



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



**LANDSCAPE FIRE
MANAGEMENT**
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

www.lfmwb.net

STRATEGY

FOR

ADAPTIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

AND

LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO



LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY:

- ❖ Association of Private Forest Owners of Kosovo
- ❖ Central Directorate of the Inspectorate for Forestry and Hunting (CDIFH)
- ❖ Cadastral Agency of Kosovo (CAK)
- ❖ Directorate for the Administration of NP "Bjeshket e Nemuna" (DANPBN)
- ❖ Directorate for the Administration of NP "Sharr" (DANPS)
- ❖ Directorate for Agricultural Policies and Markets - MAFRD
- ❖ Department for European Integration and Policy Coordination - MAFRD
- ❖ Federation of Hunters of Kosovo (FHK)
- ❖ Forestry Department (FD)
- ❖ Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo (HIK)
- ❖ Kosovo Forestry Agency – Directorate for Forestry Management
- ❖ Kosovo Forestry Agency - Director of the Regional Department of KFA in Ferizaj
- ❖ Kosovo Forestry Agency - Director of the Regional Department of KFA in Gjilan
- ❖ Kosovo Forestry Agency - Director of the Regional Department of KFA in Ferizaj
- ❖ Kosovo Forestry Agency - Director of the Regional Department of KFA in Mitrovica
- ❖ Kosovo Environment Protection Agency (KEPA)
- ❖ Kosovo Statistics Agency (KSA)
- ❖ Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI)
- ❖ Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) - Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- ❖ University of Pristina – Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences (UP-FMNS)
- ❖ University of Prizren – Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences (UP – FLES)

LIST OF EXPERTS AND INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE STRATEGY:

Preparation and compilation of the report:

Arlinda Gashi, LFMWB Country Project staff in Prishtina

National supervisor of the process:

Tahir Ahmeti, LFMWB Country Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Kosovo

Expert process support:

Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov, Regional expert for landscape fire management, Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC), with the support of the RFMC Staff

Velian Jagev, Regional coordinator for Landscape Fire Management, Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC), and Jakob Kiprovski, Junior Associate for Landscape Fire Management, Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC)

Expert on process for preparation of LFM Strategy:

Aleksandar Karaev

Proofreader:

Elena Jankoska

Strategy for Adaptive Landscape and Landscape Fire Management in Kosovo, The Landscape Fire Management Report in Kosovo is prepared within the Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans (LFMWB) Programme financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and coordinated by Farmahem – Skopje with backstopping support of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation. The process for preparation of this Strategy was coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development in Kosovo with the support of the Regional Fire Monitoring Centre (RFMC) for the Southeast Europe/Caucasus Region as partners of the LFMWB Programme.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS	4
INTRODUCTION	5
METHODOLOGY	8
1. SWOT ANALYSIS	9
2. STRATEGY – VISION, GOALS	11
a) VISION	11
b) GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY	11
3. BACKGROUND	14
3.1. OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO	14
4. LFM AND THE ENVIRONMENT	20
a) The protective role of landscapes	20
b) Protection of biodiversity and the impact of landscape fire management	20
c) Landscape fire management and climate change	21
5. LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS	23
a) The contribution of LFM to rural development, poverty reduction, well-being and livelihoods of local communities	23
6. LINKING THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR LFM IN KOSOVO WITH THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT	25
a) Regional cooperation	25
b) International cooperation	25
7. TRANSFORMATION OF THE LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INTO ACTION	27
a) Strategic planning	27
b) Coordination and cooperation	28
8. ACTION PLAN	29

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Agricultural Development Agency
APFOK	Association of Private Forest Owners of Kosovo
CPI	Country Partner Institution
DNPA	Directorate for National Park Administration
DFIH	Directorate for Forest Inspection and Hunting
EMA	Emergency Management Agency
EU	European UnionFLES - Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
FMNS	Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations
KEPA	Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency
KFA	Kosovo Forestry Agency
LFMWB	Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans
LFM	Landscape Fire Management
LF	Landscape Fires
LPS	Local Project Staff
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development
MESPI	Ministry of environmental, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
MEST	Ministry of Education, Sports and Technology
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
NSALMFLM	National Strategy for Adaptive Landscape Management and LFM in the Republic of Kosovo
PFP	Project Focal Point
SWOT	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNSF	United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests
WB	Western Balkan

INTRODUCTION

Kosovo, located in the heart of the Balkan Peninsula, is a country with extraordinary geographical and ecological diversity. Covering an area of approximately 10,900 km² with an average elevation of 800 meters, it is characterized by a varied relief consisting of high mountain ranges such as the Shar Mountains, Kopaonik, and the Albanian Alps. This topographical wealth contributes to the country's continental climate, influenced by Mediterranean effects, with hot summers and cold winters, which significantly affect the frequency and intensity of fires.

In recent years, Kosovo has witnessed a concerning increase in both the incidence and scale of landscape fires, particularly in forested and agricultural areas. Between 2010 and 2022 alone, fires affected approximately 35,000 hectares. These fires, driven by climate change, human activities, and pressures on land use, represent an increasing ecological, economic, and social threat. The impacts include loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, as well as significant costs to public health, safety, and the well-being of communities.

Considering the current state of forests and forest lands in the Republic of Kosovo, as well as the increasing risks associated with landscape fires, it has become essential to select and implement an effective landscape fire management strategy. Rising pressures from climate change, land degradation, and human activities require a new, integrated, and long-term approach that goes beyond emergency response, emphasizing prevention and resilience.

In this context, Landscape Fire Management (LFM) represents a proactive and comprehensive approach that has proven effective in addressing the increasing risks posed by fires. This approach emphasizes environmental protection, ecosystem conservation, and the creation of sustainable is accomplished through prevention, by decreasing the number of fires and their intensity.

Through a holistic approach, landscape fire management aims to shift the focus from reactive firefighting toward prevention and long-term risk management. This approach integrates environmental protection, socio-economic considerations, sustainable land use, and the impacts of climate change, thereby contributing to the reduction of landscape fires risk and enhancing landscape resilience in the Republic of Kosovo.

In response to the growing challenges associated with landscape fires, the National Strategy for Adaptive Landscape Management and LFM of the Republic of Kosovo has been developed as a comprehensive framework for coordinated inter-institutional action.

Based on the principle of prevention, the strategy focuses on proactive measures to reduce landscape fire risk before fires occur, including sustainable land-use planning, strengthening early warning and monitoring systems, and promoting sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.

Through this approach, the strategy aims to reduce the frequency and intensity of fires while simultaneously mitigating their social, economic, and environmental impacts. It aligns national policies and actions with regional and international standards, strengthening inter-institutional coordination, raising public awareness, integrating climate change adaptation into land management, and promoting the ecological restoration of fire-affected areas.

A key element of the strategy is regional, international, and cross-border cooperation. Kosovo aims to strengthen its participation in regional civil protection and emergency management mechanisms, enhancing the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and best practices in LF management.

The strategy is based on an integrated approach involving central and local institutions, academia, civil society, and local communities. It emphasizes capacity building, the development of fire-resilient land-

scapes, the strengthening of public awareness and community engagement, the use of technology and data systems, the improvement of the legal framework, and investments in science and education.

In particular, it highlights the importance of sustained public awareness initiatives, including targeted communication campaigns, school-based education programmes, and community outreach activities aimed at improving understanding of fire risks, prevention measures, and responsible land-use practices.

This strategy is the result of the continuous and collaborative work of the National Network for Landscape Fire Management in Kosovo. It was developed based on discussions, analyses, and the joint contributions of network members, following the preparation of the National Report on Landscape Fire Management and the completion of the Gap Analysis Report of the landscape fire management system. The findings and recommendations from these processes have served as the foundation for identifying strategic priorities and formulating concrete measures, which were further refined through regular meetings and thematic workshops organized by the network.

The strategy envisions Kosovo with protected landscapes, more resilient communities, and reduced landscape fires risk, while simultaneously contributing to environmental protection and sustainable economic development.

Strategic objective 1: Strengthening the legal and policy framework for LF management

This objective aims to establish and consolidate a harmonized, functional legal, institutional, and policy framework in line with international and European Union standards for LF management. This objective includes the full integration of landscape fire management into national and secondary legislation, the standardization of procedures and protocols, the improvement of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, as well as the enhancement of international cooperation and membership, with the goal of ensuring a unified, effective, and sustainable approach to landscape fires prevention, response, and post-fire rehabilitation.

Strategic objective 2: Strengthening public awareness, education, research, and cooperation for sustainable landscape fire management

This objective aims to increase public awareness, strengthen formal and informal education, and actively engage communities and institutions in the prevention and effective management of landscape fires. It includes the development and implementation of national awareness campaigns, the integration of fire management into the educational system, the enhancement of the knowledge base through scientific research and advisory services, and the use of analytical tools such as risk mapping and fuel classification.

At the same time, this objective promotes regional and international cooperation for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices, with the aim of fostering a preventive culture and establishing a sustainable, comprehensive, and science-based approach to landscape fire management.

Strategic objective 3: Strengthening preparedness, response, and operational capacities for sustainable landscape fire management

This objective aims to enhance preparedness, response, and operational capacities for the effective management of landscape fires through the strengthening of human, technical, and institutional resources. It focuses on the development and implementation of comprehensive training programmes for relevant actors, the standardization of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms during emergencies, and the

operationalization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (KFIS) as a key tool for planning, prevention, and fire response.

Furthermore, the objective promotes regional and cross-border cooperation to improve preparedness, coordination, and the exchange of experiences and best practices. It also addresses the need to strengthen logistical capacities and operational resources, with the aim of ensuring a faster, more coordinated, and effective response to landscape fires.

Strategic objective 4: Sustainable rehabilitation and restoration of landscapes affected by fires

This objective aims at the sustainable management and rehabilitation of landscapes affected by landscape fires, with the goal of restoring ecological functions, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and ensuring long-term sustainability. It focuses on the systematic identification of damaged areas and ecological components affected by fires, serving as a basis for the planning and implementation of rehabilitation measures.

Furthermore, the objective promotes the sustainable regeneration of burned ecosystems through natural processes and appropriate restorative interventions, as well as the use of modern technologies for forest monitoring and the assessment of the ecological impacts of landscape fires. At the same time, it emphasizes the need for continuous and comprehensive monitoring of rehabilitation activities to ensure the effective, high-quality, and transparent implementation of restorative measures in affected areas.

