
NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE GEORGIAN FOREST SECTOR IN A GREEN ECONOMY

Within the Framework of the UNECE / FAO Project
A Greener Economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus with Sustainable Forests



The National Action Plan for the Georgian Forest Sector in a Green Economy is the result of a series of national and local multi-stakeholder workshops on Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in Georgia held between June 2014 and February 2015, in the framework of the UNECE / FAO two-year capacity-building project “A greener economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus with sustainable forests”.

The initiative is supported by the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and is a capacity development support project which aims through training and policy advisory services to assist countries in the region develop context specific strategies to more fully harness the potential of sustainable forest management for greener economies.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND UNIT OF MEASURE

CDM	-	Clean development mechanism
CO ₂	-	Carbon dioxide
EBRD	-	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESCAP	-	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Union
EU	-	European Union
FA	-	National Forest Agency of Georgia
FAO	-	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment
GBCG	-	Green Buildings Council Georgia
GE	-	Green Economy
GEL	-	Georgian Lari
GG	-	Green Growth
GGND	-	Global Green New Deal
IAEA	-	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFIs	-	International Finance Institutions
MoE	-	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goals
NATO	-	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	-	Non-governmental organization
OECD	-	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCE	-	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SME	-	Small and medium enterprises
SFM	-	Sustainable Forestry Management
TOE	-	Tonnes of oil equivalent
UNCCD	-	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	-	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	-	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
WB	-	World Bank
WHO	-	World Health Organization

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1. Introduction

1.1.Aim

The National Action Plan for the Georgian Forest Sector in a Green Economy (the Action Plan) describes how the forest sector could contribute to the development of a green economy in Georgia and communicates the potential of the forest sector to policy makers, the general public and decision-makers in other sectors.

Progress in the sustainable management of forests has been made in Georgia over the past few years, but the policy context is changing and a more pro-active approach to addressing forestry issues is needed in the future. The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy can be the main instrument to address the emerging policy context and respond to the new expectations of society.

One of the main objectives is also to demonstrate that – given the present state of affairs in Georgia – available solutions can contribute simultaneously to the achievement of the economic, social and environmental goals of the society without sacrificing any of these, and as a result – make significant contribution to a green economy.

1.2.Structure

The Action Plan is addressing the following: the broad background (definitions, international processes, broad perspectives); the national perspective (circumstances, problems, legislation, stakeholders); and concrete actions (pillars, respective goals, possible solutions).

It is to be noted that this Action Plan was developed within the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) two-year capacity-building project “A greener economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus with sustainable forests”. The Action Plan includes the issues discussed by the Georgian stakeholders at the national and local meetings held between June 2014 and February 2015. The process of development of the Action Plan and stakeholders involved in it are discussed in more detail in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

1.3.Vision

The Action plan is based on the following vision of the forest sector in a green economy:

- Sustainable Management of forests taking into consideration the green economy principles and keeping ecological balance in the coming 25 years. (Introduction of sustainable forestry)
- Sustainable forests management following the integrated principles of different spheres of economy and land use.
- Long term effective provision of sustainable forest management
- Development of forest services
- Offering services to the population
- Development of legislative bases
- Rational use of forest and forest services

- Productive, protected and regenerative forest
- Maintaining the multi-functional importance of the forests
- Proper monitoring in connection with green economy and the existence proper and effective legislation basis

1.4.Overall Goal of the Action Plan

The forest sector makes the greatest possible contribution to the emerging green economy.

2. Green Economy

2.1.Reasons

Practically every study shows that in long-term the present production and consumption patterns are unsustainable. If the whole population of the planet would consume the same resources per capita as the average citizen in the developed country of today, the cumulative demand for resources would exceed the capacity of the Earth four times at least.

Therefore it is clear that in a long run there must be radical changes in the rate and structure of the resource use by both developed and developing economies of the world, or – otherwise – repeated and more severe crises will continue hitting the global economy, driving down the welfare of the nations and increasing the potential for conflicts (including armed ones) over the resources.

