

ENPI FLEG

Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia

The Problem

A significant proportion of the world's timber is harvested, transported, processed and traded in violation of national and international laws. Poor governance of forest resources combines with weak rule of law to undermine sustainable economic growth, societal equity, and environmental conservation.

Numerous rural forested communities in Russia and former Soviet Union countries are facing severe poverty and often are forced to use natural resources to survive. Corruption and organised crime combined with complicated and ineffective forest legislation and management constrain the community's capability to work within formal and informal market structures.

The effects of unsustainable forest management and illegal forest activities include:

- Significant loss of revenue to governments, the private sector and rural communities (especially forest-dependent communities);
- Degradation of the environment and forest ecosystems;
- Loss of biodiversity;
- Loss of carbon stocks, further exacerbating climate change.

The ENPI FLEG Program

The ENPI FLEG Program "Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia" was created to combat the threats posed to forests by illegal logging, trade, and corruption. The initiative is comprised of processes which address the complex and politically-sensitive issues related to illegal logging at national and regional levels, and is implemented in cooperation with major stakeholders from governments, civil society and the private sector.

The FLEG Program in ENPI countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine) and Russia has the potential to make an important contribution to the struggle against illegal logging and the illegal timber trade, by targeting both the producer countries and consumer countries, and ensuring that governments strengthen regulations and rules of law to prosecute individuals and companies involved in the illegal timber trade. It promotes increased regional and international cooperation, as well as greater law enforcement, governance and transparency.

The Program is implemented by the World Bank (WB), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and WWF through a grant of the European Commission.

What is ENPI?

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the main financial mechanism of the European Commission for assistance to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Partner Countries, as well as Russia. www.enpi-info.eu

What is FLEG?

The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) process was initiated by the World Bank to combat the threats posed to forests by illegal logging, trade, poaching and corruption. A series of Ministerial Conferences paved the way: East Asia and the Pacific (2001), Africa (2003), Europe and North Asia (2005).

The objectives

The ENPI FLEG Program aims to contribute to the achievement of legal and sustainable forest management and utilization practices; a strengthened rule of law and improved local livelihoods in each of the seven participating countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

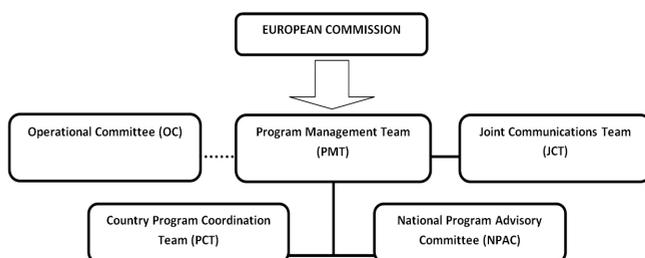
The Program endeavors to support improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the FLEG Ministerial Declaration produced in Saint-Petersburg in 2005 through selected pilot activities and with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector. Priorities relate to the strengthening and reform of the institutions responsible for forest management, reviewing and updating the policy, legal and institutional frameworks, as well as increasing the countries' capacities to enforce existing laws and policies.

Key actions are targeted to:

- Promote effective national and regional FLEG action processes;
- Increase national ownership and capacity;
- Improve regional and national collaboration and knowledge sharing;
- Promote effective engagement of key trading partners;
- Strengthen continuation of the formal official FLEG process in the countries;
- Foster sustainable forest management practices; and
- Increase awareness and commitment of key stakeholders on FLEG.

How is the Program organized?

The European Commission ensures funds and oversight to the Program. An overall Program Management Team (PMT) consisting of one member from each of the three Implementing Organizations (IOs) is responsible for the overall planning, guidance, and implementation of the Program. The Operational Committee (OC) includes a representative from each Participating Country, the World Bank (WB), IUCN, WWF, and the European Commission. A Joint Communications Team (JCT) consists of one member from each of the three IOs and provides guidance on communications for the Program as a whole. Country communications coordinators (CCC) are appointed to ensure that all the country's communications products meet the program visibility and branding requirements. Each country has a Country Program Coordination Team (PCT) where the IOs are represented. Also each country has a National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) providing guidance to the PCT.



More information is available on the ENPI FLEG website at www.enpi-fleg.org.



The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the ENPI FLEG Program team and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union, the World Bank, IUCN or WWF.