The National Strategy for Adaptive Landscape and LFM is fully aligned with the National Development Strategy (NDS) and other national strategies, as well as with international forestry agreements. Consequently, it is essential to make all necessary efforts for the successful implementation of the strategy. A key factor for progress is effective communication and collaboration with other sectors in Kosovo, as most activities can be carried out through the engagement and contribution of interconnected sectors, including the private sector. Undoubtedly, political determination and will are prerequisites for this.

METHODOLOGY

With the support of the LFMWB programme, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development (MAFRD), as the implementing body of this project, together with the national network, has worked on the preparation of this document.

During the process, existing legal frameworks, organizational structures, and management systems were reviewed and analysed. Various meetings were also held with the competent institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

At the beginning of the implementation of this programme, the national network was established, encompassing scientific, practical, and policy interfaces. During several meetings, the process of preparing this document began, and working groups were designated/identified to define strategic and specific objectives, as well as proposals for concrete actions and projects.

The results of the working groups were presented and analysed in joint meetings during the workshops, with the aim of discussing the structure and content of this document and providing comments and proposals for improvements following intensive work and a series of consultations.

1. ANALYSIS

analysis of the strengths and weaknesses in the field of landscape fire management. To achieve more effective landscape fire management, collaboration is necessary between government agencies, local communities, and environmental protection organizations. Together, they can develop and implement comprehensive plans for fire prevention and preparedness, including community engagement, awareness campaigns, and capacity-building initiatives. Approximately 90% of fires are caused by human factors, due to citizens' negligence during the burning of crop residues or other waste.

In accordance with the principles of the LFM programme presented in the National Report, a SWOT analysis was conducted for each phase of Landscape Fire Management.

PREVENTION

ADVANTAGES	WEAKNESSES
Existing fire management system	Inadequate Fire management system
Strategies and basic, strategic documents (central and local)	Insufficient implementation of the legislation
Human and technical capacities for LFM	Insufficient capacities (human, technical, professional)
Notification, information, alarm/observation system	Notification, information, alarm/observation system has
Harmonised legislation	Increasing interinstitutional cooperation/reporting
Operation of Kosovo Forest Information System	Lack of fire protection plan
Setting up the NFFIS – Eco DRR system	Frequent changes of government
NRP - National Response Plan, IEMS - Integrated emergency management system, DVR from FNFT (Document of assessment of risks from natural disasters and other disasters,	Low awareness
Implementation of various projects - donations	Low media interest
Development of fire prevention campaigns	Reduction of the number of farmers
Rapid urban development (density)	Population migrations

PREPAREDNESS

ADVANTAGES	WEAKNESSES
Creation of a forest monitoring centre	Insufficient budget
Budget increase	Inadequate infrastructure (not maintained, difficult access)
Road infrastructure and the like	Lack of a map for the fire location
Creating a map of risk areas	Lack of fire prevention equipment

SUPPRESSION

ADVANTAGES	WEAKNESSES
Coordination on central and local level in accordance with the	Lack of funds
Laws in force	Inadequate infrastructure (not maintained, difficult access)
Good cooperation with communities and local population	Lack of fire extinguishing equipment
	Water diversion
	Low mobility for access
	Poor management

POST FIRE MANAGEMENT

ADVANTAGES	WEAKNESSES
Human and technical capacities for wildfire management	Lack of extinguishing equipment
	There are no regulations for post-fire management.
	Non-implementation of existing regulations and measures
	Provided for in the planning documents
	Inadequate training of existing staff

2. STRATEGY – VISION, GOALS

a) VISION

To minimize fire incidence and ensure that all events are managed through early warning systems and preventive measures, supported by adequate policies for sustainable, multipurpose land management.

The vision of this Strategy reflects the long-term aspiration for an integrated and sustainable LF management system in the Republic of Kosovo. It is based on the need to move from a primarily reactive approach to a proactive model, where prevention, early warning, and sustainable landscape management form the foundations of strategic action.

This vision aims to guide policies, institutions, and relevant stakeholders toward the long-term reduction of landscape fires risks and impacts, while simultaneously strengthening ecosystem resilience and community safety.

The strategy promotes sustainable land use, ecological restoration, the strengthening of institutional capacities, active community engagement, and data-driven decision-making based on scientific evidence. By combining integrated management practices, monitoring, and inter-institutional and international cooperation, the document aims to reduce the destructive impacts of landscape fires, enhance landscape resilience, and ensure protected communities and sustainable ecosystems.

b) GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The overall aim of this strategy is to strengthen and integrate the national system for landscape fires prevention and management through the development of institutional capacities, effective policies, and sustainable management practices, with the goal of reducing fire risk and impacts.

To achieve this aim, the following priorities should be undertaken:

- Strengthening early warning and monitoring systems
- Preventing landscape fires through adaptive landscape management
- Harmonizing legislation and sectoral policies
- Strengthening inter-institutional and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms
- Enhancing human, technical, and operational capacities
- Raising awareness and engaging local communities
- Advancing and improving inter-institutional, regional, and international cooperation, including membership in relevant networks and organizations

Based on the Administrative Instruction for the Planning and Preparation of Strategic Documents and Action Plans, as well as the Manual for Planning, Preparing, and Monitoring Strategic Documents and

Their Action Plans approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the strategic objectives have been translated into specific objectives. To achieve the overall policy aim, four Strategic objectives have been identified, followed by the specific objectives, which are:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Strengthening the legal and policy framework for LF management

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1: Completion and integration of LF management (LFM) into the legal and secondary legislation framework, including relevant laws and bylaws.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2: Alignment and integration of relevant international conventions and European Union directives into national legislation for LF management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.3: Development, standardization, and approval of unified protocols for reporting wildfire incidents.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4: Membership in international organizations and institutions.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.5: Development and approval of a standardized methodology with criteria and standards for the rehabilitation and cultivation of areas affected by fires.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.6: Strengthening inter-institutional coordination and communication through mechanisms defined within the existing legal framework.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Increasing public awareness, education, and community engagement for the prevention and effective management of LF.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1: Organizing a national awareness campaign for LF prevention and management, with a focus on empowering and actively engaging local communities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2: Integration of LF management into school and university curricula to increase knowledge on fire prevention and management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.3: Development of a comprehensive landscape fires risk map, integrating data from forest management programmes, private plans, and protected areas, to identify and prioritize high-risk zones.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.4: Establishment of a standardized system for classifying combustible materials, serving as a basis for risk assessment and the planning of preventive measures against landscape fires.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.5: Strengthening scientific research on LF management to improve knowledge, decision-making, and prevention and management practices.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.6: Providing advisory services to communities and institutions to enhance knowledge and practices in LF management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.7: Strengthening regional and international cooperation for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in LF management.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Enhancing readiness, response, and operational capacities for LF management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: Development and implementation of comprehensive training programmes to strengthen professional and operational capacities in LF management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.2: Standardization and implementation of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms during fire emergencies.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.3: Finalization and operationalization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) to support planning, prevention, and management of LF.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.4: Strengthening regional and cross-border cooperation to enhance preparedness and improve LF response.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.5: Strengthening logistical capacities and operational resources for a more effective response to LF.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Landscape fire management and rehabilitation after fires to restore ecological functions and ensure sustainability.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1: Identification of damaged areas and ecological components affected by landscape fires to guide rehabilitation measures.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.2: Sustainable regeneration of areas damaged by fires.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.3: Use of modern technologies for forest monitoring and assessment of ecological impacts from fires.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.4: Ensuring continuous and comprehensive monitoring of rehabilitation activities in burned areas to guarantee effective and high-quality implementation of restorative measures.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Landscape fire management in the Republic of Kosovo is carried out within an existing legal and institutional framework that defines the responsibilities of central and local institutions for fire prevention and response. However, current practice is largely characterized by a reactive approach, focused on emergency intervention, while preventive measures and integrated risk management remain limited.

Kosovo is exposed to landscape fires, particularly during the summer season, when a large proportion of incidents are linked to human activities and a lack of public awareness. Institutional, technical, and financial capacities remain insufficient, especially in the areas of early detection, monitoring, and long-term landscape planning.

Inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation exists but is often fragmented and inconsistent, while international cooperation has not yet been fully utilized for capacity building and the exchange of best practices. In this context, LF management in Kosovo requires a more strategic, preventive, and integrated approach, oriented toward risk reduction, capacity strengthening, and the active involvement of local communities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK RELATED TO FIRE MANAGEMENT

The legal framework governing landscape fire management in the Republic of Kosovo is fragmented and dispersed across several legal domains, including national legislation, sectoral policies, and obligations arising from international agreements and initiatives. These legal and secondary legislation acts define measures for fire prevention and suppression, as well as rules for land and forest management, clearly specifying the roles and responsibilities of central and local institutions, emergency services, forestry authorities, landowners, and other relevant stakeholders involved in landscape fire management in Kosovo.

The legal and strategic framework for landscape fire management in Kosovo also consists of several key laws and strategic documents, which include:

- Law on Fire Protection
- Law on Protection from Natural and Other Disasters
- Law on Firefighting and Rescue
- Law on Forests
- Law on Waters of Kosovo
- Law on Climate Change
- Law on Waste
- Law on Nature Protection
- Law on Spatial Planning
- Law on Air Protection from Pollution

- Law on Energy
- Law on Hunting
- Law on Local Self-Government
- Law on Agricultural Land

These laws operate in an interlinked and complementary manner in landscape fire management in the Republic of Kosovo, creating a combined strategic, preventive, and operational framework. The Law on Forests and the Law on Nature Protection establish the foundations for sustainable ecosystem management and define protective measures for areas at risk of fires, including obligations for preventive actions, protected areas, and restrictions on activities during periods of increased fire risk.

On the other hand, the Law on Fire Protection, the Law on Protection from Natural and Other Disasters, and the Law on Firefighting and Rescue regulate the operational aspects of emergency management by defining response mechanisms, inter-institutional coordination, and the mobilization of human and technical capacities during fire events.

Furthermore, the Law on Agricultural Land addresses land-use practices that have a direct impact on fire risk, including the burning of agricultural residues and pasture management, while the Law on Local Self-Government assigns municipalities key responsibilities in fire prevention, planning, and preparedness within their territories. Overall, this legal framework, although comprehensive, requires stronger coordination and more integrated implementation to enhance the effectiveness of LF management in Kosovo.

