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.
Illegal logging on TV

“Species go extinct, rivers dry up, homes collapse, every time you cut a tree.” This is the slogan of one of the three public service announcements (PSAs), produced by Altera Multimedia Production Company and commissioned by IUCN.

The first PSA highlights the consequences of illegal logging, such as landslides, loss of water resources, desertification, and extinction of important bird species.

The second PSA presents a family tree – one of the ethnic and cultural values of Armenia. Parallels are drawn between the tree and the family tree branches. As a result of their cutting, one dries up his/her family roots.

The next spot is directed to those cutting trees illegally for profit. Many valuable trees, cut illegally, appear as supermarket products. When counting the profit gained from the sale, these people are called to “Count the damage to nature.”

During the coming months, the PSAs will be broadcast by national and regional TV channels in Armenia. The spots are available at http://enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=video.

Newly launched website of Hayantar

With IUCN’s support, an Armenian-English website was created for the Hayantar State Non-Commercial Organization. The aim of the website is to provide information about the activities of Hayantar.

Visitors can access forest related photo and video materials, Hayantar’s latest news, press publications and glossary of terms from the homepage. Other pages present a historical overview on Hayantar and its structure, including activities of various departments and information on 19 forest enterprises functioning in eight regions of Armenia. Comprehensive information is presented on Hayantar’s activities in the fields of forest inventory, use, conservation, protection, reforestation, aforestation and management, as well as cooperation with local and international organizations. Management plans of forest enterprises and Republic of Armenia (RoA) Forest Code, relevant laws and legal acts are also presented.

The website will be regularly updated to keep its visitors informed of the developments by Hayantar in the forest sector.

Towards improved knowledge on forest sector regulations

The Guide to Forest Legislation was developed by WWF Armenia, in cooperation with the Environmental Public Advocacy Center NGO. This is the first resource in Armenian language to focus on the Republic of Armenia (RoA) Forest Code with scientific and practical explanations of each article and provision. References are made to relevant by-laws and other legal documents. Respective provisions of the RoA Law on Environmental Inspection, RoA Administrative Violations Code, RoA Criminal Code and others are presented. The annexes show the lists of the relevant legal documents. The Guide authors also included a number of recommendations aimed at improving the legislative framework.
To be published soon, the Guide will be useful for those working in legislative, executive and judicial systems, organizations dealing with conservation issues, forestry and business, as well as for relevant academic institutions.

Later a series of training courses for representatives of interested state structures, NGOs and private companies will be organized in the Lori, Tavush, Gegharkunik, Syunik and Kotayk regions as well as in Yerevan. They will not only obtain knowledge about the forest legislation, but also be provided with an opportunity for an open dialogue in order to find legally allowed solutions for different cases.

Media tour in Azerbaijan

On July 11-13 2011 a Media tour and a seminar for representatives of leading national media were conducted in the city of Lankaran, Azerbaijan. The ENPI FLEG Program team in Azerbaijan was the main organizer and contributor to the event. Journalists were joined at the event by representatives of the Forest Development Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Committee on Energy, Natural Resources and Ecology of the national Parliament (Milli Mejlis), forest specialists, ecologists, NGOs and local executive authorities.

The Media tour to the regional forestry enterprises and forest sites lasted two days, while the three-day seminar primarily covered issues related to the social and economic impact of unsustainable forest management on the local population. 36 participants learnt about forest and ecological topics such as the current state of the forestland in Azerbaijan and regional features of the Talysh zone, and causes of illegal logging in Azerbaijan and the negative ecological and socio-economic impact. Journalists were particularly interested in long-term consequences of illegal logging and ways to deal with this alarming trend. Among the possible solutions, experts emphasized the importance of public awareness activities and extensive media coverage.

During the Media tour, participants met with the Head of the regional Forest Protection and Rehabilitation Enterprise who addressed the problems of the forestry sector in the Lankaran region. While discussing local features, poor infrastructure and weak technical know-how, as well as low wages for the foresters, were identified as core issues. Among other important activities were the meeting with the Head of the Lankaran forestry facility and the visit to the recently restored forest sites.

