



Distr.
GENERAL

TIM/SEM.1/2003/R.19 (Summary)
9 January 2003

Original: ENGLISH

Seminar on
STRATEGIES FOR THE SOUND USE OF WOOD
Poiana Brasov, Romania
24-27 March 2003

The sound use of wood and other forest resources in Romania
Session IV

Paper by Messrs. Gheorghe Dumitriu, Gheorghe Pirnuta, Iovu Biris and Gheorghe Florian Borlea,
Forest Research and Management Institute-Bucharest, Romania

Summary

The whole history and civilisation (a "wood civilisation") of the Romanian people was continuously connected to the forest, covering the main part of the land area. Forests have historically played an important role in the social and economic development, providing a strategic major source of rural employment and income through wood logging and processing but also through non-timber forest products use. The sustainable forest management in Romania has a long tradition and the national forest area was managed in terms of the silvicultural regime (system of technical, economic and legal norms/regulations issued by the Central Public Authority for Forestry). The current method used to determine the allowable cut is based on a traditional sustained yield approach: takes into account rotation length, average species composition, forest structure according to the site indices and the existing distribution of age classes. Rotation length is calculated according to the maximum rent principle, and has been set according to the average increment of the target dimensional class, reflecting a conservative policy with an environmental dimension. The actual situation, the potential and the contribution of the sector to the GDP show us that wood and other forest resources in Romania are still underused resources from the economical point of view. The present-day capacity of the primary wood processing sector is estimated at 17 millions cubic

meters per annum, but an important part of the primary and secondary timber industry has been operating in an environment of outdated technology, limited added value, poor knowledge of marketing and market information and little access to finance grants and loans. The main agencies supporting and promoting inward investments are restricted due to a lack of reliable and accurate information about the forest business sector. There are over 40 donors (including EU) and donor related institutions identified as being active, open and which would support direct and indirect investment in forestry and forestry related activities in Romania. The donor institutions mention the absence of applications for assistance for forestry and forestry related activities. The fundamental objective of the present-day national forestry policy and strategy in Romania is the development of the forestry sector in order to increase the sector contribution to the improvement of the quality of life, based on the sustainable management of the forests. There are four principal policy statements encompassing the sustainable development of the forest resources in Romania:

- to ensure the management according to the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account the diversification of forest land ownership;
- the integration of the logging and wood processing activities within the concept of sustainable forest management, to better utilise the wood resources;
- to promote the development of the exploitation of forest resources , especially to the wood high added-value products, to achieve the sustainable development of the sector;
- to develop scientific research and education, to support the sustainable forest management, the economic development of the forestry sector and the improvement of the environment.
