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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



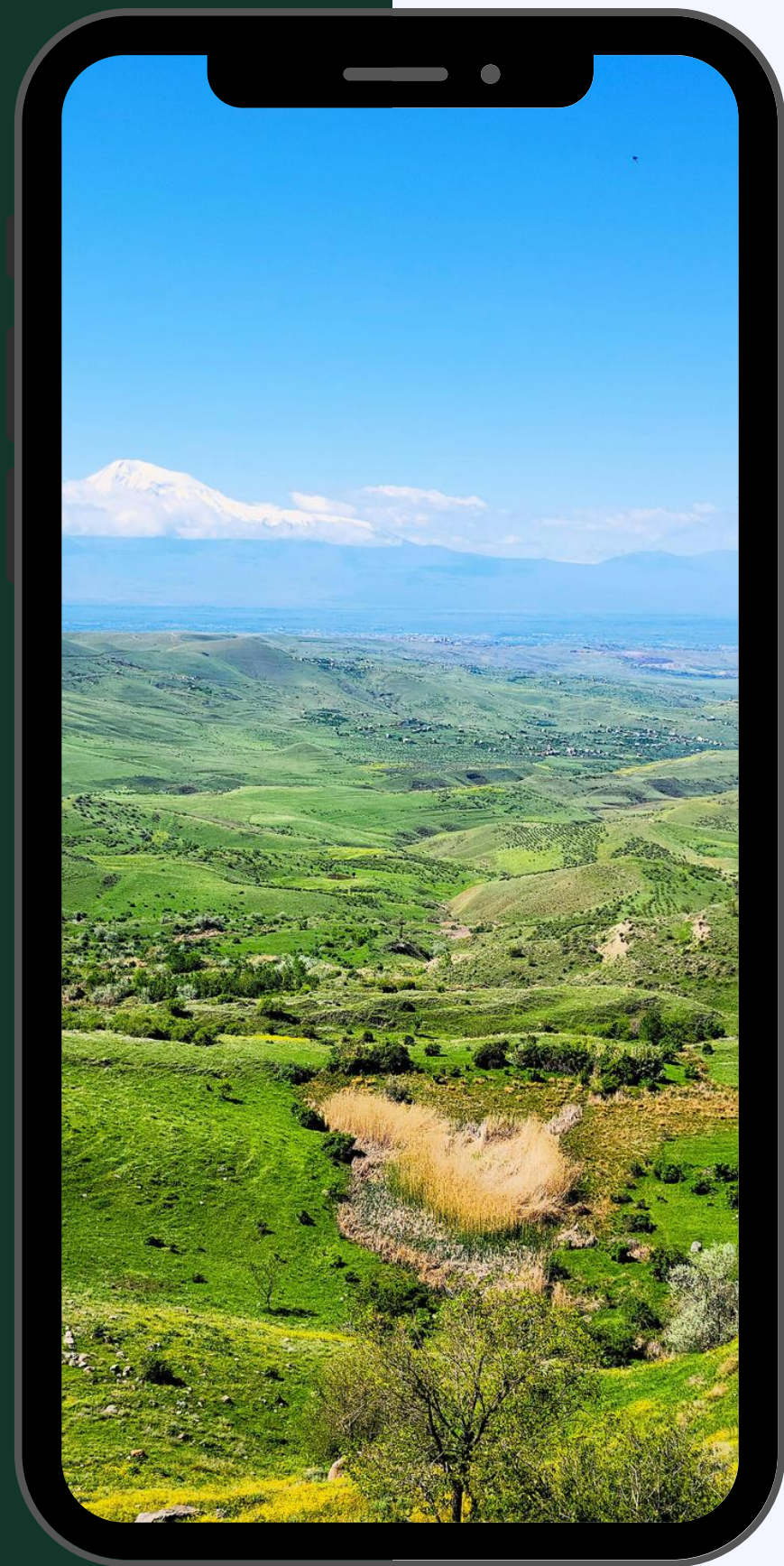
THE WORLD BANK
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Progress Review Meeting:

Highlights of country-level and regional activities

20 November 2025





◆ ARMENIA

KAREN AGHABABYAN

EU4Environment World Bank
Activity Coordinator in Armenia





Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network



—● Reports

- National Action Plans/Roadmaps
- Guidelines for managing protected areas
- Recommendations for review of protected areas in Armenia
- Two management plans for Ijevan and Armash Emerald sites

—● Capacity-building

4 workshops

Over **130** people benefited from capacity-building events

Status: completed





Natural resource management through community engagement



Ecotourism Management Plan Template Tool for Armenia:

- A European-standard-aligned ecotourism management manual that defines cooperation models, clarifies stakeholder roles and shared benefits, promotes PA-business joint initiatives for conservation through standardized products, and includes MEET Network criteria and a roadmap for protected areas' accession.

Eight Pilot Ecotourism Packages for Dilijan, Goris, Vardenis, Kapan, Ijevan, Tumanyan, Alaverdi, and Vanadzor communities:

- Municipality-specific ecotourism packages—grounded in the developed guidelines and best practices from RESILAND and GPS TTA—that define target segments and channels, signature attractions, physical and digital infrastructure, and indicative pricing for marketable trips.

Capacity Building Events:

- 8 training/demonstration events (communities, PA managers, tourism, forest economy), plus 2 local info sessions (FMP and SPMP), and 1 state-level event on MEET Network benefits and accession roadmap.

Status: in progress; to be completed by – July 31, 2026



Illegal logging prevention and EU Deforestation Regulation compliance



- Recommendations for development of SFM and certification guidelines in Armenia
- Recommendations for introducing innovative timber trade control technology in Armenia
- Roundtable discussion on the findings of the reports



Status: Analytical work, reports, and design/layout completed; translation validation in progress; upcoming: counterpart feedback and World Bank quality enhancement review.