Strategic documents include:

- Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2028
- Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2022–2028
- Forestry Strategy 2022–2030
- Energy Strategy 2022–2031
- Water Strategy 2023–2027 and Action Plan 2023–2025
- Climate Change Strategy 2019–2028 and Action Plan 2019–2021

As well as secondary legislation acts, including:

- Regulation No. 25/2020 on the Methodology for Risk Assessment Preparation
- Regulation No. 17/2015 on Methodology for Assessing Damages from Natural and Other Disasters
- Administrative Instruction No. 01/2016 – Mechanism for Monitoring Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- National Plan for Emission Reduction, 2018–2027
- Regulation No. 08/2013 on Emergency Response Plans

Additionally, the principles, recommendations, and obligations arising from international conventions, strategies, initiatives, and approved plans, as well as from ratified and signed international agreements and directives, are also observed, including:

- Implementation of the Forest Law, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)
- Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material
- Regulation (EU) No. 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Regulation (EU) No. 691/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on environmental economic accounts

- Convention on Biological Diversity (1993)
- Regulation (EU) No. 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Regulation (EU) No. 2018/2066 on monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions
- Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament
- The EU Natura 2000 Network of Species and Habitats at Risk
- Forest Europe
- European Environment Agency
- UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 – United Nations Forest Strategy

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IN LFM

The organization of all participating institutions at the national level implies the coordination of all institutions involved at the state level, including ministries, agencies, universities, the Academy of Sciences, local communities, and civil society organizations such as NGOs, which (directly or indirectly) influence fire prevention, preparedness, firefighting activities, and post-fire management. The key actors in the landscape fire management structure in the Republic of Kosovo are presented below:

MAFRD - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development is the highest institution responsible for the administration and management of forests in Kosovo. The Ministry manages forests through the Forestry Department and the Kosovo Forestry Agency. The Forestry Department operates within the MAFRD, has a regulatory function, and is responsible for: developing legislation, formulating national policies and strategies for forestry, fires, hunting, and ecotourism, preparing educational policies and training for forestry, coordinating international cooperation in the forestry sector, and licensing professional and economic entities in the forestry sector.

KFA - Kosovo Forestry Agency operates within the MAFRD. It is responsible for the management of forests and forest lands, including pastures and forests in national parks, as well as other supporting assets and infrastructure. The Agency administers, manages, and takes care of assets from former enterprises, offers professional technical services for privately-owned forests, provides professional, technical, and administrative services for all forests, and protects state-owned forests, landscape fire cultivation, and protection.

The protection of state-owned forests and forest lands, including private ones, falls under the responsibility of the Kosovo Forestry Agency (KFA), which is obligated to organize the Forest Protection Service. This service is responsible for overseeing and protecting forests from damage caused by pests, diseases, and other factors that harm state forests, as well as for the protection, prevention, detection, and coordination of firefighting efforts in forests. Additionally, it is tasked with preventing, detecting, halting, and monitoring illegal activities in forests and state-owned forest lands, including illegal hunting.

Based on Forest Law, the Agency develops a forest fire protection plan at the management unit or municipal level for a ten-year period.

Firebreaks for LF Prevention – One of the ways the Kosovo Forestry Agency (KFA) contributes to fire prevention is through the planning and implementation of firebreaks within Forestry Management Units. These firebreaks can effectively prevent the spread of fires when they occur, and make it easier to localize them, thereby minimizing the damage.

DFIH - The Forest Inspection operates within the MAFRD and has supervisory and inspection responsibilities in the field of forestry. It also inspects the implementation of forestry legislation by all individuals and legal entities throughout Kosovo. The Forest Inspection supervises all forestry activities, including the implementation of forest management and hunting plans, inspects work sites, transportation means, and all locations where logging, storage, processing, and circulation of wood products occur. Additionally, it oversees hunting activities, controls logging, the marking of wood products, and the motorized and transport equipment used in violations. It supervises the implementation of measures for the protection of forests from fires and other damage, as well as their restoration. Furthermore, it orders and oversees the completion of works specified in the forest management plan for state forests and in the permits for logging in private forests.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is an executive agency under the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). It is responsible for the development and oversight of emergency management implementation, coordinating disaster/emergency response operations, supporting municipalities, communities, the private sector, and individuals during disasters, administering and supporting firefighting and rescue services, and developing national emergency response project plans in cooperation with relevant institutions. The EMA also helps in enhancing and equipping emergency preparedness structures at the local and central levels, organizes and conducts training and exercises in the field of emergency management, among other duties. Furthermore, EMA organizes, equips, and trains central protection, rescue, and assistance structures, and other related structures, creating the conditions for the functioning of the organizational structures of the Integrated Emergency Management System. It is also responsible for preparing programmes, organizing, and implementing training and capacity-building in the fields of protection, rescue, and assistance.

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, and Infrastructure (MMPHI) includes the following institutions under its authority:

The Kosovar Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) is a government institution dedicated to preserving the quality of air, water, soil, and biodiversity through integrated environmental monitoring, an efficient environmental information system, and continuous reporting on the state of the environment. The agency aims to promote the use of renewable energy sources and the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure a healthy environment for current and future generations, in harmony with the progress of the economy and social developments.

IKNP - The Institute of Kosovo for Nature Protection is responsible for the collection and processing of data related to nature protection. It is tasked with developing a long-term database for plant species, fungi, animals, habitat types, ecosystems, and landscapes, monitoring the biological status and landscape diversity, and proposing measures for their protection.

Municipalities - The local level is responsible for implementing protection from natural emergencies and other disasters within its territory. It is responsible for managing the protection, rescue, and assistance system at the local level; monitoring risks, warning and alerting the population about possible threats; equipping with communication tools for protection, rescue, and assistance needs in accordance with a unique communication and information system; planning and implementing protective measures; preparing risk assessments and emergency response plans; organizing, developing, and managing personal and reciprocal protection; organizing, managing, and implementing protection, rescue, and assistance at the local level; determining, organizing, and equipping municipal units and civil protection services, as well as other organizations in this field.

Municipalities collaborate with each other in performing tasks related to protection from natural and other disasters and may combine their resources and create joint resources to address common issues in this area.

Ministry of Defence is one of the ministries of Kosovo responsible for managing the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), which is competent for the development of strategic defence documents, drafting of laws, and secondary regulations within the scope of the Ministry of Defence and KSF. The Ministry also develops, coordinates, and drafts policies for integration and membership in international defence and security structures, in cooperation with the relevant institutions of Kosovo.

Kosovo Police is a public service within the scope of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The general duties and powers of the police include: protecting life, property, and providing security for all individuals, preventing risks to citizens and maintaining public order and safety, monitoring and controlling traffic safety, managing and controlling the state border, providing assistance during natural disasters and other emergencies, and performing other duties as prescribed by the applicable law.

The management of landscape fires in the Republic of Kosovo is further reinforced by the contribution of scientific institutions such as: the **Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences (FSHJM) in Prizren**, the **Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences (FSHMN)** in Prishtina, and the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, which is responsible for providing training and higher education, implementing policies and strategies for training, higher education, as well as the development of capacities in the field of public safety.

The Academy provides services to all public safety institutions but is not limited to: the Kosovo Police; the Correctional Service; the Probation Service; Kosovo Customs; the Emergency Management Agency; the Kosovo Police Inspectorate. This academy functions as an educational institution in the field of public safety, including, but not limited to, research in the field of training development and higher education for public safety.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Public awareness and education are one of the essential components of landscape fire management. This component is usually developed through public education programmes aimed at preventing and protecting the local population regarding the risks of fires. Since the institutions responsible for fire protection have not yet developed a well-established, coherent, and coordinated system for raising awareness or educating about preventive measures and planned, effective responses in such emergency situations, some of the proposed actions include incorporating fire protection topics into school curricula, promoting readiness and effective response to fires, as well as planning for evacuation and rescue when necessary, while always keeping in mind the importance of a healthy ecosystem.

Furthermore, campaigns could be organized through the media, especially during the summer months when the risk of fires is much higher. These campaigns would help raise awareness about the damage caused by fires. Another measure in this regard would be activating volunteers during landscape fire management situations, as this would have multiple effects: not only would it support field operations, but it would also raise awareness that protecting nature is a shared responsibility. In addition to the institutions mandated with this task, all segments of society should be involved.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RELATED TO LFM

Scientific research has made significant advances in understanding and management of landscape fires. The integration of modern technology, sustainable policies, and public education is essential for preventing and controlling these natural disasters. With global climate change increasing the risk of fires, international cooperation and scientific innovation are more important than ever.

Scientific research helps us understand the specific ecological impacts of fires, such as how different plant species, soil types, and animal habitats are affected by fire. This knowledge is crucial for developing effective restoration techniques that promote biodiversity recovery and ecosystem services.

After assessing the factual situation, it has been identified that there is a lack of cooperation between scientists, practitioners, and policymakers in the Republic of Kosovo. Overcoming these barriers requires a coordinated effort from ministries, research institutions, and the private sector to prioritize, fund, and support long-term studies on post-fire recovery. By investing in research, Kosovo can develop more effective strategies based on the experiences of other countries for managing landscape fires, with the goal of ensuring that ecosystems and communities recover after fires.

The primary cause of this gap is insufficient funding for research initiatives, as it requires considerable financial investment.

INTERSECTORIAL/INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

The National Strategy for LFM requires the creation of inclusive groups that link the triangle of science – practice – policy, involving actors such as political representatives, forestry sector leaders, emergency authorities and government bodies, environmental management sector, rural development agencies and authorities, the scientific community (universities), and local non-governmental organizations.

Currently, the comprehensive system for landscape fire management is not sufficiently developed and requires improvement. To effectively address fire challenges, it is essential to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation, including: the development of coordinated strategies and policies, systematic knowledge sharing, capacity building of personnel, and increased financial support for preventive and management actions.

Sustainable financial support through the local government budget is essential for the effective implementation of landscape fire management activities, as well as for building and enhancing the capacities of local governments to respond quickly and in a coordinated manner to fires.

4. LFM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

a) The protective role of landscapes

The protective role of landscapes is essential for environmental sustainability, ecosystem stability, and resilience to landscape fires (LF). Landscapes, including forests, grasslands, agricultural areas, wetlands, and ecosystems, provide important ecological, social, and economic functions. They serve as habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna, contribute to biodiversity conservation, regulate water resources, improve soil stability, and support climate regulation and carbon storage. Protecting landscapes from uncontrolled fires is therefore crucial for maintaining ecological balance and preserving natural resources.

At the same time, sustainable landscape management plays a significant role in reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to landscape fires. Proper management practices, including vegetation management, the reduction of combustible materials, and the restoration of degraded ecosystems, help create conditions that reduce fire risk and facilitate more effective fire prevention and control. Healthy and well-managed landscapes can also mitigate soil erosion, reduce flood risks, and preserve water quality following fire events.

