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Result Area 4: Ecosystem services and livelihoods

Country and Regional Work Plan Development

Third meeting of the Regional Assembly, 21 September 2021

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Progress made since Program launch

- ✓ Administration Agreement between the EC and the WB signed (December 2020)
- ✓ Mobilization and Inception Phase (January – June 2021)
- ✓ Regional and country teams set up
- ✓ Consultations with the Government and stakeholders on Country Work Plan preparation
- ✓ Draft Work Plans developed
- ✓ Finalization of Work Plans (August – September 2021)

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Result Area 4 Components

Support to protect
biodiversity and
natural ecosystems
(Emerald Network)

Promoting
sustainable NRM,
economic
development and
participation at
local community
level

Support to the
promotion of
legal trade and
preventing illegal
trade in wood
products

Enhancing
strategic financing
to the forest and
natural resources
management
sectors

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Presentation of draft CWP for Armenia

Planned activities to start in 2021-2022:

- ✓ Action Plan to advance the establishment of the Emerald Network
- ✓ Methodological guidelines for developing management plans for the Emerald sites
- ✓ Baseline assessment and baseline mapping of community engagement on forests and natural resources management
- ✓ Assessment of timber export control system and recommendations for improvement
- ✓ Guidelines for assessing ecosystem services

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Presentation of draft CWP for Azerbaijan

Planned activities with the start in 2021-2022:

- ✓ Methodological guidelines for developing management plans for the Emerald sites
- ✓ Developing Emerald Network Management Plans for 2-3 selected sites
- ✓ Developing Guidelines for sustainable management of forest areas within Emerald sites in line with the Bern Convention and capacity building for implementing the Guidelines
- ✓ Survey/study to identify community needs for better engagement on forests ecosystem services and NRM
- ✓ Business plans for 2-3 targeted communities, including opportunities for local entrepreneurs in eco-tourism development and community forest management
- ✓ Analytical study to develop mechanisms for introducing mandatory certification of wood products to the legislation of Azerbaijan
- ✓ Analytical study and recommendations for the enhancing of state statistical system on wood production and consumption in Azerbaijan
- ✓ Promotion of forest certification
- ✓ Guidelines for assessing ecosystem services provided by forests

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Presentation of draft CWP for Georgia

Planned activities with the start in 2021-2022:

- ✓ Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Forest Areas within Emerald sites in line with the Bern Convention requirements and Capacity building for implementing the Guidelines
- ✓ A review of community involvement in forest/NRM activities/baseline mapping for community engagement
- ✓ Feasibility study and recommendations for using forest biomass and timber processing waste in the production of fuel briquets for firewood-dependent communities
- ✓ Facilitate enforcement of the new Forest Code by (i) identifying forested areas in the selected municipalities that fall outside the State Forest Fund, and (ii) undertaking their assessment towards assigning forest status to these areas with the purpose of their sustainable management in support of livelihoods of forest-dependent communities
- ✓ Eco-touristic development plans for the selected forestry districts in support to investment into recreational use of forest, creating jobs for local communities and sustainable use of forests
- ✓ Guidelines for managing forest stands in peri-urban areas for the enhancement of ecosystem service delivery to urban communities
- ✓ Analytical study to identify the role of forests in meeting climate mitigation and adaptation targets, assess investment needs and identify sources of funding

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Presentation of draft CWP for the Republic of Moldova

Planned activities with the start in 2021-2022:

- ✓ Emerald National Action Plan to secure cross-sectoral involvement and nation-wide public communication
- ✓ Secondary legal framework for Emerald species and habitat conservation
- ✓ Emerald Network Management Plans for 2-3 selected sites
- ✓ Capacity building for sustainable management of the Emerald network
- ✓ Community participatory forest management planning
- ✓ Analytical report to identify high conservation value forests
- ✓ Analytical study on the optimal ratio between forest and pasture area for local sustainable development and conservation of natural resources
- ✓ Forest and pasture management plans
- ✓ Community-based events to promote conservation and socio-economic development among forest-dependent communities
- ✓ Analytical report on domestic consumption of wood products
- ✓ Web platform to promote market placement and sustainable trade of forest products
- ✓ Comprehensive monitoring of forest dynamics using innovative techniques

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Presentation of draft CWP for Ukraine

Planned activities with the start in 2021-2022:

- ✓ Methodological guidelines on impact assessment and mitigation measures for the Emerald Sites biodiversity aspects and Capacity building for implementing the Guidelines
- ✓ Methodological guidelines on preparing Emerald Site Management Plans
- ✓ Emerald Site Management Plans for 2-3 selected sites
- ✓ Secondary legislation under the Emerald Network Law and the Law Implementation Plan and Budgeting
- ✓ Baseline mapping of community engagement on forests and natural resources management (oblast level)
- ✓ Supporting 5-6 targeted communities with developing business plans for economic activities to engage in better natural resource management
- ✓ Analytical study to develop mechanisms for introducing mandatory certification of wood products to the legislation
- ✓ Audit of the electronic timber tracking system in terms of its efficiency and counteraction to illegal trade
- ✓ Analytical study and recommendations for enhancing the state statistical system on wood production and consumption in Ukraine
- ✓ Recommendations to the legislation for introducing voluntary carbon offset schemes for afforestation

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Presentation of draft Regional Work Plan

Planned activities:

- ✓ Workshop to exchange experience and knowledge with EU member states on managing forests to inform Emerald site management
- ✓ Training course on legal timber trade and EUTR requirements
- ✓ Workshop on e-timber trade platforms and other innovative technologies
- ✓ Workshop to share experience on payment for ecosystem services provided by biodiversity
- ✓ Conference to share international experiences on green financing and promote regional/international collaboration
- ✓ Study trip to an EU country with an effective management of Natura 2000 sites with community participation

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