

STANDARD TWINNING PROJECT FICHE

1. Basic Information

- 1.1 Programme: Framework Programme in Support of EU-Georgia Agreements, AAP 2013, ENPI/2013/024-706
- 1.2 Twinning Number: GE 13 ENI EN 01 16 (GE/26)
- 1.3 Title: Strengthening Sustainable Management of Forests in Georgia
- 1.4 Sector: Environment
- 1.5 Beneficiary country: Georgia

List of Abbreviations

AA	Association Agreement
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation
APA	Agency of Protected Areas
BC	Beneficiary Country
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CENN	Caucasian Environmental NGO Network
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area
DES	Department of Environment Supervision
ECOSOC	The United Nations Economic and Social Council
ENPI	European Neighborhood Policy Instrument
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
FLUIDS	National Forest and Land Use Information and Decision Support
FPS	Forest Policy Service
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GoG	Government of Georgia
GFW	Global Forest Watch
HCV	High Conservation Value
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
LEPL	Legal Entity of Public Law
MoENRP	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NFA	National Forestry Agency
NFN	National Forestry Nursery
NFP	National Forest Program
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWFPs	Non-wood Forest Products
PAO	Program Administration Office
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SC	Steering Committee
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TR	Timber Regulation
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission of Europe
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
WB	World Bank
WRI	World Resource Institute

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall objective:

To support the development of sustainable forest management system, harmonized with EU standards and directives.

2.2 Project purpose:

To enhance the capacity of the state forest institutions¹ in order to prevent and combat illegal activities in the sector, ensuring the sustainable management of Georgian forests, including legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products through harmonizing the Georgian forest regulatory framework to the EU standards and practices, directions and good practice, also by improving the forest information and monitoring system, as well as strengthening communication to this end between these institutions.

2.3 Contribution to Association Agreement/Relevant National Documents / International Provisions:

This Twinning project is in line with the key policy acts which have been approved in the previous years and contributes to the implementation of some of the main goals described in the relevant documents.

The EU-Georgia Association Agreement, Chapter 13, article 233 specifically addresses “Sustainable management of forests and trade in forest products”, precisely the article 233 stipulates that cooperation covers: (b) - “Exchanging information on measures to promote the consumption of timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests and, where relevant, cooperate to developing such measures”; (c) – “Adopting measures to promote the conservation of forest cover and combat illegal logging and related trade, including with respect to third countries, as appropriate”; (d) – “Exchanging information on actions for improving forest governance and where relevant cooperating to maximize the impact and ensure the mutual supportiveness of their respective policies aiming at excluding illegally harvested timber and timber products from trade flows”.

The action supports the implementation of the provisions of the Government of Georgia’s (GoG) “National Forest Concept” adopted in 2013, also, the new draft of Forest Code and “forest sector reform strategy and action plan (2016-2021)” which are expected to be adopted by the end of 2016, as well facilitates implementation of the Socio-economic Development Strategy of Georgia – “Georgia 2020”.

After signing the EU-Georgia Association Agreement in summer 2014, the ongoing reforms in environmental sector have been accelerated. The Government of Georgia has launched the process of transition to European standards in the field of environment which should lead to the development of modern environmental system. Given the complexity of the commitments in the agreement, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MoENRP), as the primary goal, set to

¹ Forest Policy Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia; LEPL National Forest Agency; Department of Environmental Supervision.

establish flexible and efficient mechanisms of coordination. In cooperation with the EU, the MoENRP has developed a Roadmap for the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA) in the fields of environment and climate action. This roadmap enables the state institutions to implement legal approximation, policy making and similar activities in line with the specific requirements of the environment and climate action chapters of the AA and their Annexes, as well as all relevant provisions of the DCFTA part.

Since 2003, Georgia is a signatory country of “Forest Europe” (the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) that develops common strategies for its 46 member countries and the European Union on how to protect and sustainably manage forests. Since 1990, the collaboration of the Ministers responsible for forests in Europe has had a great economic, environmental and social impact on the national and international levels. FOREST EUROPE has led to achievements such as the Pan-European guidelines, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Georgia fully supports the proceedings towards the implementation of the commitments under the Ministerial Conferences and is prepared to implement them through national strategies, programmes and initiatives, furthermore considering the coordination of external substantial support and cooperation with partner organizations.

Moreover, Georgia is actively involved in the process of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) with the main objective to promote “... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...” based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21, the outcome of the IPF/IFF Processes and other key milestones of international forest policy.

Furthermore, the action strongly supports the implementation of Georgia’s global commitments under the Resolution *E/RES/2015/33 International arrangement on forests beyond 2015* adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations on 22 July 2015 [on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2015/42 and Corr.1)] and Resolution *A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2015. Countries adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to **end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification

Forests are one of the most valuable natural resources in Georgia. They occupy about 40% of the country’s territory and have significant potential in production of wood and other wood products. Up to 98% of Georgian forests are natural origin. It has a great heritage in terms of biodiversity and can play a considerable role in terms of protection of ecosystems and eco-heritage both locally and globally. Georgia enjoys important position among the world’s 34 biodiversity hot spots, recognized for rich biodiversity. The country creates favourable environment for investment in the sector with its many resources still untapped. On the other hand, more than 20% of forests are protected,

being given the status of national parks, protected areas etc. Georgian forests not only conserve the unique biological diversity, but ensure continuous delivery of vital direct or indirect benefits and resources to the population. This in turn facilitates the development of different fields of industry, the growth of the well-being of the population, poverty elevation and creates favourable conditions for the sustainable development of the country.

Proceeding from the importance of forests, the issue of forest management and forestry sector reform is a key issue of discussion. Since 2000 there have been several attempts to reorganize the forestry sector and to establish an effective institutional model with the goal of sustainable forest management, though due to the lack of a clearly defined strategy and action plan the processes could not be developed and positive results could not be achieved.

In 2013, with the purpose of protecting the country's forests and increasing the effectiveness of their ecological, social and economic functions, a new stage of forestry reform initiated, in which the MoENRP played a leading role. As a result, in May 2013 the forests portfolio was transferred back to the MoENRP; the National Forestry Agency (NFA) was established as a Legal Entity of Public Law (LEPL), a new Forest Policy Service (FPS) was created and the Department of Environmental Supervision (DES) established.

In December 2013 the Parliament of Georgia adopted the National Forest Concept, which was developed with strong stakeholder participation. The National Forest Concept defines the State's perspective on the forests of Georgia considering their main functional importance and values. The goal of the Concept is to establish a system of sustainable forest management that will ensure improvement of the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Georgia's forests, protection of biological diversity, effective use of the economic potential of forests taking into account their ecological values, public participation in forest management related issues and fair distribution of derived benefits.

In 2014, the MoENRP aimed at improving the unsustainable and increasingly negative management of forests and for achieving better coordination of ongoing forestry reforms, established the Steering Committee (SC) for Forest Sector Reform. This is a high-level decision making body in charge of effective coordination of the progress. The Steering Committee consists of several representatives from relevant bodies of the MoENRP and from partner international organizations.

Based on the SC's recommendations, it was decided to develop a Forest Sector Reform Strategy and Action Plan to achieve the government's goals and ensure sustainable forest management, which is under elaboration and is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016. The strategy sets out the targets and results that need to be achieved by 2021. The institution responsible for coordinating the implementation of the strategy is the MoENRP. The government invites all the stakeholders and individuals who are interested and involved in the forest sector to participate actively in the process of implementing the National Forest Concept and the Forest Sector Reform Strategy and Action Plan.

The strategy sets out the core objectives:

- Develop and enforce laws and regulations, required to achieve the goals of National Forestry Concept.
- Ensure the capacity enhancement of state forest institutions to effectively fulfil

their functions.

