



**USAID** | **KOSOVO**  
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN  
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

# USAID KOSOVO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE PROGRAM (KPEP)

## Development of FSC Kosovo standards Report on mission (May 27-30 2012)

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Implemented by  
Booz Allen Hamilton

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# FOREST CERTIFICATION WORKING GROUP FACILITATION

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES ON DEVELOPMENT OF KOSOVO FSC  
STANDARD

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Kosovo Private Enterprise Program project (title of the project).  
Contract No. No. EEM-I-07-00007-00, TO #2

This report submitted by Booz Allen Hamilton /June 1, 2012

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# PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT

Objective of this assignment is to address all the comments raised by FSC Policy and Standard Committee and to discuss them on the workshop of the SDG. These comments include two separate activities:

- additional explanations and justifications about the process
- corrections and additions to the indicators of the standard

The Consultant shall provide assistance and facilitation in development of these documents and prepare the final text to be sent. For this mission, the main objectives were following:

1. To address all questions raised by FSC,
2. To facilitate the work of SDG and their approval
3. To send the necessary documents to FSC for final approval
4. To investigate the possibility of continuation of the project

## BACKGROUND

In September 2008, USAID awarded the Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP) to Booz Allen Hamilton. USAID designed KPEP to build on the successes achieved to date and elevate impact by catalyzing transformational change for Kosovo's economy through lasting improvements in private sector competitiveness.

KPEP includes four main components: 1) private sector support in targeted sectors with potential for growth and competitiveness; 2) identify demand driven development for business support services; 3) improve business enabling environment; and 4) workforce development. The Kosovo Private Enterprise Program will also address several cross-cutting areas including gender, youth and minority development. Finally, the program will manage a Strategic Activities Fund (SAF) valued at \$3,760,000.

As a part of efforts to improve the competitiveness of forestry and wood processing sector in Kosovo, the decision was made to support the process of FSC forest certification. The process will prepare Kosovo Forest Agency and other relevant institutions to improve their planning and operational practices in order to meet the requirements of internationally recognized forest management standards. The ultimate goal would be to have two selected forest management units FSC certified and also a number of wood processors that are supplied with timber from aforementioned units.

The first step in the process is to develop FSC standards for Kosovo and to have them accredited with FSC, strictly following the prescribed procedures. Under the previous assignment, Standard Development Group (SDG) was formed and it has applied to FSC for registration. The group has prepared the second draft of the standard and has submitted it for approval with FSC in September 2010. FSC has finally given the last comments and preconditions for the standard to be approved on May 8 2012.

This document deals with the objectives of the mission to be held from **May 27 - 30, 2012**.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the main activities carried out from May 27- 30, 2012 on the duties related to the development of Kosovo FSC standard.

The main objectives of the subtask were the following:

1. To address all questions raised by FSC,
2. To facilitate the work of SDG and their approval
3. To send the necessary documents to FSC for final approval
4. To investigate the possibility of continuation of the project

May 2012 mission included activities aimed at finishing the process of development of FSC Kosovo national standard.

The documents prepared, were discussed on a meeting with SDG on May 29, 2012.

SDG members were informed, during the May 29 meeting, about the latest developments since the last meeting. Those developments include: the SDG chair and facilitator kept contact with FSC, submitted all necessary documents and were notified on May 8, 2012 by the FSC (comments related to the final approval of the standard).

The SDG members discussed the proposed changes to the text of standard and all members present have voted unanimously in favor of acceptance of version 3.2 and have authorized the Chair to submit it to FSC, together with additional responses, for approval as soon as possible.

The documents were sent on May 30, 2012 and their receipt was immediately acknowledged. We got assurances that our responses will be processed as soon as possible. That will mean that final approval should come in early June.

Following conclusions and results can be drawn from this mission:

- all necessary documents needed to respond to FSC comments were prepared and sent
- these responses will be discussed very soon and approval can expected in early June
- this will be a great achievement for Kosovo as it will be the first country from ex-Yugoslavia to have national FSC standard approved
- after receiving the final approval, a promotional event with high-profile guests should be organized
- some support from other organizations in Kosovo will be needed for that event
- there is a need to look for the appropriate donor to assist the continuation of planned activities, namely certification of two FMUs and five wood processors

As USAID/KPEP project is coming to an end, this was probably the last visit of the Forest Certification Specialist.

