

## CASE STUDY

### “CAMPSITES AND STUDY TRAILS OF STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE” (ESTONIA)

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## 1 Introduction: What is the case study about?

The case study (CS) explores campsites and study trails managed and developed by the Estonian State Forest Management Centre (SFMC). About 50% of whole Estonian territory is covered with forest (Figure 1) and 44% of Estonian forest land (940 986 ha) is owned by the state. State forests are managed by SFMC.

**Figure 1:** Distribution of Estonian forests



SFMC, established in 1999 is a unique body, the only institution of such type in Estonia – *profit-making state agency* under the governance of the Ministry of the Environment.

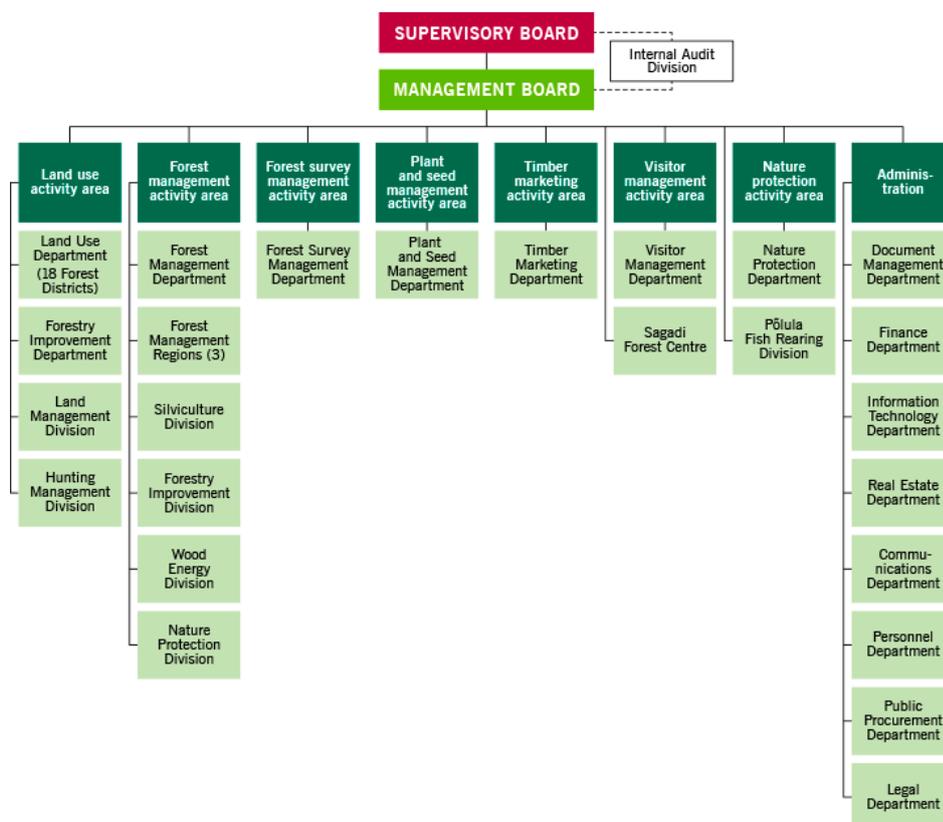
SFMC main responsibilities are defined by Forest Act<sup>1</sup>:

- growing and managing the state forest, planting new forest and organising the sale of timber;
- organisation of nature protection works in the state forest and protected areas (since 2009), and
- - “ensuring the performance of the public function of the state forest” (Forest Act; entry into force 2007).

SFMC has 8 divisions (activity areas). Responsible for the SFMC public functions is the Visitor Management division (Visitor Management department and the Sagadi Forest Centre/Nature School; Figure 2).

<sup>1</sup> Forest Act, entry into force 01.01.2007; <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/509022016005/consolide>.

Figure 2: Structure of the SFMC. From: <http://www.rm.k.ee/organisation/staff>



SFMC statute is approved by the Government of the Republic. The budget of SFMC is approved by the Supervisory Board of the SFMC. Management Board is responsible for the everyday management.

As SFMC is a profit-making state agency, it is not supported from the state budget, all the income comes from its operating – mostly from the sale of timber. For ensuring the performance of the public function of the state forest, SFMC manages and builds forest hiking trails (study trails), maintains recreational areas, camping sites and campfire places locating all over the countries` state forests (see <http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/where-to-go/search-options>). It also provides *nature education* and is engaged in raising *environmental awareness* as study trails/hiking trails are equipped with information stands etc. about the species, nature protection and *cultural heritage*. Although some hiking trails, camping sites and other facilities were established and used long before establishment of SFMC, under management of SFMC all areas are managed and developed centrally and systematically.