Carbon and climate finance



- Baseline assessment of total economic value of ecosystem services, country targets and financing needs (country profile)
- Report “Assessment of Ecosystem Services and Financing Mechanisms in Armenia, with Recommendations for Investment and Financing Opportunities”:
- *Scope:* Assess ecosystem services and financing mechanisms; identify options to meet investment needs and address operational funding gaps; develop recommendations for strategic financing plans for selected Emerald Network areas based on the findings.

Status: in progress; to be completed by June 30, 2026





◆ GEORGIA

NINO INASARIDZE

EU4Environment World Bank
Activity Coordinator in Georgia



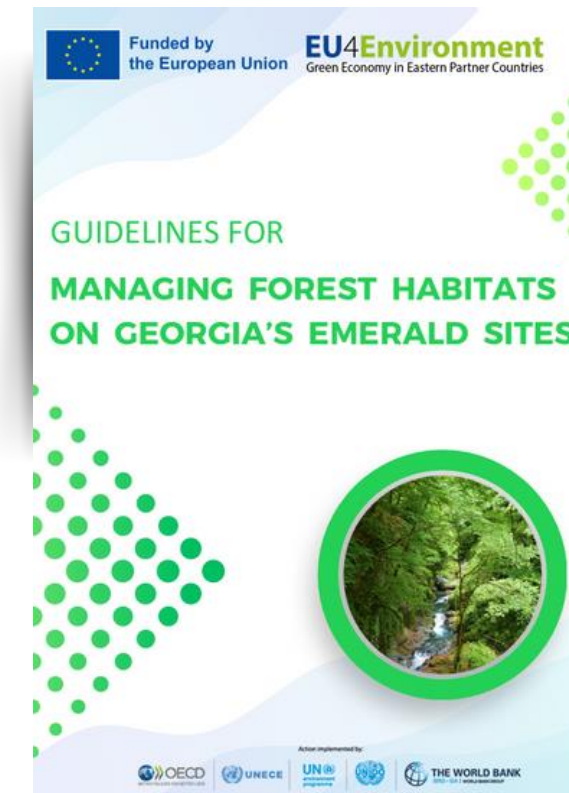


Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network



—● Reports

Guidelines for Managing Forest Habitats on Georgia's Emerald Sites



—● Capacity-building

4 workshops in different areas

Nearly **100** people benefited from capacity-building events



Status: completed



Natural resource management through community engagement

Ecotourism Management Plans (Imereti & Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Georgia) for eight forestry districts: Baghdati, Kharagauli, Sachkhere, Kutaisi, Vani, Tsalenjikha, Chkhorotsku, Martvili.

Key activities:

Spatial & Contextual Analysis:

- Municipal-level mapping of attractions, existing offers, access routes, and integrable infrastructure
- Assessment of constraints (environmental threats, infrastructure gaps, land-use conflicts)
- Integration of forest/municipal boundaries, biodiversity hotspots, Emerald Sites, protected areas, and relevant environmental data

Stakeholder Engagement & Participatory Assessment:

- Interviews and focus groups with municipal officials, local providers, and communities
- Assessment of engagement, livelihood benefits, and opportunities to expand ecotourism while protecting natural resources
- Local information events in target municipalities

Plan Development & Validation:

- Draft tailored plans per district combining spatial and stakeholder findings
- Actionable recommendations balancing conservation and sustainable development, enhancing ecotourism and community benefits
- Final validation workshop with stakeholder feedback; hybrid format with international experts as needed

Status: in progress; to be completed by – July 31, 2026

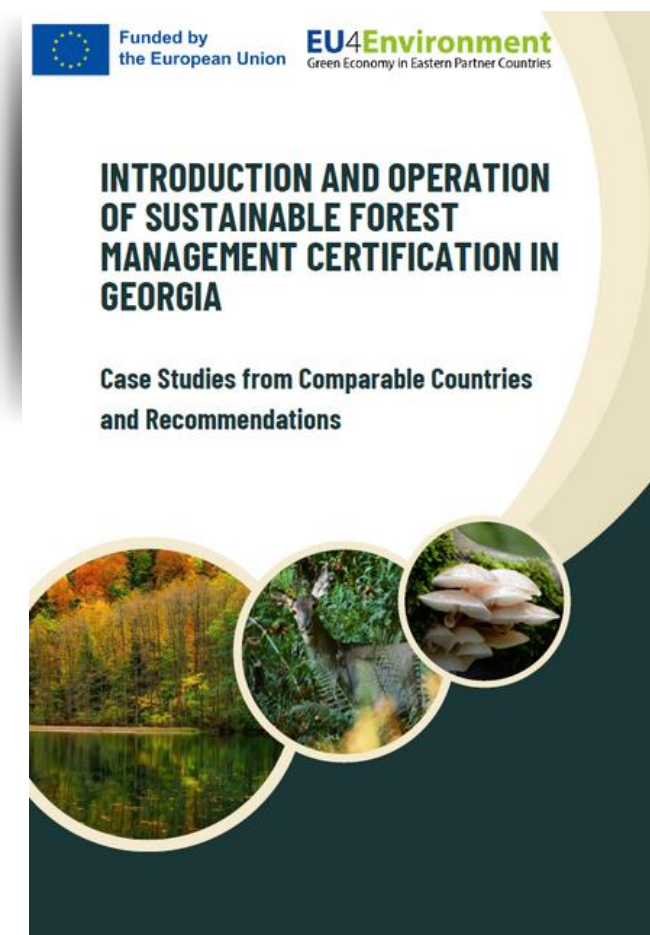


Illegal logging prevention and EU Deforestation Regulation compliance



- Introduction and Operation of Sustainable Forest Management Certification in Georgia
- Roundtable to present the findings of the report and discuss the feasibility of SFM certification in Georgia

Status: Analytical work, reports, and design/layout completed; translation validation in progress; upcoming: counterpart feedback and World Bank quality enhancement review.





