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Country presentation, **GEORIGIA**

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EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT EAST COUNTRIES
FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE II PROGRAM

The Program is funded by the European Union and implemented by the World Bank in partnership
with WWF and IUCN



Country priority areas: from 2013 through 2016

1. Improving forest law and policy
2. Improving sustainable forest management
3. Improving sustainable use of forest resources
4. Human resource capacity building
5. Increasing communication/visibility and raising awareness

No change over the implementation period



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Key results for PDO 1

support progress in implementing 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration and commitments to a time-bound action plan to ensure its implementation

- New Forest Code drafted
- National consultations on the draft Code conducted
- Key supporting legislation for enacting Forest Code developed
 - Rules for Forest Use
 - System and Rules for Forest Registry
 - Rules for Forest Protection, Restoration and Tending
- Amendments to the existing national legislation prepared for harmonizing with the new Forest Code
 - Law of Georgia on Fees for Natural Resource Use
 - Code of Administrative Infringements
 - Law of Georgia on Licenses and Permits
 - Law of Georgia on Levying Payment for Licenses and Permits
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the draft Forest Code carried out (ADC)



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Key results for PDO 2

Review or revise forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support sustainable forest management and good forest governance

- Government institutions provided with capacity building to improve management of forest resources:
 - Advice for the development of the national forest education strategy
 - Training modules on forest law enforcement
 - Participation of Government officials in training events
- Forest users trained
 - Training for wood craftsmen in the National Park area
- Understanding and implementing of FLEG principles by forest practitioners:
 - Evaluation of the condition of representative floodplain forests and provision of recommendations
 - Regional-level assessment of the outcomes of scoping studies using The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)
- Media coverage of FLEG issues:
 - social media, radio, TV, printed media



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Key results for PDO 2

Review or revise forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support sustainable forest management and good forest governance

- Promoting a good investment climate for credible private sector operators:
 - Identify potential markets for wood certified in Georgia;
 - Assess voluntary forest certification potential
- Cooperation with forest sector experts from EU member states:
 - Involvement of Italian forest law expert from FAO roster at early stage of developing new Forest Code
 - 8th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference – side event on Eleven years from St. Petersburg Declaration on illegal logging and eight years of ENPI-FLEG: what next?



РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ ПРОГРАММА «ПРАВОПРИМЕНЕНИЕ И УПРАВЛЕНИЕ В ЛЕСНОМ СЕКТОРЕ СТРАН ВОСТОЧНОГО РЕГИОНА ДЕЙСТВИЯ ЕВРОПЕЙСКОГО ИНСТРУМЕНТА СОСЕДСТВА И ПАРТНЕРСТВА»

Программа финансируется Европейским Союзом и реализуется Всемирным Банком в партнерстве с МСОП и WWF



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Key results for PDO 3

test and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and the feasibility of improved forest governance practices at the field level on a pilot basis

- Best practice models for sustainable forest management & involvement of **local communities** in policy development and forest management:
 - Study feasibility of providing alternative livelihoods to forest-dependent communities,
 - Measure the true value of natural resources for community development,
 - Assess sanitary situation forests in protected areas and recommend improvements,
 - Support forest management at local level through development of sustainable multipurpose forest management plans for selected locally managed forests,
 - Facilitate natural regeneration of forest stands in Adjara (ADC),
 - Assist establishment of protected area for conservation of Pontic Oak stand (ADC).
- Support to refining of forest governance techniques:
 - Lawsuit simulation training for lawyers (ADC),
 - on-site simulation training for forest rangers (ADC).

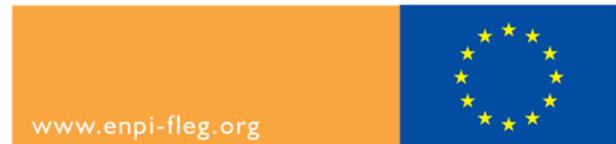


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Key results for PDO 3

test and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and the feasibility of improved forest governance practices at the field level on a pilot basis

- Increasing public awareness and participation:
 - Forest information database GeoPortal for the forests of Georgia,
 - Summer school for children,
 - Children's painting contest,
 - Awareness outdoor events for schoolchildren,
 - International Day of Forests (March 21),
 - International Day of Biodiversity (May 22),
 - Forest week (November)



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Success stories

EU contest of 3 min videos on forest issues:

Some 29 contestants took part in the competition. Two of them decided to showcase FLEG II Program. Second prize was awarded to Ketevan Dzukaeva's film ENPI FLEG II for depicting complex Program objectives by using simple and non-conventional narration.

