



ENPI FLEG

Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia



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Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) is an international, participatory process of formulation and implementation of policies and practices aiming to ensure sustainable forest management and fight against illegal logging and associated timber trade. This process has, since its start, evolved into a number of national, regional and global initiatives.

A year full of activities



During the discussion

At the end of last year, the ENPI FLEG Armenia Program team presented its 2010 activities to its stakeholders: state structures and NGOs. Representatives of the ENPI FLEG implementing organizations (World Bank, WWF and IUCN) presented both completed and ongoing projects, including research, public awareness and capacity building activities in the forestry sector, as well as initiated pilot projects.

The importance of the activities implemented in 2010 for resolving some of the current problems related to the forest sector was emphasized during the presentation. Proposals to make the Program results more effective were put forward; it was suggested that the number of projects which contribute to generating alternative income for forest dependent communities are increased, and that projects aimed at improving the legislative framework related to the forest sector are implemented. This would lead to favorable conditions for importing timber, whereby limitations imposed on timber export and forest related articles of the Republic of Armenia Law on Environmental Expertise would be reviewed and respective amendments developed.

In the course of this event, Hayantar and the State Forest Monitoring Center presented their 2010 activities. Ruben Petrosyan, Armenian Chief Forester, spoke about reforestation and timber marketing activities, the volume of illegal logging and actions directed at its reduction. Petrosyan noted problems resulting from the drought and fires as well as emphasized some priority issues such as installing boom barriers and ensuring round-the-clock control in forest areas, upgrading the status of foresters, providing forest dependent communities with alternative sources of heating, etc.

Ara Mezlumyan, Deputy Director of the State Forest Monitoring Center, spoke about the dynamics of illegal logging in the country, the initiatives directed at improving the legislative framework related to the forest sector, and capacity building and awareness raising activities carried out with the assistance of the international organizations.

The importance of making forest management plans accessible to the public at large and highly qualified specialists in the forest sector agencies was stressed, as was reducing the volume of industrial logging. It was also underlined that political will is essential to achieve change in this context. It was suggested that forest sector organizations present their proposals to the respective authorities to help strengthen the political will. As a next step, the participants emphasized the need for authorities to play a bigger role.

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Demand for fuelwood prevails: study in Armenia reveals



Interview in Antaramut village

Fuelwood has been, and will remain, in high demand by local households. This is the conclusion of a study which assessed the economic and social impacts of unsustainable forest practices and illegal logging. Among the causes identified for the prevailing demand for fuelwood were: the relatively low price of wood compared to gas supply systems, electricity or other common fuel alternatives; high poverty rates; and the lack of alternative fuel sources in many forest-dependent communities.

Conducted by the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education and commissioned by IUCN, this survey targeted 819 households in eight Armenian regions located within a 10-km vicinity from the forest, and 20 sawmills in three forest-rich regions (full report is available here: <http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=research>). The objective of the study was to analyze a series of surveys conducted in 2003 and 2010 and compare their results to identify trends in fuelwood demand.

Over the past seven years, the average fuelwood consumption in all the surveyed households has declined by 11.8%. Yet the average price per cubic meter has increased by 29% and forest cover has shrunk.

The price has escalated due to the constant demand and additional costs incurred by retrieving fuelwood from the so called «difficult-to-reach» parts of forests. Compared to some years ago, there has also been a significant shift in the provision of fuelwood: some households now buy fuelwood from middlemen rather than collecting it themselves.

At present, the consumption of fuelwood exceeds the level of supply being driven by profit-seekers that illegally log wood. The study estimated illegal logging at 240,000 m³ annually - nearly 80 times higher than official statistics.

To make forest protection and the fight against illegal logging more effective, the study suggested launching a number of pilot projects aimed at influencing the demand for fuelwood and enhancing access to alternative fuel sources. In addition, establishing collection centers for non-forest timber products (berries, fruits, vegetables) as well as developing bee-keeping in some forest rich regions could help improve the livelihood of the rural population. More intensive use of solar energy and biogas plants can also help improve the situation.

The recommendations identified in the study mainly focus on the demand for fuelwood of households. Many other methods could be applied to influence illegal logging at institutional level. However, considering the lack of political will in the country, the project team has preferred to focus on more tangible solutions.

