




Overview of Forests and Forest Sector of Georgia

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November 29, 2017





Ecosystems of Georgia And their global importance

- Caucasus is included in 200 global Eco regions (WWF)
- Two hotspots of biological diversity - Caucasus and Irano-Anatolian cover the Caucasus region, including Georgia
 - Up to 400 species of trees and shrubs grow in the forests of Georgia
 - Endemic woody plants – 61 species
 - Endemic to Caucasus – 43 species

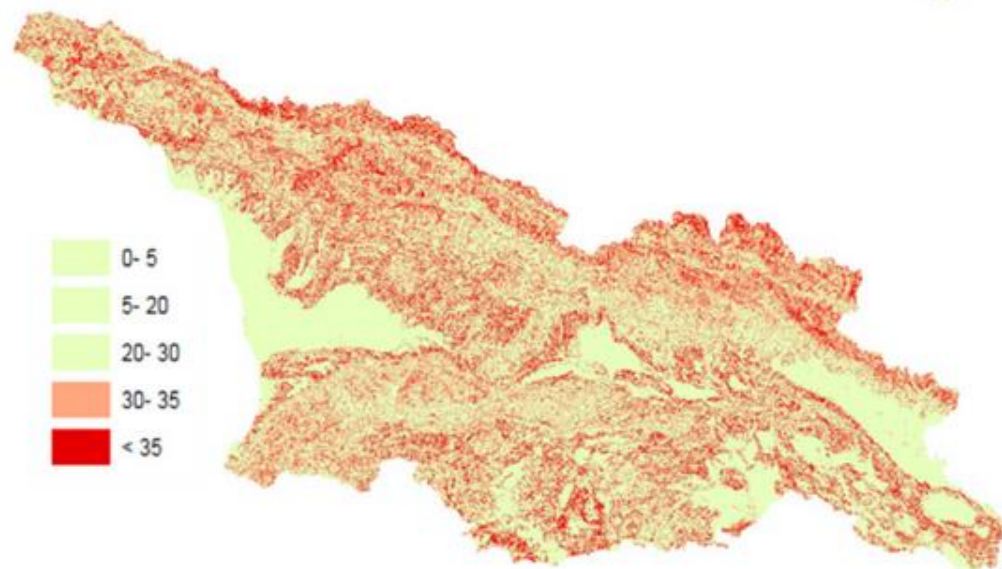
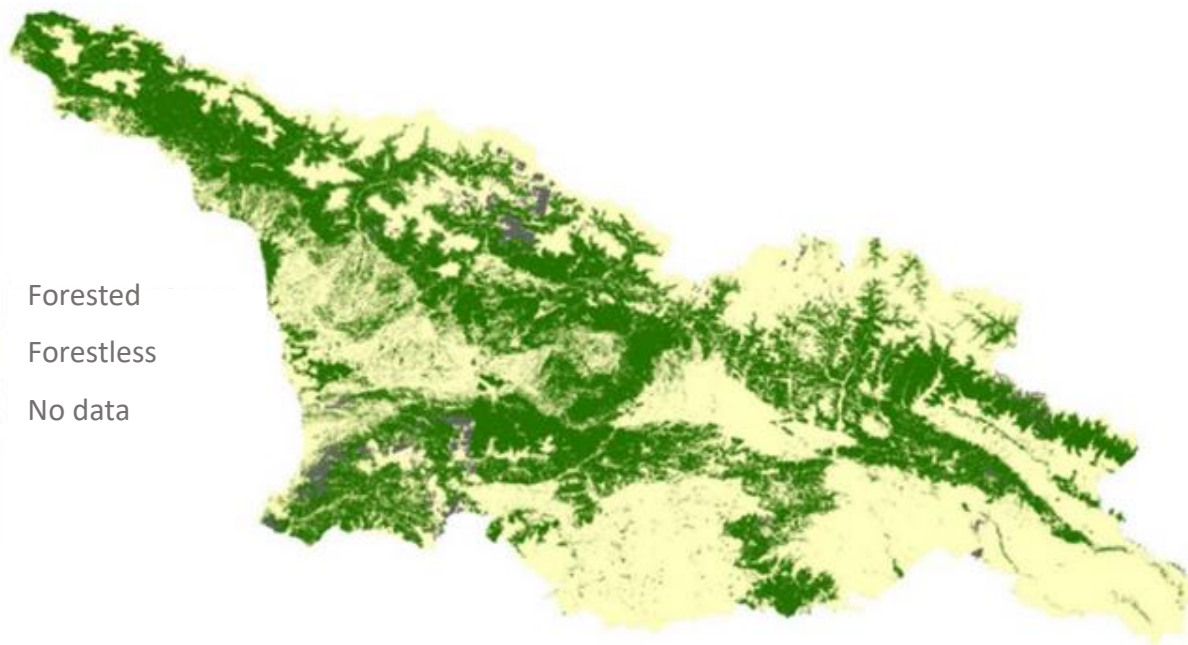


Forest Fund of Georgia

- Forest fund – 3 005 300 ha
- Area covered by forest – 2 772 400 ha
- 40% of country's total area
- Mountain forests – 98%
- Lowland forests – 2%

