Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) is an international, participatory process of formulation and implementation of policies and practices aiming to ensure sustainable forest management and fight against illegal logging and associated timber trade. This process has, since its start, evolved into a number of national, regional and global initiatives.
Pilot projects developed in Armenia

The non-timber use of forests (specifically collecting wild fruit, berries and nuts) is a significant component of sustainable forest management as well as an important factor in the efficient use of the forest resources in Armenia. Following an analysis of the alternative use of forest resources and their accessibility by the private sector and local populations, two respective pilot projects were developed to encourage new opportunities for alternative sources of income for communities and to reduce the pressures on natural resources.

One of the projects to be launched in the Koghb community (Tavush region, Northern Armenia) is aimed at protecting and ensuring the sustainability of adjacent forests through promoting alternative forest use. The analysis revealed that collection and processing of forest fruits and berries can contribute to both sustainable forest use and alternative livelihood. Another potential opportunity for the local community is the development of eco and cultural tourism. Therefore, the project is planned to have two components: establishment of fruit and berry collection point (including development of a business plan, establishment of infrastructure, training, etc.), and development of ecotourism (including support to establishment of visitor information center, development of visitors' programme, tourism training for community, etc.)

The establishment of fruit and berry collection point is aimed at regulation of non-wood forest products collection in terms of cooperation with respective forest enterprise and private processors as well as to provide additional income to communities without causing damage to surrounding forests.

The community will also have an additional source of income by providing tourists with certain services such as renting horses and tents, providing accommodation (B&B), selling locally grown and prepared food, etc. This will increase income in the region, while the alternative forest use will help create new jobs and further promote environmental education.

Road shows “Turn to the Law, Protect Yourself and Your Forest”

The effectiveness of the Program in the country greatly depends on a coordinated and efficient public awareness campaign. So, a series of road shows entitled “Turn to the Law, Protect Yourself and Your Forest” were initiated in Armenia in late 2010. A group of national and local experts traveled to 20 forest adjacent communities in the Lori, Tavush and Syunik regions to meet with local residents to discuss forestry-related issues.

The key component of these road shows was the extensive discussions with members of the local communities concerning forest management in general and illegal logging in particular. The target groups for these road shows included, among others, local media and schoolchildren. Given the fact that in all communities forest resources are mainly used for heating, the experts wanted to emphasize the importance of the forest as an ecosystem – forests should not be perceived just as a source of heating or other income, but also as a basic factor of life. Along with stressing the vital and environmental importance of the forests, attempts were made to jointly identify other sustainable ways of using forest resources.

One important issue raised during these discussions was illegal logging, especially the discrepancies between official and unofficial data on logging volumes. As stated by many community members, illegal logging was basically carried out on a commercial scale and the local population was hired to work as labourers. Most often people who organize such logging are not from the local area and are unaware of the importance of the forest for the local communities.
Responding to such concerns Program experts helped explain to local residents their rights regarding access to forestry information as well as their involvement in the decision making process on using and protecting local forest resources.

Coming out of these efforts were a package of detailed proposals expressed by community members based on their specific needs and concerns. Some of these included:

- the need to develop ecotourism;
- the possibility of providing subsidies for gas and electricity to poor local residents;
- new projects on using alternative sources of energy;
- more active involvement of locals in the timber processing business, etc.

All proposals were further elaborated by the Program experts and then presented to the respective government structures for consideration.

Working with stakeholders holds the key to success of the Program

In Azerbaijan the ENPI-FLEG stakeholders were invited to attend seminars and training events to increase public awareness about the Program and FLEG efforts in general. The Center of Legal and Sociological Studies “Ziya” (a Program’s partner) held a series of trainings dedicated to raising awareness among municipalities on ways of preventing illegal logging and ensuring sustainable forest practices. It was quite indicative that practically all representatives of municipalities from the pilot regions, invited to these seminars, repeatedly stressed the fact that a lack of awareness on issues of sustainable forest practices was one of the key problems in the country’s forestry sector.

A legal expert helped participants to scrutinize existing forest legislation and its application at country and regional levels. Responding to the concern that under the current system it was extremely hard to find relevant legal and regulatory documentation on forestry, it was mentioned that the “Ziya” Center had already prepared a collection of forest laws, norms and regulatory acts into a single publication which will be ready for release soon.

