



EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND  
PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT (ENPI)  
EAST COUNTRIES FOREST LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNANCE  
(FLEG) II PROGRAM COMPLEMENTARY  
MEASURES FOR ARMENIA & GEORGIA



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Program is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with funds of Austrian Development Cooperation and implemented by the World Bank in partnership with IUCN and WWF

## Environmental and Social Management Plan

for

***Restoration of sub-alpine mountain forests in the selected location in Ajara  
Autonomous Republic, Georgia***

*Logo of the forestry agency?*

**Prepared by Forestry Agency of Ajara**

August 2015

124 Vakhtang Gorgasali Street

Batumi, Ajara Autonomous Republic

Georgia



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## FLEG II Program background

The European Union (EU) funded “*European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II Program*” (the “Program”) is aimed to support the participating countries strengthen forest governance through enhancing their forest policy, legislation and institutional arrangements, and implementing sustainable forest management models on a pilot basis. The Program is implemented in seven countries of the EU’s European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation.

The Program builds on initiatives undertaken under the first EU funded FLEG Program. It is carried out over a four-year period, ending December 31, 2016. The Program is supported by the European Commission contributing to a single-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB). Implementation of the Program is led by the WB, working in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Austrian Development Cooperation through the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) provides additional funds supporting FLEG II Program activities in Armenia and Georgia. The Program has three Development Objectives:

- 1) To make progress implementing the 2005 St. Petersburg FLEG Ministerial Declaration in the participating countries and support the participating countries commit to a time-bound action plan to ensure its implementation and follow-up activities (regional level).
- 2) To review or revise (or establish a time-bound action plan to review or revise) forest sector policies and legal and administrative structures; improve knowledge of and support for sustainable forest management and good forest governance (including the impact of related EU regulations) in the participating countries (national level).
- 3) To 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 in all participating countries (sub-national level).

One of the activity under the Program to be implemented by WWF-Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-CauPO) involves the supporting of restoration of natural sub-alpine forests in Ajara Autonomous Republic (Georgia). Specifically, WWF support will consist of the following:

1. Purchase fence materials to be provided to the Forestry Agency of Ajara, FAA (wooden poles and barbed wire).
2. Purchase tools for forest restoration to be provided to the Forestry Agency (a mini-tractor and relevant aggregates – cultivator, rotary cultivator and drilling mechanism).
3. Produce a good quality map with sufficiently detailed information about the forest restoration area.

4. Conduct monitoring during and after the fencing and other activities aiming to promote natural regeneration of the forest.

The FAA will conduct actual fencing to protect the regenerating forest from grazing. A separate document – Plan of Actions (PoA) has been developed by the agency, describing these activities chronologically. The list of respective activities extracted from the PoA is given in Annex 1.

This activity was rated as category B after the screening process (in consultation with the WB), from Environmental assessment and management framework (EAMF) and Process framework (PF)<sup>1</sup> perspective. The implementation of relevant safeguards should ensure the sustainability of this activity and its outputs. The entire process (planning, purchasing materials, tools and mechanisms and actual forest restoration through fencing) takes place from November 2014, being foreseen to end in September 2015.

Consequently, Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been prepared for this activity. The ESMP consists of a set of mitigation and monitoring measures to be taken during the implementation of the actual forest restoration activity, in order to eliminate possible adverse environmental, economic and social impacts, reduce them to acceptable levels or offset them, as applicable. The ESMP will be implemented by the FAA. The WB, through WWF, will oversee its implementation.

#### Location and natural conditions of the forest restoration site

Khulo Municipality (where the forest restoration site is located) is the highest in Ajara in terms of elevation, which ranges between 400 and 3,007 meters above sea level (a.s.l.). The municipality is located in south-western part of Georgia and eastern part of Ajara Autonomous Republic, AAR (see Figures 1 and 2). Its administrative center is the town of Khulo with just over 1,000 inhabitants. The distance from Khulo to Batumi (the capital of AAR) is 87 km. Total area of municipality is 71,000 ha.



