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2ND INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

July 20, 2012 – June 01, 2013

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**Thematic Programme: Environment and Sustainable
Management of Natural Resources, including Energy
(ENRTP)**

Reference: *EuropeAid/128320/C/ACT/Multi*

Project: Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against
climate change in the South Caucasus Countries through
forest transformation

Contract : No. *DCI-ENV/2010/221391*

Interim Narrative Report^{*}

2nd Year of the Project Implementation

(July 20, 2012 – June 01, 2013)

^{*} prepared according to the template given in e3h5_interreport_en.doc (ANNEX VI. INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT).

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- *This report must be completed and signed by the Contact person.*
- *The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report.*
- *Please complete the report using a typewriter or computer (**you can find this form at the following address <Specify>**).*
- *Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.*
- ***Please refer to the Special Conditions of your grant contract and send one copy of the report to each address mentioned.***
- *The Contracting Authority will reject any incomplete or badly completed reports.*
- *The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified in point 1.6.*

1. DESCRIPTION

1.1. **Name of beneficiary of grant contract:**

WWF Deutschland (WWF-Germany)

1.2. **Name and title of the Contact person:**

Matthias Lichtenberger, Programme Manager at WWF-Germany

1.3. **Name of partners in the Action:**

Partner 1: WWF Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-Caucasus)

Partner 2: WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Armenian Branch (WWF-Armenia)

Partner 3: Branch Office of the WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature in the Azerbaijan Republic (WWF-Azerbaijan)

1.4. **Title of the Action:**

Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries through forest transformation

1.5. **Contract number:**

DCI-ENV/2010/221391

1.6. **Start date and end date of the reporting period:**

July 20, 2012 – June 01, 2013

1.7. **Target country(ies) or region(s):**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

1.8. **Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):**

Final beneficiaries: Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; Ministries of Environment and Forestry administrations in the target countries; local community members, local NGOs, and CBOs (*which are active in the pilot site localities*).

Target Groups: The number of people targeted by the action depends on the site location. From WWF's experience in implementing forest restoration measures in the region it is anticipated the involvement of up to 50 villagers in the planning and implementation of the measures at each site, which equals up to 300 villagers for the action as a whole. Also it is expected to involve 6 local NGOs or CBOs at the pilot sites in collecting seeds and raising seedlings (*up to 60 people from 16 to 20 organisations in the target countries*).

1.9. **Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany

¹ "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

2.1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Please give a global overview of the Action's implementation for the reporting period (no more than ½ page)

The overall objective of the action (*the project*) is to increase the resilience of forest ecosystems in the Southern Caucasus against climate change impacts and to improve biodiversity and livelihoods of local populations. The specific objective of the action is to transform monoculture stands on selected model sites in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia highly vulnerable to climate change and to improve related forest management. The specific objective of the proposed action contributes to the overall objective through achieving of the following results:

- Result 1 - Selected forest stands vulnerable to climate change have been transformed into highly resilient "close to nature" forest stands.
- Result 2 - Silvicultural guidelines for the transformation of monoculture stands into more resilient stands are elaborated, published in three languages and made available for relevant officials and experts.
- Result 3 - The capacities of forest administration experts to develop silvicultural strategies to transform monoculture stands into stable, site-adapted forests are increased.
- Result 4 - The awareness of local communities about the importance of forest rehabilitation with regard to mitigating negative biotic and abiotic impacts of climate change is improved.

During the reporting period (*2nd year of implementation*) none of the above results were planned to be achieved as they were envisaged to be completed by the end of the project. Still, some intermediate results have been achieved. Implementation of practical measures for forest transformation has started in all three target countries such as fencing, procurement and planting of seedlings, and on the job-trainings for practitioners. The Study Tour to Germany in which 15 persons from the three countries participated was certainly a highlight of the reporting period since it brought Government representatives from all project countries for a week together to share experience and lessons-learned. In general, the implementation of above mentioned activities turned out to be much more intensive than expected and took almost from 14-16 months instead of initially planned six months. Further, the project had to recover in the reporting period time which was lost as result of an overall delayed and slow start of the project as outlined on the first Technical Narrative Report.

All actions described in the logframe are either completed, ongoing and/or in pipeline. The Project component in Georgia was subject to a Result-Oriented Monitoring mission (ROM) which was conducted in May 2013.

2.2. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

Please list all the activities of the contract implemented during the reporting period as per Annex 1.

Activity #:

Title of the activity

Topics/activities covered <please elaborate>:

Reason for modification for the planned activity <please elaborate on the problems -including delay, cancellation, postponement of activities- which have arisen and how they have been addressed> (if applicable):

Results of this activity <please quantify these results, where possible; refer to the various assumptions of the Logframe>:

INCEPTION PHASE

Completed during the 1st year of implementation (*Ref. to Interim Narrative Report for 1st Year of the Project Implementation [March 1, 2011 – July 20, 2012]*).

WORK PACKAGE 1: RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION

Activity 1.1.2. Conduct regional conference on forest resilience and transformation (*Work package 1: Research and Demonstration / 1.1. Research component*)

The main objective of the regional conference which was held in Tbilisi in February 2013 was to exchange information and share experience among senior forest engineers, forest ecologists and other stakeholders in the region on climate change impacts on forests and best practice in forest transformation. For details of the conference agenda please refer to Annex 1.

The conference targeted at policy makers in forestry administrations of the three countries. 35 people participated including experts from forest administrations and academic institutions, international organizations, and two experts from EU member states. Participants are listed in Annex 2.

The conference provided a forum to discuss potential project impacts, challenges, risks and risk mitigation strategies, and came up with a number of conclusions and recommendations as outlined below:

- i) Climate change will have significant impacts on forests in the region and the negative impacts of climate change will almost certainly outweigh any positive impacts.
- ii) In the framework of the Project measures are being taken at a number of pilot sites to transform monoculture stands that are particularly susceptible to climate change into structurally diverse stands of mixed species.
- iii) Transformation measures – fencing, and planting, sowing, natural regeneration and ancillary operations – are already well established at the Project's pilot sites.
- iv) The selection of the species and provenances which will be planted or sown in the process of forest transformation is very important. Future climate conditions

need to be taken into account when deciding which species and provenances to use.

- v) As a general rule, natural regeneration of native species should be favored because natural regeneration is a good indicator of the site's suitability for the species in question. Further, natural regeneration is the most cost-effective silvicultural measure for forest transformation.
- vi) Grazing pressure needs to be managed to allow natural regeneration and to prevent damage to young trees. Forest managers need to engage with the people who depend on their livestock for their livelihoods and who have become accustomed to using forest stands for grazing.
- vii) In order to sustain the impacts of forest transformation measures, the seedlings need to be tended. Projects such as the current action need to obtain reasonable guarantees from the owners of the forests in question regarding subsequent maintenance of the implemented measures.
- viii) The subsequent development of stands in which transformation measures have been carried out needs to be monitored so that one can learn lessons and adapt approaches to transformation accordingly.
- ix) In order to go beyond small scale pilot projects such as the present action the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia need to elaborate and implement national strategies for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on forests.

For more details please refer to the conference report in Annex 1.

Activity 1.2.5. Implement the transformation measures in the selected stands (*Work package 1: Research and Demonstration /1.2. Demonstration component*)

Part of the transformation measures which had started mainly in the 1st year of implementation (before July 20, 2012) through implementation of supply and installation of fencing materials were fully completed in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan during the 2nd year of implementation:

Contract for Supply of Fencing Materials and Installation of Fence in Georgia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 01/VI-2012) / Award procedure: Open Local² [**Status: completed**]

Contract for Supply of Fencing Materials in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 25/VI-2012) / Award procedure: Open Local³ [**Status: completed**]

² Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/?204238/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Fence

³ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/announcements/tenders/

Contract for Installation of Fence in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 10/VII-2012) / Award procedure: Open Local⁴ [**Status: completed**]

Contract for Supply of Fencing Materials and Installation of Fence in Azerbaijan under the EU Financed Project (Date: 11/VII-2012) / Award procedure: Open Local⁵ [**Status: completed**]

The supply of planting material and planting of seedlings/seeds and other measures such as natural regeneration is currently underway in all three countries and are supposed to be fully completed by end of the project (3rd year of implementation)⁶:

Supply Contract⁷ for Supply of Planting Materials in Georgia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 11/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **91,253 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

Service Contract⁸ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Georgia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 31/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **72,000.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

Supply Contract for Supply of Planting Materials in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 30/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **61,509.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

Service Contract⁹ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 26/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **102,075.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

Supply Contract¹⁰ for Supply of Planting Materials in Azerbaijan under the EU Financed Project (Date: 30/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **81,592.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

⁴ Information on this tender is available from:
http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/announcements/tenders/
and
http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/announcement_tender.pdf

⁵ Information on this tender is available from:
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?204787/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Fencing-Materials-and-Installation-of-Fence-in-Azerbaijan-under-the-EU-Financed-Project (Second Announcement)
<http://new.zerkalo.az/media/pdf/2012-04-17->

⁶ For more details see also Annex 1 (Main Expenditures under EU ENRTP Project for the South Caucasus Partner Organizations)

⁷ Information on this tender is available from:
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?205872/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Planting-Material---Seeds-and-Seedlings-of-Forest-Tree-Species-in-Georgia-under-the-EU-financed-Project

⁸ Information on this tender is available from:
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?205871/Call-for-Expression-of-Interest-for-Implementation-of-Forest-Transformation-Measures-in-Georgia-under-the-EU-Financed-Project

⁹ Information on this tender is available from:
http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/announcements/tenders/

¹⁰ Information on this tender is available from:

Service Contract¹¹ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Azerbaijan under the EU Financed Project (Date: 10/XI-2012) [Contractual Cost – **81,100.00 EUR**] / [*Status: ongoing*]

Country-specific information not referred to above – Armenia

The implementation of transformation measures started during the reporting period and included a number of activities such as fencing, procurement of planting materials, and finally implementation on the ground.

Fencing of the pilot sites could be completed within the reporting period. In total about 15.000 m of fence was installed on two selected pilot sites (which entail five sub-plots). Fencing material purchased was transferred to the company “Aghavnatur” LLC. Physical works were of excellent quality. Unused fencing material was transferred to “Hayantar” SNCO for future maintenance measures.

A tender on provision of planting material for implementation of forest transformation measures was announced in August 2012. A contract between WWF Armenia and “Hayantar” SNCO could be signed at the end of October 2012. The seeds and seedlings envisaged for the autumn field works were provided in accordance with the schedule fixed in the contract. Some changes in species composition of the planting material were introduced by “Hayantar” SNCO in view of unstable weather conditions in spring 2013. This change did not have implications on the budget and overall number of plants. The provision of planting materials will be continued in autumn 2013. The quality of planting material generally was excellent and a high survival rate can be expected.

“Hayantar” SNCO was selected for the implementation of transformation/planting measures based on a competitive tender. Hyantar submitted a valid and technically strong bid, however, with higher price quotations than originally anticipated. In the course of contract discussions WWF Armenia could negotiate with “Hayantar” SNCO a reduced price.

Still, a reallocation of funds from budget lines 3.5.1 (seeds) and 3.5.2 (seedlings) to 6.1.1 (transformation measures) was necessary to accommodate for higher costs of the transformation measures. This budget reallocation was communicated to and approved by the EU Delegation. Overall, the procurement process caused delays and planting could only be started on a limited scale in autumn 2012. In total 1358 kg of seeds was planted in pilot site # 1, and 15.000 seedlings planted on pilot site # 2 in autumn 2012. The activities were continued in spring 2013. Up to the end of the reporting period about 70.000 saplings were planted on pilot site # 1, and about 35.000 seedlings planted on the pilot site # 2. The planting activities are to be continued in October 2013.

In November 2012, forestry tools procured under the project were handed-over to the implementing partner “Hayantar” SNCO. Respective documentation can be obtained from the following link: http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?207020/Donation-of-Forestry-Tools-to-Hayantar-SNCO.

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?206180/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Planting-Material-Seeds-and-Seedlings-of-Forest-Tree-Species-in-Azerbaijan-under-the-EU-financed-Project

¹¹ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?206270/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Implementation-of-Forest-Transformation-Measures-Silvicultural-Operations-in-Azerbaijan-under-the-EU-financed-Project

Tools for field activities were distributed by “Hayantar” headquarters to two local Hyantar forest enterprises which are involved in the implementation of the transformation measures on the ground. Equipment procured by the project was later labeled with EU and WWF logos to ensure donor visibility.

WORK PACKAGE 3. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOREST ADMINISTRATIONS

Activity 3.3.1. Conduct workshops with senior ministry of environment and forestry administration staff (*Work package 3: Capacity building for forest administrations/ 3.3. Policy makers component*)

Completed during the 1st year of implementation (ref. to *Interim Narrative Report for 1st Year of the Project Implementation [March 1, 2011 – July 20, 2012]*).

WORK PACKAGE 4: AWARENESS RAISING (4. LOCAL TARGET GROUPS)

Activity 4. 2. Participation of community members in implementing transformation measures (*Work package 4: Awareness raising*)

Started in all three countries in the 2nd half of 2012.

Country-specific information not referred to above – Armenia

The adjacent community members were intensively involved in implementation of field transformation activities through casual labor contracts. Information meetings with engaged (and generally interested) community members were conducted with the aim to provide information about the project, discuss the ongoing and planned activities and the benefits of the communities’ involvement in the works. Community members had a chance to express their expectations, concerns and interest in the project. The aim of the events was to raise the awareness of local communities, local self-governing bodies and local organizations about the importance of forests and transformation measures, climate change and ecosystem services. In particular, awareness on climate change and its impact on forests was assessed. It could be observed that people generally value intact forest high and mainly expect long-term benefits of the project such as erosion control, clean and stable water supply and the recreation potential of forests.

Separate meetings were held with heads and community council members of three engaged communities – Lernantsq, Saramej and Koghb communities in Lori and Tavush regions. More formal indoor workshops for the communities in both pilot sites were organized during March-April 2013 (details see below item 4.3).

In addition, mid-term workshops for local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government were organized in three adjacent communities to the project pilot sites, namely Saramej and Lernantsq communities (28-29 March 2013) in Lori Region (Gugarq forest

enterprise of “Hayantar” SNCO) and Koghb community (12 April 2013) in Tavush Region (Noyemberyan forest enterprise).

The reports and photos from the events are available at:

http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?208177/Awareness-Raising-Events-in-Lori-Region

http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?208285/Awareness-Raising-Event-in-Tavush-Region

The community workshop reports and photos are also attached to this report (Annex 4 and Annex 5).

Country-specific information not referred to above – Azerbaijan

Country-specific information for Azerbaijan related, *inter alia*, to awareness raising activities can be found in Annex 6.

2.3. LIST OF ACTIVITIES THAT WERE PLANNED BUT NOT FULLY IMPLEMENTED

Please list activities that were planned and that you were not able to implement, explaining the reasons for these.

WORK PACKAGE 3. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FOREST ADMINISTRATIONS

Activity 3.1.1. Training for local staff of forestry administrations (Work package 3: Capacity building for forest administrations/ 3.1. On-the-job training component)

Activity 3.1.1 (*Training for local staff of forest administrations responsible for the pilot sites*) was foreseen as part of wider capacity building package that is designed to train forest administration staff to develop and implement strategies for transforming forest stands more widely in the target countries after the action has been completed. The work package has an “on-the job” training component for local forest administration staff responsible for the pilot sites.

Implementation of Activity 3.1.1 started in Georgia in the 2nd half of 2012 and was delayed in Armenia and Azerbaijan due to the late start of the project. It finally was implemented together with Activity 1.2.5 in the 2nd half of 2012.

The development of a training module for forest administrations was initiated and is planned to commence in late 2013; national training workshops are planned in all countries in early 2014.

The training package (module) shall cover but will not be limited to the following topics:

- transformation measures at monocultural stands damaged by drought, bark beetle, etc.
- natural transformation of monocultural stands;
- transformation by introducing shade tolerant species and transformation by introducing shade intolerant species;
- adequate planting and seeding concepts and methods for forest transformation with native species;
- transformation: crown thinning;
- ground preparation, planting and seeding;
- techniques for controlling competing vegetation;
- techniques of site protection against domestic livestock/game;
- adequate and cost-efficient seedling and seed production technologies.

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity 3.3.2. Study tour for senior ministry of environment and forest administration staff (<i>Work package 3: Capacity building for forest administrations/3.3. Policy makers component</i>) |
|---|

The Study Tour was supposed to be conducted in 2012 but due to delays in the procurement of services rescheduled to April 2013 as mentioned in the amended action plan for the 2nd year of implementation (*Ref. to Interim Narrative Report for 1st Year of the Project Implementation [March 1, 2011 – July 20, 2012]*).