Beyond their ecological importance, landscapes provide substantial social and economic benefits. They support recreation, eco-tourism, cultural values, public health, and the overall well-being of local communities by improving environmental quality and maintaining ecosystem services.

In this context, the sustainable management and protection of landscapes require an integrated approach that combines effective fire management, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, institutional capacity building, and community awareness. The overall objective is to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, strengthen policies and management practices related to landscape protection, enhance technical and institutional capacities, and promote awareness of the environmental, social, and cultural values of landscapes.

b) Protection of biodiversity and the impact of landscape fire management

Integrating biodiversity conservation objectives into LF management policies and practices strengthens landscape resilience and supports a long-term, science-based approach that is adaptive to climate change.

Kosovo is highly rich in plant diversity. Its geographic position, along with geological, pedological, hydrological factors, topography, and climate, has contributed to the country's rich biological and landscape diversity. Thirteen plant species have been identified that grow exclusively in Kosovo (endemic species), and around 200 species are found only in the Balkans.

These factors also explain the high level of animal diversity in this relatively small territory. There are approximately 46 mammal species in Kosovo, most of which hold regional and global significance. The greatest biodiversity in Kosovo is found in the high mountains of the southern and western regions. Many factors, such as habitat degradation and global climate change, directly contribute to the decline and, in some cases, the disappearance of various plant and animal species. Important habitats have been damaged and degraded, and ecosystems have been destabilized due to human interventions, particularly in ecosystems near settlements.

Caused by unsustainable practices, illegal logging, and LF, various species face the risk of losing their habitats, while the introduction of invasive species often alters the floristic composition and overall structure of ecosystems.

Most animal species in the country are threatened by the destruction of forest habitats. Although the impacts on biodiversity from hunting have decreased, illegal hunting activities are still reported, particularly on weekends within protected areas, leading to declines in wildlife populations.

Kosovo's fauna is characterized by a high diversity of species, although research is still ongoing. It is estimated that the country is home to approximately 250 vertebrate species, 200 butterfly species, and around 500 macrozoobenthic subspecies. The richest areas in terms of fauna are the mountainous masifs of Kosovo, with the Shar Mountains and the Bjeshket e Nemuna Mountains.

Forests and mountain ecosystems provide suitable living conditions for populations of large mammals, such as the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), lynx (*Lynx lynx*), roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*), as well as a wide variety of raptors and, importantly, numerous songbirds that are significant to the ornithological fauna of Kosovo, the Balkans, and Europe.

There are two protected areas that were established in 1955 specifically to safeguard two animal species and their habitats: Kozhnjari, for the protection of the chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra* L.) in the municipality of Deçan, and Rusenica, for the protection of the lynx (*Lynx lynx* L.) in the municipality of Suhareka. These areas were designated under the legislation of that time, and both are Strictly Protected Zones for these species, which are threatened and rare even at the European level.

It should also be noted that internationally threatened species include the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla* – note: “Faikoi thonjë bardhë” likely refers to this species), and the Western capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*).

Biodiversity-rich ecosystems provide stability, resilience, and adaptive capacity for both plant and animal species, especially in the face of unavoidable effects of climate change. Only through the conservation, cultivation, and enrichment of ecosystems with existing native species, as well as the introduction of new species suitable to climatic conditions and climate change factors, can we influence a future with cleaner air, larger and higher-quality water reservoirs, improved fire prevention, and more effective management when fires occur.

These ecosystems also offer greater opportunities for tourism and economic prospects, as their impact—both direct and indirect—touches nearly every sector.

Protected areas in the Republic of Kosovo represent a critical intersection between landscape fire management and biodiversity conservation, since fire regimes pose a direct threat to species and ecosystems of national and international importance.

c) Landscape fire management and climate change

The trend of climate change, the increase in temperatures, and the alteration and disruption of rainfall cycles are challenges that we, as a country, will not be able to avoid. The effects of these changes have already begun to be noticed, and therefore, through this Strategy, efforts will be made to mitigate the effects of these changes through a series of objectives and measures. The primary focus will be on preventing wildfires to avoid, as much as possible, the occurrence of fires, which have direct effects on reducing oxygen production, decreasing CO₂ absorption capacities, and causing economic and social impacts on many sectors of production and processing in the country. These consequences also directly affect micro and macro-climatic changes both locally and more broadly.

The Strategy, in addition to its main goal of preventing fire outbreaks, will also address general and specific objectives and measures that will be applied in the event of fire outbreaks. These measures will help with fire management, containment to prevent spread, and rehabilitation of affected areas. This will be achieved through a combination of various measures, such as fire corridors, mixed forests, the installation of fire-resistant species, the construction of water retention systems, early warning systems, increasing awareness, enhancing logistical intervention capacities, and humanitarian efforts through budget increases and volunteer participation.

With changing climate conditions, exposure to risks such as droughts, floods, and wildfires will increase. These factors have both direct and indirect effects on our health. Rising temperatures, prolonged drought periods, and erratic rainfall create favourable conditions for more frequent and intense fires.

To address these challenges, the Strategy aims to implement measures such as the management of combustible materials, the improvement of fire monitoring and forecasting systems, and the integration of climate projections into fire management planning. This enables the anticipation of future fire regimes and the prioritization of actions to minimize the impacts of projected changes.

Although Kosovo is not yet a signatory to the UNFCCC or the Paris Agreement, it has voluntarily decided to submit a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to demonstrate its commitments and contributions toward regional and global decarbonization efforts, as well as a more sustainable trajectory. As such, this voluntary NDC will make Kosovo's contributions toward achieving the targets set for 2030 more transparent, positioning the country as a responsible global actor in the fight against climate change.

Kosovo's commitments to the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the Decarbonization Roadmap of the Energy Community lay the groundwork for the country's ambitions regarding climate change mitigation. These frameworks provide guidance for aligning national policies with regional priorities, promoting sustainable energy transition, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing resilience to climate impacts.

This voluntary NDC provides a comprehensive overview of Kosovo's policies and measures across all economic sectors, including energy, waste management, agriculture, and forestry. Alongside the additional measures outlined in Kosovo's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), the analysis presented in this NDC indicates that Kosovo has the potential to reduce its emissions by up to 42% by 2030 compared to 2016 levels, contingent on access to climate finance. Regarding the NECP's unconditional target—without reliance on multilateral climate funding—Kosovo aims to achieve a 16.3% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, equivalent to a decrease of 8.95 Mt CO₂, by 2030 compared to 2016 levels.

Regarding climate change adaptation, the NDC highlights the urgent need to build resilience, as Kosovo is already exposed to multiple climate risks whose impacts are expected to intensify in the future. Initial steps in this direction have been undertaken through several sectoral strategies, such as the *Climate Change Strategy* and the *Agriculture Strategy*, which include adaptive policies and serve as the foundation for the adaptation component of this NDC.

5. LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Landscape fire management in the Republic of Kosovo is closely linked to socio-economic factors, particularly in rural areas, where land use, agricultural activities, and community dependence on natural resources directly influence the level of fire risk. Certain traditional practices, demographic changes, rural migration, and the abandonment of agricultural land have contributed to an accumulation of combustible material, thereby increasing the likelihood and intensity of fires.

Landscape fires have direct socio-economic consequences, causing losses in forests, agriculture, and livestock, as well as damage to infrastructure and high costs for emergency response and rehabilitation. They negatively affect the livelihoods of local communities, rural development, public health, and the economic potential of sectors such as nature-based tourism and the forestry economy.

In this context, effective landscape fire management requires the integration of preventive measures with socio-economic and rural development policies. This includes promoting sustainable land-use practices, actively involving local communities, creating alternative livelihood opportunities, and raising public awareness. Such an integrated approach simultaneously contributes to reducing fire risk, strengthening community resilience, and supporting long-term sustainable development.

a) The contribution of LFM to rural development, poverty reduction, well-being and livelihoods of local communities

Landscape fires have significant socio-economic impacts that directly affect residents, household economies, and various sectors. People living near fire-prone areas face risks to private property, including homes, forests, agricultural land, and businesses. Additionally, fires impact air quality, water resources, and tourism potential, thereby threatening the livelihoods and well-being of affected communities.

According to the population census conducted by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS), significant demographic changes have been observed, which also affect the structure of residents in rural areas.

One of the most notable trends from this census is the shift in the proportion of residents living in rural areas compared to urban areas. While approximately 62% of the population lived in rural areas in 2011, the 2024 census reports that this percentage has dropped to around 49.8%. This indicates a continued migration of residents from rural regions toward larger cities and areas offering better employment opportunities, education, and services.

The main cause of this change is the progressive abandonment of rural areas by young people and families, who seek better economic opportunities and higher living standards in urban areas or abroad.

The decline in the rural population has a direct and significant impact on the increased risk of fires in forests and landscapes. With the abandonment of agricultural lands and traditional pastures, these areas are no longer actively managed and undergo rapid natural regeneration, often dominated by dense shrubs and highly flammable species such as *Juniperus* spp.

As a result, large continuous fuel loads develop in areas where once-cultivated fields and well-maintained pastures acted as natural firebreaks.

At the same time, reduced grazing pressure leads to the accumulation of combustible material in mountain pastures, the progressive encroachment of shrubs into former pasture lands, and the disappearance of low-fuel buffer zones around villages. These buffer zones, historically created through traditional agricultural and pastoral practices, played a crucial role in protecting settlements and infrastructure from fires.

In this context, rural depopulation not only represents a socio-economic challenge but also constitutes a critical environmental factor that increases the vulnerability of the landscape to increasingly frequent and intense fires.

Through landscape fire management, the strategy aims to improve the economic situation by creating employment opportunities, supporting alternative economic activities in rural areas, and promoting the recreational and tourism functions of the landscapes. This approach helps establish a strong connection between local communities and the natural environment, enhancing quality of life while preserving natural resources.

The socio-economic effects of landscape fire are not limited to residents; they impact the entire economic spectrum, including tourism, hunting, agro-processing, and rural services. The destruction of cultural heritage sites or damage to natural habitats threatens ecological balance and can have irreversible consequences for local development and the economy.

Sustainable and well-planned management of forests and natural landscapes mitigates these impacts, ensuring rural development and well-being for local communities. Forests and natural resources provide economic, social, and ecological functions that are closely linked to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

The role of security institutions and inter-institutional cooperation is crucial for the prevention and management of landscape fires. By harmonizing responsibilities, raising awareness, and strengthening intervention capacities, the socio-economic impact can be minimized, ensuring the protection of livelihoods, natural resources, and national heritage.