Field visits were conducted by Program experts to the Ismailli region of Azerbaijan and the unique mountain village of Lagij in order to evaluate the level of awareness about the impact of illegal logging among local residents. These visits revealed almost no local knowledge about the issues related to the sustainable use of forests. As a reaction to this problem, a program of public awareness and comprehensive educational initiatives have been worked out. This program, among other things, envisages the following efforts:

- filming of a short video-clip explaining the importance of forest preservation, which is scheduled to run on eight regional TV channels; and
- development of the country forest website with all relevant information and targeted web-pages for each particular stakeholder group (foresters, entrepreneurs, partner organizations), etc.

It also includes a whole spectrum of training for regional journalists on issues related to sustainable forest practices and ways of resolving problems existing in this sphere, so that they can further promote such information among the broader public.

Another action was taken in response to frequent forest fires observed as of late. The Program specialists prepared and published informational flyers about ways to prevent forest fires. These are being distributed to hunting societies, local residents living in the forest villages, and to tourist agencies.

“**Our goal is the considerable enhancement of public awareness on the problems of sustainable forest practices among the population, local executive authorities and municipalities. Everyone should be aware of the importance of their personal contribution into forest protection**”, - 

Azer Garayev, ENPI-FLEG Program Consultant in Azerbaijan

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Program activities commended by the forestry officials

The committed efforts of the ENPI-FLEG Program team in Azerbaijan were credited with very positive feedback from the respective government structures in the country. Forest Development Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is very instrumental in assisting implementation of Program’s activities. The leading specialist in the Forest Development Department of the Ministry and representative of the Ministry in the Program Operational Committee Mr. Sadiq Salmanov noted that: “Continuous monitoring and analyses under the Program activities of the current situation in the area of forest management, in selected pilot regions, have significantly facilitated our efforts in preventing the facts of illegal logging as well as helped introduce sustainable practices at the community level. In addition, the seminars and meetings with representatives of local residents and municipalities to raise awareness about the Program have enhanced respective knowledge among the population of nearby forests villages”.

Another example of effective cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources was the monitoring of forests in the areas of Oguz and Ismailli carried out by the Ministry in early November 2010. These areas were specifically identified and proposed by the ENPI-FLEG Program as sensitive pilot regions. This exercise aimed primarily at disclosing and preventing the facts of illegal logging in the areas belonging to the state forestry foundation, helped detect some cases of illegal wood sales. Reacting to its results, the Azerbaijani Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mr. Huseyn Bagirov, while speaking at a press-conference, assured the public that adequate measures would be taken against the perpetrators.

The Program was recognized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for its role in helping to find efficient ways to resolve the issue of forest destruction by illegal logging and cattle grazing on forest lands. According to official comments by the Ministry’s representative, the efforts undertaken within the Program’s framework aimed at raising awareness among the local population, increasing the educational and professional background of forest sector employees, effective involvement of local authorities and municipalities in this process as well as outreach programs for the population dealing with cattle breeding have produced very positive results.

Forests in Belarus

Belarusian forests are characterized by a very low rate of illegal logging, actually the lowest level among all participating countries in the ENPI-FLEG Program. This is a result of the strong involvement and influence of the state in the forest management process. Furthermore, the earlier Soviet forest management system, inherited by all countries of the region, was effectively modified in Belarus to comply with internationally recognized forest management certification systems. So today all forests in Belarus have been certified in accordance with the national certification system endorsed by PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification – the world’s largest forest certification organization) in the summer of 2010, and half of Belarus’ forest enterprises hold internationally recognized forest management certificates based on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) system.

The key factor in this certification process is the special focus placed on ensuring social and environmental sustainability in forest management practices. This is especially important in a country where only half of its forests are commercial forests, while the other half serves various protective functions. For instance, 690,000 hectares of Belarus forests (about 7% of the total forest fund) have the status of the state wildlife reserves, and these areas are constantly expanding. The government of Belarus has continuously cooperated with environmental NGOs and is in close collaboration with the ENPI-FLEG Program team in identifying forests of high environmental value that are essential for preserving biological diversity in the country.
Positive experience in fighting forest fires

The latest efforts under the Program in the country include sharing experiences on efficient ways to fight forest fires. This became especially meaningful after the forest and peat bog fires in the Russian Federation in the summer of 2010 that affected millions of people. Following this disaster it became clear that natural water conditions on reclaimed and abandoned bogs had to be restored to prevent such fires occurring again in the future. In Belarus in 2002, following a severe drought and resulting bog fires, extensive bog areas were rewetted. This process included nearly 40,000 hectares of peatland. Despite limited financial resources these efforts were quite successful thanks to the active participation of local residents, environmental organizations and volunteers.

