

Tool II.

Site Selection

Site Selection Criteria

1. Size

Large enough to reflect values: Ecological Social Cultural Economic

Small enough to be: Manageable Sense of belonging

2. Boundary

Which criteria did you use?
Administrative limits?
Geographical?
Maybe put a cartography

3. Biophysical Attributes

Include a range of ecological features:

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Forest types Topography
Etc ...

4. Land Use

Range of land uses: forest, agriculture, mining, conservation, etc...

5. Ownership

Well-defined and secure

Examples Biophysical attributes

- Dalmatia (Croatia): Mediterranean and continental forests, karst habitats as caves, rocks, macchia and shrubwoods
- Obedska bara (Vojvodina Province): Vast swamp forest area stretching along the left inundation bank of the Sava river, numerous fragile ecosystems, especially wetland and ancient forests of Common oak with associated species of ash and elm
- River Mirna basin (Croatia): River Mirna, mountain chain Cicarija, forest types from Mediterranean to Mountain forest types, Adriatic coast, agricultural plots
- Ferrara (Italy): Po river plain created by the floods, mainly agricultural landscape with some residual forested area and wetlands both fresh and brackish water
- Tešanj (BiH): The area has typical continental climate with domination of hilly landscape covered by beech and oak forests with great number of natural sources of drinking water

Examples Land use:

- Golija (Serbia): Forestry, agriculture, hunting, fishing, mining and tourism
- River Mirna basin (Croatia): Agriculture, tourism, breeding, wine production, recreation, harvesting of truffle, mushroom and other non wood forest products
- Ferrara (Italy): Besides conventional agricultural practices present also a variety of traditional practices still in use such as agro tourist farms, traditional extensive fish farming then wine production, fishing and hunting
- Tešanj (BiH): Forestry and agriculture are dominant with increased efforts of local population to enhance touristic activities and to utilize natural potentials for production of drinking water

Examples Ownership:

- Voskopoja (Albania): Public, communal, private and religious institutions ownership
- Golija (Serbia): 57% of the forest is State owned and 43% is private
- Coastal area (Montenegro): 36% of forest are public and 64% are private
- Ferrara (Italy): Characterized by intensive agriculture, most of the areas are privately owned by small farmer (22 ha as average), 44% of UAA (Utilised agriculture area) is not owned but rented
- Tešanj (BiH): The forested area is mainly owned by state (72%). The private forests (28%) are in the most of the cases small and fragmented, unmanaged and very often owned by more than one owner

6. Representativeness

Reflect a much larger area

Not unique: biophysical, socio-cultural and economic features

Allow all or a substantial portion of lessons learned to be applied elsewhere

7. Opportunities

Potential of multiple-use activities

Opportunities for income diversification and economic development (where possible)

Every Model Forest is unique, but the innovation and solutions they develop must be applicable to similar context and situations

8. Accessibility

Relatively easily accessible for research and demonstration purposes

Legal: authorization of the owners for the works, projects and research activities of the Model Forest

9. Stakeholders

Variety of interests and values: key land owners, managers, users, other stakeholders in the region...

Commitment to form a working, long-term partnership/coalition

Examples Representativeness

- Dalmatia (Croatia): Relatively small area that combines coastal and continental features with high concentration of protected areas including National park „Krka“
- River Mirna basin (Croatia): Represent all forest types present in the region (mountain, coastal and lowland) together with land-use and economic activities, area cover also several protected areas
- Ferrara (Italy): Representative of the Po plain and its delta landscape
- Tešanj (BiH): The area, by its biophysical attributes, represent the central part of BiH with domination of beech and oak forests while on the other hands with its long tradition and history represent small, tidy and cozy town of vivid and diligent inhabitants

Examples Opportunities:

- Golija (Serbia): Nature based tourism and recreation, valorisation of the Nature park values, branding and marketability of local products
- Dalmatia (Croatia): Improve forest fires proection, develop processing production, establish patterns of collaboration between stakeholders
- Coastal area (Montenegro): Renewable energy use, non wood forest products valorisation, agricultural production of olives, honey, livestock, tourism, environmental protection
- Voskopoja (Albania): Solving propriety and using rights, women involvement in the project, including private subjects that operate in this territory
- Ferrara (Italy): Improvement of the landscape characteristics, opportunities for Carbon Credits when open to private market