By 2015 SFMC had all over Estonian state forests:

- 220 hiking trails/study trails (with information stands about nature, species and habitats, campfire sites, resting places, observation decks, etc.), in total of more than 2000 kilometres;
- 309 campfire sites,
- 59 camping areas,

- 27 forest huts and 19 forest houses (SFMC, 2016).

Use of almost all services provided by SFMC are free of charge for everyone, only for the use for more comfortable accommodation facilities (19 forest houses) people have to pay a small fee, but this is not considered as the source of income for SFMC, but “*Rather to control of visitor’s load and access.*” (source: interviewee, SFMC).

SFMC employs about 700 full-time employees, with 65 directly linked to outdoor recreation and nature education activities. In addition to its full-time employees, SFMC employs each year more than 5000 people to work in the state forest through local partner companies or as seasonal workers. Although most of the employed people are related to production and sale of timber, some of the work is related also to management of visitor infrastructure and nature education – estimated as about 300 people (source: interviewee, SFMC). All this makes SFMC quite important employer, especially for people in rural areas.

Income of SFMC is earned mainly from the sale of timber. SFMC is economically successful, for example it’s profit in 2015 was EUR 36.2 million (SFMC, 2016). The budget foreseen for outdoor recreation and education services provided by SFMC was EUR 6.4 million in 2015 (SFMC, 2016). From 2009 to 2014, EUR 33 million was invested into development of visitor infrastructure and education (SFMC, 2014). For the management and renewal of the study trails located in protected areas also EU support is used, namely European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

SFMC also holds two environmental certificates for responsible and sustainable forest management: the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certificate since 2002 and the PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) certificate since 2010 ([www.rmkk.ee](http://www.rmkk.ee)). All the state forests also fulfil the organic requirements approved by the state organic certification body.

SFMC is an example of a well-functioning state-owned business, combining successfully economically profitable activities (sustainable forest management and timber marketing) with provision of environmental and social beneficial outcomes (ESBOs).

### ***ESBO focus, potential benefits and synergies***

Case study is focussing on key environmentally and socially beneficial outcomes (ESBOs) under broad categories of: 1) **public recreation, education and health** and 2) **protecting landscape character and cultural heritage** (Table 2), but is also related to ESBOs of *high levels of biodiversity and preserving and enhancing rural vitality*.

SFMC is developing and managing campsites and study trails network which covers all state forests (and other state-owned areas like bogs) providing high quality **outdoor recreation** possibilities, provision of therapeutic benefits to improve health and wellbeing. In addition to outdoor recreation, study trails/hiking trails and information centres provide **(nature) education**. Development and maintenance of study trails/hiking trails and campfire sites includes also maintenance of high level of **landscape character** (e.g. scenic views) of the (forest) landscapes as well as maintenance of **cultural heritage** connected to these particular locations.

As SFMC is also preserving unique forest nature while managing forests in a nature-friendly way, it also contributes to the objective of **high level of biodiversity** (species and habitats),



especially regards objectives of Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (Natura 2000).

**Figure 3:** Provision of nature education and promotion of cultural heritage by SFMC. Photos: Argo Peepson



Outdoor recreation and use of study/hiking trails and other facilities provided by SFMC could possibly also provide benefits and create synergies with local (tourism) businesses. Small shops near to study/hiking trails and camping sites can earn additional income from visitors and tourists, as well as local hostels and bed & breakfast providers. Thus there is link also to **rural vitality** by helping to achieve and maintain active and socially resilient rural communities.

**Table 1:** ESBOs provided/potentially provided by the CS

Main ESBOs provided/potentially provided by the CS	
<b>Broad categories of objectives to be achieved</b>	<b>ESBOs</b> [and dominant dimension]
<b>Public recreation, education and health</b>	<b>Outdoor recreation:</b> achieving (or maintaining) a good level of public access to the countryside to ensure public outdoor recreation and enjoyment [Social]
	<b>Educational activities:</b> achieving (or maintaining) a good level of educational and demonstration activities in relation to farming and forestry [Social and environmental]

