

STSM Report

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STSM reference: FP1201

Title: *Transposition of
Natura 2000 directives into forestry of Croatia*

Working group: *WG3*

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Period: *1.7.2013 – 31.7.2013.*

Abstract

The purpose of the STSM was to explore the role of the representatives of private forestry in the transposition of Natura 2000 to Croatian forestry, which was formalized in a working group. Analysis indicates that representatives of private forestry were not prepared to engage in the discussions of the working group, did not have adequate knowledge on Natura 2000 and were marginalized from the coordination of interests of forestry. Report ends with preliminary conclusions on procedural design which might improve perceptions of outcome justice.

Purpose of the STSM

The purpose of the STSM was to analyze the data acquired by following the progress of the working group on Natura 2000 in forestry of Croatia. The analysis focused on the activities of the representatives of private forestry, and on the activities of other members of the working group which acted in relation to private forestry

Description of the work carried out during the STSM;

Three types of data were collected: quantitative data from questionnaires and from non-participant observation of the meetings of the working group, and qualitative data obtained by interviewing members of the working group. As a confirmation of the external validity of the data on individual level, data on strategic relations between organizations that had their members in the working group was gathered.

Social network analysis was performed on quantitative data, while inductive theorizing based on sensitized grounded theory (Charmaz, 2006) was performed on qualitative data.

Description of the main results obtained;

Interpersonal relations are analyzed through interpersonal influence, operationalized as salience and visibility of alter's opinion on ego (Friedkin, 1993). Representatives of private forestry associations in the beginning of discussions had a negative ratio of out and in-degree centrality, while by the end of the working group they had balanced out-degrees and in-degrees; although relative value of out-degree was in the lower third of the range. This indicates that although at the beginning they were unfamiliar and "outsiders" to the formal setting of this policy formulation, by the end of the talks they were able to position themselves as an equal partner to the other disputants. Similar results were obtained from following the frequencies in dyadic communication, but with the difference that their $\beta+$ centralities were much higher than their $\beta-$ centrality. This indicated that the strategy they used to improve their position in the working group was to appeal to as much as central alter as it was possible.

The factions and the structural equivalence routines have grouped together representatives of private forestry association with the members of the Forest extension service (FES), indicating that the cooperation that should exist between their organizations was replicated at the working group. However, it was also observed that the majority of interaction that the members of the private forestry had was with other members of the forestry sector. This tendency is against the central tendency of increasing interaction between the members of the forestry and the nature protection sector, indicating that the members of the private forestry were not experienced in formal settings of policy formulation, and that their activity was not directly related to expressing their opinions to the overall group. These changes can be seen at the two subsequent figures, where representatives of private forestry (APFOA1 and CUPFOA1) are relatively marginalized in the lower left corner of the first figure which represents interpersonal influence relations at time 1. The squares represent the actors from forestry sector, and the triangles represent the actors from the nature protection sector. The color of line represents the strength of a tie. It can also be seen that CUPFOA1 and APFOA1 are relatively far apart from FES1, indicating that their joint grouping was based more on the similarities of their ties to other, than it was based on the strength of ties between them.

On the second figure it can be seen that only APFOA1 has remained in the process until the end, and while now he has more strong outgoing ties, they are related just to other actors within the forestry sector that in most cases have themselves just ties within the forestry sector. This indicates that in order to have the claims of private forestry in the

working group heard, they must have used others as their representatives, namely CF1 and MDF2 to which APFOA1 had strong ties to. However, when interviewed, the respondents from private forestry associations claimed that the representatives of the Ministry of agriculture (MDF) and the state forest management company (CF) do not represent interest of private forestry. This is in contradiction to the responses from the members of the Ministry of agriculture and the state forest management company.

