

Sustainable Coppice Forest Management in the Balkan

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The coppice forest situation

Coppice forest form an important part of the forests in the Balkan

Country	Total forest area hectare	Coppice forest			
		Area hectare	%	Growing stock m ³ /ha	Annual increment m ³ /hectare/year
Albania ⁽¹⁾	1,502,000	1,053,000	70%	10.4	
Kosovo ⁽²⁾	481,000	401,000	83%	39.7	1.9
Macedonia ⁽³⁾	948,000	557,000	59%	45.4	1.4
Montenegro ⁽⁴⁾	826,782	404,296	49%	62.6	
Serbia ⁽⁵⁾	2,252,000	1,456,000	65%	125.8	3.1

(1) NFI 2003, (2) NFI 2012, (3) MAFWE 2004, (4) NFI 2009-11, (5) NFI 2008

The coppice forest situation



The coppice forest situation

The problem:

- Many areas are degraded, over used, suffering from informal or illegal logging
- Selective cutting leading to gradual degradation



The demand and supply of wood biomass

- Coppice forests are a main source of fire wood supply
- High level of wood biomass/firewood is used in the region for space heating (around 80% of the energy is from firewood)
- Official supply is lower than the needs



Country	AAC	Official Harvest	Demand
Kosovo	1,400,000 m ³ /ha/yr	200,000 m ³	1,500,000 m ³
Macedonia	1,200,000 m ³ /ha/yr	600,000 m ³	900,000 m ³

- High level of informal harvesting and market
- Illegal and informal logging covering the gap

Converting coppice in to high forest

Why does this situation exist?

- Forestry sector gives higher value to high forest, focused on timber production
- Forest Strategy and Policies aim to convert coppice forest in high forest
- This practice leads to restrictions and limitations on coppice forest (e.g. no clear cuts allowed (Kosovo), Forest Management Planning focused at timber, bureaucratic process for harvest permit)
- Low level of trust, legal framework based on control instead of enabling environment
- Converting process has a very limited success

People's traditional knowledge and practice

- Family forest owners are applying small scale coppice forest (small patches for mainly their own needs)



People's traditional knowledge and practice

- Traditional system of harvest in strips, called 'Konap'

'The length of the rope for tying wood on the horse, about 9 m is used to define the width and 2-3 times the length to define the length'