	<b>Health and social inclusion:</b> achieving (or maintaining) an appropriate level of therapeutic /social rehabilitation activities in relation to farming and forestry [Social]
<b>Protecting landscape character and cultural heritage</b>	<b>Landscape character and cultural heritage:</b> maintaining or restoring a high level of landscape character and cultural heritage [Social and environmental]
<b>Other ESBOs linked to CS</b>	
<b>High levels of biodiversity</b>	<b>Species and habitats:</b> Achieving (or maintaining) the presence of diverse and sufficiently plentiful species and habitats (ecological diversity) [Environmental]
<b>Preserving and enhancing rural vitality</b>	<b>Rural vitality:</b> Achieving (or maintaining) active and socially resilient rural communities [Social]

## 2 Definition of the social-ecological system (SES) studied

### 2.1 Figure of the SES, using the SES Framework

#### CASE STUDY: EE-3 Campsites and study trails of State Forest Management Centre (SFMC)

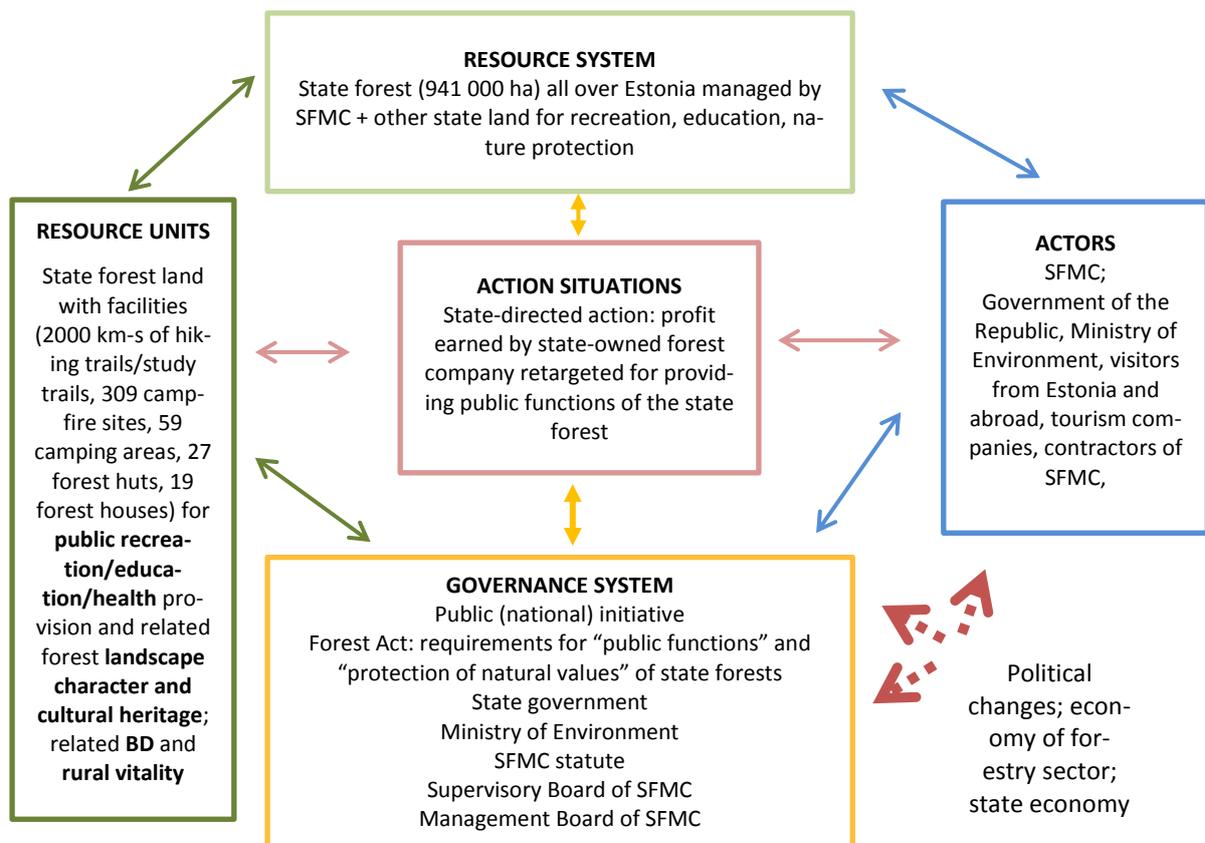


Figure 4: Adapted from Ostrom and Cox 2010; McGinniss and Ostrom 2014



## 2.2 Short characterisation of key drivers/motivations

The CS approach is driven by **social drivers** and **non-market factors** as it provides public recreation, education and health possibilities together with protecting landscape character and cultural heritage. There is a clear need and appreciation by society for the kinds of ESBOs provided as the number of visits to SFMC recreational areas increases constantly (see section 3.4).