The Media tour and the seminar have been covered by the leading national newspaper “Zerkalo” and “Kaspiy”, Lider and Khazar TVs. Information on the events has been featured by the Internet-based news agencies APA, Trend, 1news and FinEco.

Newly-hired ENPI FLEG Program’s International Legal Consultant visits Baku

In the framework of the implementation of the World Bank activities, the ENPI FLEG Program’s Team on legal issues has carried out a number of meetings in Baku from the 3rd to the 7th of May 2011. The Program’s International Legal Consultant Peter Herbst, the Assistant of Legal Consultants Nigar Kirimova and the National Legal Consultant, PhD in Legal Studies, Dr. Matanat Askerova, have met with representatives of governmental authorities, Parliament, NPAC, civil society and private sector.

At this point, the team on legal issues is conducting an analysis of the national legislation related to the preservation of forest resources, forest restoration and planting activities, supply of the seeds and other planting materials, forest maintenance services and other forestry regulating activities. On the basis of this analysis, they are expected to put forward a number of recommendations and proposals. To discuss current forest legislation the Legal Team has carried out several meetings with the responsible people from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan. In this vein, discussions have been continued with representatives of the national Parliament (Milli Mejlis).
In order to get insights on the implementation of the forest legislation and forest management at a ground level, the Team has visited the Ismailli and the Shamakhi regions of Azerbaijan. Here the Group has conducted meetings with the representatives of forestry institutions, Forest Rehabilitation and Protection Enterprises (FRPE) and other stakeholders. In the meantime, the Program’s consultants have learnt basic rules of utilization of forest resources from the people and respective legal entities.

In the Shamakhi region, the Team has also met with representatives of municipalities where experts discussed the role and duties of the local authorities in the management of the former kolkhoz forests. In order to discuss issues of illegal activities in the forests and their economic and social impact on the local population and businesses as well as the importance of preservation of forest ecosystems, biodiversity and climate change, a special session with the representatives of the local populations has been held.

Currently the Azerbaijan ENPI FLEG Program’s team on legal issues is processing acquainted data and is expected to develop a set of recommendations based on best international practices in the nearest future.

Media explore Belarus forests

A press tour to Belarus forests was organized on June 7-10, 2011 by the Belarus Ministry of Forestry, the World Bank and IUCN as part of the ENPI FLEG Program.

Journalists and bloggers from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia participated in this event. Some of the mass media representatives had also taken part in an ENPI FLEG seminar organized in Georgia in fall 2010.

The participants of the press tour had a meeting with the Head of the Ministry of Forestry Mr. Amelyanovich. After this, the participants had a two-day excursion in the forest, where they visited forest nurseries, ranger stations and logging areas.

The seed-nursery center which participants visited is a modern building had four hectares of cultivated land and 50 specialists. It is a small “flora paradise” with thousands seedlings of trees and bushes. The center breeds with high quality seeds for replanting Belarus forests and it was constructed using financial support from a World Bank forest loan. Each year in Belarus more than 35 thousands hectares are artificially planted to help the reforestation of logging areas and afforestation of abandoned and marginal agriculture lands.

Planting trees it is not only the duty of professional foresters. Each year at the end of April, thousands of people take part in mass planting forest actions across the whole country. Also the journalists participating in the tour planted trees at the entrance to one of Belarus Forest Rangers Station.

Legal fuel wood in Belarus - it is very simple!

The ENPI FLEG Program has analyzed the situation concerning the rights of local communities and small business to the legal use of forest resources in Belarus. Fuel wood usage is very important for Belarus, especially when the price of imported natural gas is very high.

Out of an annual logging volume of around 14 mln cubic meters per year, approximately 6 mln are used as fuel wood. Half of this amount is used to heat private houses both in villages and towns during winter.