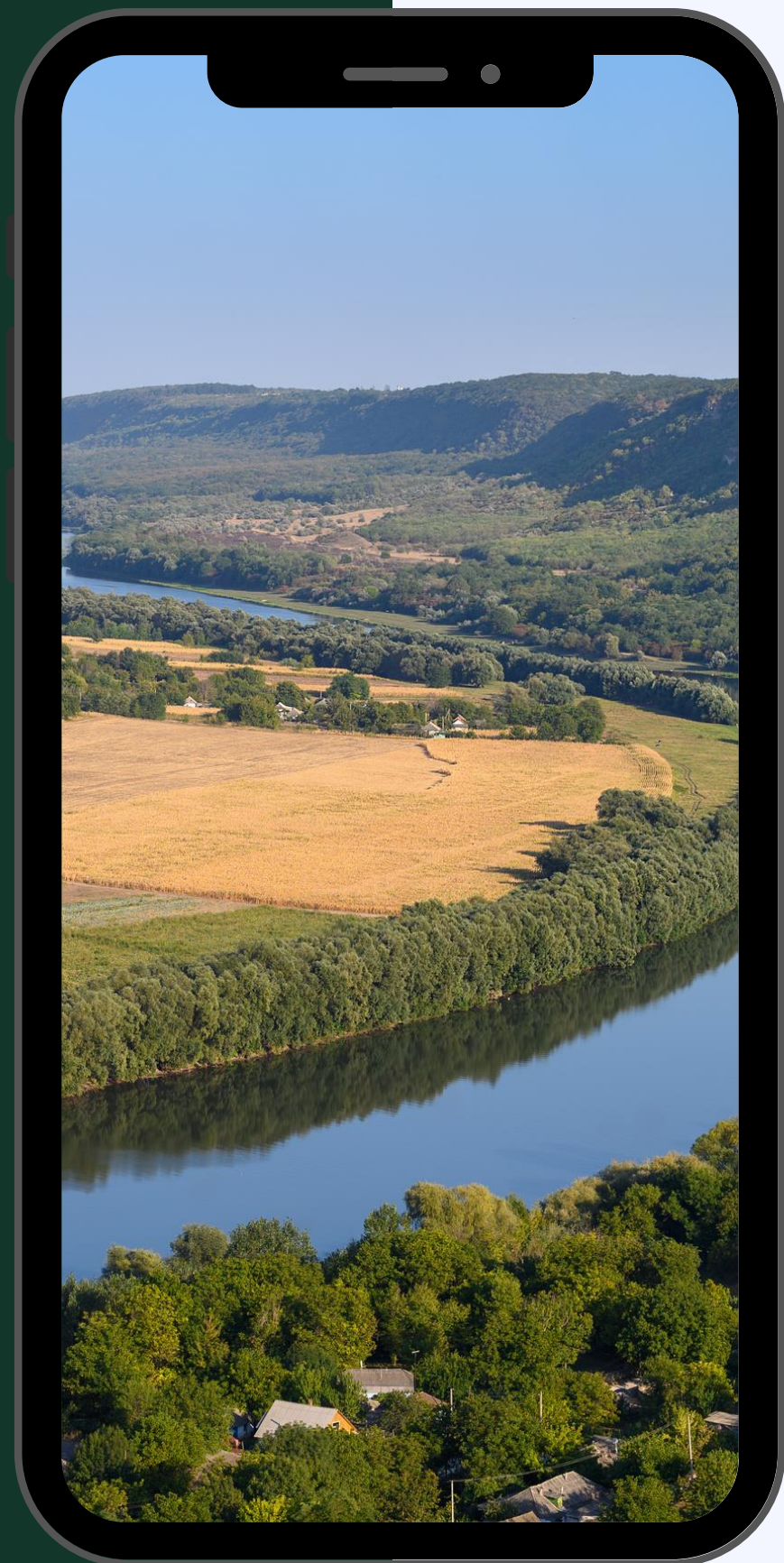
Carbon and climate finance



- Baseline assessment of total economic value of ecosystem services, country targets and financing needs (country profile)
- Recommendations for country investment and financing opportunities
- Report "Financing Natural Resource Management in Georgia: Ecosystem Service Valuation, NDC Needs, and Strategic Investment Opportunities"

Status: in progress; to be completed by June 30, 2026





◆ REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

AUREL LOZAN



EU4Environment World Bank
Activity Coordinator in Moldova





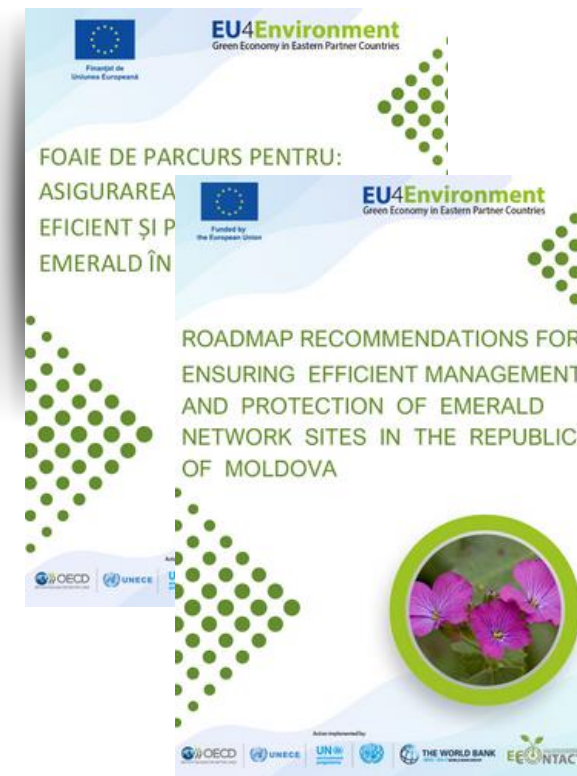
Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network



