Azerbaijani

The Quarterly Bulletin of the “Improving Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia” Program

January – June 2012
FOREWORD

Dear friends,

We are proud to release the sixth and final issue of our country newsletter. It covers the period of five months from January to June 2012. During this period our Program Team has managed to accomplish almost all key activities foreseen by working plan. In some cases, such as in the area of raising of public awareness, development of ecological/forest education and strengthening of inter-sectoral cooperation we did even exceed expectations of our in-country and international stakeholders.

During the two years period various publications covering forest legislation, forest education as well as featuring Program’s goals and activities newsletters, leaflets and calendar were worked out. Three books – “Handbook of the Forester”, compilation of international and national legal acts and norms regulating forest relations in Azerbaijan, “School of the Young Forester”, tutorial for the secondary school students and – “Bases of sustainable forest governance; bio ecological requirements” were published and highly welcomed within the respective audience. The forth publication – “Manual for the Volunteers on prevention and prophylaxis of wildfire” is in progress and expected to be completed at the end of June. In every case we worked closely with the respective state institutions, academic and civil society to meet higher standards and expectations.

Having the aim to strengthen country’s forest law enforcement and governance our work was concentrated in four main directions: strengthening of Azerbaijani forest legislation; development of ecological/forest education; raising of public awareness on problems in the forest realm and analysis of economic and social impact of forest-related problems on the local population.

Our Legal Team has successfully completed its analysis of gaps in the Azerbaijani Forest Code and other normative acts and laws, and put forward valuable improving proposals. Our consultants on economic and social issues conducted numerous sociological surveys and interviews in the pilot regions of Shamakha, Ismailli, Guba, Gusar, Lankaran, Astara, Gakh, Belokani, Zakatala and Shaki. The aim was to find out degree of real economic and social impact of unsustainable forest practices, illegal logging and transboundary smuggling by wood products on the local population, state authorities and business structured. Improving proposals were put forward based on promotion of green energies and development of the model forest concept in Azerbaijan.

Our Forest Education Consultants were extremely successful in promotion of idea of the school-based young foresters’ unions in the country. Not least our efforts were welcomed due to the Law on ecological education adopted by Azerbaijan in 1999 with the aim to strengthen ecological education in various areas. Initially introduced by our consultants to counter illegal activities carried out by children in the forests, this idea attracted ultimate attention of the Ministry of Education which approved Program’s publication “School of the Young Foresters” to be used as the tutorial in
the state secondary schools. At the end of 2011 the Ministry announced the nation-
wide “Protect the Forests!” among the school-based young foresters’ unions contest
which was concluded in January 2012 with the active participation of Program Team
in Azerbaijan.

Our numerous meetings with the leading media outlets, selected journalists and
editors-in-chief visibly intensified coverage of forest-related problems in Azerbaijan.
During the seminars and Media Tour organized to the regions of Azerbaijan the jour-
nalists had a chance to communicate directly with the country’s responsible authori-
ties and familiarized themselves with the current trends and challenges in the forest
realm across the globe.

As Program is approaching its in the end of June we would like to thank once again
our key stakeholder and partner – Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and
especially specialists from the Forest Development Department for their openness
and constant support of our activities as in Baku as well as in the regions. We also
would like to express our sincere gratitude to another important partner, Ministry of
Education for the great cooperative spirit among our respective teams.

We do hope that despite completion of Program’s first phase in June 2012 contri-
bution made by our Team of professional and enthusiastic consultants will nurture
future developments in the forest sector of Azerbaijan.

Sincerely,
ENPI FLEG Program Team in Azerbaijan
ABOUT THE FLEG PROCESS

The Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Program was created to combat the threats posed to forests by illegal logging, trade, poaching and corruption. Poor governance of forest resources combines with weak rule of law to undermine sustainable economic growth, societal equity, and environmental conservation. 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; and the loss of carbon stocks, further exacerbating climate change.

ABOUT THE ENPI/FLEG PROGRAM

The ENPI-FLEG - “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia” Program has been initiated in response to the growing problem of illegal forest activities in the participating countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia). This Program is funded by the European Union.

