

FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

DEFINITION & DESIGNATION CRITERIA

CONTEXT:

National Forest Strategy (SNP30)

It acknowledges the existence of forest-dependent local communities in Romania and proposes to regulate their access to forest resources: *"The specifics of rural Romania makes many communities dependent on forest resources and ensuring sustainable access to resources for these communities must be included in the forestry legislation."*

More often than not, the interests of local communities are not explicitly taken into account in decision-making, which leads to major risks in ensuring the basic socio-economic conditions for their existence and sustainable development. Therefore, identifying and highlighting forest-dependent rural communities, alongside efforts to ensure that these communities have access to forest resources on which they are dependent, are elements of necessity addressed in the Strategic Directions for Action (SDA3).

Supporting the legitimate interests of these traditional communities is a public responsibility and must be understood as a necessity for the economic and cultural revitalisation of the Romanian countryside, the continuity of mutually beneficial professions for responsible forest management and the local forest economy. And, if we refer to traditional craft activities, it is also essential for the preservation of the national cultural and ethnographic heritage.



DEFINITION

Forest-dependent local communities

Traditional local communities that **depend** to a great extent on the resources provided by the forest for their livelihoods, the preservation of their **cultural identity** or the **improvement of their economic and social situation**, if they **cumulatively** meet the criteria described on the next page (1-4).

Traditional local communities:

Administratively identifiable population group (commune, village, hamlet, district) or traditional woodworking communities (occupational group).

1 DEPENDENCE ON FOREST RESOURCES

DEPENDENCY SITUATIONS

1.1

Forest resources are **livelihoods** that (permanently or seasonally) meet the **basic needs** of local communities:

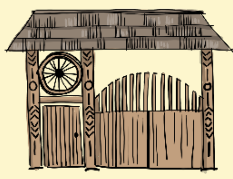
- a. energy for home heating and/or cooking;
- b. building materials for houses and annexes;
- c. raw material for the production of products that provide the income necessary for the subsistence of the population;



OR

1.2

Forest resources are necessary for **the continued practice of traditional wood crafts**, essential for the preservation of the **cultural identity** of ethnographic areas.



OR

1.3

Local forest economy, based on the management, harvesting and processing of the resources offered forestry, makes a **significant contribution** (the largest occupational share and/or exceeds one third of the total available local workforce) within the overall local economy and contributes to sustainable development of the local communities **concerned**. Forest resources provide the **basic socio-economic conditions for rural development**.



AND

2 FEASIBILITY OF PROCURING FOREST RESOURCES FROM OTHER AREAS

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EXCLUSIVITY

2.1

The communities concerned do **not have access to other resources/ alternative resources** due to lack of adequate infrastructure;

OR

2.2

It is **not feasible to procure forest resources from other areas** (applies to dependency situations 1.2 and 1.3), either because of:

- a. high transport costs - conditionality imposed by the need to ensure economic viability or climate neutrality environmental policies; or
- b. quality of wood material suitable for crafts.

Please note!

In order to validate the fulfilment of criteria 2.1 or 2.2, a **clearly identifiable relationship** between the forests providing forest resources under conditions (1.1), (1.2) or (1.3) and the local communities concerned must be confirmed. Both communities and forests can be **clearly identified and mapped**, precisely in the sense that management strategies for these forests need to be adapted through involvement/ consultation of these communities.



AND

3 TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FORESTRY OR WOODWORKING

TRADITIONAL

The conditional relations (1.1), (1.2) or (1.3) **have been active for a long time** (at least **3 generations**). The use of forest resources has become an integral part of the socio-economic life and cultural identity of these communities.



AND

4 RESOURCE HARVESTING DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO FOREST DEGRADATION

SUSTAINABLE

Continuity of forest resource provision means **preserving the structure of the forests concerned**, at forest landscape level, and does **NOT work towards degrading forests**.



WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

1. The new Forest Code, [which is in the process of being drafted](#), should include a definition of the concept of "forest dependent communities" and establish related criteria for designation and identification.
2. Cross-cutting legislation on disadvantaged communities should take on board the concept of communities dependent on forest resources (OR. 3.3).
3. Subsequent legislation, developed through a participatory process, should specify designation indicators and identification procedures: institutional roles and responsibilities, designation process.



GOAL

Preventing potential negative impacts on local forest-dependent communities - where there are no other feasible alternatives for securing the forest resources on which they depend:

1. Consider the impact on local communities dependent on forest resources in the preparation of development proposals at programme document level before the final decision is taken on their promotion.
2. Ensure adequate (transparent and proactive) involvement of communities in the planning and decision-making process regarding management strategies for managing the forests on which they depend.
3. Regulate equitable mechanisms to ensure that communities have access to the basic resources they need, encourage local forestry businesses and enhance the contribution of forests to the socio-economic development of communities.
4. To ensure a just transition for these communities if they become disadvantaged by national/community measures that limit the use of the natural resources on which they depend.