POST FIRE MANAGEMENT OF AFFECTED AREAS BY LANDSCAPE FIRES

Post-fire management refers to activities and strategies implemented after the localization and extinguishing of a fire to address its impacts and support the rapid recovery of ecosystems. Post-fire operations include processes that occur after the fire. This phase is critical for investigating the causes of the fire, repairing the damage caused by landscape fires, restoring the land, and supporting community recovery. It also involves identifying lessons learned, improving practices that work well, and involving knowledge from all sectors, both public and private. Post-fire actions provide a unique opportunity to create resilient landscapes and communities, reducing future disaster risks and advancing the goals of this framework.

Forest Restoration: In fire-affected areas, the first step is clearing the surface by removing burnt wood debris to prevent the spread of diseases and pests that may find shelter in the charred remains. These pests and diseases could develop and become a source of infection for the vital part of the forest.

Environmental Rehabilitation: The rehabilitation plan is essential, including the introduction of fire-resistant species through reforestation projects. Priority would be given to native species to create a fire-resilient forest that can adapt more easily to natural conditions.

Community Support: Communities in fire-affected areas play a critical role in the recovery process. They are involved in the initial clearing of burnt material and in reforestation and afforestation projects. Their active participation ensures that the recovery process is community-driven and sustainable.

6. LINKING THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR LFM IN KOSOVO WITH THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Landscape fire management is a complex challenge requiring effective coordination across multiple governance levels and geographic regions, given the transboundary nature of fires and the global impacts of climate change. In this context, the National Strategy for Adaptive Landscape Management and Landscape Fire Management of the Republic of Kosovo positions regional and international cooperation as one of the core pillars of its action.

a) Regional cooperation

Active participation of Kosovo in the regional LFM network and international initiatives enables the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and resources with neighbouring countries, thereby strengthening capacities for landscape fire prevention, management, and damage mitigation. This cooperation encompasses coordination of firefighting operations, development of training programmes, harmonization of procedures, as well as support for rehabilitation measures in affected areas.

The objective of the LFM Strategy in this context is to strengthen cross-border and international cooperation by establishing a long-term regional network for knowledge exchange and implementing adaptive landscape management. Through this collaboration, the Republic of Kosovo contributes to the development of regional and international best practices, ensuring that national measures for the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of areas affected by fires are aligned with regional and global standards and strategies.

There are regional initiatives such as:

Landscape Fire Management in the Western Balkans Programme (LFM-WB)

b) International cooperation

Internationally, landscape fires are a global challenge that transcends borders, directly affecting ecosystems, communities, and human health worldwide. The intensity and frequency of fires are increasing due to climate change and other factors, making international cooperation an essential and indispensable element for their effective management.

International organizations play a key role in coordinating global efforts for landscape fire management, including organizations such as:

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fires Information System (NFFIS) and ECO-DRR.

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of government officials in the prevention and mitigation of forest fires and the natural disasters through the establishment of the NFFIS and Eco – DRR.

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organizations 2022 - 2025

TAFF – Technical Assistance Financing Facility for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness and GFDRR - Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery and EU.

IPA Multi Country Study Project (MCSP) 2024-2026 In cooperation with the European Union - European Civil Protection Mechanism

- Comprehensive analysis of disaster risk landscape and capacity to respond

The objective of the grant is to support the Government of Kosovo in strengthening its capacity to analyse disaster risks, enhance its impact-based forecasting and early warning capabilities, and advance efforts in community engagement and education. This will improve Kosovo's ability to respond effectively and efficiently to floods, landscape fires, and other natural disasters.

International cooperation entails coordinated efforts among countries and international organizations to address the complex challenges posed by landscape fires. It facilitates the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and resources, and is implemented through harmonized strategies for prevention, risk reduction, and effective emergency response. This cooperation supports the development of joint capacities for training, equipment, operational coordination, and emergency planning, ensuring a faster and more efficient response to cross-border fires.

For the Republic of Kosovo, active participation in international initiatives is crucial for strengthening the capacities of central and local authorities in landscape fire management. This includes cooperation with international financial institutions to secure funding support, sharing resources and experiences with neighbouring countries, and coordinating measures for the prevention and rehabilitation of fire-affected areas.

In this way, international cooperation contributes to an integrated and sustainable approach to LF management, protecting ecosystems and communities, strengthening regional and global resilience, and addressing challenges related to climate change and other natural hazards.

7. TRANSFORMATION OF THE LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INTO ACTION

The transformation of the LFM strategy into concrete actions is realized through two main directions: strategic planning and inter-institutional coordination. Strategic planning ensures that objectives are translated into clear action plans, defining priorities, responsibilities, and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Inter-institutional coordination harmonizes the actions of the government, local communities, and other stakeholders, facilitating information exchange, sharing of experiences, and the development of joint capacities. This process integrates policies and practices on the ground, ensuring effective wildfire management, protection of ecosystems, and support for socio-economic development.

a) Strategic planning

Through this strategic document and the implementation of the strategic principles listed below, the Government will ensure the development and harmonization of the overall legal framework necessary for the implementation of the Adaptive Fire Management Strategy in the Republic of Kosovo.

The national strategy serves as a framework for translating key objectives into concrete actions. It defines short-, medium-, and long-term goals, as well as strategies for the areas where critical issues need to be addressed, while identifying priorities.

Strategic Principles:

- The strategy must align with national and regional Landscape fire management plans, environmental policies, climate change adaptation plans, and community protection strategies.
- Key principles for translating objectives into action include ensuring accountability, measurable impact, and support throughout the implementation process.
- Activities, responsibilities, and timelines must be clearly defined to enable effective monitoring of the strategic plan and precise assignment of responsibilities.
- Indicators for monitoring and evaluating performance and progress toward achieving the Strategy's objectives must be established, allowing continuous oversight of plan implementation.
- The strategy should be evidence-based, with realistic objectives, adequate resources, and expected outcomes, considering human capacity, institutional frameworks, and budgetary adjustments that ensure plan implementation.
- Transparency in the Action Plan is essential, providing comprehensive information on the implementation of governmental priorities.

b) Coordination and cooperation

Coordination and interinstitutional cooperation are essential for effective landscape fire management. To achieve this, it is necessary to harmonize strategic documents related to forestry management, environmental protection, agriculture, emergency response, civil protection and rescue, as well as land management. This ensures that sectoral policies and institutions act in alignment with one another, enabling coordinated and efficient management of landscape fires.

List of Strategic Documents:

- National Development Strategy
- Forestry Development Strategy
- Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy
- Environment and Biodiversity Strategy
- Decarbonization Strategy
- Communication Strategy
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (draft)
- Advisory Services Strategy
- Hunting Strategy
- Spatial Planning Strategy
- Sectoral Management Programs
- Municipal Development Plan, Municipal Urban Plan
- National Emergency Management Plan

This comprehensive harmonization of strategic documents, built upon the four strategic objectives, ensures that landscape fire management principles are coherently integrated across all relevant policy areas. In this way, a unified governance framework is established, where fire risk reduction, ecosystem protection, rural development, and climate change adaptation objectives are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, preventing overlaps, contradictions, and fragmentation in implementation.

8. ACTION PLAN

The Strategy and Action Plan for Adaptive Landscape and Landscape Fire Management in the Republic of Kosovo have been developed based on the findings of a series of analytical documents prepared within the framework of the National Network for LFM in Kosovo, established under the Western Balkans Landscape Fire Management Programme. These documents provide the analytical and professional foundation for defining strategic priorities and the proposed measures.

The main reference documents on which this Strategy is based include:

- Landscape Fire Management Report for Kosovo, for improvement, and
- Landscape Fire Management GAP Analysis in Republic of Kosovo

These analyses have identified the main challenges, institutional gaps, and needs for strategic interventions in the field of wildfire management.

The drafting process of the Strategy and Action Plan was carried out in accordance with the **Manual for Preparing Strategic Documents of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo**, ensuring methodological coherence, transparency, and broad stakeholder involvement. To achieve this, a series of workshops, group meetings, and individual consultations were organized with all relevant institutions, as well as civil society organizations.

The **Action Plan for Adaptive Landscape Management and Landscape Fire Management** defines concrete actions, structured into measurable measures and activities, aimed at the effective implementation of the strategic and specific objectives of the Strategy. These actions serve as a practical guide for the responsible institutions in executing policies for landscape protection from fires, through an integrated and adaptive approach to landscape and LF management.

This Action Plan establishes the following core elements:

1. Public Awareness and Education
2. Institutional Strengthening
3. Research and Monitoring
4. Legislation
5. Financial Resources for Implementation in NSALLFM
6. Coordination and Implementation in NSALLFM

Each strategic objective in this document is paired with concrete measures and implementation activities, outlining the precise steps required to achieve the desired outcomes. The activities section defines the implementation timeline across specific periods, clearly assigning institutional responsibilities for each measure in accordance with the mandates of Kosovo's central and local institutions, and specifies indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress.

In addition to the planned measures and activities, the Action Plan also includes an assessment of the financial resources required for implementing the Strategy, providing a clear basis for budget planning, mobilizing funds, and coordinating with donors and development partners, with the aim of ensuring the effective implementation of policies for landscape and LF management in the Republic of Kosovo.