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 the major stakeholders:

- governments (Ministries, departments, parliaments, judiciary authorities, local authorities, customs)
- civil society (NGOs, community organizations)
- private sector (timber companies, business)

However, even well designed initiatives will fall short unless there is political commitment and cooperation at the highest levels. Improving forest law enforcement and governance will require collaboration across sectors and stronger stakeholder involvement. In Azerbaijan the ENPI-FLEG Program started in 2009 and it is implemented by the World Bank and IUCN.

NEWS ON THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Promotion of the “School of the Young Forester” is being continued in schools of Baku and in the regions

“Young foresters’ School” tutorial was acknowledged as a must-have tutorial for the school students

Due to the ultimate popularity of the tutorial developed within the framework of ENPI FLEG Program in Azerbaijan and featuring students’ outdoor activities in the forests Program Coordinator and Forest Education Consultant have continued meetings
with the school students and teachers in capital-based secondary schools. In February together they visited two schools where they made introduction of the tutorial and elaborated on objectives of the Program in Azerbaijan. Program’s Forest Education Consultant extensively covered aims and tasks of the young forester’s movement in Azerbaijan and discussed with the children issues of the sustainable forest use and importance of forest preservation.

Presentations raised a tremendous interest as among the students as well as the teachers. During the discussions children and teachers were trained on some techniques related to conduction of field works in the forests and were presented by books and green ties with the ENPI FLEG logo. Introductory meetings/seminars in the secondary schools are being continued.

Young foresters’ movement and strengthening of forest education were discussed in the regions

In order to expand school-based young foresters’ network across the country seminars/trainings on “School of the Young Foresters – value of ecological education of the school students in the area of forest protection and sustainable forest use” were organized on April 26 2012 in the secondary school #5 of Ismailli region and on April 27 in Avakhil village of Shamakha region.

Alongside Program’s Coordinator Azer Garayev the seminar was attended by representatives of district ecological departments, senior foresters of FPRe of the MENR, heads of regional ecological administration, school directors, teachers and students – young foresters from the rural schools.

During the seminars participants discussed main directions of development of young foresters’ movement, opportunities to set up new brigades, ensuring participation of the school students in forest rehabilitation and protection activities and perspectives of participation of the students in respective international contests. Our Team was pleased to listen to presentations delivered by local young foresters. They featured accomplishments in the area of forest rehabilitation of field protection forest lines, outcomes of research analyzing anthropogenic impact on the ecological state of the forests, protection of
the natural monuments and public awareness work on sustainable forest management conducted by students among the local population.

In a usual mode presentations were followed by intensive exchange of opinions. Among the propositions made by the teachers were continuation of work on development of visual manuals and leaflets dedicated to activities of the young foresters as well as to consider possibility of providing the brigades with the necessary tools and equipment for the research and field works. Seminar’s participants were handed out the poster “Life of the forest” and calendars.

On May 19 in the educational department of Gakh region Program’s Forest Education Consultant conducted seminar for teachers of 10 pilot schools on “Role of the school-based young foresters’ unions in preservation and sustainable use of the forest resources”. During the seminar tutorial “School of the Young Foresters” and poster “Life of the forest” were introduced, main directions of activities of young foresters’ brigades were discussed as well as issues of organization of outdoor activities. Seminar’s participants mentioned importance of development of school-based forest education for promotion of ideas of sustainable forest management among the population and to strengthen professional forest orientation of school students.

On May 26 in the village Vladimirovka of Guba district meeting with the young foresters and pilot schools’ teachers was organized. During the meeting with participation of Amal Muradov – director of Center of Ecological Education, Bakhhlul Kadirov – senior forester, teachers and schools’ directors, young foresters delivered presentations on accomplishments. School students informed on a set up of forest species’ cultivation site and activities on prevention of negative impact on the forest areas. Teachers put proposals to establish new brigades and supply them with the necessary tools and equipment. It was noted that acquainted experience has an extreme importance for advancing of forest education in the country.

These series of seminars, meetings and trainings concluded promotion of our main achievement within the framework of Program implementation – inclusion of tutorial of forest preservation practice works to the curriculum of secondary schools across the country. Strengthening of forest education was recognized as vital on a high
level and accordingly is being supported by the ministries and local communities in Azerbaijan.

