4th Steering Committee Meeting  
December 12-13, 2016  
Brussels, Belgium  

Azerbaijan Country Presentation
Country priority areas: from 2013 till 2016

- Young Foresters’ Movement: regional and national initiatives; international cooperation
- Strengthening staff capacity in the forest sectors: tutorials; increased number of qualified staff in the sector; enhancement of the system of professional forest education (with MoE)
- Pilot initiatives on more efficient energy-consuming technologies
- Long-term strategy and action plan for forest sector sustainable management
- Sustainable recreation and ecotourism development
- Regional and national plans on forest sector climate change adaptation; increase of forest coverage as a way to combat desertification
- Ecosystem services cost evaluation
1. Key results for PDO 1

- State Program on Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Development; National Environmental Program and Action Plan 2016-2020 as part of the State Program Azerbaijan Vision 2020; National Action Plan on Biodiversity Conservation – all are based on principles of St Petersburg Declaration and address / incorporate issues and recommendations developed and identified by FLEG 2 analytical studies.

- Forest sector professional schools updated their curricula based on the proposals developed by MoE specialists who participated in the study tour to Russia, organized under FLEG 2.
2. Key results for PDO 2

- National Forest Policy and Action Plan developed by FAO for 2016-202 incorporates a number of recommendations and priorities of FLEG 2 program

- Tutorials and manuals on sustainable forest management have been developed, incorporating principles of best international practices

- A series of training programs for the forest sector specialists have been developed and applied on a sub-national level. New principles are already introduced

- Training sessions have been delivered to the representatives of mass media and civil society. This resulted in a number of publications in central mass media, covering the program purposes and outcomes
2. Key results for PDO 2

- Program regularly participates in an International Environment Exhibit, with an information stand and other representation materials which are of a big interest and highly demanded by visitors.

- Recommendations have been produced on integration of FSC standards and HCV concept into the forest policy and legislation of Azerbaijan.

- Assessment of potential for the implementation of climate change adaptation plans in the forestry sector.
3. Key results for PDO 3

- Development of instruments for efficient restoration of Tugay forest landscapes in arid zones, with involving of local communities.

- Sustainable forest management plans for selected districts/forest units have been prepared to pilot best practices. The plans will help improve the forest governance practices and involvement of local community into the forest management.

- Analytical study on the use of energy efficient technologies in rural construction (residential and social).

- Staff of the Forest Unit (Ismailli) has been trained on the use of GPS methods for forest management.
Success stories

- Setting up and support to the Young Foresters’ Movement, both nationally and regionally

- Introduction of a concept of sustainable recreation and eco-tourism on forest fund territories. Development of the Sustainable Eco-tourism Management Plan

- New pioneered concept on valuation and certification of forests

- Assessing the potential for the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in the forest sector
Exit strategy and sustainability of FLEG II

Sustainability:

- Young Foresters’ Movement will maintain its principal functions and network, both nationally and regionally.

- National Program Advisory Committee recognized as an efficient ground for the collaboration of government and non-government agencies, and will continue its operation.
Ideas for Future:

- Restoration of forest landscapes
- Introduction of ICT (Information communication technologies) for training, management, protection, monitoring, prevention of forest fires
- Mainstreaming of forest governance issues into higher education curricula
- Introduction of energy efficiency technologies in the rural construction (residential and social)
- Complete valuation of a forest area to produce a comprehensive analysis of use and non-use values of the forest
- Functional zoning of forest territories, as part of SFM, learning from best international practices through international cooperation
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION