Community Involvement in Protected Areas Forest Management
Final Report

Tusheti Protected Areas Friends Association
December 2016
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Community involvement in PA forest management

Tusheti Protected Areas Friends Association

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1. Introduction

In Georgia, protected areas occupy 598,363.87 hectares, which makes up 8.6% of the total area of the country. About 75% of PAs is covered with forests.

The Agency of Protected Areas is the key institution, managing country’s protected areas. The Agency implements its responsibilities through its territorial administrations. The Agency’s primary responsibility is to manage Georgia’s strict nature reserves, national parks, natural monuments, managed reserves, protected landscapes, biosphere reserves, world heritage sites and wetlands of international importance. The objective of the Agency is to improve the management of protected areas, ensure functionality of territorial administrations, and supervise the process of following legally established regulations and to plan, create and develop new protected areas.

Management of protected areas in Georgia foresees close cooperation with Non–governmental organizations and general public. According to the Law on Protected Areas System Administration (management body) of each protected area is allowed to establish scientific advisory councils which may ensure direct participation of local governing bodies, local NGO’s and different groups of local population (Law No 136-lls, 07 March, 1996).

However, the law does not include provisions on participation and involvement of broader public in protected areas management. Participation of different stakeholders is the key element when talking about Protected Areas management. Participation means that stakeholders are informed, involved and empowered to have influence on decisions, plans and actions that affect them.

In reality, the local populations, living adjacent to protected areas are highly dependent on the protected areas. Their dependence is related to the income generated through providing different services to visitors coming to protected areas and by receiving direct benefits from the resources that are available in protected areas.

Considering the importance of informing adjacent communities on different aspects pf protected area management, in our case specifically on forest management issues, and after involving them in supporting the management of their surrounding protected areas, an activity on “community involvement in protected area forest management” has been initiated. The project was implemented in the protected areas, where the interaction between local population and the neighboring protected area occurs.

The project has been implemented in the frame of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance II Program (the “Program”). The Program is aimed at putting in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the St. Petersburg Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Plan of Actions for the Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG) process.

This Program specifically covers seven countries of the ENA Region, including six members of the European Neighborhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation. The Program supports selected pilot activities to be implemented with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector. Most activities will be at a country level, complemented by strategically targeted sub-regional and regional actions. The Program is supported by the European Commission and other donors contributing to a special multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Implementation of the Program is led by the World Bank, working in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (all three collectively referred to as the “Implementing Organizations” or “IO’s”) and in close coordination with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders of the participating countries.

2. Project Goals and Objectives

The main aim of the work was to analyze the factors contributing to sustainability and the harmonious interaction between local population and the protected area. With this, the project planned to support the process of raising the awareness in local communities about different aspects of protected area governance and management.

Considering the overall goals of the project, it was agreed to support a number of rural communities adjacent to the protected areas in the selected regions of Georgia to build more acute awareness on forest management in protected areas including the importance of sustainable management of protected areas forests, sustainable use of resources, public participation, and sustainability in the man and nature interactions. This in its turn would build the capacity of local communities and help them to contribute to the development of sustainable management in and adjacent to protected areas.

According to the agreed Terms of reference, the project on Community Involvement in Protected Area Forest Management had the following specific objectives:

- Document factors and reasons that may determine sustainability between communities and their adjacent protected areas forest;
- Strengthen the capacity of local, community based organizations and encourage their involvement in supporting the management of their adjacent protected area forests;
- Support strengthening and deepening cooperation between the Protected Area management authorities and local population for the benefit of the harmonious relationship between man and nature;
- Support Protected Area management authorities in sustainable management of protected areas forests.
3. Project Partners

The main partner of the Project is LEPL Agency of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources protection of Georgia and its following territorial administrations:

- Tusheti Protected Areas Administration;
- Borjomi-Kharagauli Protected Areas administration;
- Algeti Protected Areas administration;
- Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area Friends associations; and
- Tusheti Protected Landscape Administration.

An essential partner of the project was the Support Programme for Protected Areas in the Caucasus - Georgia (SPPA-Georgia) is a 5 years long (2014-2019) programme co-funded by the German Cooperation in the Caucasus through the KFW Development Bank. During implementation of the Programme, 8.25 million euros will be invested in the protected areas (PAs) of Kazbegi, Kintrishi, Algeti and Pshav-Khevsureti, and their support zones – the areas in the periphery of or enclaves within the protected areas, which have direct influence on the protected areas through natural resource use, land tenure or traditional land use rights of the respective population. The SPPA Georgia supported Pshav-Xevsureti and Algeti PA Friends Associations to become FLEG Project partners.