# FIELD ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE PURPOSES

As a part of the project of development of Kosovo FSC standards, the May 2012 mission included activities aimed at finishing the process of development of FSC Kosovo national standard.

It included the office work in preparation the answers to comments received from FSC on May 8, 2012. These included:

- changes in standard
- responses to comments
- collection of additional documents

All these documents were then discussed on a meeting with SDG on May 29, 2012. The meeting had following agenda:

- Overview of FSC pre-conditions on draft version 3.1
- Work on the comments on draft
- Work on the draft of Kosovo FSC standards, overview of future steps, conclusions

The presentations were held and workshop was chaired by Hysen Shabanaj, Chair of SDG, facilitated by Ratko Matosevic (Croatia), Forestry Advisor for USAID Kosovo Private Enterprise Program.

SDG members were informed about the latest developments since the last meeting. SDG chair and facilitator have kept the contact with FSC, submitted all necessary documents. Finally on May 8, 2012 the group has received the comments related to the final approval of the standard. They also learnt about the main issues addressed by FSC PS Committee. SDG was informed that standard will be accredited subject to fulfillment of the pre-conditions.

The main comment of FSC was about the impression of the committee that the process of development was government led and that it did not include appropriate participation of civil society organizations. There was a discussion on that topic, mainly concluding that impression was not correct and that SDG has to put additional effort to convince FSC in opposite. SDG has concluded that the Chair and Facilitator should prepare a response for FSC, in line with the discussion. This response should include the required analysis of stakeholders and additional documents on public consultation, with the aim to demonstrate to FSC transparency of standard development process.

SDG has received the comments from two stakeholders and agreed on answers to be sent to them.

The SDG members discussed the proposed changes to the text of standard and the conclusions were following.

- majority of the FSC proposed indicators were found to be acceptable
- the term “enterprise” should be changed to “organization” because enterprise is not in line with Kosovo legal arrangements in forestry and organization is more neutral and it has also been used in revised FSC P&C
- suggested indicators 6.9.7 – 6.9.10 to be deleted as the problem of invasive exotic forest species is not very relevant to Kosovo
- SGD chair and Facilitator should do additional technical editing to remove redundancies, duplications, missing verifiers and numbering
- after these changes are applied in all three languages, the standard should be numbered as Version 3.2 and sent to FSC for final review
- the tabular landscape form the indicator part was in the portrait non-tabular form now

After the proposed changes were fully presented and discussed, the Chair of SDG Mr. Shabanaj has asked the members to vote on the version 3.2 to be accepted.

**All members of Kosovo SDG present have voted unanimously in favor of acceptance of version 3.2 and have authorized the Chair to submit it to FSC, together with additional responses, for approval as soon as possible.**

After the conclusions from the meeting were processed, the consultant prepared the following documents to be sent to FSC:

1. Kosovo national standard report May 2012.doc - the document addressing comments raised
2. Annex: First consultation workshops April 2009.zip Minutes and participants list of the workshops held in April 2009
3. Annex: Second consultation workshops Feb 2010.zip participants list of the workshops held in Feb 2010
4. Annex: all comments original.pdf All stakeholders comments
5. Kosovo FSC national standard Version 3.2 (in English, Albanian and Serbian)

The documents were sent on May 30, 2012 and their receipt was immediately acknowledged. We got assurances that our responses will be processed as soon as possible. That will mean that final approval should come in early June.

Based on the successful response to FSC and standard approval, the promotional event will be organized to commemorate this fact. USAID/KPEP project is coming to an end, but there will still provide support in terms organizing material for the event. There are talks still under way to find the organization that would cover some costs associated with the event.

Additional efforts were given, to look for the appropriate to donor to assist the continuation of planned activities, namely certification of two FMUs and five wood processors. The meeting was held with Mr Jon Hansen in Norwegian Embassy in Pristina and the first reaction was a positive one.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following conclusions and results can be drawn from this mission:

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