The study tour was planned as one of the Project's activities for staff from the target countries' relevant governmental agencies and forestry administrations, and organised and led by a German governmental entity - German State Forest Service – HESSEN FORST.

The objective of the study tour was to learn how climate change has been addressed in the forestry policy and strategy of an EU member state, and to see at first hand silvicultural practical measures on the ground.

The Project had chosen Germany as the destination country for the study tour since there is long experience in the development of strategies and implementation of measures in converting poor monocultures to more diverse and more resilient stands. The involvement of private sector and its interaction with public forest authorities was another important feature of the study tour which could be studied in Germany well.

15 persons participated in the study tour (Annex 2): two senior staff from each of the countries' relevant governmental ministries, two persons from each of the countries' relevant

local forestry administrations, and a member of the WWF Project team from each of the project countries.

Besides to the immediate impact of sharing lessons and the introduction and discussion of appropriate measures, the study tour entailed an important feature of regional cooperation and dialogue since participants only rarely (if at all) have opportunity to meet as a result of the political situation in the region.

Specific points covered by the study tour programme

- Indoor presentation of the German state forest service's (Hessen Forest) policy on forests and climate change.
- Indoor presentation of a state forest district's and a communal forest's strategy for converting its monoculture forest stands to more resilient, mixed forest stands and the silvicultural measures which it applies.
- Field visits showed different stages in the transformation of various types of monoculture forest stands into forest stands that were expected to be more resilient to climate change.

The stands selected for the field visits were comparable to the stands of the pilot sites in the target countries in terms of appropriateness of silvicultural measures to be applied, i.e.:

- pine (spruce) stands of different ages and qualities;
- canopy densities low enough for light demanding successor species to prosper but in other parts of the stands so high that only shade tolerant species were able to prosper unless canopy density is reduced;
- stands affected by grazing livestock (respectively game) preventing the development of natural regeneration and/or establishment of forest stands by seeding / planting);
- sites with dense herb and shrub layer where livestock/game was excluded.

More details on study tour are found in Annex 2 (Forestry Study Tour Report).

WORK PACKAGE 4: AWARENESS RAISING (4. LOCAL TARGET GROUPS)

Activity 4.1. Initial awareness raising workshops for local communities, NGOS, CBOs, local government (*Work package 4: Awareness raising*)

Implementation of the Activity 4.1 was started in Georgia in the 2nd half of 2012 and delayed in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

2.4. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ACTION

ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

What is your assessment of the results of the Action so far? Include observations on the performance and the achievement of outputs, outcomes and impact in relation to specific and overall objectives, and whether the Action has had any unforeseen positive or negative results (please quantify where possible; refer to Logframe Indicators).

The project managed to recover in the second year of implementation time which was lost due to a late and slow start in Year 1. Project Management is confident that the main objectives can be reached and results achieved in time. Still, there are shortcomings which shall be addressed during the project phasing-out phase and an eventual no-cost-extension. In particular: the action plan for year one was by far too ambitious especially in view of complex procurement procedures (which were clearly underestimated by WWF at project design), and the fact that some of the teams experienced difficulties in recruiting key project staff. It must be mentioned that measures addressing sustainability of the action were not adequately addressed in the reporting period but corrective action shall be introduced in Year 3 of the project, and an eventual no-cost extension.

While the topic climate change and forests is clearly an issue on policy level, local communities see the benefit of the project more in enhanced ecosystem services such as erosion control, clean and stable water supply and the potential of a diverse forest for recreation. The connection of climate change and forests (at least in the ones adjacent to their settlements) often appeared to community members somewhat distant.

Regional wide specific information not referred to above (*International Project Advisor*)

A major achievement of the project is that it created a platform for regional cooperation and dialogue. This is actually not mentioned as a result on its own in the logframe. All invitations to regional meetings and to the study tour were responded to positively. Key stakeholders including Government officials and representatives from NGOs had a forum for dialogue, information exchange and social events.

POTENTIAL RISKS

Please list potential risks that may have jeopardized the realisation of some activities and explain how they have been tackled. Refer to logframe indicators.

In general, the risk of regional political instability is a factor common to all projects that require cooperation between the target countries. It is not possible to make a reliable assessment of the risk because much depends on the unpredictable course of diplomacy involving old and new players. However, regional cooperation projects are themselves instruments for helping to mitigate the risk.

Risk factors differ from country to country, e.g., in Georgia, the main risk factor is associated with ultra liberal governmental policies towards chaotic and environmentally not sustainable privatization of state forest lands that usually leads to forest fragmentation and, most importantly, the conversion of forest to other types of land use.

Based on the project partners' experience from implementing other actions in the three countries, the overall level of risk is low to medium. The most significant risks which still remain are lack of motivation and shortage of financial resources of governmental agencies to extend action's results.

In addition to the above main risk factor, the following force-major circumstances could arise:

- The demonstration stands could be damaged by storms or fires (natural or man-made)
- The political situation in the region might become substantially less stable to the extent that it would be impossible to continue an action that requires cooperation between partners in the different countries of the region

Based on records of natural events in the areas where the pilot sites are situated and on the partners' experience from implementing other forestry projects in the region, it is assessed the likelihood of the first of those force-major circumstances occurring as low.

REVISED LOGFRAME

If relevant, submit a revised logframe, highlighting the changes.

The logical framework submitted at Year-1 reporting is still valid. (*Ref. to Interim Narrative Report for 1st Year of the Project Implementation [March 1, 2011 – July 20, 2012]*).

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROJECT				
	Intervention Logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objectives	To increase the resilience of forest ecosystems in the Southern Caucasus against impacts of climate change, and to improve biodiversity and livelihoods of local populations.	By 2015, the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have adopted and started to implement policies that will make forests and the services they provide highly resilient to climate change.	Published policy documents. Field based assessments of implemented measures.	<u>Assumptions:</u> - Environment ministries and forestry administrations are motivated to extend the results of the action. - Forest administrations have the financial resources to develop and implement forest strategies.
Specific objective	To transform monoculture stands on selected model sites in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia highly vulnerable to climate change and to improve related forest management.	By the end of the action the structure of forest stands on 6 pilot sites has been transformed in such a way that they will be highly resilient to climate change. By the end of the action the potential of the forests stands on 6 pilot sites to enhance the livelihoods of neighbouring communities will have been increased.	Ex-post assessment of the resilience of the model forest stands and the quality of management. Ex-post assessment of the economic value of goods and services that will be provided to neighbouring communities compared with the situation ex-ante.	<u>Assumptions:</u> - No changes in tenure of the pilot sites during the project. - The target countries' environment ministries and forestry administrations are motivated to participate in the action. - The structure and personnel of the institutions whose co-operation is required is not subsequent to frequent change. - Local communities, NGOs, CBOs and local self-

		By the end of the action, the chief executives and heads of the policy and planning departments of forest administrations and heads of relevant departments in the forest administrations show a demonstrable increase in their awareness of the climate impacts on forests and motivation to develop strategies for making forests more resilient.	Reports of workshops held with target groups. Assessments of awareness and motivation carried out at the workshops held with the target groups .	governance bodies which participate in the action are motivated to engage in follow-up activities.
Expected results	1. Selected forest stands vulnerable to climate change have been transformed into highly resilient "close to nature" forest stands.	By the final (36th) month of the action transformation measures have been carried out in 6 forest stands with a total area of at least 450 ha.	Documented results of field assessments carried out during and at the end of the action.	<u>External conditions:</u> - No changes in the tenure of the pilot sites before transformation measures have been completed.
	2. Practitioner-friendly silvicultural guidelines for ecologically sound and sustainable techniques (incl. transformation of monocultural stands into more resilient stands) are elaborated, published in three languages and distributed to relevant forest practitioners in each country.	By the final (36th) month of the action practitioner-friendly guidelines have been published in the national languages of the three countries and distributed to the 30 most relevant forest practitioners in each country.	Existence of guidelines in the appropriate language on the "bookshelves" of relevant forest administration experts.	<u>External conditions:</u> - None.
	3. The capacities of forest administration experts to develop silvicultural strategies to transform monocultural stands into stable site adapted forests are increased, leading to further forest transformation after the action has been completed.	By the final (36th) month of the action 60 forest administration engineers from the three countries have received training in forest transformation strategies and techniques.	Reports of training events. Structured "appropriateness and effectiveness of training" assessments completed by trainees.	<u>External conditions:</u> - Appropriate staff nominated to participate in trainings. - Staff training by the action remain in post long enough to have an impact.
		By the final (36th) month of the action, 15 senior officials in the environment ministries and forestry administrations of the target countries show a demonstrable increase in their knowledge of and interest to act on climate impacts on forests.	Structured self-assessments completed by the participants before the first awareness-raising event and after the end of the final event.	-
	4. The awareness of local communities about the importance of forest rehabilitation with regard to mitigating negative biotic and abiotic impacts of climate change is improved.	By the final (36th) month of the action at least 50% of the members of each of the local communities targeted by the action show a demonstrable increase in their awareness of climate impacts on forests and forest services.	Reports of training and awareness-raising activities.	<u>External conditions:</u> - Members of local communities are motivated to participate in awareness-raising events.
Activities	Activities contributing to Result 1			

	1.1.1. Conduct research into resilience of forest stands and prepare recommendations on transformation measures.	<u>Means:</u> - Project international advisor, - Local office space and contribution to local office costs - Subcontracted international forestry engineer	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Progress report from activity coordinator. - Document findings of research.	<u>Conditions:</u> - None.
	1.1.2. Conduct regional conference on forest resilience and transformation.	<u>Means:</u> - Project international advisor, - Country coordinators - Georgia communications manager - Local office space - Conference organiser (external service provider) - International flights and local transport for participants - Accommodation for participants - Venue for the conference - Translation services - Interpretation services	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Workshop report by activity coordinator. - Documented programme, participation list, input materials.	<u>Conditions:</u> - None.
	1.2.1. Develop criteria for selection of pilot sites.	<u>Means:</u> - Project international advisor, - Project country coordinators, - local office space and contribution to local office costs, - vehicles (running costs only)	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Regular progress reports by activity coordinators during preparation. - documented criteria.	<u>Conditions:</u> - None.
	1.2.2. Select and agree sites with forest administrations.	<u>Means:</u> - Project international advisor, - Project country coordinators - local office space and contribution to local office costs, - vehicles (running costs only)	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - documented agreement of the forest administrations to the pilot sites.	<u>Conditions:</u> - None.
	1.2.3. Design and carry out site surveys.	<u>Means:</u> - Project international advisor,- Project country coordinators,- GIS experts,- Local office space and contribution to local office costs,- Vehicles	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Site survey reports.	<u>Conditions:</u> - The forestry administrations agree to the sites selected by the project team.

	1.2.4. Prepare transformation plans for the selected stands.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International advisor - Country coordinators - GIS expert - Forest planning expertise (external service providers) - Local office space and contribution to local office costs, - Vehicles 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documented transformation plans. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
	1.2.5. Implement the transformation plans in the selected stands.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country coordinators - Local office space and contribution to local office costs, - Service provider to implement the transformation measures - Labour to carry out the work - Equipment and tools - Fencing materials - Seeds and plants - Vehicles 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular progress reports by activity coordinators. - Documented "provisional/final acceptance certificates" approved by the country coordinators and where appropriate by international advisor. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient seeds and seedlings of appropriate quality available.
	Activities contributing to Result 2			
	2.1. Prepare and print silvicultural guidelines on forest transformation strategies and techniques in English and the languages of the target countries.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project international advisor - International forestry expert - Local office space and contribution to local office costs - Country coordinators - Translation services - Design and printing services 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report by activity coordinator during preparation. - English text ready for translation. - National language texts ready for printing. - Printed texts ready for dissemination. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
	2.2. Disseminate the guidelines on forest transformation strategies and techniques to the relevant governmental agencies together with the training modules developed in activity 3.2.1. and the "popular report" prepared in activity 3.3.3.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country coordinators, - Local transport 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of distribution by activity coordinators. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
	Activities contributing to Result 3			
	3.1.1. Training for local staff of forest administrations responsible for the pilot sites.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country coordinators - Fencing materials - Seeds and seedlings - Vehicles 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress reports by activity coordinators. - Documented "self assessments" by trainees. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff are motivated to participate.

	3.2.1. Prepare training modules in the national languages of the target countries for wider training of forest administration staff.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project international advisor, - Project country coordinators, - Local office space - Translation services - Printing services in local offices 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report by activity coordinator. - Documented training modules and training materials. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
	3.2.2. Carry out wider trainings of forest administration staff.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainers (country coordinators) - Training materials - Training venues - Accommodation for trainers and trainees - Vehicles (running costs only) - Training materials 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports of training events. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forestry administrations nominate appropriate staff.
	3.3.1. Conduct workshops with senior ministry of environment and forest administration staff.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project country coordinators, - - Project international advisor, - Local transport - Venues (room in ministry or forest administration building) 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports of workshops. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministries of environment and forestry administrations nominate appropriate staff..
	3.3.2. Study tour for senior ministry of environment and forest administration staff.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External service provider to arrange the tour in the host country - International flights for study tour participants - Accommodation for study tour participants - Appropriate demonstration areas and meeting venues - Interpretation services 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of study tour. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministries and forestry administrations nominate appropriate staff.
	3.3.3. Prepare and print “popular report” of project activities, results and lessons learned in English and the languages of the target countries.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project international advisor - Subcontracted international forest engineer - Country coordinators - Local office space - Translation services - Design and printing services 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress report by activity coordinator during preparation. - Document available for translation into national languages. - Document in national languages available for printing. - Printed document available for dissemination. - Confirmation of dissemination by country coordinators. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
	3.3.4. End of project workshops with senior ministry of environment and forest administration staff.	<u>Means:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project country coordinators - Local transport - Venues (room in ministry or forest administration building) 	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports of workshops. 	<u>Conditions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministries of environment and forestry administrations nominate appropriate staff.
	Activities contributing to Result 4			

	4.1. Initial awareness-raising events for local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government.	<u>Means:</u> - project country coordinators - local site coordinators - vehicles for transport to venues - simple leaflet - venues (village halls or similar)	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Regular progress reports by activity coordinators during preparation. - Reports of events.	<u>Conditions:</u> - Local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government motivated to participate.
	4.2. Participation by community members in forest transformation and maintenance measures.	<u>Means:</u> - project country coordinators - local site coordinators - vehicles for transport to sites - tools and equipment - safety clothing	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Regular progress reports by activity coordinators.	<u>Conditions:</u> - Local communities members motivated to participate.
	4.3. Mid-term workshops for local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government.	<u>Means:</u> - project country coordinators - vehicles for transport to venues - venues (village halls or similar)	<u>Sources of information on progress:</u> - Reports of workshops.	<u>Conditions:</u> - Local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government motivated to participate.
	4.4. Closing workshops for local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government.	<u>Means:</u> - project country coordinators - vehicles for transport to venues - venues (village halls or similar)	- Reports of workshops.	<u>Conditions:</u> - Local communities and NGOs, CBOs and local government motivated to participate.
		<u>Action costs (000 Euro)⁽¹⁾:</u> 1. Human resources: 2. Travel: 3. Equipment and supplies: 4. Local office: 5. Other costs and services: 6. Other: 7. Contingencies: 8. Management fee: 9. TOTAL:	388,762 35,180 633,730 52,800 192,800 333,500 81,839 120,303 1,838,913	<u>Preconditions which must be met before the action can start:</u> - The forestry administrations agree to make forest stands available to the project for piloting transformation measures and to participate in the measures

Note (1): The action costs include the costs of the inception phase, closure and reporting phase and communication and visibility actions.

ALL CONTRACTS (WORKS, SUPPLIES, SERVICES) ABOVE 10.000€ AWARDED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 10.000€ awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor.

The following contracts above 10,000 € were awarded during the reporting period (July 20, 2012 – June 01, 2013):

1) Supply Contract¹² for Supply of Planting Materials in Georgia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 11/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **91,253 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

2) Service Contract¹³ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Georgia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 31/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **72,000.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

3) Supply Contract for Supply of Planting Materials in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 30/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **61,509.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

4) Service Contract¹⁴ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Armenia under the EU Financed Project (Date: 26/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **102,075.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

5) Supply Contract¹⁵ for Supply of Planting Materials in Azerbaijan under the EU Financed Project (Date: 30/X-2012) [Contractual Cost – **81,592.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

6) Service Contract¹⁶ for Implementation of Transformation Measures in Azerbaijan under the EU Financed Project (Date: 10/XI-2012) [Contractual Cost – **81,100.00 EUR**] / [**Status: ongoing**]

2.5. UPDATED ACTION PLAN

Please provide an updated action plan¹⁷

Updated action plan is due to the joint planning process with all organizations involved.