With regard to **policy drivers**, as SFMC is state-owned, the provision of these benefits is regulated by the Forest Act and is depending on decisions of the Government and the Ministry of Environment. There has been census on politicians about the need of “public functions” of the state forest. However, there might rise interest to change the current system in order to concentrate more on forest management and income from sale of timber and reorganise public functions provision part of the organisation (see section 3.5).

Activities of SFMC are supported by EU structural funds like *European Regional Development Fund* (ERDF) and *Cohesion Fund* (CF), especially for investments for development of infrastructure and environmental awareness on protected areas (nature reserves, nature protection areas). During the period 2010–2015 SFMC received about 4 million EUR support for renovation of different objects related to environmental education and awareness. ERDF has also been supporting the maintenance of biodiversity, 2.4 million euros of support was received by SFMC for renovation and establishment of infrastructure needed for visiting protected areas (roads, bridges, visitor infrastructure). During 2015–2020 SFMC will reconstruct visitor’s infrastructure of protected areas with co-financing from the CF. Total budget is 2.4 million euros, of which 85% is financed by CF (source: SFMC; see also: Peepson A., Mikk M. (2016), Socio-political, economic and institutional drivers. National Report – ESTONIA. Deliverable WP3.1).

## 2.3 Discussion of the SES

Figure 2 describes basic elements and connections between the elements of SES of this particular case.

This SES consists of about 941 000 hectares of state forests of SFMC (*resource system*) with 2000 kilometres of hiking trails/study trails, 309 campfire sites, 59 camping areas, 27 forest huts, 19 forest houses providing ESBOs of public recreation/education/health provision, forest landscape character and cultural heritage, but also related to biodiversity and rural vitality (*resource units*).

It is a state-directed public action – stable targeting of some profit earned from the sale of timber from state forest for provision of public recreation possibilities, education and health, related landscape character and cultural heritage (*action situation*). It is governed by the Forest Act, Government of the Republic, Ministry of Environment and targeted to visitors from Estonia and abroad. Other actors involved are tourism companies and local businesses contracted by SFMC for conducting services related to renovation and management of visitors’ infrastructure and services).



The highest directing body that plans the activities of SFMC is the Supervisory Board which members are named by the Government and Parliament (see section 3.5). Everyday management of the SFMC is organised by the Board (3 members) implementing the decisions taken by the Supervisory Board (*governance system*).

Macro-issues impacting the CS include political changes, economical situation of forestry sector and overall state economy. Resources which are directed to delivery of public services and provision of related goods depend somewhat on political decisions as the Supervisory Board of the organisation is composed of politicians. As most of the income of the SFMC comes from the sale of timber, its economic success (and amount targeted to public functions) depends on the price of timber on the market.

#### **2.4 Common aims, conflicting interests and goals**

As the core of the whole system is state-owned and regulated organisation and its public function (recreation, education), its aims and goals are commonly agreed and no major conflicting interests were pointed out by the interviewees. As SFMCs main field of activities is forest management and sale of timber it could be source of conflicting interests of economic profitability and provision of recreational possibilities and nature education. *“We have increasingly paid attention to this possible issue and find that we have found a good balance between economic profitability, ecological sustainability and public functions of the state forests.”* (source: interviewee, SFMC). Planning the logging is done in taking into account the recreational and educational sites. A conflict with hunters was not raised as an issue, considering that SFMC administrates only of about 3% of the state hunting grounds (source: SFMC).

When talking about the possible synergies of SFMC activities with local businesses (caterers, bed & breakfast providers, shops, hiking trip organisers etc.), representatives of SFMC admit that co-operation could be much wider and it is difficult to find service providers to the recreational areas managed by SFMC, because *“Most of the visitor’s load takes place during the summer period and thus it would be only a seasonal activity which would not satisfy the possible service providers and therefore the interest of entrepreneurs remains quite low.”* (source: interviewee, SFMC). Also local people feel that possibilities to earn additional income through co-operation with SFMC recreational areas remains moderate and more effort *“should be made on both sides”* to unlock the synergy. Local people still feel that visitors of SFMC areas support also indirectly rural entrepreneurship through spending money in e.g. local shops, diners and gas stations (source: interviewee, local people).