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Teacher support pack on FLEG



ENPI FLEG team holds discussion with teachers and students

Development of the teacher support pack for the so-called «School of young foresters» has reached its final phase in Azerbaijan. This comprehensive manual includes information about the FLEG process and the ENPI FLEG Program activities in the country. It provides guidance on how to set up school-based teams of «Young foresters» and describes ecological education methodology for teachers, rules for conducting ecological studies, as well as school-based monitoring. The manual also features suggestions for students' activities, such as forest restoration works, greenery planting, raising public awareness among the population, etc.

A special roundtable was organized with teachers and high school students in the «World School» of the University of Azerbaijan to gather input on the manual. During the meeting ENPI FLEG Program Coordinator Mr. Azer Garayev and Consultant on ecological education Mrs. Lala Dadashova held discussions on ecological education. The authors of the manual have also met with several experts and specialists from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, and participated in school and university conferences, namely the Republican Forum of Young Ecologists, roundtables, trainings and seminars.

The manual has been so far highly credited by the scholars of the National Academy of Sciences, representatives of the Baku State University, the Forestry Scientific-Research Institute and the Forest Development Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

The final release of the teacher support pack is planned upon completion of formal deliberations at the Scientific-Methodological Board of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan.

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The Norwegian Scouts Federation meets students in Azerbaijan



Students and participants in the meeting

To celebrate the International Year of Forests a roundtable was held at the Center for Ecological Education and Practice (CEEP) under the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan on April 19, 2011. Representatives of the Norwegian Scouts Federation (NSF) and the Azerbaijan Association of Scouts (ASA), methodologists, representatives of NGOs, secondary school teachers, researchers and students participated in the event. The Chair of the Organization on Animal Protection of Azerbaijan and Coordinator of the ENPI FLEG Program in the country Azer Garayev, CEEP director Ali Shukurov, ENPI FLEG Program CCC Nigar Kirimova and Program's Forest Education Consultant Lala Dadashova also attended this roundtable.

During the meeting discussions mainly focused on forest preservation and rehabilitation activities as well as on promotion of forest education and awareness. Participants familiarized with the efforts undertaken by the Azerbaijani students in the area of forest preservation and protection. Lala Dadashova shared recent developments carried out within the framework of the ENPI FLEG Program in Azerbaijan, e.g. the release of the "Young Foresters School" tutorial which presents the efforts of the young school-based foresters in preserving and ensuring sustainable use of forest resources. Information was also provided on the just completed greening activities implemented by the students under the "Green Azerbaijan" motto across the country.

Another important issue discussed at the meeting was alternative energy sources and the need for increased energy efficiency. On their part, teachers and students from the secondary school # 284 presented their activities and achievements within the "Energy Saving" – SPARE Program.

An interactive session saw the participants from the Norwegian Scouts Federation (NSF) and students and teachers exchange opinions of forest conservation.

The meeting ended with a performance called «Forest Fairy Tale» given by the students of the secondary school #58.

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Expanding forest enterprises in Belarus



Exhibition of Hunting and Fishing

ENPI FLEG Program representatives took part in a roundtable on development of hunting and services by Belarus State forest enterprises. The event was organized by the Ministry of Forestry as part of the international exhibition "Hunting and Fishing" In spring 2011 in Minsk.

Last year, Belarus State forest enterprises actively developed infrastructure for hunting and fishing. All enterprises now have hunting lodges, and can provide hunting, meal and transportation services. In 2010, the Ministry of Forestry's hunting enterprises reached financial profitability.

There are challenges for the future. Today, 70% of hunting enterprises' income comes from payment for hunting trophies, and only 30% from services. The Ministry of Forestry has announced goals to substantially increase hunting enterprises income and increase the share of services to 70%.

Belarus has all opportunities to achieve these goals. In the extremely hot summer of 2010, the amount of forest fires was lower than in the not so hot 2009. As result, the number of visitors which suffered from disastrous forest fires sharply increased. The forest fire protection system in place in Belarus has played an important role.

