
Project Title: Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform (ECO.Georgia)

Project/Activity Number: 20.2275.4-007.00/C3A1

Title of the assignment: Development of guidelines and maps to manage municipal green spaces and increase capacity of municipalities

1. Brief information on the project

Climate change impacts and the demand for fuelwood from rural population put significant pressure on Georgia's forests: up to 90% of rural households (1.43 million people) rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that households use obsolete technologies, such as traditional stoves with a lifetime of two years and an efficiency of 35% or less. Fuelwood demand exceeds sustainable harvesting levels, considering reduced productivity of many forests in the country because of extensive forest degradation. This forest degradation leads to a loss of carbon absorption capacity which is projected to decrease by five times between 1990 and 2030.

In order to address this negative development, the project "Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform - ECO.Georgia" supports the Government of Georgia to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the framework for sustainable forest management (SFM). It will do so by supporting the establishment of a nation-wide SFM system (Component 1) and in parallel promoting market development for energy efficient appliances and alternative fuels (Component 2) to address the main driver of forest degradation. The project will safeguard the reform implementation by diversifying livelihood opportunities and strengthening local self-governance in forest adjoining rural communities (Component 3).

The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) with GIZ being the project's accredited entity. The German contribution is part of the wider German support in the priority area "Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the South Caucasus", which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and climate protection, particularly for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly, both the share of renewables in the energy composition as well as the energy efficiency levels will increase.

Especially rural households using firewood as their source of heating energy will benefit from improved air quality and reduced fuelwood demand through eased access to energy efficient stoves. Forest-related small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees will receive support to improve economic efficiency and environmental sustainability of their business activities. Additionally, staff members of relevant public institutions (National Forestry Agency NFA, Department of Environmental Supervision DES, Environmental Information and Education Center EIEC, Rural Development Agency RDA, municipalities) will receive direct support through human capacity development measures and grant finance.

ECO.Georgia primarily contributes to achieving the SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) of the 2030 Agenda of the UN, but also to achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

The duration of ECO.Georgia is from April 2021 until June 2028.

2. Description of the Assignment

2.1. Context

The GIZ has been supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), main implementing partners: its Biodiversity and Forestry Department (BFD), the National Forestry Agency (NFA), Department of the Environmental Supervision and Rural development Agency (RDA), as well as EIEC in different directions dealing with forest sector reform, with strong focus on introduction of close-to-nature Sustainable Forest Management into forestry practice.

In addition to ECO.Georgia's Component 1 ("Sustainable Forest Management") and Component 2 ("Market Development for Energy Efficiency and Alternative Fuels"), the third component funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) aims to ensure a socially balanced transition to the new forest management approach, taking into account the needs of rural households (the "SDC project" hereafter). The overall goal of the SDC project entitled "Strengthening Livelihoods and Social Inclusion in Georgia's Forest Sector Reform" is to diversify the livelihood opportunities and strengthen local self-governance in forest management to increase incomes and reduce socio-economic disparities.

To ensure that municipal authorities and citizens have the relevant technical and human capacities to participate in the sustainable management of forests, the SDC project will develop and introduce municipal-level tools, practices, plans and necessary capacities for participatory sustainable forest management and conservation. Additionally, mechanisms at the local level to better protect the interests of adversely affected stakeholders will be developed, promoted and tested.

To address the current unsustainable forest management and harvest practices, the Government of Georgia (GoG) has initiated an extensive forest sector reform in 2013. A new Forest Code was approved in 2020. It is based on sustainable forest management (SFM) principles and puts wood-related commercial activities in state forests under the exclusive responsibility of public forest management bodies. Additionally, the New Forest Code introduces the principle of participatory forest management and the possibility for municipalities to manage forests of local importance themselves.

Despite the renewed forest legislation, there are green areas in the country that are not yet regulated by the relevant legislation. In particular, "green areas" in the territory of municipalities, which is not managed by the forest management body and is not covered by forest legislation, regardless of whether it meets the definition of forest or not. There is currently no clear methodology and guidelines on how municipalities should manage such areas. Their proper management is also relevant to the rest of the forest as it can be a reason of spreading fires or pests and diseases.