**Study and analysis of economic and social impact of transboundary smuggling and unsustainable forest practices is successfully completed**

**Seminar concluding ENPI FLEG Program’s last activity was held in Gakh region of Azerbaijan**

Seminar concluding the ENPI FLEG Program’s last activity “Analysis of social and economic impact of transboundary smuggling, illegal logging and unsustainable forest practices” was successfully held on May 19 2012 in Gakh region of Azerbaijan.

Gakh, Zakatali and Belokani regions were selected as a pilot region for conducting the sociological survey and analysis which was launched in November 2011. During the last 6 months Program’s Sociologist specifically hired within the framework of this study carried out 3 trips to the region. Interviews were conducted among the local population, foresters, and heads of municipalities and local executive authorities as well as with the selected farmers. Together with the Economic Analysis Consultant draft final report containing main findings and recommendations to improve the situation was delivered by the Program’s management.

Seminar was organized to share with the stakeholders, findings and information obtained during the study. Event was attended by heads of municipalities of Gum, Ilisu and Amirjan, senior foresters and foresters of Gakh, Oghuz, Zakatala and Ilisu regions, heads of Gakh’s Forest Rehabilitation and Protection Enterprises and representatives from the Forest Development Department of MENR. Program was represented by Economic Analysis Consultant, Sociologist, International Forest Consultant and Forest Education Consultant.

Featured presentations were delivered by Program’s Economic Analysis Consultant Yusif Huseynli and International Forest Consultant Ihor Soloviy. Program’s Sociologist Rasim Mammadov informed the participants on outcomes of series of sociological surveys carried out during the last 6 months in the region.

In his presentation on “Applicability of renewable energy in selected regions of Azerbaijan” Economic Analysis Consultant specifically highlighted importance of ensur-
ing of sustainable agriculture which is in a need of a source of sustainable and green energy. He noted that only in this case, a sustainable agricultural system has a chance to be competitive and environmentally friendly. Hence, naturally replenished available and affordable technologies for renewable energy including sunlight, wind, rain, and geothermal heat are necessary.

Ihor Solovy, International Forest Consultant elaborated on sustainable forest governance with the focus on applicability of model forests concept in Azerbaijan. He noted that the goal of the model forests is to manage natural resources in a most beneficial way, taking into account their historic, environmental and economic peculiarities. In this context, he underlined partnership, landscape scale of forest-related values and problems, sustainability, governance, program of activities, knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking as essential universal principles using case studies from Canada, Russia, Sweden and Mediterranean region countries’ network of model forests.

Program’s Forest Education Consultant familiarized participants with the Program’s publications of educational character and specifically with the newly-developed within the framework of the Program tutorial for the forest specialists “Basics of sustainable forest governance; bio ecological requirements”.

Presentations produced live discussions. Participants agreed that implementation of model forest concept is vital and underlined a need to create beneficial conditions. Topics of renewable energies and current situation in the forestry sector were primarily discussed. At the end of the meeting participants visited forest cultivation site set up by Gakh region FRPE with the support of WWF Baku office.

This seminar concluded series of research, sociological surveys and studies conducted by our consultants in various regions of Azerbaijan. Aimed to find out real economic and social impact of unsustainable forest management and illegal forest practices these activities produced comprehensive reports contained important statistical data, recommendations and proposals to cardinally improve the state of the forests and mode of their management. All reports were submitted to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources for the further review.

Participation of Program’s consultants in local and international meetings and seminars
The ENPI FLEG Program participated in media seminar on EU integration issues

The ENPI FLEG Program Coordinator made a presentation on seminar for journalists on EU integration issues. Event took place on March 31 2012 in Baku and was organized by Eurasia Cooperation Foundation. Presentations featured issues of the EU energy security, politics, and role of the media in coverage of the EU objectives, policies and achievements as well as environmental and ecological issues supported and promoted by the Union worldwide.

The ENPI FLEG Program Coordinator in Azerbaijan Azer Garayev made a broad presentation on aims and activities of the Program in Azerbaijan, focusing on achievements and shortcomings in implementation of the environmental programs in the country. He particularly underlined importance of the European experience and use of best practices for preservation of country’s natural resources. Discussion followed the presentations produced lots of questions on activities carried out by the ENPI FLEG Program in Azerbaijan. Journalists were also interested on future plans and perspectives envisioned within the next stage of Program implementation in the country.

