Relevant information and data collected during assignment;
- Conclusions and recommendations on wood biomass market and use providing directions and conditions for the production, marketing and use of wood biomass;
- Executive summary;
- Written report on the missions for internal use;
- Workshop for presentation of findings and recommendations.

5. Time frame

The assignment must be completed within 5.5 months from signing the contract. The contract shall begin on 01.06.2022 and terminate on 15. 12. 2022. The working plan shall be delivered latest one week after the end of first mission, and all other documents latest by 15. 12. 2022 to SUNREED team leader Xhevat Lushi (xhevat.lushi@cnvp-eu.org).

For the preparation, consultation, research activity and working out of the roadmap, a sum of up to 30 **expert days** (including up to 21 days in Kosovo) are foreseen.

SUNRRED project will provide the interpretation services and transport within the country when needed.

6. Deadline

The deadline for applications is 02 June 2022