**Figure 1: The location of Khulo Municipality in Georgia (Source: ka.wikipedia.org)**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.enpi-fleg.org/news/environmental-assessment-and-management-framework-of-pilot-projects-under-the-enpi-fleg-ii-program/>



**Figure 2: The location of Khulo Municipality in Ajara (Source: ka.wikipedia.org)**

Total population in the municipality is about 35,500 inhabitants, divided into 12 communities and 78 villages. Average annual temperature is about 10 °C, while average annual precipitation – up to 1,200 mm.



**Figure 3: View of a natural forest in Khulo Municipality (WWF-CauPO, 2015)**

Two major soil zones can be encountered: mountain-forest and mountain-field. Vegetation cover is quite rich, with broadleaved and deciduous forests prevailing. Typical flora species include royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), yew (*Taxus baccata*), Georgian maple (*Acer ibericum*), chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), oak (*Quercus iberica*), Colchic cyclamen (*Cyclamen colchicum*), fir (*Abies nordmanniana*), spruce (*Picea orientalis*), beech (*Fagus orientalis*) and many others. The fauna is mainly represented by Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), imperial eagle (*Aguila heliaca*), Caucasian snowcock (*Tetraogallus caucasicus*), newt (*Triturus vittatus*) and Caucasian salamander (*Mertensiella caucasica*) (DTRA, 2013).

The following rivers flow on the territory of municipality: Ajaristskali, Skhalta, Ghorjomi, Diakonidzeebi. There is also a small lake named Green Lake (Source: khulo.ge).

**The forest restoration site (subject of this ESMP)** within Khulo Municipality has been selected on the basis of the following considerations:

- Natural forest located in high mountain (sub-alpine) zone, significantly degraded through grazing



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- Significant potential for natural regeneration (with annual precipitation over 1,000 mm), if protected from grazing by a fence
- Quite remote from nearest village (about two kilometers) and thus the anthropogenic pressure is not too heavy
- Accessible for off-road vehicles, which enables the transportation of wooden poles and barbed wire for fencing
- The forest type of the site (mixed conifer stand comprised of spruce and fir) is typical of entire Ajara and thus there could be a good potential for replication.

The site is located in the high mountain zone, at:

- **Location:** Khulo Municipality, AAR, Georgia. Longitude, Easting - X 289385, 288651, 288257, 288090, 287754, 288178, 287996, 289506; Latitude, Northing – Y 4610331, 4610439, 4610800, 4610802, 4610465, 4610524, 4609620, 4610095 (WGS 1984 UTM Zone 38N); near village Bodzauri (about two kilometers from the site – see the map in Annex 2); about 100 km from Batumi.
- **Forestry unit:** LEPL Forestry Agency of AAR under Directorate of Environment and Natural Resources of AAR; Khulo Forestry Administration, Zegani Forestry Division, Compartment 17.
- **Area:** about 120 ha
- **Perimeter (for fencing):** about 5,000 m
- **Elevation:** roughly 1,600 – 1,800 a.s.l.

Some of the features of the municipality described above, are characteristic of the forest restoration site. For instance, fir and spruce are main forest species. There are also a few individual trees of beech, maple, poplar and alder (the latter two – along the stream).

The vigorous growth of Rhododendron is observed at certain spots. However, open spaces and degraded forests (without vigorous rhododendron cover) represent substantial part of the site. As a result, average tree canopy cover is about 50-60%, which is significantly less than the normal value of 70-80% and more (characteristic of these natural conditions).

The soil type prevailing on the site is dark-brown mountain forest soil. Significant occurrence of bilberry (*Vaccinium spp.*) is observed. This is a medicinal plant (not in the Red List) collected by the locals for personal (non-commercial) use.

Because the site is located in the high-mountain zone, most of the year (usually from October till May) it is covered by thick snow, reaching 2-3 meters in depth.

The local livestock management system is based on a seasonal migration. The cattle is kept in the village (Bodzauri) during winter time. In the summer, the villagers move to their summer houses located in alpine zone (well over 2,000 m a.s.l., Khulo Municipality) and take their cattle with them. The cattle is grazing in the alpine zone during the whole summer season. The forest restoration site is located near one of the seasonal movement corridors of the cattle.



