Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management for Caucasus and Central Asia project
Interim progress review, learning and planning workshop
Tuesday 20\textsuperscript{th} to Friday the 23\textsuperscript{rd} of February, 2018.
Tbilisi, Georgia

Country sharing of C&I process and output progress and lessons learned.

Name of country: Armenia
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Map: Forest cover and types of forest

Vegetation Cover of the Republic of Armenia

Legend
- State border
- Cities
- Main rivers
- Main lakes and reservoirs

Vegetation Cover
- Semi-desert vegetation including sandy deserts and salt marshes
- Steppe vegetation
- Arid forest vegetation
- Forest vegetation
- Marsh vegetation
- Meadow steppe vegetation
- Subalpine and alpine meadows
Forest cover in Armenia

• According to Hayantar SNCO data from 2010 the RA forests and forest lands make about 11.2% of the country (in total 460,000 ha area of forest lands, of which 334,010 ha are forested areas).

• According to the remote sensing materials (provided by GIZ Biodiversity Integrated Management Program in 2011), the area of Armenia's forests is 332,333 ha or 11.17% of the total area of the country.
The main forest species

- Oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis*) – 30%
- Oak (*Quercus iberica and Q. macranthera*) – 36%
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus caucasica*) – 17%
- Pine (*Pinus kochiana*) forest cultures – 5% (17000 ha)
- Pine natural – 0.5% (1500 ha)

The other tree species such as birch, elm, maple, ash, pear, apple, yew, hazelnut, plane, walnut and others are represented in the mixture with the main forest species and occupy 8,4% of the forest covered territory. There are also open woodlands.

- There are more than 200 types of forest communities
Main threats to forests in Armenia:

- overexploitation of forests (non-regulated loggings, use of NWFPs)
- forest fires
- grazing, hay-making, land occupation and others

Consequences:

- Changes in species composition and structure in the forests, loss of the capacities of natural regeneration and reduction of productivity.
- In the logged areas and adjacent territories: landslides, avalanches, mudflows, drying of springs, etc.
- The resulting erosion and mudflows cause damage to communities and areas of agricultural significance.
Recent developments in the forestry sector of Armenia

• Concept on Forest Sector Reforms, RA Government protocol decision N 50 from 30 Nov 2017.

• Decree by the President of Armenia from 19 Dec 2017 to transfer the responsibilities for the forestry sector from the MoA to the MoNP.

• By the MoA order N33-A from 6 Feb 2018 increase in AAC for 2018: 90,596 cub.m.

• At present: structural changes are in the process, clarification of structures, functions, responsibilities, etc.
Activities after the national coaching workshop on C&I (Sept 13-15, 2017)

• Consolidation of the workshop outcomes (report)

• Consolidation of initial draft indicators by the WGs.

WG 1. Forest and ecology (forest area, biodiversity, forest health, protection functions)

WG 2. Socio-economic benefits (trade, income, investments, employment, salary, dependence, safety, demand, recreation, traditional knowledge, local communities, certification)

WG 3. Cross cutting legal, policy and institutional framework (national forest program, FMPs, institutional and legal framework, policy, economic tools, engagement of stakeholders, ownership, concessions, projects, new technology)

WG 4. Planning the process for C&I enhancement
Assessment of the status of SFM in Armenia and development of draft road-map on promotion of SFM (GIZ IBiS)

Assessment of SFM in Armenia by 7 thematic elements of SFM:
• 1. Extent of forest resources
• 2. Forest biological diversity
• 3. Forest health and vitality
• 4. Productive functions of forest resources
• 5. Protective functions of forest resources
• 6. Socio-economic functions
• 7. Legal, policy and institutional framework.

Assessment of the status, obstacles and prerequisites for SFM
Recommendations and draft road-map on promotion of SFM in Armenia

1. Legal, policy and institutional framework
2.Extent of forest resources
3. Forest biological diversity
4. Forest health and vitality
5. Forest socio-economic functions

The need for having the national C&I for SFM is highlighted.
National level workshop to discuss the draft report and road-map (Dec 6, 2017)
National Forest Management Information System
NFMIS: maps
NFMIS: maps
Plans of activities by the FMP
Thanks for the attention!