Examples Accessibility:

- Voskopoja (Albania): Public and communal property is easy accessible for research and demonstrative purposes
- River Mirna basin (Croatia): Well accessible by networks of main and supporting roads, not far from administrative and economic centres, close to national borders of Slovenia and Italia
- Ferrara (Italy): Private and public areas are in general always accessible with some regulations into the protected areas
- Tešanj (BiH): The area has good road infrastructure, all of the area is accessible by any mean of transportation

Examples Stakeholders:

- Dalmatia (Croatia): Tourist boards, fire depatments and fire ommunities, gatherers of herbs, association of private forest owners, hunting association, mountaineering association, private family farms, Nature park Biokovo, Croatian forest L.t.d.
 - Ferrara (Italy): Research entities, national forestry authority, private farmer association, associations of environmentalist, hunters, truffle collectors, entrepreneurs as agro-tourism
 - Coastal area (Montenegro): municipalities, Ministry of agriculture and rural development, fire proection departments, University, environmental protection organisations, tourism enterprises, private land owners, associations of hunters, olive oil producers, honey producers, medical herbs collectors.
 - Tešanj (BiH): the representatives of local administration, public companies, various types of associations and foundations, educational institutions and private entrepreneurs
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10. Importance (National, Regional, Local)

Different levels:

National level; existing policies and strategies, priority areas, socio-cultural, ecological, economic attributes...

Local level; local livelihood, quality of life, provision of goods and services by the area...

11. Other Activities

Current or past activities: which would compliment the Model Forest? Which the stakeholders could build upon?

12. Available Databases

Are there databases, GIS or any other information (forest resources, land use, economic data, etc) available?

13. Existing Practices

What are the existing management practices in the area?

14. Existing Facilities

Are there existing facilities for meetings, research, accommodation, etc?

Examples Importance:

- Golija (Serbia): Nature park "Golija" is proclaimed as UNESCO MAB Park of Biosphere
- Obodska bara (Vojvodina): Proposed as the World Natural Heritage Site (UNESCO), important birds area (IBA) – Since 1989
- Ferrara (Italy): UNESCO World Heritage Site "Ferrara, Città del Rinascimento e il suo Delta del Po"; Various Natura 2000 sites; Emilia-Romagna Regional Delta Po Park.
- Tešanj (BiH): Today, Tešanj is declared as: Municipality with European quality of living, economic power and ecological awareness

Examples Other activities:

- Obodska bara (Vojvodina): "Bird island" provide a steady presence of water and security for the birds inhabiting the islands with a purpose to attract potential nesting birds
- Dalmatia (Croatia): Local partnerships called Local Action Group (LAG) links local stakeholders from public, private and civil sector exists on the territory. LAG Krka includes 7 municipalities of which some are in the future model forest area
- Tešanj (BiH): Local authorities are striving to attract international investors and to increase economic activities of this area with great enthusiasm to protect natural resources and to strengthen the touristic activities

Examples:

- Golija (Serbia): Data on forest monitoring activities available in Institute of Forestry, Belgrade, data on natural values are available in State Enterprise responsible for management of such areas, economic data are available in national statistics department
- Voskopoja (Albania): Cadastral data for the territory and land use, different maps, GIS compilation, data for social - economic aspects, data on forest resources
- Ferrara (Italy): Good dataset of georeferenced data such as Corine Land Cover, Natura 2000 habitats maps, socio-economic aspects, climate data, flora and fauna data

Examples:

- Dalmatia (Croatia): Implementation of certification in public forest (FSC), Split-Dalmatia County compiled the proposal of area to become European ecological network NATURA 2000
- Obodska bara (Vojvodina): Forestry Management Plan of the area, Management Plan of the Special Nature Reserve, Management Plan of NATURA 2000
- Tešanj (BiH): The controlled utilization of forests for the purpose of local population and wood processing companies on this area, organized hunting activities, commercialized use of drinking water by several private companies, well organized scouts and construction of mountain bike tracks

Examples:

- Dalmatia (Croatia): On selected area there are cities, municipalities and public companies with their own existing infrastructure and facilities
- Ferrara (Italy): University and local Administration facilities, plus private companies with their own existing infrastructure and facilities
- Tešanj (BiH): The hunting house and several forest cottages owned by public forest company