



ENPI FLEG

Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia



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www.enpi-fleg.ge www.enpi-fleg.org

Editorial

We love to enjoy our beautiful and healthy forests, but we forget that we also should take care of it... We depend on our surrounding resources for subsistence aspects in our daily life; we base many economic activities on natural resources, but while using nature, we always think "it is not me who damages it, but someone else" and this way we fail to take our responsibility towards forests.

Every time we walk in forests to enjoy nature, or to use its resources, we should remember Mahatma Gandhi's saying: "What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."

Let's appreciate the real value of our forest, and let's keep it safe...

ENPI FLEG Program News

SECOND PHASE OF ENPI FLEG PROGRAM WILL BE LAUNCHED IN THE NEAREST FUTURE



This statement was made by Martin Kaspar, the European Commission's Program manager at the roundtable "The role of FLEG in the development of the forest sector: the country and regional aspects". This event was organized by the Russian Federal Forestry Agency (Rosleskhoz) and the World Bank under the financial support of the European Commission (European Union – EU) in the framework of the 6th "Forest and Man" International forum held in Moscow. Martin Kaspar assured that the European Commission will do its best to accelerate the ENPI FLEG Phase 2 Program activities launch (end of 2012 – beginning 2013).

The Roundtable was used as a platform to present information on EU Policy implementation related to the EU legislation on timber trade. The meeting participants learned about possible consequences of the policy for the countries which provide timber to the European market. Some time was dedicated to the discussion among FLEG focal points from the ENPI FLEG member states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) on sharing experiences on ENPI FLEG integration into national forest policies; practical implementation of the Program results; role and efficiency of ENPI FLEG Phase 1 regional activities; and the dialogue on these topics at the national, regional and global levels.

Positive outcomes of ENPI FLEG Program are important in the context of introducing issues of sustainable forest governance as a state priority, reformation of the forestry sector, and developing national forest policies. At the level of each individual country there is demand by a broad range of stakeholders to be involved in the processes of diagnostics, improving, investing in institutional development, reliable data collection and monitoring of forestry sector management.

In the framework of the Phase 2 of the Program it is expected to continue cooperation with all stakeholders: ministries and agencies, forest businesses, NGOs and common citizens of ENPI countries. Activities will cover such areas as improving law enforcement in the forest sector, forest management efficiency, counteracting and preventing forest fires, illegal logging, expanding and safeguarding rights of local citizens to access to forest resources and information about forests. All these topics are the structural parts of the FLEG process. The overall Program budget allocated by the EU for Phase 2 will be 9 million Euros. These funds will be provided for the implementing organizations (World Bank, WWF and IUCN) for the work in seven participating countries during approximately four years.



A Forest Landscape Restoration project in three pilot areas in Georgia reveals that villages in higher altitude tend to depend more on forest products. The project was started in January 2012 by IUCN and is funded by the German International Cooperation, GIZ.

In Georgia, forest land occupies just over three million hectares which is about 40% of the country's territory. Forests play an essential role in the economic and social life of the country. People depend on their surrounding resources for subsistence aspects of their daily life – for food, water, fuel, building materials such as timber for house-building, and so on. Many economic activities are also based on natural resources.

One of the purposes of the Forest Landscape Restoration project by IUCN is to define the level and scope of human dependency on forests and identify and evaluate the factors which influence the relationship between people and their natural resource base.

In Georgia, the project is implemented through field surveys among the local population. The pilot sites were selected based on previous work in the framework of the ENPI FLEG Program by IUCN, as well as based on their specific characteristics. Field surveys were carried out in three regions: Village Jebota (Tianeti Municipality), Village Zemo Alvani (Akhmeta Municipality) and Village Tsagveri (Borjomi Municipality). 140 households were interviewed to identify various models and scales of dependency of local population on forest resources.

The field survey revealed the following usage of forest resources by local people:

- The villages located in the low land area, with relatively mild climate and availability of diverse agricultural products are less dependent on forest resources.
- The villages located on a higher altitude, with less arable land and less favorable climatic conditions are more dependent on forest resources.

The dependency on forest resources includes intensive usage of timber forest resources mainly as fire-wood and usage of non-timber forest resources, but in relatively low scales. Natural gas as an alternative energy supply is available in two (out of three) pilot villages, but due to high cost it is used only for cooking. The main source for heating remains fire-wood.

For more information please, contact Marika Kavtarishvili: marika.kavtarishvili@iucn.org

VOLUNTARY FOREST CERTIFICATION IN THE CAUCASUS: A WORKSHOP



The “Regional Workshop on Voluntary Forest Certification and Sustainable Forest Management Standards” was held in Batumi, Georgia, on 23-24 May 2012 and was attended by about 45 representatives from government structures, NGOs and the private sector of the countries located in the Southern Caucasus and neighboring regions.

Questions on the merits of voluntary forest certification for sustainable forest management were raised by experts. Evidence shows that hundreds of millions of hectares of forests have already been certified across the globe under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and other schemes. Unfortunately, so

far no certified forests exist in the Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia).