Reports

- Recommendations for the National Emerald Roadmap
- Status of Emerald Species and Habitats in Moldova: a Legal and Institutional Framework Assessment
- Status of Emerald Species and Habitats in Moldova: a Legal and Institutional Framework Assessment
- Management Plans for 3 pilot Emerald sites (Nistrul de Jos, Codru, Vrancești)

Status: completed





Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network



Report

- High Conservation Value Forests Identification Analysis in Moldova

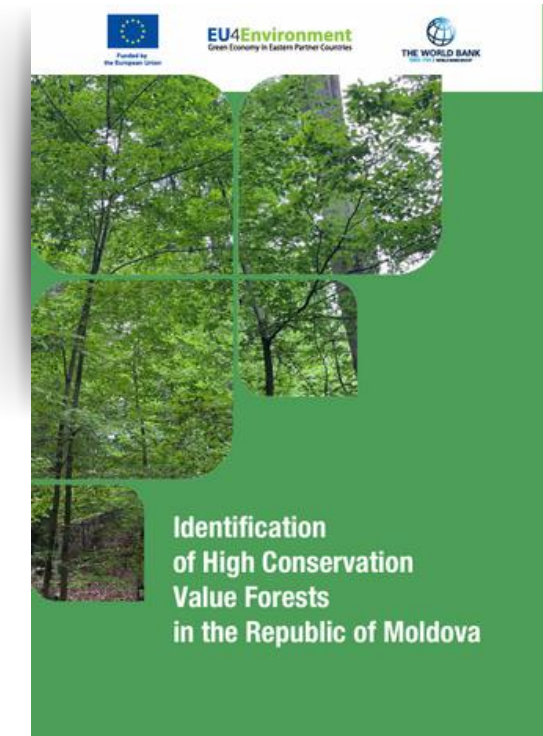
At least **47%** of all Moldova's forests have potential for HCVF: potential benefits for people

Capacity-building



Over **100** people benefited from capacity-building events

Status: completed





Natural resource management through community engagement



- Improve forest management planning (FMP) and silvo-pastoral management planning (SPMP) systems to help selected communities gain more benefits and sustain ecosystem services (1000 ha covered)
- Support Nature Restoration and Enhance Community Benefits in central hilly plateau (=Codii region) (at least 500 ha of natural/spontaneous vegetation on community-owned land formalized)
- Report “Moldova Nature Restoration Potential Analysis” (supporting future investments and programmatic pathways for ecological recovery)

