



Workshop Document

WWF Inception Workshop

(Initial Project Planning Workshop)

**Initial Project Planning Workshop
within a Framework of EU Financed Project on Increasing the Resilience of Forest
Ecosystems against Climate Change in the Southern Caucasus through Forest
Transformation**

(23-24 March, 2011 – Tbilisi, Georgia)

Programme

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



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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23-24 March, 2011 - Tbilisi, Georgia

WWF Caucasus Conference Hall

1. Summary

This workshop is being 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 action's 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 rising 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



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- 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 impacts² of climate change is improved.

The workshop is arranged and facilitated by WWF Caucasus Programme Office (WWF Caucasus) in partnership with the project leading organization - WWF-Germany. WWF Caucasus plays a role of the project regional office (for the South Caucasus) and the project Georgian country office.

2. Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to:

- (a) review and confirm the activity schedule and assignment of tasks and resources;
- (b) communicate procurement, record keeping and accounting procedures;
- (c) develop draft criteria for selecting the pilot sites for further discussion and confirmation at national levels.

3. Expected Outputs

Project activity schedule and assignment of tasks and resources reviewed and confirmed.

Contractual arrangements communicated.

Procurement, record keeping and accounting procedures communicated and explained.

Draft regional selection criteria for selecting the sites at which transformation measures will be piloted discussed and agreed.

Further next steps for project implementation discussed and agreed.



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4. Participants

The workshop targets WWF staff involved in the project (see list of participants).

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INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE SOUTHERN
CAUCASUS THROUGH FOREST TRANSFORMATION

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Workshop Agenda

<u>Day 1</u>		
9.00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming and opening remarks• Workshop agenda	<u>Aurel Heidelberg Group</u>
9.30	Introduction to the Project	<u>Aurel Heidelberg /Malkhaz Dzneladze</u>
10.15	Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explanation of the Budget• Procurements• Discussion of budget• Approval of budget	<u>Aurel Heidelberg Group</u>
11.15	Project phases, project components and main activities Implementation schedule	<u>Malkhaz Dzneladze Group</u>
12.00	Contractual arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion• Final agreement• Signature of contracts	<u>Aurel Heidelberg Group</u>
13.00	Lunch Break	
14.00	Clarify roles, structure and communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organogram• Key positions (Procurement Assistant,)• Role of ATP• Involvement of communities and NGOs• Visibility• Time schedule	<u>Aurel Heidelberg /Malkhaz Dzneladze</u>



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16:00	Financial reporting	<u>Benno Jaccobs</u> <u>Group</u>
18:00	Results of the first day	<u>Aurel Heidelberg /Malkhaz</u> <u>Dzneladze</u>
<u>Day 2</u>		
9.30	Verification documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel sheets (petrol etc) • Time sheets • Audit • TORs 	<u>Malkhaz Dzneladze</u> <u>Group</u>
11.00	Introduction technical steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional site selection criteria 	<u>Hannes Neunner</u> <u>Group</u>
13.00	Lunch	
14.00	Remarks to Project design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia site selection (only Tbilisi City Hall?) • Planting works already in autumn 2011 • 2 drilling machines per country 	<u>Group</u>
15.00	Other issues with regard to implementation in Armenia and Azerbaijan	<u>Group</u>
16.00	Questions, final remarks and next steps	<u>Aurel Heidelberg /Malkhaz</u> <u>Dzneladze/ Benno Jaccobs/</u> <u>Hannes Neunner</u> <u>Group</u>
18.00	Closure	



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