- Guarantee to obtain and provide the information about the forests and forest lands in order to facilitate the decision making on forest use planning and management.
- Ensure to increase the role of civil society in the implementation of the National Forest Concept.
- Attain sufficient information about the market for wood and wood products to be able to decide on development goals and strategies for the state forest management organisations and the wood processing sector.
- Encourage synergies in building such conditions that will enable the forestry sector to increase its contribution to the national economy and promote employment opportunities especially among rural population.

The present Twinning project strongly supports the implementation of the Forest Sector Reform Strategy and Action Plan.

Moreover, specific attention will be paid to ensuring that the policy development and legal approximation process supported under this Twinning project will be according to the national framework on policy development and to the better regulation approach, supported also at the EU level². A better regulation approach requires that policies and legislation are prepared on the basis of best available evidence (impact assessments) and according to an inclusive approach involving both internal and external stakeholders.

As mentioned above, important steps were undertaken addressing the forest governance lately, nevertheless Georgian forest sector is facing complex problems that involve economic, social and environmental aspects. These problems are caused by different reasons: lack of viable system for sustainable forest management and professionally trained cadre in forest services, conflict of interests, illegal activities in the sector, lack of the expertise to sustainably plan the forest utilization and monitoring, also to provide the favourable conditions for private sector, as well as for rural communities and guarantee the multipurpose of forests and their sustainable ecologic, economic and social functions etc.

During the recent decades the forest degradation process has dramatically accelerated in Georgia, as a result, the erosion processes intensified, ground resources were damaged and water circulation regime showed changes. Many experts point out the direct connection between the frequent droughts, floods and landslides and the overexploitation of forest resources in recent years. These processes became especially obvious in 2004-2005 when heavy rains and landslides caused casualties and destruction. Also thousands of people in various parts of Georgia were left without homes.

Latest studies and forest inventories conducted at several forest districts, identified high dependency of the population on forests, especially in the rural areas of the country. During the last decade, numerous studies were implemented by different organizations providing significant information about the degree of the forest degradation caused by weak forest governance and high volume of illegal activities in the forest sector. Recent

²http://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/better-regulation-why-and-how_en

reliable data provided by the inventories conducted in Borjomi-Bakuriani³ and Kharagauli forest districts (around 90 000 ha) from 2014 - 2015 show a substantial decrease of timber resources and high level of forest degradation since 1998, as well as the resulted emissions account for up to 2 million tons of CO₂. It might be premature to draw conclusions on the state of Georgia's forests on the results obtained from two forest districts, but it is reasonable to expect at least the similar results in other forest districts.

Over the last two decades, illegal logging has been a problem in Georgia. Two major types of logging can be distinguished – for fuel-wood and for construction timber. The forestry statistics and data on the amount of legal logging are far from being reliable. Some experts have expressed doubts as to the annual volume of logging in the country. They argue that totally between 2.5 and 6.0 million m³ of timber have been logged in Georgia every year since 1991. When there is no system yet to collect statistical data all over the country, the central statistical office repeats the data from the previous years.

According to official statistics, the volume of illegal logging was 8,262 m³ in 2008 and 20,994 m³ in 2014. However it still remains a threat and, in 2014, the DES detected 2,489 violations, which produced damage to the environment (e.g. deforestation and biodiversity loss) amounted at more than 4.1 million Gel. Illegal operations range from commercial extraction of highly valuable timber to fuel-wood cutting for both local and foreign markets.

The current legal procedure of licensing and auctioning of forest use has been heavily criticized by experts, politicians, and civil society. The procedure is non-transparent; the general public including local communities does not participate in the decision-making process; and the ecological, cultural, social, recreational and some other values of the forests are not taken into account.

License control mechanisms seems to be weak: inspectors can check fulfilment of license terms only one year after a license has been issued, and only one inspection per year is allowed. Such practice will deplete forest resources, provoke an increase in negative geological processes, lead to the impoverishment of communities dependent on these resources, and finally, possibly cause environmentally-induced migration. Because of these significant reasons mentioned above, issuing new licenses were terminated for the time being.

A number of factors create the ground for illegal operations and undermine the reliability of official data: frequent changes in legislation and limited capacities of and coordination among relevant state institutions; the long-term forest licensing regime, resulting in the transfer of land by state forest authorities without first carrying out an up-to-date forest inventory; the lack of legal instruments (legislative, regulatory/procedural) to monitor the process of use of forest resources by private investors; the limited number of rangers; and the high demand by local populations for fuel-wood, due to rural poverty and the lack of affordable alternatives to firewood.

For effective protection of forests against illegal activities, it is essential to supply relevant law enforcement authorities with adequately qualified staff and advanced communication means. At present, the forest protection function is fulfilled by the rangers of the National Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. The average area under the control of one ranger is very

³ Progress Report 4, ANNEX 7, carbon baseline for Borjomi-Bakuriani forestry district (Adaptive Sustainable Forest Management in Borjomi-Bakuriani Forest District)

high (between 5,000ha – 7,000ha), which makes it difficult to protect forests effectively.

In addition to wood and environmental functions, Georgian forest ecosystems produce a great variety of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) such as fruit, berries, nuts, and bark. Other important NWFPs include mushrooms, medicinal plants, honey and decorative plants. Utilization of NWFPs by the people is free of charge. In general, non-wood products are not commercialized, due to white-spots in the legislation, as well as of lack of financing and difficulties in collection and processing.

Quality of the policy and legislative process

The national Policy planning system reform strategy, adopted by the Government of Georgia in August 2015⁴ recognises the current weak link between the policy planning process and legislation drafting, the absence of practice of legislative impact assessment and the weak institutional capacity of ministries in legal drafting. In the same line, the OSCE has published an assessment⁵ of the legislative process in Georgia in 2015, highlighting a number of weaknesses in the current (policy-making) and legislative process. The assessment specifically notes the reoccurring problem with implementation of laws, which can be attributed to the low quality of laws due to weaknesses in the law-making process. There is a pressure to complete numerous legal reforms in the shortest possible time: "This situation inevitably places enormous pressure on the combined law-making resources of the Government and the Parliament and leaves little time for essential elements of a well-ordered law-making process, such as regulatory impact assessments or proper consultation with civil society." Improvement of the legislative drafting process and quality of legislation is now a priority area of action for the Administration of Government under the Prime Minister (steering the policy-making process) and all line ministries. This primarily involves the Administration of Government, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. The Government, with international support, is currently developing a uniform methodology for regulatory impact assessments, to be used by all legal drafters. Similar effort is being made with regards to developing a uniform approach to legal approximation.

Inclusive legislative and policy development is required by the 2015 Policy planning strategy. However, in practice the consultations with stakeholders and the public at the pre-legislative stage is uneven across the sectors, and limited to the main legislative acts. This weakness is also pointed by the report of OSCE. Recognising the need for increased transparency of the legislative process, the Parliament of Georgia committed, through the Open Government Partnership, to improve the accessibility of citizens to draft laws, and its administration has started working towards that end.

Justification

The problems existing in the forestry sector which directly reflect on the state of forests are caused by a number of factors among which the most important are: unsustainable forest management practiced during recent years, social background, imperfect legislation, weak forest management institutions and poor enforcement etc. It is expected, that this Twinning project will contribute to:

- Alignment of the Georgian forest related legislation according to an inclusive and evidence-based approach with the EU norms and standards

⁴ http://gov.ge/files/425_49310_540377_PolicyPlanningSystemReformStrategyandActionPlan.pdf

⁵ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/138761?download=true>

- Capacity building of the state forest institutions (institutional, regulatory, human resources) in consistent with the general principles of civil service.
- Improving the inter-agency coordination and monitoring of forest management.

Above mentioned issues, are the agreed core deliverables for establishing/improving the forest management in Georgia, also, taking into account the internationally agreed principles and provisions of sustainable forest management.

Furthermore, building on the lessons learnt and the better regulation agenda promoted at the EU level, this twinning project will contribute to the overall public administration reform in Georgia, and specifically the sectorial reform process of forestry field, ensuring the introduction of an inclusive and evidence-based approach to policy-making, capacity building and legal drafting in the forest sector. It will also pay specific attention to accountability and reporting lines between concerned institutions (agencies and ministries). .