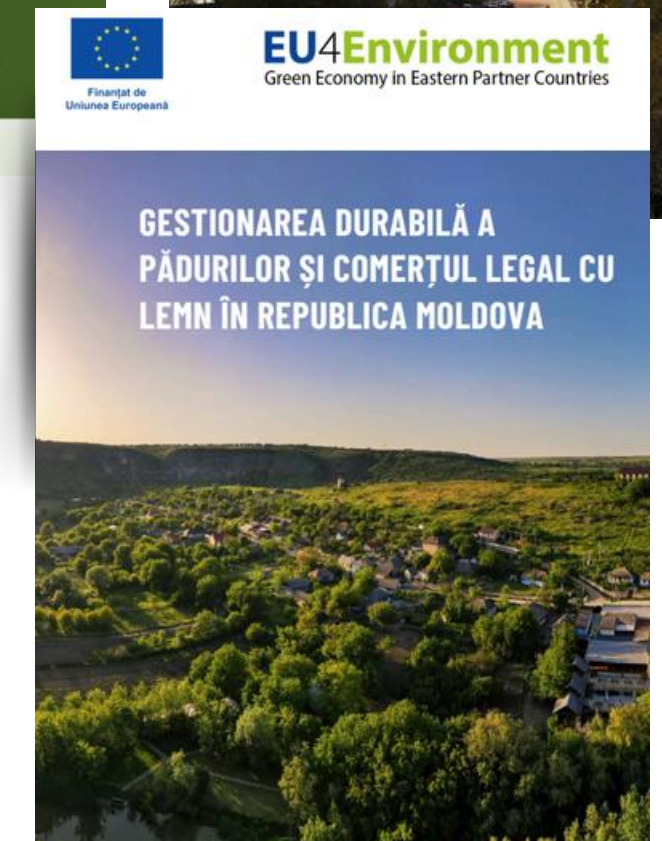
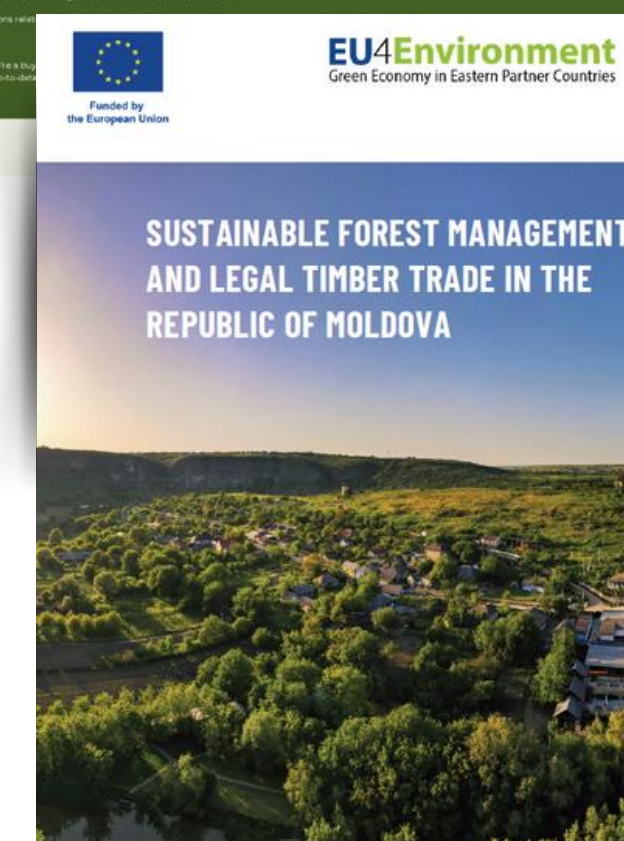
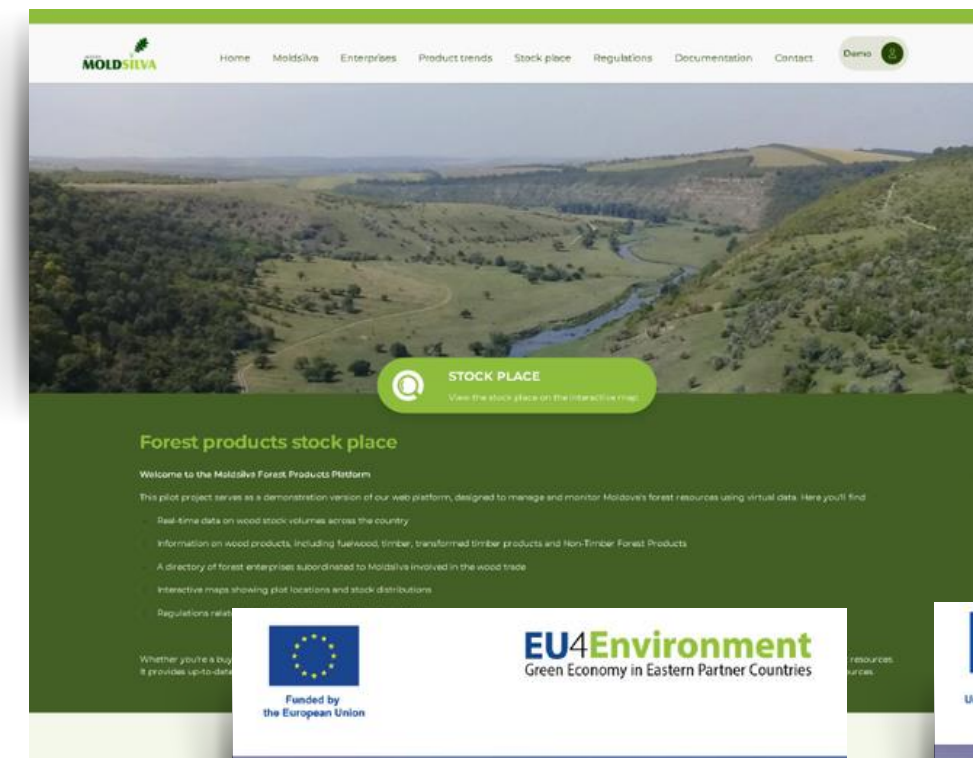


Illegal logging prevention and EU Deforestation Regulation compliance



- Pilot Project for Forest Product Web Platform
- Sustainable Forest Management and Legal Timber Trade in the Republic of Moldova

Status: Analytical work, reports, and design/layout completed; translation validation in progress; upcoming: counterpart feedback and World Bank quality enhancement review.





Carbon and climate finance



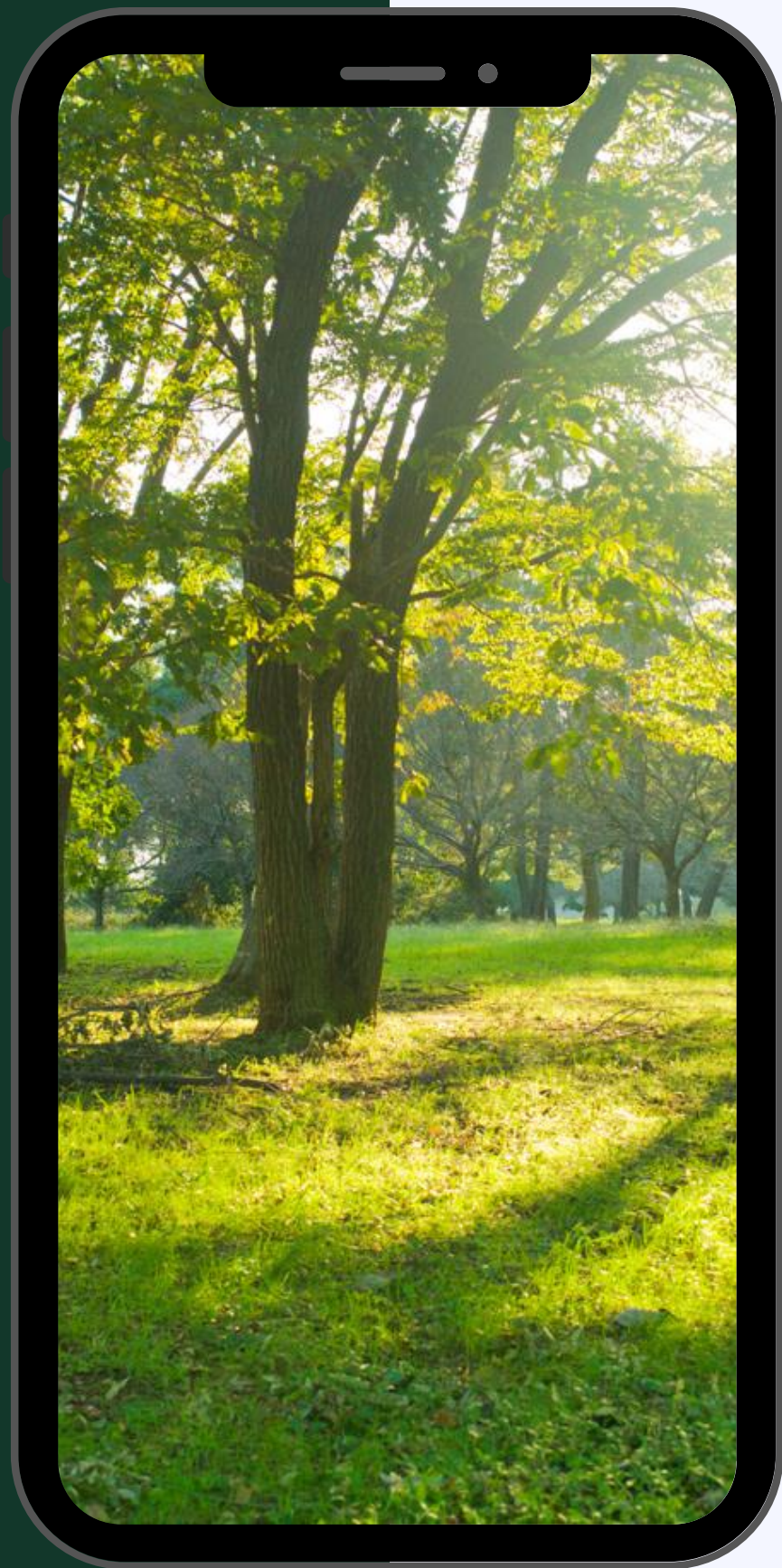
Assisting in the design of "The National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Program" (NFERP) for 2023-2032 in Moldova