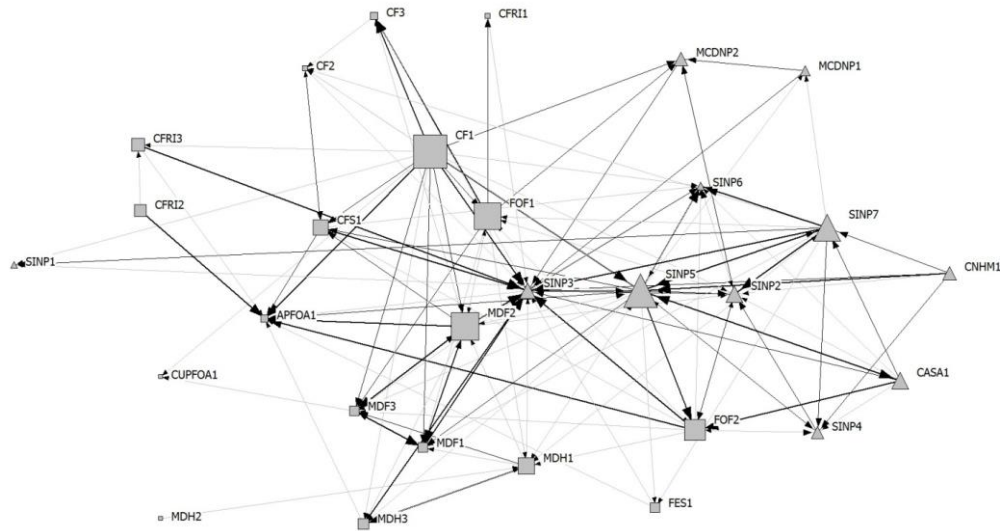


Figure 1. Interpersonal influence relations at time 1

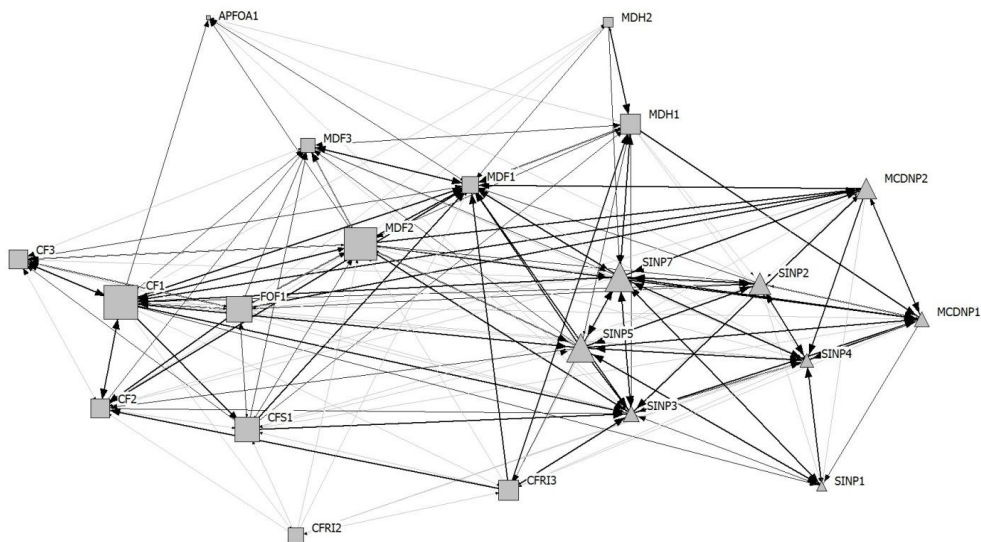


Figure 2. Interpersonal influences at time 2

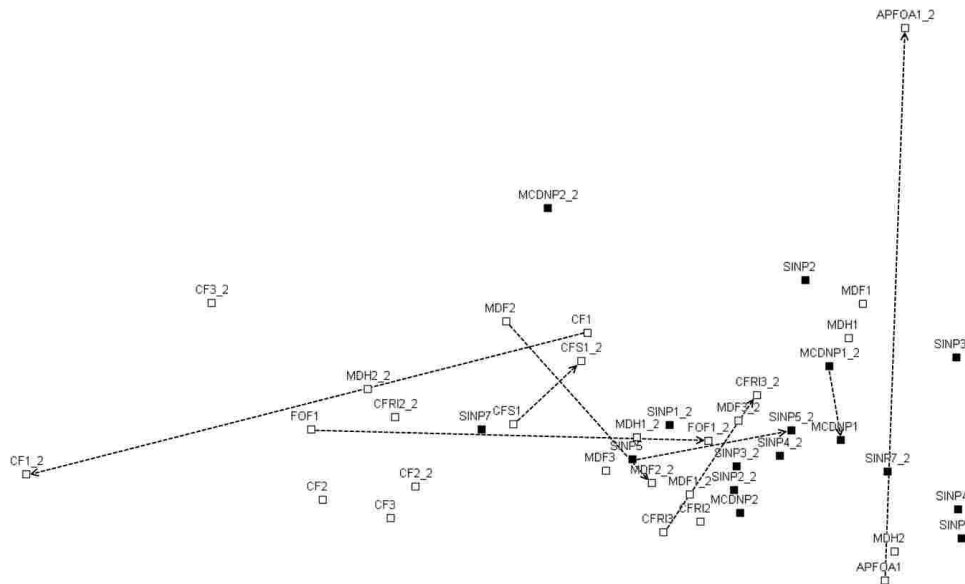


Figure 3. Correspondence analysis of time 1 and time 2

Structural changes between time 1 and time 2 are presented at Figure 3 by correspondence analysis, where distances among actors represent the similarity of their ties to other actors, and the positioning of nodes marks the central tendencies of changes from time 1 to time 2 (figure is not centred). Actors in the second wave are presented by labels ending with `_2`. Black squares mark the actors from the nature protection sector, while white squares represent actors from the forestry sector. Lines present change from time 1 to time 2 for senior actors. It can be seen that majority of seniors is coming closer to each other, indicating increase in homophily of relations, which is related to the increase in the cohesion of the group. The only two seniors that are diverging from that trend are the seniors from private forestry associations (APFOA1) and state forest management company (CF1), which are also representatives of typically stake-holding organizations. This change also reflects the notion that the more experienced administrative and science-oriented actors were in the focus of homogenized discussion, while the more stake-holding actors were put aside. This is especially evident for actor CF1, who had the most prominent role at time 1.

Explanation of these diverging trends can be found in the fact that according to the rulings of the European Court of Justice (EC, 2006) the choice of nationally designated areas

must be based on scientific criteria. This type of discourse marginalizes the representation of interest of the more stake-holding oriented actors. Both the actors FOF1 and MDF2 who had strong ties to representatives of the forestry sector replied in the interviews that their strategy for representing the interest of private forestry was to identify adequate forest habitat sites in state owned forests that could replace the designated sites located in private ownership. Their general position toward Natura 2000 was that it will bring economic losses to forestry. This was however contrasted to the position of private forestry representatives, who saw an opportunity for forest management subventions. This divergence in standpoint is caused by misbalance of information on Natura 2000, which was more abundant at the representatives of the Ministry of agriculture. Interviews also revealed that prior coordination of forestry representatives before the meeting most frequently did not include representatives of private forestry.