In 2013, with the support of GIZ SMBP, a tree-care document was developed for the city of Tbilisi, based on which the document was sent by the Ministry to all municipalities as a type of recommendation. The company that won the tender should use this document and reflect on its important aspects **(Annex 5)**.

2.2. Objective(s) of the assignment and work packages/tasks

The objectives of the assignment are to develop of guidelines to manage municipal green spaces with a focus on phytosanitary measures, also package of legislative changes for future integration, as well as providing training for 8 municipalities.

Document and legislative changes should be created for all municipalities of Georgia, and it should be based on ecological principles.

In particular, the consultants should fulfil the following tasks:

Stakeholder consultation and revision of the relevant documents:

1. Conducting consultation workshops with BFD of the MEPA, NFA and relevant local governance (some of 8 municipalities) and other local stakeholders to identify needs and problems
2. Review international best practices particular ecological aspects such as close-to-nature forest management and its approaches
3. Analysis of local political and strategic documents, especially in the ecological and phytosanitary aspects of forests

The document should consist of following aspects:

- **Phytosanitary aspects:**

4. The document should contain the criteria for assessing the phytosanitary condition and the procedures / rules for their further maintenance/management based on environmentally friendly approaches
5. Methods and procedures how to use biological methods against pests and as an exception case with clear criteria of justification, the procedures of spraying chemical insecticide to damaged plants
6. Criteria for evaluation and selection of trees to be cut and cutting methods
7. Further maintenance procedures for cut trees and logs, to avoid damaging other places

- **Ecological aspects:**

8. The document should define that while restoration or transformation (from artificial to natural) of green areas priority should be given to support of natural regeneration
9. While planting of new trees (afforestation) the priority approach must be selection of local, site-adaptive species
10. The document should specify that while cutting of the damaged trees, this process must have low negative affect to the surrounding environment and cause less damage to the soil, condition of rest stand/trees and regeneration
11. The document should specify that preference/priority should be given to the use of biological methods while fighting against pests (such as use of pheromones, support of predator populations etc.)

- **Plant zoning aspects:**

12. Development of methods and standards for restoration, replacement and planting of damaged green areas (inc. parks and squares)
13. Development of the plant zoning scheme for the selection of appropriate plants in the process of restoration of damaged areas and planting of new trees (inc. parks and squares)
14. Development of an appropriate standard for green areas (planting) considering the norms of construction, including methods for identifying the areas to be restored.
15. Development of the criteria and conditions for the municipalities, considering the green

areas, planting and their maintenance while issuing the building permit

- **General aspects:**

16. The document should contain the ways to involve local population in the decision-making process

17. Social and gender dimensions such as - inclusion of women in the consultation workshops, as well as planning, document development and decision-making processes. In consultation with local communities, it is ensured that women make up a minimum of 30%

18. Training materials are gender-sensitive in terms of language and content. Participation of women is encouraged.

Development of the legal basis

19. Development of the legal framework to reflect the management aspects of green areas (both parks and squares) in the relevant laws

20. Converting the developed methods and rules as normative acts and preparing relevant legislative changes in order to give the GoG a basis to further establish the above-mentioned rules in the form of a resolution

21. Developing draft GoG resolution in the appropriate format

Development of the document

22. Developing the content of the document and agreeing with the MEPA

23. Developing first draft of the guidelines and package of legislative changes to be submitted NFP

24. Developing final draft of the guidelines with close involvement of MEPA, local governance and MRDI

Mapping (8 target municipalities)

25. Visiting all 8 target municipalities (Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Tianeti, Akhmeta, Telavi, Kvareli and Dedoplistskaro) for the identification of green areas including consultation meetings

26. Study of the existing materials including maps, aerial and ortho photos

27. Maps must consist with following information: type of areas – covered by woody species, parks or squares. In addition, maps must have information on dominant species at least for the green areas.