Status: completed

- Baseline assessment of total economic value of ecosystem services, country targets and financing needs (country profile)
- Recommendations for country investment and financing opportunities
- Report "Natural Capital and Conservation Finance in Moldova: Baseline Valuation, Financing Needs, Sustainable Forestry Funding Instruments, and Biodiversity Offset/Compensation Recommendations"

Status: in progress; to be completed by June 30, 2026



◆ UKRAINE

OLGA GORODNYTSKA

EU4Environment World Bank
Activity Coordinator in Ukraine





Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network



—● Reports

- Methodological guidelines for assessing anthropogenic and military impacts on Emerald Network sites
- Methodological guidelines for developing Emerald Network management plans
- Three pilot Emerald management plans



—● Capacity-building

- 9 workshops for stakeholders: 3 online & 6 on-site events)
- Final event planned for December 2025

Nearly **650** people benefited from capacity-building events



Status: in progress; to be completed by February 2026



Natural resource management through community engagement

- Supporting targeted communities with gaining practical knowledge on natural resource management (NRM) - developing practical tools (guidelines, site-specific plans) to support green job creation and economic development
- Preparation of environmental protection programs and ecological passports of territories for communities
- Capacity building program for 8 targeted communities
- Disseminating lessons learnt from community engagement opportunities in NRM in Ukraine

Status: in progress; to be completed by June 2026



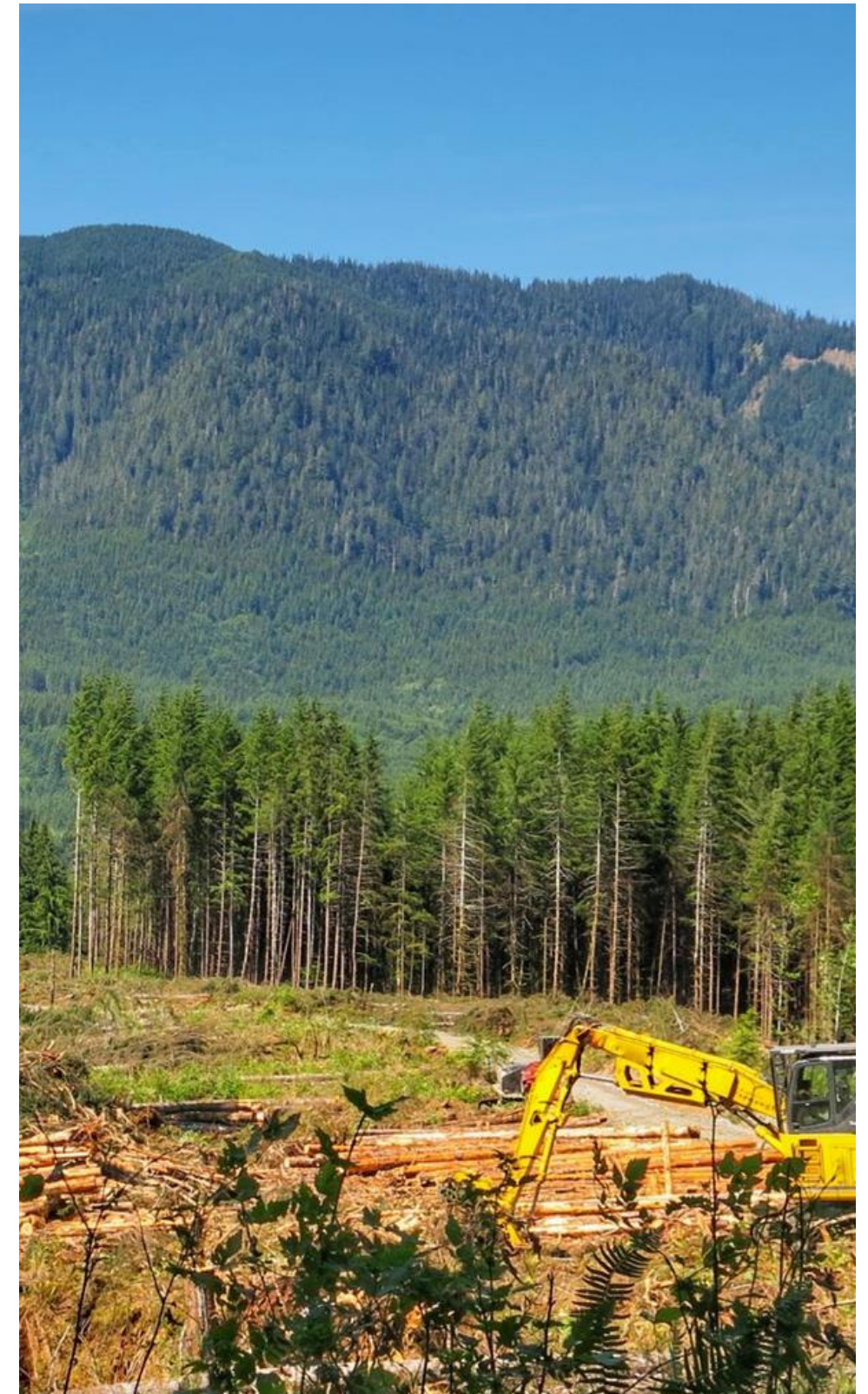
Illegal logging prevention and EU Deforestation Regulation compliance



Recommendations for improving competitiveness of the woodworking industry:

- Study on Woodworking Industry production and export capacity
- Assessment of Woodworking Industry Competitiveness
- Development of investment proposals to leverage Woodworking Industries' potential

Status: in progress; to be completed by July 2026





Carbon and climate finance



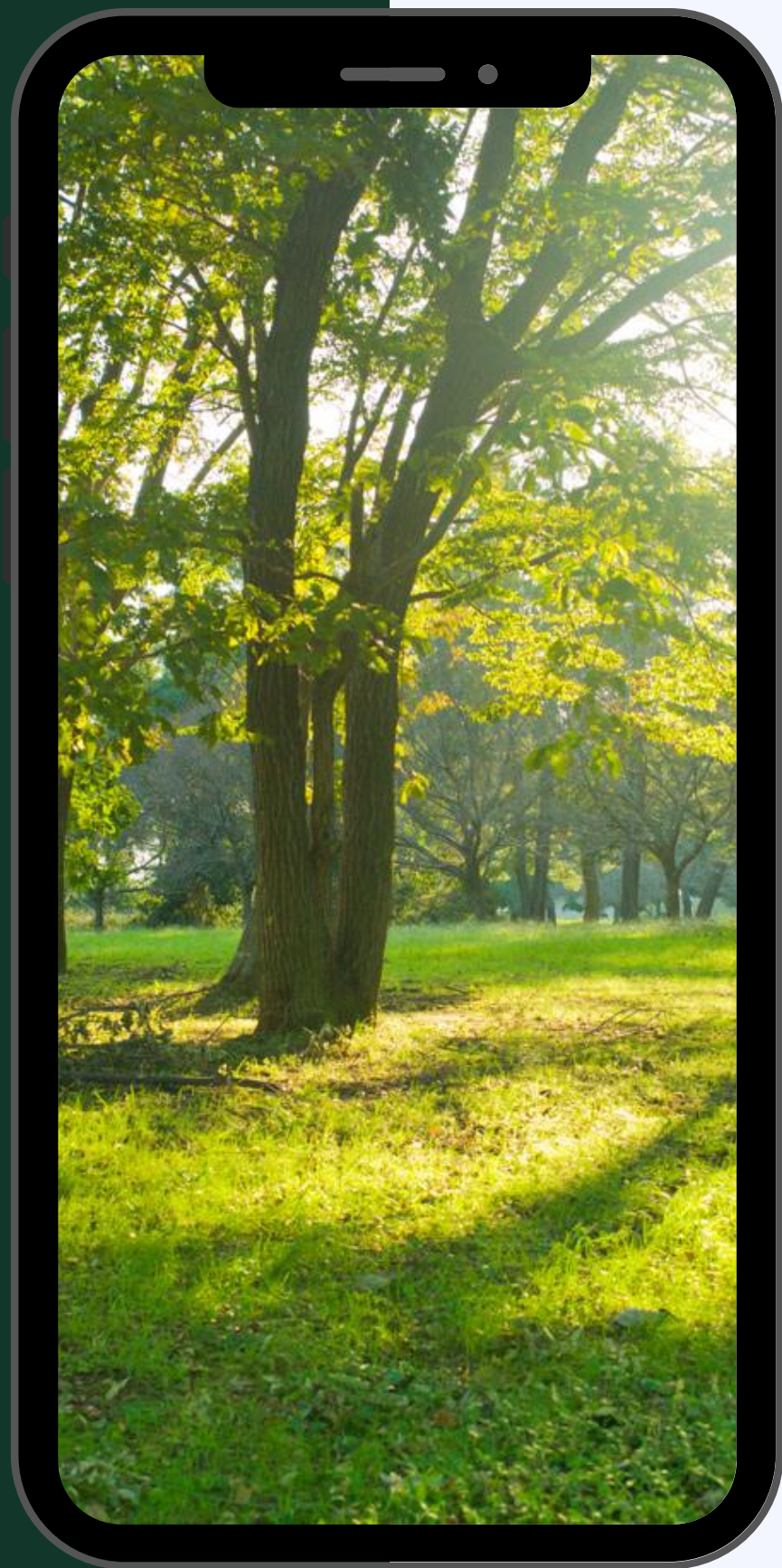
- Analytical report on climate finance and carbon pricing opportunities in Ukraine's forestry sector



