



**Minutes of the
Steering Committee
First Meeting**

Date:

21 December 2012

Venue:

WWF Armenia

Meeting Participants:

1	Karen Manvelyan	Chairperson, WWF Armenia, Director
2	Ruben Petrosyan	Committee member, “Hayantar” SNCO under the Ministry of Agriculture
3	Arthur Petrosyan	Committee member, RA Ministry of Agriculture
4	Andranik Ghulijanyan	Committee member, “Zikatar” Nature Protection Center under the Ministry of Nature Protection
5	Artashes Ziroyan	Committee member, Bioresources Management Agency under the Ministry of Nature Protection
6	Ani Haykuni	Committee member, ATP Foundation
7	Naira Margaryan	Committee member, REC Caucasus Armenian Branch
8	Siranush Galstyan	WWF Armenia, Project Coordinator
9	Yeva Sayadyan	Secretary, WWF Armenia, Operational Assistant



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Meeting Objectives:

- Present the project to representatives of various forest related organizations (including high level state officials) with its aims, objectives, expected results and others;
- Present the state of the activities implemented in the frames of the project since its beginning;
- Present the planned activities to be implemented till the end of the project;
- Discuss the issues raised and questions, get comments, suggestions and recommendations on further implementation of the project.

Outputs of the meeting

The meeting was held in accordance with the Agenda (see Attachment 1).

The project coordinator made a presentation, which included information on the project, its aims, objectives, activities implemented so far and those planned for implementation till the end of the project. The maps and photos were shown, the materials published in the frames of the project distributed.

The forest transformation plans for both pilot sites were discussed, in particular the state of the pilot sites, measures proposed for the sites, species to be used for planting, follow-up activities and others.

The following suggestions and conclusions were made by the steering committee members:

- The steering committee had no objections for the selected sites and found them suitable for the project purposes. The homogenous pine stands planted in the past and damaged by wind and snow or young planted pine stands, which needs transformation to grow into resilient to climate change stands are good objects for forest transformation as in the result of the works the mixed stands with higher biodiversity should be more resilient to climate change and provide better benefits to local communities.
- It was suggested that in future the Southern Armenia (Arevik NP area) and Central Armenia (Sevan area) are considered as potential areas for similar projects.
- It was mentioned that the Consultant hired for implementation of transformation measures (“Hayantar” SNCO) is a rather qualified entity with experienced and skilled personnel able to fulfil the task. The requirement of on-the-job training was considered important mainly for the field workers (community members) and to some extent for “Hayantar” SNCO staff responsible for the pilot sites.
- It was suggested to go through the list of species suggested for use in transformation measures and in case of need adjust it better to local conditions. In particular, it was suggested to use more *Pyrus spp.* (pear) instead of *Malus spp.* (apple) as well as to consider the use of the species of *Sorbus*, *Crateagus*, *Eleagnus* and other local species.



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- It was highlighted that involvement of local communities in the project activities is crucial not only for the success of the project, but also for the communities to get direct benefits from the action, be better informed about climate change and ways to tackle it.
- It was stressed that there is need to think about sustainability of the field activities after the end of the project, especially as the transformation plans include measures planned for 2014-2016 for which the financial support is not guaranteed.
- It was concluded that in Armenia there is a need for developing nurseries to have enough planting material of local origin for implementation of similar field activities in other parts of Armenia.
- It was agreed that the steering committee will be invited to the field visit to be organized in spring 2013 along with some other high level officials from various state organizations with the aim to observe the pilot sites, ongoing works and preliminary results.



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Attachment 1.

Steering Committee First Meeting

21 December 2012
WWF Armenia

A G E N D A

14:00 – 14:10	Opening speech	Karen Manvelyan <i>WWF Armenia Director, Steering Committee Chairperson</i>
14:10 – 14:30	Information on the project, so far implemented activities and those planned for 2013 (presentation)	Siranush Galstyan <i>Project Coordinator</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Questions and answers	
15:00 – 15:30	Discussion	
	Reception	



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