Algeti PA Friends Association has become a significant partner of the project. The Friends Association owns and runs a carpentry workshop in a small village of Manglisi, which produces various types of wooden products. Participation of the representative from Algeti protected area in FLEG training gave a great opportunity to other training participants to exchange the information and learn about similarities and differences from Algeti protected areas.

The International Art Center and Traditional Crafts Association of Georgia implements a project on “traditional craft in Georgia platform of economic development”, funded by EU program “Investing in People”. The manual on “How to turn traditional craft into business” (authors: A.Shanshiashvili T.Kiknadze, N.Gogebashvili) developed in the frame of this project was used by FLEG team for Business Planning training.
4. General Overview Project Activities

Taking into account the importance of the topic in setting ground for future in facilitating involvement of local community members in protected area forest management, planning of the specific activities to be implemented by the project was very carefully agreed with the key stakeholders. After close cooperation with all key stakeholders, the project action plan was elaborated and approved by with the IUCN FLEG CPC and the Agency of Protected Areas.

According to the action plan, the following four directions have taken as the key components to be implemented by the project team:

- Training in protected areas forest management and sustainable and rationale use of forest resources. The training would involve interested carpenters from protected areas adjacent communities;
- Equipping a small carpentry workshop in the village of Shenako, Tusheti. This activity would ensure effective implementation of practical training, as well as create a solid ground for developing projects of similar character in the future. On the other hand, an operational carpentry workshop in the high mountains of Tusheti would serve as a source of alternative, sustainable livelihood for local Tushetian community;
- Survey of different stakeholders on the aspects of public participation and development of recommendations;
- Presentation of the results to the top management of the protected eras and stakeholders.

All the above mentioned components of the action plan have been implemented with active cooperation and involvement of the Agency of Protected Areas and the IUCN FLEG Country Program Coordinator in Georgia.

Within the project, Tusheti Friends Association initiated the cooperation between the Agency of Protected Areas and the Caritas Czech Republic on arrangement of Permanent Market-Place infrastructure in the village of Omalo for selling hand-made souvenirs and other local products. The Agency of Protected Areas has approached the Czech Development Agency with the proposal about the possible cooperation.
5. Training in PA forest management and use of forest resources

5.1. Identification of training topics and major components

During the planning phase the project experts held several meetings with all key stakeholders with the aim to agree on the main needs regarding supporting forest management in protected areas through involvement and participation of local population. The meeting was held with the top management of the Agency of Protected Areas, specifically with the head of the Agency, Mr. Lasha Moistrapishvili, and with the head of the Development and Planning Unit of the Agency, Mr. Toma Dekanoidze. The expert team also met with the representatives from the key donor funded projects: the national coordinator of the Caucasus Nature Find (CNF)\(^{iv}\), Ms. Tea Barbakadze, with the national coordinator of the KfW SPPA project, Ms. Ekaterine Kakabadze and representatives from Eco Consult team in Georgia\(^{v}\).

The importance of public participation in protected areas forest management was highlighted by all the above mentioned stakeholders. Moreover, active communication and implementation of specific activities related to building the capacity of locals on protected area and forest management specifics, and especially on generating alternative revenues was defined as the way to reach this important goal and involve locals. The stakeholders gave positive feedback on the specific thematic area of planned capacity building activity and expressed their readiness to support the implementation through involvement of their respective protected area representatives. In addition to this, the stakeholders mentioned the important experience that has been established in Tusheti Protected Areas in this regard; therefore, the stakeholders supported the idea of implementation the FLEG activity in Tusheti.

As a result of the planning and brainstorming with all key stakeholders, the decision was made to concentrate on building the capacity of the woodcarvers living adjacent to the selected protected areas, to help them to expand their knowledge in different aspects of protected areas, forest management and use of forest resources, business and marketing, and learn how to generate revenues from sustainable using of forest resources.

5.2. Identifying and involving Expert-trainers

Based on pre-defined training key themes foe building the capacity of local woodcarvers, the expert team started identification of the trainers. Priority was given to local experts from various academic institutions. As a result, the following expert-trainers have been invited and involved:

- Professor Giorgi Kavtaradze - the Director of Mountain Forestry Institute of Agricultural University;
- Professor Teimuraz Sarishvili - Georgia's The State Academy of Arts, Artistic Processing of Wood;
- Mr. Nugzar Idoidze – ethnographer, local Tushetian who leads the ethnographic museum in Tusheti;
- Mr. Anzor Gogotidze – project leader, local Tushetian, former head of Tusheti Protected Areas administration.
Besides, National expert Mr. Irakli Kobulia helped the team of expert-trainers by carrying out the assessment of local community participation in forest management and providing the necessary information and findings for development of the training modules and conducting the trainings.