Based on the thorough study of the bogs, specific projects for restoring natural water conditions were developed. They envisaged the construction of two types of dams – micro dams, which were easy and quick to build, and larger dams. The experience of Belarus demonstrated that the use of micro dams, which proved to be the most effective, built by volunteers from locally available materials, was a very practical approach toward restoring natural water conditions on reclaimed bogs.

This knowledge is now readily available for sharing with all countries where a potential danger of forest and peat bog fires exist.

Supporting forestry reforms in Georgia

2010 was a year of important reforms in the forestry sector of Georgia. Forestry legislation and institutional bodies have been re-structured, together with the principles of local community relations. Although the new law on the Georgian Forestry Agency – Legal Entity under Public Law was only signed into effect in August last year the scale of improvements and amendments so far has been quite impressive, first and foremost the restructuring of the Forestry Agency to assume both forest management and relevant economic functions.

These reforms should essentially benefit the Georgian people enabling them to obtain firewood and commercial timber in a perfectly lawful way, and with a considerable reduction of red tape. Moreover, the access to forests will become easier, and all relevant procedures will be simplified. All this will improve the situation in the forest sector and help reduce illegal logging without increasing social tensions in the areas dependent on forests.

The promotion of such reforms has been one of the key ENPI-FLEG Program activities in Georgia. The Program team has been working in close cooperation with the national Forestry Agency in many areas, notably it is currently helping design the communication strategy for the Agency, including its new corporate style, brand book, website and communications plan.

The Forestry Agency, with support from the ENPI-FLEG Program, organized a two-day meeting with TV channel managers in Signagi to discuss the key principles of the reform. In parallel, a comprehensive ongoing analysis of the new legislation and the institutional restructuring will provide guidelines and recommendations regarding the further course of reforms.

Training on forest inventory, organized by the Program for the staff of the Agency, is contributing considerably to the enhancement of the professional skills of forestry officials, and work is also underway on the procedure for voluntary certification in the forestry sector. All these activities aimed at promoting reforms in the forestry sector are helping to achieve significant improvements in the country’s forest sector.
Forestry issues scrutinized in Georgia

How to ensure the effective application of forestry legislation in the country, reduce and eliminate illegal activities associated with forests? This question has been high on the agenda of the Program, and to begin with an insightful examination of this issue was conducted in two analytical studies: the Study on Current Practices of Forest Management in Georgia, and the Study on the Economic and Social Impact of Inefficient and Unsustainable Forest Practices and Illegal Logging on the Rural Population of Georgia. The Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife also joined in the analytical research of forest management practices through its USAID project “Sustainable Forestry in Georgia: Sustainable Production, Sustainable Consumption”.

The resulting report was probably the most comprehensive study of harvesting practices in Georgia. Its author Mr. Merab Machavariani, a well-known expert in the field, prepared a whole set of guidelines on improving these practices and harmonizing them with the principles of the European system. Along with the research on Georgian forest management practices, such questions as forest access roads, health and safety, logging equipment, qualifications of personnel, and multi-stakeholder participation in forest management have been thoroughly examined.

Following a second study on the impact of illegal logging on rural populations, conducted by Vasil Gulisashvili Forest Institute, specific recommendations have been worked out. These included, among others, the enhancement of economic development in communities dependent on forests through the use of various non-timber forest products. As a next practical step, a small-grants program for pilot areas was launched aimed at encouraging the use of non-timber resources.

A study on the Assessment of Georgian Legislation within the Context of Verification of the Origin of Wood was initiated by WWF. Its author, Mr. Michael Garforth analyzed respective legislation and conducted a number of meetings with stakeholders at various levels of government, NGOs and businesses to discuss voluntary forest certification and Pan-European criteria and procedures for sustainable forest management. As a result of this, valuable recommendations have been developed on how to improve the country’s legislation, remove existing legal conflicts, and educate the staff of the Forestry Agency on this important issue.