Some hunting enterprises already provide a wide variety of not only hunting, but also general recreational services. These are not only meal and lodging, but also excursions on eco trails, kayaking, cycling, animal and bird watching. Visitors can see Belarus animals and birds not only as hunting trophies, but also in wild nature, take photos and videos.

Belarus offers excellent travelling opportunities in forest land. For this purposes, the eco trail system – which is quite well developed – can be used. Cycling routes through forests and kayaking in forest lakes and rivers are also attractive offers.

More than 100 companies from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, and the Baltic states took part in the exhibition which was attended also by thousands of hunting, fishing and nature lovers. Representatives of all Belarus State forest enterprises, governmental bodies responsible for hunting and fishing, and hunting and fishing unions from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, as well as the mass media, attended the roundtable.

The ENPI FLEG Program in Belarus supports these developments in particular by providing assistance for the improvement of information content of State forest enterprises Internet sites, the preparation of a Directory for recreational opportunities of State forest enterprises, the development of collaboration with environmental NGOs, and the support to positive local initiatives.

Transparency in the forest sector



Forest near Minsk

ENPI FLEG project experts took part in a workshop organized by the Ministry of Forestry. The Ministry's press service and representatives from all Belarus regional State forest enterprises and associations were present.

ENPI FLEG experts presented the results of the second round of quality assessments of Internet sites, run by Belarus state forest enterprises. Compared to the first round, which took place in May 2010, the amount of Internet sites has greatly increased. Today, 85 out of 95 State forest enterprises have a well developed Internet site. In many cases (more than 100), forest rangers units have Internet pages.

All Internet sites contain contact information (address, contact person name, phone) of State forest enterprise, as do the forest ranger units. This is important for the work with the local population and is an indicator of the general transparency of the forest management system.

Transparency in the forest sector is an important issue for the implementation of the EU Regulation №995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. These issues are particularly important for Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, which have substantial timber export in EU countries.

All State forest enterprises have well developed pages, related to the hunting - about organization of hunting, providing transportation and meal services, lodging etc. In the same time only in some cases information about another recreational opportunities - cycling, kayaking, usage of eco trails is available. Beauty of Belarus forests, including possible wonderful forest pictures also is shown in limited scale.

However, State forest enterprises websites provide limited amount of news and shows little collaboration with local and regional mass media.

Information in English and other foreign languages is very limited and usually of rather low quality.

In the workshop, possible future steps for the improvement of State forest enterprises Internet sites were discussed. ENPI FLEG experts, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry's press service and Belarus regional State forest enterprises associations, will continue working in this direction.

Best green blogger of Georgia announced



During the award ceremony

Mrs. Manana Kveliashvili was declared winner of the Best Environmental Blogger contest held in Georgia. The award ceremony was held on January 23, 2011 during the Second Meeting of the Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics. The winner received a notebook computer and an award certificate.

The journalists who participated in the training in Environmental Civil Journalism held in Abastumani in May last year were offered the opportunity to take part in the blog contest. The blogs – created by individual journalists – have been monitored for six months, after which the best blog was selected by a jury: <http://mokhetiale.wordpress.com/> – moderated by journalist Manana Kveliashvili.

The main objectives of the Charter of Journalistic Ethics echo in many respects those of the ENPI FLEG Program. Issues of journalistic professionalism, ethical principles and civil awareness are recognized as important for effective law enforcement and better governance in the forestry sector, as well as for the continuous development of civil society. The ENPI FLEG Program, therefore, has been in close cooperation with journalists, assisting their capacity building and professional development. Trainings, media monitoring and other media related activities constitute an essential component of the Program.

The ENPI FLEG Program congratulates Manana Kveliashvili upon this valuable achievement and looks forward to seeing her future work in the field of environmental journalism. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Journalist Ethics Charter for cooperation, and strongly believing that we will continue to work together to further develop media in Georgia.

The other participant blogs are available here: http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/enpi_fleg/index.php?option=com_weblinks&view=category&id=19&Itemid=85&lang=en

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As the timber flows – Regional Workshop



Regional workshop on transboundary timber flow. Plenary discussion (Tbilisi, Georgia, 17 November 2010) © WWF CauPO

How can countries control the flow of timber across their borders? How to encourage companies to buy only legal timber? How to promote cooperation between governments in the ENPI countries? These are some of the most challenging and topical questions for all ENPI countries. Regional dialogue and discussion among all stakeholders are fundamental to try and find responses.