3.2 Linked activities

Significant initiatives and projects are being implemented and supported by the partner/donor organizations in a close collaboration with the MoENRP:

Project title: European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance II Program (ENPI-FLEG II) 2013-2016

Donor organizations: European Union (EU), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

Project implementer: WB, WWF-Caucasus, IUCN

Main activities and core intended results / outcomes:

- Elaboration of a new Forest Code of Georgia. National, as well as international experts are involved in the development process. The draft Code is elaborated and expected to be adopted by the Parliament of Georgia in 2017.
- By-laws and regulations for operationalizing the Forest Code developed
- Measure the true value of natural resources for community development
- Inventory in selected forest area conducted
- Sustainable forest management (SFM) plan for the selected forestry unit developed
- Assist the selected model forestry unit, where the SFM plan is implemented, in FSC certification (based on FSC standards and procedures)
- Report on methodology for development of sustainable multipurpose forest management plans for Tusheti protected landscape is available;
- Full-scale TEEB study for forests located in Ajara (Georgia), including policy recommendations conducted and report is available
- Analysis of the Georgian forestry sector in the context of voluntary forest certification potential (including market opportunities for certified products), recommendations for applying key principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards (including HCV forest concept) have been prepared;
- Strengthen the system of forestry education by elaboration of strategic policy document and action plan covering all levels of education: secondary, high and vocational
- Create forest information database through development of GeoPortal for Georgian Forests - “Geo Forest Portal” and Forest Resource Center
- Increasing communication/visibility and raising awareness

- Human Resource capacity building
- Increasing communication/visibility and raising awareness

Project Title: Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus (2014-2017)

Donor organizations: Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC); Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Project implementer: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The main focus of the cooperation is on establishing the right conditions for the sustainable management of biodiversity. The project is supporting the creation of strategies and tools that will improve environmental decision-making. It concentrates above all on developing the managerial and technical expertise of the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian governments. At local level, the project focuses on the management of natural resources at a number of pilot sites, where it is working to improve the sustainability of resource use and enhance the protection of biodiversity in agricultural and forestry production systems.

Main activities and core intended results / outcomes:

- Elaborate the Forest Sector Reform Strategy and Action Plan
- Support of institutional reform of NFA and FPS
- Develop a National Forest Education Strategy (jointly with World Bank)
- Curricula development (vocational training, university level) for rangers, forest engineers, forest workers, managers)
- Provision in designing and establishment of National Forest Information/State Forest Registry and Monitoring System (supported by ADC, GIZ, GEF, UNEP, WRI)
- Design the methodologies for future National Forest Inventories and Forest Management Inventories, and a draft tender document concerning the necessary funding for those inventories are being elaborated
- National principles, criteria and indications for SFM are being developed
- Capacity building for forest specialists are being conducted by providing trainings
- Guidelines for Eco-compensation Standards are being elaborated
- Support of pilot forest management units based on criteria and indicators for SFM
- Wood market study: primarily meeting demand for local industries and employment, considering social dimension of forests in Georgia (fuel-wood demand) is being conducted
- Development of a concept for sustainable fuel wood supply from degraded forests in Kakheti
- Support in development of scenarios for sustainable business models depending on biomass technologies. Support in quantification of biomass production capacity. Support in selection of most suitable site for the project. Support in decision for most suitable technology. Backstopping in cost/benefit analysis including biomass supply and construction of production facility as well as sales of biomass products (most likely wooden briquettes)

Project title: Sustainable Forest Governance in Georgia: Phase II (2015-2019)

Donor organizations: Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

Project implementer: Caucasian Environmental NGOs Network

Support consists to contribute to the successful implementation of forest reform in Georgia via the development of policy tools, modernization of forest management practices, strengthening the capacities of authorities and civil society, and enhancing issue based policy dialogue.

Main activities and core intended results / outcomes:

- Forest Zoning Directive is being developed
- Developing a system of categorizing and strategic zoning of the forest area
- Elaboration of a National Program for providing population with firewood
- Development of regional information and involvement model – establishing 9th working group under the NFP, with a scope for regional cooperation development
- Advocating forest policy priorities in other sectors: working on relevant sector development documents (National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), Agriculture Strategy and Action Plan, Rural Development Plans, Climate Change Action and Mitigation Plans, Energy Policy and Strategy, Socio-Economic Development Strategy) to advocate forest policy priorities in other sectors
- Raising awareness among the population and decision-makers, and fostering good governance and public engagement
- Conduct forest industry analysis
- Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) is available by the end of the project, identifying costing priority strategies and actions. The CBA covers the following: Forest industry analysis; Firewood production analysis; Forest welfare function analysis; Forest carbon credit analysis

Project title: Global Forest Watch (GFW) (2015-2018)

Donor organizations: Global Environmental Facility (GEF); Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI); Transparent World.

Project implementer: United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP); World Resource Institute (WRI); Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

The project is focused on empower decision makers with technology and information. The project is to address key barriers to improve availability, transparency, timeliness and accuracy of Forest information and ensure information can be used and spark action. The GFW platform is a model for this project but this project will develop its own National Forest and Land Use Information and Decision Support (FLUIDS) web-portal/platform that can ingest data from different sources in order to develop a decision-support system and respective analytical tools.

Main activities and core intended results / outcomes:

Component 1: Develop a Web-platform and data for a Forest Information system and support forest management with data and decision tool

- Assess and develop land use/forest data
- Develop web-platform
- Outreach and capacity building

Component 2: Adjara Autonomous region adopts the system as a critical information tool for collaborating on landscape-level, multi-sectorial initiatives

- Assessment and implementation of the system in Adjara autonomous region

Project title: EU funded Twinning project “Strengthening Management of Protected Areas of Georgia” (Twinning number GE12/ENP-PCA/EN/14, MS Partners: Austria, Czech Republic) (2013-2015)

The Twinning project aimed at strengthening the effective nature conservation system of Georgia through improved management of protected areas of Georgia in order to enable the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia (APA) to implement procedures for management planning that conform to international best practice. The management and operational planning was improved and first steps meeting the obligations under the Association Agreement were made. This was reflected in the achieved three mandatory results:

- Strengthened APA’s capacities of developing and implementing management plans as a main tool for nature conservation
- Senior staff of the APA and its territorial administrations, policy holders from relevant line ministries and senior staff of NGOs and educational institutions working in the protected areas field acquainted with and understand the EU Acquis with regard to protected areas networks and the management of protected areas
- Effective mechanism in place for involvement and consultation of local actors in preparation and implementation of management plans.

Based on the gap analysis of donor coordination matrix and the present challenges of forest sector in Georgia, this Twinning project will complement and develop synergies through the agreed components, along with the ongoing and planned activities, supported by internal and external sources.

Project title: Support to the Public Administration Reform in Georgia

Donor organisation: EU

Duration: 2016-2019 (planned)

Description: The objective of the programme is to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the public administration of Georgia, in line with the European Principles of Public Administration. It will have a particular focus on the improvement of the policy planning and coordination capacities and processes in the central public administration. The professionalisation of the civil service (including the reform of the civil service training system) will also be supported through the programme.

Project title: Facility for the implementation of the Association Agreement in Georgia

Donor organisation: EU

Duration: 2015-2018

Description: The project provides policy advice and capacity building support to the Georgian Government in coordinating the implementation of the Association, strengthening the institutional capacities of the line ministries and other public institutions to carry out the required reforms, including on policy development and legal approximation processes.

Project Title: Legislative impact Assessment, Drafting and Representation

Donor Organisation: EU

Duration: 2015-2017

Description: The project aims to improve the legal drafting process at the central level of government (through promoting better coordination among relevant entities, and introduction of the regulatory impact assessment of draft legislation) as well as the Government's international representation and reporting functions with special emphasis on the Ministry of Justice.