¹² Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?205872/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Planting-Material----Seeds-and-Seedlings-of-Forest-Tree-Species-in-Georgia-under-the-EU-financed-Project

¹³ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?205871/Call-for-Expression-of-Interest-for-Implementation-of-Forest-Transformation-Measures-in-Georgia-under-the-EU-Financed-Project

¹⁴ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/announcements/tenders/

¹⁵ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?206180/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Supply-of-Planting-Material-Seeds-and-Seedlings-of-Forest-Tree-Species-in-Azerbaijan-under-the-EU-financed-Project

¹⁶ Information on this tender is available from:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?206270/Announcement-of-Tender-for-Implementation-of-Forest-Transformation-Measures-Silvicultural-Operations-in-Azerbaijan-under-the-EU-financed-Project

¹⁷ This plan will cover the financial period between the interim report and the next report.

Updated action plan below is provided along with this narrative progress report for the next reporting period from June 01, 2013 to March 1, 2014 (*Ref. to Interim Narrative Report for 1st Year of the Project Implementation [March 1, 2011 – July 20, 2012]*).

[illegible]

Preparation Activity 5 (Title: negotiations with sub-contractors to involve community members in transformation works)										WWF-Caucasus WWF-Armenia WWF-Azerbaijan
Execution Activity 5 (Title: participation of community members)										WWF-Caucasus WWF-Armenia WWF-Azerbaijan
4 3. Mid-term and final workshops for local target groups										
Preparation Activity 6 (Title: arrangements for logistics, preparation of workshop materials)										WWF-Caucasus WWF-Armenia WWF-Azerbaijan
Execution Activity 6 (Title: conduct the workshops)										WWF-Caucasus WWF-Armenia WWF-Azerbaijan
Etc.										

3. PARTNERS AND OTHER CO-OPERATION

3.1. FORMAL PARTNERS

How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please provide specific information for each partner organisation.

WWF-Germany as leading organization is in charge overall of the project implementation and supervision and responsible for ensuring quality standards, compliance with procedures, and maintaining the project accounts. In addition, it is directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the project activities with its partners and is not acting as an intermediary. WWF-Caucasus provides the project coordination at the regional level and directly implements the Georgia component. WWF-Armenia implements the Armenia component, and WWF-Azerbaijan implements the Azerbaijan component.

Regional level project coordination meetings are planned every six months with the Regional Coordinator, International Advisor, Country Supervisors, and Country Coordinators. The International Project Leader from WWF-Germany is supposed to participate once a year. Monthly phone conferences between all partners are held to review progress reports and to discuss and resolve problems. There are also weekly contacts between the Regional Coordinator and Country Coordinators, between the Country Supervisors and Country Coordinators.

Formal Local Partner 1 - WWF-Caucasus : Project Partner in Georgia and Partner for Regional Actions

- *Full legal name: WWF Caucasus Programme Office*
- *Nationality: registered in Georgia as branch of WWF-International (Switzerland) in 1994 under the name - WWF Georgia Project Office, re-registered under the current name as branch of WWF-International in 2003*
- *Legal status: non member-based branch of a foreign non-profitable organization in Georgia*
- *Governance: governed by representative (director) appointed by WWF-International*
- *EuropeAid ID number: GE-2009-GVP-0806306705*
- *www.panda.org/caucasus*

Cooperation of WWF-Caucasus (former WWF-Georgia) with WWF-Germany dates back to early 1990's. Since then number of forest conservation and forestry related projects have been implemented in close partnership with WWF-Germany.

Contractual partnership arrangements¹⁸ were completed on April 11, 2011. However, contract with the partner has to be formally amended due to already modified regional project budget.

WWF-Caucasus acts as country project office for Georgia. At the same time project regional staff is stationed in WWF-Caucasus. Thus, WWF-Caucasus through the project regional staff is performing functions of regional coordination/guiding hub, though without formal contractual links with other formal local partners – WWF-Armenia and WWF-Azerbaijan which have established direct contractual arrangements with WWF-Germany.

Formal Local Partner 2 - WWF-Armenia : Project Partner in Armenia

- *Full legal name: WWF Armenian Branch*
- *Nationality: registered in Armenia as branch of WWF-International (Switzerland) in 2006*
- *Legal status: non member-based branch of a foreign non-profitable organization in Armenia*
- *Governance: governed by representative (director) appointed by WWF-International*
- *EuropeAid ID number: AM-2009-FDI-2505192407*
- *www.panda.org/armenia*

WWF-Armenia has a very good record of cooperation with WWF-Germany under a number of concluded and ongoing projects. E.g., the result of this fruitful cooperation in case of one of the forestry related projects on forest restoration (funded by the German Government) has been reflected in hundreds of hectares of restored forest areas and significant contribution made to raising the level of rural employment as well as the level of public awareness in the field of climate change and its impacts on forest ecosystems.

¹⁸ Grant Agreement of March 31/April 11 - 2011 between WWF-Germany and WWF Caucasus Programme Office for Implementation of the EU Financed Project (DCI ENV/2010/221391) "EU ENRTP Caucasus - Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the South Caucasus Countries through Forest Transformation" (including its Attachment 1 - Primary Donor Agreement: *GRANT CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION NO DCI-ENV/2010/221391 OF DEC-17/28, 2010 between THE EUROPEAN UNION, REPRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION and WWF-GERMANY - Including Addendums 1 and 2*).

Contractual partnership arrangements¹⁹ were completed on April 11, 2011. However, contract with the partner has to be formally amended due to already modified regional project budget.

Formal Local Partner 3 - WWF-Azerbaijan : Project Partner in Azerbaijan

- Full legal name: Branch Office of the WWF in the Azerbaijan Republic
- Nationality: registered in Azerbaijan as branch of WWF-International (Switzerland) in 2006
- Legal status: non member-based branch of a foreign non-profitable organization in Azerbaijan
- Governance: governed by representative (head) appointed by WWF-International
- EuropeAid ID number: AZ-2009-FUT-2705213985
- www.panda.org/caucasus

WWF-Azerbaijan has positive experience in cooperation with WWF-Germany under a number of recently implemented projects (e.g., German GAA funded regional project on forest restoration etc).

Contractual partnership arrangements²⁰ were completed on April 11, 2011. However, contract with the partner has to be formally amended due to already modified regional project budget.

3.2. STATE AUTHORITIES

How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

On a whole, by the end of the reporting period the project has established close cooperation with all corresponding government agencies represented by relevant responsible officials.

The main governmental stakeholders (state authorities) of the project in the South Caucasus region are ministries of natural resources and environment and forestry administrations. Namely:

¹⁹ Grant Agreement of March 31/May 05 - 2011 between WWF-Germany and WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature Armenian Branch for Implementation of the EU Financed Project (DCI ENV/2010/221391) "EU ENRTP Caucasus - Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the South Caucasus Countries through Forest Transformation" (including its Attachement 1 - Primary Donor Agreement: GRANT CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION NO DCI-ENV/2010/221391 OF DEC-17/28, 2010 between THE EUROPEAN UNION, REPRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION and WWF-GERMANY - Including Addendums 1 and 2).

²⁰ Grant Agreement of March 31/April 14 - 2011 between WWF-Germany and Branch Office of the WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature in the Azerbaijan Republic for Implementation of the EU Financed Project (DCI ENV/2010/221391) "EU ENRTP Caucasus - Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the South Caucasus Countries through Forest Transformation" (including its Attachement 1 - Primary Donor Agreement: GRANT CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL ACTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION NO DCI-ENV/2010/221391 OF DEC-17/28, 2010 between THE EUROPEAN UNION, REPRESENTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION and WWF-GERMANY - Including Addendums 1 and 2).

In Armenia

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

State Non-Commercial Organization “Hayantar” (*ArmenForest*) of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

Noyemberyan State Forest Enterprise under the management of the “Hayantar”

Gugarq State Forest Enterprise under the management of the “Hayantar”

In Azerbaijan

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic

Shamakhi Forest Protection and Restoration Enterprise of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic

Yevlakh Forest Protection and Restoration Enterprise of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic

In Georgia

National Forest Agency of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection – since April, 2013 (instead of Natural Resources Agency of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia)

Shida Kartli Service of the National Forest Agency.

Tbilisi Municipality

Tbilisi City Mayor’s Hall

Environmental and Green Areas Municipal Service under the Tbilisi City Mayor’s Hall

WWF-Armenia and WWF-Azerbaijan have excellent and long standing relationships respectively with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Azerbaijan Republic.

3.3. OTHER PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- *Associate(s) (if any)*
- *Sub-contractor(s) (if any)*
- *Final Beneficiaries and Target groups*
- *Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc)*

During the reporting period the Steering Committee (SC) for the project was formed in Armenia. The SC consists of nominated high-level officials from various forest related state entities belonging to both the Ministries of Agriculture and Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia as well as non-state organizations (ATP Foundation, REC Caucasus). The SC first meeting was held on 25 December 2012 with the aim to present the project with its aims and objectives, activities implemented so far and the further plans (as a part of the workplan activity 3.3.1). The packages for the participants included the project leaflets (in Armenian and English) and the brochure on forest transformation strategies (in English) produced in the frame of the project.

The details and photos of the SC meeting can be seen at:

http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?207159/Steering-Committee-Meeting

The SC meeting report is attached to the report (Annex 3).

3.4. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER ACTIONS

Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

In 2012-2013 there had been series of meetings and exchanges arranged with the two ongoing EU financed regional projects dealing with the climate change and biodiversity issues in the South Caucasus countries.

The meetings were continued with Mercy Corps, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) and Caucasus Regional Environmental Center (REC-Caucasus) responsible for the management of the following projects:

- Enhancing local capacity and regional cooperation for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in Georgia and the South Caucasus (*EuropeAid/128320/C/ACT/Multi*)²¹

²¹ The overall objective of this project is to build the capacity of local authorities, improve communities' capacity and enhance regional bilateral cooperation, to understand and to cope with the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change in the South Caucasus. The project is supposed to increase local capacity and regional cooperation for the identification and mitigation of risks likely to be exacerbated by climate change, through the lens of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and biodiversity conservation. The program will strengthen local and regional capacity through the development and implementation of the municipal and regional trans-boundary CCA plans for the two designated eco zones and community based CCA pilot projects. Strengthening the knowledge and skills base of local communities will play a critical role in the mitigation of risks to their livelihoods. The program will also enable local authorities to engage with national government and regional initiatives as well as help prepare the ground for, and facilitate, any future government or donor based initiatives at the municipal level. Regional level cooperation will be improved and better informed by input from the local level thereby building a foundation for the increased protection of livelihoods, local biodiversity and ecosystems.

- Identification and implementation of adaptation response to Climate Change impact for Conservation and Sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in arid and semi-arid ecosystems of South Caucasus (*EuropeAid/128320/C/ACT/Multi*)²²

3.5. PREVIOUS EU GRANTS IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE SAME TARGET GROUPS

If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

No previous EU grants received in view of strengthening the same target groups except that of in Armenia (*see below Country-specific information not referred to above on Armenia*).

4. VISIBILITY

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

In line with requirements of “*General Conditions applicable to European Community-financed grant contracts for external actions*”, Article 6 Visibility, the Beneficiary and its partners undertook all mandatory actions for ensuring visibility of EU financial contribution for the Action.

The Project Web-page

The project’s regional team based in WWF-Caucasus created and is maintaining the web-page which is available from www.panda.org/caucasus (in English).

In future (supposedly 3rd year of implementation) it is planned to create the project web-page at www.wwf.de (in German and English language) as well.

In parallel, the project is also covered under WWF-Armenia’s following web-pages: www.panda.org/armenia (in English) and armenia.panda.org (in Armenian).

The main purpose of the project web-page is to accumulate all project related information from different sources and make it available for wide range of stakeholders. It will facilitate necessary information obtaining in all offices, countries and locations of the project.

²² The overall objective of the project is to build adaptive capacities in three South Caucasus countries to ensure resilience of agro-biodiversity of especially vulnerable arid and semi-arid ecosystems and local livelihoods to climate change. Three specific objectives are envisaged: - to promote agro-biodiversity conservation and adaptation to Climate change through introduction of supportive policy framework at national and local level; - to improve institutional and individual capacity for sustaining agro-biodiversity in arid and semi-arid ecosystems and increasing livelihood level in face of climate change; - to support in development and implementation of coping mechanisms to improve resilience of local communities to future climate change through introduction of sustainable agricultural practices in selected regions.

The project web-page contains following folders/links: project overview, news and publications, tenders and announcements, contacts. Namely:

- for **general project data**:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/where we work/black sea basin/caucasus/projects/eu enrtp caucasus/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/projects/eu_enrtp_caucasus/)

[http://wwf.panda.org/who we are/wwf offices/armenia/projects/ongoing/eu project/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/projects/ongoing/eu_project/)

- for the **project news and publications**:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/where we work/black sea basin/caucasus/projects/eu enrtp caucasus/news publications /](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/projects/eu_enrtp_caucasus/news_publications/)

[http://wwf.panda.org/who we are/wwf offices/armenia/news](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news)

- for the **tenders and announcements**:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/where we work/black sea basin/caucasus/projects/eu enrtp caucasus/tenders announcements /](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/projects/eu_enrtp_caucasus/tenders_announcements/)

- for the project **contacts and organizational setup**:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/where we work/black sea basin/caucasus/projects/eu enrtp caucasus/contacts/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/projects/eu_enrtp_caucasus/contacts/)

There can be also found the links to EC Thematic Programme on Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP), European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and useful working tools for the project implementation (e.g. Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions /PRAG/, Communication and Visibility Manual for EU ExternalActionsetc).

News and publications option is updated on regular basis, covering, inter alia, successful stories of the project activities and achievements.

The Project Publications

Project publications in English, Azeri and Georgian languages can be found on the following link:

[http://wwf.panda.org/what we do/where we work/black sea basin/caucasus/publications/?205870/New-Publications-Prepared-in-the-framework-of-EU-Financed-Project-on-resilience-of-forest-ecosystems-against-climate-change](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/publications/?205870/New-Publications-Prepared-in-the-framework-of-EU-Financed-Project-on-resilience-of-forest-ecosystems-against-climate-change)

Europe Day Celebration was organized by the EU Delegation to Armenia on 25 May 2013, which included information fair on the Northern Avenue. The fair was a place to visit and learn more about EU-Armenia cooperation and European culture. The project was

presented on the fair among more than 50 other projects in various fields. Respective communications materials including brochures in Armenian and English were widely distributed, brief introduction on WWF Armenia and the project was made to the visitors, questions answered, links for further information provided. The project booth was visited by the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to Armenia Traian Laurentiu Hristea and some other officials. In general, the fair was a good opportunity for networking with perspectives of further cooperation. The details and photos can be seen at [http://wwf.panda.org/who we are/wwf offices/armenia/news/?208898/WWF-Armenia-at-Europe-Day](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/news/?208898/WWF-Armenia-at-Europe-Day)

The EU visibility was ensured during the community workshops organized in the frames of the project. In particular, for the presentation the project PPT template was used with all respective logos, the questionnaire distributed also was printed on the project template. Regular ongoing communication of the action on the web-page and by e-letter: the project activities and events are published through uploading respective information on WWF-Armenia web-site ([http://wwf.panda.org/who we are/wwf offices/armenia/newsroom/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/armenia/newsroom/)) as well as regional newsletter (at present under preparation).

The information on commencement and implementation of transformation measures was translated by public Kentron TV (in Armenian) on November 18, 2012 in the frames of Agro TV initiative by the RA Ministry of Agriculture. In particular, the field activities were shown and the Director of “Hayantar” SNCO gave interview about the project and planned activities (on the basis of the information provided by the project staff) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZaTGNhCbOI&feature=youtube_gdata_player

The TV program on forest activities implemented in Noyemberyan FE was translated by the local Tavush TV (in Armenian) on March 29, 2013. Among others it included the interview with the head of the FE, who mentioned the EU funded project and demonstrated the field activities implemented in its frame.