The Regional Workshop on Transboundary Timber Flow held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 17-18 November 2010 was attended by about 50 representatives from government structures, NGOs and the private sector of the seven countries implementing the ENPI FLEG Program plus Turkey.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To assess the current situation with respect to transboundary timber trade in the countries of the ENA FLEG region; and
- To identify existing problems / weaknesses in their respective legislation, relevant documentation, customs procedures and capacities, which can foster wood smuggling and other illegal activities.

The key messages discussed by the participants were:

- The scale of illegal logging and transboundary timber trade is quite significant but differs across the region;
- Key factors contributing to illegal activities include: rural poverty, lack of awareness on forestry issues, strong market demand for wood, inadequate wood source verification documentation, and lack of capacity of state authorities;
- The current measures to address illegal logging and illegal transboundary timber trade encompass: national action plans, strict law enforcement, capacity building, improvements of legislation, and voluntary forest certification;
- The EU had recently increased measures to protect its markets from illegal timber (e.g. Voluntary Partnership Agreements between the EU and timber-producing countries);
- Further measures are essential in order to significantly reduce illegal activities.

Participants also stressed that the ENPI FLEG Program provides a platform for dialogue among governments, NGOs and the private sector.

Further discussions focused on wood control mechanisms currently used in the countries. The need for further capacity building as well as coordination among the customs and forestry authorities was also emphasized.

Participants identified the following actions as crucial:

- Obtaining information about the scale and nature of the problem;
- Addressing weaknesses in producing countries' control mechanisms;
- Introducing/strengthening «public» monitoring by NGOs and communities;
- Improving official controls over the import of timber;
- Encouraging companies and consumers to voluntarily buy only legal timber;
- Promoting cooperation between the governments.

The outcomes of the workshop will contribute to the improvement of international (regional and sub-regional) collaboration and knowledge sharing. They will also enhance cooperation among key stakeholders involved in the forestry sector at the national and regional levels.

Detailed information on the workshop is available on ENPI FLEG website - http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/enpi_fleg/pdf/workshop_on_transboundary_timber_flow.pdf

For more information, including presentations, please contact Iliia Osepashvili, WWF Caucasus Programme Office, iousepashvili@wwfcaucasus.ge.

[http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=399&cHash=9e706e93aba3636a1802cedb7bfa38f0](http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=399&cHash=9e706e93aba3636a1802cedb7bfa38f0)

New reform in Georgia – natural resources under one agency



During the award ceremony

Just half a year ago, reforms were implemented in the forestry sector which resulted in the transformation of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources into the Forestry Agency with new functions assigned. A special issue of the newsletter «Arboreum Georgia» published in August 2010 was dedicated to the new developments in reforming environmental protection and natural resource management in Georgia. http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/enpi_fleg/pdf/quarterly_newsletterFLEG_eng_sep.pdf

Given the widespread reforms in Georgia, the World Bank has recently named the country «the top reformer in the world».

Early this year, more changes were introduced, following President Saakashvili's criticism of the «corruption system» in the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, and especially in the Forestry Department.

At the moment reforms concern more than just the Ministry. According to the new legislative changes, functions and responsibilities related to environmental protection and natural resources management are now redistributed among several institutions. The Forestry Agency has been reorganized and the national Agency of Oil and Gas was restructured as well. These two entities were merged into a new legal entity of public law – the Agency of Natural Resources, subordinated to the newly reorganized Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. This Ministry is acting as a successor to the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in the field of natural resources management.

The Agency of Natural Resources is taking over the following responsibilities of the restructured institutions:

- Management and usage of natural resources, including issues related to fisheries and hunting;
- Approval of quotas and stocks for extraction of natural resources according to the rules approved by the Georgian Government.

The objectives of the Agency for the forestry sector are as follows:

- Governance and utilization of natural resources;
- Forest protection and reforestation;
- Sustainable use of forest land biodiversity;
- Demarcation of the forest fund territories;
- Management of the forest fund;
- Regulation of forest management;
- Control of the forest fund territory, etc.

Another institution, the National Agency of Public Registry – a structure under the Ministry of Justice will be dealing with forestry related issues. It has assumed functions related to defining the State Forest Fund boundaries.

The statutes of the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, and the Agency of Natural Resources were adopted. Also, amendments were introduced to the Forest Code of Georgia, the Law on Forestry Agency and other relevant legislation acts.

The full texts of the legislative acts related to the reorganization are available on the National Georgian ENPI FLEG web site at: http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/enpi_fleg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85&Itemid=55&lang=en

[http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=594&cHash=d34ce6918c83c3a1c3d830b057a9d804](http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=594&cHash=d34ce6918c83c3a1c3d830b057a9d804)

International Year of Forests 2011 in Moldova



Celebrating the International Year of Forests 2011 in Moldova

The Moldovan Forestry Agency Moldsilva developed an Action Plan and issued a special Order № 73-P dated 14.03.2011 «On celebrating the International Year of Forests 2011» (IYF), which were endorsed by the Ministry of Environment of Moldova. Moldsilva's Action Plan IYF 2011 has been developed in line with the Strategy of Sustainable Development of the forestry sector of Moldova (2001) and with the United Nations General Assembly's declaration on 2011 as the International Year of Forests. For more detailed information see the Action Plan here (http://www.enpi-fleg.org/fileadmin/ufs/04.%20Program%20Information/4.02.%20Program%20Components/4.02.05%20Public%20Awareness/4.02.05.Action_Plan_IYoF_2011_Mold-silva.pdf).

On April 20th, 2011, the Ministry of Environment of Moldova organized a roundtable on the International Year of Forests. Key players and stakeholders were invited, such as the Agency "Moldsilva", State Ecological Inspectorate, Institute of Botany, Institute of Ecology and Geography, NGOs, mass-media (TV, radio), FLEG Office Moldova etc.

Other partners are involved in the numerous activities related to IYF 2011, such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, public prosecutor's office, judiciary bodies, Customs Service, local public authorities, Academy of Sciences, Forest Research and Management Institute, NGOs (Ecological Society Biotica, Silva Mileniu III, Newspaper «Natura» of the Ecological Movement of Moldova), «A. Plamadeala» Plastic Arts Republican College, State company "Post of Moldova", Federation of Sports of Moldova, SC «Tiras-Orient», AOS Causeni and mass-media.

Several publications dedicated to IYF have already been published and disseminated among stakeholders. The Forestry Bulletin Nr 3 / 2011 reveals the results of control of illegal logging over the autumn 2010 - spring 2011 period and presents the steps that Agency Moldsilva undertook to improve the situation. The brochure "Moldovan Forests: Wood Harvesting and Consumption" includes data of the analytical study on volumes of wood legally harvested, estimated annual consumption of wood products in Moldova and data on wood from unidentified sources.

[http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=541&cHash=beabc9e009668a5be5a58242bfedd8b](http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=541&cHash=beabc9e009668a5be5a58242bfedd8b)

Synergies between projects on forest protected areas



Working meeting of UNDP PAS and ENPI FLEG teams
(March 2011, Chisinau)

The ENPI FLEG project team in Moldova has been successfully established synergies with the GEF/UNDP's project «Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova». Both the ENPI FLEG and GEF/UNDP projects work on communication issues, type of governance and law enforcement in protected forest lands.

Cooperation and experience sharing were established in the following areas:

1. Preliminary preparation of recommendations on legislation documentation (governance and resources use in state forest fund);
2. Analytical research on the opinion of the local population and analysis of the interaction between forest ecosystems and interests of local communities, and possible conflict situations;
3. Publicizing project results (e.g. using appropriate information for each other's publications, dissemination of materials through own networks of stakeholders).

UNDP PAS has expressed great interest in the ENPI FLEG activities by underlining the role that they play in the enhancement of the existing protected areas network in forests and the creation of the first National Park in Moldova. For the latter, the needs and beliefs of the local communities need to be respected. An assessment of the livelihood potential of such park for the local population is being carried out in both projects.