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## Socio-economic data (local population and their main sources of income)

Main branch of economy in Khulo Municipality is agriculture, which mainly involves livestock breeding (predominantly cattle) and production of potatoes, corn and other crops. Agricultural land covers about 20,000 ha, around 88% of which are occupied by pastures, 11% by arable land and the remaining area by orchards. Potato growing comprise one of the main source of income for local population. Other agricultural products are also produced such as corn, beans, vegetables, fruits, tobacco and honey. At present, about 50,000 cows and 6,000 goats and sheep are registered. In total, about 16,000 ha of alpine zone are used as summer pastures. The total number of livestock is twice as large as the carrying capacity of the pastures (NALAG, 2014).

About 36,600 ha are covered by forests, which is just over 50% of the total area of the municipality. Logging activities take place, though there is no reliable information about sustainable annual limits for wood cutting. Officially recorded illegal logging volumes are in the order of hundreds of cubic meters per annum. In recent years, the volumes of logging have reduced due to the migration of the population (NALAG, 2014).

The municipality is rich of fruit bearing species (apple and pears) and medicinal plants (e.g. wild rose – *Rosa canina*, bilberry - *Vaccinium spp.*, senecio - *Senecio platyphylloides* etc.).

The potential of tourism development is significant. There is one high-mountain summer resort within the municipality (Beshumi, located at 1,850-1,900 m a.s.l.). The building of winter ski resort on Goderdzi mountain pass (2,025 meters a.s.l.) is ongoing.

**The population near the project site** comes from village Bodzauri. About 130 households live in this village, the closest (about two kilometers) to the potential forest restoration site. Residents of Bodzauri possess about 1,000 cows. The population stays in Bodzauri during the winter. In that time, the project site is covered by 2-3 meters thick snow cover. In the summer season (May-October), they move to their temporary villages in alpine zone (also located in Khulo Municipality), moving their cattle to the summer pastures. Throughout the year, on the forest restoration site, grazing occurs for the relatively short time, mainly during the movement of cattle to summer pastures and back. Nevertheless, significant damage occurs to the forests through grazing.

Other types of economic activities of residents of Bodzauri include: the growing of potatoes, corn, fruits, vegetables and the production of butter and cheese. The demand for wood is covered from the allocated logging plots in the vicinity of village Bodzauri (but not on the project site).

The forest restoration will involve intensive consultations with local population to discuss all social, environmental and economic issues. Through FLEG II funds, WWF supports:

1. Meetings with local population before and after the starting of forest rehabilitation (fencing).
2. Addressing all potential problems and/or grievances with the local population.
3. Monitoring the forest rehabilitation activities conducted by the FAA to implement necessary socio-economic and environmental safeguards.

**Initial consultations** with the local communities by FAA, held in January 2015, revealed that the local people (near the project site) acknowledge the importance of forest restoration for supporting their livelihoods. This has been confirmed in the letter of FAA to WWF-CauPO #91-26/30, dated 20.01.2015. The locals fully supported the idea of forest restoration.

Further meeting was held among the Project Coordinator of WWF-CauPO, Director of Khulo Forestry Unit Administration and the residents of village Bodzauri on 5 May 2015 (see Figure 4). Once again, the meeting proved that the locals support forest restoration. Furthermore, they would welcome even more area of the degraded forest to be fenced. Upon discussion, it was also identified that no significant negative impacts are expected on their livelihoods, as long as the cattle movement corridor is left open. Possible contours of the fence were discussed and agreed with the locals at this meeting.



**Figure 4: Meeting of Ilia Osepashvili (Project Coordinator of WWF in Georgia) with the residents of village Bodzauri**

### Magnitude of damage caused by grazing

Sub-alpine forests are especially vulnerable in Georgia, as they are under pressure from illegal logging and grazing. According to many forestry experts, the natural upper altitudinal boundary of these forests has been lowered by 200-300 meters. The density of tree cover and, respectively, canopy cover, are significantly reduced (see above). As a result, they urgently need restoration.

Forest cover is still present within the project site. However, it is significantly degraded, mainly through grazing (see Figure 5). The project site is used for grazing only during very short time period in a year. Nevertheless, forests are still significantly damaged, and natural regeneration is impeded, due to the grazing.

Illegal logging occurs, but at the insignificant scale. Consequently, the damage caused by logging is not of a major concern.