These findings suggest that the Ministry of agriculture was representing the interest of private forestry but without adequate coordination with the private forestry, who due to the lack of knowledge could not identify their true interest, and that would be to refrain from designation of Natura 2000 areas in privately owned forests. This issue, along with the subsequent marginalization of “more stakeholder oriented” actors could be resolved by strengthened coordination between all forestry representatives of the working group, and by providing adequate knowledge on Natura 2000 before the meetings began. This short overview of research showed that although basic elements of procedural justice were followed, the lack of adequate design of the policy setting has systematically hampered the favourable perception of outcome justice of this policy formulation process.

Future collaboration with host institution

The purpose of the STSM was also to strengthen the ties between the University of Freiburg and Croatian Forest research Institute. Planned future collaboration includes joint application to competitive project calls on the topics tackled in the STSM.

Foreseen publications/articles resulting or to result from the STSM

Publication in journal related to forest policy are foreseen to stem from the results of the STSM. The title of the STSM would correspond to the title of the future paper.

References

Charmaz, K. (2006). *Constructing Grounded Theory. A practical guide through Qualitative Analysis*. London, Sage publications, Ltd.

EC, 2006. *Nature and Biodiversity Cases - Ruling of the European Court of Justice*. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (Luxembourg). http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/others/ecj_rulings_en.pdf. Accessed on 19.7.2013

Friedkin, N.E. (1993). *Structural Bases of Interpersonal Influence in Groups: A Longitudinal Case Study*. *American Sociological Review* 58: 861-872

Appendix 1. Letter of confirmation by the Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, Albert Ludwig University (Freiburg, Germany), of the successful execution of STSM.