SFMC is partner organisation and is working partly at the same direction with foundation Eesti Terviserajad (Estonian Health Tracks), created by several major Estonian enterprises in order to develop sports trails in Estonia. Their common interest and basis for the cooperation is to provide public outdoor recreation, sports and enjoyment possibilities, although Estonian Health Tracks is dealing mainly with municipal land close to towns and cities.



### 3 Status of the SES and potentials

#### 3.1 Description of the SES

It is a public initiative and state-directed action: profit earned from state-owned forest company (mostly forest management and sale of timber) is redirected for provision of public functions of the state forest like public recreation/education, health and related enhancement of forest landscape character and cultural heritage and biodiversity, but in a subtle way also rural vitality.

Safeguarding of “public functions” of the state forest is required by Forest Act and as SFMC is governed by the Ministry of Environment this is applied centrally all over the Estonian state forests. Key for the functioning of the whole system is *clearly designated budget* (approved by the supervisory board of SFMC, consists of representatives of the state: ministries and parliament) for provision of public functions of the SFMC. Although the specific amount of budget for public functions provision is depending on economic profitability of SFMC, still every year certain amount of financing is dedicated which keeps the system stable.

As outcome, SFMC provides network of good quality facilities for public recreation and education covering evenly whole state forests in Estonia. These areas are actively used and widely appreciated by the society (see also section 3.4).

#### 3.2 Relationships between farming and forestry, and the quantity and quality of ESBOs

SFMC activities and management of state forests contains broad spectrum of environmental, social and economic aspects. As this CS focuses on public recreation and education possibilities provided by SFMC, social and environmental ESBOs are central: public recreation/education/health provision and related forest landscape character and cultural heritage, but also biodiversity and rural vitality.

As a basis, in relation to ESBOs provided, it is important to note, that in Estonia “everyman`s right” is applied and it is permitted to access all natural and cultural landscapes, incl. forests. (This applies also to unmarked and unrestricted private property which may be accessed any time e.g. for picking berries, mushrooms, etc. – unless the owner forbids it with clear written signs).

As network of recreational areas together with information and education provision is very well developed and maintained all over the Estonian state forests, the provision level (quantity and quality) of key ESBOs related to the CS is already high, especially on provision of recreation/education/health, landscape character and cultural heritage and biodiversity, but in order to exploit the whole potential for rural vitality, as mentioned above, more efforts need to put on cooperation with local businesses and service providers (accommodation, catering, shops, handicraft etc.).

For the continuation of provision of related ESBOs at the same (or even increased) level and quality, the most important is fixed budget following SFMC Development Plan 2015– 2020 (SFMC, 2014) for the maintenance and development of SFMC facilities, hiking/study trails, camping areas etc.

For further enhancement of related ESBOs it is also worth mentioning that all the state forests managed by the SFMC (~941 000 hectares) fulfil the requirements set by organic requirements



and this is approved by the Estonian Organic Certification Body (Agricultural Board). Estonia could be the only state in the world where all state forests are grown by following organic rules. This gives wide possibilities for synergies and expanding of level and variety of ESBOs provided through management of state forests, e.g. it is after registration in Agricultural Board possible to pick berries, mushrooms and medicinal plants, use them for processing and sell the products labelled as organic.

### 3.3 Key motivational, institutional and socio-economic factors

Key factors in this case include natural conditions (high forest cover), ownership of the key organisation (state), clear regulation (Forest Act) and regular budget provision for management and development of visitors` facilities in state forest in order to provide ESBOs widely appreciated and needed by the society.

Ownership (only state) and central governance is crucial and probably the only possibility *in this particular case* as it ensures that the whole system is developed evenly and the quality of the services and facilities is similar. This would not be possible, if there would be several (private) owners (or divided responsibilities between several state organisations) as it would automatically create contradictions, different views and approaches, plus automatically arise a question about financing.

### 3.4 Levels of provision, trends and determinants

General status of Estonian environment (incl. forests) is monitored through state environmental monitoring programme, which includes among other aspects also monitoring of air, ground- and surface water, biodiversity and landscapes and soils.

