



New Regional Program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia”

Elena Kulikova (World Wide Fund for Nature)

Alexei Grigoriev (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Andrey Kushlin and Marina Smetanina (World Bank)

Expert Meeting on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance: Progress and Lessons Learned
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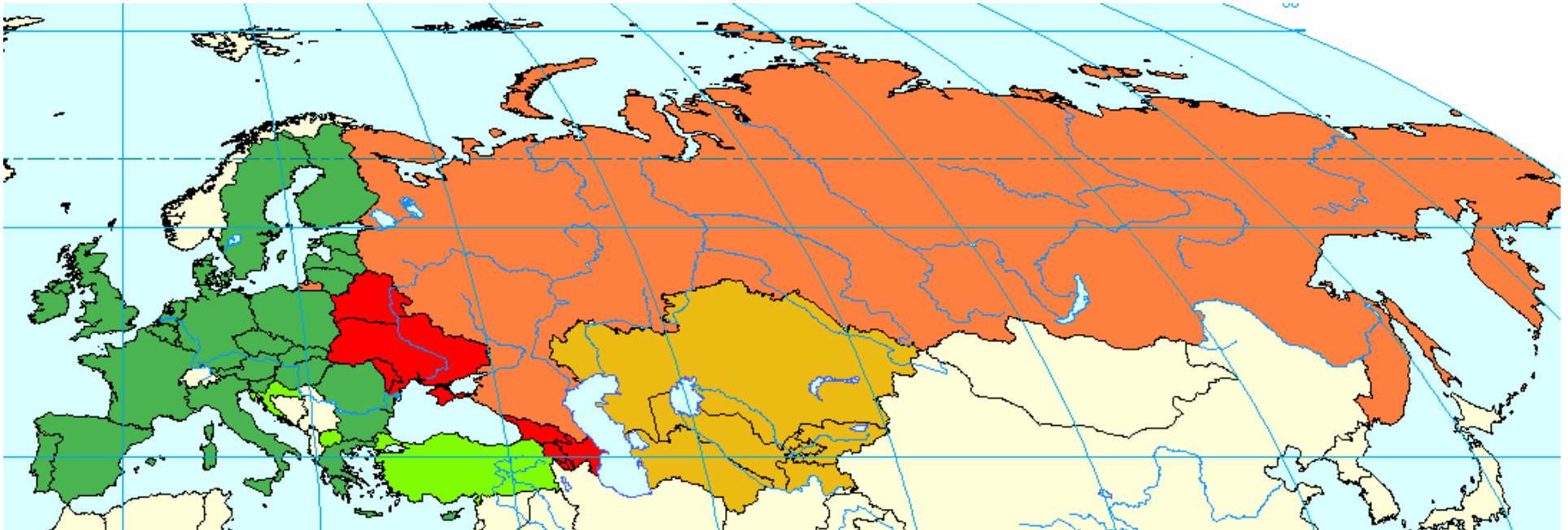
Background (1)

- Europe and North Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (ENA-FLEG) Ministerial Conference (St. Petersburg, 2005)
- St. Petersburg Ministerial Declaration and Indicative Plan of Actions
- FLEG Implementation Workshop (Antalya, May 2006)
- The regional program “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighborhood Policy East Countries and Russia”
- Aim to put in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities of ENA FLEG

Background (2)

- Europe and North Asia (44 countries)
- Program coverage: 7 countries of the ENA Region, including six members of the European Neighborhood Policy Initiative (ENPI) – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine
- Russian Federation: special status - a partner - not a beneficiary
- 5 Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – may also be invited to participate in the Program’s subregional and regional activities

Program's Participating Countries



Full participants (7):

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Republic of Moldova
- *Russian Federation (partner)*
- Ukraine

Observers (5):

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Background (3)

- The Program will support selected pilot activities to be implemented with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector
- Tripartite consortium: implementation of the Program is led by the World Bank that works in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Most activities will take place at a country level, complemented by strategically targeted sub-regional and regional actions.