The last two technical assistance projects: support the elaboration of a unified methodology and provide capacity building to key institutions in the legal approximation processes.

Further to the adoption of the new Civil Service Law in 2015, profound reorganisation of the civil service is underway. The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) oversees and coordinates the management of the human resources in public administration. A comprehensive training system for civil servants is being developed and will be coordinated by the International Education Centre in close relation with the CSB.

3.3 Results:

Component 1: Georgian forest related legislation including respective legal acts, regulations and directives upgraded in line with the better regulation approach and according to the EU standards and regulations

Result 1.1: Existing forest related regulatory framework evaluated and a report with recommendations and proposals prepared

Indicators of achievement:

- Evaluation of Forest management related legislation and standards according to the respective EU standards and regulations and international commitments (described in section 2.3 of the fiche) conducted; report with recommendations and proposals provided based on EU MS(s) experience
- Explanatory note, including regulatory impact assessments for the relevant Forest related legislation, prepared
- “Rule of Forest and Forest Lands Categorisation” assessed and a report with recommendations and proposals provided
- Best EU practice for the elaboration of management regimes for each category with relevant silvicultural methods identified and a report with recommendations and proposals provided
- Core forest related EU regulations and standards approximated in forest sector of Georgia (e.g. EU Timber Regulation) according to the latest provisions of “Forest Europe”⁶
- Assessment of existing system of payments for ecosystem services and eco-compensations conducted and a report with recommendations and proposals based on best EU experiences provided

⁶ 1. Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1 - Forest sector in the Centre of Green Economy
2. Madrid Ministerial Resolution 2 - Protection of forests in a changing environment

- Round tables and discussion meetings under the designated working groups of National Forest Program process with all stakeholders arranged and conducted
- Proposals discussed with all respective stakeholders (MoENRP; FPS; NFA; DES; partner NGOs, involved in forest sector reform process)
- Final assessment report with recommendations and proposals provided and agreed with forest state institutions
- Reports on results of internal and external stakeholder consultations prepared

Result 1.2: Assessment of existing national forest related strategy/action plan conducted

Indicators of achievement:

- Stakeholder consultation/discussion process, as well as stakeholder workshop/plenary meeting conducted
- Reports on results of stakeholder consultations prepared
- Evaluation report with recommendations and suggestions for upgrading national forest related action plan elaborated

Component 2: The capacity of State forest institutions necessary for efficient fulfilment of their regulatory and institutional functions reinforced in line with best European and international practices/standards, ensuring the sustainable management of Georgian forests, including legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products

Result 2.1: Evaluation and necessary update of vision and mission statutes of state forest institutions under the MoENRP conducted

Indicators of achievement:

- Assessment of existing institutional framework and task distribution among and inside the State forest institutions of the MoENRP, including identified new possible service areas performed in close coordination with the Civil Service Bureau that is responsible for overall coordination of human resources management in Georgian public administration
- Study visit to EU MS(s) for 5 employees of FPS/NFA/DES to study the deployment of C&I for SFM (Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management) during the planning and implementation process of forest management, as well as, the lessons learned during the forest management planning, performed and study visit report drafted
- Assessment report with proposals and recommendations on possible restructuring of mission statutes and respective institutional adjustments for State forest institutions, accountability lines between institutions based on the EU MS(s) best practice, applicable for Georgia provided, allowing the implementation of National Forest Concept, as well as addressing the internationally agreed commitments
- Holistic plan for the development of the institutions, including a required budget, technical measures and respective time-frame elaborated/provided and discussed with relevant authorities

Result 2.2 Experience and knowledge of State forest institutions to successfully carry out duties in regards to legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products reinforced.

Indicators of achievement:

- Gap analysis of existing procedures in managing legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products conducted and recommendations for improvement prepared
- A workshop on EU Timber Regulation for employees of State Forest Institutions organised
- Study visit to EU MS(s) for 4 employees of FPS/NFA/DES to get acquainted with the European best practice in implementation of the EU Timber Regulation organised and study visit report drafted

Result 2.3: Development of detailed concept of State Forest Enterprise for managing the state forests

Indicators of achievement:

- Relevant fields of collaboration arrangements (e.g. assistance in forming an enterprise for selected forest district(s); Establishing the application of Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers for SFM, on selected districts) between the MoENRP with EU MS(s) relevant organisations organized and supported
- Sharing/introducing of EU MS(s) best practice/approaches on management of forests under different property/ownership schemes (state forest enterprise, municipality, private) conducted and a report with recommendations and proposals on applicable arrangements for Georgia provided
- Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP 5 representatives to examine the best practice of institutional and regulatory frameworks regarding the design of State forest enterprise relevant for Georgia conducted, and a study visit report provided
- Workshop for introducing the report results for discussion at managerial/high level conducted

Result 2.4: Training needs assessment of the state forest institutions under the MoENRP accomplished

Indicators of achievement:

- Evaluation of capacity, skills and training needs of the state forest institutions staff under the MoENRP performed
- Relevant tailor made training materials, courses developed taking into account the existing courses and trainings, consistent with the general civil service training system
- Applicable number of seminars/trainings and workshops carried out for identified staff of the beneficiary in line with the general civil service training system
- Training for trainers conducted
- Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP 5 representatives to get acquainted with practical procedures with regards to staff capacity building and trainings organised. Study visit report prepared and presented to beneficiary

Component 3: Communication between the state forest institutions enhanced and the forest information and monitoring system upgraded

Result 3.1: Forest information and monitoring system including timber tracking system upgraded

Indicators of achievement:

- Evaluation of the existing forest information and monitoring system together with timber tracking system applied by the State forest institutions conducted, assessment report with recommendations and proposals on possible adjustments, based on good practice of EU MS(s) cases (e.g. 3 relevant country models) with varied structures of forest information and monitoring systems provided
- Capacity building for relevant staff of the MoENRP, through seminars/trainings on designing, developing and operating the proposed forest information and monitoring system conducted
- Guidelines for designing a forest information and monitoring system, counting with budget, technical and human resources requirements developed and proposed

Result 3.2: Capacity of the State forest institutions with regards to communication on forest information and monitoring system, including communication on other forest related activities strengthened

Indicators of achievement:

- Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP representatives to observe the good practice on communication and experience regarding the forest data collection, monitoring and analysis, as well as on overall chain of custody on forest information and monitoring system conducted, and a study visit report provided
- Relevant communication strategy/operational plan/guideline for the institutions regarding the forest data collection, monitoring and analysis elaborated, based on accountability lines between institutions and good practice of EU MS(s) cases
- Workshops/seminars for selected employees of State forest institutions on introduction and guidance for the implementation of communication strategy/operational plan/guideline conducted and a report prepared

The inclusiveness and evidence-based approach should be applied to all activities related to legislation alignment with EU acquis and policy development / adjustment: drafting/amendment of the legal and policy proposals should be based on evidence, the cost of their implementation should be calculated and budgeted and they should be consulted at the right time of the process with relevant internal and external stakeholders.

All the final documentation/reports generated during the implementation of the project components provided in English and Georgian languages.

3.4 Activities:

Member State(s) is kindly requested to develop activities in the submitted proposal which are needed in order to achieve the results stipulated in the fiche.

Minimum two visibility events will be organized in the course of the implementation of the project; Kick-off meeting at the start of the implementation and the Final meeting at the end of the implementation of the project activities.

3.5 Means/ Input from the MS Partner Administration:

MS Project Leader may participate in the project also as the short-term expert (STE) and in this case the MS Project Leader should satisfy requirements stipulated in the

fiche for both the Project Leader and the relevant STE profile.

