

# Sustainable Coppice Forest Management in the Balkan

IUFRO Conference 2014  
Salt Lake City, United States of America

CNVP  
Haki Kola and Peter Kampen

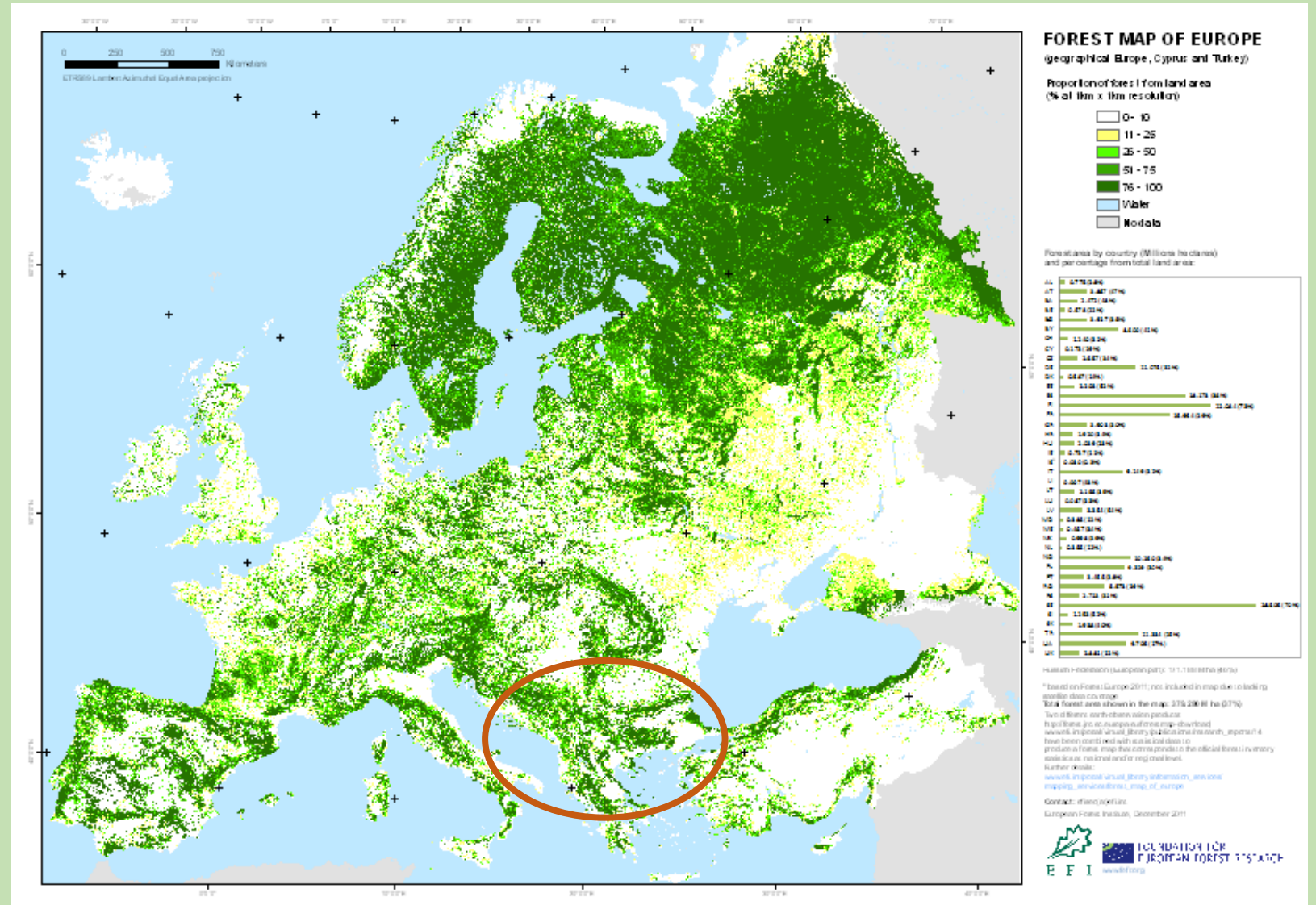


# Content

- The coppice forest situation
- The demand and supply of wood biomass
- Converting coppice in to high forest
- People's traditional knowledge and practice
- Comparing and measuring growth in public forest and private forest
- Small scale coppice forest management
- Involving local communities and securing rights
- Conclusions

# The coppice forest situation

- The Western Balkan in Europe
- Rich in forest, land cover 35 – 50 %









# 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 <sup>3</sup> /ha	Annual increment m <sup>3</sup> /hectare/year
Albania <sup>(1)</sup>	1,502,000	1,053,000	70%	10.4	
Kosovo <sup>(2)</sup>	481,000	401,000	83%	39.7	1.9
Macedonia <sup>(3)</sup>	948,000	557,000	59%	45.4	1.4
Montenegro <sup>(4)</sup>	826,782	404,296	49%	62.6	
Serbia <sup>(5)</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup> /ha/yr	200,000 m <sup>3</sup>	1,500,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Macedonia	1,200,000 m <sup>3</sup> /ha/yr	600,000 m <sup>3</sup>	900,000 m <sup>3</sup>