ENPI FLEG Program Consultants discussed issues of forest education in Pushkino

The ENPI FLEG Program Consultant Lala Dadashova together with Mr. Allahverdi Dolkhanov, deputy head of Institute on Improving of qualifications and re-training of forest sector specialists and research fellow at Baku State University took part in the World Bank-organized seminar “Issues of forest governance and law enforcement in higher and extra education programs” in Russian Institute on Improving of qualifications of managerial employees and forestry specialists in Pushkino city, greater Moscow area. The main objective of the meeting was introduction of a newly-developed tutorial “Improving of forest law enforcement and governance in the forest sector” and in-depth discussion of perspective of strengthening of forest and ecological education in the next phase of the Program. 9 participants from ENPI FLEG Program’s participating countries and 26 representatives from higher professional institutions of Russian Federation have participated at the event.

Consultants have participated in discussions on improving of qualifications of forest sector employees, possibility of inclusion of issues of forest management and law enforcement in programs of higher education institutions, development of similar tutorials in participating countries.
Proposals were put forward to develop an educational component in future phases of the Program for increasing of interest of educated youth while selecting forest-oriented occupations, ensure their active participation in sustainable forest use and forest rehabilitation process and development of school-based young foresters’ unions.

Consultants have also met with the prominent academicians and experts. Opportunity to communicate directly with the representatives from the ENPI FLEG Program’s participating countries as well as with the professional consultants helped to identify main directions to unify efforts for successful implementation of Program’s objectives in Azerbaijan.

Future of the ENPI FLEG Program’s second phase in Azerbaijan was discussed by Program’s National Coordination Committee

On March 5 2012 a regular meeting of Program’s National Coordination Committee has taken place at WWF office in Baku. Together with the Committee’s members Program’s Coordinator and Communications Coordinator participated. Meeting was chaired by representative of the national Parliament Shamil Huseynov.

Members were familiarized with the outcomes of last semi-annual period and introduced by draft proposals on Program’s anticipated second phase. Proposals were developed by Program’s Coordinator in collaboration with the Forest Development Department (FDD) of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) of Azerbaijan. Mr. Ibrahimov, head of the FDD of MENR noticed that the ENPI FLEG Program is the only one in the country which covers the whole forest sector. He particularly praised efforts being made by the Program in the area of strengthening of forest education which allowed the Ministry to reconnect with the State Ganja Agrarian Academy. Mr. Ibrahimov highlighted importance of implementation of the “Model Forests” concept in Azerbaijan as part of activities to be carried out during the second phase of the Program.

Other members elaborated on legal changes proposed by Program’s Legal Team and advised to include representatives from the Ministry of Education and respective business structures to the Committee. Draft FLEG 2 proposals delivered by Program’s Coordinator got a unanimous approval from Committee’s members. They promised to deliver respective remarks and recommendations to the Program management soon.
This is a summary of essay “White lungs” of our World written by secondary school students Hajiyeva Parvana and Siracaddini Turan from Gakh region of Azerbaijan.

In our essay we do plan to cover issues of school-based young foresters unions, forest biodiversity and ecological tourism.

Azerbaijan is not rich by the forest resources, only 11.8% of total territory are forests. As many countries Azerbaijan in face of its Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources have carried out forest planting activities across the country.

In our Gakh region forestland constitutes 29.3%. 26848 ha of Gakh forestry area and possess environmental protection functions. During our analysis we revealed that in order to strengthen protective functions of Gakh’s forests respective authorities planned various activities. Among them strengthening of forest protection activities in the region; undertaking necessary steps to provide the population with gas, electric energy and other fuels; set up of steady protective regime in protective forest areas and others.

Protection and rehabilitation of the forests, re-planting of damaged shrubs and bushes helps in preservation of biodiversity.

Students of our school conduct activities among the population to raise public awareness on impact of anthropogenic activities in the forests. For instance, events such as “Human and environment”, “Forests are our green wealth” and “Protect the forests” contests, ecological evenings and similar activities regularly carry out in the school.
Program Partners:

**European Commission**

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

**ADC**

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http://www.entwicklung.at

**World Bank**

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**IUCN**

*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.

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 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

**CONTACTS**

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