Compared to other ENPI FLEG countries, where fuel wood usage and complex logging permissions are the driving force for numerous cases of small scale illegal logging, in Belarus this problem is resolved. There is plenty of fuel wood, and it is quite easy to get private citizen permissions for legal logging of fuel wood.
All State forest enterprises have obligations to deliver fuel wood for local people at a rather low price – around 10 Euro per cubic meter.

If somebody wants to get fuel wood for even a lower price, they can apply for a logging permission. Anybody can go to the nearest forest ranger station, submit their application, and pay a stumpage fee for less than 1 Euro per cubic meter. After the payment permission is issued, forest rangers indicate the area where fuel wood can be collected.

Usually dry or dead trees (naturally damaged by wind and snowstorms) located near roads are allocated. The logging permission shows all details related to the authorization. The timeline can be as follows: the photo for the application is delivered on June 6; the payment and arrangement of logging permission are made on June 7. On June 8 the recipient of the permission can already cut wood and transport it.

The rather simple and fast procedure for getting this official permission and the low price of the stumpage fee, in combination with an effective state forest rangers system, significantly prevent illegal logging.

Beekeeping replaces cutting trees

Five farmers from the Tadzrisi and Sakire villages in the Borjomi district, Georgia were awarded each with one bee family and a hive on August 17, 2011.

The project is the one of the four small scale pilot projects being carried out by IUCN in Georgia. The goal of the pilot projects is to support capacities of forest-dependent rural communities for alternative livelihoods development through the sustainable use of forest resources. Field surveys revealed that two villages in Borjomi district, Tadzrisi and Sakire were especially dependent on forest resources. The two villages had some of the highest rates of illegal cutting in recent years. The deforestation process that took place here from the early 90s is visible without any special surveys or tools. This was one of the main reasons for choosing these two villages for the pilot project.

In one of the villages, which are very close to each other, there is an expert in bee keeping, Mr. Murman Tabukashvili who is well known for his high-quality honey. He expressed his will to cooperate in the project and support other local people in establishing of their own businesses. Mr. Tabukashvili hopes that his village will become the destination point for people willing to buy good honey. “To people who are interested in the development of honey making businesses in the village, I would like to say that everything is possible”, he said.

After the planning, the project implementation was carried out and an announcement on the trainings in bee keeping was made. All interested people were invited to participate.

The training was conducted by Mrs. Darejan Baliashvili, Professor from the Scientific-Research Institute of Bee Keeping on July 20. 15 participants attended the training, including experienced and beginner bee keepers. The topics of the training included issues related to bee families, characteristics and functions of each bee in the family, bee biology, reproduction and development, as well as those related to different bee products, honey production, care and keeping. Issues concerning taking care of bees in spring and autumn seasons, feeding them in winter, and drugs that are necessary for each bee farm were also included in the training agenda. Participants received all the materials necessary for final examination that was conducted on August 12. The winners were identified based on the examination’s results as well as on the criteria related to their motivation and readiness to pursue honey making business. On August 17 the award ceremony took place and 5 winners of the competition – two people from Tadzrisi and three from Sakire – were awarded each with one bee family and a hive. Mrs. Darejan Baliashvili attended the event and gave instructions to each winner on specific bee keeping issues.

“I am happy to be the winner of this project. I am very interested in this business and I am planning to develop it more and more. I plan to add three more bee families next year and transform my yard into a bee farm” – said Mr. Malkhaz Gogoladze from the village Tadzrisi.
“I learned a lot during the training. I want to do bee keeping and add more and more bee families in the future. My father and brother are supporting me in this” – said the youngest winner, 16 years old, Nodar Kapanadze.

All the beneficiaries will receive the tools for bee keeping and honey production, as well as medications for seasonal disease prevention treatment.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project and to support beneficiaries in honey production, a contract was signed with Mr. Murman Tabukashvili according to which a honeycomb apparatus was purchased and assigned to him. Mr. Tabukashvili will be responsible to produce honeycombs, free of charge, upon request and with the material of the beneficiaries. All participants were also able to benefit from four days training in general business/marketing issues.