3.5.1 Profile and tasks of the Project Leader

Profile of the Project Leader

Requirements:

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 10 years in the field of Forestry or Environmental protection
- Minimum 5 years of experience in forestry sector
- High-ranking official
- Experience in project management
- Computer literacy
- Working level of English language
- Proven contractual relation to mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 5.4.5

Asset:

- Experience in the field of forest policy and/or sustainable forest management planning

Tasks of the Project Leader:

- Overall coordination and managing of the implementation of the project in cooperation with the BC Project Leader
- Ensuring sound implementation of the envisaged activities
- Monitoring and evaluating the needs and priorities in the respective sector, project risks, progress against the project budget, benchmarks, and outputs, and taking any necessary remedial actions if needed
- Coordination of MS experts' work and availability
- Providing efficient leadership of the project
- Ensuring backstopping and financial management of the project in the MS
- Participation in Steering Committee meetings
- Organization of study visits
- Project reporting

3.5.2 Profile and tasks of the RTA

One RTA will be appointed and he/she will be located in the premises of the MENRP in the beneficiary country.

The secondment of the Resident Twinning Advisor (RTA) will last for 18 months, during which he/she will be responsible for the direct implementation of the project under the overall supervision of the MS Project Leader.

He/she will come from an EU Member State to work on a full time and day-to-day basis with the beneficiary administration. The Resident Twinning Adviser will have a key role in the coordination of the inputs required for the successful implementation of all the project activities. He/she shall be supported by the STEs.

Profile of the Resident Twinning Adviser

Requirements:

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of 7 years in forest sector
- Minimum 5 years of experience in forest management and/or national forest policy development
- Experience in project management
- Working level of English language
- Computer literacy
- Proven contractual relation to mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 5.4.5

Assets:

- Experience in institution building activities related to forest sector reform
- Experience in development or organisation of trainings
- Experience and/or active participation in national forest policy development
- Experience in dealing with forest information and monitoring systems
- Experience in sustainable forest management planning

Tasks of the Resident Twinning Adviser:

- Support and coordination of all activities in the BC
- Day to day management of the project in the beneficiary institution
- Coordination and assistance to the short-term experts
- Coordination of the project implementation and proposing corrective actions, if required
- Organization of visibility events (kick-off and final event)
- Organization of PIU and Steering Committee meetings
- Participation in Steering Committee meetings
- Executing administrative issues (e.g. assisting in reporting)
- Providing technical advice on EU policies and best practices, and assisting Georgian administration in the context of project work plan
- Networking with institutions relevant to this project in Georgia and in MS

The duration of the RTA secondment is 18 months.

3.5.3 Profile and tasks of the short-term experts

1. Profile of the Short-term expert (STE)

Requirements:

- University level education or equivalent professional experience of at least 7 years in Law
- At least 5 years of experience in providing technical assistance in drafting of forest related regulations, approximation with EU legislation and other international commitments in the sector
- Experience in providing policy or technical assistance on National forest sector reform, such as institutional restructuring and related
- Working level of English language

- Computer literacy
- Experience and good knowledge in legal drafting and analysis of legal framework, taking into consideration national political, economic and legal system peculiarities;
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 5.4.5

Assets:

- Experience in analysis of legal framework
- Experience in preparing or implementing of training programs related to ethical standards within public administration
- Experience in developing or implementing of promotional activities
- Experience in human resources management

Tasks of the Short-term expert:

- Close cooperation with the Georgian experts in undertaking all activities, including staff from the MoENRP, NFA, APA, DES and other relevant stakeholders
- Advance preparation and familiarization with relevant documentation, including pieces of current legislation and elaborated drafts of new legal acts;
- Participating in relevant activities under the scope of the project in cooperation with other experts:
 - Conducting analysis of the relevant legal framework and existing strategies, identify white spots and discrepancies in legal framework and provide possible solutions based on best EU MS practices;
 - Based on the thorough analysis of the draft of the Rules of Forest and Forest Lands station Regulation, suggest several models of forest categorization and relevant management regimes, as well as silvicultural methods which may be taken as closest examples for Georgia's new legal acts to follow, and point out which key elements of recommended systems/regimes are relevant in the Georgian context;
 - Assess of existing framework of payments for ecosystem services and eco-compensations and based on the examples of EU MS countries, suggest possible schemes for implementation into national legislation;
 - Actively participate in the National Forest Program process of Georgia through exchange of ideas/comments/proposals;
 - Elaborate a final assessment report with consolidated proposals and recommendations and hand out to the Ministry

2. Profile of the Short-term expert (STE)

Requirements:

- University level education in Geographic information system or equivalent professional experience of at least 7 years in forest information and monitoring systems
- At least 5 years of experience in forest management planning and in providing technical assistance on forest data collection, data processing, monitoring and analysis
- Working level of English language

- Experience in evaluation of forest information and monitoring systems taking into consideration national political, economic and legal system peculiarities
- Proven contractual relation to public administration or mandated body, as defined under Twinning Manual 5.4.5

Assets:

- Good knowledge in different models of forest information systems in EU member countries
- Experience in preparing and implementing training programs related to forest information and monitoring system, as well on geographic information systems
- Experience in developing or implementing of promotional activities
- Experience in human resources management

Tasks of the Short-term expert:

- Assess the existing forest information and monitoring system/or equivalent applied by the State forest institutions, and provide assessment report with recommendations and proposals on possible adjustments, based on good practice of EU MS(s) cases (e.g. 3 relevant country models) with varied structures of forest information and monitoring systems
- Conduct/organize relevant workshops/seminars for selected employees of State forest institutions on designing, developing and operating the proposed forest information and monitoring system conducted
- Elaborate a guidelines for designing a forest information and monitoring system, counting with budget, technical and human resources requirements developed and proposed

Note:

The pool of experts should include:

- At least one short-term expert, who in addition to the respective profile requirements has experience in forest zoning, categorization and strategic planning of relevant management regimes for each forest zone, type and category, based on the best practice in the Pan-European region
- At least one short-term expert, who in addition to the respective profile requirements has experience in preparing or implementing of training programmes related to forest management on forest district and on country level
- At least one short-term expert who in addition to the respective profile requirements has experience in developing or utilizing the relevant software for forest inventory data processing and analysis, as well for the forest management monitoring system.

4. Institutional Framework

4.1 Beneficiary Institution

The main project beneficiary is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoENRP) represented by:

- Forest Policy Service (FPS)
- LEPL National Forest Agency (NFA)
- Department of Environmental Supervision (DES)

In 2013, the Ministry launched the forestry sector reform to ensure good governance, sustainable management and effective supervision and control in the forestry sector which is stressed by the National Forest Concept, adopted by the Parliament of Georgia later that year. As a basis for the reform, responsibilities were separated between the FPS of the Ministry, NFA and DES.

- The Forest Policy Service is the main structural unit under the Ministry responsible for forest policymaking, elaboration of legislation, coordination of the sectorial reform, approving Forest Management Plans and Forest Use plans, coordination of international activities and processes, supporting effective implementation of the National Forest Concept of Georgia, as well as ensuring public participation in the decision-making process. Following the adoption of the Concept, the National Forest Programme (NFP) process was launched in September 2013 within the framework of Forest Europe to assist reforms in forestry sector of Georgia. The main purposes of the NFP are to: involve stakeholders in the development of policies, strategies and legal frameworks; improve coordination among the donors, supporters and various NGOs; communicate on initiatives and achievements for the forest sector; and help mobilize additional funding.

The total number of staff of FPS is 7, including 5 permanent staff, one integrated CIM expert and one consultant for coordinating the NFP process.

- Established in 2013, the MoENRP Department of Environmental Supervision (DES) is the key body that is mandated to verify compliance with regulatory requirements. It has 7 main structural units: Integrated Environmental Control Service, Biodiversity Control Service, Environmental Rapid Response Service, Analytical Service, Legal Service, Administration and Monitoring Service.

The main responsibilities include: Exercising state control over environment protection and use of natural resources; prevention, identification and suppression of illegal use of natural resources; prevention, identification and suppression of environment pollution; control of environmental permits and licenses; monitoring over compliance with legislation requirements in the fields of environmental protection and using natural resources.

The total number of people working in the DES is 434, of which 101 are serving in the central office, and the rest 333 are employed in 8 territorial offices.