5.3. Development of training modules

Based on the predefined the topics to be covered during the summer school training selected in close cooperation and agreement with the Agency of Protected Areas and the IUCN ENPI FLEG Country Program Coordinator in Georgia, the following specific training modules have been developed by the expert-trainers:

- Protected areas: goals, regulations and importance (Giorgi Kavtaradze - Director of the Mountain Forestry Institute);
- Legal regulations on forest use (Giorgi Kavtaradze - Director of the Mountain Forestry Institute)
- Forest functions and its basic importance (Giorgi Kavtaradze - Director of the Mountain Forestry Institute);
- Logging technology. Types of timber and usage characteristics (Giorgi Kavtaradze - Director of the Mountain Forestry Institute);
- Introducing the principles of mechanical wood processing (Giorgi Kavtaradze - Director of the Mountain Forestry Institute);
- Artistic wood processing (Teimuraz Sarishvili – Academy of Arts);
- Business planning (Anzor Gogotidze – Friends of Tusheti Protected Areas, Project Manager);

The list of training modules is attached to the report. See Annex 1.

5.4. Selection of Participants

Participants of the Summer school training was conducted based on the results of the consultations with the key donor funded projects and top management of the Agency of Protected Areas (see 5.1). The Administrations of the selected Protected Areas provided immense support in communicating the planned training with their respective communities and selecting the right participants.

As a result, 10 woodcarvers from 4 living adjacent to preselected protected areas participated in the summer school training:

- Irakli Bukvaidze – Tusheti Protected Areas
- Gogi Imedidze – Tusheti Protected Areas
- Kio Jijuridze – Tusheti Protected Areas
- Zurab Gurgenidze - Pshav Kevsureti Protected Areas
- Zurab Dgebuadze – Borjomi National Park
- Vazha Kavtaradze – Algeti Protected Areas
- David Jijuridze – Tusheti Protected Areas
- Irodi Bukvaidze – Tusheti Protected Areas
5.5. Training logistics

Theoretical and practical part of the training took place from September 2016 in village Shenako, located within Tusheti Protected Landscape. The following logistics were provided by the consulting firm:

- Transportation of the participants from their home to Tusheti Protected Areas and back;
- Accommodation of participants in a local guesthouse in Shenako village, Tusheti Protected Landscape; The guesthouse was used to conduct theoretical training;
- As for the practical lessons, small size carpentry workshop owned by Mr. Irodi Bukvaidze was used, equipped and repaired specifically for the training (detailed information on the carpentry is given in Chapter 6).

5.6. Conducting trainings in village Shenako

The training took place from September 3 to September 13 in village Shenako. Theoretical and practical lessons lasted 10 days, in accordance with the predefined training agenda (see chapter 5.3.). The details of the training are given below:

The participants of the training traveled to Tusheti on September 3. On the same day they visited the Visitors Center of Tusheti protected areas, learned about Tusheti, natural and cultural values and about the work of the Tusheti Protected Areas Administration. The participants also learned about the cooperation of the Protected Areas Administration with local community and the regulations about usage of natural resources.

The second day of the training was fully devoted to the excursion in different gorges and villages of Tusheti. The participants visited village Dartlo which represents one of the main touristic centers of Tusheti and familiarized themselves with the work of local guesthouses and other businesses. The participants also visited village Djvarboseli, where the Tusheti Protected Areas Friends Association is implementing a project funded by GiZ and ECO Consult on erosion control. The project is implemented through active involvement of local population and included organizing of bioengineering activities to prevent erosion.

On September 5 the training participants reached the training location – village Shenako where the theoretical and practical part of the training was implemented: according to the agenda, mornings were devoted to theoretical training while the practical learning took place after lunch and in the evenings. Because of the high interest of training participants in woodcarving, the practical part lasted sometimes till late evening.

Within theoretical training, Professor Giorgi Kavtaradze presented the participants about the protected areas in general, on goals and objectives of the PAs, on specific regulations especially on forest and natural resource use. Last but not least, the specifics on different timber species in the context of woodcarving were taught.