For more information on the project please contact Mr. Irakli Tekturnanidse, from TBSC Consulting, the implementer organization of the pilot projects IrakliT@tbsc.ge and Ms. Ekaterine Otarashvili from IUCN/ENPI FLEG: Ekaterine.otarashvili@iucn.org.

Seminar on climate change law and policy in Georgia

The Ilia State University Institute of Alpine Ecology, in Stephantsminda, Georgia, hosted a two-day executive seminar for state officials on climate change law and policy on May 18-19, 2011.

The seminar was organized by the Environmental Education Center of the Ilia State University (Tbilisi Georgia), and the Center for Environmental Legal Studies of the Pace University School of Law (New York USA), in cooperation with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial support from the US Civil Research and Development Fund (CRDF) and the European Commission (EC).

The classes were conducted by Professor Nicholas A. Robinson (Professor of Environmental Law at the Pace University School of Law and Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, 1994-2004; Chairman of the Commission on Environmental Law of the IUCN; and IUCN’s Legal Advisor), Professor James Van Nostrand (Executive Director of the Pace Energy and Climate Center at Pace Law School), Irakli Macharashvili (Associate Professor of Ilia State University), Marina Shvangiradze (Manager of Georgia’s National Communication to the UNFCCC (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change), and Ekaterine Otarashvili (Environmental Lawyer, Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, FLEG, Consultant for IUCN in Georgia).

The seminar was specifically designed for senior- and mid-level Georgian governmental employees, who deal with climate change related issues in their work. The participation was very diverse and included representatives of the Ministry of Environment Protection, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Tbilisi Mayor’s Office, Tbilisi self-government body (Sakrebulo), Kazbegi National Park Administration, Ilia State University and IUCN/ENPI FLEG Program.

The main topics covered by the seminar included: basics of international climate change law and policy and its implications for Georgia; the role of climate change law in public international law; environmental law and the foundations for a climate change legal system; biodiversity and climate change; climate change and environmentally displaced persons, etc. Climate change related issues were linked to energy and sustainable development law and policy in Georgia. Adaptation to climate change and planning of practical steps for climate reform were as well introduced and discussed. Certificates of completion were awarded to the participants of the seminar.

The event was developed and conducted as part of the CRDF initiative to support the incorporation of climate change related issues in high education curricula in South Caucasus countries. It was agreed that American and Georgian professors will cooperate in developing a one-semester interdisciplinary course on Foundations of International Environmental and Climate Change Law, to be offered by the Ilia State University.
CRDF Global is a nonprofit organization established in 1995 by the US National Science Foundation that works to promote international scientific and technical collaboration.

Another important supporter and co-organizer of the seminar was IUCN through the EC-funded ENPI FLEG Program. “Stabilization of forest ecosystems and enhancing forest stewardship is essential to both mitigation of climate change effects, through the photosynthesis provided by trees and other forest flora, and for the adaptation to the effects of climate change, as climate alters forest habitats. Both dimensions rely on best management practices by governments, civil society and private economic interests” - IUCN Regional Director for Europe Hans Friederich mentioned in his video addressed to the participants:

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

More information about the seminar, including presentations (in English and Georgian), background reports and publications, is available at:

http://www.enpi-fleg.ge/enpi_fleg/image/Climate_Change_Law_and_Policy_for_Georgia.zip

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National FLEG Conference in Moldova

A conference on the ENPI FLEG Program activities and other forest related issues took place in Chisinau, Moldova, on June 14, 2011.

The key issues discussed at the meeting were the results of a number of analytical studies on (i) real figures of wood products consumption in the context of all the energetic biomass used by local communities and (ii) real volumes of illegal logging in the context of the overall state of forest protection and vigilance throughout the country’s forest land.

The Agency Moldsilva and the Ministry of Environment agreed to launch a joint management planning program for forest land owned by local authorities and to review the legal forest regime, as many lands are formally owned by local authorities but in fact no forest regime is applied to them, and most of these have no forest personnel. Also, Moldsilva and the State Ecological Inspectorate agreed to revise the forest land inspections methodology in order to improve the spring and autumn control of contraventions (illegal logging, poaching, etc.).