Table 1. Action Plan

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1: COMPLETION AND INTEGRATION OF LFM INTO THE LEGAL AND SECONDARY LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING RELEVANT LAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES					
1.1.1 Amendments to the Law on Forests, the Law on Nature, and the Law on Agricultural Land	1 YEAR	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS	10,000
1.1.2 Drafting and harmonization of legal and secondary legislation acts					
1.1.3 Development of implementation and monitoring mechanisms					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2: ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND EUROPEAN UNION DIRECTIVES INTO NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR LFM					
1.2.1 Identification and analysis of relevant international conventions and EU directives	1-3 YEARS	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS	10,000
1.2.2 Assessment of the alignment of national legislation					
1.2.3 Amendment, supplementation, or drafting of relevant legal and secondary legislation acts					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.3: DEVELOPMENT, STANDARDIZATION, AND APPROVAL OF UNIFIED PROTOCOLS FOR REPORTING LFM INCIDENTS					
ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
1.3.1 Analyse the current LFM reporting system	1-3 YEARS	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS	10,000
1.3.2 Define the core information that must be reported for each fire incident					
1.3.3 Draft unified reporting protocols and standardized forms					
1.3.4 Train personnel on the use of the new reporting protocols					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4: MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS					
1.4.1 Identification of relevant international organizations, networks, and initiatives	1-3 YEARS	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS DONATIONS	20,000
1.4.2 Active participation in international mechanisms, meetings, and activities					
1.4.3 Exchange of experiences and international best practices					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.5: DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY WITH CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR THE REHABILITATION AND CULTIVATION OF AREAS AFFECTED BY LF					
1.5.1 Assessing current practices and needs for the rehabilitation and cultivation of areas affected by LF through consultation with relevant institutions and experts	1-3 YEARS	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS	10,000
1.5.2 Definition of technical criteria and standards					

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
1.6 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHENING INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION THROUGH MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK					
1.6.1 Analysis of existing interinstitutional coordination mechanisms	1 YEAR	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS	5,000
1.6.2 Development of interinstitutional coordination and communication protocols					
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF LFM					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1: ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LFM, WITH A FOCUS ON EMPOWERING AND ACTIVELY ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES					
2.1.1 Collaboration with media and social media channels to promote the campaign	2026-2031 (EVERY YEAR)	Government	MAFRD, KFA, MESPI, KEPA, OJQ	RKS	100,000
2.1.2 Implementation of educational programmes and campaigns to raise awareness among citizens, students, farmers, and tourists about fire risks and preventive measures					
2.1.3 Inclusion of local populations, with accent on farmers and private forest owners, in training on LFM					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2: INTEGRATING LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT INTO SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CURRICULA TO STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE ON FIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT					

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
2.2.1 Analysis of existing curriculum content	1 YEAR	MAFRD, MEST	Schools, faculties, MDE, NGO	RKS DONATIONS	100,000
2.2.2 Development of educational modules on LFM					
2.2.3 Strengthening collaboration with the Ministry of Education and academic institutions to integrate LFM into curricula					
2.2.4 Pilot implementation of the modules in selected schools and universities					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE LFM RISK MAP, INTEGRATING DATA FROM FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES, PRIVATE PLANS, AND PROTECTED AREAS, TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE HIGH-RISK AREAS					
2.3.1 Risk analysis and categorization of areas	18 months	MAFRD	APFOK, NGO	RKS DONATIONS	100,000
2.3.2 Development of a comprehensive landscape fire risk map					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.4: ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARDIZED SYSTEM FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF FUEL MATERIAL, AS A BASIS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND THE PLANNING OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST LFM.					

STRATEGY FOR ADAPTIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND

2.4.1 Identification and categorization of fuel types at the national level	2026-2031	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	MAFRD, MESPI, MIA	RKS DONATIONS	100,000
2.4.2 Development of a standardized methodology for fuel classification					
2.4.3 Mapping of fuel types according to LFM risk categories					
ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.5: STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON LANDSCAPE AND LF MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, DECISION-MAKING, AND PRACTICES FOR LF PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT					
2.5.1 Financial and infrastructural support for research projects	2026-2031	Government	MAFRD, MEST universities,	RKS DONATIONS	200,000
2.5.2 Strengthening cooperation with universities and scientific institutions on landscape fire management research					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.6: PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES IN FIRE MANAGEMENT					
2.6.1 Consultation with local communities and institutions	2026-2031	MAFRD, APPPK	MAFRD, APPPK	RKS DONATIONS	100,000
2.6.2 Development and dissemination of advisory guidelines and materials					
2.6.3 Provision of on-site and online advisory services					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.7: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES IN LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
2.7.1 Identification of regional and international partners	2026-2031	Government	MAFRD, MESPI, donors, countries of the region, APFOK	150,000	
ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
2.7.2 Drafting of cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding	2026-2031	Government	MAFRD, MESPI, countries of the region, APFOK	RKS DONATIONS	200,000
2.7.3 Organization of regional and international meetings, seminars, and workshops					
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCING READINESS, RESPONSE, AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR LF MANAGEMENT					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMMES TO ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES IN LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
3.1.1 Design and development of structured training sessions for personnel of central institutions, municipal authorities, and local response teams	2026-2031	MAFRD, MESPI	KFA, DANK, KEPA	RKS DONATIONS	150,000

3.1.2 Organization of advanced and specialized training sessions, including the use of monitoring and early warning technologies, as well as the management of operations in difficult terrains and hazardous conditions

3.1.3 Organization of cross-border joint trainings and exercises

3.1.4 Organization of central-level training for local communities in high-risk fire areas, aiming to enhance capacities for prevention, early response, and self-protection

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.2: STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS DURING WILDFIRE EMERGENCIES					

3.2.1 Development and standardization of operational coordination and communication protocols	2026-2031	MAFRD, MIA, MESPI	MAFRD, MIA, MESPI	RKS DONATIONS	100,000
---	-----------	-------------------	-------------------	---------------	---------

3.2.2 Alignment of protocols with national and international emergency management systems

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.3: FINALIZATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE KOSOVO FOREST INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIPK) TO SUPPORT PLANNING, PREVENTION, AND LFM MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Technical finalization and operationalization of SIPK	2026-2028	MAFRD, MIA, MESPI	EMA, KFA, KEPA, HIK	RKS DONATIONS	150,000.00
---	-----------	-------------------	---------------------	---------------	------------

3.3.2 Development and gradual integration of climate change scenarios as a planning tool

3.3.3 Development of criteria for selecting tree species adapted to climate change, aimed at increasing landscape resilience

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.4: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO ENHANCE READINESS AND IMPROVE RESPONSE TO LFM

3.4.1 Organization of regional and cross-border meetings and forums	2026-2031	Government	MAFRD, KFA, MESPI, MIA, EMA	RKS	150,000
---	-----------	------------	-----------------------------	-----	---------

3.4.2 Exchange of information and data on fire risks and incidents

3.4.3 Development of joint regional and cross-border projects

3.4.4 Exchange of expertise with neighbouring countries for the implementation of best practices

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.5: STRENGTHENING LOGISTICAL CAPACITIES AND OPERATIONAL RESOURCES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO LANDSCAPE FIRES					

3.5.1 Provision of updated equipment and modern technologies	2026-2031	Government	MIA, MAFRD, MESPI	RKS DONACIONE	/
--	-----------	------------	-------------------	---------------	---

3.5.2 Procurement and integration of aircraft for fire suppression

3.5.3 Training personnel in the use of modern equipment and advanced technologies

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND POST FIRE MANAGEMENT

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1: IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS AND COMPONENTS AFFECTED BY FIRES TO GUIDE REHABILITATION MEASURES

4.1.1 Inventory of areas affected by LF	2026-2031	MAFRD, MESPI	KFA, DAPK, AMMK	RKS	150,000.00
---	-----------	--------------	-----------------	-----	------------

4.1.2 Development of a methodology for assessing damage in areas affected by landscape fires

4.1.3 Reporting and planning of post fire management measures

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.2: SUSTAINABLE REGENERATION OF AREAS DAMAGED BY FIRES					
4.2.1 Promoting the restoration of fire-damaged ecosystems using native species	2026-2031	MAFRD, MESPI,	KFA, DANK, KEPA, APFO	RKS	200,000.00
4.2.2 Distribution of seeds of native species for natural regeneration					
4.2.3 Active intervention in afforestation with native species in case of natural regeneration failure					
4.2.4 Provision and distribution of seedlings according to quality standards for restoration					
4.2.5 Planting fire-resistant native species					
4.2.6 Establishment of mixed-species forests to enhance biodiversity and resilience					
4.2.7 Supporting private forest owners with subsidies for forest rehabilitation and maintenance.					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.3: USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR FOREST MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS FROM LF					
4.3.1 Designing a national framework for monitoring forests after LF	2026-2028	MAFRD, MESPI	KFA, DANK, KEPA	RKS	100,000.00
4.3.2 Collection and analysis of data using drones and remote sensing technologies					
4.3.3 Utilizing LiDAR and advanced technologies to analyse forest structure					

ACTIVITIES	IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	INCLUDED PARTNERS	SOURCE OF FUNDING	BUDGET
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.4: ENSURING CONTINUOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING OF REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN BURNED AREAS TO GUARANTEE EFFECTIVE AND HIGH-QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATION MEASURES					
4.4.1 Monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure in affected areas	2026-2031	MAFRD, MESPI,	KFA, DANK, KEPA, APFOK	RKS	150,000.00
4.4.2 Systematic monitoring of afforestation and forest regeneration activities					
4.4.3 Use of advanced technologies to monitor restored areas					

Table 2. Monitoring indicators and outputs of the activities

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.1: COMPLETION AND INTEGRATION OF LFM INTO THE LEGAL AND SECONDARY LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING RELEVANT LAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Integration of Landscape Fire Management (LFM) into the legal framework of the Republic of Kosovo (laws and administrative instructions).	Not yet integrated.	Integration of Landscape Fire Management (LFM) into the legal framework.	It is fully integrated and operational within the legal framework.	LFM is integrated into the legal and secondary legislation framework and supported by administrative instructions.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.2: ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND EUROPEAN UNION DIRECTIVES INTO NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR LFM					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The number of relevant international conventions and directives on landscape and LF management integrated into the national legislation of the Republic of Kosovo.	There is no integration of international conventions and directives related to Landscape and Wildfire Management (LFM) into the national legislation.	Integration of at least two international conventions into national legislation.	Full integration and harmonization of relevant international conventions and directives into the national legislation.	Full alignment of the legal framework of the Republic of Kosovo with international and European standards.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.3: DEVELOPMENT, STANDARDIZATION, AND APPROVAL OF UNIFIED PROTOCOLS FOR REPORTING LFM INCIDENTS					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The existence and level of implementation of standardized protocols for reporting LF incidents at the national level.	There are no standardized and approved protocols at the national level.	Development, standardization, and approval of national protocols.	Full implementation of standardized protocols.	All LF incidents are reported using fully standardized and approved national protocols.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.4: MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS					
	Number of international organizations, networks, or mechanisms relevant to landscape fire management in which the Republic of Kosovo holds formal membership or participation.	Kosovo is not currently a member or active participant in any relevant international organizations or networks.	Kosovo has full membership or active participation in multiple relevant international organizations, networks, or mechanisms.	Kosovo has full membership or active participation in multiple relevant international organizations, networks, or mechanisms.	Kosovo is an active participant in key regional and international fire management networks.
1.4.1 Active participation in international mechanisms, meetings, and activities					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Representation and active participation of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo in international mechanisms, networks, meetings, and activities addressing Landscape Fire Management (LFM), including the exchange of experiences.	Participation in international mechanisms and activities is limited.	Regular and structured institutional participation in international mechanisms and initiatives.	There is active representation in international mechanisms and networks.	Active participation and integration of international best practices.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.5: DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY WITH CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR THE REHABILITATION AND CULTIVATION OF AREAS AFFECTED BY LANDSCAPE FIRES					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The existence and level of implementation of a standardized methodology for the rehabilitation and re-cultivation of burned areas, based on technical criteria and standards.	There is no approved and standardized methodology for the rehabilitation of burned areas.	Development and approval of a national methodology.	Full implementation of the methodology.	The national methodology for the rehabilitation of burned areas is fully implemented and operational.
No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1.6: STRENGTHENING INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION THROUGH MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK					
	The level of functionality and formalization of inter-institutional coordination and communication mechanisms for wildland fire management.	Inter-institutional coordination and communication mechanisms exist, based on current laws and secondary legislation acts, but they operate partially, are not standardized, and show limited coordination among institutions.		Full and integrated functioning of inter-institutional coordination and communication mechanisms at both central and local levels, harmonized with the legal framework and effectively implemented in practice.	Improved inter-institutional cooperation, more coordinated response to Fires, and increased efficiency in prevention, planning, and management of LF emergencies in the Republic of Kosovo.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: INCREASING COMMUNITY AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF LFM					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.1: ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LFM, WITH A FOCUS ON EMPOWERING AND ACTIVELY ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES					

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of national campaigns for wildfire prevention has increased.		4-5 campaigns	8-10 campaigns	National LF prevention campaigns are implemented, actively involve local communities, and raise public awareness.