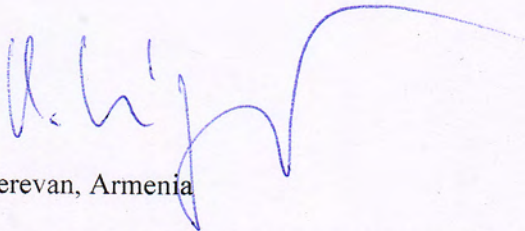
On visibility actions in Azerbaijan see Annex 6.

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

No objections from the side of WWF Germany.

Name of the contact person for the Action: Matthias Lichtenberger, Programme Manager at WWF-Germany

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Lichtenberger', written over a horizontal line.

Location: Yerevan, Armenia

Date report due: March 2013. A request for postponing the deadline was submitted to the EU in January 2013 in view of the low financial delivery at the time. It was aimed to submit the TPR together with the Financial Report, Statement of the Auditor and Call-for-Funds.

Date report sent: 7 January 2014

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1. Regional Conference Report, 27 February, 2013, Tbilisi, Georgia

Annex 2. Study Tour Report, 14-21 April, Hessen, Germany

Annex 3. Steering committee first meeting report, 21 December 2012, Armenia

Annex 4. Community awareness raising workshops reports, March-April, 2013 Armenia

Annex 5. Photos - field works and media events, Armenia

Annex 6. Report on implementation of media event at Agsu and Yevlak pilot sites and preparation of site signs for the pilot sites. June, 2013, Azerbaijan.

Annex 1



This document is the sole responsibility of the Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest Transformation and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union

**SERVICE CONTRACT No. WWF-CAUCASUS-01/01-SRV-REG-2011/ENRTP
SERVICES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY EXPERT TO THE PROJECT
“INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SOUTHERN
CAUCASUS THROUGH FOREST TRANSFORMATION”
(EuropeAid/128320/C/ACT/Multi External Actions of the European Union No. DCI-ENV/2010/221391)**

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

“ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FORESTS AND BEST PRACTICE IN FOREST TRANSFORMATION IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS COUNTRIES”

HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2013 AT THE MARRIOT HOTEL, TBILISI, GEORGIA

VERSION 2



This project is funded by the EU



This project is co-financed and implemented by the WWF Germany in collaboration with the South Caucasus partner organizations

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1. Introduction

This document is a report of the regional workshop which was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 27 February 2013 in the framework of the project “*Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries¹ through forest transformation*”. The project is being implemented by WWF Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-Caucasus) in partnership with WWF-Germany, WWF-Armenia and WWF-Azerbaijan. The project is being financed by the European Union (EU) in the framework of the EU’s Thematic Programme on Environment and Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP). Information about the objectives, expected results and planned activities of the Project can be found on the project’s web pages at:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/caucasus/projects/eu_en_rtp_caucasus/

2. Conference objectives, expected outputs, participants and formalities

2.1. Objectives

The main objective of the conference was to exchange information and share the experience among senior forest engineers, forest ecologists and other stakeholders in the region on climate change impacts on forests and best practice in forest transformation. The conference was designed as a forum for discussing the range of measures appropriate for forest stands in the target countries, in particular measures already implemented within the framework of the project and measures to pilot in future. The conference agenda is at Annex 1.

2.2. Expected Outputs

The conference was aimed at strengthening participant’s knowledge about climate change impacts on forests and of transformation strategies so that they would be able to develop policies that increase the resilience of forests in the region and to act for support of these policies from ministers and other relevant agencies.

2.3. Participants

The conference action targeted policy makers in the forestry administrations of the target countries. 35 people participated, including experts from the forest administrations and academic institutions of the target countries, from international organizations active in the target countries, and two experts from EU countries with knowledge of climate change impacts on forests and experience with transformation measures. The list of participants is at Annex 2.

2.4. Formalities

The conference was opened by Giorgi Sanadiradze, Director of WWF Caucasus and moderated by Mike Garforth, international expert in natural resources management.

¹ The Project’s target countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

3. Proceedings

3.1. First session – Overview of the project

In the first session the Project Regional Coordinator, Malkaz Dzeneladze, presented an overview of the project (see Presentation 1). Mr Dzeneladze described the EU Thematic Programme on Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources which was financing the Project, the objectives of the project and the organisational set-up of the Project.

3.2. Second session – Climate change impacts on forests and adaption strategies

The second session Rolf Schulzke, expert of the State Forestry Organisation Hessen-Forest, gave a presentation on the experience of the German State of Hesse with the transformation of forests as a silvicultural strategy (Presentation 2) and Mike Garforth gave a presentation on the impacts of climate changes on forests and strategies for mitigating and adapting to the impacts.

Mr Schulzke began his presentation by describing the forests of Hesse. He noted that in the absence of human interference would be nearly completely covered by forests, mainly beech forest types. Overexploitation led to Hesse's forest cover being reduced to about 20% of the territory of the state by the year 1800. The situation was reversed by a programme of reafforestation – mainly with *Picea abies* – and forest cover now stands at about 40%. The reliance on one species – a species that was not well adapted to many of the sites where it had been planted – resulted in forest stands having limited biodiversity, widespread occurrence of diseases, threats to forests' protective functions and additional threats due to effects of climate change.

In response the Hesse started a programme to transform monoculture *Picea abies* forests to forests of mixed species that would be richer in biodiversity and more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The Hesse government carried out transformation measures in the state forests and provided grants to help pay for transformation measures in privately-owned forests. The grants were financed partly by the EU. The measures taken by the state forest management organisation – Hessen Forests – and private owners have resulted in a substantial increase in the proportion of forest which is representative of the natural state and in the proportion of multi-storeyed stands and mixed species stands. Forests that have been transformed are no less productive than the monoculture stands which they have succeeded.

Mr Garforth had based his presentation on analyses of climate change impacts on forests and possible mitigation and adaptation strategies that were described in a report published in 2012 in the framework of the Project and a report published by WWF in 2011. Mr Garforth noted that changes in the region's climate due to emissions of greenhouse gases were already being observed and that the climate would continue to change for decades to come even if emissions were cut immediately to pre-industrial levels. Models of the region's future climate under different scenarios predicted increases in temperature and reductions in precipitation, though the intensities of the changes varied considerably between models and within a model in different parts of the region. Modelling of the suitability of the region under predicted future climatic conditions for the forest formations found in the region indicated that the area suited to most forest formations will be smaller than today, though with significant regional variation (under the least pessimistic climate scenario a larger area of Georgia would be suited to formations present in the region today).

In addition to the impacts of gradual changes in the climate forests would be exposed to: more frequent and more intense storms, causing “windthrow” and stem break; heavy rains, causing soil erosion and landslides; increased drought in parts of the region; increased risk of forest fires; increased risk of outbreaks of pests and diseases; more attractive conditions for alien invasive species. Mr Garforth noted that doing nothing in the face of such impacts was not a serious option and reacting only after forests had suffered negative impacts was second best to planned adaptation. In spite of the high degree of uncertainty about the exact nature and scale of the impacts of climate change on forests, state forest authorities and forest managers needed to start developing and implementing adaptation strategies now. Mr Garforth described the measures available to forest managers, some of which had been described by Mr Schulzke. Mr Garforth said that governments must help by providing a supportive policy environment and funding for adaptation. Government responses included: making appropriate changes to forest law and strengthening forest law enforcement mechanisms; promoting and funding supportive research and monitoring; communicating the threat to forests and the need for action; becoming leaders of forest adaptation. He noted that the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, in the framework of the Forest Europe process, are committed to elaborating and implementing forest adaptation strategies. He described the important elements of adaptation strategies and reiterated the target presented in the two publications mentioned above that by 2015 Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia will have adopted and will be implementing national strategies for mitigating, and adapting to, the impacts of climate change on forests.

The following points arose during the discussion:

- i) In Hesse foresters did not limit themselves to native species for use in forest transformation: *Pseudotsuga menziesii* – a North American species – was widely used because it was well adapted to site conditions in Hesse. Before using non-native species it was important to conduct assessments of the potential impacts of introducing them.
- ii) Forest transformation in Hesse would not be happening on such a large scale were it not for state support in the framework of EU financing. Transformation of monoculture forests in the southern Caucasus will also require state support.

3.3. Third session – Country reports

In the third session Hannes Neuner (Forestry Advisor, WWF Caucasus), Arthur Alaverdyan (Forestry Project Coordinator, WWF Armenia) and Elshad Askerov (Project Country Manager for Azerbaijan) gave presentations about measures carried out by the Project, the challenges experienced, and lessons learned so far in, respectively, Georgia (Presentation 4), Armenia (Presentation 5) and Azerbaijan (Presentation 6). Mr Neuner’s presentation included an overview of the relevance and applicability of forest transformation for the region.

The following points arose during the discussion:

- i) The Project was benefiting from WWF’s experience of different forest establishment techniques which has been applied in the three countries in a previous regional project.
- ii) Measures were being carried out in the pilot sites in accordance with forest transformation plans which the Project team prepared in the first half of 2012.

- iii) Fencing to exclude livestock so that they could not damage regeneration was essential at all of the pilot sites.
- iv) The Project was proving successful in engaging adjacent communities in the transformation measures.

3.4. Fourth session – Related projects in the region

In the fourth session the conference heard presentations on four projects that were connected with the management of natural resources in the region and the impacts of climate change on natural resources.

Regional Caucasus project on Community Forestry; EU/REC-Caucasus. Nune Harutyunyan, Executive Director of REC Caucasus gave a presentation on the project “Fostering Policies and Practices on Community forest management”. The objectives of the project had been to elaborate the institutional, legal and technical set-up for community forest management, to raise awareness of local communities and local authorities on sustainable forest management and to build the capacities, and to demonstrate best approaches/methods of immediate reforestation and landscape restoration in areas affected by land-slides, mudflows, avalanches and other natural disasters preventing measures. The project had succeeded in relation to all three objectives and had established a solid starting point from which to take further steps towards implementing community management of forests in the southern Caucasus.

Regional South Caucasus Project on Enhancing Local Capacity and Regional Cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation; EU/Mercy Corps. Lika Margania of Mercy Corps presented the project. The objective of the project was to build the capacity of local authorities, improve communities’ capacity and enhance regional bilateral cooperation, to understand and to cope with the environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change in the South Caucasus. The project’s target locations were in the Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti Regions of Georgia, the Lori region of Armenia, and the Aghsa, Tovus, Shamkir and Samukh Rayons of Azerbaijan. The specific objective of the project was that the target communities develop and implement integrated disaster recovery relief and climate change adaptation action plans for the better prevention and management of risk and protection of livelihoods, local biodiversity and ecosystems.

Sustainable forest management programme for Tbilisi Municipality; GIZ/Tbilisi Municipality. Walter Benneckendorf, GIZ, described the actions that were being taken by Tbilisi City Council to implement sustainable forest management of the 12,000 hectares of forest which the national government had transferred into the Council’s care. The forest had been zoned according to four functions: protection forest; recreation forest; education forest; production forest. A forest management plan was being prepared that would pay full regard to the biodiversity, recreational and protective values of the forest as well as the economic value (the forest’s trees would be cut mainly for fuel wood). Guidelines covering the complete range of forest operations had been prepared. Forest guarding was performed by a private service company. Forest operations were planned by the Council’s forest management department and implemented by department staff or service companies. The capacity of the Council’s forest management department needed to be developed; there were plans to establish a training centre to that end.

Improvement of Biodiversity in Iori Mingeaur (Georgia, Azerbaijan) area; BMZ/BENGO/WWF. Ilia Osephashvili, WWF Caucasus, presented the project. The project

objective was the improvement of ecosystem biodiversity in the Iori-Mingechaur trans-boundary priority conservation area through floodplain forest rehabilitation, improved protected area and rangeland management, and reintroduction of the locally extinct goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*). Project activities would include rehabilitation of the degraded floodplain (tugai) forest in Chachuna Sanctuary, Georgia, by means of:

- Restoration of natural flood regime by periodically releasing water from Dali dam (around 2,000 ha of forests will be rehabilitated)
- Planting, seeding and contributing to natural regeneration (about 50-60 ha of forest will be restored)
- Fencing of the sites restored through planting and seeding to protect them from grazing.

Mainly local villagers will be employed. Training will be provided to avoid accidents and increase the efficiency of work. Awareness-raising activities on the project will be regularly carried out among the workers and local population in general.

3.5. Fifth session – Final discussion and summing up

In final session the conference revisited points which had been raised earlier in the day and in particular about the impacts of the Project and the sustainability of the impacts. Summing up, Mr Garforth noted the following points:

- i) Climate change will have significant impacts on forest in the region and the negative impacts of climate change will almost certainly outweigh any positive impacts.
- ii) In the framework of the Project measures are being taken at a number of pilot sites to transform monoculture stands that are particularly susceptible to climate change into structurally diverse stands of mixed species.
- iii) Transformation measures – fencing, and planting, sowing, releasing natural regeneration and ancillary operations – are already well established at the Project's pilot sites.
- iv) The selection of the species and provenances which will be planted or sown in the process of forest transformation is very important. Future climate conditions need to be taken into account when deciding which species and provenances to use.
- v) As a general rule natural regeneration of native species should be nurtured because natural regeneration is a good indicator of the site's suitability for the species in question.
- vi) Grazing pressure needs to be managed to allow natural regeneration and to prevent damage to young trees. Forest managers need to engage with the people who depend on their livestock for their livelihoods and who have become accustomed to using forest stands for grazing.
- vii) In order that the impacts of forest transformation measures will be sustained, the seedlings that are established by the measures need to be tended. Projects such as the present project need to obtain reasonable guarantees from the owners of the forests in question regarding subsequent maintenance.

- viii) The subsequent development of sample stands in which transformation measures have been carried out needs to be monitored so that we can learn lessons and adapt our approaches to transformation accordingly.
- ix) In order to go beyond small scale pilot projects such as the present Project the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia need to elaborate and implement national strategies for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on forests.

Conference Agenda

February 27, 2013

09:30-10:00	Registration of participants	
10:00-10:20	Welcoming	<i>Virginie Cossoul EU Delegation to Georgia Giorgi Sanadiradze Director WWF Caucasus</i>
10:20-10:30	Opening remarks and agenda	<i>Moderator Mike Garforth The Project International Forestry Consultant</i>
10:30-11:05	Introduction and overview of EU/WWF project <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Malkhaz Dzneldadze WWF Caucasus The Project Regional Coordinator</i>
11:05-11:25	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:25-12:05	Overview of forest transformation in Germany (History, general approach, success stories, difficulties) <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Rolf Schulzke International Forestry Expert State Forestry Organization - Hessen-Forest, Germany</i>
12:05-12:50	Forest Adaptation strategy to climate change for the Southern Caucasus <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Mike Garforth The Project International Forestry Consultant</i>
12:50-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-14:40	Forest Transformation in the Southern Caucasus - Challenges and Opportunities (<i>including Country presentation Georgia</i>) <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Hannes Neuner The Project International Forestry Advisor WWF Caucasus</i>
14:40-15:05	Country presentation Armenia <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Arthur Alaverdyan, Forestry Projects' Coordinator, WWF Armenia</i>
15:05-15:25	Country presentation Azerbaijan <i>Presentation Questions and answers</i>	<i>Elshad Askerov The Project Country Manager in Azerbaijan WWF Azerbaijan</i>

15:25-15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:45-16:45	<p>Ongoing projects in Forestry/Climate Change Adaptation (10 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU supported Regional Caucasus Project on Community Forestry (REC Caucasus) • EU supported Regional South Caucasus Project on Agrobiodiversity and Climate Adoption (REC Caucasus) • EU supported Regional South Caucasus Project on Enhancing Local Capacity and Regional Cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation and Biodiversity Conservation (Mercy Corps) • GIZ supported sustainable forest management programme for Tbilisi Municipality (GIZ/Tbilisi Municipality) • BMZ/BENGO/WWF supported project on improvement of Biodiversity in Iori Mingechaur (Georgia, Azerbaijan) area 	<p><i>Nune Harutyunyan Executive Director REC Caucasus</i></p> <p><i>Ana Rukhadze, REC Caucasus</i></p> <p><i>Lika Margania Mercy Corps</i></p> <p><i>Walter Benneckendorf GIZ</i></p> <p><i>Ilia Osepashvili WWF Caucasus</i></p>
16:45-17:15	General discussion	<i>Conference participants</i>
17:15-17:30	Lessons learnt, final conclusions, recommendations and follow up	<i>Mike Garforth The Project International Forestry Consultant</i>
17:30-18:00	Closure	

List of Participants

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	ADDRESS	PHONE/ FAX, E-MAIL
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33.	Mr. SUJASHVILI	Ltd. "Seedlings of Georgia", Georgia	Senior Forestry Specialist	-	-
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Conference Photos



Annex 2



Forestry Study Tour Report

Hessen, Germany - April 14-21, 2013

This report is the sole responsibility of the Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest Transformation and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union



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Within the framework of the project “*Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries*” through forest transformation” (the Project¹), WWF-Germany in partnership with WWF regional office - Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-Caucasus) and other WWF offices in the South Caucasus countries organized the study tour to Germany in April 14-21, 2013.

