

Reporting Agency: United Nations Development Programme  
for Global Environmental Facility

Country: Armenia



## STANDARD PROGRESS REPORT

No. and title: Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts in Mountainous Forest  
Ecosystems of Armenia, UNDP/GEF/00051202

Reporting period: January – December 2009

### I. PURPOSE

The long-term development goal of this GEF medium size project is to assist Armenia in beginning a process by which strategies to moderate, cope with consequences of climate change are enhanced, developed, and implemented. The specific objective of the project is to enhance adaptive capacities of the vulnerable mountain forest ecosystems to climate change in the Syunik region of Armenia. The main outcomes of the project are:

1. The enabling environment for integrating climate change risks into management of forest ecosystems is in place: (a) Planning documents that govern forest management modified to take account of climate change risks, and (b) An early warning and response system to climate change risks, based on clearly defined institutional roles and responsibilities.
2. Forest and protected area management in the Syunik region integrates pilot adaptation measures to enhance adaptive capacity of mountain forest ecosystems: (a) Comprehensive system for data collection and interpretation to feed into scenario development and identification of adaptation measures, (b) Measures to mitigate elevated pest outbreak risks due to climate change, including variability, (c) Measures to mitigate elevated forest fire risk due to climate change, including variability, and (d) Measures to reduce forest fragmentation and improve ecological restoration.
3. Capacities for adaptive management, monitoring and evaluation, learning, and replication of project lessons are developed: (a) Training and sharing of experiences with foresters and community members from other regions/ sub-regions in Armenia to develop their capacities to integrate adaptive measures in forest management, (b) A user-friendly manual on how to integrate climate change risks in forest management is developed and widely disseminated, and (c) A results-based monitoring, evaluation and learning system is in place.

The Project contributes to UNDAF Outcome 4 and CP Outcome 7, CPAP Output 7.4.

The Implementing Partners for the Project are the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA (MoNP) and “Hayantar” (ArmForest) SNCO of the Ministry of Agriculture of RA (MoA).

### II. RESOURCES

The resources to the Project come in full from GEF allocations: 142,000.00 USD for the current year. In kind contribution from the GoRA: 180.000 USD for the current year.

### III. RESULTS

**1. Project Management.** The start of the project was planned for early 2009 however the actual start date of the Project is June 2009. The draft detailed Project work plan for 2009-2012 was developed in June 2009. The Project Outcome Board is comprised of representatives of Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and UNDP. The Project Board was established with co-chairmanship of the Ministry of Nature Protection and



**2. Inception.** The Project Inception Workshop with participation of the Project Board members, UNDP/GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and broad participation of stakeholders, partners and interested parties (52 participants in total) was organized on July 3rd, 2009. As a result the Inception Workshop decided that the Project is acceptable as formulated. No additional clarifications or modifications are needed. The Project Board members decided to approve the annual work programme (2009-2010) of the Project taking into account recommendations submitted by the Project Board members within one week, and (ii) to extend the Project Board composition and apply to the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the RA National Statistical Service with request to nominate candidacies for the Project Board. The Project Inception Report was developed and submitted to UNDP RBEC in September 2009.

**3. Project Staffing.** The Project Task Leader was selected in June 2009 and the corresponding Service Contract was signed in July 2009. The National Consultant on Forest Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts and Forest Restoration, the Local Expert and the Local Monitor in Syunik Marz, and National Expert on Public Outreach were selected and the corresponding contracts were signed in October 2009. The National Expert on Science and Education in the field of conservation and protection of forest ecosystems and the National Expert on Forest Physiology were selected and the corresponding contracts were signed in November 2009. The vacant position of the International Technical Adviser was advertised in August 2009 and re-advertised in October 2009. The vacant position of the National Expert on Forest Fire Management was advertised in October 2009.

**4. Project Programming.** The AWP of the Project was revised aimed at (i) decreasing of budget for 2009 in the amount of US\$58,000.00 because of late start up of the Project and (ii) splitting the initially approved Activity 2 into two parts in order to reflect the share of responsibilities between two responsible partners (Activity 2 – MNP, Activity 2A – “Hayantar” SNCO). The revised AWP was signed on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The Letter of Agreement (LoA) between UNDP Armenia CO and “Hayantar” SNCO on the implementation of the Activity 2A of the Project was developed in September 2009 and signed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.