Background (4)

- Role of the European Community: the Program is supported by the European Commission. EU assistance for FLEG is included under priority area # 2 of the ENPI Regional Indicative Program (2007-2010)
- Other donors can contribute to a special multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank (WB)
- Program budget:
 - EUR 6 million + co-financing and potentially more donors
- Program duration – 3 years (2008 – 2011)
- Program would facilitate preparation of the 2nd ENA-FLEG Ministerial Conference – 2010

Overall Objectives and Purpose of the Program

- **Overall objective:** “To contribute to the achievement of legal and sustainable forest management and utilization practices, a strengthened rule of law and improved local livelihoods in each of the seven Participating Countries focusing on environmental sustainability, human right aspects and gender equity”.
- **Specific purpose:** “To put in place improved forest governance arrangements through the effective implementation of the main priorities set out in the ENA FLEG Ministerial Declaration, with the support of selected pilot activities and with the active involvement of governments, civil society and the private sector”.

Result Areas

- ➔ Result 1: Increased awareness and commitment of key stakeholders on FLEG
- ➔ Result 2: Effective national and regional FLEG action processes in place
- ➔ Result 3: National ownership and capacity increased
- ➔ Result 4: Improved regional and sub-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing
- ➔ Result 5: Effective engagement of key trading partners
- ➔ Result 6: Continuation of the formal official ENA FLEG process
- ➔ Result 7: Sustainable forest management practices implemented

Program Implementation

- Successful implementation depends on tight coordination between the three **Implementing Organizations** (IO's) – WB, IUCN, WWF
- The IO's should communicate in a coherent manner with the host government and national stakeholders in each participating country, and ensure seamless and organized flows of Program-related knowledge and information to, from and between the participating countries
- The IO's have established for each participating country a **Country Program Coordination Team (PCT)** consisting of three **Country Program Coordinators (CPCs)**, one from each IO.

Program Oversight

Operational Committee (OC)

- Includes representatives from each participating country, WB, IUCN, WWF, and Donors
- Will meet annually to discuss progress and review action plans
- WB will chair; decisions by consensus

National Program Implementation Committee (NPIC)

- Provides guidance to the IO's and the Donors on the development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Program activities at the national and subnational levels
- Consists of the ENA-FLEG National Focal Point (govt.), two more reps of key Govt institutions (responsible for socioecon. & law enforcement aspects of forest governance), three reps of key stakeholder groups (civil society & forest users – community and private), Donor and IO representatives

Consultation Process

- WB missions with IUCN and WWF representatives:
 - **Belarus** – March 31-April 1;
 - **Ukraine** – April 2-3;
 - **Russia** – concept presented at the meeting of the Public Council of the Federal Forestry Agency on April 4, subsequent continuous working interaction;
 - **Moldova** – April 15-17 (pilot National Action Plan);
 - **Armenia** – April 23-24;
 - **Georgia** and **Azerbaijan** – to be started soon.
- Clarify national context and define priority issues
- Working meeting of national experts (from Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine) to review TORs for development of Country Workplans – June 27 (Pushkino, Russia)
- Full preparation of draft Country Workplan for Russia – August-September 2008 in consultations with FFA



Key Actors of Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector in Russia

- Federal government
- Regional governments
- Community of nature conservation non-governmental organisations
- Associations representing interests of forest business and individual companies
- Forest Sector Development Council under Vice-Prime-Minister
- Public Environmental Council under the FFA
- Other cooperation mechanisms

Proposed Elements of the Program in Russia

1. Improving FLEG regulatory and legal framework and its administration practice
2. Improving FLEG planning and monitoring at the national, regional (local) and interagency levels
3. Introducing specific FLEG activities into the practice of the leading Russian forest companies and their international trading partners
4. Ensuring the rights of local population, including SMEs, and addressing legal nihilism
5. Increasing transparency of activities and public awareness

1. *Improving FLEG Regulatory and Legal Framework* ***(selective measures)***

- Review the existing forest and related laws and regulations and evaluate their enforcement at the federal and regional levels
- Different aspects of review:
 - Assurance of timber trade legality (WWF)
 - Safeguards for the rights of local communities and small enterprises to use of forest resources, access to information and public involvement (IUCN)
 - Anti-corruption, drawing upon international practices of FATF member countries (WB)
- Resulting consolidated recommendations on revising the regulatory and legal framework to be broadly discussed through hearings, roundtables, and publications in mass media.