Working with journalists to raise awareness about the Program

Mass media has been constantly evolving: the internet, social networks and blogs, are becoming an effective counterbalance to traditional media channels. The ENPI-FLEG Program gives proper credit to these new and more independent sources of information as essential tools in combating corruption, and helping promote the rule of law and improve government accountability. The Program has therefore been greatly supporting civil journalism which helps provide adequate coverage of forestry issues in the mass media.

A new media relations concept was developed and two training events in civil and investigative journalism were held in May and October 2010 in Georgia. The first was an exercise for leading local environmental journalists, while the second evolved into a regional activity with the participation of journalists from all seven implementing countries. All the journalists had an opportunity to visit Georgian forests, meet with representatives of the Forestry Department, local communities and NGOs. Journalists were encouraged to write about the current situation in the forestry sector in their countries, film documentaries and create their own blogs. As a result, a whole host of forestry information was prepared by them, and the Program even awarded the best Georgian environmental blogger with a special prize.
These events helped develop concrete steps to improve independent communication among the seven participating countries, such as regional articles and blogs as well as a regional television project to detail challenges that exist in the countries’ forestry sectors.

Cooperation with the government helps achieve accurate forestry data

The Program in Moldova has been actively assisting respective government authorities in resolving one of the key forestry issues in the country - to determine actual volumes of wood consumption and real volumes of illegal logging. For this purpose partnerships have been established with the NGO Public Association “Silva-Mileniu III” and the Moldovan Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS Chisinau), which is a subdivision of the Governmental Agency “Moldsilva”.

Available forestry data confirms that the needs of local communities for wood products are not met while the demand for wood fuel continues to rise. Although the share of the forestry sector in the country’s energy balance, according to official statistics, is rather low, Moldova’s population still consumes large volumes of wood, mainly for the household (heating, cooking, and construction). The amount of such consumed wood is several times in excess of the authorized wood harvesting limits. The origin of this wood is unclear, but many factors point to inefficient and/or illegal logging practices. Another problem relates to timber import and export: the existing customs declarations allow for different timber measurement criteria to be used, and this often leads to manipulations with the logging volumes.

In reaction to such problems ICAS Chisinau jointly with “Moldsilva” and the State Ecological Inspectorate launched revisions for the period of 2009-2011 aimed at providing an accurate assessment of the effects of illegal logging in both forest lands managed by “Moldsilva” and by local authorities (community forests). The final outcomes of these studies are planned to be publicized in 2011 along with recommendations on how to improve the forest statistics as well as implement illegal logging mitigation strategies.

Professional education support efforts

One more initiative launched in Moldova envisages professional education and training for the forestry staff on how to create and use databases and Geographic Information Systems for FLEG purposes together with the development of digital forest mapping to properly assess the sustainability of forest logging practices. This activity is undertaken in cooperation with the local partner - NGO “Silva-Mileniu III”.

In parallel, the program’s partner – NGO Ecological Society “Biotica” was engaged to help strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the organizations subordinated to the Forest Agency “Moldsilva” in the following areas: forestry education, adequate application of forestry legislation, improving forest management at local level to be able to efficiently counter illegal logging and other types of forest related violations.

Another local partner – the Environmental NGO “Eco-Spectru” is conducting a Community Forest Management Planning in several districts of Moldova, and will organize several workshops with local communities dependent on forests. It will also provide local authorities with the materials on the forest management planning work (studies and maps).
Russian forestry legislation needs improvements, - say experts

Introduction of the new Forest Code in Russia along with considerable changes made to the regional forestry legislation instead of expected improvements brought about more complications in the sphere of ensuring the rights of citizens and small businesses to forest resources. Regrettably, the existing legal acts do not adequately reflect the actual needs of local residents in commercial timber, fuel wood and non-timber forest resources. Some discrepancies are almost stunning, when, for example, citizens of Altaiisky Krai in Siberia have the right to get three times less firewood than in Kaliningrad region which has a much milder and warmer climate.

Moreover, the procedure for obtaining timber and non-timber forest resources became extremely complicated. Therefore, the absence of easy access to respective legal acts together with the lack of motivation for the legal use of forest resources brought a dramatic increase in illegal logging along with illegal berries and mushroom collection.

