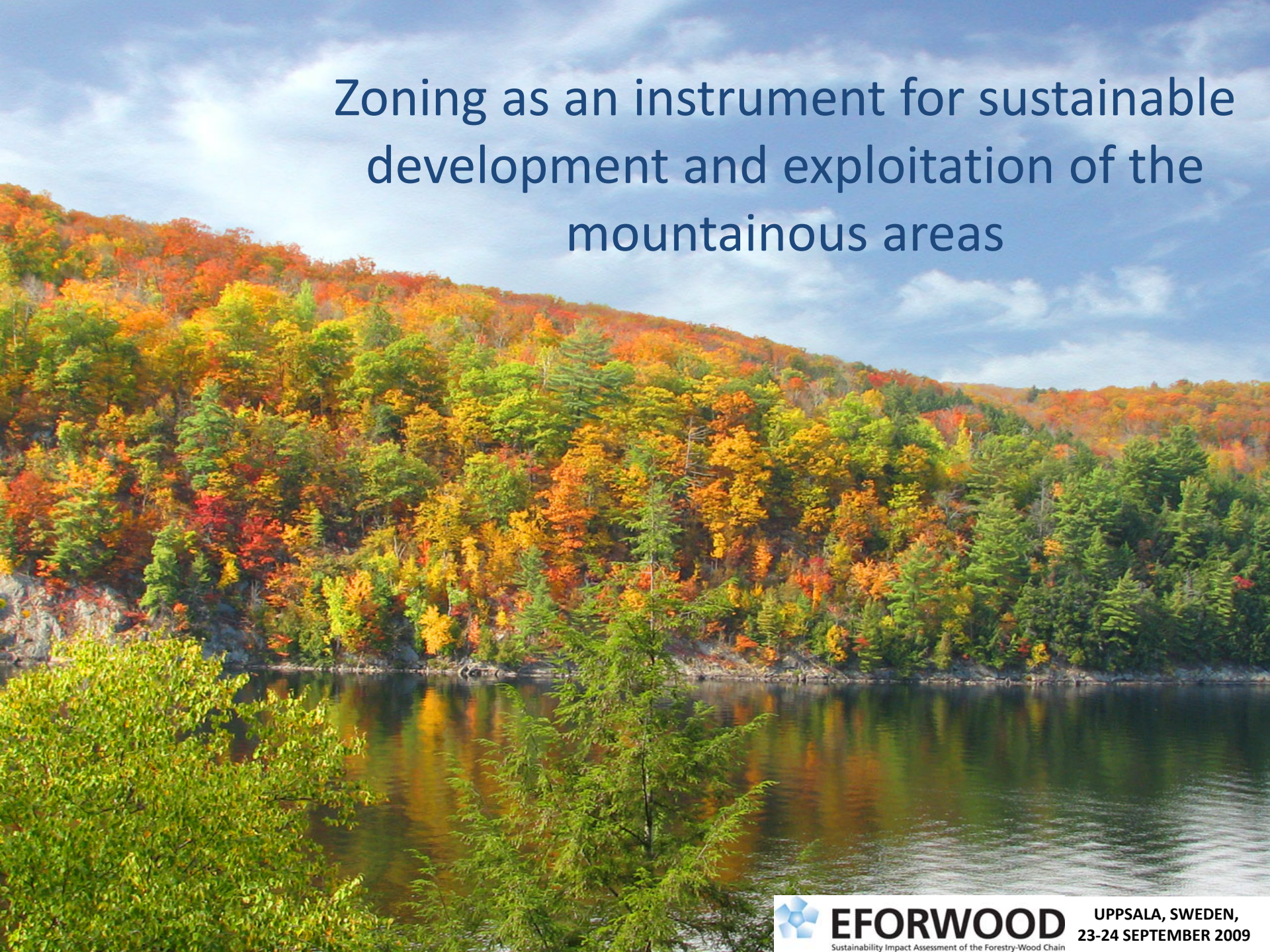
Zoning as an instrument for sustainable development and exploitation of the mountainous areas



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Introduction

The development of mountainous areas is correlated with the development of human impact on them, since any kind of economical development is usually also characterized by unfavorable environmental impacts.

