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**EU<sup>4</sup>Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Roundtable discussion on the preliminary findings of the report

*Sustainable Forest Management certification in Georgia  
and case studies in comparable countries*

AGENDA

19 November 2024

Environmental Information and Education Center Conference Hall

Action implemented by:



**Roundtable discussion on the preliminary findings of the report:  
*Sustainable Forest Management certification in Georgia  
and case studies in comparable countries***

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### **Background**

This roundtable discussion is organized to explore the feasibility of introducing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) certification in Georgia and to raise awareness on this critical subject among key stakeholders. The discussion will be grounded in the preliminary findings of the report “Sustainable Forest Management certification in Georgia and case studies in comparable countries,” developed under the EU4Environment Programme.

Georgia, with approximately 44.5% of its land area covered by forests, faces both significant challenges and opportunities in implementing SFM and SFM certification. The recent regulatory and forest policy shifts in Georgia, emphasizing sustainability, have renewed interest in pursuing SFM certification. The development of a national set of SFM criteria and indicators (C&Is), approved by the Government in May 2022, provides a national assessment standard and a reporting system to monitor progress towards SFM. These developments are crucial for curbing illegal logging practices and ensuring compliance with international agreements, thereby facilitating trade and market access, particularly within the EU.

The report also includes comparative analyses and case studies from North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Romania, offering valuable insights and lessons applicable to Georgia. These case studies illustrate successful strategies for introducing and operating SFM certification, highlighting the importance of government support, public-private partnerships, and stakeholder collaboration.

The feedback from this discussion will be incorporated into the final version of the report, ensuring it serves as a comprehensive guide for Georgian authorities to navigate the complexities of SFM certification and align with international standards and market demands.

### **Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes**

- Introduce to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Certification in Georgia
- Share European best practices in SFM
- Provide recommendations in implementing SFM in Georgia

### **Participants**

The meeting will gather government officials, experts, NGOs, academia and international organisations.

### **Practical Information**

The event will take place on 19 November 2024 (14:00-17:00, Tbilisi time) at the Environmental Information and Education Center Conference Hall (32g Marshal Gelovani Ave, 0159, Tbilisi, Georgia).

### About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment – Green Economy) Action helps the Eastern Partnership countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

It is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – over 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information contact: [EU4Environment@oecd.org](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org).

For more information please visit our website: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org).

### AGENDA

Time	Item
14:00 – 14:05	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natia Iordanishvili, Deputy Head of the National Forestry Agency</li> <li>• Darejan Kapanadze, Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank (TBC)</li> </ul>
14:05 – 14:30	Introduction to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Certification in Georgia and rationale for case study country selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nino Bregadze, Project Manager, CENN</li> </ul>
14:30 – 14:45	Q&A session
14:45 – 15:15	Case study highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Macedonia (PEFC)</li> <li>- Serbia, with complements from Bosnia (FSC)</li> <li>- Romania (FSC)</li> <li>• Antoine de La Rochefordiere, SFM Expert, ONF International</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:30	Q&A session
15:30 – 15:45	Comparative analysis of the case studies with the Georgian context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iakob Kapanadze, SFM Expert</li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:15	Gap analysis and roadmap for the implementation of SFM certification in Georgia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antoine de La Rochefordiere, SFM Expert, ONF International</li> </ul>
16:15-16:45	Participant feedback and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collecting insights from participants</li> </ul>
16:45-17:00	<b>Summary and Closing Remarks</b>