Another outcome of the event was that some issues such as forest lease, community forestry, access to forest resources and forestry personnel’s image also need to be taken into account to ensure sustainability of the entire forest sector (governmental, community, private). Moldsilva is committed to ensuring a rational use, management and conservation of forest resources as well as to providing the population with forest products.

A number of information materials (the newspaper “Natura-FLEG”, the book “Forest Legislation of Republic of Moldova”, leaflets, brochures), prepared by the ENPI FLEG team in cooperation with line departments, NGOs, local authorities, academia and forest units, were distributed among the participants. These materials have significantly contributed to the communication process and raising awareness in the country.

The event was attended, among others, by representatives of line departments (Agency “Moldsilva”, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior, State Ecological Inspectorate), NGOs (ES “Biotica”, PA “Silva-Mileniul III”, PA “Ave-Natura”, REC-Moldova, “Eco-Spectrul”, “Eco-Contact”, Eco Counseling Cahul, Ecological Movement of Moldova), local authorities owning forest land (Bogheni-Noi, Ungheni district), academia (Institute of Zoology, Institute of Ecology and Geography), legal advisers, international projects
Presentations on the subjects mentioned were made by ENPI FLEG Moldova members, high officials of the Agency “Moldsilva” and team experts responsible for the implementation of ENPI FLEG activities.

More FLEG in Moldova

At the recent meeting of the National Advisory Program Committee (NPAC), more activities for ENPI FLEG in the country have been announced.

The main issues discussed, as presented by the General Director of Moldsilva and the chairman of the NPAC, were several issues related to the national forestry sector (consumption versus logging, community forests etc.), the implementation of the FLEG National Action Plan and the contribution of ENPI FLEG Program to the country.

The NPAC decided to expand FLEG activities. On the occasion of the UN International Year of Forests, ENPI FLEG Moldova in cooperation with the Agency Moldsilva, the Ministry of Environment (including its subdivision – State Ecological Inspectorate), ICAS, ONG communities, local authorities owning forests along with other ENPI FLEG countries will organize an international symposium on “Sustainable development of the forestry sector – new visions and priorities” on November 17-19, 2011 in Chisinau.

The event was attended by the newly assigned management and other officials of the Agency “Moldsilva”, representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Interior, forest units, forest guard service, NGOs, IOs (WB, IUCN) and was held in Chisinau on June 14, 2011.

The full text of NPAC’s Decision (English translation) and FLEG Office Moldova’s Report can be found on: http://www.enpi-fleg.org/index.php?id=49&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=722&cHash=414616338d6d317adfeaae423d802b3f

Rosleskhoz is interested in disseminating ENPI FLEG Program results in Russia

On July 6, 2011, the Fifth Regular Meeting of the National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) was held at the World Bank Moscow Office to review Program progress during the first six months of 2011.

NPAC was unanimous in evaluating the work of the Country Program Coordination Team as satisfactory and the achieved results as fully in line with the Work Plan.

In his presentation at the meeting, Alexander Panfilov, ENPI FLEG National Focal Point, Stats-Secretary - Deputy Head of the Federal Forestry Agency and Chair of the ENPI FLEG National Program Advisory Committee, proposed to officially present the findings and best practices of the Program to Rosleskhoz to further disseminate them among forest governance authorities throughout the country.

This opinion of an official representative of the Agency speaks of its interest in the Program’s outcomes and guidelines developed by the experts of all three implementing organizations and also of the good prospects of their further replication on a local level.
More jobs created in Bezhanitsy

New jobs have been created – a true turning point is observed in the Bezhanitsky area in the Pskovskaya Oblast, Russia.

In this area an ecotrail was organized by the State Nature Reserve Polistovsky, and the Municipal Concept on the Tourism Development which incorporates principles of alternative forest resources was developed. Both activities are helping to attract tourists not only from Russia but also from the European Union. Tourists are eager to visit the unique peat bog and forest ecosystems preserved in the nearly virgin state in the Pskov region. Already four ecotourists groups visited Bezhanitsy this year.