The IUCN experts in Russia performed a thorough analysis of ways to guarantee adequate access rights of local residents and small businesses to forest resources. According to the experts’ estimates, more than 50% of fuel wood in Russian rural areas were harvested illegally in 2010. This situation also produced a very negative impact on local small businesses. As a result, for instance, in Bezhanitsky region of the Pskov oblast over 60% of small forest businesses had to declare bankruptcy lately.

Based on the data from this research the Program has issued a wide call to urgently simplify the process of access to forest resources. This will make it possible to stabilize and increase the sustainability of forest resource utilization as well as increase the competitiveness of smaller businesses, which simply are not able to meet all the excessive requirements stipulated by the current legislation. Moreover, the principle of “single counter” (simplified bureaucratic procedures) is recommended to be much broader introduced to the forestry sector where it deals with citizens and small businesses.

“The major task of WWF in this Program is to work with forest businesses and introduce concrete FLEG activities into the work of the leading Russian forest industry businesses and their partners, - says Elena Kulikova, Head of WWF Forestry Program. – Now the active process of preparing amendments to the Forest Code is underway. Opinion of environmentally responsible businesses should be taken into account”.

Given that the current Russian forest legislation cannot completely guarantee effective forest use, forest recovery, protection and conservation based on the principles of sustainable development, this puts the country in quite a difficult situation in view of the new US and EU legislation on illegal forest products trade prevention. There are also no effective official documents, nor formal procedures in Russia, so far, which could reliably confirm the legal status of timber. In such circumstances voluntary certification, such as FSC, seems to be a practical and reliable mechanism for ensuring sustainable forest management.

To remove the evident gaps between Russian laws and the standards of such certification it was proposed that the country’s legislation creates favorable conditions for the implementation of internationally recognized principles and criteria of sustainable forest management. For this purpose, considerable improvements to the legislation are required, not least the official introduction of such terms as: “forests of high environmental value”, “illegal logging” and “illegal timber trade”.

This roundtable presented yet more proof that forestry business representatives and environmental institutions shared a common view on many of the problematic questions and were ready to cooperate in improving the country’s forestry legislation. The resolution approved at this forum includes concrete suggestions and amendments to the Russian Forest Code, and was forwarded to relevant legislative and executive power authorities for review.
**Educational initiatives promoted**

The work on upgrading educational level of forestry specialists and decision-makers was continued by the World Bank consultants. Professional continuous education programme on forest law enforcement for forest sector specialists was developed and validated with the stakeholders.

The program covers 6 topic areas: regulatory and legal frameworks for combating illegal logging, governmental forest inspection and oversight, timber scaling and recording, forest certification as a tool to combat illegal logging, corruption risks and civic engagement in FLEG. It was tested in the two 10-day courses. Official certificates were awarded to the course attendants representing forestry administrations, customs, law enforcement, forest businesses and other forestry specialists.

**Efficient timber tracking system development high on agenda in Russia**

Much attention has also been dedicated in Russia to the issue of illegal logging as one of the key problems facing the country’s forestry sector. Sharing the rich international experience on this topic the main conclusion made by the experts indicates that the effective fight against illegal logging depends on the efficient monitoring of forest management practices and tracking the origin of traded timber. Furthermore, control over timber processing and trading in wood products along with good interaction between government controlling agencies, business, environmental NGOs and local communities to ensure responsible forest management factors greatly in this process.

In view of this, the ENPI-FLEG Program has focused its attention on the prospects of developing such a timber tracking system that could be efficiently implemented both by the state as well as by private timber companies. An insightful study on the Russian timber tracking system was conducted. It revealed existing weak elements, primarily that official forest accounting does not make it possible to follow the movement of forest products through private supply chains, which creates widespread corruption. On the other hand, timber tracking systems used by businesses make them dependent, to a certain degree, on the general level of such businesses’ corporate responsibility; and yet only private corporate systems can guarantee that legal wood products, which are brought to the market, have passed through a certified supply chain.

So, in order to achieve the maximum positive effect, the requirements and procedures of the public and private timber tracking systems should be harmonized. However, federal forest management bodies in the Russian Federation fail to give proper attention to this issue, and hence the public-private partnerships are practically absent in this sphere.