- 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

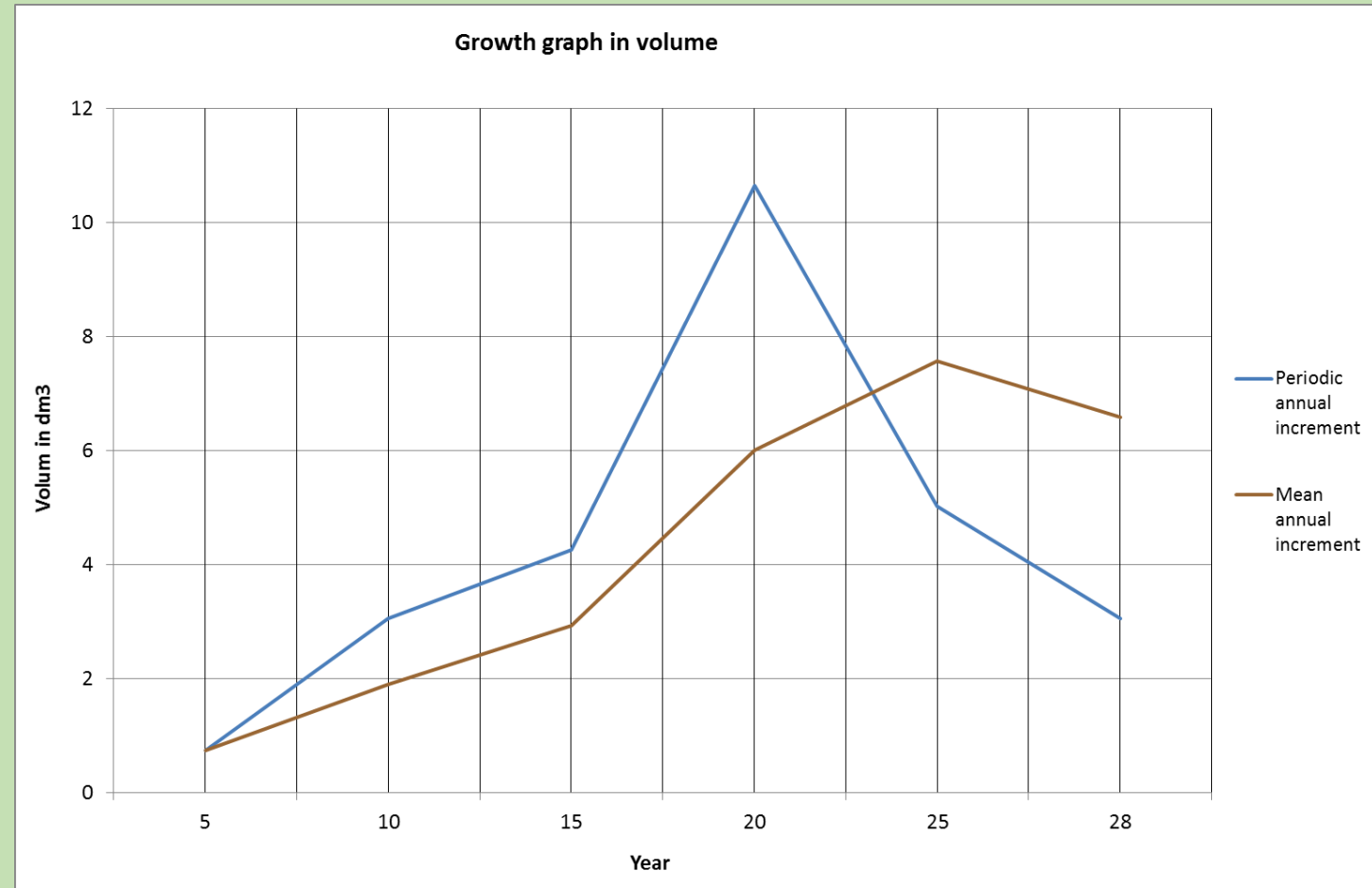
Indicators	Unit	SP No 1	SP No 2	SP No 1	SP No 2
<b>Ownership</b>		Private forest		State forest	
<b>Locality</b>	Village name	Manishince	Llabjan	Manishince	Ljabjan
<b>Silvicultural regime</b>		Low forest	Low forest	Low forest	Low forest
<b>Management practice</b>		Coppicing	Coppicing	Illegal Thinning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



Based on Kosovo pilot 2011-2014



# 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



- Peter Kampen,  
[peter.Kampen@cnvp-eu.org](mailto:peter.Kampen@cnvp-eu.org)
- Haki Kola,  
[haki.kola@cnvp-eu.org](mailto:haki.kola@cnvp-eu.org)

[www.cnvp-eu.org](http://www.cnvp-eu.org)

