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The role of EU4Environment Programme in Advancing Biodiversity

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Introduction

Overall budget:

20 million EURO
6 million EURO
allocated to the
World Bank

Partner countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan,
Georgia, Republic of
Moldova, Ukraine

Implementing Partners:

OECD, UNECE, UNEP,
UNIDO, and the
World Bank

Duration:

2021 – 2024
*2-year no-cost
extension
considered*

World Bank Component:

Ecosystem services
and livelihoods

Objective:

Enhance resilience by
preserving ecosystem
services, focusing on
forests and protected
areas

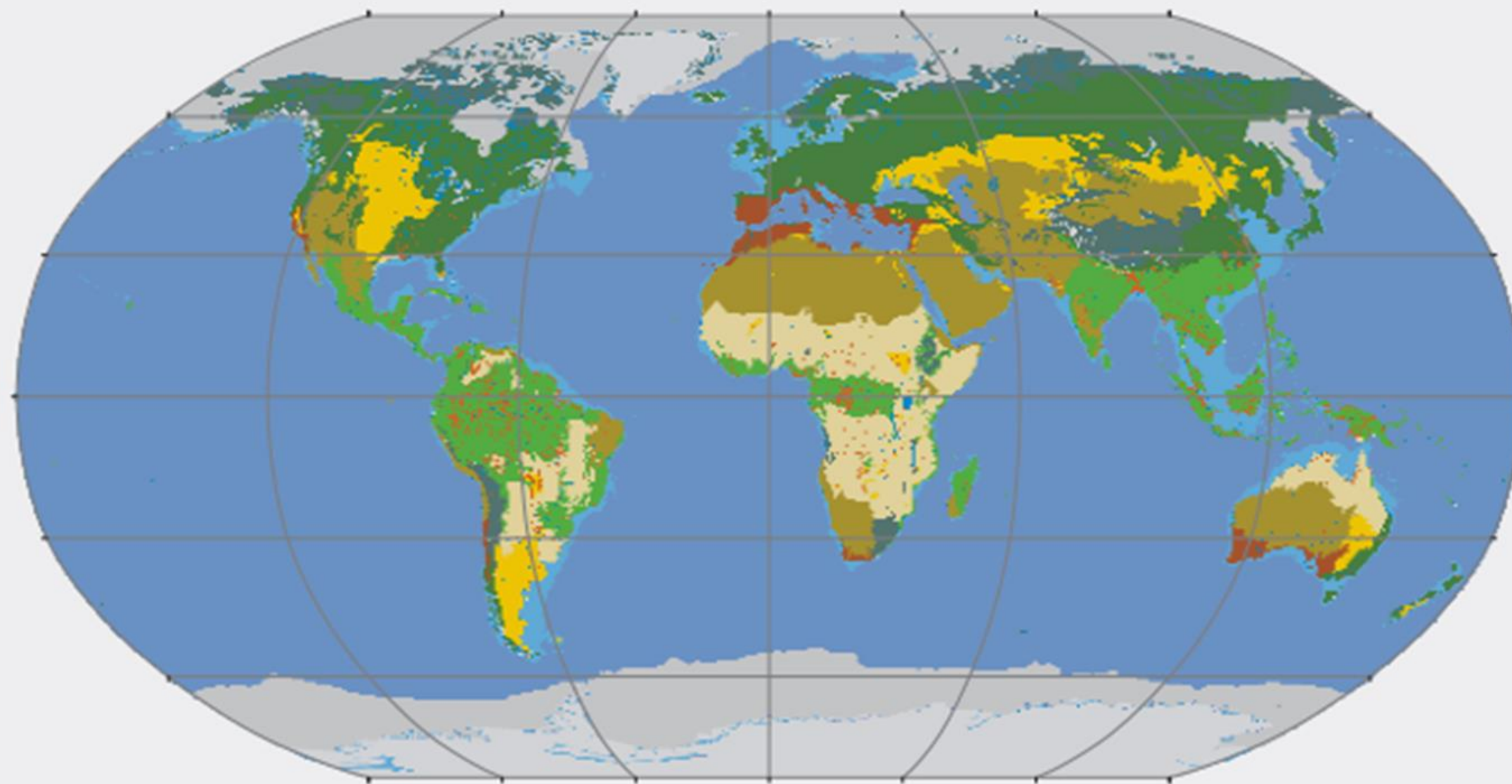




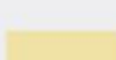
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NATURAL UNITS (BIOMES)

