What were the goals of the FLEG II Program?

A

- Continue implementation of the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration, an expression of commitment by 44 governments from the Europe and North Asia region and other participating countries to take action against illegal logging and associated forest crimes, as well as the scaling up of successes from the first FLEG Program (2008-2012).

- Formulate and implement sustainable forest policies, including legal and administrative reforms for sustainable forest management and protection as well as increased capacity.

- Demonstrate the best sustainable forest management practices in targeted areas that can be further replicated.

- Advocating that local communities abandon illegal logging and instead embark on sustainable forest practices to make their living.

- Assisting with the introduction of forestry education in schools and universities, through the creation of young foresters activities and forest management courses.

What were some of the achievements of FLEG II?

A

- Regionally, the Program has supported dialogue and action through its steering committee meetings and roundtables that involve government officials, forest experts and NGOs from each country.

- An ongoing benefit of the FLEG II Program has been the re-establishment of forestry professional networks within the region, which were lost during the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

- Activities in one country such as training youth or development of logging tracking systems can be of direct benefit to other participating countries through the exchange of best practices and experiences.

What were the typical activities supported by the FLEG II Program?

A

- Updating and harmonizing national forestry legislation.

- Introducing sound forestry management practices for forest practitioners and managers.

- Assisting timber companies to harvest timber legally and opening up new markets to them in EU Member States.
Examples of FLEG II work throughout the region

FLEG II’s regional forest dependency study showed that many Eastern European communities still depend on what they collect from forests to meet their household needs, and even to survive. The study surveyed over 1250 households from all seven countries and was one of the first of its kind in Eastern Europe and non-tropical forests. The results have helped policymakers make informed forest management decisions across the region.

1. **Ukraine**
   - The Parliament of Ukraine incorporated FLEG II recommendations for forest sector reform into the Coalition Agreement, a crucial document that would define the country’s path of development for the next years. 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.

2. **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 mountainous 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 was 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 1921. Lessons learned from this activity were disseminated to other countries covered by FLEG II.

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

4. **Belarus**
   - Belarus developed its Strategic Forestry Development Plan for 2015-2030 with FLEG II support. The purpose of the Plan is to create highly productive and sustainable forests, along with the conservation and efficient use of their biological and landscape diversity. FLEG II’s first direct “people-to-people” bilateral cooperation efforts between Belarus and Russia explored the benefits of the “resource center” model of ecotourism and ways to engage local communities, businesses and public officials.

5. **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 2015. The program, supported by FLEG II, has benefitted 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.

6. **Azerbaijan**
   - In Azerbaijan, forestry-oriented education and climate change were top priorities. FLEG II supported active young foresters’ groups for children 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.

7. **Russia**
   - FLEG II set building up human resource capacity as a priority area in Russia. 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 is in high demand at training institutions. FLEG II has also 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 percent on average, and the ecotourism successes around the Polotskovo Nature Reserve are spreading to other forest communities, inspiring them to become more active in counteracting illegal logging.

### FLEG Timeline

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

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

- **2013**
  - The ENPI Forest Law Enforcement and Governance II (FLEG II) Program builds on the first ENPI FLEG I Program to support good forest governance, sustainable forest management and forest protection in the region.

- **2016**
  - WHO WAS INVOLVED IN FLEG II:
    - FLEG II was funded by the European Union.
    - FLEG II was implemented by the World Bank, WWF, and IUCN.
    - FLEG II brought together governments, forest practitioners and managers, forest business, non-timber business, NGOs, educators, and forest dependent rural communities.