The protected area network of Moldova covers about 4.65% of the territory and most of this is placed within the national forest fund. Forest ecosystems are home to great biodiversity of Moldova, including rare and vulnerable populations of species. Biodiversity conservation is a keystone indicator and it is essential to conserve and protect the flora and fauna to ensure dynamic ecosystems.

ENPI FLEG experts provide input also to another project on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy East Area and Russia implemented by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova through Biosafety Office in Moldova.

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Improving forest governance in Moldova through GIS technologies



GIS technologies (FieldMap for improving Statistical Forest Inventory) for forestry personnel

The ENPI FLEG team in cooperation with ICAS (<http://www.icas.com.md/>) helped Moldsilva (<http://www.moldsilva.gov.md/>) prepare a Collaboration Agreement which was signed between Moldsilva and the Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre (<http://www.arfc.gov.md/>) in April 2010. The main purpose of this agreement is to ensure a legal framework for the implementation of government decisions and on undertaking joint studies in geodesy, cartography, cadastre, land management and in applying modern GIS technologies.

Moldsilva will benefit from using a database of the state cartographic-geodetic fund which will help enhance its methodology of managing cadastral database, modernize its technologies for creating maps and improve its management of data.

In 2009, an ENPI FLEG expert worked on the improvement of the national forestry inventory normative framework and the forest management planning. In 2010, the NGO Silva-Mileniu III started to develop digital forest mapping and to provide FLEG professional education and training on creating and using databases and GIS to forestry staff.

Improving local forest governance requires that the values and views of the local people are fully incorporated into forest management planning and decision-making processes. Local authorities managing forest land as well as other personnel engaged in forest land control and protection activities (e.g. environmental agencies, forest guard) should become familiar with forest evidence methodology.

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Timber related processes can be controlled



Seminar participants review the corporate timber tracking system
@ Photo by Vitaliy Trukhov

Timber origin tracing systems constitute an important mechanism of controlling illegal logging and associated trade. Experience in creating such systems was shared at a recent seminar «Timber Legality Assurance Systems in the Context of the EU Legislation» organized in Veliky Novgorod.

The seminar was attended by representatives of forest authorities from Russia, Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine, timber companies and environmental NGOs, who discussed issues related to introducing timber tracking and origin tracing systems.

All participants emphasized the special importance of developing timber legality verification systems in view of the adoption of the new EU Regulation on timber that will come into effect on March 3, 2013, and according to which all operators placing timber on the European market must prove its legality, including based on the timber origin tracing systems.

The ENPI FLEG participating countries have already gained good experience in creating government timber tracking systems. For example, the national timber tracking system in Belarus has already been successfully developed and introduced, while in Armenia this process is well underway. In Russia, the concept of a government system for controlling legality and sale of round timber is being prepared. It will aim at ensuring that only legally harvested timber in the country is used and not mixed with illegal timber during felling, transportation, storage, sale, processing or export.

There is also some experience of corporate timber origin tracing systems with the most efficient ones applied by the Scandinavian companies (Stora Enso, UPM and Metsaliitto) as well as by the Russian pulp-and-paper plants and sawmills.

«One of the important features of this seminar was the fact that its participants, who represented both government and business, came to the conclusion that government and corporate timber origin tracing systems are interconnected and complementary,» said Elena Kulikova, Head of WWF Forest Program. «To achieve a maximum effect, WWF believes that their requirements and procedures need to be harmonized and integrated. This should be taken into account when finalizing and testing the official system.»

They also focused on issues that are still to be resolved, such as:

- Low awareness at all levels about the new EU Regulation; and
- Shortcomings of the Russian Federation forest legislation, which, for example, lacks such definitions as «illegal logging» and «illegal timber trade», and does not specify the format of documents confirming timber legality.

Further harmonization of the government and corporate timber origin tracing systems, along with the voluntary forest certification procedures of confirming the legality and sustainability of forest management require closer attention.

[http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=543&cHash=ed6c857dff3aa75e82302eb77d0e80fb](http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=543&cHash=ed6c857dff3aa75e82302eb77d0e80fb)

ENPI FLEG proved catalyst of constructive processes



NPAC Russia Chairman opens the Fourth NPAC meeting

The ENPI FLEG Program has proved to be a catalyst of constructive processes stated the Russian National FLEG Focal Point, Stats-Secretary- Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Forestry Agency, Chairman of NPAC Mr. Alexander Panfilov.