- Most part of the State Forest Fund is managed by the legal entity of public law National Forestry Agency (NFA) under the MoENRP, established in 2013. Strengthening of forestry functions has been prioritized among the functions of the Ministry to ensure increase of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of Georgian forests and establishment of sustainable forest management system in the whole country. The responsibilities of the NFA include: Forest maintenance and

reforestation, sustainable use of biodiversity components of the forest fund territory, management of forest fund and conducting necessary activities; regulation of forest use; controlling forest use on the territory on forest fund (except license requirements); forest inventory and planning.

The total number of staff on the NFA is 1046, of which 149 are serving in the central office and the rest 897 are employed in 9 territorial offices.

Where necessary, other stakeholders at the central and local level of forest management (ministries and other state administration bodies and units of regional and local self-government units) will be included in project activities. List of state administration bodies and units of regional and local self-government that is enclosed as Annex 4 to this Twinning fiche. MoENRP will ensure project coordination and implementation throughout the project execution and will monitor the progress of the project activities on a regular basis.

The results of the project may lead to a change of the institutional framework depending on the outputs achieved through Result 2.1.

The beneficiary institution will dedicate all necessary human and technical resources in order to guarantee an effective implementation of the respective project. In particular, the beneficiary institution will insure the availability of the following provisions:

- Adequately equipped office space for the RTA and the RTA assistant for the entire duration of their secondment (in particular a desk, a telephone line, PC with e-mail account and internet access, possibility to use fax & copy services)
- Adequate conditions for the STEs to perform their work while on mission to the BC
- Training and conference venues as well as presentation and interpretation equipment
- Its active involvement in preparation of the PIU and Steering Committee meetings and participation of its members on the same
- The availability of the BC human resources (BC experts) during the implementation of the activities.

4.1 Coordination Mechanism

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for coordination and supervision of the project activities and the mandatory results. The Project Leaders, the RTA, the RTA counterpart, the EU Delegation and Programme Administration Office representatives will meet regularly at quarterly intervals and will submit by the end of the meeting (as recorded in the minutes of meeting) an 'approval/not approval' of the quarter project reports as described in the Common Twinning Manual. It will be co-chaired by the Project Leaders (EU Member State and Beneficiary Country). Official minutes of the PSC meetings will be kept in English.

The PSC will monitor, supervise and co-ordinate the overall progress and implementation of the project. Furthermore, the SC will enhance the involvement of the relevant BC institutions in the project, provide guidance for the different components of the project, and define priorities.

In addition to PSC, monthly progress monitoring meetings can be held if necessary. As a gathering of RTA, RTA counterpart, PAO and EU Delegation representative, the meetings are to solve any emerging operational problems on a monthly basis.

Beneficiary Country Project Leader (BC PL)

- The BC Project Leader will act as the counterpart of the MS PL and will ensure close cooperation in the overall steering, co-ordination and management of the project from the beneficiary side. He/she will support the Twinning project team in organizational and technical matters and will also coordinate the Project Steering Committee (PSC) on behalf of the BC. The role of the BC PL and the MS PL are complementary.

BC Project Leader together with the RTA will nominate relevant BC staff as component leaders to support efficient coordination of project activities.

5. Budget

Strengthening Sustainable Management of Forests in Georgia	ENI Community Contribution (100%)	National Co-financing	TOTAL
Twinning Contract	840 000 EUR	N/A	840 000 EUR

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1 Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting and accounting:

The Delegation of the European Union to Georgia will be responsible for the tendering, contracting, payments and financial reporting and will work in close cooperation with the Beneficiary. The person in charge of this project within the EU Delegation to Georgia is:

Mr. Alvaro ORTEGA APARICIO

Project Manager – Environment and Rural Development

Delegation of the European Union to Georgia

38 Nino Chkheidze Street

0102 Tbilisi, Georgia

Tel: +995-32-294 37 63

Email: Alvaro.ORTEGA-APARICIO@eeas.europa.eu

6.2 Main counterpart in the BC:

The Programme Administration Office (PAO) of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration will support the Twinning Project implementation process together with the EU Delegation. The person in charge of this project is:

Mr. Roman Kakulia

Head of EU Assistance Coordination Department / Programme Administration Office (PAO) in Georgia

Office of the State Minister of Georgia for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

7 Ingorokva Street, Tbilisi 0134

Georgia

Tel: 995 32 228 24 60

E-mail: pao@eu-nato.gov.ge

Beneficiary Administration

BC Project Leader

Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili

Head of Forest Policy Service

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MoENRP)

6, G.Gulua st.0114, Tbilisi, Georgia

E-mail: k.amirgulashvili@moe.gov.ge

RTA Counterpart

Ms. Liana Giorgadze

Specialist at legal department

LEPL National Forest Agency

giorgadze.lika@gmail.com

6.3 Contracts

It is envisaged that the Project will be implemented through one Twinning contract with the maximum amount of 840.000 EUR.

7. Implementation Schedule (indicative)

7.1. Launching of the call for proposals: Q3 2016

7.2. Start of project activities: Q2 2017

7.3. Project completion: Q1 2019

7.4. Duration of the execution period (number of months): 21 months; the execution period will end 3 months after the implementation period of the Action (work plan) which will take 18 months.

8. Sustainability

The achievements of this Twinning project are expected to contribute to the Forest Sector Reform in Georgia and help in improving the institutional and regulatory structure for forest management which is responsive to the state and citizens' needs. Each result of this project will contribute to development of reliable and sustainable forest management system as an essential precondition for addressing the implementation of national policies, concepts and strategies, as well the internationally agreed commitments.

Evaluation of existing forest related regulatory framework is aimed to support the development of relevant laws and regulations, required to achieve the goals of National Forestry Concept and to facilitate the implementation of core objectives derived from forest sector reform.

The analysis of the capacities of state forest institutions on state, regional and local levels and analysis of the legal framework in the area of forest governance and management will result with recommendations for improvement and together with developed guidelines and sustainable promotional activities on sustainable forest management will contribute to improvement of the capacities of the institutions and

other public administration institutions in relation to sustainable forest management, furthermore, elaborating holistic plan for the development of the institutions, including a required budget, technical measures and respective time-frames will strongly support to this end.

Establishment of international collaboration and networking mechanisms between the MoENRP and EU MS(s) strongly supports in identifying best practices on management of forests under different property schemes and will result for future sustainable continuation of relevant studies and research projects between the countries.

Trainings in line with the relevant training material and knowledge assets offered/recommended/developed through this Twinning project will be continuously and regularly organized in relevant institutions and will be provided by the future trainers who will be trained through this Twinning project.

Evaluation of the existing forest information and monitoring system in Georgia, including recommendations and suggestions, as well the proposals derived from case studies on best practices of EU MS(s) will result synergies with linked planned/ongoing activities supported by the partner organizations, aiming at establishment and development of applicable forest information and monitoring system for Georgia. The activities will also support sustainable communication system development for the institutions regarding the forest data collection, monitoring and analysis, moreover coordination of other forest related activities by the institutions.

9. Crosscutting issues

Based on the fundamental principles of promoting equality and combating discrimination, participation in the project will be guaranteed on the basis of equal access regardless of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Equal participation of men and women during the implementation of the project will be assured.

The activities of the objective have no negative impact on the environment, furthermore supporting the sustainable forest management and environmental protection.