Study tour was planned as one of the Project’s activities for staff from the target countries’ relevant governmental agencies and forestry administrations. The study tour was organised and led by the governmental entity (German State Forest Service Organization – HESSEN FORST) selected in Germany.

Detailed Study Tour Programme (Annex II) specified the objectives of the study, the topics and the types of site which should be included in the agenda, and the duration, numbers of persons and other logistical matters.

Study Tour Objective

The objective of the study tour was for forestry policy holders and practitioners from the region to learn how climate change has been addressed in the forestry policy and strategy of an EU member state and to see at first hand the silvicultural techniques which forest managers in that member state are using to make forests more resilient to the projected impacts of climate change.

The Project had chosen Germany as the destination country for the study tour: many of Germany’s federal states had been implementing policies of converting poorly adapted monocultures to more diverse and more resilient stands for a number of years, and forest managers in Germany - in the state and private sectors - have a lot of practical experience in forest transformation.

Participants

15 persons participated in the study tour (Annex II): 2 senior staff from each of the countries’ relevant governmental agencies, 2 staff from each of the countries’ relevant local forestry administrations and 1 member of the WWF Project team from each of the country.

In addition, Regional Project coordinator from WWF-Caucasus participated along with International Project Leader from WWF-Germany.

In addition to the above mentioned *participants* the Hessen-Forest provided a person to lead the study tour (who dealt with logistical matters during it) and one interpreter.

¹ The Project is being financed by the European Union (EU) in the framework of the EU’s Thematic Programme on Environment and Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP).





Photo: Study Tour Participants and Hessen Forest Staff – 17 April, 2013, Hessen, Germany

(see study tour photos in Annex III)

Duration and dates

The study tour was scheduled from April 14 to April 21, 2013.

The study tour was planned over 7 days. The first day (*Sunday*) and the 8th day (*Sunday*) were planned as arrival and departure days.

1. Sunday (*arrival*)
2. Monday – working day 1
3. Tuesday – working day 2
4. Wednesday – working day 3
5. Thursday – working day 4
6. Friday – working day 5
7. Saturday – partly working day 6 (*first half of a day – lessons learned and closing meeting / second half of a day – free time*)
8. Sunday – (*departure*)



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Specific points covered by the study tour programme

- Indoor presentation of the German state forest service's (Hessen Forest) policy on forests and climate change.
- Indoor presentation of a state forest district's and a communal forest's strategy for converting its monoculture forest stands to more resilient, mixed forest stands and the silvicultural measures which it uses.
- Field visits showed different stages in the transformation of various types of monoculture forest stands into forest stands that were expected to be more resilient to climate change.

The stands that were selected for the field visits included some stands that were as close as is practically possible to the stands at the pilot sites in the target countries in terms of the silvicultural measures that applied to them, i.e.:

- Pine (spruce) stands of different ages and qualities
- canopy densities in some parts of the stands that were low enough for light demanding successor species to prosper but in other parts so high that only shade tolerant species were able to prosper unless canopy density is reduced;
- grazing by domestic livestock (respectively game) was preventing the development of natural regeneration (and prevented establishment by seeding / planting);
- the potential for natural regeneration of tree species that were native to the site was very good in some parts of some of the stands and very poor in other parts;
- dense herb layer in some parts of some of the stands and a tall, dense herb and shrub layer in many parts if livestock/game were excluded.

Field visits were planned so that by the end of the study tour participants saw the following in an appropriate sequence:

- monoculture stands before any transformation operations had been carried out (stands possibly damaged by drought, bark beetle, etc.)
- stands in which no transformation operations had been carried out yet but which were typical of stands in which natural transformation has started
- transformation by introducing shade tolerant species and transformation by introducing shade intolerant species
- adequate planting and seeding concepts and methods for forest transformation with native species
- transformation: crown thinning in progress
- if appropriate in terms of season: ground preparation, planting and seeding in progress
- techniques for controlling competing vegetation
- techniques of site protection against domestic livestock/game



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- a nursery or nurseries where participants saw adequate and cost-efficient seedling and seed production technologies.

Indoor presentations and site visits

15 April, 2013 – Introduction, Hessen Forest, Forest Department Dieburg and Visit to state forest (FSC certified) in Dieburg

Participants were hosted by the Hessen Forest's Forest Department in Dieburg where they were given information and presentations on forestry system in Germany and Hessen.

In the second half of the day participants visited state forest (FSC certified) site in Dieburg.

16 April, 2013 – Visit to FSC-certified forests close to Dieburg and Travel into Odenwald and visit of a privately managed forest

Participants visited FSC-certified forest sites close to Dieburg and privately managed forest site in Odenwald.

17 April, 2013 – Visit to state kiln (state-owned seed extraction and drying establishment) and nursery in Hanau-Wolfgang and visit of forest transformation site in Süd-Hess. FA.

Participants visited state kiln (state-owned seed extraction and drying establishment) and nursery in Hanau-Wolfgang and forest transformation site in Süd-Hess, FA.

18 April, 2013 – Visit to FCS-certified communal forests (community of Kemel, Bad Schwalbach)

Participants visited FCS-certified communal forests in community of Kemel at Bad Schwalbach.

19 April, 2013 – Visit to the site in Hauberge information and site seeing of transformation of coppice forest (conservation of historic forest use practices)

Participants visited forest site in Hauberge where they were introduced to transformation of coppice forest practices.

20 April, 2013 - Wrap-up/evaluation

Hessen Forest staff and participants arranged wrap-up/evaluation meeting where main points and lessons learned were discussed.

It was pointed out that the study tour was of particular importance for the participants from the South Caucasus. General forestry practices, transformation of forests and financial issues of forestry, as well as diversified forest ownership were identified as main areas of interest for the participants.

It was highlighted that during the study tour all specific tasks were fulfilled, namely: indoor presentation of the German state forest service's (Hessen Forest) policy on forests and climate change; indoor presentation of the state forest district's and a communal forest's strategy for converting its monoculture forest stands to more resilient, mixed forest stands and the silvicultural measures which



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it uses; Field visits showing different stages in the transformation of various types of monoculture forest stands into forest stands that were expected to be more resilient to climate change.

Main Information on Forestry System in Hesse and Lessons Learned

FORESTS IN HESSE

The State of Hesse is located in the heart of Germany and is one of the 16 states that form the Federal Republic of Germany. Hesse has an area of 21.100 km² and 6,0 million inhabitants.

42% of the State's area is covered by forests. In comparison with the other German States, Hesse has the highest proportion of forests jointly with Rhineland-Palatine. More than 200 years ago, the idea of sustainable forest management was developed by the Hessian forester Georg Ludwig Hartig (1764 - 1837). Since then, the idea of sustainability determined forest management and the forests of today are the result of sustainable forest management, which spanned generations.

Forests are home for a great variety of fauna and flora. At the same time, they are sources for raw materials, including energy purposes, workplaces and recreational space.

More than half of the forests are formed by broad-leaved tree species and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) has a dominating role.

FOREST OWNERSHIP

The State is the biggest forest owner with a proportion of 40. Communal forests, i.e. forest in the ownership of towns and villages have a proportion of 35 (almost all of these territorial entities own forest), and 25 of the forests are privately owned.

The private forest ownership is multifaceted: 50% of the privately owned forests (some 100.000 ha) are owned by more than 60.000 individuals. The other half of the forests is owned by medium and large scale private companies, mostly with own forest management structures and personnel.

Private and communal forests are supported by public promotion programs in order to facilitate orderly management and investments for safeguarding the multiple functions of the forests for society and environment.

HESSIAN STATE FOREST AS BASIS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION IN HESSE

Objectives and principles of forest policy and forest legislation are the basis for sustainability in forest management. The forest cover has to be maintained and extended, forest functions have to be strengthened and secured and orderly forest management needs to be promoted and controlled.

Characteristics of orderly forest management are in particular:



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- o Longevity and sustainability of forest production,
- o Conservation of forest ecosystems as habitat of the diversity of fauna and flora by maintaining healthy, stable and diversity forests,
- o Avoidance of large clear cuts,
- o Choice of site-adapted tree species and suitable forest reproductive potential of high genetic variation,
- o Site-adapted use of fertilizers for improvement of soil fertility,
- o Abandonment of pesticides,
- o Careful tending, utilization, regeneration and transport,
- o Application of operational methods which protect stands and soil,
- o Forest road infrastructure adapted to landscape, forest stands and soil,
- o Measures against damage by game and development of a carrying capacity which is adapted to the sites and regeneration.

STATE FOREST ADMINISTRATION

Highest Forest Authority is the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. Tasks of the Higher Forest Authority are assumed by the three Provincial Governments. Lower Forest Authorities are the Forest Management Units of the State Forest Enterprise Hessen-Forst. As regards to the sovereign functions, the Hessian State Forest Administration is a three-tier organization. Related to the management (economic) functions, it has a two-tier structure.

The foundation of HESSEN-FORST as a state enterprise (SFE) was the outcome of a long and extensive participatory planning process with the objective of reforming state administration in the sectors agriculture, forestry, nature conservation, landscaping and regional development. The reforms were targeting at stronger customer orientation and improved efficiency of public administration. HESSEN-FORST was enacted by law through the Hessian Parliament and came into existence in 2001.

The *Hessian Ministry of Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection* is responsible for development and supervision of the forest and nature conservation legislation and the respective regulations.

The *Provincial Governments* are responsible for the enforcement of these regulations, supervision of regional and local authorities and regional development projects.

The *Districts Authorities* are responsible for the implementation of approval procedures for



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conversion and afforestation.

Hessen-Forst State Forest Enterprise (SFE) manages the Hessian state-owned forests, the National Park Kellerwald-Edersee and, on a contract basis also forest owned by towns, cities and private individuals. In close cooperation with the local governments of towns and villages, the enterprise assumes sovereign functions, for instance in regional development procedures related to deforestation and/or afforestation.

The SFE has a country-wide field structure and works close to the citizens according to the principle of "integrated sovereignty". That means, apart from forest management and other services, the forest management units fulfil tasks deriving from legal regulations.

The 41 Forest Management Units (FMU) cover the entire State area. This guarantees persons competent in nature and forest management nearby citizens, local authorities and other customers. This "territorial principle" is an important requirement for nature-oriented silviculture. The average FMU manages 18.000-20.000 ha with 10-12 forest engineer districts.

The core tasks of Hessen-Forst are as follows: sustainable management of the state forest of Hesse as well as the management of corporate and private forests on behalf of their owners (*management is done in accordance to the Agenda 21, the Agenda 2000 of the European Commission, the National Forest Programme of Germany and the Forest Act of Hesse:*

Sustainable management of the state forest (342.000 ha) according to economic principles under special consideration of public benefit and interest.

Advice, support and management of forests of towns and cities (286.000 ha) and (mostly small-scale) private forests (106.000 ha) according to legal and contractual basis.

Research and studies on ecology, forest growth, site conditions, conservation of genetic resources, health control of forests, landscape conservation and environmental control.

Real estate management.

Training and capacity building for all personnel, environmental education and public relations work shall increase the awareness of citizens on the natural sources of livelihood and relatedness of people with nature.

Fulfilment of tasks, assigned to the SFE by law and implementation of law to protect the forest for public benefit (sovereign tasks).

Nature Data management.

FORESTS AND NATURE CONSERVATION

Europe is the only place in the world where red beech (*Fagus silvatica*) groves grow, and Hesse is Buchonia, the land of the beeches. Beech trees (German "*Buche*") can be found in all parts of



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Hesse except the Hessian Reedy Marsh. The species characterizes most of the Hessian forest associations, hence the proportion of 31 , which is the highest in Germany. The term "Buchonia" which can be found in historic maps testifies the dominant role of the species since living territory.

In the European context, the occurrence of beech of this size attributes a special responsibility for its conservation to the State of Hesse.

FORESTS AS SOURCE FOR RAW MATERIAL

The most important product from Hessian forests is timber. Timber is used in the construction sector, furniture industries, saw mills, wood-based material industries, paper and packaging material industries and in handcraft.

The annual increment in Hessian forests is about 9 million m³ whereas approximately 6 million m³ per year are cut. The average standing volume per ha is as high as 320 m³ (according to the national forest inventory of 2002).

Forest owners earn the biggest part of their forest related income from timber sales. After a long period of timber price increases until 1980, their further development until today has been influenced greatly by calamities, mainly storms (1984, 1990, 1999/2000, and 2007).

Considering inflation, the trend has been negative. The volume of timber from Hessian forests which is available for the markets increased from 3 million cbm in the 1970s to 6 million cbm today.

FOREST INVENTORY AND PLANNING

The Institute for Forest Inventory and Planning of Hessen-Forst provides mid-term planning as an important steering element for sustainable management of state forests and those of other forest owners, which are under management contract with the enterprise. Moreover, inventory and planning is the basis for controlling.

The key tasks of the institute are:

- Development of mid-term plans for the forest management units according to the Hessian Guidelines for Inventory and Planning (HAFEA)
- Mapping of sites and safeguarding forest function
- Concepts for and implementation of random sample inventories
- Availing data for controlling
- Advising forest owners on forest management planning
- Compilation of forest valuation expertise and forest ecological proofing of evidence



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FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

Hessian forests are home to five species of "big game": red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, wild boar and mouflon sheep. Red deer and wild boar are native to German forests and are a natural part of the ecosystem.

Minor game species are hare, rabbit, red fox, other small predators and some bird species. Hunting is strictly regulated in order to regulate the carrying capacity and to maintain the forests' biodiversity and productivity. There are more than 20.000 licensed and registered hunters in Hesse. In state forests, hunting is managed under the responsibility of Hessen-Forst's forest management units.

However, most of the fauna is protected and part of the ecosystem management (see Forests and nature conservation).

FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE : CARBONDIOXID SEQUESTRATION

The Hessian State forest stored 62,3 million tons of carbon, of which 37,5 million tons (60 %) are to be found in the woody biomass. Every year these forests sequester more than 2 million tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere, of which:

- 0,5 m tons by increment of the woody biomass,
- 1,5 m tons by ways of material substitution and
- 0.13 m tons by substitution of fossil energy resources.

That corresponds to 5 % of the annual total emissions in the State of Hesse and to a technical investment of at least 150 million € annually and avoids economic collateral damages of approximately 680 million €

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Since 1960, the Hessian State Forest Administration has engaged in international cooperation projects. Hessen-Forst carries this tradition and experiences onwards. In 2004, international consulting services have been established as a field of business. Hessen-Forst experts combine the day-to-day practical forest management, forest administration and extension experience with that gained in international cooperation projects. Experts of Hessen-Forst have been active in more than 40 countries of the world. The development of the "green wall" in China, the forest organization in Indonesia, Korea and Paraguay, forest education and training in Brazil, Chile, Kenya, Korea and Laos, and among others, are closely related to the advisory services of Hessian foresters. Currently, the focus of activities is laid on Eastern Europe and (Central, East, Southeast) Asia.