**Figure 5: Degraded forest on the potential restoration site (WWF-CauPO, 2015)**

### Potential positive and negative impacts (of the planned forest restoration process) on the environment

Khulo Municipality is located in high-mountain zone with steep slopes. As a result, the risk of natural disasters is particularly high in this area. Potential key threats include strong winds, heavy rains, flooding, mudflow and landslides. Natural catastrophes have become more frequent in the last decade.

There are 14 villages in the municipality (with the total of over 11,000 inhabitants), which are located within the danger zone (NALAG, 2014). Bodzauri, the village located near the project site, is not among these 14 villages. However, the degradation of forest cover could increase the risk of soil erosion and landslides in the near future. Consequently, forest restoration and establishment of dense tree cover would create considerable ecological, social and economic benefits by reducing the risk of these disasters.

Critical Natural Habitats were not identified in the project implementation area. No negative consequences are expected in terms of environment, because forest restoration measures only envisage the promotion of natural regeneration. The activity includes fencing and, if needed, soil mineralization in very small spots (usually a few m<sup>2</sup>) within the fenced area as well as removing grass cover to facilitate seed germination. No herbicides will be used for weed control. As a result of these interventions, only tree and bush species, belonging to native vegetation types of the site, will regenerate. Potential impacts (alongside with mitigation measures) are outlined in Table 1 below in a greater detail.

- There are some risks of pollution of the area with residual fencing materials (in particular – pieces of barbed wire) as well as household waste generated by the workers (e.g. lunch packs, plastic bottles, metal cans, etc.). However the residual amounts of barbed wire will be very limited – about 1 to 1.5 meters per km of wire used for fencing – and this residual wire will be wrapped around the poles without being cut off. After completion of works, the fence may be vandalized, broken (to let cattle inside) or some parts of it could be stolen. In order to avoid these negative impacts, instructions will be given to workers to collect all household trash into packages and take it to the nearest village for disposal at the waste disposal site used by this village. The fence will be guarded by forest ranges as part of their common tasks.

Overall, the Director of Khulo Forestry Unit Administration (subordinated to FAA) and local rangers will be responsible for implementing these safeguard measures. WWF-CauPO will monitor the effectiveness of these measures by periodic visits to the site. If any evidence of failure will be noticed (e.g. broken fence, plastic bottles found on the site, cattle inside the fence, etc.), WWF-CauPO will inform the Khulo Forestry Unit Administration as well as FAA immediately and ensure that relevant measures are taken to resolve the problems in a timely manner.

#### Specific restrictions and negative socio-economic impacts

The fencing of 120 ha of the degraded forest area will not involve any significant restrictions with respect to forest use or movement of people or their livestock. The reduction of the total area of pasture will be insignificant (as the available pasture land is about 5,300 ha). The fence is designed in a way to avoid cattle movement corridors at all.

No restriction of the use of wood or non-wood forest products is expected. The area does not contain logging sites. Consequently, no logging restrictions will occur. In terms of non-wood forest resources – the main product used by the locals for personal consumption is *Vaccinium*. Its sustainable collection will continue inside the fenced area, as gates and special over-the-fence ladders will be installed. The locals will be instructed by the rangers of FAA not to damage emerging natural regeneration during the collection of non-wood products.

Special attention is given to **Project Affected People (PAP)**. The latter include the entire population of village Bodzauri – the only village potentially affected by the reforestation under the FLEG II Program in Ajara. As already mentioned, the negative socio-economic impacts on local population due to fencing are expected to be insignificant.

To summarize - the livelihoods of local people in village Bodzauri (Khulo Municipality, Ajara) will not be significantly affected by forest restoration under FLEG II Program.

#### Environmental and Social Impact Mitigation Plan

Although no significant negative impacts are expected from the above-mentioned activities, certain measures are planned to avoid potential problems, difficulties or grievances. Efforts will also be made to maximize the positive environmental impacts. Table 1 lists all key forest restoration measures planned under this Program that have potential negative impacts as well as respective mitigation efforts.

Some of the mitigation measures are targeted at the PAP. The cooperation and avoidance of conflicts with the latter are vital for the success of the Program.

