

Green Economy - Key Instrument for Sustainable Development

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SUMMARY

This paper examines the critical role of forests in a green economy, and provides recommendations to transform the forest sector such that it can lead to sustainable development. The concept of green economy describe the “process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities” (Altinger, 2008). In the wood and forestry sectors it was observed could make a significant contribution towards meeting green economy objectives, linked to climate change policies, mainly through the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions and expansion of renewable energy objectives. The Green Economy Report suggests the main routes by which the wood and forestry sectors can contribute: biomass energy and green infrastructure and building which are related to forest products, the role of forest resources as carbon sinks, which is related to resource. Forests contribute optimally to a green economy when, in particular, their full range of private and societal benefits are realized. In this vision of forests, growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments. These investments reduce carbon emissions, enhance resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of forest-based biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services. Forests contribute substantially to local, national and global economies. They can contribute to a low-carbon, high growth, socially inclusive and equitable, adaptive and low scarcity green economy through their multiple functions and improved management. Forests are also a source for low-carbon raw material and energy, and offer a full range of services for many sectors, human well-being, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Romania has a large and diverse forest and is one of the few European countries that still have virgin forests. Many of these forests play important roles as environmental and recreational space, but also represent an important economic value. The Romanian national priorities included: afforestation activities; inventory updates; prevention of illegal logging; and support to forest owner associations. In conclusion, Forests in a Green Economy provides an evidence based roadmap for policy makers, the private sector, forest sector and forest dwellers alike, and underscores why these ecosystems must be managed for their full societal value if we are to successfully build a low-carbon, resource efficient future.

Keywords: Forests, Green Economy, climate change policies, biodiversity

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