2. Improving FLEG planning and monitoring (selective measures)

- Draft standard guidelines for the development and implementation of coherent interventions to prevent and reduce illegal logging and illegal timber trade; and their testing at the regional level (WB)
- Develop and introduce methods for comprehensive (participatory) evaluation of forest law enforcement and governance in the Russian regions, i.e. the so-called 'eco-rating of the regions', based on targets for FFA-developed indicators (WWF)

3. Introducing specific FLEG activities into the practice of the leading Russian forest companies and their international trading partners (selective measures)

- Positive experience with corporate arrangements designed to trace the origin of timber (WWF)
- Pilot projects to develop and test a mechanism for effective integration of corporate tracking systems and national (regional) methods for recording and monitoring of wood harvesting, transportation and processing (WWF)
- Voluntary forest certification promotion: assessing regional risks of supplying timber of doubtful origin (WWF)

4. Ensuring the rights of local population including SMEs and addressing legal nihilism (selective measures)

- The rights of local communities and small enterprises to forest resource use (IUCN)
- Putting in place a system of regular surveys to review public opinion about forest law enforcement in Russian regions (IUCN)
- Legal education of local communities and small enterprises to make them aware of their rights to forest use (IUCN)
- Develop and test mechanisms to safeguard the rights of communities and small enterprises to forest use (IUCN)

5. Increasing transparency of activities and public awareness (selective measures)

- Work with forest management authorities, the public and forest industry companies to inform them about the need to incorporate specific FLEG actions into their operations (IUCN)
- Intention to issue a quarterly FLEG bulletin for the participating countries (WB, IUCN, WWF)
- Monitoring and evaluation of the coverage of FLEG issues by central and regional mass media (IUCN)
- Integration forest law enforcement and governance issues into work with children and youth associations (IUCN)

Program Implementation Tools

- Analytical studies
- Target missions of experts at the start-up stage of the Program with the participation of stakeholders
- Training workshops and retraining
- Consultation workshops/round tables with the stakeholders and public opinion surveys
- Project communication activities
- Overarching or regional and local (“turn-key”) pilot projects in priority regions

Partners at National Level

- Government (Forestry Authorities, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Customs Service, General Prosecutor's Office, regional authorities)
- National and local NGOs;
- Private sector (companies, associations, etc.)
- Science and Education
- Mass media

Current Status and Next Steps

- **Country Workplan** – central element of the program implementation framework, to be complemented by several **program-wide** activities (e.g. training & dissemination).
- Country Workplan for Russia already fully drafted and currently being reviewed by Government stakeholders.
- Preparation of Country Workplans in other participating countries ready to be started, with national governmental and independent experts already identified in Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine; Georgia and Azerbaijan to follow soon.
- **Program Information Session** at the European Forest Week in Rome – October 21, 14:30-16:30.
- Program launch at country level – end 2008-early 2009.

Expectations from This Meeting

- Revive and strengthen the **peer community** of FLEG/FLEGT experts and practitioners – spanning across the ENA Region, i.e. Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the European Union – and discuss specific ways for further cooperation.
- Identify and discuss effective **tools and best practices** in forest governance and trade in various ENA countries and how they may be applicable to the design and implementation of new ENA-FLEG programs.
- Identify and discuss existing experiences with using objectively verifiable **outcome indicators** for forest governance improvements at national levels.
- Clarify expectations of various countries for a **high-level FLEG follow-up meeting in 2010**.