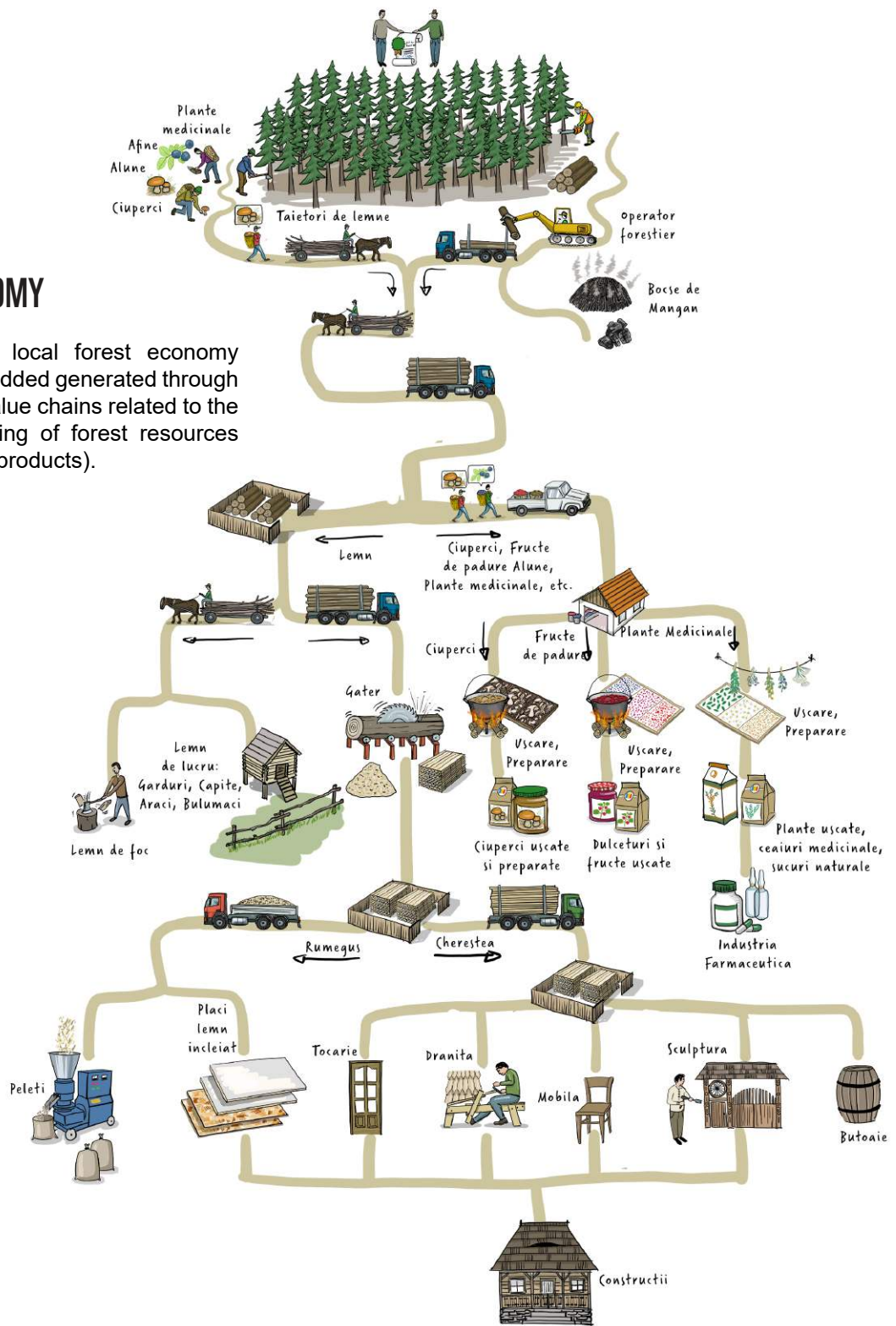


SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

Shows how the local forest economy operates and the value added generated through horizontal and vertical value chains related to the harvesting and processing of forest resources (i.e. wood and forest by-products).

LOCAL FOREST ECONOMY

Illustration of how the local forest economy functions and the value added generated through horizontal and vertical value chains related to the harvesting and processing of forest resources (i.e. wood and forest by-products).



CONTRIBUTORS

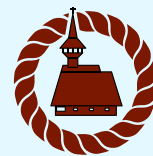


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