2.1.1 Collaboration with media and social media channels to promote the campaign

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Number and level of collaboration with traditional media and social media channels for the development and promotion of educational programmes of the campaign for prevention and LFM.	Collaboration with traditional media and social media channels for educational programmes is limited.	Formal cooperation agreements with selected media to ensure regular, structured, and consistent dissemination of educational content.	Consolidated cooperation, coordinated programmes, and broad dissemination across all target communities, with a measurable impact on public awareness.	Sustained cooperation with traditional media and social media channels has increased the wide dissemination of educational programmes, increasing public awareness and strengthening the engagement of local communities in the prevention and management of wildfires.

2.1.2 Implementation of continuous educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at increasing awareness among citizens, students, farmers, and tourists about LF risks and preventive measures

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number and level of collaboration with traditional media and social media channels for developing and promoting educational programmes within the wildfire prevention and management campaign.	Almost no schools or universities offer education on wildfire management.	Some institutions have integrated pilot educational modules or pilot programmes into select courses.	Most schools and universities have incorporated wildfire management education into their curricula.	The number of institutions (schools/universities) that have included wildfire management education in their curricula.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.2 INTEGRATION OF LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT INTO SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CURRICULA TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE ON WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of schools and universities that have incorporated LF management education into their curricula.	There are still no schools or universities that have integrated wildfire management education into their curricula.	4-6 Schools	8-10 Schools	8-10 schools and universities will have integrated LF management education into their curricula.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.3: INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL POPULATIONS, FARMERS, AND PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS IN LF MANAGEMENT TRAININGS					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The number and scope of training conducted on LFM, as well as the level of participation of local communities, farmers, and private forest owners in these trainings.	Trainings on LFM for local communities and farmers/private forest owners are limited or not systematically organized.	Structured trainings on LFM have been conducted, with active participation of local communities and farmers/private forest owners.	LFM training has been fully institutionalized and is conducted regularly at the local level, with broad participation from local communities and farmers/private forest owners.	Local communities and farmers/private forest owners are trained and empowered to implement preventive measures and actively contribute to the effective management of LF.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.3: DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE LF RISK MAP, INTEGRATING DATA FROM FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, PRIVATE PLANS, AND PROTECTED AREAS, TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE HIGH-RISK AREAS					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The existence and level of utilization of a comprehensive LF risk map, based on the integration of data from long-term forest management plans, private land plans, and protected areas.	There is no integrated and standardized wildfire risk map in place.	A LF risk map has been developed, with partial integration of data from forest management programmes, private plans, and protected areas.	A comprehensive and standardized LF risk map has been fully developed, approved, and implemented.	Decision-making and planning for landscape fire prevention and management are supported by a nationally integrated risk map, enabling more effective allocation of resources and preventive measures in the highest-risk areas.
No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
2.3.1 Risk analysis and zoning of areas					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	There is no standardized LF risk analysis, and areas are not categorized according to risk levels (low, medium, high, very high).	A standardized LF risk analysis does not exist at the national level. Area categorization is not uniform and is based on partial assessments.	A methodology has been developed for LF risk analysis and the categorization of areas.	The risk analysis and area categorization have been fully implemented at the national level, using harmonized criteria and standards.	Areas at risk of LF have been clearly identified and systematically categorized, enabling effective prioritization of preventive and operational measures.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.4: ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARDIZED SYSTEM FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF FUEL MATERIAL, AS A BASIS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT AND THE PLANNING OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST LFM					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The existence and level of implementation of a standardized national system for classifying combustible materials (fuel classification) for landscape fire management.	The classification of combustible materials does not exist as a standardized system at the national level.	Development and approval of a unified national methodology and system for the classification of combustible materials.	Full implementation of the national system for combustible material classification, with its integration into all forest management plans and relevant documents.	The classification of combustible material is used as a basis for risk assessment and for planning preventive measures against landscape fires.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.5: STRENGTHENING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON LANDSCAPE AND LF MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE, DECISION-MAKING, AND PRACTICES FOR LF PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number and impact of research projects on LFM that have been funded or implemented, and which have been utilized to improve policies, planning, and operational practices in LF management.	Research projects on LFM are very limited or non-existent.	Several research projects on LFM have been funded and implemented.	The number of funded and implemented research projects on LFM has increased.	Research projects on LF are being utilized to improve decision-making and LF management practices.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
-----	---	----------	----------------	----------------	---------

2.5.1 Cooperation with universities and scientific institutions

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number and scope of cooperation agreements and joint projects with universities and scientific institutions on LFM, as well as the extent to which their results are applied in decision-making and operational practices.	Cooperation with universities and scientific institutions on LFM is minimal or fragmented.	Cooperation agreements have been signed with several universities and scientific institutions.	Collaboration with universities and scientific institutions has been institutionalized at the national level.	Sustainable collaboration with universities and scientific institutions has established a solid scientific foundation for improved decision-making and best practices in the prevention and management of LF.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.6: PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES IN FIRE MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number and scope of advisory services provided to local communities and institutions, as well as their impact on improving knowledge and practices in LF management.	The advisory services office exists and provides basic training for farmers, but its capacity and coverage are limited.	The advisory services office has been strengthened and now provides structured services and training to several priority communities and farmers.	Provides regular advisory services and training for all target communities and farmers.	Communities and farmers have strengthened knowledge and practices for wildfire prevention and management, thanks to the advisory services and training provided by the advisory services office.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2.7: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND BEST PRACTICES IN LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The level of participation and cooperation of Kosovo institutions in regional and international mechanisms, networks, and activities for LF management, as well as the use of exchanged knowledge and practices in national policies and actions.	The participation of Kosovo institutions in international networks and activities on LF management is minimal.	Kosovo institutions participate regularly in several regional and international mechanisms and initiatives.	Participation in international mechanisms and networks is institutionalized and continuous.	Kosovo maintains strong regional and international cooperation, where exchanged knowledge and practices contribute to effective fire management policies, planning, and operations.
2.7.3 Organization of regional and international meetings, seminars, and workshops					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Numri, lloji dhe niveli i pjesëmarrësve në takimet, seminarët dhe workshop-et rajonale dhe ndërkombëtare, si dhe integrimi i njohurive dhe praktikave të shkëmbyera në politikat dhe veprimet kombëtare të menaxhimit të zjarreve.	Organizohen shumë pak takime/ seminare rajonale dhe ndërkombëtare	Rritet numri i organiimeve të takimeve/ seminareve në nivel rajonal / ndërkombëtar	Meetings, seminars, and workshops are organized regularly and in an institutionalized manner at the regional and international level.	Shkëmbimi i njohurive dhe praktikave përmes takimeve dhe seminareve ndërkombëtare kontribuon në përmirësimin e politikave dhe praktikave kombëtare për menaxhimin e zjarreve.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCING READINESS, RESPONSE, AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR LF MANAGEMENT					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1: DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITIES IN LANDSCAPE FIRE MANAGEMENT					
No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The number, type, and level of participants in regional and international meetings, seminars, and workshops, as well as the extent to which exchanged knowledge and practices are integrated into national fire management policies and actions.	There are no training programmes, or only very limited ones, available for fire management.	Several pilot training programmes have been developed and delivered for professional and operational staff.	Training programmes have been fully developed and are systematically delivered to all professional and operational staff.	Professional and operational staff have enhanced capacities for effective LF management, applying the knowledge and skills gained in operations and planning.
3.1.2 Organization of advanced and specialized training sessions, including the use of monitoring and early warning technologies, as well as the management of operations in difficult terrains and hazardous conditions					
	Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results

Advanced and specialized training courses are limited or sporadic, with low participation of professional and operational staff, resulting in insufficient capacity to use monitoring technologies or manage operations in challenging and hazardous conditions.	No advanced or specialized training courses are being organized.	Several pilot advanced trainings have been developed and delivered for professional and operational staff.	Advanced and specialized training courses have been fully developed and are delivered regularly at the national level for all relevant staff.	Professional and operational staff can utilize advanced monitoring and early warning technologies and managing operations in challenging terrains and hazardous conditions, thereby enhancing effectiveness and safety in LF management.
--	--	--	---	--

3.1.3 Organization of cross-border joint trainings and exercises

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Cross-border training sessions and exercises are limited or non-existent, with minimal participation from relevant institutions and staff, resulting in low capacity for operational coordination and exchange of best practices across different terrains.	Only a few or no regional joint activities have been organized.	There has been an increase in joint regional activities, enhancing opportunities for cross-border coordination and exchange of best practices.	Cross-border training and exercises are fully institutionalized and conducted regularly with neighbouring countries, ensuring coordinated operations and the sharing of best practices.	Institutions are capable of effectively collaborating and coordinating cross-border operations, applying the best exchange practices to ensure safe and efficient LF management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.2: STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS DURING LF EMERGENCIES

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The existence and level of implementation of inter-institutional coordination protocols and mechanisms during landscape fire emergencies, including communication, role allocation, and operational integration.	-	Inter-institutional coordination during emergencies is becoming more structured, but it is not yet implemented at the national level.	Inter-institutional coordination mechanisms are standardized and fully implemented nationwide.	Inter-institutional coordination during LF emergencies is standardized and effective, ensuring rapid and safe response, with full integration of field operations.