28. Mapping and creating Shape files.

Capacity development (8 target municipalities)

29. Develop and agree on training modules, materials and schedules

30. Conducting trainings (up to 4 trainings) for 8 target municipalities to increase knowledge and understand on MFM and management of green areas. The audience must be:

1. Municipal authorities - Responsible body for management of green areas and as well as potential MFM

2. Local NGO - which potentially ensure the participation in the decision-making process and in general - public participations

3. Local working groups, including members of relevant NFP working group dealing with MFM

31. To ensure proper understanding on FMF and management of green areas the training materials should include:

1. Importance of the SFM, requirements on the FMF etc.

2. Building permit standards and consideration of greenery in the building process

3. Management of green areas in general (both parks and squares)
4. Importance of the public participation in forest and green areas management
5. Social and gender dimensions during planning and implementation

2.3. Outputs/deliverables

Expected outputs are:

1. Identified list of participants, Agenda and MoM and conducted consultation workshops
2. Sources of documents analysed, related to best practices (including experience from Tbilisi municipality) and local strategic documents.
3. Content of the guidelines and outline of legislative changes
4. First draft of the guidelines and legislative changes
5. Final draft of the guidelines and package of legislative changes
6. Draft GoG resolution on guidelines to manage municipal green spaces (parks and squares)
7. Report with description of the methods, approaches and maps
8. Maps and shape files of the 8 municipalities green areas
9. Training modules, materials and schedules
10. Trainings conducted for 8 municipalities (up to 4 trainings)

2.4. Schedule and timeframe

	Deadline	Number of experts	Number of days per expert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 1-4 / Deliverable 1-4 (around 50 WD) • Output 5-6/ Deliverable 5-6 (around 31 WD) • Output 7-8 / Deliverable 7-8 (around 15 WD) • Output 9-10/ Deliverable 9-10 (around 25 WD) 	15.11.2022 31.01.2023 15.11.2022 15.09.2023	NA	NA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team leader with experience in ecology, social and gender dimensions and capacity development 		1	42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert on forest entomology 		1	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal/judicial expert 		1	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert on forestry/botany/ecology 		1	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS specialist 		1	15
Travel expenses		Number of experts	Number of days/nights per experts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overnight allowance in country of assignment 		----	----
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs (train, private vehicle) 		----	----

3. Company and Experts' profiles

Company - Required competences

- At least 5 years of experience in nature conservation and/or environmental projects

Title of expert - Required competences and experience

Field of expertise:

Ecology, social and gender dimensions and capacity development

- At least a master's degree in forestry, ecology, environmental or natural resources management
- Minimum 5 years working experience in forestry or environmental management sector particular with State and international organisations
- Minimum 7 years working experience
- Language skills: Sufficient level of written and oral English is required

Forest entomology

- At least a master's degree in forestry, Ecology, Environmental or Natural Resources management
- Minimum 10 years working experience in forestry or environmental management sector. particular with State and international organisations
- Minimum 7 years working experience in forest entomology
- Language skills: sufficient level of written and oral English is required

Law creation

- Master's degree in Law
- Minimum 5 years working experience in legal aspects, in particular with State and international organisations
- Language skills: Sufficient level of written and oral English is required

Sustainable Forest Management

- forestry, ecology, environmental or natural resources management
- Minimum 5 years working experience in forestry, botany or nature conservation. Particular with State and international organisations
- Language skills: Sufficient level of written and oral English is required.

Creation of thematic maps

- Master's degree in geography, forestry, ecology, environmental or natural resources management
- Minimum 3 years working experience in forestry or environmental protection sector
- Minimum 3 years of working experience in GIS program and creating thematic maps
- Language skills: sufficient level of written and oral English is required

The required expertise can be covered by different experts, however at least 3 experts are required

4. Timing and duration

From 20.07.2022 to 15.09.2023

5. Place of assignment

Tbilisi, Georgia

6. Reporting

- The consultant shall report to Lasha Dzadzamia, Advisor - ECO.Georgia
- The consultant is expected to work very closely with MEPA: BFD and local government
- The consultant is expected to coordinate very closely with relevant staff members of the Project
- Reports must be developed in Georgian and/or in English, based on demand and agreement

7. Other provisions

Advance payment (max. 20% of overall cost) can be requested

First payments can be effected after provision of Output 1-4 / Deliverable 1-4 and Output 7-8 / Deliverable 7-8

Second payments can be effected after provision of Output 5-6 / Deliverable 5-6

Finale payments can be effected after provision of Output 9-10 / Deliverable 9-10

Travel expenses should be included in the contract.

Trainings will be held in the premises of the municipalities. Therefore, training costs are not relevant for bidders.