Introduction

The objective of this study is the specification of strategic directions for an integrated development of mountainous areas through global measures in relation to zoning policies and also proposals regarding specialized production activities, according to a proper typology that characterises the differentiation of regional problems, needs and perspectives.

Detecting Problems and Evaluating Potentialities

Mountainous areas are a quantitatively and environmentally significant part of the country, occupying 65% of the total territory of national land, while only 13% of the total population inhabits these areas. Moreover, mountainous areas appear to have the lowest denseness of population and the highest denseness per 100 km^2 compared with all the country's regions. Respectively, in EU mountainous regions occupy 28% of its territory, while 8.5% of the European population inhabits there.

Detecting Problems and Evaluating Potentialities

The peculiarity, but also the homogeneity of the problems that are detected in country's mountainous areas, consists of:

☞The traditional spatial composition, as expanded remote – unapproachable zones which historically, due to the geographic relif and the distance from the central developmental axis of the country and the networks of the infrastructure and transportation, have developed defective and peripheral features,

☞As well as the productive reformation that is conduced during the devolvement from the manufacture economies to service economies. Greek mountain space faces a series of problems of structural nature.

Strategic Directions and Policy Measures

The strategic directions on the integrated development of mountainous regions and mountainous volumes especially through a specific zoning platform; the obtaining of funds that are according to its natural-functional space; the economical utilization of huge infrastructure projects that rehabilitate on a national level their unequal approachability; the elevation and promotion of the opulent natural and cultural environment; finally, the establishment of new administration authorities for mountain spaces.

Strategic Directions and Policy Measures

More specifically, a framework of general strategic directions of spatial development is described below:

- **Complete development of mountainous volumes elevation and utilization of the regional comparative advantages and in parallel their supplemental correlation with the broader economical-functional space of each periphery.**
- **Ensuring of the terms for overcoming the isolation of mountainous volume.**
- **Adjustment of the economy of the mountainous areas with the Communal and International process, with appropriate reformation and modernization of utilization and enterprises and the effective promotion and application of new technologies, the organizational support and motivation.**