Based on the request of the participants, the training on business planning was implemented in line
with the new program of Georgian Government “Produce in Georgia”. The program was initiated by the Prime Minister of Georgia and is directed towards the entrepreneurship development through establishing new enterprises, advancing existing ones and promoting entrepreneurial culture in the country. The programme was launched in June 2014 the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, together with the Ministry of Agriculture. Next to the topics predefined for the training the trainers and participants worked specifically according to the data of the mentioned Governmental programme and developed specific business plans. Owner of one of the guesthouses in Village Shenako, Ms. Darejan Ichirauli, who successfully participated in the governmental programme, shared her experience with the training participants.

The training included sightseeing in Tusheti Protected Areas, during which the participants visited Keselo Ethnographic Museum. Museum director, Mr. Nugzar Idoidze shared the information about the history, architecture and wood processing traditions of Tusheti. During the field trip to the Village Dartlo where the rehabilitation program is in progress, the training participants saw the wooden souvenirs made by locals.

Representatives of Algeti National Park Administration and the Advisory Council being at that moment in Tusheti within the training tour visited the Carpentry school. They shared their experiences with Carpentry school participants concerning the carpentry workshop of the Association of Friends in Manglisi Protected Areas.

Pic 1. Training participants explore Tusheti
The training course ended on September 13. Upon completion, participants were awarded certificates and wood curving kit.

Pic 2. Certificate for participation in the training
6. Equipping small Carpentry workshop in the village of Shenako, Tusheti

The practical part of the trainings was carried out in the small size carpentry in the village Shenako of Tusheti Mountains, owned by Mr. Irakli Buqvaidze (see sub-chapter 5.4).

The expert-trainer of the project, Mr. Teimuraz Sarishvili, who was in charge of the practical course in woodcarving, has identified the equipment and tools needed for the practical trainings, based on the course goals (see Annex 2). The Tusheti PA Friends Association conducted a market survey on the local markets and abroad on availability of the necessary equipment. As a result, inventory and equipment materials required for fully functioning carpentry school has been fully acquired and set up.

The initial key idea for establishing small-size carpentry was to use it firstly for practical learning by training participants. However, this component of the project has more added values - it created an alternative income source for local Tushetian woodcarvers: after the completion of the training the above mentioned inventory will be left in the carpentry workshop in Shenako village and handed over to Mr. Irakli Buqvaidze’s workshop free of charge. The only condition to the owner of the workshop was to dispend the facility for the local interests in Tusheti. Based on this agreement, other individuals living in Shenaqo, who were engaged in the training (Davit Jijuridze, Gogi Imedidze, Irodi Bukvaidze, Gogia Bukvaidze, Nodar Khachidze), as well as other interested tushetian woodcarvers will also have the opportunity to use the workshop.

One more added value is establishment of a solid ground for future projects. FLEG created an infrastructure, which according to valuation and assessment of the project by the Agency of Protected Areas, can be used to build on other projects which will serve to local community development.
One of the components of the project was a survey of the scales of public participation in PA forest management. For this purposes, the meetings were held with various target groups living adjacent to the protected areas selected in coordination with the Agency of Protected Areas, as well as in support zone villages. The meetings were held according to the primarily agreed methodology (see. Annex 2): Local communities, local authorities and staff of the territorial administrations of the protected areas. The survey covered the following protected areas administrations and support zones:

- Borjomi-Kharagauli;
- Tbilisi;
- Lagodekhi; and
- Tusheti Protected Areas Administrations.

Meetings were also held with representatives of KfW-SPPA Georgia, CNF and management of Agency of Protected Areas (See Appendix).

In addition, various documents related to the use of natural resources and production of souvenir was analyzed.

With the view of identifying the mechanisms, and hindering and supportive factors of involving the
local communities in PA forest management, interview with focus groups is a significant component of survey.

Since the project scale does not allow to fully exploring every PA in Georgia, at the initial stage of the project, the pilot PAs have been identified, based on whose example the local community involvement in PA forest management was studied. These PAs include Tusheti National Park and Tusheti Protected Landscape, Borjomi -Kharagauli National Park, Lagodekhi Protected Areas and Tbilisi National Park.

Therefore, taking into account the selected protected areas and focus groups, the following meetings were held:

- The meetings with the above mentioned PA administrations.
- Representatives of local authorities: three meetings are scheduled: I - Akhmeta municipality; II - Borjomi and Kharagauli Municipalities; III - Mtskheta and of Tianeti Municipalities; Tbilisi National Park and Lagodekhi.
- Local population. To ensure proper identification of local communities (the ones, which are located in the vicinity of PAs and are more or less dependent on forest resources), consultations were held with PA Administrations and local authorities.
- Agency of Protected Areas - one meeting with the APA leadership.

