

Green Avengers and the Forest Economy

May 28th 2025



Agenda

Item	Duration	Speakers
Welcome, housekeeping	5 minutes	The Canopy Lab
MSD and a forest economy: three questions	25 minutes	Trias / Sunreed
Q&A	30 minutes	All



Q1: Can you briefly explain how you align conservation and economic objectives in your project?



Q1 - Alignment of conservation and economic objectives

Forest Context in Kosovo



TOTAL FOREST AREA

~500,000 ha
(+43% of Kosovo's land area)



60:40 public-private ownership



RICH IN BIODIVERSITY

~3000 species of vascular flora
~500 species of fauna



–40% HIGH FORESTS

(originates from seed)
most of which is protected



–60% LOW, COPPICE FOREST

most is considered degraded due to overharvesting (mainly for firewood) and lack of management



- Most coppice forest is privately owned, typically fragmented into small parcels (average holding ~0.5 ha)
- Most private forest owners lack management plans or financial capacity to sustainably manage their forests

Q1 - Alignment of conservation and economic objectives

- SUNREED understands that conserving (or restoring) coppice forest landscapes that provide a diverse range of wood and non-wood products requires **active management**.
- SUNREED tries to build capacities and create incentives for private forest owners to actively manage their forests.



Q1 - Alignment of conservation and economic objectives

The case of Wood Biomass Energy

- Wood biomass (mainly firewood) main source of energy for heating and cooking in rural Kosovo. Typically burned in old inefficient fireplaces, boilers & stoves.
- Current consumption of firewood (~2 million cubic meters annually) exceeds supply capacities (annual forest growth levels are estimated at 1.5 million cubic meters).
- SUNREED aims to improve efficiency and sustainability of wood biomass energy system through:
 - **Protecting the source** (management plans, silviculture interventions, fast growing plantations)
 - **Making better use of biomass** (utilisation of residues for energy production, improved/more efficient wood fuels, coordination between private forestry owners & wood biomass collection businesses)
 - **Promoting clean and efficient consumption** (short/local supply chains, modern/efficient biomass heating systems)



Forest Management

Sustainable Practices

- Management plans defining harvesting rules & schedules
- Fast growing plantations to reduce pressure on forests
- Regular silviculture interventions to improve forest conditions

Key Systemic Enablers

- Public support/subsidies for forest management plans for private forests
- Adoption of EU sustainability criteria for wood biomass for energy use
- Training/extension services for private forest owners on sustainable forest management



Collection & Processing

Sustainable Practices

- Prioritisation or utilisation of residues for energy use
- Use of low emissions or fossil-free equipment
- Processing of biomass into high-quality woodfuels

Key Systemic Enablers

- Private sector investment in biomass collection infrastructure & equipment (e.g. woodchippers)
- Coordination between forest owners & biomass collection businesses
- Adoption of standards & voluntary certification systems for woodfuels



Distribution & End-Use

Sustainable Practices

- Short/local supply chains for wood biomass, minimising emissions from distribution of woodfuels
- Adoption of efficient biomass heating systems (e.g. district heating, woodchip boilers)

Key Systemic Enablers

- Policy support/subsidies supporting investment in efficient biomass heating technologies
- Awareness campaigns to build consumer understanding of modern, efficient woodfuels & heating technologies

Conservation and economic objectives

- 1 Community forest enterprises link income generation to forest protection
- 2 Sustainable forest management plans ensure regulated, legal, and eco-friendly resource use
- 3 Value addition & local markets: support for processing and marketing of forest products
- 4 Fair benefit-sharing & governance: revenues reinvested in community services and forest care
- 5 Local ownership = long-term conservation: people protect what benefits them directly



Q2: How do you identify and select partners in the forest economy who have the potential to catalyse wider systemic change?

What type of support do you provide and how do you use it as an incentive to promote behaviour change?