*Mind your kids and cherish wood -
It's the way to do them good.
If the trees are chopped and gone,
Bare land is left alone,
Wind and sun will take the toll:
Pretty flowers die out all.*



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Success stories

Historic handover: agreement reached in 2006 materialized in 2014. Forests of the Tusheti Protected Landscape given for management to local authority. Decision aimed at finding fine balance between nature conservation and local population.

Challenges:

- Unprecedented institutional set-up for Georgia,
- Multiple stakeholders and interests,
- No clear layout of Protected Landscape Management approach in general,
- Lack of institutional capacity



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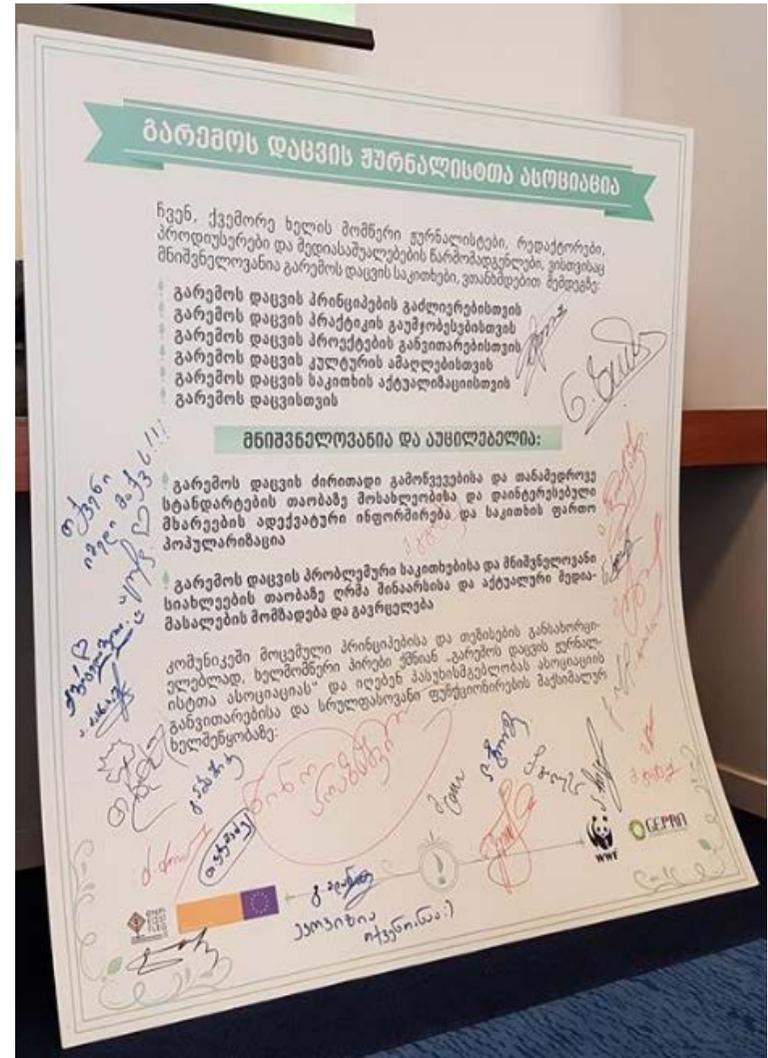


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Exit strategy and sustainability of FLEG II Program

- NPAC practice to be followed under the National Forest Program,
- Draft Forest Code scheduled for Parliament review in the Spring session,
- Good example of transparent public review of environmental legislation set forth and to be followed in future,
- Environmental Information and Education Center: training modules continue to be offered,
- Journalists' association *Media for Environment* established in December 2016,
- Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in forestry sector between Armenia and Georgia awaiting formal clearance for signing



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