On February 10, 2011, in Moscow the Fourth ENPI FLEG National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) Russia meeting was held. The results of the Program's work in the second half of 2010 were reviewed, and prospects of its further development were discussed.

The Russian National FLEG Focal Point, Stats-Secretary- Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Forestry Agency, Chairman of NPAC Mr. Alexander Panfilov stressed the role of the ENPI FLEG Program as catalyst of positive processes in the forestry sector aimed at increasing efficiency of the forest law enforcement and sustainability of forest governance. He also observed its importance in the process of preparations for the second WB forestry loan.

“High level consultations and coordination of the efforts between the Program and the Russian authorities, businesses and civil society have been enhanced” – stated the ENPI FLEG WB Russia Coordinator Marina Smetanina.

«A unique result of the Program was the incorporation of a list of proposals elaborated within the framework of the ENPI FLEG Program into the list of amendments to the Russian Forest Code, approved in December 2010» – ENPI FLEG WWF Russia Coordinator Elena Kulikova.

NPAC praised the work of the ENPI FLEG team the results achieved which go in line with the existing workplan.

In the course of discussions, the NPAC encouraged the ENPI FLEG Russia team to actively participate in national and international events linked to the International Year of Forests in 2011.

The Fourth NPAC Russia resolution can be found here. http://enpi-fleg.org/fileadmin/ufs/04.%20Program%20Information/4.02%20Program%20Components/4.02.05%20Public%20Awareness/2011_03_02_NPAC_Resolution_eng.pdf

[http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=531&cHash=9765ccc9d2e09a58b80101363e4f9948](http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=531&cHash=9765ccc9d2e09a58b80101363e4f9948)

Russian forests finding their way to the internet



Now most of the Russian regions have their own official forestry websites

Also thanks to the ENPI FLEG efforts, most of the Russian regions have their own official forestry websites. New links are continuously added to the lists of information resources of the regional forest authorities in the Russian Federation. With monitoring forestry websites in 82 regions, ENPI FLEG experts are following the increasing use of information technologies in the forest sector.

The forest agencies of all regions, besides the Moscow Region, are now represented on the worldwide web, while only a year ago just 43 of them had a website or were present on other institutions' websites. This is a positive development in the process of covering forest related issues by the regional forest authorities.

Despite the increasing use of websites, the content often leaves much to be desired. Only 60% of the Internet resources contain contact information of forestry offices.

Forest plans and forestry technical regulations of the regions as well as the reference materials on the use of the regulatory framework are present on the sites of less than half of the regions. Forest news is available on 55% of these sites. Some websites are rarely updated. For example, in Lipetsk Region only plans for 2010 were publicized. On many occasions, the public is belatedly informed on urgent issues, for instance the forest fire situation in 2010 when, despite the fact that the state of emergency was declared, public information was lacking.

Many sites have inactive links or sections marked "under construction". The site of the Mosleskhoz (Moscow and Moscow Region Forest Authority) has not been in function for a long time now. Its page on the site of the Russian Federal Forestry Agency (Rosleskhoz) is limited just to contact information.

However, there are many good examples as well. These include the user-friendly internet site of the Forestry Ministry of the Republic of Bashkortostan and modern sites of the Altai Krai Forestry Administration, Bryansk Region Forestry Administration and Volgograd Region Forest Complex Department, all of which contain useful information. According to official statements, the Internet site of the Mosleskhoz will return to operation in the very near future.

To help forest management agencies in the regions of the Russian Federation, a team of ENPI FLEG consultants have developed draft guidelines on designing standard Internet sites which were presented to the State Forestry Information Enterprise (Roslesinforg) for further consideration.

[http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=513&cHash=01941b29d5406b324b8169b67b361688](http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=513&cHash=01941b29d5406b324b8169b67b361688)

Administrative liability for forest violations in Ukraine



The Manual on «Administrative Liability for Forest Violations: Practical Application by the State Forest Protection Service of Ukraine» was published by the World Bank under the ENPI FLEG Program in the country.

