Forestry Sector of Georgia

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Georgian Ecosystems

35 priority hotspots and 200 ecoregions

- 84 species of fish
- 12 species of amphibian
- 52 species of reptile
- 300 species of bird
- 76 species of mammal

- Overall 6500 plants are spread in Caucasus out of which 4100 is found in Georgia
What created Colchic specific climate and unique forests? - Colcheq “fences” and “traps”
Georgian Forests

Forest Fund – 3 005 300 ha

Forest cover area – 2,772,400 ha

(40% of Georgian territory)

- Mountain forests – 98%
- Lowland forests – 2%
Forest Sector Reform

- In 2013 Georgian Parliament approved National forest concept
- In 2014 Georgia signed the Association Agreement with the EU, and is now adjusting the legal framework to European standards
Forest Sector Related challenges

"Forest is NOT Firewood"

- Collisions in Legal Acts
- Forest Inventory
- Lack of Reliable and Updated Data
- High Demand on Firewood
- Illegal Logging

- Forest Degradation and Fragmentation
- Pests and Disease
- Wildfire Management

- Forestry Education on All Levels
- Forest Professionalization
- Scientific Researches

Forest is NOT Firewood
Forest Management and Supervising institutions

- National Forestry Agency: 1,894,777 ha
- Agency of Protected Area: 452,468 ha
- Achara Forestry Agency: 137,684 ha
- Akhmeta Municipality: 5,000 ha
- Tbilisi city hall: 8,000 ha
Under the management: 1 823 038 ha
of which, covered with forest 1 708 800 ha

Number of employees in forestry offices

2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
632 636 700 688 1064 847 823 927 894 882

On account of merging with the Agency of Natural Resources

2017

Total
920 employees
Permanent - 775
Contracted - 145

Central office
144

Regions
776

National Forestry Agency (NFA)
Family quantity in winter 577,695

- Families, which use
- Only gas 17%
- Nut shell 1%
- Firewood with gas 5%
- Specific areas 10%
- Only firewood 67%

Annually Georgia uses 2,426,138 m³

Information source: CENN
National Forest Program Process

- 9 working groups, 8 sub group
- Up to 200 meetings were held
- 3 plenary meetings
- Up to 270 stakeholders involved in the process
- 70 organizations
- 20 national NGOs
Legislation

New Forest Code

- New Definition of Forest
- Principle of sustainable forest management
- Management of forests, considering ecological, social and economic functions
- Forest Categorization
- Forest Inventory and Monitoring
- National Forest Inventory
- Forest preparation
- Forest Registry
- Professional qualification
- Social cutting issue (only in the transition period up to 2022)
- Licenses are no longer issued (issued to power until the expiration of the deadline)

Bylaw draft versions:

- Forest use, accounting, maintenance and reforestation, categorization rule
- Forest non-timber resource regulation
Human Resources Development and Forest Education

- Forest education strategy and action plan 2017-2020
- Retraining of forest sector stuff members and capacity
- College technical support and equipment
- Forest work program at the vocational education facilities
National Forest Inventory

- Updated information about Georgian forests condition;
- Mechanism of long-term monitoring;
- Introducing modern technologies;
- Capacity building in the country;
- Development of research potential;

National grid: 3.6x3.6 km.  
N = 2064
Main Regional and Global Requirements for Reporting

- Forest Europe The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE)
- UN-FAO-FRA-Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)
- UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- UNCBD Convention on Biological Diversity
Integrated Biodiversity Management in the South Caucasus (2015-2019)

- Forest sector reform strategy and action plan
- NFP process
- National forest education strategy
- Vocational education
- National forest Information and monitoring system
- National and management level inventories
- National principles, criteria and Indicators for SFM
- Wood market study
Twinning “Strengthening sustainable forest management in Georgia”
GLOBAL FOREST WATCH (GFW)
Forest is not Firewood!