



EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD
AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT
EAST COUNTRIES FOREST LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE
II PROGRAM



The Program is funded by the European Union and implemented
by the World Bank in partnership with WWF and IUCN

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FLEG Summaries

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT/INTERESTING
THING TO COME OUT OF FLEG?

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1. ARMENIA

Public based monitoring that IUCN is working on currently is the most important thing to come out of FLEG. This is something that is really interesting and really urgent for Armenia. It improves transparency and I hope this activity will reflect the situation in our country.

- **Ayser Gazaryan, GIZ representative and member of Armenian National Programme Advisory Committee during FLEG I**

The most interesting part of FLEG's first phase was two pilot ecotourism development projects on alternative forest use by communities which took place in two communities in Tavush and Lori provinces.

In Koghb Community in the Tavush province a visitors center was established at the Zikatar Environmental Center where tents, sleeping-bags, bicycles, fishing equipment, other ecotourism facilities were provided and four ecotourism trails were developed. All these facilities are currently being provided to tourist for rent.

In Dsegh Community in Lori province three guest houses were established and construction materials for renovations, furniture for kitchen and bedrooms, equipment, etc. were provided. As a part of this, Tsover Resort Area near Lake Tsover was established. This included three tourism shelters for picnic, garbage bins next to each tourist shelters were installed, tents, sleeping-bags, boats for the lake, bicycles, saddles of horses, fishing equipment and other ecotourism facilities were provided. All these facilities are also currently being provided to tourist for rent.

- **Gera Voskanyan, Partnership & Communications Manager, WWF-Armenia**

In Armenia, one of the most important things that happened during FLEG was a training for journalists in investigative journalism with regards to illegal logging. This was an eye-opening event and improved the quality of reporting in Armenia. Also, important was the FLEG Roadshows, where a group of experts traveled on a FLEG vehicle to 20 forest dependent communities and collected their most pressing claims and appeals. The villagers presented their views and made claims to be heard by the government. One of the forest community appeals, asking for the rights to gather fallen deadwood was granted by the government and a new law was passed.

Additionally, one of the most interesting thing was the three commercial public service announcements that were produced by the FLEG team in Armenia. These announcements were a very good motivator and targeted not only the

rural communities and people, but also the business sector and private processors—groups that had never been addressed before.

- **Luba Balyan, Armenia IUCN Program Coordinator**

Among the most important parts of FLEG was the awareness that was raised on FLEG issues in Armenia, which FLEG contributed significantly. This refers to various stakeholders including the state sector and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public.

Specifically among these interesting things, I would mention publications, which is, again, a component in the awareness raising.

- **Siranush Galstyan, Project Coordinator, WWF Armenia**

The most important or interesting thing about FLEG is that the program brings together different countries, different expertise, different people and experience around **one forest**. Although in the beginning it was a little bit scary to imagine how seven different countries would collaborate, it appeared later that having these seven countries united around one issue led to the success of the program. The program itself became a pole of experience exchange, cross-country support and a platform of collaboration. What seemed to be a risk for successful program implementation, turned into the key for success of program implementation.

- **Sirarpi Haykazyan, Armenia FLEG World Bank Activity Coordinator**

2. AZERBAIJAN

I think the most interesting thing that happened during FLEG was the involvement of the young generation and local communities in forest protection and restoration. This is very important because it changed the approach of forest protection.

- **Azer Garayev, Azerbaijan IUCN Program Coordinator**

I think the most important thing about FLEG 1 was that the program triggered and managed to maintain the dialogue on the forest issues among various stakeholders. That was not the case before due to the lack of collaboration between involved agencies and interested parties. Another important outcome was that this dialogue also involved forest dependent communities, and, most importantly, young generation.

- **Gulana**

In the second phase of FLEG we developed an FSC report and a report on ecosystem services of forests. Both reports were interesting not only for us, but also for our stakeholders.