Status: under finalization;
upcoming: World Bank Quality Enhancement Review

- Baseline assessment of total economic value of ecosystem services, country targets and financing needs
- Recommendations for country investment and financing opportunities
- Development of recommendations on the integration of ecosystem services in national legislation
- Comparative economic analysis of traditional forest management practices and forest conservation measures, at oblast level
- Report “Financing Ukraine’s Natural Capital: Ecosystem Valuation, EU-Aligned Policy Recommendations, and Investment Pathways”

Status: in progress; to be completed by June 30, 2026



◆ REGIONAL

OKSANA KOVALENKO

EU4Environment World Bank
Programme Coordinator





Biodiversity conservation: Emerald Network

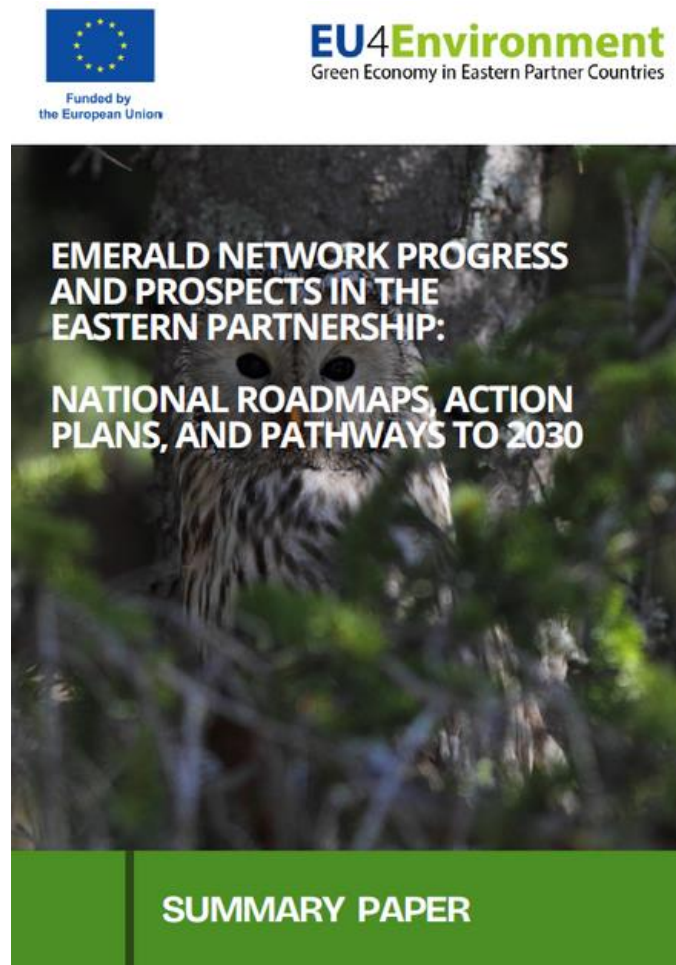


—● Reports

- Summary paper “Emerald Network Progress and Prospects in the Eastern Partnership: National Roadmaps, Action Plans, and Pathways to 2030
- Reports and workshops on the countries’ scientific readiness for the next round of biogeographical seminars (1 per country)
- Online training on the Emerald Network

—● Capacity-building

- Regional workshop on “Enhancing Biodiversity Protection in the Eastern Partnership Countries: Learning from EU Best Practices” (28 April 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia)



Status: under finalization; to be completed by December 31, 2025



Natural resource management through community engagement

Dissemination of Lessons on Community Engagement in NRM:

Three country-specific analytical reports with:

- Synthesis of findings across tasks
 - Lessons learned: barriers/challenges, opportunities, best practices
 - Recommendations to maximize community engagement
 - Comparative analysis of similarities/differences across countries
 - Structure: regional chapter + country chapters
-
- Regional knowledge exchange workshop: Event Format Three-day, in-person workshop in an EU country showcasing community engagement in NRM

Status: in progress; to be completed by July 31, 2026



Illegal logging prevention and EU Deforestation Regulation compliance



Recommendations for improving competitiveness of the woodworking industry:

- Sustainable Forest Management and Legal Timber Trade in Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova
- Impact assessment of the European Union Deforestation Regulation on Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine and recommendations for facilitating compliance

Regional Workshop on Wood Tracking Systems and EU Deforestation Regulation Compliance (23-24 October 2025, Yerevan, Armenia)

Status: Analytical work, reports, and design/layout completed; translation validation in progress; upcoming: counterpart feedback and World Bank quality enhancement review.





Carbon and climate finance



- A regional summary report covering Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine based on the country-specific analysis
- Regional knowledge sharing workshop to share regional and international experiences on forest and NRM sectors financing schemes and policies, and to promote regional and international collaboration on these issues:
- Event Format: Three-day, in-person workshop in an EU country



◆ QUESTIONS



FEEDBACK FROM THE COUNTRIES



Questions

1. How have the EU4Environment outputs (guidelines, recommendations, management plans) influenced environmental policy agenda in Armenia and Georgia so far? What are the main opportunities and challenges in integrating these outputs into national legislation and policy frameworks?
2. How do you see the role of EU4Environment in supporting Moldova and Ukraine's alignment with EU standards and EU accession?
3. To what extent have the outputs of the EU4Environment Programme reached the intended end beneficiaries—such as foresters, protected area managers, and local communities? What steps could be taken during the remaining months of Programme implementation to further facilitate and amplify the benefits for these target audiences?
4. How can cross-country collaboration be further strengthened to address common challenges? Are there specific topics where deeper regional cooperation is needed (e.g., carbon markets, biodiversity monitoring, protected area management)?