



WWF

NEWSLETTER

2014



Pshav-Khevsureti National Park, Georgia. © D. Gogvadze

CAUCASUS ECOREGION NEWSLETTER

Issue **4**

FSC Friday in Armenia

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for CIS Countries and WWF-Armenia in the frames of celebrating the annual **FSC Friday** (26 September 2014) initiated a drawing youth contest “My Native Forest” in Armenia in September 2014. The FSC for CIS Countries organized such contests during 2014 in 6 CIS countries. The main aim of the contest was to visualize native forest of different CIS countries, to show uniqueness of each forest ecosystem and to raise awareness of responsibly managed forest resources among general society. WWF-Armenia participates in the initiative as cooperation in the frames of its forest programs, in particular the European Union (EU) funded **Forest Transformation Project** as well as the **FLEG II Program** funded by the EU and the Austrian Development Cooperation.

Six schools in Armenia were involved in the drawing contest from Northern Armenia, Southern Armenia and Yerevan. The contest participants were pupils between 5th and 8th grade.

The national level contest was finalized with selection of 12 winner drawings. In some schools the selection was organized in the form of events with participation of the drawing participants, school teachers and administrations. Two events were organized jointly with financial support of the EU funded Forest Transformation Project implemented by WWF. The winners and contest participants were awarded with special prizes from WWF-Armenia.

All contest participants received communications materials from WWF-Armenia as well as the postcards and stickers provided by FSC for CIS Countries. The winners will get special prizes also from FSC for CIS Countries. Twelve winner drawings were published in a national level calendar for Armenia. They participated in the final regional contest held in Moscow and two best works from Armenia were selected and printed in the unique FSC CIS Country regional partner calendar for the year 2015.

The initiative was a good chance to remind the society about the value of forests and importance of responsible forest management. This was the first opportunity for WWF-Armenia to collaborate with FSC for CIS Countries in the frames of international initiative which can develop further.

For additional information please contact:
Gera Voskanyan, WWF-Armenia
gvoskanyan@wwfcaucasus.org