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To exchange information about voluntary forest certification related to the participants' countries;
- To identify the initial steps towards supporting initiation of voluntary forest certification process in the Southern Caucasus.

The outcomes of the workshop contribute to the improvement of international collaboration and knowledge-sharing in the field of forest certification and sustainable management. The workshop report is available at:

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FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING AT WWF-CAUCASUS PROGRAMME OFFICE



On May 18th 2012 WWF-Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-CauPO) conducted an expert meeting to discuss recommendations on sustainable and integrated forest management planning based on zoning of forest functions at the local (forestry unit) level.

The recommendations come as a result from a research carried out at a pilot site located in the Chokhatauri Municipality in the south western part of Georgia, within the Ecological Corridor of West Lesser Caucasus (identified within the framework of the Ecoregional Conservation Plan for the Caucasus [2011]).

Recommendations include taking into account the importance of the socio-economic needs of the local population. To address these needs, the collection and processing of non-wood forest products should be promoted in the area. The implementation of these and other recommendations would contribute to the achievement of Result 7 of the ENA FLEG Program: Sustainable forest management practices implemented. Furthermore, a protected area for the conservation of the Pontic oak, a Tertiary relict tree species in Georgia, will be established.

"The Recommendations on Functional Zoning of Forests and Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management Planning on the Example of Chokhatauri Forestry Unit" is available at:

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PROMOTING FOREST-BASED BEEKEEPING IN SOUTH WESTERN GEORGIA



Between March and June 2012, WWF-Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-CauPO) conducted a campaign on the promotion of beekeeping in Machakhela Gorge, Adjara Autonomous Republic, in south western Georgia.

The successful promotion of the beekeeping business would significantly increase the income of local households, and this would eventually reduce pressure on wood resources. In addition, there have been good traditions in beekeeping in the surrounding villages, which create a favorable environment for exchanging information and experience.

The pilot sites were located in the villages of Zeda Chkhutuneti, Kokoleti and Chikuneti in Mahcakhela Gorge, bordering with Turkey. These villages were selected because of their proximity to the Turkish border. The aim was to promote cooperation with the Camili Biosphere Reserve on the Turkish side, particularly after the establishment of a protected area in Machakhela Gorge on the Georgian side.

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PILOT PROJECTS FROM GEORGIA DISCUSSED DURING THE CBD SUBREGIONAL WORKSHOP



The Convention on Biological Diversity subregional workshop for Eastern Europe and Central Asia on “Valuation and Incentive Measures” was organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, UNEP and IUCN and held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 29-31 May 2012.

Ekaterine Otarashvili, IUCN ENPI FLEG Programme Coordinator in Georgia, presented a case study as part of the session on “Addressing incentives harmful for biodiversity”. The presentation was based on the results and lessons learned from the implementation of pilot projects in forest dependent rural communities in Georgia.

The projects were developed following the study “Assessment of

the economic and social impact of unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging on the rural population of Georgia”, conducted by Vasil Gulisashvili Forest Institute.

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Environmental News in Georgia

POLICY AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE REASSIGNED AS THE REORGANIZATION WITHIN GEORGIAN GOVERNMENT IS ONGOING

On November 29, 2012 the newly assigned Minister of Environment Protection of Georgia, Mrs. Khatuna Gogaladze met the representatives of the Georgian non-governmental sector. The aim of the meeting was to present the planned institutional changes within the Government and the draft amendments to different laws.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Parliamentary Committee on Environment Protection, as well as different stakeholders from non-governmental sector, universities and scientific institutions.

The meeting started with the discussion of planned changes within the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment.

According to the proposed changes, the current Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, both will be re-organized. The current Ministry of Environment Protection, which will be renamed as the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection will be given the functions of the current Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources concerning implementation of the policy related to management and usage of natural resources (except gas and oil), regulation of nuclear and radiation activities, preparation of relevant laws and adoption of sub-laws. The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will be called the Ministry of Energy and will be deprived of functions concerning the management of natural resources. The legal entity under public law (LEPL) Natural Resources Agency, which is currently under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, will also be reorganized: the LEPL Forestry Agency under the new Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection will be created as a successor of the Natural Resources Agency in all issues related to management of Georgia's Forest Fund.

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THE LOCAL POPULATION OF GEZRULI VILLAGE PROTESTS AGAINST FOREST LOGGING

Source: Ministry of Environment of Georgia

The Minister of Environment, Mrs. Khatuna Gogaladze, the first Deputy-Minister Mrs. Nino Sharashidze and the representative from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources visited the village Gezruli in Chiatura municipality to get an overview of existing problems.



The local population of Gezruli village is protesting against forest cutting. According to the locals, the licence holder company "Wood Export Ltd" is carrying out illegal logging on 1,000 hectare area.

THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY GIVES NATURAL RESOURCES BACK TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

By: Kristina Karchkhadze, News press

According to the draft budget for the next year, financing for the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will be cut by 170 million Georgian Lari. This statement was made by the Minister of Finance Mr. Nodar Khaduri during the final discussion on the draft State Budget at the financial committee of the Parliament.

Besides reducing the funding, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources will lose responsibility over natural resources which will be transferred to the Ministry of Environment Protection.

"We have to allocate additional investments in order to re-establish the Environment Protection Inspectorate that has been abolished before. The Inspectorate will control those processes, that can damage the environment" – said Mr. Khaduri

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OF GEORGIA – ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT 4 YEAR STATISTICS

Beginning of this year Aarhus Centre Georgia disseminated statistics on revealed violations of environmental legislation in Georgia for the period of 2008 to 2011.

Statistics include numbers of revealed cases of violations of environmental legislation by regions of Georgia and by environmental fields, including violations of the legislation on flora and forest.

According to the given data there is a tendency of increasing violations of environmental legislation in Georgia during the recent four years (from 2,953 cases in 2008 to 5,499 in 2011). During the period of 2008-2010 years violations of the legislation on flora and forest also increased (from 1,678 in 2008 up to 2,857 in 2010). As for the 2011, despite of the general tendency of increasing numbers of the revealed violations in the environmental field, violations of the legislation on flora and forest have decreased in 2011 (1,584 cases).

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Legislation

CHANGES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN THE WOOD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Today, the Ministry of the Energy and Natural Resources, legal entity under public law (LEPL) "Agency of Natural Resources" employees introduced changes to Khashuri inhabitants.

The meeting was attended by the licensees and foresters.

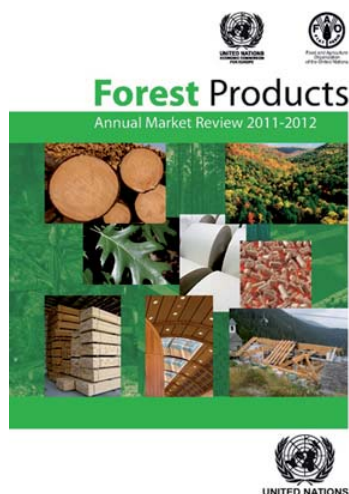
According to the undertaken changes, the Wood Origin Document was abolished, as was the obligation of cutting the firewood bandrupts to 1 meter, material log marking, saw-mill factory registration and making corresponding electronic accountancy, the wood preparation ticket action deadline has been changed from 2 months to 1 year.

In addition, it is possible that as a result of the social cutting wood produced to be used in commercial goals.

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International News

FOREST PRODUCTS ANNUAL MARKET REVIEW, 2011-2012



Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper 30, ECE/TIM/SP/30

The UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2011-2012 provides general and statistical information on forest products markets in 2011 and early 2012 in the UN Economic Commission for Europe region (Europe, North America and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)

The Review begins with an overview chapter, followed by a description of the economic situation and housing-driven demand for forest products in the region. It then presents the policy implications of market developments in the region.

Market developments in five standard sectors, based on annual country-supplied statistics, are described for wood raw materials, sawn softwood, sawn hardwood, wood-based panels and paper and paperboard.

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THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS



The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, it aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The last World Conservation Congress was held from 6 to 15 September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.

Leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations joined together to discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues.

Effective conservation action cannot be achieved by conservationists alone. The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress is the place to put aside differences and work together to provide the means and mechanisms for good environmental governance, engaging all parts of society to share both responsibilities and the benefits of conservation.

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Publications/ Online resources

VIDEOS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS PREPARED IN GEORGIA

Two 30-second video clips have been prepared in Georgia within the framework of the Program on Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia (ENPI FLEG). The video clips have been produced by WWF Caucasus Programme Office.

For more information and to watch the video clips please follow the link:

About ENPI FLEG Program

The ENPI FLEG Program supports governments of participating countries, civil society and the private sector in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including the prevention of illegal forestry activities. Participating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. This Program is funded by the European Union. www.enpi-fleg.org

Project Partners

European Commission

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Austrian Development Cooperation

The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) supports countries in Africa, Asia and Central America as well as in South Eastern and Eastern Europe in their sustainable social, economic and democratic development. The Foreign Ministry (FMEIA) plans ADC strategies and programmes. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the operational unit of ADC, implements these together with public institutions, non-governmental organisations and enterprises. www.entwicklung.at



World Bank

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. Our mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. www.worldbank.org



IUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. www.iucn.org



WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. www.panda.org



This newsletter was prepared by the IUCN/ ENPI-FLEG team in Georgia. For your comments and feedback please contact: marika.kavtarishvili@ienpi-fleg.org. In order to submit your paper/news please contact marika.kavtarishvili@enpi-fleg.org. In order to unsubscribe please visit <http://www.enpi-fleg.ge>. Archive of newsletters is accessible online at <http://www.enpi-fleg.ge>. Cover photo by M.Kavtarishvili