- **Konul Ahmadova, Project Coordinator, WWF Azerbaijan**

3. BELARUS

I think that the fact that countries returned to discussions of the St. Petersburg Declaration, their roles and achievements is the most important thing by itself.

- **Nikolay Shmatkov, Belarus and Russia FLEG WWF Program Coordinator**

4. GEORGIA

Support to the government in regards to the development of forest-related bylaws and regulations was one of the most important deeds under FLEG I in Georgia.

- **Darejan Kapanadze, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank Regional Office for the Caucasus, Tbilisi, Georgia**

In all seven countries, participating in the ENPI FLEG program was key to helping keep issues indicated in the St. Petersburg Declaration high on the national agenda and within the national priorities of the forest sector. High-level support to the program, demonstrated by active involvement, dedication and collaboration of the National Program Advisory Committees, confirmed relevance and importance of the program activities to the forest sector of each country. ENPI FLEG program implementation was significant in helping countries to identify and undertake actions which would promote sustainable forest management in general, addressing at the same time declaration commitments. The way the national work plans were created showed full engagement of national counterparts. This collaboration made it possible to implement actions that had most significance and were within national priorities in participating countries. As result, the ENPI FLEG program became an important player within the forest sector of each country. Program teams took part in all major developments of the forest sector, whether or not it was within program activities: they participated as invited members in different advisory groups when discussing strategy and policy issues; they were consulted when the new initiatives were developed and introduced by government or other non-governmental groups; and they were part of the new legislative and regulatory

discussions.

Regional scale of the program and regional activities implemented within ENPI FLEG made it possible for ENPI East countries to collaborate on specific projects, to exchange experience, to showcase progress and, at the same time, discuss common challenges. Participation of major stakeholders from each country in regional activities created a wider perspective where contribution of the region's forests to climate change adaptation and mitigation, to ecosystems and biodiversity protection, and to sustainable livelihoods and income sources for local populations and national economies, was emphasized.

- **Ekaterine Otarashvili, ENPI-FLEG Program Coordinator in Georgia**

I think the most important and interesting thing during FLEG I was the establishment of excellent professional relationships and networks, which will undoubtedly pay off in the second phase of the program.

- **Iliia Osepashvili, Forest Officer, WWF-Caucasus Programme Office, Georgia**

The ENPI FLEG I program supported sustainable forest management in Georgia, through researching the existing practices, preparing baseline studies and introducing the best practices by provision of capacity building activities. Also, through proper communication and public awareness work Program has created a platform for involvement of civil society in forest related issues.

- **Marika Kavtarashvili, Georgia IUCN Program Coordinator**

5. MOLDOVA

The most important thing from my perspective is that under the FLEG umbrella there are links established between governments, national authorities, organizations, and people, and they collaborate to find solutions to forest law enforcement and governance issues.

- **Antoanela Costea, Moldova WWF Program Coordinator**

During FLEG I, Moldova revealed the real figures about the scale of illegal logging. We conducted two analyses that came across at one point in time and space, and which, in that given point, allowed us conclude about the scale. This was both risky and dangerous, as well as new for the media and public. Additionally, I want to highlight the team, consultants and local partners, who

fought and struggled for the sake of nature and environment. I know there some very active and true fighters, which I like the most for what they do in this life.

- **Aurel Lozan, Moldova IUCN ENPI FLEG Program Consultant and World Bank ENPI FLEG Forestry Consultant**

6. RUSSIA

The most important achievement for Russia was that FLEG I stimulated the realization of the official process of FLEG in practice. I think that FLEG I “kicked-off” all official bodies responsible for the realization of FLEG in Russia. Without the ENPI FLEG program would have remained just a paper.

- **Andrey Shegolev**

In Russia, the most significant thing is that FLEG and our program became a widely recognized resource center for almost all stakeholder groups in the forestry sector. Its consistent knowledge and high-level expertise is highly appreciated.

If we speak about FLEG as an international process, then there was a clear evolution from its understanding as a process to counteract illegal logging towards a quite elaborate and interrelated system of actions, like improved forest management, counteracting fires, local communities development, climate change mitigation and adaptation and many other aspects of sustainable forestry.