**5. Implementation of Reforestation Pilot Projects.** Implementation of a pilot project on forest restoration in Syunik(Goris) Forest Enterprise’s territory aimed at reforestation of 15 ha fragmented forest area was commenced by “Hayantar” SNCO in early November 2009. Field visits to the pilot project implementation site in Syunik(Goris) Forest Enterprise were organised on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

**6. Professional Services.** Selection of organizations for professional services (i) to study Syunik Marz forests’ conditions with focus to climate change and (ii) to analyse forest pests and pestholes exacerbated by climate change and climate variability in Syunik Marz and to identify the most applicable prevention measures for improving forest health management practices was done in November 2009.

**7. Capacity Building.** The following draft reports/documents were prepared: (i) analysis of institutional and legal framework as well as current practices of pest control and management, (ii) concept paper outlining the approaches to project implementation with consideration of main objectives of the project, (iii) project communication and outreach strategy paper, (iv) work plan of the public outreach sub-component of the project for 2009-2010, (v) strategy and action plan for analysis of vulnerability, elasticity, and resilience capacity of forest ecosystems in Syunik marz, and (vi) 2009-2010 work plan of analysis of forest pests and pestholes exacerbated by climate change and climate variability in Syunik Marz. The project team provided comments on amendments in the Forest Code of RA prepared by MoA.

**8. Advocacy and Experience Sharing.** The Project Task Leader participated in: (i) a regional workshop on “Mitigating Impacts of Climate Change through Forest Protection,

Management and Restoration in Southern Caucasus” dedicated to a development project of WWF Germany and WWF Caucasus financed by Government of Germany in the framework of the International Climate Protection Initiative held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on July 21-22, 2009 and made a presentation on the strategy of the Project and expected outcomes at a UNDP/BCRP Regional Training Course on Overview of Disaster Risk Reduction held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, October 5-9, 2009, (iii) a youth campaign as part of the 350 International Day of Climate Action organized by Armenia Tree Project in Lori region of Armenia on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and (iv) an Interim Stakeholder Workshop within the framework of the REC Caucasus Regional Project: Fostering Community Forest Policy and Practice in Mountain Regions of the Caucasus held in Yerevan on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009. A snap shot story on the Project was developed in cooperation with team of UNDP Adaptation Learning Mechanism for the run-up in UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen and posted at Climate-L.org on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 (<http://climate-l.org/2009/11/02/undp-supports-gef-funded-adaptation-project-in-mountain-forest-ecosystem-in-armenia/#more-5961>). The web page of the Project was continuously updated. Consultations with national and international counterparts, stakeholders and partners were continued.

**9. Monitoring and Reporting.** The monitoring and reporting documentation was developed in accordance with the UNDP Project Results and Resources Framework requirements. The quarterly progress reports for first, second and third quarters of 2009 were prepared and submitted to GEF. The quarterly progress reports for the second and third quarters of 2009 were prepared and submitted to MoNP.

#### IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

The following tasks are planned for 2010: (i) implementation of pilot projects on forest restoration in Kapan and Meghri Forest Enterprises, care and infilling of the pilot project site in Syunik(Goris) Forest Enterprise, (ii) review of planning documents that govern forest management, (iii) vulnerability assessment of forest ecosystems and their services to climate change risks in Syunik region, (iv) review and assessment of the main institutions dealing with forest fire and pest control early warning and response measures, as well as drafting recommendation for strengthening the early warning system, (v) stocktaking of current practices on climate-related data observation systems and data analysis, (vi) development of recommendations on improvement of forest fire prevention with consideration of climate change scenarios, (vii) conducting awareness raising campaign and partnership building with local communities, NGOs, tourist organizations to mitigate human-induced fire events, (viii) conducting trainings for representatives of different agencies involved in forest and forest fire management, (ix) development of new specific indicators.

#### V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

The Project’s actual expenditure from the GEF allocations for 2009 period totals to 41.000 USD (delivery rate: 29%. Up to the end of 2009 the total percent of the expenditure of the corresponding planned commitments will be 74% of the allocated amount.