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Graphics and statistical data



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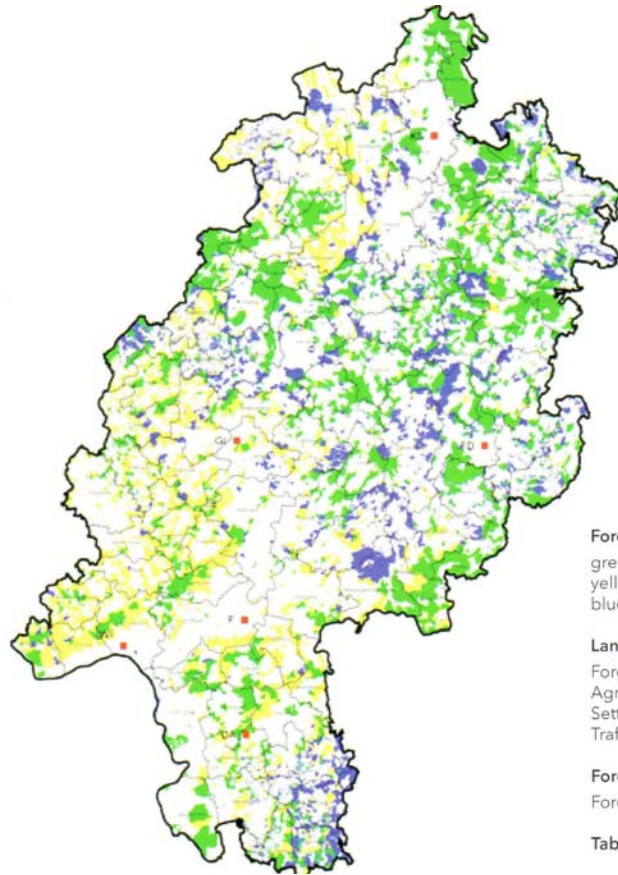
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Forest cover in Hesse

green: State forests
yellow: Corporation forests of towns and cities
blue: Private forests

Land use in Hesse

Forestry:	42 %
Agriculture:	41 %
Settlements:	7 %
Traffic:	7 %

Forests in Hesse

Forest area: 894.806 ha

Table I: Land use and forest cover in Hesse

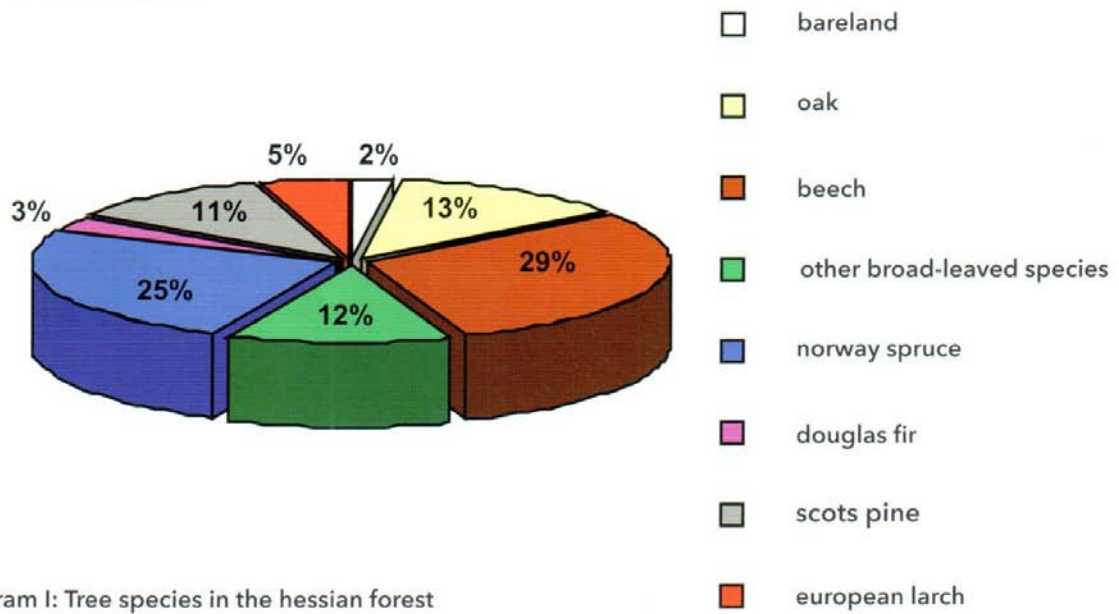
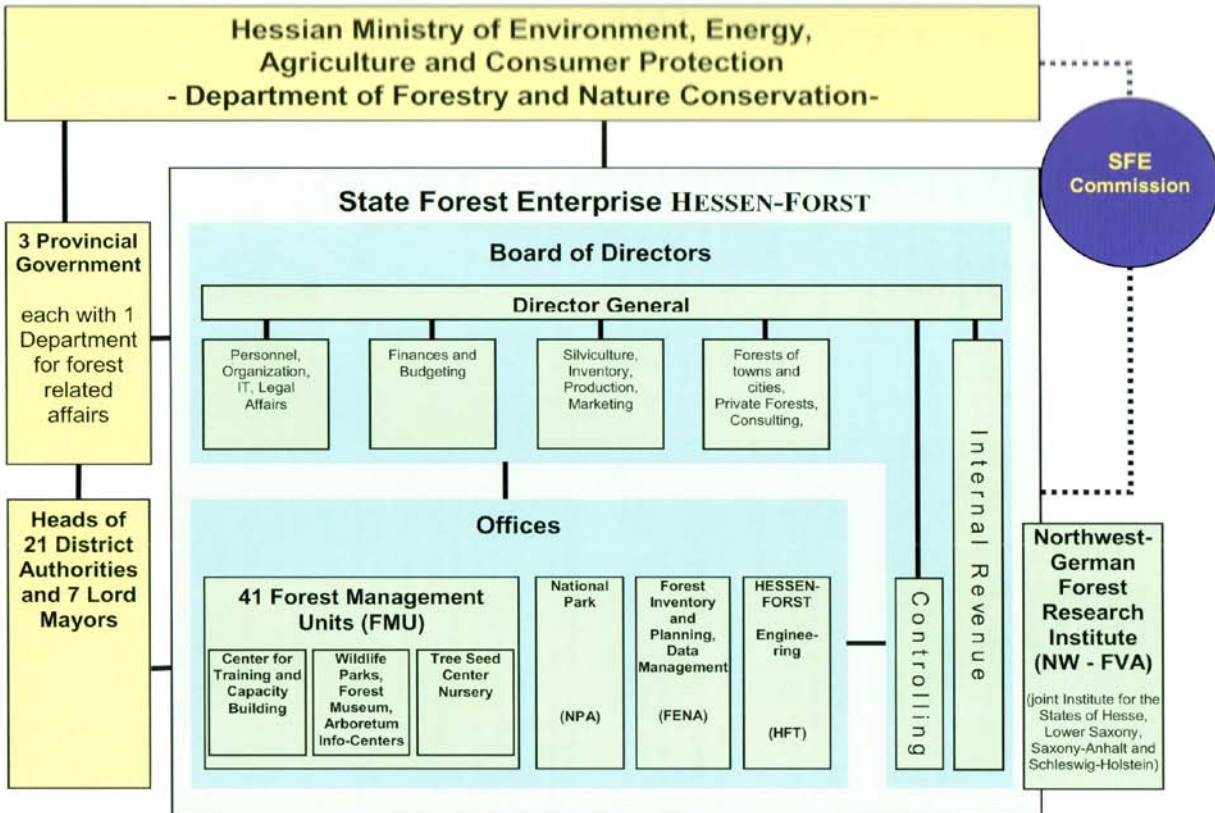
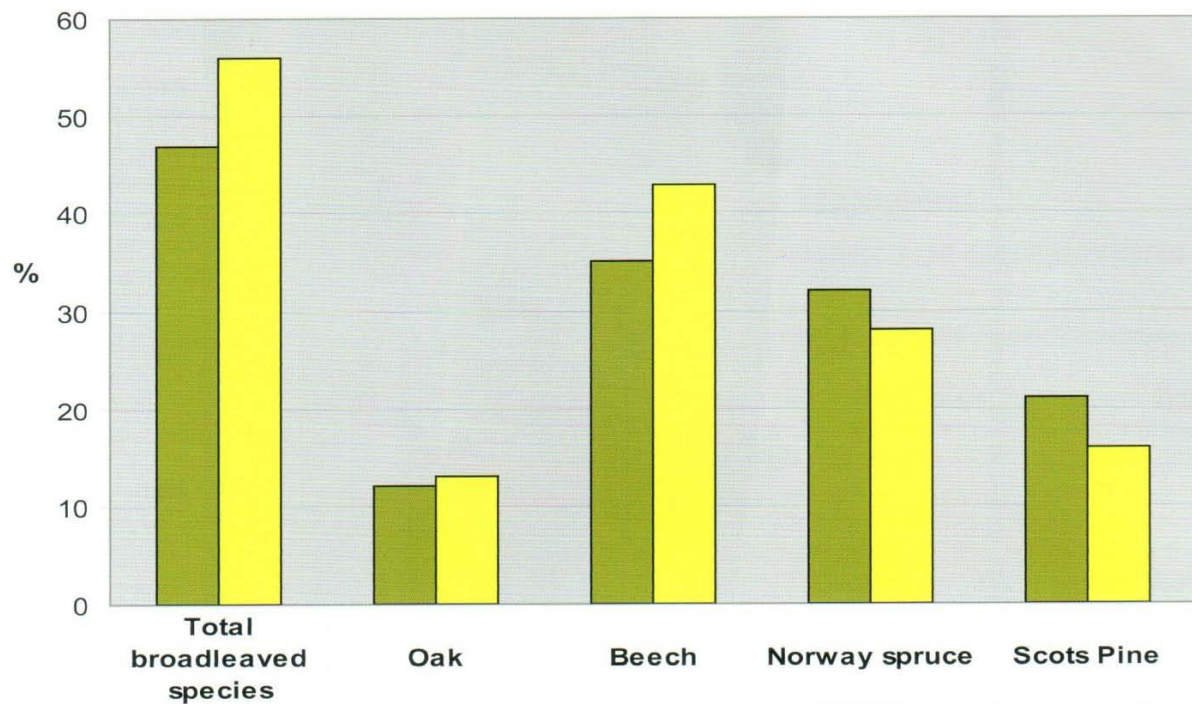


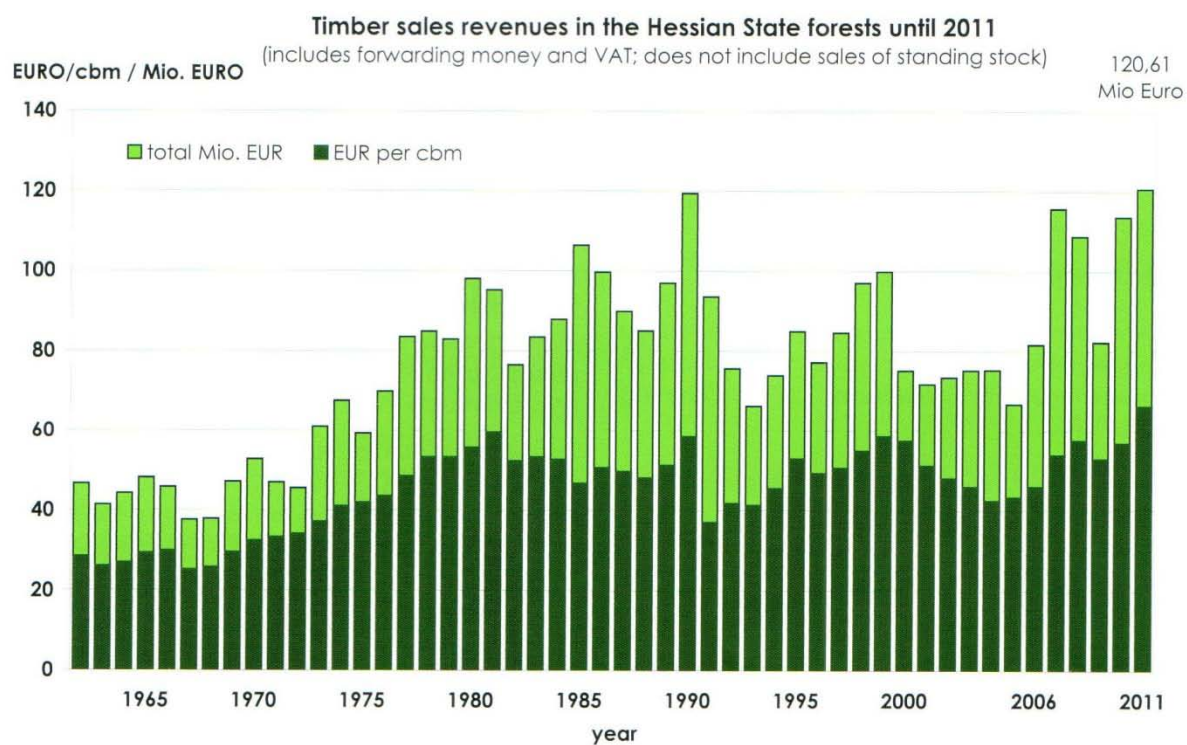
Diagram I: Tree species in the hessian forest



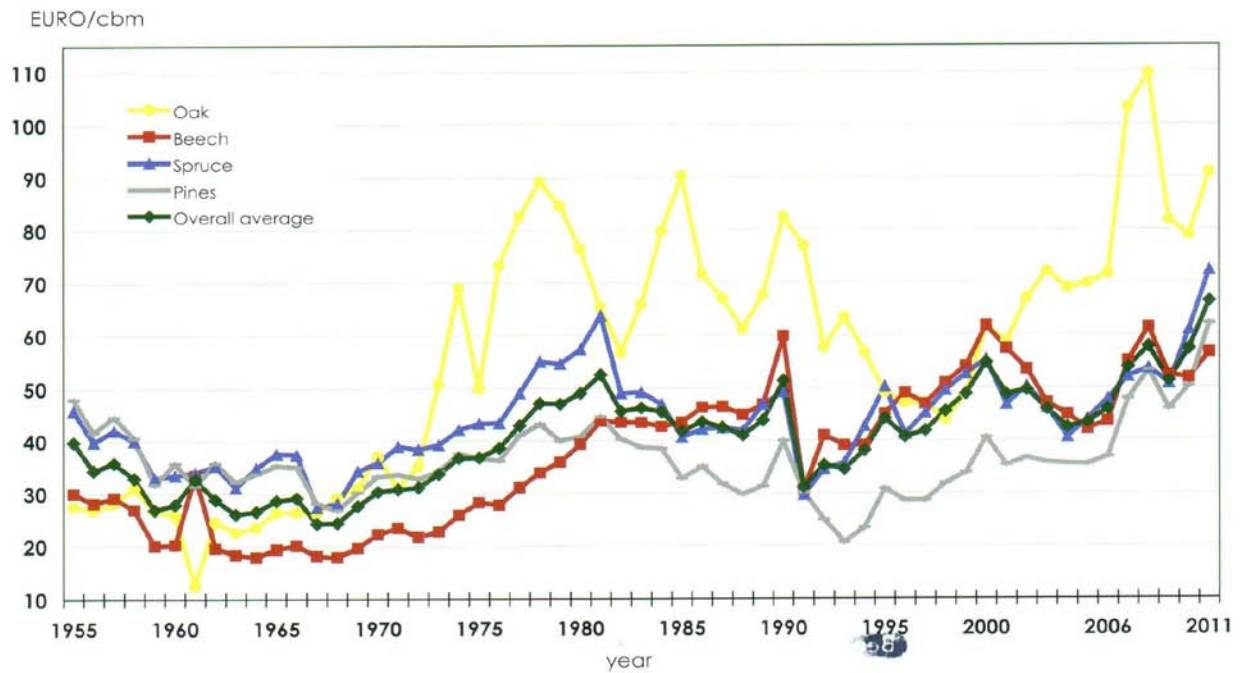
**Development (1990 to 2008) of tree species
distribution in Hesse in %**



■ 1990	47	12	35	32	21
■ 2008	56	13	43	28	16



Timber sales revenues per tree species group in the Hessian State forests (1955-2011)
 (without forwarding money and VAT, from 2000 including forwarding compensation; does not include sales of standing stock)



Natura 2000 - Areas Hesse

Actual area borders
February 2011

Natura 2000 - Areas

- FFH - areas / SCI
- FFH / Bird Conservation areas / SPA
- Bird Conservation areas
- Border
- Government district boundary
- District border

HESSEN-FORST
Nutzungsplanung für Game Management

Verbindungsstellen: Regierungspräsidien Kassel, Kassel und Darmstadt
Kartographie: Hesse (www.hesse.de) / Hesse (www.hesse.de)
Kartenprojektor: Hesse (www.hesse.de) / Hesse (www.hesse.de)
Hessen 1: 2010/11/11 als Darstellung des Hessischen Landesamtes für
Waldmanagement und Landschaftsplanung (Hessisches Landesamt für
Waldmanagement und Landschaftsplanung) 2010/11/11

Natura 2000 - Areas in Hesse

February 2011

FFH - areas / SCI
FFH / Bird Conservation areas / SPA
Bird Conservation areas

— Border
 — Government district boundary
 — District border

HESSEN-FORST

Geisteswissenschaftliche Fakultät **Rechtswissenschaften** **Kommunikationswissenschaft**
Kommunikationswissenschaft **Rechtswissenschaften** **Kommunikationswissenschaft**
Kommunikationswissenschaft **Rechtswissenschaften** **Kommunikationswissenschaft**

