4th Steering Committee Meeting
December 12, 2016
Brussels

Armenia

ENPI FLEG II Country Program Coordinators Team
Country priority areas: from 2013 till 2016

Priority areas identified for FLEG II Program in Armenia were:

- Improve Forest Law and Policy
- Build human resource capacity
- Increase public awareness and public monitoring of the forest
- Strengthen sustainable forest management and use
- Improving the FLEG planning and monitoring at the national, regional (local) and international levels
Key results for PDO 1

- The review of forestry and related legislation (in its final stage) is the largest revision of the sector in Armenia since the adoption of Forest Code (2005). It aims at eliminating discrepancies, gaps and overlaps in the legislative base regulating the forestry sector.

- In the light of current tendencies of the GoA to eliminate the idea of SNCOs, it has become more than actual to revisit the administrative structure and functions of responsible entity “Hayantar” and suggest a model which would be in line with international best practices and better organized to have the capacity for sustainable forest management.
Key results for PDO 2

The Public Expenditure Review for the forestry sector of Armenia jointly conducted by international and national consultants. The Report presented to stakeholders was recognized as an important and necessary tool for decision-making processes by the respective authorities. It allowed to better understand current flow of financial resources as well as costs related to the forestry sector.
Key results for PDO 3

**Briquetting Project introduced in Armenia (Tavush Region)** - opportunity to reduce fuel-wood consumption through increased efficiency and use of other non-wood (agricultural) resources to heat the households.

**Donation of energy-efficient household stoves**
Briquetting unit in Tavush region
Key results for PDO 3

Public Monitoring of Forests Established in Armenia

Training of volunteers in: (a) orientation in forest terrain, detection, photo & video-recording, GPS navigation and (b) how to tell legal vs illegal activity in forest

- 150 people trained over the project course
- In 2015: 1,425 illegally cut trees were identified, 8 forestry enterprises were inspected by Armenian authorities, including Prime Minister (!) and 3 criminal cases filed
- Generated news in media: 4 serious talk shows on TV, 2 Radio issues, nearly 20 online articles and press releases...
- Online database for independent monitoring on illegal cases in forest in Armenia: www.afpm.am
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Landsat Satellite Imagery
Involving local communities and volunteers to monitor illegal forest activities
Key results for PDO 3

FLEG II Roadshows in 20 forest dependent communities in Armenia

- FLEG Roadshows in 20 forest communities: Tavush, Lori, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions.

- 19 online press releases, 1 round table and 1 press conference in Yerevan with a national media coverage about the results of FLEG Roadshows:

- Story series called ‘Stories from the Forest’ published on Ecolur website

- Package of community proposals submitted to the government
FLEG Roadshows: the hotline between Yerevan and Your Village (case in Artavan)
Bi-lateral collaboration between the forestry specialists and practitioners of Armenia and Georgia was recognized as an important step towards regional collaboration by the representatives of both countries. The countries share borderline forests, it was important to establish relations between the professionals. The series of meetings triggered ideas for mutually beneficial collaboration and plans for joint projects.
Success Story #2

Green Armenia Book

After the launch of the book on 19 October 2016 numerous requests from universities, local and international organizations and individuals have been received for provision of the book.
**Success Story #3**

Independent Public Monitoring empowered citizens in Armenia to protect forests:

- Trained volunteers to identify and document illegal forest operations in a more professional manner
- Used satellite technology to track illegal forest activities
- Positive feedback from the public: media dedicated more attention to this topic in 2015 and 2016 than ever before
- Caught the attention of Prime Minister!

**Logo of Public Monitoring of Forests in Armenia developed by citizen volunteers**
Geographical coverage of FLEG II and main counterparts

Coverage **Nationwide:**

More than 30 rural communities in all forested regions of Armenia:

Lori, Tavush, Ggeharkunik, Syunik

**Counterparts:**

- Ministry of Agriculture, “Hayantar” SNCO;
- State Forest Monitoring Center,
- Forest practitioners and academia,
- Forest businesses, non-timber business,
- NGOs, educators
- Forest-dependent rural communities
Exit strategy and sustainability of FLEG II in Armenia

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) – a forward looking approach that builds on the successes of FLEG and is a logical transition.

Five (5) pilot forest communities with degraded areas identified and mapped as priority regions for potential forest or landscape restoration in Armenia.