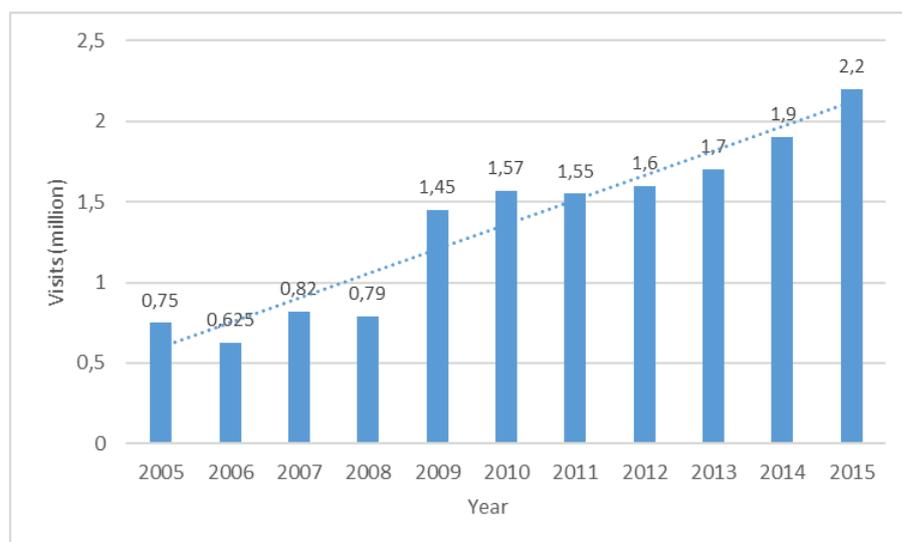
SFMC, together with the Ministry of Environment and Environmental Agency is also monitoring the environmental status of the forest and environmental pressure, status and trends of games and some endangered species (like flying squirrel). Assessment of quality and quantity of ESBO *public recreation, education and health* related *specifically to SFMC* is made through visitor questionnaires/visitors monitoring. Quality and quantity of ESBO “rural vitality” related to SFMC is not assessed.

Studies show (e.g. Enterprise Estonia, 2008) that the majority of Estonians appreciate being on vacation in nature and like hiking and other outdoor recreation activities. Also the number of visits to SFMC recreational areas is increasing constantly – in 2005 there were 750 000 visits while in 2015 already 2.2 million (Figure 2; SFMC, 2016), while the population of Estonia is only 1.3 million. The objective for 2020 is to host 2.5 million visits (SMFC Development Plan 2015-2020, 2014) - this objective seems achievable.

Societal interest and appreciation of the provision of ESBOs (*outdoor recreation, education, health and social inclusion*) and the satisfaction level of the visitors to these areas is very high thus ESBO provision level is high and appreciated as such across to whole society.



**Figure 5:** Number of visits to SFMC recreational areas. Source: SFMC 2016; own compilation



Most recent visitor survey (2015) included more than 6000 people, almost 90% of them lived in Estonia and only 1% were clients of tourism companies, in other words 99% of the visitors did choose these areas voluntarily and not as a part of some tourist programme. One day visitors made about 50% of the visitors while another half stayed also overnight. One day visitors spent on average 3.5 hours in nature (SFMC, 2016).

Main reasons to visit SFMC areas included: enjoyment of beautiful landscapes, experience the nature, escape from noise and pollution (e.g. urban areas), achieve peace of mind, alleviate stress, and spend time with friends. 85% of visitors felt that their *social, physical and mental welfare improved*. On a 5-point scale, visitors rated their experience as 4.4.

Interviewed visitor of SFMC recreational area is using frequently SFMC hiking trails and finds very important that: *“These well marked and maintained trails and camping places are free of charge to everyone and you can use them any time. I especially appreciate that in addition to spending your free time in nature you also can learn about species, nature protection and heritage related to forest.”*

“Willingness to pay” approach was also used in visitor’s survey to valorise public functions provided by SFMC. According to survey, about 50% of the people who visited SFMC areas spent an average of 65 euros to visit the recreational areas of the SFMC – this includes transportation, food and other expenses related directly or indirectly to visit (SFMC, 2016). According to the same survey, related services (catering etc.) is seen as the area with high potential to improve and currently not fully utilised.



Data on *cultural heritage* related to SFMC areas is collected and complemented as on-going process. For example, under management of SFMC more than 35 000 cultural heritage objects in Estonia have been mapped and made findable through Land Boards map application to everybody. SFMC has also created 20 short videos giving information on cultural heritage (SFMC, 2016).

Key limiting factors for improvement of ESBO provision (currently already at high level) will be the load tolerance of forests which needs to be carefully planned and directed, but also people's awareness and social trends towards healthiness, wellbeing and knowledge about nature.

Especially "*forest as source of health and well-being*" should be more promoted as nature education and recreation have been promoted mostly up till now in relation to the public functions of state forests (source: interviewee, SFMC).

There have been some problems with littering and visitors breaking up the facilities and equipment, but the awareness has increased significantly in recent years and SFMC has also put strong emphasis to provide and manage the trash cans etc. Vandalised and littered areas are most certainly not attractive for visitors thus provision of ESBOs will also decrease.

*"Steadily growing number of visitors does not automatically mean increase of vandalism and littering, but will affect the environmental burden which we are carefully monitoring to minimise any negative impacts. Main effort is put on management and development of current facilities, not to develop new areas or services. Even if the new areas (e.g. in protected areas) are established with the EU support, significant expenditure is needed for the further maintenance which is in general not supported by the EU."* (source: interviewee, SFMC).

### **3.5 Relevant governance arrangements and institutional frameworks**

Structure of the SFMC was described in section 1 above (Figure 4, pg. 3). The highest directing body that plans the activities of SFMC is the supervisory board which members are named by the Government and Parliament. Supervisory board of the SFMC comprises mostly of politicians or people appointed by politicians: 2 members appointed by the resolution of the *Parliament*, 2 representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, 1 representative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, 1 representative of the Ministry of Finance, 3 experts on the proposal of the Minister of Environment.

Therefore, resources which are directed to delivery of public services and provision of related goods depend mostly on governmental (political) decisions. As most of the income of the SFMC comes from the sale of timber, in turn its economic success depends on the price of timber in the market. Great attention is paid within the organisation to keep the balance between forest management and timber production and environmental sustainability (source: interviewee, SFMC).

SFMC is economically successful which has raised discussion about the future of SFMC and its business format, as especially the Ministry of Finance (Postimees, 05.02.2016) seems to be more interested in economic success and earning money for the state rather than spending it for the public services provided by the SFMC.

It was proposed some time ago that the company should be split into two – one part will be dealing only with the sale of timber and other part with provision of other services, incl.



maintenance of recreational areas. Such a development would probably threaten provision of ESBOs related to SFMC activities. Estonian Ministry of Environment did not support this idea and Estonian government has not made any decisions to change the current format of the organisation until now. However, such developments cannot be excluded, especially considering the upcoming Parliament elections (2019) and possible change of Government.

Regardless of organisational format, the most important is to have designated and fixed budget foreseen for providing and maintaining public functions of the state forests (source: interviewee, SFMC).

## **4 Conclusions derived from analysis in Steps 1 and 2**

### **4.1 Key findings on the particular SES and its potentials**

This case is an example of well-functioning state directed action where profit from the sale of timber (through sustainable forestry) is combined with provision of public functions of the forest like recreation/education/health, landscape character and cultural heritage and biodiversity, and indirectly also to rural vitality. Based on requirement of Forest Law (SFMC must ensure the provision of public functions of the state forest), clear decision is made by the state that some of the profit earned by state-owned forest company will be every year directed to provision of ESBOs.

The provision level (quantity and quality) of key ESBOs related to the CS is already high and the service is appreciated by the society: people's interest to use the facilities provided increase constantly. For the successful continuation of the system, the key is to provide the stable financial support /budget and clear responsibility to provide public functions – even the organisational structure might change in the future.

People's awareness about the ESBOs provided by this case have increased significantly over the period thanks to educational activities provided together with recreation opportunities. Especially the health and well-being function of forests can be further promoted and this would increase also the level of the provision of ESBOs.

### **4.2 Governance arrangements and institutional frameworks**

Institutional framework and governance is working very well in this case, factors enabling this consist of clear obligations resulting from the national law (Forest Act) and also clear political consensus and decision to target income earned by the state-owned company directly for provision of ESBOs.

The only threat to the governance would be change of political thinking and pressure on the state budget in order to decrease financial support for provision of public functions related to state forest and focus geared towards sale of timber and economic income related to this. There have been discussions about the future of this unique form of organisation (state-owned profit making company) and possible split into two companies/organisations (forestry and timber sale/public services) has been mentioned. However, it is very unlikely that the provision of public function of the forests will be negatively affected through these possible changes as societal need is very high for these services and there is common understanding on that.



There is no influence of CAP reform as this CS approach is not related to agriculture. Other EU policies (regional development policy, cohesion policy) are influencing the investments into the infrastructure (only on protected areas) and are important, but not essential for the functioning of the system as such.

Possible changes in EU environmental policy towards increasing the area of strictly protected forests would decrease the possibilities to provide public functions of the state forest, but there is no indication that such developments are planned neither in relation to other policies like climate change mitigation (and related restrictions on cutting).