10. Conditionality and sequencing

N/A

ANNEXES TO THE PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. List of relevant laws and regulations
4. List of state administration bodies and units of regional and local self-government
5. Structure of LEPL National Forest Agency
6. Structure of Department of Environmental Supervision

Annex 1. Logical framework matrix in standard form

Strengthening Sustainable Management of Forests in Georgia		Programme name and number: AAP 2013, ENPI/2013/024-706; GE 13 ENI 01 16	
Georgia Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection Forest Policy Service LEPL National Forest Agency Department of Environmental Supervision		Contracting period expires: 3years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period expires: 3 years following the end date for contracting
		Total budget: 840.000.00 EUR	ENI financing: (100%) 840,000,00 EUR
Overall objective	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	
To support the development of sustainable forest management system, harmonized with EU standards and directives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government capabilities increased in sustainable forest management • Contribution of forestry sector to country's economy increased • Illegal activities in Forest sector minimized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCFTA action plan/road map reports • Forest Sector Reform strategy implementation and monitoring reports • International Processes: Forest Europe (C&I for SFM), UNECE (Environmental Performance Reviews), FAO (FRA-Forest Resource Assessments) • NEAP – National Environmental Action Programme • Yearly National Governmental Report • National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia 	

Project purpose	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
To enhance the capacity of the state forest institutions ⁷ in order to prevent and combat illegal activities in the sector, ensuring the sustainable management of Georgian forests, including legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products through harmonizing the Georgian forest regulatory framework to EU standards, directions and best practice, also by improving the forest information and monitoring system, as well as strengthening communication to this end between these institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgian forest related legislation including respective legal acts, regulations and directives upgraded according to the EU standards and regulations The capacity of State forest institutions necessary for efficient fulfilment of their regulatory and institutional functions are reinforced in line with best European and international practices/standards Communication between the state forest institutions are enhanced and the forest information and monitoring system upgraded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twinning project reports Twinning project documentation (analysis reports, training programmes, training materials, recommendations, etc.) Explanatory notes for relevant Forest legislation Minutes on stakeholder consultations Minutes on external and internal consultations Guidelines Promotional materials List of participants on trainings List of participants on study visit Study visit report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate human and financial resources available Commitment of the parties involved and good cooperation among interrelated institutions and project teams Adequate cooperation among competent national, regional and local institutions Active participation of all stakeholders involved in the project implementation Availability of BC experts to participate in workshops and trainings.
Results	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<p>Component 1: Georgian forest related legislation including respective legal acts, regulations and directives upgraded in line with the better regulation approach and according to the EU standards and regulations</p> <p>Result 1.1: Existing forest related regulatory framework evaluated and a report with recommendations and proposals prepared</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of Forest management related legislation and standards according to the respective EU standards and regulations and international commitments (described in section 2.3 of the fiche) conducted; report with recommendations and proposals provided based on EU MS(s) experience “Rule of Forest and Forest Lands Categorisation” assessed and a report with recommendations and proposals provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twinning project reports Twinning project documentation (analysis reports, training programmes, training materials, recommendations, etc.) Explanatory notes for relevant Forest legislation Minutes on stakeholder consultations Minutes on external and internal consultations Guidelines Promotional materials List of participants on trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate human and financial resources available Commitment of the parties involved and good cooperation among interrelated institutions and project teams Adequate cooperation among competent national, regional and local institutions Active participation of all stakeholders involved in the project implementation Availability of BC experts to participate in trainings. <p>Estimated Working Days Component one 80 Component two 150 Component three 90</p>

⁷ Forest Policy Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia; LEPL National Forest Agency; Department of Environmental Supervision.

<p>Result 1.2: Assessment of existing national forest related strategy/action plan conducted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanatory note, including regulatory impact assessments for the relevant Forest related legislation, prepared • Best EU practice for the elaboration of management regimes for each category with relevant silvicultural methods identified and a report with recommendations and proposals provided • Core forest related EU regulations and standards approximated in forest sector of Georgia (e.g. EU Timber Regulation) according to the latest provisions of “Forest Europe” • Assessment of existing system of payments for ecosystem services and eco-compensations conducted and a report with recommendations and proposals based on best EU experiences provided • Round tables and discussion meetings under the designated working groups of National Forest Program process with all stakeholders arranged and conducted • Proposals agreed and discussed with stakeholders (MoENRP; FPS; NFA; DES; partner NGOs, involved in forest sector reform process) • Reports on results of internal and external stakeholder consultations prepared • Final assessment report with recommendations and proposals provided • Stakeholder consultation/discussion process, as well as stakeholder workshop/plenary meeting conducted • Reports on results of stakeholder consultations prepared • Evaluation report with recommendations and suggestions for upgrading national forest related action plan elaborated 		
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<p>Component 2: The capacity of State forest institutions necessary for efficient fulfilment of their regulatory and institutional functions reinforced in line with best European and international practices/standards, ensuring the sustainable management of Georgian forests, including legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products</p> <p>Result 2.1: Evaluation and necessary update of vision and mission statutes of state forest institutions under the MoENRP conducted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of existing institutional framework and task distribution among and inside the State forest institutions of the MoENRP, including identified new possible service areas performed in close coordination with the Civil Service Bureau that is responsible for overall coordination of human resources management in Georgian public administration • Study visit to EU MS(s) for 5 employees of FPS/NFA/DES to study the deployment of C&I for SFM (Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management) during the planning and implementation process of forest management, as well as, the lessons learned during the forest management planning performed and study visit report drafted • Assessment report with proposals and recommendations on possible restructuring of mission statutes and respective institutional adjustments for State forest institutions, accountability lines between institutions based on the EU MS(s) best practice, applicable for Georgia provided, allowing the implementation of National Forest Concept, as well as addressing the 		
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<p>Result 2.2 Experience and knowledge of State forest institutions to successfully carry out duties in regards to legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products reinforced</p> <p>Result 2.3: Development of detailed concept of State Forest Enterprise for managing the state forests</p>	<p>internationally agreed commitments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic plan for the development of the institutions, including a required budget, technical measures and respective time-frame elaborated/provided and discussed with relevant authorities • Gap analysis of existing procedures in managing legal harvest and trade of timber and non-timber forest products conducted and recommendations for improvement prepared • A workshop on Timber Regulation for employees of State Forest Institutions organised • Study visit to EU MS(s) for 4 employees of FPS/NFA/DES to get acquainted with the European best practice in implementation of the EU Timber Regulation TR organized and study visit report drafted • Relevant fields of collaboration arrangements (e.g. assistance in forming an enterprise for selected forest district(s); Establishing the application of Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers for SFM, on selected districts) between the MoENRP with EU MS(s) relevant organizations organized and supported • Sharing/introducing of EU MS(s) best practice/approaches on management of forests under different property/ownership schemes (state forest enterprise, municipality, private) conducted and a report with recommendations and proposals on applicable arrangements for Georgia provided • Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP 5 		
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<p>Result 2.4: Training needs assessment of the state forest institutions under the MoENRP accomplished</p> <p>Component 3: Communication between the state forest institutions enhanced and the forest information and monitoring system upgraded</p> <p>Result 3.1: Forest information and monitoring system including timber tracking system upgraded</p>	<p>representatives to examine the best practice of institutional and regulatory frameworks regarding the design of State forest enterprise relevant for Georgia conducted, and a study visit report provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop for introducing the report results for discussion at managerial/high level conducted • Evaluation of capacity, skills and training needs of the state forest institutions staff under the MoENRP performed • Relevant tailor made training materials, courses developed taking into account the existing courses and trainings, consistent with the general civil service training system • Applicable number of seminars/trainings and workshops carried out for identified staff of the beneficiary in line with the civil service training system • Training for trainers conducted • Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP 5 representatives to get acquainted with practical procedures with regards to staff capacity building and trainings organized. Study visit report prepared and presented to beneficiary • Evaluation of the existing forest information and monitoring system/ together with timber tracking system applied by the State forest institutions conducted, assessment report with recommendations and proposals on possible adjustments, based on good 		
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<p>Result 3.2: Capacity of the State forest institutions with regards to communication on forest information and monitoring system, including communication on other forest related activities strengthened</p>	<p>practice of EU MS(s) cases (e.g. 3 relevant country models) with varied structures of forest information and monitoring systems provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for relevant staff of the MoENRP, through seminars/trainings on designing, developing and operating the proposed forest information and monitoring system conducted • Guidelines for designing a forest information and monitoring system, counting with budget, technical and human resources requirements developed and proposed • Study visit to EU MS(s) for MoENRP 6 representatives to observe the good practice on communication and experience regarding the forest data collection, monitoring and analysis, as well as on overall chain of custody on forest information and monitoring system conducted, and a study visit report provided • Relevant communication strategy/operational plan/guideline for the institutions regarding the forest data collection, monitoring and analysis elaborated, based on accountability lines between institutions and good practice of EU MS(s) cases • Workshops/seminars for selected employees of State forest institutions on introduction and guidance for the implementation of communication strategy/operational plan/guideline conducted and a report prepared 		
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Activities	Means	Specification of costs	Assumptions
Member State(s) is kindly requested to develop activities in the submitted proposal which are needed in order to achieve the results stipulated in the fiche.	Consultations, analyses, preparation of documentation, trainings, workshops, study visit.	Twinning project: 840.000,00 EUR	In line with the assumptions specified for results.
All the final documentation/reports generated during the implementation of the project components must be provided in English and Georgian languages.			WD (total): 370 (including preparation and coordination/ management)