Findings of this study have been supported by the resolution passed at the round table “Experience of Introducing Timber Public Accounting and Timber Tracking Systems of Forest Management Companies” organized jointly by WWF Russia and the All-Russia Institute for Continuous Education in Forestry. It reconfirmed the pressing need to harmonize public and private timber tracking systems along with the establishment of a relevant government system of procuring legal and certified timber and timber products.
How to improve forest management in Ukraine? Local residents make proposals

Eliciting views from residents located near to forests in Ukraine proved to be instrumental in preparing recommendations for respective authorities on the further development and improvement of the country’s forest policy, in particular as it relates to supporting the National FLEG Action Plan. People in many Ukrainian Carpathian villages not only live in or near forests, they also own them; and the state authorities and local self-governance bodies, on behalf of the Ukrainian people, handle such forests, and the state forestry enterprises are responsible for the forest management.

The ENPI-FEG Program partner in the country – the Center for Social and Marketing Research "SOCIS" conducted a broad public opinion poll among residents of the three administrative districts in the Carpathian region: Skole district in Lviv Oblast, Tyachiv district in Transcarpathian Oblast, and Bogorodchany district in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. These districts were selected based on a detailed analysis of the data from local customs offices and the expert opinions of local foresters. The purpose was to learn the views of local residents on the state of forests in their local areas; size of felling area and the role of timber harvesting in the local economy; use of timber for households; illegal timber harvesting and sales of stolen timber; existing systems of forest management, etc.

To publicize the outcomes of this poll a press conference was held in October 2010 in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv under the title: “The problems of forest management as perceived by residents of the forest areas in Ukraine”.

Based on the thorough analysis of the data obtained the following conclusions were made:

- 60% of respondents believed it was necessary to increase liability for illegal logging in order to improve forest management practices, timber harvesting and sales;
- 41% thought that only a small number of cases of illegal logging were disclosed to the public while the rest of such cases have been concealed;
- 5% suggested it was necessary to privatize the forests and transfer them to private owners to ensure better management efficiency.

In general, quite a negative assessment was given to the existing systems of forest management in the country. More than a third of all respondents believed that this system had a number of serious flaws which urgently needed to be eliminated. About the same number thought that the entire system was dysfunctional and required fundamental changes.

Important also were the proposals made on improving the forest management system, especially as these came from the people directly involved with the forest in their day-to-day life. So, more than a half of those polled supported increasing the liability for illegal logging and an even larger number advocated enhancement of the authority of the forest protection service by amending respective laws. Some even suggested establishing a separate service for the supervision of foresters.

All this information was passed to the stakeholders, including respective governmental bodies, and will be used to further develop FLEG activities in the country.

Program publications to help practical work of forestry officials

The findings of analytical research conducted by the World Bank experts have been compiled in a brochure entitled: “Law Enforcement in the Forest Sector of Ukraine: Status, Problems and Prospects. Research undertaken under the Program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia” (ENPI-FLEG), Part I”.

This brochure encompassed extended summaries on all the studies and researches undertaken in the Ukrainian forestry sector.
Reforming the State Forest Protection Service in Ukraine

With the ongoing reform of the State Forest Protection Service in Ukraine the ENPI-FLEG Program experts actively waded into the debate on the best ways to modernize this institution. To stimulate a broad public discussion on this topic the Program team in Ukraine initiated an exchange of opinions among the relevant stakeholders inviting them to comment on the outcomes of the research “Deficiencies and Problems of the Legislative Regulation of the Functions of the Ukrainian State Forest Protection Service”. In particular, a respective round table, involving many NGOs working on forest issues, was organized to hold a broad discussion on the Ukrainian legislation on the State Forest Protection Service.

The said research presented a detailed analysis of the existing contradictions in the legislative regulation of the Ukrainian State Forest Protection Service’s functions. It revealed that problems in this legislation directly impact the efficiency of the State Forest Protection Service. For instance, lodging of unwarranted appeals against the decisions made by the Forest Protection Service officials seriously detracts from the effectiveness of punishing forest law violators, etc.

Outcomes of this exchange of opinions and the ensuing debate will be used to develop draft amendments to the legislation regulating the forest protection system in Ukraine.
About ENPI FLEG Program

The ENPI FLEG Program supports governments of participating countries, civil society and the private sector in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including the prevention of illegal forestry activities. Participating countries include Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. This Program is funded by the European Union.

www.enpi-fleg.org

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IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,000 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 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

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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 earth’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