Comparing and measuring growth in public forest and private forest

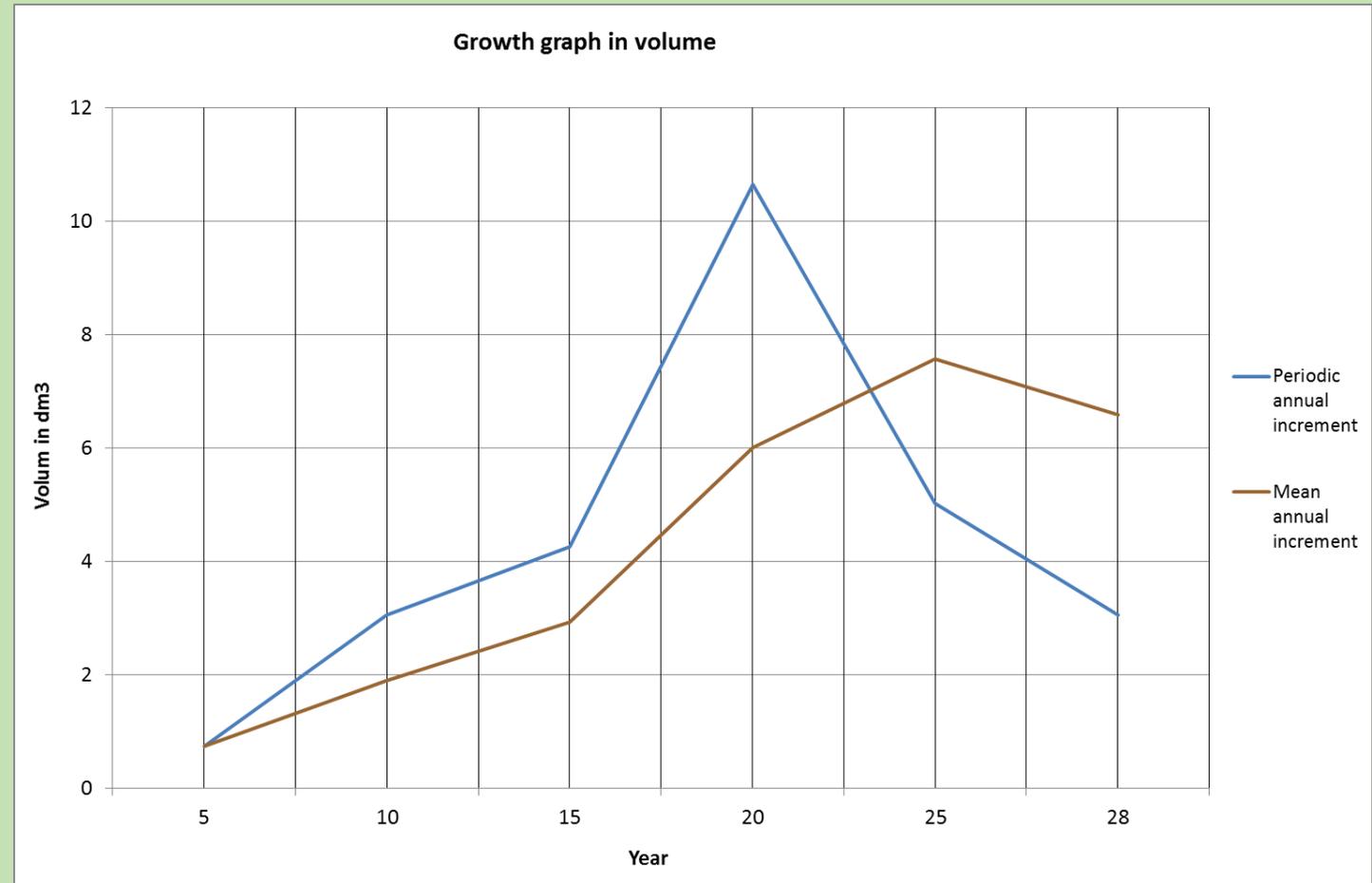
There is often a striking difference between growth and condition for private coppice forest and public forest in the same area

Indicators	Unit	SP No 1	SP No 2	SP No 1	SP No 2
Ownership		Private forest		State forest	
Locality	Village name	Manishince	Llabjan	Manishince	Ljabjan
Silvicultural regime		Low forest	Low forest	Low forest	Low forest
Management practice		Coppicing	Coppicing	Illegal Thinning	Illegal Thinning
Coppiced	year	1975	1997	1980	1994
Age	year	36	14	25	17
Height	meter	14.6	7	6.4	7.4
Average diameter	cm	12.9	7.5	3.8	4.7
Growing stock m³ /ha	m ³	410.8	151.1	31.6	59
Annual Increment m³/ha	m ³	11.4	10.8	1.3	3.5

What are the alternatives?

Small scale coppice forest management

- Introducing small scale coppice forest practices
- Optimal growth in short rotation cycles



Involving local communities and securing rights

- Joint forest management; an option for coppice forest management under decentralisation forms
- Using a participatory approach, involving the local community in planning and management
- Granting user rights to the local community



Involving local communities and securing rights

Applying small scale coppice forests with strips



Conclusions

- Policy and practices, especially the focus to convert coppice in to high forest have resulted in further degradation
- A restrictive legal framework resulted in limited rights of forest owners and users hampering SFM
- Private forests have a huge potential in the Balkan to produce wood biomass, but with proper management also public coppice forest
- (Almost) lost traditions can be re-discovered and used to support SFM for small scale coppice forest management
- The high and increasing demand for wood biomass gives increased attention and importance to coppice forest and can support in the livelihood and rural development

Thank you for your attention
I hope it was spicy and to your taste



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