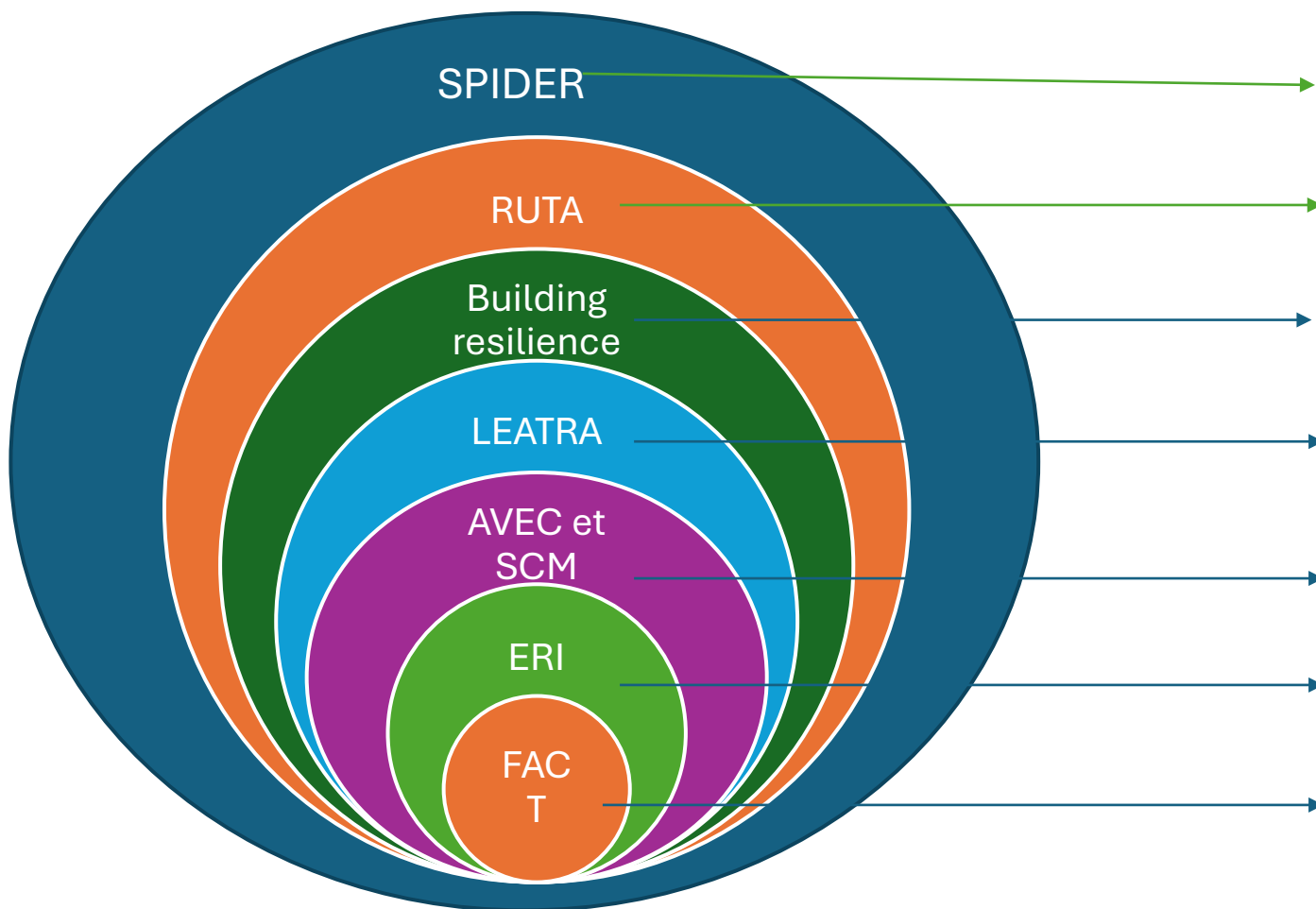


Partners selection

- Engage local actors with strong community roots, inclusive leadership, and potential to influence others
- Prioritize initiatives that align with national policies and offer scalable, sustainable models



Tools



Intervention domains



OSID - Capacity building

- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Climate change and ecological sustainability
- ✓ Leadership, governance and management
- ✓ Financial hearth
- ✓ Market access and services
- ✓ Lobbying, advocacy and networking

Q2 - Partner selection & SUNREED support

Identification of partners follows typical MSD process:

- Actor mapping
- Meetings & relationship building
- Sign partnerships with actors we think are genuinely interested in changing and trying new approaches

SUNREED support:

- Typically a combination of technical assistance and financial support
- Try to ensure that private partners invest their own resources (i.e. that they have skin in the game)

Q2 - Partner selection & SUNREED support

Practical Example

- NTSH Dardani is local business involved in the harvesting and trading of wood biomass (for both energy & industrial use) which has been a SUNREED partner for the past couple of years.
- Partnership aims to build sustainable wood biomass supply relationship between Dardani and local private forestry owners.
- **SUNREED support focuses on:**
 - **Facilitating** introductions/relationships building between Dardani & private forestry owners
 - **Co-investment** (with Dardani) in management plans for private forestry owners
 - **Co-investment** (with Dardani) in wood biomass collection points within close proximity of private forestry owners
 - **Technical assistance and co-investment** (with Dardani & private forestry owners) on implementation of silviculture interventions



How do you manage tensions around short-term results versus longer-term systemic or ecological outcomes?



Q3 - Managing Expectations - short-term results vs longer-term systemic or ecological outcomes

SUNREED's approach:

- Convincing donor that there is a plan & strategy to bring about long-term systemic changes
- Demonstrate output level progress (e.g. area covered under management plans which will eventually lead to improved forest management outcome)
- Regular communication & field trips with donor.



FACILITATING FACTORS

- **Land security and legal documents**
- **Systemic and holistic approaches**
 - Division in specific zones
 - Sustainable production
 - Awareness on Forest management and conservation through a image toolbox
 - Zero deforestation plans
- **Link to market and Economic activities**
- **Set up community enterprises and cooperatives**

