

Research

A strategic domain to achieve
Sustainable Forest Management

Graça Rato



Ministério da
Agricultura,
Desenvolvimento
Rural e Pescas

4th IMACFORD Meeting
Óbidos, 7th April, 2003

DGP
Direção-Geral
das Florestas

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe Helsinki - 1993

Sustainable management means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Resolution H1



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Forest Policy Act

1996

Guiding principles

The **knowledge** generated by **scientific intervention** constitutes one **strategic element** to the process of decision making on the overall forest activity's planning.

Forest policy objectives

To encourage and promote **scientific and technological research** within the forest domain.



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Forest Policy Act

Forest research

Forest research institutions should favour research actions which reinforce the **sustained intervention capacity** of the forest sector and assure the **transmission** of the generated **knowledge**.

The **decentralisation of the forest research structures** and the launching of regional experimentation and demonstration units should be promoted by the Administration, in an **articulated way** with the teaching institutions, the operational services and the forest stakeholders, with a view to the reinforcement of the action capacity at the regional level.



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Forest Policy Act

Forest research

The administration should promote and assist the **participation and the responsibility of the stakeholders** in the definition and implementation of the **research projects**, experiments and development, in way that would attach more relevant objectives and able to **typify the knowledge gaps** which are needed to the national forest development.



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Sustainable Development Plan of the Portuguese Forest 1999

Strategic guidelines

Improve **scientific research** and the **dissemination of its results**.

Research and Development

Applied research, experimentation and dissemination

"New" concerns: multifunctionality, multiple use, sustainable management

Innovative **approaches**

Multidisciplinary **teams**



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Sustainable Development Plan of the Portuguese Forest

National Plan of Forest Research

Co-ordinate all information- **network** organised model

Objectives

Deepen and circulate the **knowledge** on forest systems and related resources.

Improvement of the forest management, taking into account the **social, environmental and economic dimensions**.

Optimisation and rationalisation of the **management of forest associated resources** (game, inland fishing, etc.).



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Sustainable Development Plan of the Portuguese Forest

National Plan of Forest Research

Research lines

Forest ecosystems characterisation

Forest systems management

Conservation and protection of forest systems

Hunting, fishing and other resources

Forests multiple uses

Forest policy



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector 2003

Vision

To look at **forests, lato sensu**, as a **mobilising national project**, it should be assumed beforehand that forest resources are abundant and managed in a **sustainable** way, being able to contribute to **rural development**, supplying a successful **industry**, taking into account the **social** implications of decisions and improving crucial **natural resources**, such as water, land, atmosphere and biodiversity.



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector

Forest sector as a **strategic wealth**

Forest development contributes to **socio-economic** development

Forests generate **employment and income** opportunities



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector

Main Strategic Objective:

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector

1. Institutional co-ordination
2. Legislation
3. Planning and forest management instruments
4. Communal and State-owned forests
5. Simplification of investment in the context of SCF III
6. Afforestation of agriculture lands
7. Forest investment
8. Forest fires
9. Associativism
10. Professional training
11. Research and Development



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector Research and Development

Research - answer to concrete problems

- Forest decline
- Planning strategies and protection methods against fire
- Role of forests as Carbon sinks
- Genetic potential of forest species
- Sustainability of forest management
- Technological use of forest species
- Potential uses of forest products



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector Research and Development

Estação Florestal Nacional - State forest research and development institution

Co-ordination of the forest sector-society inputs in close collaboration with DGF

Co-ordination, dissemination and exchange of information

Participation of the private sector in the definition of national research and development programs



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector Research and Development

Actions

- Launch a **Forum** to discuss and assess national Research and Development programs among the MADRP, the MCES, the scientific community and the private sector.
- Preparation of a **pluri-annual program** to define research priorities, to be submitted to periodical adjustments and validation by the **Forum**.



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Program of Action for the Forest Sector Research and Development

Actions

- Organisation of **periodical thematic meetings** to discuss and disseminate technologies and information concerning existing problems.
- Preparation and implementation of a strategy to **disseminate** technical knowledge and technologies.
- Launch a **network** of the national forest-related Research and Development structures.



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To promote Sustainable Forest Management

Criteria and Indicators for SFM

Ministerial Conference
on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Portuguese Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM Systems - application of the Pan-European Criteria for SFM)



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To promote Sustainable Forest Management

National Forest Authority

Reward - upgrading

Forest projects financed by public funds
foreseeing actions leading to the promotion of SFM



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To promote Sustainable Forest Management

National Forest Authority

State-owned forests

Mediterranean ecosystems

International reporting obligations



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CRITERIA

Ministerial Conference
on the Protection of Forests in Europe

C1 - Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of
forest resources and their contribution to global
Carbon cycles

C2 - Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and
vitality

C3 - Maintenance and encouragement of productive
functions of forests (wood and non-wood)



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CRITERIA

Ministerial Conference
on the Protection of Forests in Europe

C4 - Maintenance, conservation and appropriate
enhancement of biological diversity in forest
ecosystems

C5 - Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of
protective functions in forest management (notably
soil and water)

C6 - Maintenance of other socio-economic functions
and conditions



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RESEARCH

- Identification of information needs
- Definition of priorities
- Allocation of funds
- Co-ordination of all parts involved
- Compilation, systematisation and dissemination of information
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Organisation of research networks

Avoiding duplication of efforts

Strategic domain to achieve Sustainable Forest Management



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Change
Mobilisation
Partnerships
Responsibility
Rigour
Quality
Information
Assessment
Confidence

SUSTAINABLE FOREST DEVELOPMENT



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