Examples of FLEG II work throughout the region

**Ukraine**
The Parliament of Ukraine incorporated FLEG II recommendations for forest sector reform into the Coalition Agreement, a crucial document that will define the country’s path of development for the next few years. These recommendations had been widely discussed in Ukraine throughout past years and were highly appreciated by stakeholders. A wide array of FLEG II studies, such as the analysis of Ukraine’s anti-corruption legislation and practices, is helping the country improve forest management. To put forests on the national agenda, FLEG II held a competition for journalists for the best reporting on forest issues, which increased the quantity and quality of forest journalism in the country.

**Georgia**
FLEG II supported the transfer of forest management within the Tusheti Protected Landscape from the central government of Georgia to the people of this remote province. Having been under centralized and uncertain authority for almost 100 years, the valuable and beautiful forests of the Tusheti Protected Landscape had not received adequate attention. This is the first case of decentralized forest management in Georgia and the first time these forests have been under local control since the Soviet period began there in 1932. Lessons learned from this activity were disseminated to other countries covered by FLEG II.

**Moldova**
As the result of cooperation with FLEG II, Agency Moldafish, the main governmental institution responsible for forestry and hunting in Moldova, launched a National Forestry Consultative Office to provide necessary expertise and assistance for improved forest management and sustainable development of natural resources. It will serve all those interested in forest management across Moldova regardless of public, community or private forest ownership. It will also contribute to the implementation of the national afforestation plan by creating around 13,000 hectares of forest plantations on degraded lands by 2018 and rehabilitating thousands of forest shelters.

**Belarus**
Belarus developed its Strategic Forestry Development Plan with FLEG II support. The purpose of the Plan is to create highly productive forests, along with the conservation and efficient use of their biological and landscape diversity. Belarus is also reviewing the use of non-timber forest resources for ecotourism development, drawing upon the experience of its neighbors. FLEG II is leading the “people-to-people” bilateral cooperation efforts between Belarus and Russia. Russia is exploiting the benefits of the “resource center” model of ecotourism and ways to engage local communities, businesses and public officials.

**Armenia**
In Armenia, old-fashioned community engagement and modern satellite technology have put illegal forest activities on the map, quite literally. A new website has been exposing these once secret operations to the world since January 2012. The program, supported by FLEG II, has benefited national level forest managers and local forest communities. Another FLEG effort brought Georgia and Armenia together to work on a Memorandum of Collaboration in order to find solutions for common forest problems such as illegal logging and fires and to start joint projects in the future.

**Azerbaijan**
In Azerbaijan, forestry-oriented education and climate change are top priorities. FLEG II supported active young foresters’ groups for farmers and developed tutorials and curricula for graduate technical schools, ministry training institutes, and schoolchildren to ensure that coming generations have a better and more widely disseminated understanding of the basic principles and advanced techniques for forest management. FLEG II Azerbaijan also prioritized development of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and forest rehabilitation. Approaches will be tested in selected regions to examine the effectiveness of the proposed forest rehabilitation tools.

**Russia**
FLEG II set up human resource capacity as a priority area in Russia. In particular, a textbook on “Law Enforcement and Governance in Forest Use, Protection and Renewal” developed by FLEG II was recommended by the Academic Resource Association of Forestry Education for students of master’s and bachelor’s degree programs, and already is at high demand by training institutions. FLEG II also has helped establish and replicate local models of sustainable forest management in Russia. One model of local reserve management has led to increases in household incomes of 15 per cent on average, and the ecotourism successes around the Polistovsky Nature Reserve are spreading to other forest communities, inspiring them to become more active in countering illegal logging.

**FLEG Timeline**

- **2005**
  - Representatives of 44 governments from Europe and Northern Asia signed the Helsinki Declaration, committing themselves to address illegal logging and the improvement of forest governance.

- **2008, 2012**
  - The European Commission, the World Bank, WFF and IUCN teamed up to implement the first Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Program in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

- **2012, 2016**
  - The ENPI FLEG I Program to support good forest governance, sustainable forest management and forest protection in the region.

**Who is Involved in FLEG II**

- FLEG II is funded by the European Union.
- FLEG II is implemented by the World Bank, WFF, and IUCN.
- FLEG II brings together governments, forest practitioners and managers, forest businesses, non-timber business NGOs, educators, and forest dependent rural communities.