Progress and activities since previous SC meeting (October 2015) and performance against the result areas

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

4th Steering Committee meeting
December 12, 2016
Brussels, Belgium
Outline

i. St. Petersburg +10

ii. Examples of activities and results achieved in year 3

iii. Regional activities

iv. How we addressed the MTR results and exit strategies
St. Petersburg +11
2016 the 10th anniversary of the St. Petersburg Declaration implementation
• Azerbaijan: “The FLEG process has contributed to a gradual openness of the forest sector to the stakeholders, which added in the transparency and made it attractive to the public”.

• Belarus: “…To continue the successful implementation of the Declaration, it is important to implement the ideas and approaches that have been developed within FLEG, for example, the creation of “model” forests.”

• Moldova: “The most significant impact of the ENA FLEG Ministerial Conference on forests today is the level of information/data provided to government authorities and the large public, based on studies undertaken, about forest condition as well as subsequent decisions”

• Russia: “The Conference in 2005 yielded the first international document approved on the Ministerial level that said that the responsibility for illegal timber production lies both on countries that harvest this timber and on those that buy it.

• Ukraine: “For the first time in the history of international forestry, the St. Petersburg Ministerial Conference made it possible to develop common approaches to forest policy in protecting markets against illegal logging and illegal timber in different countries
• Review of activities and how each activity addressed particular elements of the St. Petersburg Declaration.
• Raised awareness on a much wider scale ... far beyond the ENPI East and Russia
Examples of important and influential results achieved in year 3
Inputs to Country Forestry Sector Programs

- In Belarus: advisory support to the secondary legislation and technical regulatory framework under the new Forestry Code
- In Georgia, reflection of key FSC principles in the draft Forest Code
- In Moldova, FLEG II worked on the comparative analysis of national forest legislations within the international legal framework for the drafting of the amended Forest Code
- In Ukraine, FLEG II continued to improve specific technical aspects of forest management
FLEG II facilitated study tours to EU Member State countries and bilateral dialogue

• Belarussian experts studied best forest management practices in nursery in Finland and a study tour visit to Germany took place in October 2016

• Ukraine experts visited Poland to gain experience on sustainable forest management practices

• A study tour to Russia produced proposals to improve current forestry-oriented vocational education in Azerbaijan
FLEG II facilitated study tours to EU Member State countries and bilateral dialogue

- A regional conference “Sustainable Diversified Use of Forest: Legislation and Governance, Challenges and Solutions” took place in May 2016 in Joensuu, Finland, being organized under the ENPI FLEG 2
FLEG II helped young generation to better understand the forests and built communities awareness

• School Forestry Program in Armenia - importance of forest and its value, tree planting, indoor and outdoor activities;

• Youth Determined to Stay Connected to Protect Forests in Azerbaijan - participation of the Azeri pupils to the annual International Junior Young Foresters’ Contest (Russia);

• Anniversary Young Forester Contest in Azerbaijan: “They do not only talk about ideas. They propose solutions”

• Training for Moldova’s next generation of foresters
FLEG II helped establishment of new protected areas and forests biodiversity conservation

• Establishment of Ijevan Sanctuary in Tavush Region of Armenia

• Home at Last: Tusheti Protected Landscape Officially Under Local Control - local officials can manage and protect the forest based on local needs
Diversity of country actions

• Armenia - National report on forest dependency studies was translated into Armenian, and distributed to each province.
• Azerbaijan - Analytical Study on the use of energy efficient and energy consuming construction materials in the forest-dependent communities.
• Belarus - A new state integrated forest accounting (inventory) system considered due to FLEG work.
• Georgia - Citizen involvement in Protected Areas management - Tusheti
• Moldova – continued updating and tracking of Moldsilva website and innovative initiatives to improve transparency

• Russia - Analytical study on forest resource use problems such as forest/land degradation, fragmentation of parks and/or Protected Areas in the Russian Far East

• Ukraine – trainings on “The rights of the local authorities and communities in forest management: the mechanisms of ensuring rights and privileges”
Notable results in Year 3

• Some 2680 forest practitioners, citizens of forest-dependent communities, and representatives of local NGOs have been trained in responsible forest management

• 23 best practice models across 7 countries have been developed

• The pilot system for wood traceability in Moldova is being scaled up at the national level;

• Over 94 government institutions received capacity building to improve forest management

• FLEG 2 website had 11,630 sessions by 7,120 visitors over over July 1 – December 5, 2016
FLEG II results presented at high-level forestry forum - Batumi, June 2016

3 take away messages:

i. There is a constant ongoing paradigm shift in our sector

ii. “Think global, act local”

iii. We need to engage all segments of the society
Regional Activities
Regional: “Fingerprinting” Forest ecosystem stability

- Forest Dependency Studies implemented in 65 communities located in northern temperate and boreal forest ecosystems, validated our deep learning algorithm using a universally applicable tool, that due to its flexible character can be expanded to other forest ecosystems such as tropical rainforests or, after some minor modifications, non-forested ecoregions.

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Regional

• While forest dependency (FD) concentrated on the Natural Resource dependency, Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) goes one step further to analyze the restoration potential of the surrounding degraded landscapes to improve livelihoods.

• Combining both approaches holds key to make quantifiable and robust expert assessments on potential functionality restoration (FLR’s key goal) opportunities, while incorporating community social and economic well-being into the ‘equation’.
Regional Study – Governance of “Local Forests” in ENPI East and Russia

- Important part of FLEG II Regional work plan
- Regional Study (Case Studies) from 13 areas in five countries, being coordinated through IUCN HQ
- Regional Study carried out by an international consultant, supported by the IUCN Programme team via the Country Programme Coordinators from 7 participating countries
Law enforcement training

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine exchanged latest information on forest law enforcement and crime prevention at a workshop, organized in close collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
MTR one year after Exit
MTR implementation (program-level)

1. Facilitate quicker implementation of activities and disbursement of funds
2. Share evidence of activity progress in a more timely manner and more widely
3. Consider continuing the NPAC beyond the FLEG program
4. Prepare for the phasing out of the project with preparation of an exit strategy
5. Determine whether or not to adjust the Results Framework Indicators
6. Improve information sharing within the PMT
7. Decentralize some national level decision-making from the PMT to the PCT for smaller activity components
8. Better integrate management of competing resource sectors with the forestry sector
MTR implementation

**National / sub-national level**

1. Ensure that where needed, counterparts get the support to take FLEG outputs to the next level
2. Share innovative achievements between countries
3. Improve EC communication channels
4. Request the NPAC to draw up lessons learned and link it to the exit strategy.
5. Strengthen the program logic by incorporating more direct law enforcement activities.

**Regional level**

1. The regional program component should be given special attention as it appears to be off track
2. Make a stronger push to facilitate exchanges with EU countries
3. Foster trans-boundary cooperation
FLEG II – country specific exit strategy

• Countries submitted their sustainability and exit strategy plans
• Moldova, Russia and Azerbaijan held final completion events to report and raise awareness about FLEG II results
• Final NPAC Meetings are planned for December 2016