MAKING FOREST POLICY WORK

Making Forest Policy Work. Alastair I. Fraser. Forestry Sciences vol. 73, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht 2002, 296 pages, price 79 GBP, or 135 Euro, ISBN1-4020-1088-5

The book **Making Forest Policy Work** is a practically oriented publication which is based on a number of case studies elaborated in economically and forestry developed and developing countries. It also comprises very rich practical experiences of the author's work in FAO and the International Forest Science Consultancy. The structure of the book corresponds to the theoretical basis of policy analysis. The author uses phases of policy cycle: formulation, implementation, evaluation, revision and reformulation as a principal frame for his book. The successfulness of forest policy in individual phases of the political cycle is a dependent variable and the properties of the political system (policy) and the political processes (politics) are explanatory variables. He understands forest policy as a means for solving conflicts between different stakeholders. State measures in forestry are analysed from the viewpoint of the government and the state administration. The stakeholders (state administration, interest associations, donations) create a part of political system, however without deeper analysis of the factors of their formal and informal political potential.

The introduction of the book proves that forest policy shifts from the classical political issues to the present issues such as the biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The main areas of forest policy – forest resource management, fiscal policy, conservation policy, biodiversity policy, energy policy, land-use policy, and distribution policy are very clearly and evidently analysed with the use of examples from different countries. Based on the theory of economic policy, the characteristics of the main areas of forest policy, the programs and objectives of forest policy and their economic substantiation, stakeholders, and the solutions through the instruments of forest policy are described. The author identifies four groups of countries classified according to the successfulness of forest policy implementation. The main

reasons of unsuccessful forest policy are derived from these case studies. Institutional failures and implementation failures were identified as the main factors for unsuccessfulness of state measures in forestry. The negatives of using the regulative and accessory information instruments of forest policy are emphasised. Market failure in the case of externalities is considered an unfavourable factor for forest policy implementation and, at the same time, a reason for the state intervention. A synthesis of the case studies of implementation research includes the identification of factors favourably influencing the formulation and implementation of forest policy. Political will, clarity of policy statements, participation of stakeholders, support for policy objectives, process of policy formulation and instruments used to support policy are determined results from the implementation studies. Subsequently, within the synthesis of case studies, an emphasis is upon the quality process of formulation of forest policy, starting with the definition of objectives, through the elaboration of alternatives, analysis of stakeholders, preparation of implementation, and gaining support, to the definition of the particular instruments of forest policy and their implementation. Didactically very effectively, the author uses best practice from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. In the conclusion, the book provides an overview of the most important factors for the revision and reformulation of forest policy and thus proving the thesis for the introduction part that forest policy issues are influenced by essential changes in time period.

The book **Making Forest Policy Work** is didactically very comprehensible and, using illustrative examples, it provides a very well composed introduction to the issues of forest policy for students and forest policy experts.

Jaroslav Šálka (Zvolen, Slovakia)