-  UoA 1 Tropical and subtropical dry and humid forests
-  UoA 2 Temperate and boreal forest and woodlands
-  UoA 3 Mediterranean forest woodlands and scrub
-  UoA 4 Tundra and high mountain habitats
-  UoA 5 Tropical and subtropical savannas and grasslands
-  UoA 6 Temperate grasslands
-  UoA 7 Deserts and xeric shrublands
-  UoA 8 Wetlands*
-  UoA 11 Cryosphere
-  Sea ice maximum extent
-  UoA 13 Inland surface waters and water bodies
-  UoA 14 Shelf Ecosystems
-  UoA 15 Open ocean pelagic systems | UoA 16 Deep Sea



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Species Extinction

Worldwide:

The global rate of species extinction is already at least tens to hundreds of times higher than the average rate over the past 10 million years

ECA:

42% of animal and plant species have disappeared over the past decade

ECA: THREATENED

Ecosystems have considerably declined in terms of species diversity and 28 percent are threatened

ECA – WETLANDS:

Wetland extent has declined by 50 percent since 1970

DRIVERS:

- (1) land use change,
- (2) knowledge loss, and
- (3) Market and trade





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Areas of support

**Biodiversity
Conservation**



**Community action
on ecosystem
services**



Trade



Finance





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Biodiversity Conservation



EXPECTED RESULT: A SHARED NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS INVOLVING EU AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES LAUNCHED

Achievements

- **National Action Plans/Roadmaps** developed in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova
- **Guidelines for managing protected areas** in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova
- **Legal analysis and recommendations** for improving the legislation in Azerbaijan and Moldova
- **Recommendations** for review of protected areas in Armenia
- **High Conservation Value Forests Identification Analysis** in Moldova
- **Eight management plans** developed
- **Capacity-building workshops** with over **140 beneficiaries**