- **Andrey Zaytsev, Russia IUCN Program Coordinator**

The most important thing that happened under FLEG I was an increase in transparency of the forest sector and a new level of understanding of forest sector issues by stakeholders. This became possible owing to the establishment of a platform for discussing the most pressing problems involving all interested parties.

The FLEG program made an important contribution to problematic issues being considered from various perspectives. We invited forestry agency representatives, businesses, environmental non-governmental organizations, local communities and others to express their views. As a result of these discussions, journalists also gained a new level of understanding of forest sector issues. Before, they seldom produced high-quality analytical articles because of the complexity of forest sector issues. All of this is a prerequisite for reaching an agreement among the stakeholders about the direction in which

to proceed with the forest sector reforms.

- **Oksana Kovalenko, Russia FLEG Program Coordination Team, World Bank**

Important analytical research was conducted during FLEG I, which dealt with a common problem of people's access to forests. This research became a subject of an open discussion at a roundtable conducted under the FLEG program and many media publications resulted. Because of this research and the roundtable, concrete legislative proposals were developed and were partially implemented. In particular, the FLEG program consultants took part in the development of "Regulation for the use of forests benefits," which was approved by the Decree of the Ministry for Agriculture and Food on August 14, 2012. Thus, the analytical research conducted under the FLEG program resulted in the development of forest legislation, which provided a possibility to solve certain problems pertaining to ensuring citizens' rights for forest recreational resources.

- **Oleg Storchous, FLEG Program Consultant, World Bank**

7. UKRAINE

For Ukraine, the most important thing is that the FLEG program has become a discussion platform for forest sector stakeholders and players, including government, private business, non-governmental organizations, etc., where key issues and challenges are raised, discussed and solutions are identified. It is a channel to bring new ideas and approaches as well.

On a smaller scale, there has been good progress in all three of our activities: analysis on communal forest development is at stage of compiling statistical data; the field survey on ecosystem services is actively advancing; and analysis of SFRA system websites is about to be finished.

- **Roman Volosyanchuk, Ukraine IUCN Program Coordinator**

8. OTHER

The most important thing that has come out of FLEG is the launch of the preparation of Belarus Forestry Strategic Plan, which is a road map for long-term sector development.

- **Elena Klochan**

One of the key benefits of the FLEG Program has been the significant increase in both national ownership and understanding of forest law enforcement and governance processes. Knowledge of FLEG issues has moved from being confined almost exclusively to illegal logging to a more comprehensive understanding covering the whole range of forest governance and management issues, including forest fire management, public involvement into forest management, collusion and corruption, access to information about forests, etc.

- **Nina Rinnerberger**

Trying to engage government people really wasn't that easy, and for this to happen and really have governments buy into FLEG is quite an important step. Also interesting, I think FLEG has really become nearly institutionalized in Armenia and Moldova. Armenia has had the most shocking development, simply because there was little interest in FLEG in 2009 and by 2013 there is major engagement. I think that's something that really needs to be highlighted both from a national level and also from a procedural perspective, as this kind of shift is not common.

- **Richard Aishton, IUCN ENPI FLEG Program Coordinator**

About FLEG II (ENPI East) Program

The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Program supports participating countries' forest governance. At the regional level, the Program aims to implement the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration and support countries to commit to a time-bound action plan; at the national level the Program will review or revise forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; and improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance in the participating countries, and at the sub-national (local) level the Program will test and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and the feasibility of improved forest governance practices at the field-level on a pilot basis. Participating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. The Program is funded by the European Union. <http://www.enpi-fleg.org>

Project Partner



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm



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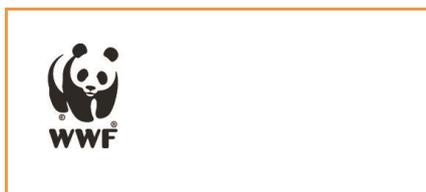
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