Natura 2000 - Areas in Hesse

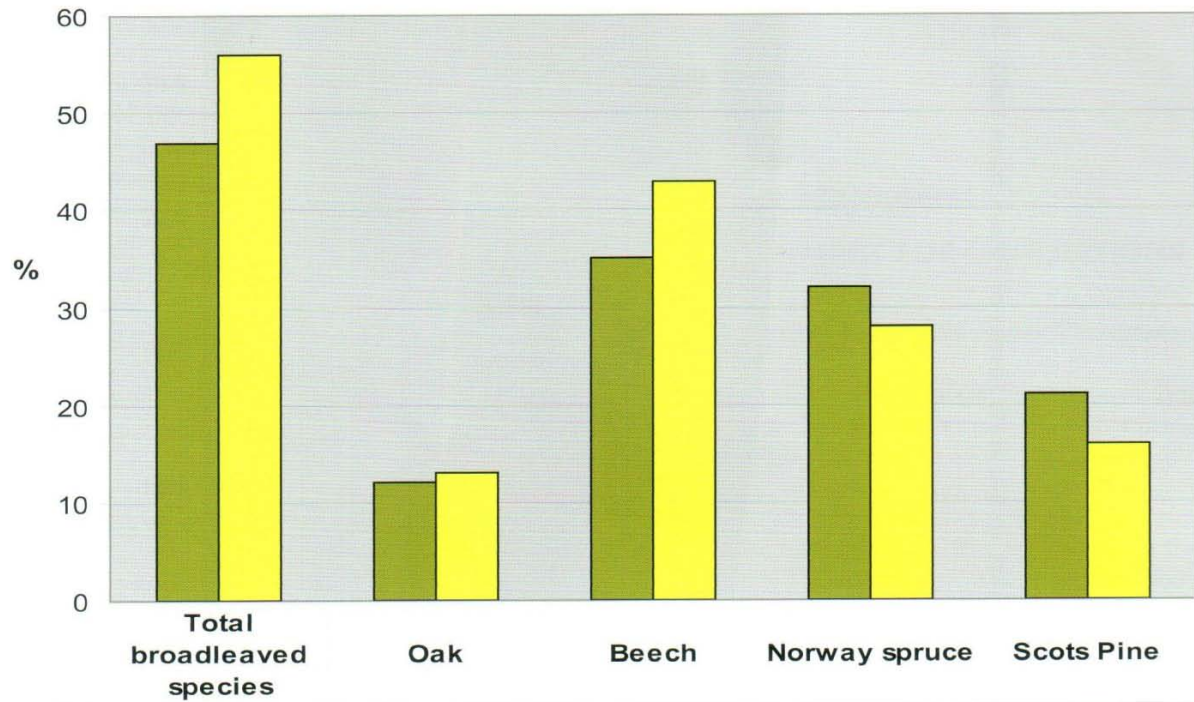
Land, forest and hunting area in Hesse

Land area	2.111.484 ha
of which hunting area	ca. 1.826.500 ha
of which forest area	894.981 ha
Hunting not allowed on	894.981 ha

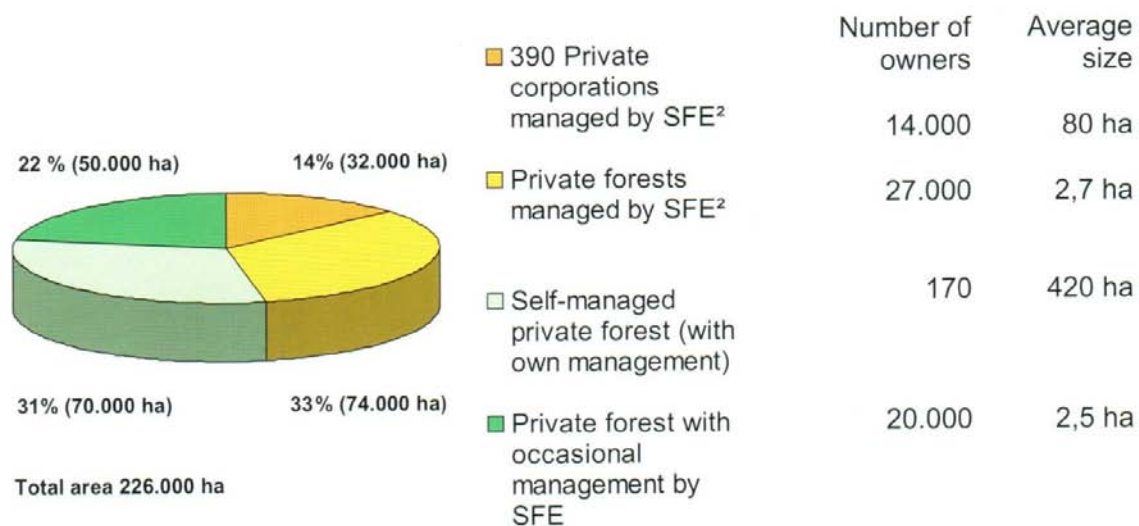
Hunting result of Hesse - Hunting year overall

Red deer	5.500
Roe deer	77.000
Wild boar	60.000
Fallow deer	1000
Mufflon sheep	400

**Development (1990 to 2008) of tree species
distribution in Hesse in %**



■ 1990	47	12	35	32	21
■ 2008	56	13	43	28	16



Annex I
List of Participants



FORESTRY STUDY TOUR PROGRAMME

Germany - April 14-21, 2013

List of Participants

	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	COUNTRY
1	Mr. Ruben PETROSYAN	State Organization Armenia-Forest	Deputy Director-General	ARMENIA
2	Mr. Aram YEGANYAN	State Organization Armenia-Forest	Head, District Forestry	ARMENIA
3	Mr. Vasil CHILINGARYAN	State Organization Armenia-Forest	Head, District Forestry	ARMENIA
4	Mr. Gagik AMIRYAN	State Organization Armenia-Forest	Chief Forester, District Forestry	ARMENIA
5	Mr. Arthur ALAVERDYAN	WWF-Armenia	Forest Officer	ARMENIA
6	Mr. Siyasat GARAYEV	Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources	Chief Advisor, Forestry Dep.	AZERBAIJAN
7	Mr. Sattar SATTAROV	Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources	Head, District Forestry	AZERBAIJAN
8	Mr. Elchin SALAKHOV	Ministry of Ecology & Natural Resources	Head, District Forestry	AZERBAIJAN
9	Mr. Elshad ASGAROV	WWF-Azerbaijan	Director	AZERBAIJAN
10	Mr. Revaz TSERTSVADZE	Natural Resources Agency	Deputy Head, Forest Dep.	GEORGIA
11	Mr. George KHABEISHVILI	Natural Resources Agency	Senior Specialist, Forest Dep.	GEORGIA
12	Mr. Vladimer SILAGADZE	Natural Resources Agency	Chief Forester, Regional Forestry	GEORGIA
13	Mr. Zviad GOTSIRIDZE	WWF-Caucasus	Project Country Coordinator	GEORGIA
14	Mr. Malkhaz DZNELADZE	WWF-Caucasus	Project Regional Coordinator	GEORGIA
15	Mr. Matthias LICHTENBERGER	WWF-Germany	Caucasus Programme Officer	GERMANY



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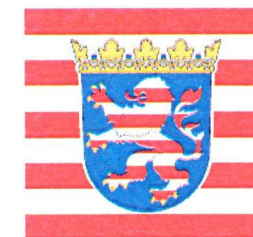
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Annex II
Study Tour Programme



HESSEN



Study Tour Programme
Expert dialogue and advice on sustainable forest management
14. – 21.04.2013

Forestry Dialogue and Expert Study Tour
on
Sustainable Forest Management in the State of
Hesse: Presentation of State Forest Enterprises,
Forest Transformation and Conversion,
Certification Standards and Criteria, Planting and
Seeding Concepts and Methods


Organized by Hessen-Forst, SFE
15. – 21.04.2013

Day	Location	Time	Programme	Responsible	Overnight
14.04.	Frankfurt		Arrival and transfer to hotel Firma Winzenhöler Busdriver: Herr Steinebach Tel: 0152-28730900 (Sunday) Busdriver rest of the week: Herr Würth Phone No:0160-98708525.	Torsten Möllmann Tel.: 0175-265 5496 (permanent company during the week) Swetlana Vollmer (translator) Tel.: 0175 90 743 70	Hotel Odenwaldblick Bulauweg 27 63322 Rödermark Tel: 06074-87440
15.04	Dieburg	08:45	Dinner: Hotel Odenwaldblick Meeting Point: Parking Area "Auf der Leer" in Dieburg; walk to the City Hall FA Dieburg Ringstraße 54 ■ 64807 Dieburg ■ Tel.: 06071/9861-0	Jörg Albrecht 0160-4708006	
Pick-up hotel: 08:30					
		09:00	Introduction: Forest Management in the State of Hesse Facts and figures, frameworks, structures	Rolf Schulzke, Director, Division of Forestry and Hunting, Province of Northern Hesse	
		10:00	Presentation of State Forest Enterprise Hessen-Forst	Jörg Albrecht, Director, Hessen-Forst Consulting	
		11:00	Meeting with the Mayor of Dieburg (City of D. owns some 1000 ha of forests)	Dr. Werner Thomas	
		11:30	Presentation of Forest Office Dieburg	Helmut Seitel, Director, Dieburg Forest Office	
		12:30	Lunch:	Will be organised by Forest Office Dieburg	
		14:00	Field visits: FSC certified forests (State and corporate forests), Integrated sustainable forest management. Discussion on important forest management elements, certification standards and criteria; The potential of natural regeneration;	Helmut Seitel and team	

			Adequate planting and seeding concepts and methods for forest transformation with native species; Wildlife problematic		Hotel Odenwaldblick Bulauweg 27 63322 Rödermark
			Dinner: Restaurant Ristorante La Leonessa Bahnhofstraße 60 63322 Rödermark (Urberach) Tel.: +49 (0) 6074 - 91 45 668		
16.04.	Hanau-Wolfgang 	08:30	Presentation of Forest Office Hanau-Wolfgang FA Hanau-Wolfgang Rodenbacher Chaussee 10a ■ 63457 Hanau ■ Tel.: 06181/95019-0	Christian Schaefer, Director, Hanau-Wolfgang Forest Office	
Pick-up hotel: 08:00					
		09:15	Hessian Tree Seed Kiln	Christian Schaefer and team	
		10:15	Central Tree Nursery	Christian Schaefer and team	
		11:00	Field visits: Conversion of pure conifer (Pinus silvatica) stands into mixed broad leaved stands in different stages; The potential of natural regeneration	Christian Schaefer and team	
		12:30	Lunch:	Will be organised by Forest Office Hanau-Wolfgang	
		14:00	Continuation of field visits Adequate planting and seeding concepts and methods for forest transformation with native species	Christian Schaefer and team	
		16:00	Transfer to Rödermark		
			Dinner: Restaurant zum Schützenhof Bahnhofstr. 8, 63322 Rödermark Tel.: 06074-5343		Hotel Odenwaldblick Bulauweg 27 63322 Rödermark
17.04.	Bad Schwalbach	09:00	Presentation of Bad Schwalbach Forest Office Meeting Point: An der Römerhalle 1	Dr. Karsten Schulze, Director, Bad Schwalbach Forest Office	

Pick-up hotel: 08:00			65321 Heidenrod Kemel FA Bad Schwalbach Gartenfeldstraße 32 ■ 65307 Bad Schwalbach ■ Tel.: 06124/7073-0		Central Hotel Kirchstraße 6 65385 Rüdesheim am Rhein 
		09:15	Field visits: FSC certified communal forests The potential of natural regeneration; Adequate planting and seeding concepts and methods for forest transformation with native species; Wildlife problematic	Volker Diefenbach, Forest manager Kemel-Springen District	
		12:30	Lunch: Hexenmühle	Will be organised by Forest office Bad Schwalbach	
		14:00	Continuation of field visit	Dr. Karsten Schulze and V. Diefenbach	
			Dinner: Rüdesheim Centralhotel Kirchstraße 6 65385 Rüdesheim; Tel.: 06722 912 181		
18.04. Pick-up hotel: 07:30	Herborn 	09:00	Presentation of Herborn Forest Office FA Herborn Uckersdorfer Weg 6 ■ 35745 Herborn ■ Tel.: 02772/4704-0	Gert Rode, Director, Herborn Forest Office	
		10:00	Field visit: "Hauberge" Traditional low coppice forest management for fuel wood production – ecological and economic advantages / disadvantages 	Gert Rode and representatives of the local communities	

		12:30	Lunch: Catering	Will be organised by Forest Office Herborn	Central Hotel Ringhotel Kirchstraße 6 65385 Rüdesheim am Rhein
		14:00	Continuation of field visit: conversion of low coppice forests into productive high forests – ecological and economic advantages / disadvantages	Gert Rode and representatives of the local communities	
			Dinner: Ratskeller, Schlossplatz 6, 65183 Wiesbaden, Tel.: 0611 – 30 0023		
19.04. Pick-up hotel: 08:20	Rüdesheim	08:30	Presentation of Rüdesheim Forest Office FA Rüdesheim Zum Niederwalddenkmal 15 ■ 65385 Rüdesheim a.Rh. ■ Tel.: 06722/9427-0	Ulrich Dombrowsky, Director, Rüdesheim Forest Office	
		09:30	Field visit: "Niederwald" Monument	Ulrich Dombrowsky and team	Central Hotel Ringhotel Kirchstraße 6
		10:15	Conversion of low coppice forests into productive high forests	Ulrich Dombrowsky and team	
		12:30	Lunch: Rebenhaus, Weinlokal & Restaurant • Am Niederwald 2 • 65385 Rüdesheim; Tel: 06722 48358		
		14:00	Continuation of field visit: Conversion of conifer stands (Picea) into mixed broadleaved stands; The potential of natural regeneration; Wildlife problematic	Ulrich Dombrowsky and team	
			Dinner. Grüner Baum Rheingaustraße 45 65375 Oestrich-Winkel Telefon 06723 / 1620	Jörg Albrecht	

					65385 Rüdesheim am Rhein
20.04. Pick-up hotel: 08:20		09:00	Wrap-up discussion 	Jörg Albrecht	Central Hotel Ringhotel Kirchstraße 6 65385 Rüdesheim am Rhein
		12:30	Lunch		
		14:00	Free time in Wiesbaden or Frankfurt	Thorsten Möllmann (permanent company during the week) Swetlana Vollmer (translator)	
			Dinner: Wiesbaden or Frankfurt		
21.04. Pick-up hotel: to be clarified	Frankfurt		Transfer to the airport for departure		

Annex III
Study Tour Photos

15.04.2013





16.04.2013















17.04.2013







18.04.2013









19.04.2013











Annex 3



Appendix 1.

Steering committee first meeting report

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

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;



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- 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 below).

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.
- 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.



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- 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.

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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Annex 4



Appendix 2.

Community awareness raising workshops reports

1. Report on implementation of the awareness raising workshops in the communities Lernantsk and Saramej (Lori Region)

Dates: 28-29 March 2013

Location: Lori Region, Armenia

Communities Lernantsq and Saramej

Aim and objectives:

The aim of the events was to raise the awareness of local communities, local self-governing bodies and local organizations about the importance of forests and transformation measures, climate change and other related issues. More specifically the workshops were aimed at:

- presenting the project to the communities adjacent to the pilot sites, local organizations and local self-governing bodies with the state of the project activities implemented so far and further plans;
- assessing the awareness on climate change and its impact on forests through the questionnaire;
- raising the awareness of the audience about the forests and climate change, the role of transformation measures, the short-term and long-term benefits of their implementation for the communities and others;
- sharing the experience of field workers on their involvement in the forest transformation measures and getting their feedback about the techniques they have been using, problems they have experienced and benefits they have received and others; and
- presenting briefly WWF/WWF Armenia with its mission, activities implemented in Armenia and particularly in the concerned region.

Locations: separate events were organized in the communities of Saramej and Lernantsk in the venues kindly offered by the communities.