Thanks to this, over 10 citizens of the Tsevlo and Bezhanitsy settlements are now employed in souvenir production and hospitality. This is a considerable source for income in this rural area of Russia.

The area has been selected by IUCN to implement practical activities to safeguard peoples’ right to legal access to forest resources and to elaborate alternative approaches to sustainable forest management for local communities. These activities received methodological and legal support from the ENPI FLEG Program.

The ENPI FLEG team is pleased to observe that European tourism organizations have expressed their interest in the capacities and opportunities created with the help of ENPI FLEG. The Polistovsky Reserve has recently hosted the “Estonian Nature Tours” company representatives. An agreement was made to include the reserve’s ecotrail into their tourist package.

This all means more jobs for local citizens, more careful management of the forest resources and greater interest to the ENPI FLEG program results from international guests. This success demonstrates true input of the Program into the processes of good neighborhood and partnership between the European Union and Russia.

Forest fires and the FLEG process in the Russian Federation: a report

A report was prepared as part of the ENPI FLEG Program to explain the relations and trend of illegal logging and forest fires.

In 2010, there were 33,500 forest fires in Russia; they burnt 2.1 million ha of forest areas. Compared with the year 2009, the number of forest fires increased 1.5 times. In 2010, fires killed 193,200 ha of forests, i.e. much more than annually on the average over many years. It should be noted that the annual numbers and areas of forest fires have been steadily and significantly growing since 2007 (when the new Forest Code became effective). The average area per fire increased 4-5 times. The share of anthropogenic forest fires is as great as 93%.

According to the report, deliberately or accidentally, man is the main source and the most prevalent cause of forest fires. However, high rates of forest fire occurrence and spread are preconditioned with a broad range of managerial, technological, institutional, economic, social and climatic factors as well as with national forest management and tenure systems.

The report reviews these factors which include: imperfection of the forest legislation, non-existence of laws to cause forest fires to be prevented, poor law enforcement; destruction of the earlier established regulatory frameworks and ruined technical and human resource capacity to ensure fire safety in forests; lack of a national system to protect forests against fire and ensure centralised forest fire management; poor interagency cooperation/coordination; insufficient funding and other inputs to control forest fires; and inconsistent procedures for channelling funds to those who implement forest fire management activities, etc.
It also contains and reviews a list of sector-wide measures taken by the Government of the Russian Federation after the catastrophic fires in European Russia in 2010. No doubt, those measures have affected the current situation. But, it is concluded that the listed measures cannot make a substantial contribution into improvement of an evolving forest fires situation. Therefore, during the period since the beginning of the current forest fire season till April 20, 2011, the burnt area was 140 times vaster than during the same period in 2010, and the number of fires is 11.3 times greater.

Also, it is noted that outreach efforts and public involvement in forest management, monitoring of forest use and forest protection from fire are clearly inadequate. In the context of forest management reform, new legislation, roles and responsibilities for forest fire control, it is necessary to enhance the role of civil society in forest fire prevention.

The work done was based on data analyses in three typical forest-rich Russian regions: in the Far East Federal Okrug, Arkhangelsk Oblast and Krasnoyarsk Kray, using publicly accessible data on forest fires in Russia as a whole.

The report was written by a team of consultants of the World Bank, consisting of: E.P. Kuzmichev (Team Leader), D.F. Efremov, A.S. Zakharenkov, M.A. Kopeikin, M.I. Smetanina, and V.V. Soldatov.

Forest journalism competition in Ukraine

The award ceremony of a competition for the best journalistic material on law enforcement and management in the forest sector of Ukraine took place in Kyiv on June 7, 2011. The competition was organized by the NGO “Telekritika” and the ENPI FLEG Program in Ukraine, and was dedicated to the International Year of Forests. The period for submissions was from February 01 to May 15, 2011.

