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Regional Workshop

Wood Tracking Systems & EU Deforestation Regulation Compliance: Strengthening Forest Governance in Eastern Partnership countries

Agenda

Date: 22-25 October 2025

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Yerevan City Centre, Armenia
Meeting room: Milano Conference Hall

Format: Hybrid meeting (in person & [via Zoom](#))

**Language: English with simultaneous translation in
Armenian and Ukrainian**

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Regional Workshop on Wood Tracking Systems and EU Deforestation Regulation Compliance: Strengthening Forest Governance in Eastern Partnership countries

22-25 October 2025, Yerevan, Armenia

Background

Deforestation and forest degradation drive climate change and biodiversity loss. Illegal logging harms forests and communities, undermines sustainable forest management, and weakens transparent international trade. As the EU is a major consumer of timber from its Eastern neighbours, EU Member States and their companies can contribute to sustainable trade by reducing the entry of illegal timber into their markets and, thus, gain benefits in the long run. Promotion of legal and sustainable wood-based value chains would, on the other hand, create employment and economic activity in exporting countries. This workshop—organised under the EU4Environment Programme (Activity 4.3) — supports Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in preventing illegal logging, aligning with EU legislation, and promoting sustainable timber trade through stronger control systems and capacity building.

Objectives

This workshop is designed to help stakeholders from EaP countries implement effective wood tracking systems (WTS) as a means to control illegal timber harvesting, improve forest governance, and promote sustainable forestry, in alignment with the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). The event will enhance knowledge sharing through an overview of forest management trends, key WTS tools, introduction to technologies, country case studies and interactive sessions.

Organisers

The workshop is jointly organised by the World Bank and the French international forestry consulting company ONF International (ONFI), a subsidiary of the French National Forest Office, and its consortium members SOLUTON, CENN, and BIOTICA.

Participants

The meeting will bring together representatives from line ministries, forestry agencies, research institutions, academia, CSOs, and other relevant government bodies from EaP countries. Representatives of EU Member States, EU institutions, and other international partners will be invited to take part in discussions.

Venue

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Yerevan City Centre, Armenia.

Meeting room: Milano Conference Hall (3rd floor).

Practical arrangements

The workshop will be held in person and via ZOOM. Participants are asked to register for the event in advance via this [link](#).

The meeting will be conducted in English and translated simultaneously in [Armenian](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

About EU4Environment

Since 2018, the “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) Action has helped 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. The programme was funded by the European Union and principally implemented over the 2019-2024 period by OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank. Over 2025-2026 period, the World Bank will finalise the implementation of programme's Result 4 area.

For more information, please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org.

AGENDA

Yerevan time	Wednesday 22, October: arrival of participants Free day in Yerevan (meals provided at the hotel)
	DAY 1: Thursday, 23 October Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Yerevan City Centre, Armenia Meeting room: Milano Conference Hall
Time	Item
9h-9h35	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
9h35-10h	<i>General introduction and opening remarks (15 mins)</i> Overview of workshop objectives, importance of wood tracking to control illegal timber harvesting and trade, and its connection with international commitments, particularly EU Regulation on Deforestation (EUDR) Expected outcomes (e.g., improved understanding, roadmap for EaP harmonization, regional coordination potential, replicability etc.) - Ministry of Environment of Armenia (Speaker: Lusine Avetisyan, Head of the Strategic Policy Department) - European Commission/EU Delegation Armenia (Speaker: Frank Hess, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation in Armenia) - World Bank (Fisseha Tessema Abissa, Task Team Leader, EU4Environment Result Area 4; Sr. Natural Resources Management Specialist) <i>Introduction to workshop agenda and participant introductions (10 mins): Steven Speed Project Team Leader/ Forestry Project Officer with ONF-International</i>
10h-11h	<i>Setting the Scene: Presentations by the EaP countries on forest utilisation, governance and control (40 mins, 10 per country)</i> - Armenia, Davit Abovyan, Head of the Department for Forest Use and Forest Monitoring and Forest Fund Mapping - Georgia, Iakob Kapanadze, Forestry Expert Q&A (10 mins) - Republic of Moldova, Adrian Scutelnic – Senior Consultant, Forestry and Hunting Policy Section, Ministry of Environment - Ukraine, Hamlet Pogosyan - Director of the State Enterprise, “Forestry Innovation and Analytical Center” Q&A (10 mins)

11h-11h15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11h15-13h00	<i>Session 1: Introduction to WTS: Definitions, trends, and the Eastern Partnership context</i> Definition of a national WTS, role, users and significance in global, legal and sustainable timber trade, trends, including EUDR (20 mins): <i>Antoine de la Rochefordière, International expert in timber legality, sustainability and traceability.</i> Q&A (10 mins) <u>Interactive session:</u> Description of current approaches in EaP countries and SWOT analysis of WTS in each country (60 mins)
13h00-14h00	<i>Lunch at hotel</i>
14h00-15h30	<i>Session 2: System design, technologies and tools for wood tracking</i> Overview of key system design and features of tried and tested and emerging technologies and tools in WTS (20 mins): <i>Antoine de la Rochefordière, International expert in timber legality, sustainability and traceability".</i> Q&A (10 mins) <u>Interactive session:</u> Defining key attributes for a successful WTS (60 mins)
15h30-16h00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16h00-17h15	Introduction to Romania's WTS "SUMAL 2", Bogdan Popa, Professor, Transylvania University of Braşov, Romania (15 mins) Q&A (10 mins) Review of examples of national or regional WTS in diverse environments and their relevance to EaP countries (15 mins): <i>Antoine de la Rochefordière, International expert in timber legality, sustainability and traceability".</i> Q&A (10 mins) Demonstration of a wood tracking digital software platform developed for the Republic of Moldova as part of the project (15 mins): <i>Cedric Lardeux, Remote sensing and GIS expert, ONF International</i> Q&A (10 mins)
17h15-17h30	<i>Wrap-up of day 1</i>
17h45-18h00	<i>Transfer / walk to Sherep Restaurant</i>
18h00-20h00	<i>Networking Dinner at Sherep Restaurant</i>

Yerevan time	DAY 2: Friday, 24 October 2025 Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Yerevan City Centre, Armenia
Time	Item
9h-9h30	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
9h30-10h15	<i>The EUDR framework: Key concepts</i> Objectives and overview of the EUDR, EU Operator responsibilities, and implications for producers and traders in exporting countries (15 mins): <i>Alain Verney, International expert in timber legality verification and implementation of national wood tracking systems</i> Q&A (30 mins)
10h15-12h00	<i>Session 2: National Pathways to EUDR Compliance: Risk Assessment and Readiness</i> Steps for ensuring compliance with EUDR: (15 mins), <i>Alain Verney, International expert in timber legality verification and implementation of national wood tracking systems</i> Q&A (20 mins) Interactive session: EaP country presentations on gaps and key issues in their national approach to EUDR (70 mins).
12h00-12h30	<i>Wrap-up and closing remarks</i> Key takeaways from both days (10 mins) Participant feedback (20 mins)
12h30-13h00	<i>Free Time</i>
13h00-14h00	<i>Lunch</i>
14h00–19h30	<i>Excursion to Lake Sevan including dinner – Yasaman Sevan Restaurant</i>
19h30-20h30	<i>Return to Yerevan</i>
	<i>Saturday 25 October, departure of participants</i>