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“The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

**The European Commission
is the EU’s executive body.**



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Thematic Programme on Environment and Natural Resources, including Energy (ENRTP) Country”

EU Financed Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the South Caucasus Countries through Forest Transformation

(Project Nr. DCI-ENV/2010/221391)



Project regional component in the South Caucasus
implemented by WWF Caucasus Programme Office

Regional Component of the EU financed Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest Ecosystems against Climate Change in the South Caucasus Countries

The Concept

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 for the overall objective is that: by 2015, relevant national authorities 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 national forest administrations to develop and implement strategies for transforming monoculture forest stands into highly resilient, "close to nature" forest stands.

Expected Results

Result 1: Selected forest stands in all three countries of the South Caucasus region 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.

Target groups

Forest administrations and community members and local NGOs, CBOs, and self-governance bodies in the pilot site's locality.

View of Khashuri Pilot Forest Site © M.Dzneladze, WWF-Caucasus

Project Work Packages

The activities of the Project are arranged into four work packages:

1. Research and demonstration package, which will develop and pilot silvicultural measures for forest transformation and provide practical experience in the target countries.
2. Dissemination package for the forest administrations that includes information and materials on forest transformation measures.
3. Capacity-building package, which is designed to train staff of the forest administrations to develop and implement strategies for forest transformation.
4. Awareness raising package, which is aimed at building the awareness in the communities adjacent to the pilot sites and local NGOs and CBOs.