#### **4.3 Other enabling or limiting factors**

This CS is completely public initiative led by state-owned company although private actors are indirectly involved as providers of construction works of visitors` infrastructure and other services, but not as a part of decision-making process and directing of activities whereby ESBOs are provided. Provision of ESBOs in this case is influenced by wider macro-issues like economic situation of forest sector (influencing the amount of finances targeted to ESBO provision) and overall state economy (influencing the state interest to invest into providing public goods and the willingness and possibilities of people to pay attention to recreation, health and other similar aspects.)

#### **4.4 Reflections on the case study methodology used and potential improvements**

Although it was rather difficult to build contacts with representatives of the SFMC (no previous contacts), communication was finally constructive and gave very valuable information and insight about the organisation central to the case study.

Ostrom`s SES approach is difficult to implement in the case descriptions. It divides the system artificially into arbitrary parts (e.g. resource system and resource units should not be divided as they are one complex). The link between ESBOs and their role in the SES framework seems rather too marginal. The ESBOs are central and it was a challenge to detail the outputs/results/impacts of action within the system description.

The whole SES approach is based on the assumption that a certain geographical area is analysed, but the current CS was not directly related to a certain geographical area.

It was also difficult to find the right balance of information that should be provided for Steps 1-2 and for the steps 3-4.

### **5 Research and action mandate for Steps 3 and 4**

#### **5.1 Agreed objectives of activities to be undertaken with initiative/stakeholders**

Stakeholders are willing to provide additional information and data, if needed. SFMC is preparing detailed report on visitor`s survey conducted in 2015 which will be made available to give valuable information about visitor`s feedback and expectations etc.

If CS will continue in steps 3 and 4, more insight from outside the system would be appropriate, especially in order to explore more in detail issues and questions like:



- 1) impacts and relations of the approach of second order on rural vitality and local economy, how to deepen the possible synergy with local businesses;
- 2) more detailed study of perception and appreciation of PGs like biodiversity and landscape in relation of public functions of state forests.

## 5.2 Innovations, impact, transferability, potential risks and research bias

This CS approach is working very well and providing high level of various ESBOs – even not particularly innovative or depending on common action. CS shows that public initiative does not need to be inevitably based on expensive support system and spending of huge amount of public money, but it is possible successfully to combine inside one system earning of income and targeting certain amounts of profit stably and continuously for providing public benefits.

However, the system would be rather difficult to replicate to another situations/countries because of the natural conditions, state forestry governance system etc. and thus the potential of continuing the work in steps 3 and 4 would not be the priority.

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11. State Forest management Centre (2016) Annual Report 2015. State Forest Management Centre, Tallinn. [https://media.voog.com/0000/0004/9218/files/RMK\\_AR\\_ENG\\_2015\\_FINAL.pdf](https://media.voog.com/0000/0004/9218/files/RMK_AR_ENG_2015_FINAL.pdf).

### **Websites**

[www.rmk.ee](http://www.rmk.ee)

<http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/en>



## 7 ANNEX

### 7.1 Documentation of research and action progress

**Table 1:** Overview of interviewees

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Area of expertise</b>
1.	State Forest Management Centre	Head of division
2.	State Forest Management Centre	Head on nature centre
3.	State Forest Management Centre	specialist
4.	Visitor of SFMC recreation area	
5.	Local people (x2)	

### 7.2 Photos from areas managed by SFMC

**Campfire site of SFMC. Photo: Argo Peepson**



**Hiking trail of SFMC. Photo: SFMC**



**Campfire and camping site of SFMC. Photos: Merit Mikk**





### 7.3 Supporting data and statistics

12. SFMC hiking routes, maps: <http://www.loodusegakoos.ee/en>.
13. SFMC Annual reports: <http://rmk.ee/organisation/publications-by-rmk/annual-reports-of-rmk>.
14. SFMC Environmental Reports: <http://rmk.ee/organisation/publications-by-rmk/environmental-reports>.
15. Forest resources and biodiversity. Statistical Office of Estonia: [http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/I\\_Databas/Environment/databasetree.asp](http://pub.stat.ee/px-web.2001/I_Databas/Environment/databasetree.asp).
16. Environmental Monitoring: <http://seire.keskkonnainfo.ee>.
17. Enterprise Estonia. Tourism overviews: <https://www.puhkaeestis.ee/et/uuringud-ja-ulevaated/uuringud-eestis-2007-2014#1387>.