It contains methodological recommendations on the practical application of administrative legislation as well as related legal issues in the forest sector; it provides practical advice on documenting administrative violations; and, along with explanations on how to collect and document evidence of violations, it imposes administrative penalties, issues instructions, etc.

The manual also contains practical suggestions on several chapters of the Ukrainian Code on Administrative Violations, analysis of typical shortcomings and mistakes made by forest protection service staff when investigating administrative cases. It will help increase the level of legal culture and knowledge of forest protection service staff, and should help increase the efficiency of the fight against violations in the forest sector.

This publication was developed by the ENPI FLEG expert Mr. Oleg Storchous. The Ukrainian State Forestry Committee (now the State Agency for Forest Resources) has recommended that the Manual is included in the curriculum of educational institutions under the Committee.

More detailed information can be viewed at the ENPI FLEG Ukrainian website at:

[http://www.fleg.org.ua/index.php?id=6&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=96](http://www.fleg.org.ua/index.php?id=6&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=96)

http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=537&cHash=3fc26fcb560ae896eed854eadfe8b684

Ukrainian Officials briefed about the ENPI FLEG Program



Mikhail Popkov, leading expert of ENPI-FLEG elaborate his presentation.

Experts of the ENPI FLEG Program have presented a package of recommendations for the forestry sector reform and improving national forestry legislation to the newly appointed management of the State Forest Resources Agency.

With the recent public administration reform in Ukraine, the State Forestry Committee was replaced by the State Forest Resources Agency. Following the appointment of the new management of the Agency, ENPI FLEG representatives held a meeting with the head of the newly established Agency Mr. Viktor Sivets to explain the Program objectives and tasks. A package of materials on the most important research findings conducted within the Program was also given to Mr. Sivets.

These materials included recommendations with regard to:

- Minimizing corruption risks in the Ukrainian forest and related legislation;
- Reforming, better regulating and improving the forest protection service's functions;
- Removing shortcomings related to the so called "long-term temporary use of forests";
- Bringing the Ukrainian legislation in compliance with the EU standards;
- Improving legislation which regulates forest harvesting system;
- Modifying Ukrainian legislation to comply with the new EU requirements on timber imports, etc.

More detailed information on this meeting can be viewed at the National Ukrainian web-site of the Program at: <http://www.fleg.org.ua>

http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=523&cHash=7dac730eea8ce29752fab7c18719cb93

Ukrainian forestry legislation under scrutiny



NPAC member, Valery Lovchanoskii

An analytical research on forest harvesting practices and legislative regulation of harvesting in Ukraine resulted in a number of concrete recommendations, namely:

1. Launching a broad discussion with the authors of the current legislation and leading experts of independent organizations;
2. Considering the possibility of launching a comprehensive review of Ukrainian legislation regulating forest harvesting;
3. Initiating a pilot project in Teterev forestry enterprise with the purpose to test EU rules and regulations on forest use under the climate conditions of the Ukrainian Polissya region.



The main purpose of the research was to analyze the consequences of applying Ukrainian rules and regulations governing forest harvesting; provide comparison of these regulations with relevant norms of other countries; and identify inadequate provisions in the legislation and develop recommendations on how to eliminate them.

All findings of this research have been submitted to the State Agency for Forest Resources of Ukraine for further consideration.

More detailed information on this research can be viewed at the National Ukrainian web-site of the Program at: [http://www.fleg.org.ua/index.php?id=6&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=92](http://www.fleg.org.ua/index.php?id=6&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=92)

http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5btt_news%5d=517&cHash=ad40d8f73b18a0a4ff772d65dc7a3e1f

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Materials for this Bulletin were contributed by the FLEG project teams in participating countries. More information at: <http://www.enpi-fleg.org>

For your comments and feedback please contact: info@enpi-fleg.org

About ENPI FLEG Program

The ENPI FLEG Program supports governments of participating countries, civil society and the private sector in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including the prevention of illegal forestry activities. Participating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. This Program is funded by the European Union.
www.enpi-fleg.org

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IUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,000 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

www.iucn.org



WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

www.panda.org



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