**Table 1: Environmental and Social Impact Mitigation Plan**

Activity	Expected impact	Mitigation measure	Estimated cost of mitigation	Responsibility for mitigation	Responsibility for supervision
<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>					
1. Planning (mapping) of the forest restoration site and fence	Blocking the cattle movement pathways	Meetings with the locals to define acceptable	Meeting cost – about 1,000 US\$	WWF-CauPO jointly with FAA and local villagers	WWF-CauPO

contour		location of the restoration site			
2. Employing workforce	Employing workers from other villages which might create grievances among the locals	Employing villagers from Bodzauri	No cost; quite opposite – saving worker transportation costs	FAA	WWF-CauPO
3. Delivering construction materials	Damage to local roads and landscape from the movement of construction vehicles	Using transportation/ construction vehicles only when the roads are sufficiently dry (i.e. on days without or with only limited rainfall); Monitoring road conditions and if necessary, conducting road repair	No road damage has occurred during the transportation of materials for these fencing works; thus, no costs for road repair were incurred	FAA	WWF-CauPO
4. Performing construction works	Pollution of work site with residual construction materials (barbed wire) and trash generated by workers (plastic bottles and bags, metal cans, etc.)	Wrapping residual barbed wire around fence polls without cutting off; Collecting household trash and delivering for disposal to the disposal sites commonly used by the nearest settlements	No extra costs	FAA	WWF-CauPO
5. Enclosing the selected site	Restricting future access to the site for cultivation machinery and for local communities using non-wood forest resources	Constructing gates and climbing ladders over the fence	Around 400 US\$ in total for putting up the gates and ladders	FAA	WWF-CauPO
<b>OPERATION PHASE</b>					
1. Cultivating the site	Excessive soil disturbance by	Correct use of the cultivator –	No additional costs	FAA (employing qualified drivers)	FAA, WWF-CauPO

	cultivator (mounted on a mini-tractor) on steep slopes, which might cause erosion	avoiding steep slopes			
2. Retaining local community's access to site for traditional use of non-wood forest products	Restriction of the use of non-wood forest products by the locals	Maintaining climbing ladders over the fence and gates	No extra cost, as it is the duty of the rangers to protect this and other similar sites.	FAA (rangers)	WWF-CauPO
3. Maintaining the fence	Destruction of the fence or its parts as an act of vandalism or for removal of fencing material	Protecting fence by local villagers (two persons most likely) on paid basis from FFA;; Restoring damage on FFA's expense	In total, a few hundreds of US\$ per season (most likely up to 1,000 US\$) paid by FAA to the local villagers for the protection of fence; the precise amount is not known yet	FAA (through employing local villagers)	FAA, WWF-CauPO

**Mapping the forest restoration site** – the contours of the fence should have been drawn in a way not to block any cattle movement paths. There were two options: a) totally avoiding such paths and b) leaving a fenced corridor(s). The second option would be much more costly. Finally, option a) was chosen – the fence (with the total perimeter of about 5,000 m) was designed in a way to avoid the cattle movement corridors at all. The villagers from Bodzauri were consulted from the beginning, before the actual fencing works were started. The contours of the future fence were agreed with them in May 2015 (see above). The total costs of this safeguard measure were around 1,000 US\$ (meeting costs with the locals, incurred by WWF-CauPO). Figures related to the scale of work (i.e. total area inside the fence and perimeter of the fence) are given in Table 2 below. This scale is the result of available funds allocated for this component under the FLEG II Program.

**Employing workers in fencing works** – in total, up to 18 persons were to be employed. The employment of persons from other villages might have caused discontent and even grievances among the residents of Bodzauri. It was planned (by WWF-CauPO jointly with FAA) to employ at least 90% of locals out of the total number of workers. Eventually, 17 out of the employed 18 workers were from Bodzauri, which has effectively avoided potential conflicts. This was double-checked by WWF-CauPO project coordinator during the site visit on 11 August 2015. This approach also resulted in cost saving, mainly in terms of transportation of workers.

**Conducting fencing works and the protection of fence after the completion** – after the beginning of the fencing works and, especially after the completion, the use of forest areas inside the fence by the locals for collecting non-wood products may become restricted. To avoid this, two gates will be installed and several ladders (for climbing over the fence) will be put up in the areas used most frequently by the locals for the access. This will not cost much (up to 500 US\$ in total, incurred by FAA), while the access restrictions will be effectively avoided. The local

rangers of FAA will instruct the villagers not to damage the naturally regenerated forest seedlings, while collecting non-wood products such as bilberry (*Vaccinium*). WWF-CauPO will continue monitoring throughout the project to identify any possible grievances in this respect and take relevant measures, if necessary.