The competition topics covered a broad range of issues, such as:

• The situation in the Ukrainian forest sector with a focus on the level of illegal felling and the fight against it;
• Quality of forest management in the country;
• The ENPI FLEG approach;
• Forest and related legislation of Ukraine;
• The State Forest Protection Service in Ukraine;
• Rights of local population and small businesses to access forest resources;
• Sustainable use of forest resources;
• Ukrainian forest sector through the prism of the International Year of Forests, etc.

The jury included professional journalists and forestry specialists. The criteria for the evaluation were:

• Accordance with the topics of the competition (1-10 points);
• Level of relevance of the theme (1-10 points);
• Level of comprehension for readers/audience (1-10 points).

76 submissions in different formats (articles, videos, radio broadcasts) were received for the contest from several Ukrainian regions. This is indeed a great number of applications given the complexity and specificity of the competition topics.

The winners of the competition were the following journalists:

1. Iryna Fedoriv (series of reports on the defense of the Kyiv forest around the village of Dotsyubynske);
2. Maxym Golovan (causes and consequences of illegal logging of juniper in Crimea);
3. Tetyana Marynova (reasons and consequences for the creation of the Ukrainian specialized forest exchange, bound to become a monopolist in the wood market violating Ukrainian and international laws);
Access to information in forestry management discussed in Ukraine

A workshop on “Access to information and public participation in Forestry Management” was held on May 20, 2011 in the small town of Borodyanka, in the Kyiv region. The seminar was conducted by the non-commercial partnership “Association of Forest Certification in Ukraine” and the regional environmental organization “Ekosphera”, with the support of the Institute of Forestry and Landscape Architecture. The workshop was attended by the village heads and council representatives, as well as by representatives of the state enterprises “Klavdiyivske Forestry” and “Teterivske Forestry”.

The activities developed by the ENPI FLEG Program, together with the legal principles on access to information as approved under the Ukrainian laws “On Information” and “On Access to Public Information”, were among the main issues discussed. Special attention was devoted to the results of the questionnaire for the village heads and councils in June-July 2010 which focused on access to information and participation of local communities in forestry management. Regarding this matter, the participants emphasized the insufficient cooperation with forestry enterprises. The discussions held in the workshop resulted in the following resolutions:

1. Improve cooperation between forestry enterprises and local communities through:
   • keeping local communities informed via mass media, in particular local newspapers and TV;
   • organizing joint meetings and workshops to discuss forestry activities that can have a negative impact on local communities;
   • developing methods of consultation and conflict solving.
2. Increase education and awareness activities for the youth.
3. Involve representatives of local communities in the development of a 10 years forestry management plan.
4. Involve local communities in forest management activities, such as informing and fighting forest fires and illegal logging, taking part in forest planning, etc.

More detailed information can be found in the National Ukrainian website of the Program: http://www.fleg.org.ua/index.php?id=6&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=114

Access to forest resources and illegal logging in the Carpathians and West Polissya

The ENPI FLEG Program has recently released a publication which summarizes empiric research aimed to diagnose causes, social and economic impacts of illegal logging and unsustainable forestry practices and explores possibilities for improvement of the situation.

In particular, the book called “Access to forest resources and illegal logging in the Carpathians and West Polissya” aims to:

• Determine and compare the visions of community and business representatives and forestry specialists on the state of forests in their areas; identify threats to forests caused by current forest management and illegal logging activities;
• Evaluate possible ways for the improvement of current legal procedures with regards to transparency, social usefulness and minimization of harm due to ineffective and unsustainable forestry practices;
• Analyze the role of communities, the government and businesses in overcoming these challenges and finding possible ways for a transition to more sustainable forest governance and forest management.

According to a survey among the local communities, forestry professionals and business representatives, the main factor for unsustainable forest management – which adversely affects the economic and social development of forest areas – is illegal harvesting (54% of respondents).


CONTACTS

Materials for this Bulletin were contributed by the FLEG project teams in participating countries. More information at: http://www.enpi-fleg.org

For your comments and feedback please contact: info@enpi-fleg.org
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

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