Annex 2: Detailed implementation chart

Strengthening Sustainable Management of Forests in Georgia	2016				2017												2018												2019				
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F			
Month																																	
Twining																																	

T – Call for proposals and evaluation; C – Contracting; A/I – Arrival of the RTA/ Start of the implementation of activities; I – Implementation of activities; R – Report

Annex 3: List of relevant laws and regulations

The Forest Code of Georgia

Law on Management of Forest Fund

Law on Environment Protection

Law on System of Protected Areas

Law on Approving Red Book and Red List

Law on Licenses and Permits

Law on Fees for Using Natural Resources

2013 Resolution No. 179 on Rule of Forest Registration, Planning and Monitoring

2005 Resolution No. 132 on Approving Rules and Terms for Issuing Forest Use License

2007 Resolution No. 105 on Rules for Marking Out of Local Forest

2007 Resolution No. 21 Approving Rules and Terms for Issuing Licenses for Export Purposes of Snowdrop Bulbs and/or cyclamen tubers Enlisted in the Annexes of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Fir Cones

2010 Resolution No. 240 on Establishing Boundaries of the Forest Fund;

2010 Resolution No. 241 on General Care and Reforestation;

2010 Resolution No. 242 on Approval of Rules on Forest Use;

2011 Resolution No. 299 on Delineation of State Forest Fund;

2014 Resolution N 46 on Rules for Movement of Timber on the Territory of Georgia and Technical Regulations for Primary Processing Facility (Sawmill) of Round Timber (Logs);

2014 Resolution No. 54 on Adopting Technical Regulation – Methods of Definition (Calculation) of Environmental Damage

Annex 4: List of state administration bodies and units of regional and local self-government

A) Ministries

1. Prime Ministry of Georgia
2. Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
3. Ministry of Energy
4. State Minister of Diaspora Issues
5. State Minister of Euro-Atlantic Integration
6. State Minister of Reconciliation and Civil Equality
7. Ministry of Agriculture
8. Ministry of Corrections
9. Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection
10. Ministry of Defense
11. Ministry of Education and Science
12. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection
13. Ministry of Finance
14. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
15. Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
16. Ministry of Internal Affairs
17. Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees
18. Ministry of Justice
19. Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure
20. Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

B) List of Municipalities

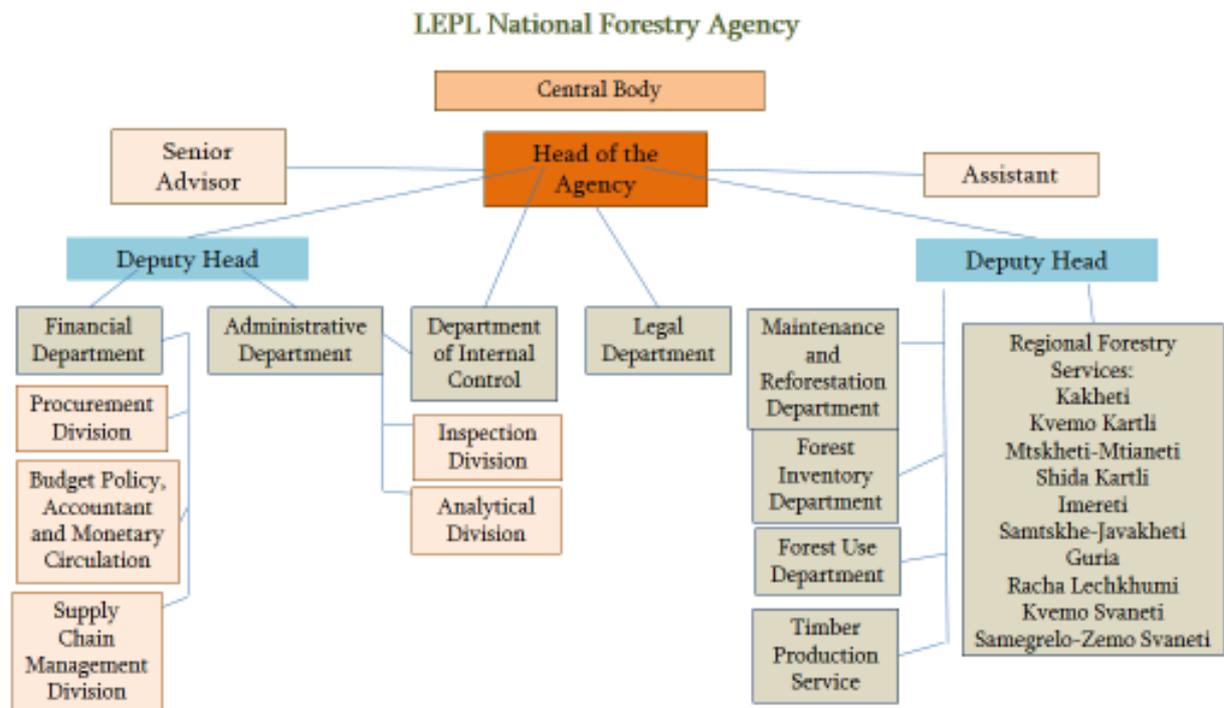
Self-Governing Cities:

1. Akhaltsikhe
2. Ambrolauri
3. Batumi
4. Gori
5. Kutaisi
6. Mtskheta
7. Ozurgeti
8. Poti
9. Rustavi
10. Tbilisi
11. Telavi
12. Zugdidi

Self-Governing Communities (Officially Registered):

1. Abasha
2. Adigeni
3. Akhagori
4. Akhalkalaki
5. Akhaltsikhe
6. Akhmeta
7. Ambrolauri
8. Aspindza
9. Azhara
10. Baghdati
11. Bolnisi
12. Borjomi
13. Chiatura
14. Chkhorotsku
15. Chokhatauri
16. Dedoplistsqaro
17. Dmanisi
18. Dusheti
19. Eredvi
20. Gardabani
21. Gori
22. Kareli
23. Kaspi
24. Kazbegi
25. Gurjaani
26. Keda
27. Kharagauli
28. Khashuri
29. Khelvachauri
30. Khobi
31. Khoni
32. Khul
33. Kurta
34. Kobuleti
35. Kvareli
36. Lagodekhi
37. Lanchkhuti
38. Lentekhi
39. Marneuli
40. Martvili
41. Mestia
42. Mtskheta
43. Ninotsminda
44. Oni
45. Ozurgeti
46. Sachkhere
47. Sagarejo
48. Samtredia
49. Senaki
50. Shuakhevi
51. Signaghi
52. Telavi
53. Terjola
54. Tetristsqaro
55. Tianeti
56. Tkibuli
57. Tsageri
58. Tsalka
59. Tskaltubo
60. Vani
61. Zestaponi
62. Zugdidi

Annex 5: Structure of LEPL National Forest Agency



Annex 6: Structure of Department of Environmental Supervision