**Promoting natural regeneration of the forest** – fencing in itself can be regarded as the promotion of natural regeneration of a forest (i.e. the prevention of damage to seedlings through grazing). In addition to fencing, some further measures may be implemented. This may involve the use of cultivator (to plough the surface layer of soil) and rotary cultivator (to remove ground vegetation). The use of these tools will result in the promotion of seed germination of forest tree species such as spruce, fir and beech. In this way, only the species characteristic of native plant compositions, will be regenerated. The only potential negative impact is excessive soil disturbance (through ploughing) on steep slopes. This may result in soil erosion. To avoid this, soil should not be ploughed on very steep slopes. FAA has qualified tractor drivers, who are familiar with this potential ecological problem. Employing these drivers would minimize the risk of subsequent soil erosion. WWF-CauPO, jointly with FAA, will monitor this process by visiting the forest restoration site during and immediately after these works.

### Monitoring plan

Monitoring will be conducted by WWF-CauPO throughout the implementation of the above-mentioned activities to ensure that FAA implements all socio-economic safeguards properly. Should any problem or grievance emerge, these will be documented and measures to address them will be undertaken immediately.

Memorandum on Cooperation was signed between WWF-CauPO and Directorate of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Ajara in February 2015. According to this memorandum, WWF-CauPO and FAA will cooperate on the activities described above and on protecting the socio-economic interests of local communities.

Subsequent meeting(s) will be held with the local population (in early October 2015) to address any emerging problems/grievances on time. The monitoring plan is given in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan**

Activity	What (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	Where (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	How (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	When (Define the frequency / or continuous?)	What (Is the target value for a parameter?)	Who (Is responsible for monitoring?)
<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>						
1. Planning (mapping) of the forest restoration site and fence contour	Selected sites does not block movement of cattle	Drawings of the site	Visual inspection	Before the fencing	Zero paths are blocked	WWF-CauPO
2. Employing	Percentage of locals	Reforestation site; village	List of workers; interviews with	Once during the fencing	At least 90% of workers	WWF-CauPO

workers in fencing (18 persons in total)	employed versus non-locals	Bodzauri	the workers	work	are from Bodzauri (out of the total of 18)	
3. Conducting fencing works	Gates and climbing ladders installed	Along the fence	Visual inspection	During and immediately after fencing works	Gates and climbing ladders in place	WWF-CauPO
4. Delivering construction material	Transportation of construction machinery	Along transportation routes	Visual Inspection	During movement of construction vehicles; about one year after the completion of works to monitor the possible signs of road degradation	No damage incurred to local roads and landscape around the site	FAA, WWF-CauPO
5. Generating construction waste and household trash	On-site management and final disposal of waste	Work site	Visual inspection	Entire duration of works	No pollution of work site	WWF-CauPO
<b>OPERATION PHASE</b>						
1. Site cultivation	Total area of excessive soil disturbance on steep slopes (m <sup>2</sup> )	Inside the fenced area	Visual inspection	During and immediately after the completion of the promotion of natural regeneration	Zero m <sup>2</sup> of excessively disturbed soil in inappropriate areas	FAA, WWF-CauPO
2. Retention of access to the site by cultivation machinery and local community	Number of people who deem that their use of non-wood forest products has been restricted	Village Bodzauri	Interviews with the locals	During and after fencing works – periodically till the end of the FLEG II Program	Zero persons with restricted use of non-wood forest products	WWF-CauPO
3. Maintenance of the protective fence	Condition and functionality of the fence	Regeneration site	Visual inspection	Periodically till the end of FLEG II Program	Fence retained throughout the monitoring period	WWF-CauPO

The information given in Table 2 was explained above to a large extent. Consequently, no further explanations are provided in this section.