© WWF - Armenia

TEEB Scoping Study and FSC in Azerbaijan

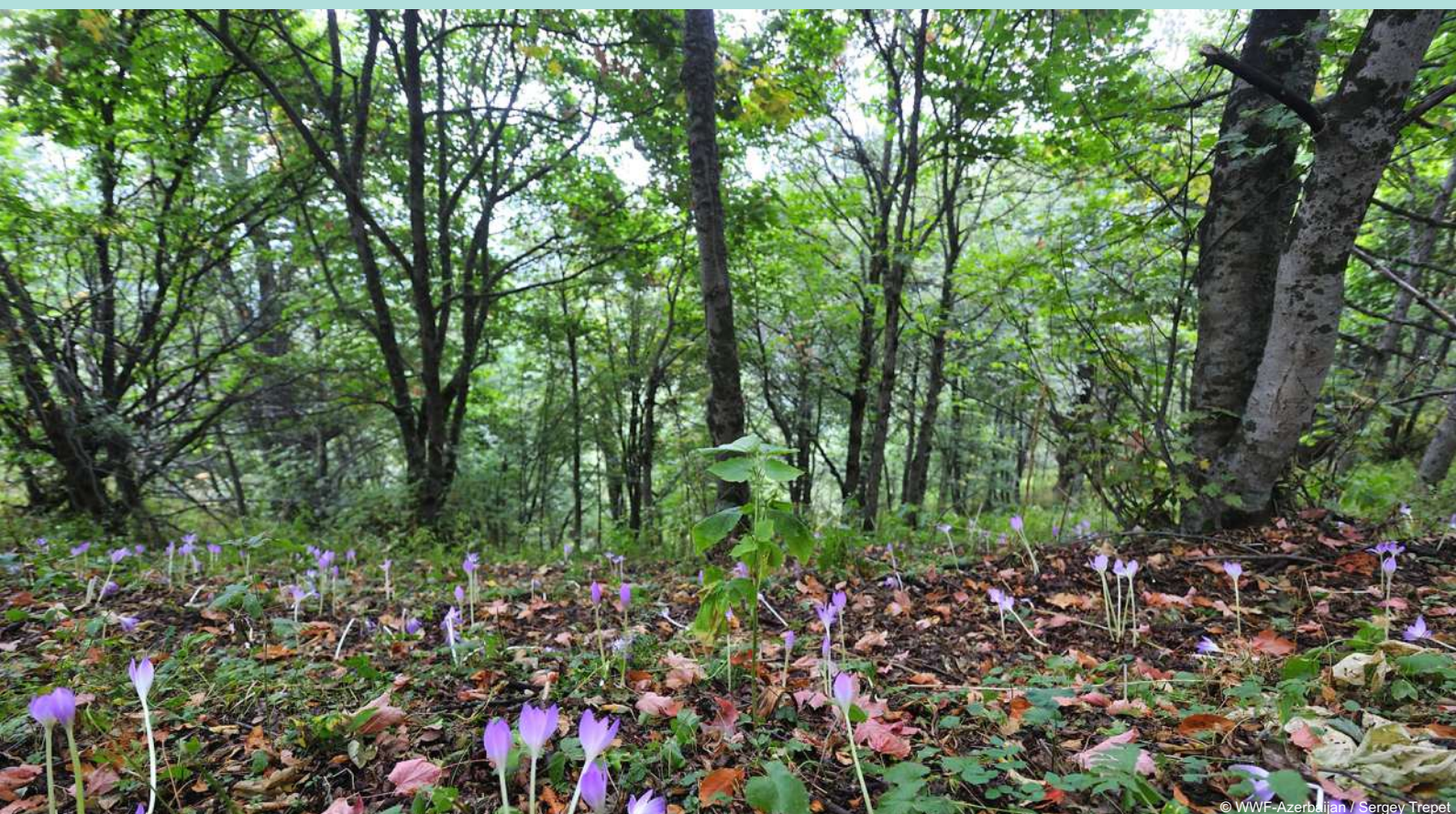
The FLEG II Program announces the closure of works over the TEEB scoping study and analysis of the Voluntary Forest Certification Potential in Azerbaijan. Respective reports have been delivered by the consultants to the Program's in-country and regional management.

The activities were supervised and managed by the WWF Azerbaijan. In August this year the organization conducted the special stakeholders' meeting with the participation of the key ministries and NGOs. The idea was to discuss the first draft of the analysis produced by the Consultants. All suggestions and remarks were considered while developing the final drafts of the reports.

The TEEB scoping study final report includes a preliminary analysis of the ecosystem services provided by the Azerbaijani forestland. The country considers forests as one of its most valuable natural resources. The total area of forests and scrublands in Azerbaijan is more than 860,000 ha (11, 8%), most of which are located in mountainous areas. In order to analyze the ecosystem services of forests the Consultant used "Business as Usual" (BAU) and "Sustainable Ecosystem Management" (SEM) analytical approaches. The study also identifies key elements for a full TEEB study, including a roadmap of activities, and a list of important outputs.

The Voluntary Forest Certification is one of the important components of the FLEG II Program. The Certification is an internationally renowned market-based tool used for achieving of the sustainable forest management. Making clear its adherence to the development of the sustainable forest management in the country the Azerbaijani government supported a conduction of the respective study by the FLEG II in Azerbaijan.

