



Workshop Program Documents

National Workshop

with participation of key forestry stakeholders

(Armenia)

Introduction to Climate Change Impacts on Forests and of Transformation Strategies and the Objectives, Expected results, and Activities of the EU financed Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest Transformation

(24 June, 2011 – Yerevan, Armenia)

The workshop documents are 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

24 June, 2011, Yerevan



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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Program

1. Summary

This workshop was organized within the framework of recently started (March, 2011) EU supported Project on Increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan) through forest transformation.

The overall objective of 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 overall objective addresses the overarching threat of climate change to biodiversity and to forest ecosystem services which support the livelihoods of rural communities. Those services include protection of soils and water supply and quality, and timber and non-timber forest products. Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVI) for the overall objective is that: by 2015 (two years after the proposed actions completion), the governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan will have adopted and started to implement policies that will make forests and the services they provide highly resilient to climate change.

The specific objective of the project contributes to the overall objective by establishing the necessary conditions for the forest administrations in the target countries to develop and implement strategies for transforming monoculture forest stands into highly resilient, "close to nature" forest stands. It is proposed to do this through awareness raising about climate change impacts on forests, demonstrating practical measures to make forests more resilient, and providing forest administration staff and local community members, local NGOs, and CBOs who use or manage forests with the necessary knowledge and skills to transfer the development and implementation of transformation measures to other forest stands.

To achieve the specific objective, the following OVIs are proposed by the end of the project:

- forest stand structure has been transformed in such a way that they will be highly resilient to climate change on pilot sites;
- forest stand potential to enhance the livelihoods of neighbouring communities will have increased on 6 pilot sites (two in each of the three target countries and about 75 hectares each) in 3 countries; and
- 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 climate change impacts on forests and motivation to develop strategies for making forests more resilient.

Expected results of the project are: 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.

The workshop was arranged and facilitated by WWF Armenian Branch (WWF-Armenia) which is a partner organization of the project leading organization - WWF-Germany. WWF-Armenia plays a role of the project Armenian country office.



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2. Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce to Climate Change Impacts on Forests and of Transformation Strategies and the Objectives, Expected Results, and Activities of the EU financed Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest Transformation.

The workshop was used as a forum for discussing the selection criteria for selecting the sites at which transformation measures will be piloted in Armenia.

3. Workshop Outputs

The workshop strengthened participant's knowledge about climate change impacts on forests and of transformation strategies. Participation in the workshop contributed to their ability to develop policies that increase the resilience of forests in Armenia and to lobby for support of these policies.

The selection criteria for selecting the sites at which transformation measures will be piloted in Armenia were discussed and agreed.

Consensus on possible location of two pilot sites in Armenia will be reached by reviewing the potential areas using the criteria developed under the project.

The conclusions of the workshop include the following main items:

- It was highlighted by the workshop participants that forest transformation is an important tool to make monoculture forest stands more resilient to climate change;
- It was agreed that it is worth thinking about selecting pilot sites having various natural-climatic conditions;
- It was mentioned that as monoculture it probably should be thought about pine stands planted in the past and damaged due to being non-resilient to climatic conditions or young planted pine stands, which needs transformation to grow into a resilient to climate change stands;
- It was mentioned that preparation of transformation plans is an important step toward having proposed measures properly implemented;
- It was agreed that for transformation the local aborigine species should be used, which will ensure improvement of forest stands and resilience to climate change;
- It was mentioned that involvement of local communities in the project activities is important for success of the project as well as for awareness raising about climate change and ways to tackle it.

4. Participants

The workshop was attended by the key forestry stakeholders in Armenia (see the list of participants below).



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5. Contacts:

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6. Venue:

The workshop was held at WWF-Armenia Conference Hall.



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AGENDA
24 June 2011
WWF Armenian Branch
Yerevan

15.00- 15.10	Welcome	Karen Manvelyan, Director WWF Armenia
15.10-15.20	Opening remarks and agenda	Arthur Alaverdyan, Project Coordinator WWF Armenia
15.20-15.30	Role of WWF Armenia in development of forest sector in Armenia	Siranush Galstyan, Conservation Programme Manager WWF Armenia
15.30-15.40	Presentation of the project	Arthur Alaverdyan, Project Coordinator WWF Armenia
15.40-16.00	Site selection criteria	Arthur Alaverdyan, Project Coordinator WWF Armenia
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break	
16.30 – 18.00	Discussion, Q&A	All

List of participants

N	Name	Organization
1	Nune Hovhannisyan	RA Ministry of Nature Protection, International Department
2	Rosa Margaryan	RA Ministry of Nature Protection, Biodiversity Policy Department
3	Armen Nalbandyan	“Hayantar” SNCO of the RA Ministry of Agriculture
4	Andranik Ghulijanyan	“Forest Research-Experimental Center” SNCO under the Ministry of Nature Protection
5	Arman Kandaryan	Armenia Tree Project
6	Ayser Ghazaryan	“Sustainable Management of Biodiversity in the South Caucasus” project (GIZ)
7	Diana Harutyunyan	UNDP, Climate Change portfolio
8	Aram Ter-Zakaryan	UNDP, Climate Change portfolio
9	Hovhannes Ghazaryan	UNDP/GEF SGP National Coordinator
10	Karen Manvelyan	WWF-Armenia, Director
11	Arthur Alaverdyan	WWF-Armenia, EU Project Coordinator
12	Siranush Galstyan	WWF-Armenia, Project Coordinator



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