ENHANCING IMPACT AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

ARMENIA



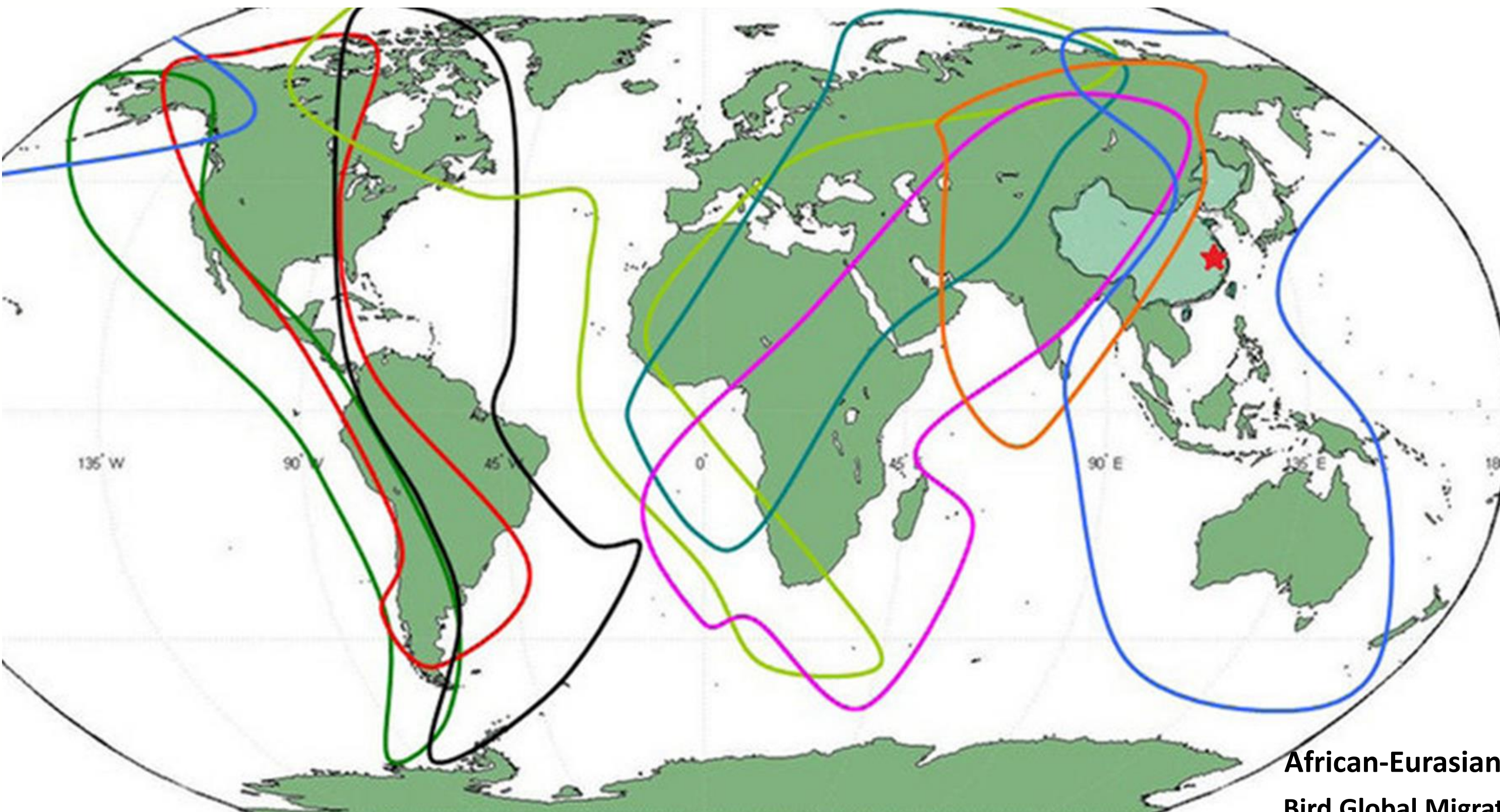


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Armenia is located
at a crossroads of
three global migration
flyways:

- Black Sea –
Mediterranean
- East Asia – East
Africa
- Central Asia

African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
Bird Global Migration Flyways

ENHANCING IMPACT AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

MOLDOVA



THANK YOU!





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Zoom-in: Protecting biodiversity – National Action Plans and legal framework



National Action Plans/Roadmaps for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova

Governments are provided with detailed actions and steps for identifying and designating protected sites, their protection and management, communication and awareness through 2030 in each country.



Legal Analysis and Recommendations for Azerbaijan and Moldova

The current protected area legislation is analyzed, gaps and challenges identified and recommendations for improving national legal frameworks are provided.



Protected Areas Review in Armenia

The Government is equipped with a detailed scientific assessment of the current situation for each site, a revised dataset for target species and habitats, and recommendations for revising the protected areas network to ensure ecosystem integrity.



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Zoom-in: Protecting biodiversity – protected area management

Achievements



MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA AND MOLDOVA

- A framework for management plan development tailored to unique characteristics of each country
- A cyclical approach that involves the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and revision of plans, ensuring that conservation measures remain adaptable and effective over time
- Country-specific focus, ex. Georgia – focus on managing forested areas
- Importance of monitoring measures and raising awareness
- Pilot management plans (Armenia: two; Azerbaijan: three; Moldova: three)



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Zoom-in: Protecting biodiversity – capacity building workshops

Over 140 beneficiaries trained



Target audience

Government officials, civil society,
academia, local administrations,
local businesses, communities'
representatives



Example of topics covered

Awareness of protected areas network,
conservation objectives and management
principles, application of guidelines and
management plans development, the role of
local communities, managing protected areas
with multiple land uses





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Zoom-in: Protecting forest biodiversity in Moldova



National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program:

- **10-year** Program
- Forest cover to expand from **13,8% to 17%**
- New forests on **110,000 ha**
- Rehabilitating forests on **35,000 ha**
- **14,000 jobs** to rural communities
- Investment needed – **EUR 759 million**



High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) Analysis:

- **47.3%** of the total forested area (**175,500 hectares**) is classified as HCVFs
- Technical and policy recommendations for establishment of a network of HCVFs, amending legislation on protected areas, and developing an adaptive forest management



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Community action on ecosystem services



EXPECTED RESULT: COMMUNITY ACTION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FACILITATED

Expected achievements

- 30+ partner communities will be selected to assess engagement in natural resource management (NRM)
- **Guidelines and tools to improve communities engagement** in NRM (focus on eco-tourism development, non-timber forest products, forest and pasture management to balance use and conservation)
- Knowledge exchange and dissemination of lessons learnt



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Preventing illegal logging and promoting legal and deforestation-free wood trade



EXPECTED RESULT: ILLEGAL LOGGING PREVENTION AND RELATED CROSS-BORDER TRADE LIMITED AND LEGAL TRADE PROMOTION

Expected achievements

- Assessment of the impact of EU Deforestation Regulation
- Regional document on SFM and legal timber trade in EaP countries, guidelines for forest product certification and sustainable forest management for Armenia, and case studies on SFM certification implementation for Georgia
- Diagnostic analyses of Moldova's National Forest Monitoring System
- Advisory support for traceability information system for key species in Moldova
- Advisory support to Ukraine on developing a comprehensive e-timber tracking and declaration system



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Funding for natural capital conservation



EXPECTED RESULT: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING NATURAL CAPITAL CONSERVATION DEFINED

Achievements

- National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program (NFERP) for 2023–2032 in Moldova

Expected achievements

- Advisory support to identify investment and financing opportunities for forest and NRM sectors
- Guidelines for ecosystem services assessment to identify potential financing mechanisms
- Identification of climate finance and carbon pricing opportunities for the forestry sector
- Knowledge and experience exchange on green finance instruments