Forest Fund of Georgia

Area covered
by forest



Classification of relief
according to inclination

Forest Fund of Georgia



LEPL National
Forestry Agency
1 894 777 ha



LEPL Agency of
Protected Areas
452 468 ha



LEPL Forestry
Agency of Adjara
37 684 ha

Local self-governance

- Tbilisi City Hall – Manages plantations (Forests) around Tbilisi – 8 000 ha
- Akhmeta Municipality – Manages forests of Tusheti protected landscape – 4 500 ha



Challenges

- Collisions in Legal Acts
- Lack of Reliable and Updated Data
- Forest Degradation and Fragmentation
- Pests and Disease
- Wildfire Management
- Forest Education and Scientific Researches



Uncontrolled grazing



Illegal cuts



Demand on Firewood

Purpose of Forest Sector Reform of Georgia

- Changing current approaches to forest use and management
- Development of unified legal system of forest management
- Institutional and technical capacity building of forests Management body



Forest Sector Reform

საქართველოს ეროვნული
საბუნებო კონსერვაცია

NATIONAL FOREST CONCEPT
FOR GEORGIA



with funding from
Austrian
Development Cooperation



Policy

Biodiversity and Forest
Policy Department

Supervision

Environmental
Supervision

Management

LEPL National Forestry Agency

LEPL Agency of Protected Areas



Functions were separated in 2013

Ongoing Processes









- Legislative Base: Forest Code (WB), Secondary regulations (179, 242, 241), Regulation of Non-timber Forest Resources extraction, Forest zoning
- Strategies: Forest Sector Reform Strategy, Forest Education Strategy
- Forest Education in Professional colleges
- National Principles, Criteria and Indicators
- National Forest Inventory and Forest Management Inventory
- Forest Information and Monitoring System
- Biosphere Reserve



What is the National Forest Program?

-  National Forest Program in Georgia is the main instrument for involvement of stakeholders in decision-making process.
-  NFP represents continuous process for planning and implementation of institutional and legislative reform.

Working groups

-  Forest maintenance and reforestation
-  Institutional and legislative reform
-  Forest inventory, monitoring and informational systems
-  Sustainable forest management standards
-  Adaptation of Georgian forests to climate change
-  Biosphere reserves formation in Georgia
-  Forestry educational program
-  Economic evaluation of forests

NFP პლენარული სხდომა



NFP Process

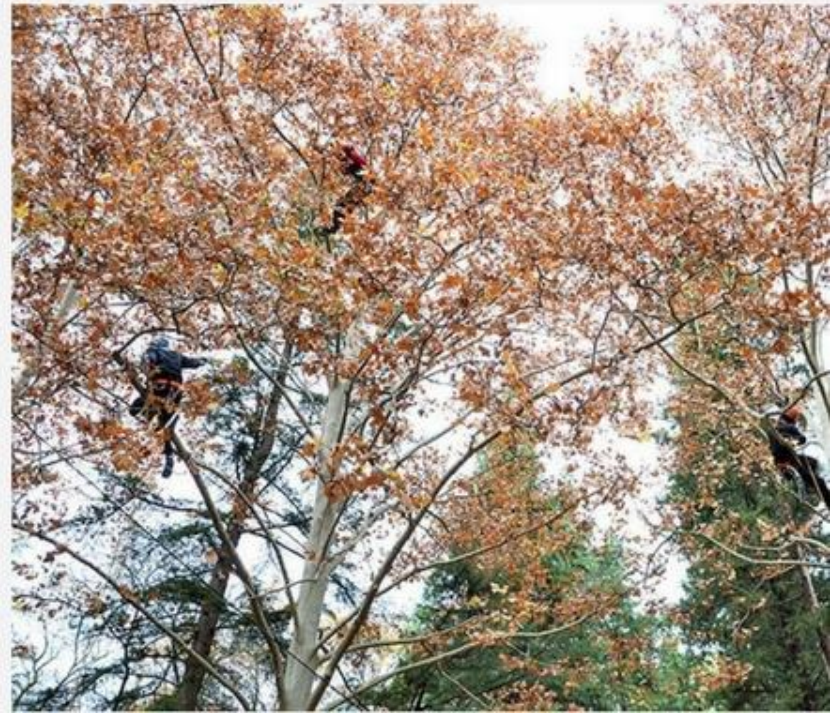
9 working groups
8 sub-groups
3 plenary sessions



270 stakeholders
70 organisations
20 National NGOs

Forest Sector Reform Strategy

- Improvement of the legislative base of the forest sector;
- Development of criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;
- Capacity building of the authorities responsible for forests;
- Establishing Forest Information System;
- Improvement of qualitative and quantitative data on forests;
- Reducing pressure on forests;
- Development of forest education and research institutions;
- Strengthening public participation in forest management process;
- Elaboration of National Forest Program of Georgia for 2022 – 2027.





Directions of Forest Code of Georgia

- Forest use
- Forest Inventory; Establishment of Forest Information and Monitoring System
- Professional qualification
- Restoration of forestry

A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a path leading through them. The title 'Forest Education Strategy' is overlaid in white text at the top.

Forest Education Strategy

Objective 1: Establishment of forest education system

Objective 3: International integration and experience sharing

Objective 2: Enhancement of scientific researches and re-establishment of links between the agencies involved in forest management and academia

Objective 4: Public awareness raising



Thank You for Attention