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Questions raised and answers:

Lernantsk

The following main issues were raised by the workshop participants, which were answered by the project coordinator and “Hayantar” SNCO representative:

1. What are the species to be used for seeding and planting in the pilot sites? Only local species are used. The seedlings grown locally in the nurseries and seeds (oak) collected from the selected trees in the forest enterprise are used for planting and seeding. No outside planting material is used. No fast growing species are used. They are usually used for the plantation to get wood, but this is not the purpose of the project, which is aimed at forest transformation to have “close to nature” heterogeneous forest stands more resilient to climate change to ensure higher biodiversity and benefits to adjacent communities.
2. What about the thinning of pilot sites? Thinning is highly recommended especially for some dense areas in the pilot sites. The administration of Gugarq Forest Enterprise applied to the Ministry of Agriculture to get approval for thinning of respective areas with use of the wood as fuel by the communities, preferably free of charge.
3. Is the *Quercus macranthera* (oak) suitable for seeding in the area? Yes, it is a local species, which grows slowly, but has good chances to form healthy and resilient stands. In the past there were good oak stands in the region, which were destroyed due to anthropogenic impact. Therefore, it is expedient to use oak in transformation measures.
4. Is there possibility for more community members to participate in the field works on transformation? Yes, the “Hayantar” representative informed about the possibility to recruit for field activities to be commenced during the coming days (dependent on the weather).

Saramej

The following main issues were raised by the workshop participants, which were answered by the project coordinator and “Hayantar” SNCO representative:

1. What is the possibility to raise the salary of field workers? The question was answered by “Hayantar” representative as the contract party for implementation of transformation measures. The senior forester of Gugarq FE promised to discuss this issue with the Headquarters of “Hayantar” and inform the communities about the results.
2. Is there a possibility to have better shoes/field clothes and field equipment? In the frames of the EU project some field uniforms and shoes as well as forest equipment were provided to “Hayantar” SNCO for use during the field activities. Respective forest enterprises received them to be actively used in the course of project implementation. Therefore, already during the spring 2013 the field workers will get more field tools of high quality, which will facilitate the implementation of field activities.

Conclusions:



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1. The communities were provided information about the climate change and forests, forest transformation and its key steps, EU funded project and the status of its implementation, WWF Armenia and its activities. The participation of “Hayantar” representative was very useful and helpful, especially for clarification of forestry issues in the regional context.
2. The communities are rather enthusiastic about the activities implemented in the frames of the project. Forest transformation measures are necessary to have healthy forests to provide benefits to present and future generations. The communities are glad to have more such projects aimed at restoration and improvement of forest areas in their region.
3. According to the results of the questionnaire the communities are more or less familiar with the climate change as they experience its impact on agriculture in terms of more frequent unfavorable hydro meteorological events and others. There is less knowledge about the exact causes of climate change and its consequences. The communities are less familiar with forest transformation and its measures, though they have been involved in the forestry field activities since many years. However, everyone acknowledges the importance of forest restoration - planting, seeding, maintenance and others. The presentations made during the workshops explained the mentioned issues in an easy understandable manner (including photos). The “Hayantar” representative made significant contribution in terms of practical forestry issues and experience of forestry activities implemented in the region during the last decades.
4. The workshop was a good forum to connect more community members with the Forest Enterprise aimed at their involvement in the field activities. The issue of better remuneration for the field works was raised by the community members in front of “Hayantar” representative.
5. There is a need for field equipment and uniforms for the field workers – community members involved in forest related field activities, also in the frameworks of the EU funded project. Rather often the season favorable for field activities is rainy and good shoes and uniforms are needed for working efficiently and not missing the season. The forestry tools provided in the frames of the EU funded project will partially fill this gap, however more support in this field would be of help to both Forest Enterprise and communities.



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Workshop Agenda

12:30 -13:00	Registration of participants
13:00 – 13:10	Opening
13:10 – 13:25	Questionnaire
13:25 – 14:00	<u>Presentations</u> Siranush Galstyan <i>WWF Armenia, Project coordinator</i> Gagik Amiryan <i>“Hayantar” SNCO, Gugarq FE, Senior Forester</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Q&A session
14:15 - 14:50	Communities involvement in the forest transformation measures <i>Interactive session to get feedback on engagement of communities in the field activities, benefits and problems, suggestions</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Conclusions and closing remarks
15:00	Reception



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Lists of Participants

Lernantsk Community

N	Name / Surname	Organization /Position
1	Arayik Vardanyan	School accountant
2	Hamlet Macakyan	Agronomist
3	Martik Virabyan	Deputy head of community
4	Ashot Vardanyan	Community member
5	Hamlet Chakhoyan	Community counsel secretary
6	Ruben Vardanyan	Community member
7	Eduard Macakyan	Community member
8	Gor Macakyan	IT specialist
9	Aram Araqelyan	Economist
10	Arthur Meliksetyan	School Teacher
11	Hrach Petrosyan	Community member
12	Daniel Harutyunyan	Community member
13	Anahit Sargsyan	Community member
14	Tatevik Meloyan	Municipality workers
15	Kristine Tumanyan	Community member
16	Zemfira Vardanyan	Community member
17	Koryun Badalyan	Community member
18	Volodya Macakyan	Community member
19	Arkadi Nikoghosyan	Community member
20	Eduard Manukyan	School Teacher
21	Arsen Harutyunyan	Community counsel
22	Arthur Harutyunyan	Community counsel
23	Sasun Melqonyan	Community member
24	Gagik Amiryan	Senior forester, Gugarq FE, “Hayantar” SNCO
25	Siranush Galstyan	WWF Armenia Project Coordinator
26	Eduard Gevorgyan	WWF Armenia Driver
27	Yeva Sayadyan	WWF Armenia Operational Assistant



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Saramej Community

N	Name / Surname	Organization /Position
1	Tadevosyan Sergey	Postmaster
2	Farmanyany Amalya	Community member
3	Ter-Araqyan Hamest	Community member
4	Poghosyan Arman	Community member
5	Zaqaryan Eghish	Community member
6	Hovhannisyan Hayk	School economist
7	Boyaghchyan Astghik	School guard
8	Arakyan Janeta	Seasonal field worker
9	Gasparyan Tatevik	Seasonal field worker
10	Esayan Bavakan	Seasonal field worker
11	Poghosyan Larisa	Seasonal field worker
12	Sargsyan Narine	Seasonal field worker
13	Eghyzaryan Manya	Community counsel
14	Hakobyan Susanna	Community counsel
15	Gevorgyan Vergine	Community counsel
16	Khazaryan Anush	Community counsel
17	Farmanyany Amalya	Community member
18	Malkhasyan Lilit	School Director
19	Dardyan Hasmik	School Deputy Director
20	Hovhannisyan Hayk	Head of Community
21	Amiryan Gagik	Senior forester, Gugark FE, "Hayantar" SNCO
22	Malkhasyan Shushanik	School Teacher
23	Hovhannisyan Ruzanna	School Teacher
24	Zargaryan Hranush	Seasonal field worker
25	Soghomonyan Ararat	Ranger
26	Avetisyan Haghnar	Seasonal field worker
27	Shahmuradyan Ruzanna	Seasonal field worker
28	Minasyan Maqrui	Seasonal field worker
29	Sargsyan Mariam	Seasonal field worker
30	Karapetyan Vahram	Seasonal field worker
31	Sahakyan Garik	Forester of Gugark FE, "Hayantar" SNCO
32	Grigoryan Astghik	Community member
33	Kirakosyan Grikor	Seasonal field worker
34	Galstyan Siranush	WWF Armenia Project Coordinator
35	Gevorgyan Eduard	WWF Armenia Driver
36	Sayadyan Yeva	WWF Armenia Operational Assistant



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2. Report on implementation of the awareness raising workshop in the community Koghb (Tavush Region)

Date: 12 April 2013

Location: Tavush Region, Armenia

Koghb Community, the venue was kindly provided by Noyemberyan Forest Enterprise of “Hayantar” SNCO

Aim and objectives:

The aim of the event was to raise the awareness of local communities, local self-governing bodies and local organizations about the importance of forests and transformation measures, climate change and other related issues. More specifically the workshop was aimed at:

- presenting the project to the communities adjacent to the pilot sites, local organizations and local self-governing bodies with the state of the project activities implemented so far and further plans;
- assessing the awareness on climate change and its impact on forests through the questionnaire;
- raising the awareness of the audience about the forests and climate change, the role of transformation measures, the short-term and long-term benefits of their implementation for the communities and others;
- sharing the experience of field workers on their involvement in the forest transformation measures and getting their feedback about the techniques they have been using, problems they have experienced and benefits they have received and others; and
- presenting briefly WWF/WWF Armenia with its mission, activities implemented in Armenia and particularly in the concerned region.

Questions raised and answers:

The following main issues were raised by the workshop participants, which were answered by the project coordinator and the Director of Noyemberyan Forest Enterprise of “Hayantar” SNCO:

5. What are the species to be used for planting in the pilot sites? Only local species are used. The seedlings grown locally in the nursery of Noyemberyan FE are used for planting. The main species used for planting are oak, ash, apple, pear and wall-nut. No outside planting material is used. The planting is implemented according to the developed plan, so that at the end to have “close to nature” heterogeneous forest more resilient to climate change to ensure higher biodiversity and benefits to adjacent communities, which is the aim of the EU financed project on forest transformation.



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6. Is not it better to use seeds instead of seedlings/saplings? It depends on the site conditions. In some places it is better to use seeds, in some others – seedlings/saplings. The experience shows that in the areas selected as the project pilot sites it is better to use seedlings/saplings to ensure high survival rate. The use of locally grown species adds chances for the success of the planted areas.
7. What about the sustainability of the transformation measures after the end of the project? The project will provide financial support for implementation of the planned transformation measures till spring 2014 after which the responsibility for further maintenance activities should be taken by “Hayantar” SNCO as it is agreed by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between WWF Armenia and “Hayantar” SNCO. In case of possibility new financial resources should be sought both for continuation of activities in the pilot sites as well as initiation of similar activities in other areas of Noyemberyan FE and other FEs of “Hayantar” SNCO.
8. What about the possibility of having more field equipment and uniforms? The project provided some field equipment and uniforms, which were already used during spring 2013 field activities. Definitely there is a need for more field equipment and especially uniforms/shoes. In fact, the contractor “Hayantar” SNCO can think about providing some basic staff to the field workers, as the tools/uniforms provided by the project were not aimed at covering all the needs.
9. What about having additional forest guards assigned to take care of the planted areas? Definitely there is such a need and this issue was already discussed with the Headquarter of “Hayantar” SNCO. The forest guards in the pilot sites are needed for walking around, for example, to reveal the damages of the fence, which should prevent animals from grazing, to take care of the planted seedlings and other daily activities.



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Conclusions:

6. The communities were provided information about the climate change and forests, forest transformation and its key steps, EU funded project and the status of its implementation, WWF Armenia and its activities. The participation of the Director of Noyemberyan FE was very useful and helpful, especially for clarification of forestry issues in the regional context.
7. The community members welcome the activities implemented in the frames of the project. It is acknowledged by everyone that forest transformation measures are necessary to have healthy forests to provide benefits to present and future generations. The communities are glad to have more such projects aimed at restoration and improvement of forest areas in their region.
8. According to the results of the questionnaire the communities are more or less familiar with the climate change. There is no much knowledge about the exact causes of climate change and its consequences. The communities formally are not familiar with forest transformation, but practically they have been involved in the forestry field activities since many years and know what should be done in terms of planting, seeding, maintenance. Everyone acknowledges the importance of forest restoration. The presentations made during the workshops explained the mentioned issues in an easy understandable manner (including photos). The Director of Noyemberyan FE made significant contribution in terms of practical forestry issues and experience of forestry activities implemented in the region during the last decades.
9. There is a need for field equipment and uniforms for the field workers – community members involved in forest related field activities, also in the frameworks of the EU funded project. The forestry tools provided in the frames of the EU funded project will partially fill this gap, however more support in this field would be of help to both Forest Enterprise and communities.



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Workshop Agenda

12:30 -13:00	Registration of participants
13:00 – 13:10	Opening
13:10 – 13:25	Questionnaire
13:25 – 14:00	<u>Presentations</u> Siranush Galstyan <i>WWF Armenia, Project coordinator</i> Vasil Chilingaryan <i>“Hayantar” SNCO, Noyemberyan FE, Director</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Q&A session
14:15 - 14:50	Communities involvement in the forest transformation measures <i>Interactive session to get feedback on engagement of communities in the field activities, benefits and problems, suggestions</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Conclusions and closing remarks
15:00	Reception



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Lists of Participants

There were participants both from Koghb and Berdavan communities – people participating in the field activities in Noyemberyan pilot sites.

N	Name / Surname	Organization /Position
1	Armen Abovyan	Forester
2	Giko Asikyan	Forester
3	Aramayis Malkhasyan	Forest Enterprise employee
4	Vahan Abovyan	Forester
5	Gagik Avakyan	Forester
6	Anahit Aghababyan	Forest-pathology specialist
7	Sargis Ahinyan	Forest Enterprise employee
8	Artavazd Yeganyan	“Zikatar” Environmental Center
9	Garnik Kocharyan	Community member
10	Ashot Abovyan	Community member
11	Sandro Sevinyan	Community member
12	Armen Sahakyan	Community member
13	Armen Harutyunyan	Community member
14	Volodya Karaghozyan	Forester
15	Khachatur Avagyan	Forester
16	Seryozha Harytyunyan	Community member
17	Aramayis Abovyan	Head of Koghb community
18	Gagik Abovyan	Forest Enterprise employee
19	Samvel Ghushyan	Community member
20	David Jrbashyan	Community member
21	David Knyazyan	Community member
22	Razmik Ghushyan	Community member
23	Vasil Chilingaryan	Director of Forest Enterprise
24	Voskan Avakyan	Forester
25	Suren Gabrielyan	Community member
26	Siranush Galstyan	WWF Armenia Project Coordinator
27	Eduard Gevorgyan	WWF Armenia Driver
28	Yeva Sayadyan	WWF Armenia Operational Assistant



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Annex 5



Appendix 3. Photos

Fence



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Planting material



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Field activities



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Transfer of forestry tools



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Community awareness raising workshops



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Europe Day Celebration



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Annex 6



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Report on implementation of media event at Agsu and Yevlak pilot sites and preparation of site signs for the pilot sites.

Location: Agsu and Yevlakh cities, Azerbaijan

Prepared by: Sevinj Sarukhanova, Partnership and Communications Manager



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Media event at Agsu and Yevlak pilot sites

Dates: 15-16 June, 2013

Aim and objectives:

On 15-16 June, 2013, WWF Azerbaijan organized media events within the “*EU ENRTP Caucasus - Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries through forest transformation*” project in Agsu and Yevlakh cities. The aim of the events was to present the project, upcoming activities and expected results to large community via Mass Media.

The director of WWF Azerbaijan office Elshad Askerov has informed participants about the project, its aim, future activities, expected results and the role of the site adjacent communities. He mentioned that 75ha monoculture forest area was identified in each pilot site and fenced. There will be planted different local tree species in order to restore the natural forests.

The journalists met with the chairman of Shamakhi and Yevlakh forest Departments at the project sites and were showed the existing problems in monoculture forests, fenced territory and informed that they are going to increase the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change by transforming monoculture forests to natural forests.



Fenced territory at Agsu pilot site



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Some photos from the events:



Media representatives at Agsu pilot site



Media representatives at Yevlakh pilot site



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Results:

The following articles and video materials prepared by the media representatives after the media events. These media materials allow informing the larger audience about the project, its aim and activities.



Newsletter “Zerkalo”

<http://www.zerkalo.az/2013/novaya-zhizn-starogo-lesa/>

“GreenPen” – eco journalists network

<http://greenpen.az/?p=1228>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=tmecd7guRXM



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Interview to ELTV

<http://elvtv.az/2013/06/17/yararsz-torpaqlarda-me-salnacaq.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=V4WXDSvV93I



Newsletter "KUR"

<http://www.kur-yevlax.com/?p=7990>



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List of participation:

The media events arranged at Agsu and Yevlakh sites with participation of WWF Azerbaijan officials, national TV representatives, journalists and local forestry representatives:

- Gulgiz Suleymanova , representative of “Zerkalo” newsletter
- Elchin Sardarov, representative of “GreenPen” eco- journalists network
- Khanim Nasibova, representative of local newspaper “Kur”
- Nikbin Qasimli, ElTV Regional television
- Sattar Sattarov , chairman of Yevlakh forest Department
- Elchin Salahov, chairman of Shamakhi forest Department
- Elshad Askerov, Director of WWF Azerbaijan office
- Sevinj Sarukhanova, Partnership and Communications Manager



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Preparation of site signs for Agsu and Yevlakh pilot sites

Sight signs:

4 sight signs for Agsu and Yevlakh pilot sites designed and printed within the project. They were erected in the project sites – 2 at Agsu pilot site and 2 at Yevlakh pilot site. They are very good visible communication materials to inform the community about the ongoing project.



The sign for Agsu pilot site



The sign for Yevlakh site



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