For additional information please contact:
Sevinj Sarukhanova, WWF-Azerbaijan
ssarukhanova@wwfcaucasus.org



© WWF-Azerbaijan / Sergey Trepet



© WWF Russia, U. Semionov

Newborns in the Kavkazsky State Nature Reserve

The Persian leopard, once widespread throughout the mountainous region between the Black and Caspian Seas, today this animal is on the verge of complete extinction. In 2006, the Persian Leopard Reintroduction Program was developed with the goal to restore the sustainable leopard population within its historical range in the Russian part of the Caucasus through breeding the animals in the captivity and their subsequent reintroduction into the wild. As part of this reintroduction program, in 2007 the Persian Leopard Rehabilitation Centre was constructed in Sochi National Park. Today, the Center already houses total of 13 animals: 5 adult cats and 8 kittens, taking into the account the three cubs that were born in November of 2014 to a recently formed pair of leopards Allous-Andrea.

"We are glad that the Persian Leopard Reintroduction Program in the Caucasus is moving ahead with such success. It gives us hope that in the near future the leopard population in the Kavkazsky State Nature Reserve soon will be able to self-reproduce", – says Igor Chestin, the Head of WWF-Russia.

This achievement is the result of a long-term work carried out by WWF-Russia, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation with participation of the Sochi National Park, Kavkazsky State Nature Reserve, A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, and Moscow Zoo.

For additional information please contact:
Vyacheslav Moroz, WWF-Russia
vmoroz@wwf.ru

Forest Week in Georgia



WWF has recently celebrated Forest and Climate Change Week with events and educational resources for children and youth, environmental and forestry professionals, local communities and general public, Organized within the framework of the EU Funded Regional Project: "Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest Transformation". Intention of the activities was to encourage greater public awareness towards Georgia's forests and climate change, to learn more about forest biodiversity and

support greater recognition of this valuable resource.

Week started by tree planting event in Tsavkisi project pilot site where forestry measures have been undertaken to transfer existing artificial pine stands into 'more to nature' forests - more resilient to climate change.



Participants: Mayor of Tbilisi with family and employees of Tbilisi City hall, International organizations and embassies, media, local community members, students and forestry professionals. WWF handed over various forestry equipment to the city hall.



During the week various awareness rising activities were planned in the city - WWF Panda travelling in the public transport, public lessons on forests in the parks and schools, branded bus driving in

the city. Private and public schools has joined the forest week, children held the presentation on Forestry topic and delivered public eco-lessons.

More photos/videos from the Forest Week can be found at:

www.facebook.com/WWFGeo/photos_stream

www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=vb.796215007067681&type=2

For additional information please contact:

Ana Tsintsadze, WWF-Caucasus Programme Office

atsintsadze@wwfcaucasus.org

WWF Caucasus Programme Office

11 Aleksidze St.
Tbilisi 0193, Georgia
Tel: (+ 995 32) 237 500
Fax: (+ 995 32) 237 501
Email: office@wwfcaucasus.org
www.panda.org/caucasus

WWF Armenia Branch

11 Proshyan St.
Yerevan 0019, Armenia
Tel/Fax: (+ 374 10) 58 89 83
Email: office_am@wwfcaucasus.org
www.panda.org/armenia

WWF Azerbaijan Branch

M.Mushfig St., Blok 501, 2K
Baku AZ1073, Azerbaijan
Tel/Fax: + 994 12 53853162
Email: office_az@wwfcaucasus.org

WWF Turkey

Büyük Postane Cad. 43-45 Kat 5
Bahçekapı İstanbul 34420, Turkey
Tel: + (902 125) 282 030
Fax: + (902 125) 282 040
www.wwf.org.tr

WWF Russia (office in Moscow)

19 Nikoloyamskaya St., 3 building
Moscow 109240, Russia
Tel: + 7 (495) 727 09 39
Fax: + 7 (495) 727 09 38
Email: russia@wwf.ru
www.wwf.ru



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org/caucasus

Regional projects in Turkish and Russian parts of the Caucasus are coordinated and implemented accordingly by WWF-Turkey and WWF-Russia in close cooperation with WWF Causus PO under one vision of Ecoregion Conservation Plan.

To subscribe, unsubscribe, contribute or for further information please send an email to atsintsadze@wwfcaucasus.org