The key issues discussed with the interviewees were legislative framework, state policy concerning the protected areas and forestry sector, community involvement, forest management, problems and prospects. The summary of the findings is as follows:

- There is a lack of legal basis for ensuring public participation in PA management, moreover, there is no ongoing process to develop such basis.
- The decision-makers often have a perception that the interest of local communities in forest resources is only a short-term economic income and their involvement will lead to forest degradation (this perception has its justifying reasons). This is mainly due to the experience of the last decades, when weak management and severe socio-economic conditions in the country caused serious damage to forests, specifically from local population.
- Besides, the local population don’t really want to be involved in forest management, but only have some resources from there.

Due to the key findings, the team of experts prepared the general recommendation for the PA management which among others includes the following key directions of work:

- Enhancing the capacity of PA administrations specifically train them in the following topics:
  - Work with the communities;
  - Methods and principles of participatory planning;
  - Identification and empowering relevant staff, responsible for public relations.
- Improving the mechanisms of public participation: Existing regulation on establishment and functioning of the scientific-advisory councils is not effective. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and implement some other mechanisms which will ensure effectiveness of involvement of other public in PA management.
8. Presentation of Project results for decision-making parties in Tbilisi

The last component of the project includes presentation of the project outcomes to top management of the Agency of Protected Areas and other stakeholders. The meeting was held on 28 November 2016 and was hosted by the Agency of Protected Areas.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Agency of Protected Areas, Mr. Lasha Moistrapishvili, the deputy-head, Ms. Tamar Kvantaliani and other relevant staff members. After the presentation, a discussion was held on how to improve the involvement of local communities in protected area forest and other natural resources management and how to make the process more transparent. The APA top management once more emphasized the importance the role of FLEG Program and the Friends’ Association of Protected Areas in establishment local infrastructure in Tusheti Protected Areas, which will be used by locals and by APA for future projects for local community development.

See the Facebook story on the meeting here:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/protectedareas.ge/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1211527008913901

Presentation of Project Outcomes is also planned at the forum of Friends’ Associations of Protected Areas of Georgia scheduled for December 16, 2016 and during the working meeting of Protected Areas Participatory Management, scheduled for February 2017. The meetings are organized by Friends Association of Tusheti Protected Areas, APA, SPPA Georgia and UNDP/GEF project “Promoting Improvement and development of Ajara PA management”.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/protectedareas.ge/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1211527008913901
Annexes
Annex 1: Modules for the Trainings

Module 1 - Business Planning

Course duration 12 Hours

Trainer: Anzor Gogotidze

Training plan:
1. Training Opening Remark
2. Introduction:
   2.1. Entrepreneurship and Business Tips;
   2.2. Business risks;
   2.3. Business Plan and its' Constance.
3. Marketing and environment:
   3.1. Consumer markets, segments and volume;
   3.2. Market Sustainability;
   3.3. Competition and competitors;
   3.4. Advertising and circulation of information;
   3.5. Incentives policy.
4. The sales plan:
   4.1. Planning of pricing;
   4.2. Users and sales systems.
5. Financial planning and management:
   5.1. Accounting (final documents, their drafting);
   5.2. Budgeting;
   5.3. Break-even analysis;
   5.4. Taxes;
5.5. Relations with investors and banks.

Module 2 – Goals, objectives and regulations of protected areas

16 hours

Trainer – Giorgi Kavtaradze

Module 1. General overview of protected areas

1. Goals, objectives and regulations of protected areas;
2. History, characteristics and importance of the Georgian protected areas’ system;
3. Categories of protected areas;
4. Management, restrictions and authorized actions in relation to protected areas;

Module 2. Forestry use regulatory legislation

1. The Forest Code of Georgia
2. Ordinance of the Government of Georgia N242 dated August 20, 2010 on the “Regulations of Forestry Use”;
3. Ordinance of the Government of Georgia N46 dated August 10, 2014 on “Timber traffic rules and approval of technical regulations for round wood (log) primary processing units (sawmills).”