3.2.1 Development and standardization of operational coordination and communication protocols

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The existence, level of standardization, and implementation of inter-institutional coordination and communication protocols during fire emergencies.	-	Around 40–50% of LF incidents are managed using established protocols.	Approximately 80–90% of LF incidents are managed using established protocols.	The operational coordination and communication protocols are standardized and fully implemented, enhancing effectiveness and inter-institutional coordination during LF emergencies.

3.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.3: FINALIZATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE KOSOVO FOREST INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIK) TO SUPPORT PLANNING, PREVENTION, AND LFM MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The level of functionality and utilization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) to support planning, prevention, and management of LF.	The Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) has not been developed.	The level of functionality and utilization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) to support planning, prevention, and management of LF.	The Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) is fully finalized and operational at the national level.	SIPK operates at the national level, providing accurate and integrated information to support effective planning, prevention, and management of LF.
The level of functionality and utilization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) to support planning, prevention, and management of LF.	The Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) has not been developed.	The level of functionality and utilization of the Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) to support planning, prevention, and management of LF.	The Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) has not been developed.	The Kosovo Forest Information System (SIPK) is operational at a pilot level and is used in selected regions or priority institutions.

3.3.2 Development and gradual integration of climate change scenarios as a planning tool

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Gradual integration of climate change scenarios into national and regional LF management plans and policies, and their use in decision-making and operational planning.	There are no climate change scenarios integrated into LF management planning.	Janë hartuar skenarë pilot të ndryshimeve klimatike për disa rajone prioritare.	Pilot climate change scenarios have been developed for several priority regions.	Climate change scenarios are integrated into the wildfire planning and management system, enhancing preparedness and response to climate-related risks.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 34: STRENGTHENING REGIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION TO ENHANCE READINESS AND IMPROVE RESPONSE TO LFM

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The level of interinstitutional and cross-border cooperation and coordination in LF emergency management, including the number and effectiveness of joint exercises, training, and operations.	Cross-border LF preparedness and response are insufficient and lack coordination.	Collaboration is partially institutionalized, and improvements in preparedness and response have begun through pilot operations.	Joint exercises, training, and operations significantly enhance preparedness and effective response to LF.	Enhanced interinstitutional and cross-border coordination leads to more efficient joint exercises and operations, improved preparedness, and timely, well-coordinated responses to LF emergencies.

3.4.1 Organization of regional and cross-border meetings and forums

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
-----------	----------	----------------	----------------	---------

Number of regional meetings organized	There is no regular mechanism for coordination and exchange of experiences.	A regular practice for the exchange of information and experiences has been established.	Regional and cross-border meetings and forums are institutionalized and organized on a regular basis.	Regional and cross-border meetings and forums are institutionalized and serve as functional platforms for coordination, exchange of experience, and improvement of joint responses to landscape fires.
---------------------------------------	---	--	---	--

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
-----	---	----------	----------------	----------------	---------

3.4.3 Development of joint regional and cross-border projects

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of joint regional projects developed and presented/applied to international institutions and donors in the field of landscape fire management.	1 project.	3 joint regional projects have been developed and submitted to international institutions.	5 joint regional projects have been developed and submitted to international institutions.	Strengthening regional cooperation and increasing the Republic of Kosovo's access to international financial and technical resources for LF management, as well as enhancing institutional capacities for the development and implementation of joint projects.

3.4.4 Exchange of expertise with neighbouring countries for the implementation of best practices

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of structured expert exchange programmes with neighbouring countries, specifically focused on landscape fire management.	Expert exchanges exist but are informal and not specifically focused on landscape fire management (LFM).	At least 2 structured expert exchange programmes with neighbouring countries, specifically focused on best practices in landscape fire management (LFM).	At least 4 structured expert exchange programmes with neighbouring countries, focused on landscape fire management (LFM).	Enhancement of professional capacities in Kosovo for landscape fire management (LFM) through the transfer of knowledge, experience, and best regional practices, as well as strengthened cooperation.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
-----	---	----------	----------------	----------------	---------

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.5: STRENGTHENING LOGISTICAL CAPACITIES AND OPERATIONAL RESOURCES FOR MORE EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO LANDSCAPE FIRES

Percentage increase in firefighting equipment with operational capacity.	30%	The percentage of operational firefighting equipment increases to 50%.	Later, it rises further, reaching 70–80% of firefighting equipment being fully operational.	Firefighting equipment will be fully operational, significantly enhancing the capacity to respond effectively to landscape fires.
--	-----	--	---	---

3.5.2 Procurement and integration of aircraft for fire suppression

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of firefighting aircraft purchased and the level of their operational integration into the national wildfire management system.	There are no firefighting aircraft in use at the national level for wildfire suppression.	At least one firefighting aircraft has been purchased or procured.	Firefighting aircraft have been purchased and fully integrated into the national wildfire management system.	National aerial firefighting capacities have been significantly enhanced, improving the speed, effectiveness, and safety of responses to LF.

3.5.3 Training personnel in the use of modern equipment and advanced technologies

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
The number of trained personnel and the level of effective use of modern equipment and advanced technologies in LF management operations.	Training in the use of modern technologies is limited.	The personnel have been trained and certified in the use of modern technologies.	All relevant personnel are fully trained and certified in the use of modern equipment and advanced technologies.	Technical and operational capacities of personnel have been enhanced, enabling the effective use of modern equipment and advanced technologies in landscape fire management.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION AFTER LF TO RESTORE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS AND ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY					
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.1: IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS AND COMPONENTS AFFECTED BY FIRES TO GUIDE REHABILITATION MEASURES					

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Areas affected by fires and the impacted components have been identified and assessed for rehabilitation.	The identification and assessment of burned areas are carried out partially and in a non-standardized manner.	The burned areas have been identified and mapped for many of the affected territories.	The identification, mapping, and assessment of burned areas and affected components are complete, standardized, and regularly updated.	The areas damaged by fires and the affected components have been fully and systematically identified and assessed, enabling data-driven planning for effective rehabilitation measures.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.2: SUSTAINABLE REGENERATION OF AREAS DAMAGED BY FIRES

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Implementation of ecological regeneration and rehabilitation measures in fire-affected areas, based on approved plans and sustainability criteria.	Limited and non-standardized interventions.	Partial implementation of regeneration measures.	Sustainable regeneration widely implemented.	The areas damaged by fires have been sustainably regenerated, restoring ecological functions and enhancing resilience to future fires.

4.2.1 Creating opportunities for ecosystem restoration with native species

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	The area of damaged zones where restoration with native species has been initiated or completed, and the level of their ecological suitability.	Restaurimi me speciet vendore nuk është praktikuar	Restoration has begun in selected pilot areas; native species have been partially used, and their ecological adaptation is being monitored.	Restoration has been implemented in many affected areas; native species have been widely used, and ecosystems demonstrate restored ecological functions.	The degraded ecosystems have been restored using native species, reinstating ecological functions and enhancing resilience to fires and environmental changes.

4.2.6 Establishment of mixed-species forests to enhance biodiversity and resilience

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Afforestation with mixed-species forests has not yet been implemented.	Afforestation with mixed-species forests has been initiated in some pilot areas, contributing partially to increased biodiversity.	Mixed-species pilot forests have been established, and biodiversity has begun to increase in these areas.	Mixed-species forests have been established across most of the targeted areas, resulting in a significant increase in biodiversity.	The mixed-species forests have enhanced biodiversity, restored ecological functions, and increased ecosystem resilience to fires and environmental changes.

4.2.7 Supporting private forest owners with subsidies for forest rehabilitation and maintenance

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Number of private owners supported through subsidies and the area of forests rehabilitated and maintained through these subsidies.	The number of private owners supported with subsidies and the area of forests rehabilitated and maintained through these subsidies.	Subsidies have been provided to some private owners; part of private forests have been rehabilitated and maintained according to established standards.	Most identified private owners receive subsidies; rehabilitated and maintained private forests meet ecological sustainability standards.	Private owners are actively engaged in the rehabilitation and maintenance of forests, enhancing biodiversity, resilience, and the ecological functions of private woodlands.

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.3: USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR FOREST MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS FROM LF					
	Number of modern technologies used for forest monitoring and for assessing the ecological impacts of fires, and the level of use of the collected data for decision-making and rehabilitation.	Forest monitoring and the assessment of ecological impacts are carried out manually without the use of modern technologies.	Some modern technologies have been used on a pilot basis.	Modern technologies are integrated into the national forest monitoring system; the data are regularly used to assess ecological impacts and to inform decision-making for rehabilitation and sustainable management.	Forests are monitored using modern technologies, and data on the ecological impacts of fires are systematically used for decision-making and for planning rehabilitation measures.

4.3.1 Designing a national framework for monitoring forests after LF

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Existence and level of implementation of a national post-fire forest monitoring plan.	There is no national post-fire monitoring plan.	The national plan has been developed and partially approved.	The national plan has been approved and is fully implemented; all forest areas are monitored in accordance with the plan's standards.	The national post-fire forest monitoring plan is operational.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4.4: ENSURING CONTINUOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING OF REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN BURNED AREAS TO GUARANTEE EFFECTIVE AND HIGH-QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATION MEASURES

No.	GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, AND INDICATORS	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
	Number and proportion of rehabilitated areas in burned zones that are continuously and comprehensively monitored according to standardized protocols, and the level of reporting on the quality of restoration works.	Monitoring is sporadic and non-standardized; detailed quality reports are lacking.	Partial implementation of standardized monitoring protocols.	Full, continuous, and standardized monitoring of all rehabilitated areas.	Continuous and comprehensive monitoring of rehabilitated burned areas ensures high-quality implementation of restoration measures and supports effective decision-making for sustainable forest management.

4.4.3 Use of advanced technologies to monitor restored areas

Indicator	Baseline	Midline [2028]	Endline [2031]	Results
Number of restored areas monitored using advanced technologies and the frequency of data use for assessing the progress and effectiveness of rehabilitation.	Monitoring of restored areas is carried out mainly manually; advanced technologies are not used.	Some pilot areas are monitored using drones, GIS, and sensors.	All restored areas are regularly monitored using advanced technologies.	Restored areas are monitored using advanced technologies, ensuring accurate assessment of the progress and effectiveness of rehabilitation measures.