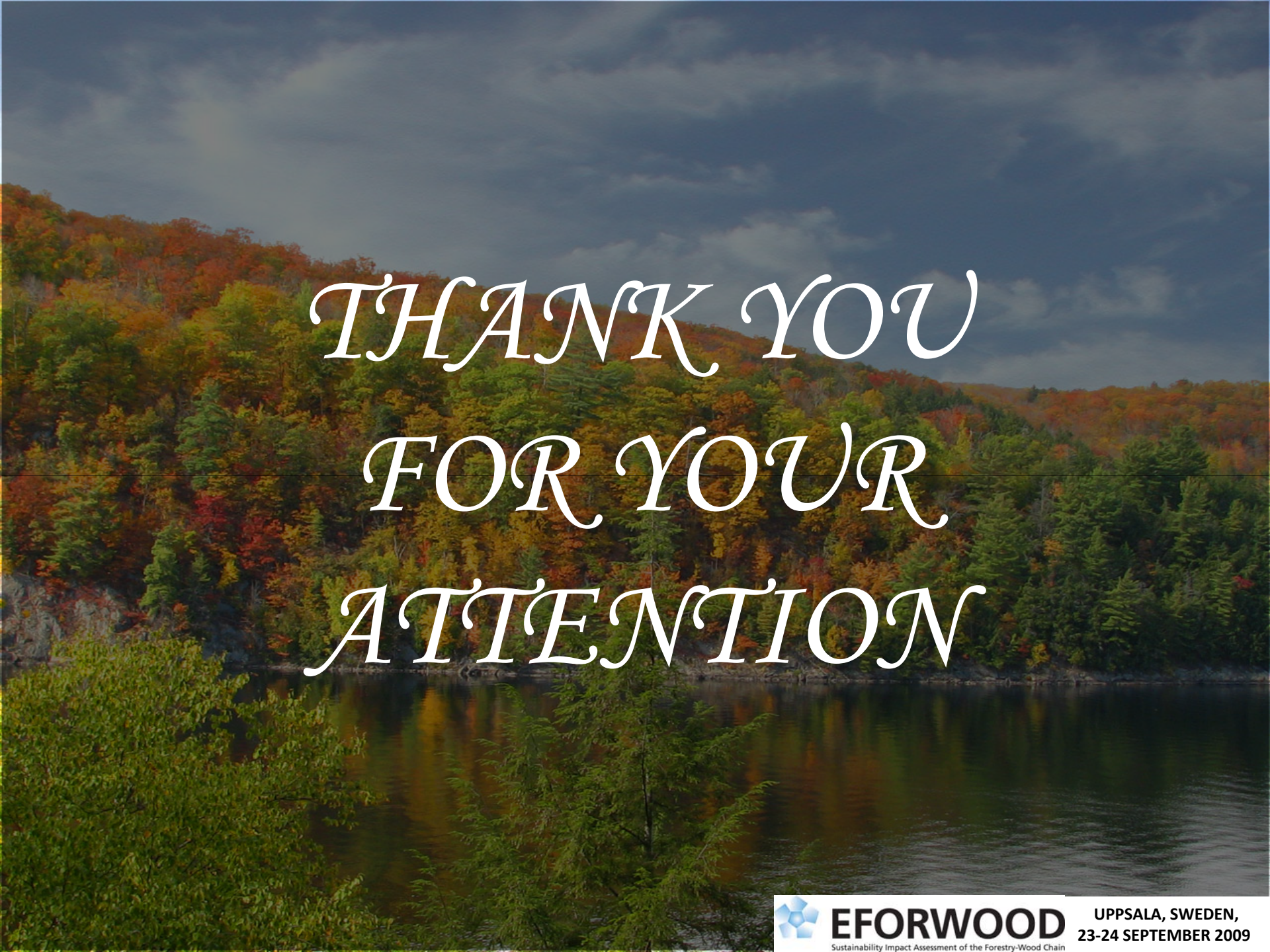
Strategic Directions and Policy Measures

- **Increase of the attractiveness of mountainous areas as places for obtaining relevant funds, and economical activities implementation, considering also the competitive conditions, the perspectives and proceedings in the European Union and in other countries of imminent and broader environment.**
- **Preservation of the landscape, the virgin forests and the forest lands, the environmental peculiarities and the cultural resources as crucial natural advantages that characterize the mountainous volumes.**
- **Utilization – activation of the existing authorities of protection and development along with creation of new administrational authorities on a corporative basis, intending the unified and integrate administration of the mountainous areas.**

Strategic Directions and Policy Measures

Finally, there is the crucial question, which the structure of zoning will be. Since zoning of mountainous areas should be occupied, in the framework of an organic and flexible plan for land use, with ensuring the cultivable land, the hydrologic network, forests and forest lands, traditional-cultural heritage and area development in the framework of preserving the compatibility with the environment. According to the above, zoning development of mountainous areas should be consistent of:

1. Geographical position, borders and extend of the study area.
2. Description of the existing conditions of the natural or ecological environment.
- Topographical, edaphically, geologic and petrographical elements.
- Flora-fauna – biotopes – climatologic elements.
- Raw material, sanative sources and natural energy resources.
3. Description of the existing conditions of human environment.
- Ownership.
- Population evolvement.
- Economical status.
- Current activities.
4. Description of the existing situation of the artificial environment.
- Service networks, buildings etc.
- Transportation and opening up.
5. Description of the existing condition of the cultural environment.
- Historical – traditional – cultural elements.
6. Potentialities and perspectives for development – targets.
- Pursued developmental type, activities that have to be developed and developmental target.
- Infrastructure works.
- Activities and interventions required for promoting the forest area to a natural, cultural and tourist pole of the country.
7. Works suggestions – land uses.
8. Techno-financial elements.
9. Environmental compatibility control with the environment.
10. Implementation of the development authorities – legislative framework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