## References

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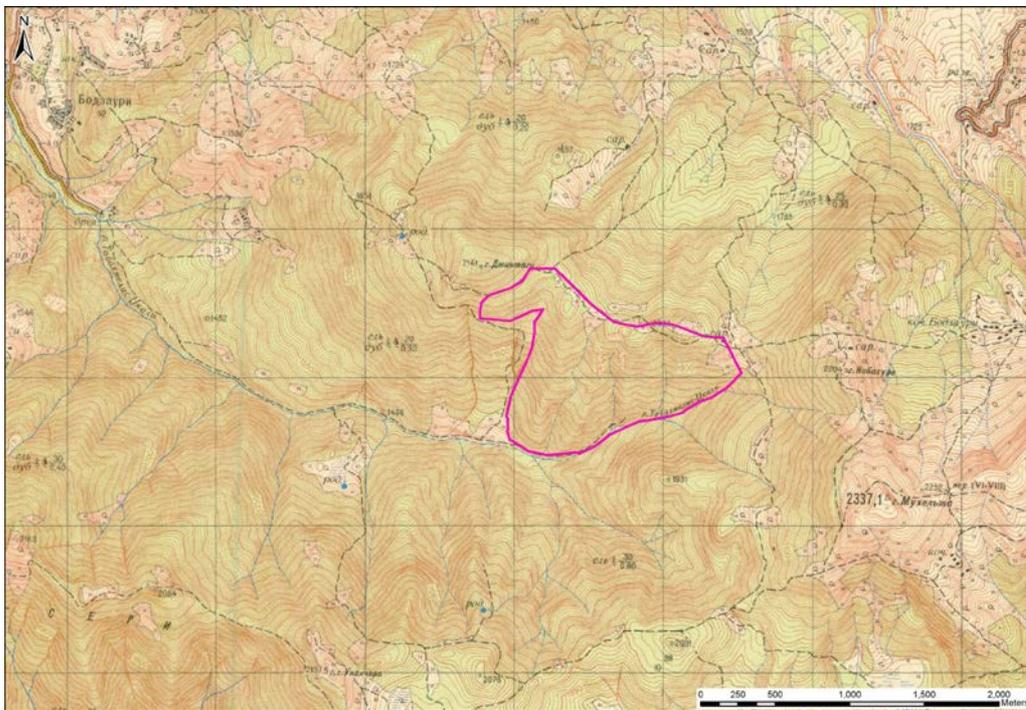
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### Annex 1. Plan of actions for forest restoration (Khulo Municipality, Ajara, Georgia)

Measure	Description	Time period	Responsible	Comment
1. WWF-CauPO initial meeting with the locals	Meeting with local villagers (most likely in Khulo) to discuss various aspects of forest restoration, including socio-economic safeguards	Beginning of May 2015  (completed)	WWF-CauPO	FAA has assisted WWF-CauPO in organizing the meeting
2. Purchasing fencing materials and transferring to FAA	2,500 wooden poles and 28,000 meters of barbed wire	May-June 2015 (completed)	WWF-CauPO; transferring and receiving act signed with FAA	These materials are used to fence about 120 ha with the perimeter of about 5,000 meters
3. Purchasing tools, mechanisms and equipment for forest restoration	A small tractor, plough (for soil preparation), drilling machines, and possibly other tools	May-July 2015 (completed)	WWF-CauPO; transferring and receiving act signed with FAA	This equipment is used for conducting fencing work and, if needed, soil mineralization, to promote natural regeneration of the forest
4. Produce a map with detailed information about the forest restoration area	To assist FAA prepare and implement forest restoration plan	May-July 2015 (ongoing)	WWF-CauPO in cooperation with FAA	A GIS expert hired by WWF-CauPO prepares the map in cooperation with FAA
5. Conduct the forest rehabilitation work	Fencing about 120 ha of degraded sub-alpine forest; if necessary, soil mineralization inside the fenced area to promote natural regeneration of the forest	June-September 2015  (ongoing)	FAA	FAA implements these activities; WWF-CauPO monitors these activities to ensure that social and environmental safeguards are implemented
6. WWF-CauPO follow-up meeting with the locals (if	Meeting with local villagers to discuss existing situation established after the initiation of fencing and	September 2015	WWF-CauPO	FAA will assist WWF-CauPO in organizing the meeting

Measure	Description	Time period	Responsible	Comment
needed)	forest rehabilitation activities and, if needed, design further safeguard measures	(planned)		

**Annex 2. Map of the forest restoration site (Khulo Municipality, Ajara, Georgia)**



*Note: the boundary in the center indicates perimeter of the site, where the fence will be put up; village Bodzauri is shown in the upper left corner*