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

**Dates:** 28-29 March 2013

**Location:** Lori Region, Armenia  
Communities Lernantsq and Saramej

**Prepared by:**

Siranush Galstyan, Armenia Country Coordinator, EU ENRTP Caucasus Project



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**Aim and objectives:**

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

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

**Date:** 28-29 March 2013

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

**Workshop agenda:**

See Annex 1.

**Workshop participants:**

See Annex 2.

**Questions raised and answers:*****Lernantsk***

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

1. What are the species to be used for seeding and planting in the pilot sites? Only local species are used. The seedlings grown locally in the nurseries and seeds (oak) collected from the selected trees in the forest enterprise are used for planting and seeding. No outside planting material is used. No fast growing species are used. They are usually used for the plantation to get wood, but this is not the purpose of the project, which is aimed at forest transformation to have “close to nature”



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heterogeneous forest stands more resilient to climate change to ensure higher biodiversity and benefits to adjacent communities.

2. What about the thinning of pilot sites? Thinning is highly recommended especially for some dense areas in the pilot sites. The administration of Gugarq Forest Enterprise applied to the Ministry of Agriculture to get approval for thinning of respective areas with use of the wood as fuel by the communities, preferably free of charge.
3. Is the *Quercus macranthera* (oak) suitable for seeding in the area? Yes, it is a local species, which grows slowly, but has good chances to form healthy and resilient stands. In the past there were good oak stands in the region, which were destroyed due to anthropogenic impact. Therefore, it is expedient to use oak in transformation measures.
4. Is there possibility for more community members to participate in the field works on transformation? Yes, the “Hayantar” representative informed about the possibility to recruit for field activities to be commenced during the coming days (dependent on the weather).

### *Saramej*

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

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

### **Conclusions:**

1. The communities were provided information about the climate change and forests, forest transformation and its key steps, EU funded project and the status of its implementation, WWF Armenia and its activities. The participation of “Hayantar” representative was very useful and helpful, especially for clarification of forestry issues in the regional context.
2. The communities are rather enthusiastic about the activities implemented in the frames of the project. Forest transformation measures are necessary to have healthy forests to provide benefits to present and future generations. The communities are glad to have more such projects aimed at restoration and improvement of forest areas in their region.



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



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## Agenda

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



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## Lists of Participants

### Lernantsk Community

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



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## Saramej Community

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



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