Module 3. – Forest functions and its basic meaning

1. Forest and climate change;
2. The economic importance of forests;
3. Forests and human health.

Module 4. – Timber manufacturing, types of wood and characteristics of use

1. Timber structure and biology;
2. Wooden construction materials
3. Principles of mechanical wood processing

Module 3 – Artistic wood processing

Trainer – Teimuraz Sarishvili – Tbilisi State Academy of Arts

Day 1 – Introduction, presentation of the field (short history, work organization, sketch template development, ensuring safe work environment, general safety standards and rules, safety use rules
for machinery and tools, mechanical wood processing

Day 2 – Introducing different types of wood carving, Georgian carving, preparing patterns, contouring patterns on wood, inspection and maintenance of cutting tools, creating lathe details of different configurations and merchandise sketches using a 3D computer program

Day 3 – Creating sketches and templates typical for geometric carving, applying them to wood and cutting

Day 4 – Creating a flat and perforated cut sketch and template, applying them to wood and cutting

Day 5 – Creating a relief and ornamented cut sketch and template, applying them to wood and cutting

Day 6 – Performing relief and ornamented cuts independently

Day 7 – Creating a sample with mixed varieties of cutting (merging form and ornaments)

Day 8 – Finalizing the works (types of facing, facing), analyzing the work carried out
Annex 2. The questionnaire for focus group interviews

With the view of identifying the mechanisms, and hindering and supportive factors of involving the local communities in PA forest management, interview with focus groups is a significant component of survey. During the preliminary research, four types of focus groups were identified for interviews/workshops to be conducted by project implementing team. These groups are PA administrations, local authorities, representatives of local communities, and APA. The list of specific issues in terms of the nature of focus groups is provided in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>focus group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency of Protected Areas</td>
<td>PA administrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>legislative framework</strong></td>
<td>• Legislation, as a hindering or supportive factor of involving the local communities in PA forest management. • Stimulating or restrictive factors. • Legal mechanisms for community participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State policy</strong></td>
<td>• State policy on PA and forest management, as a supportive factor to community involvement • presence of &quot;Political will&quot; to increase community involvement of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>community involvement</strong></td>
<td>• Local community involvement precedents in the management of protected areas • Lessons learned • Experience (whether the Local communities, authorities have any experience in forest management. Modern / historical) • Expressed desire of population/ Local communities /PA administrations to increase local community involvement in PA Forest management • How does each party understand the community involvement in forest management – description of a desired reality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Forest management</strong></td>
<td>• established Forest management practice • Dependence of local communities on forest resources - a challenge or an opportunity for Protected Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current problems</strong></td>
<td>• The main problematic factors that hinder the local community involvement in PA forest fund management (legislation. policies of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prospects

- Prospects - advantages and disadvantages of the possible involvement of local communities in PA forest management of
- Necessary measures to ensure increase of local communities involvement, activation of positive context and minimization of negative
- Description of the mechanisms that in the opinion of focus groups will contribute to the increase of successful community involvement

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iii Caritas Czech Republic is a non-profit organization, providing support within and abroad of the Czech republic: http://www.carita.cz/en/

iv CNF is a conservation trust fund created to safeguard the Caucasus ecoregion—one of the most biologically rich and diverse areas on Earth. We provide matching grants and management assistance to the protected areas of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, building capacity to sustain the parks for future generations. Initially established in 2007, by the German Government (BMZ), Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), today we are a multi-stakeholder organization. http://caucasus-naturefund.org/tag/georgia/

v The ECO Consult is implementing a project on erosion control in south Caucasus, including Georgia. The key activities include an assessment of erosion and biological degradation of pastures, implementation of integrated erosion control measures In Georgia Tusheti has been selected as a target site for the project.
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**

The European Union is the world's largest donor of official development assistance. EuropeAid Development and Cooperation, a Directorate General of the European Commission, is responsible for designing European development policy and delivering aid throughout the world. EuropeAid delivers aid through a set of financial instruments with a focus on ensuring the quality of EU aid and its effectiveness. An active and proactive player in the development field, EuropeAid promotes good governance, human and economic development and tackle universal issues, such as fighting hunger and preserving natural resources.

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

**WORLD BANK**

The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of knowledge and funding for its 188 member-countries. The organizations that make up the World Bank Group are owned by the governments of member nations, which have the ultimate decision-making power within the organizations on all matters, including policy, financial or membership issues. The World Bank Group comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in the World Bank Group’s mission to end extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than $1.25 a day to no more than 3 percent, and promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40 percent for every country. For additional information please visit:


**IUCN**

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN’s work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN’s work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 46 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

www.iucn.org

**WWF**

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

www.panda.org