Another consequence of the unsustainable consumption of the world resources is the whole array of rising environmental risks ranging from global (climate change, ozone layer depletion, loss of biodiversity, etc.) to local (soil erosion, air pollution, water resources' contamination and shortages, etc.).

Yet another dimension is equity – including intergenerational equity, which maintains that the needs of future generations should not be disregarded by present one; in other words, consuming the planet resources to the level which deprives future generations of the possibility to satisfy their needs is not just unethical but also self-destructive for the humankind as a whole.

These and other reasons encourage the ongoing search for long-term sustainable solutions to above problems. One of the ways, championed by several international organizations and increasingly embraced by governments, is to achieve green economy (GE).

2.2.Green Economy Definitions¹

The concept of “green economy” is quite broad, and also relatively new to many parts of the world. The term can be defined and understood in different ways and within different contexts.

¹ This section is using the materials of the official substantive documents prepared for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) by the UNECE Secretariat together with other partner organizations.

Despite the multitude of definitions, the broad view is that greening the economy can be a tool for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.

Terms and definitions related to “green economy” are of at least two sorts: terms related to the process (“greening the economy”, “green growth”), and terms related to the result to be achieved (“green economy”). There are several definitions in use, varying from region to region and from organization to organization, and depending on the context.

In their Green Economy Initiative², the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) defines the GE in the following way within a broad economic, social and environmental agenda: “green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities”. More “economist-like” approach is taken in another UNEP document³ stating that “green economy ... is able to allocate natural capital and financial capital in a far more effective and efficient manner into the foreseeable future”. These definitions, albeit from two different perspectives, point to the same issue – the need to introduce changes in the face of global risks like the climate change that are induced by the inefficiency of human activities.

As for “green growth” (GG), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) defines it as “economic progress that fosters environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and socially inclusive development”, whereas the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) sees green growth as the way for “fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.”⁴

It is important to dispel the myths about the green economy: that the green economy implies excessive interventions from the government, therefore distorting markets and in general going against the logic of the market economy. In fact, the green economy is more “market-oriented” than the present models. Indeed, it is the disregard for the wide range of environmental, social, temporal consequences that leads to flawed stimuli, misinformed decisions, misallocation of resources by market actors and – eventually – to the crises like the 2008 global financial crisis. Broadly speaking, the most telling difference between the economy-as-usual and the green economy is the ability of the latter to account for long-term effects, boosting sustainability as a result.

However, the process of transformation from present state of the economy to the green economy will face many challenges. The recent global crisis that has seriously weakened many big economies has at the same time created some opportunities to make the recovery more sustainable. One of the concepts for green recovery has been offered under the name of “Global Green New Deal”(GGND)⁵. GGND concept focuses on three broad objectives:

² The Green Economy Initiative encompasses the recently launched report, UNEP (2011a), “Towards a Green Economy”, and its synthesis UNEP (2011b), “Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, A Synthesis for Policymakers”, as well as the Green Jobs Report and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity all available at www.unep.org/greeneconomy.

³ “Global Green New Deal”. Policy brief. United Nations Environment Programme. March 2009. (www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf)

⁴ Towards Green Growth. OECD, 2011, www.oecd.org/greengrowth.

⁵ “Global Green New Deal”. Policy brief. United Nations Environment Programme. March 2009. www.unep.org/pdf/A_Global_Green_New_Deal_Policy_Brief.pdf

- It should make a major contribution to reviving the world economy, saving and creating jobs, and protecting vulnerable groups;
- It should promote sustainable and inclusive growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially ending extreme poverty by 2015;
- In addition, it must reduce carbon dependency and ecosystem degradation – key risks along a path to a sustainable world economy.

3. Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies



Figure 1. Importance of SFM to SD

3.1. Definition of Sustainable forest Management

A definition of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) was developed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), and has since been adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It defines sustainable forest management as:

The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Like green economy, there is no definitive definition but there is an agreement on some of the key principles and on the need to consider ecological, social and economic factors. In simpler terms, the concept can be described as the attainment of balance – balance between society's increasing demands for forest products and benefits, and the preservation of forest health and diversity. This balance is critical to the survival of forests, and to the prosperity of forest-dependent communities.

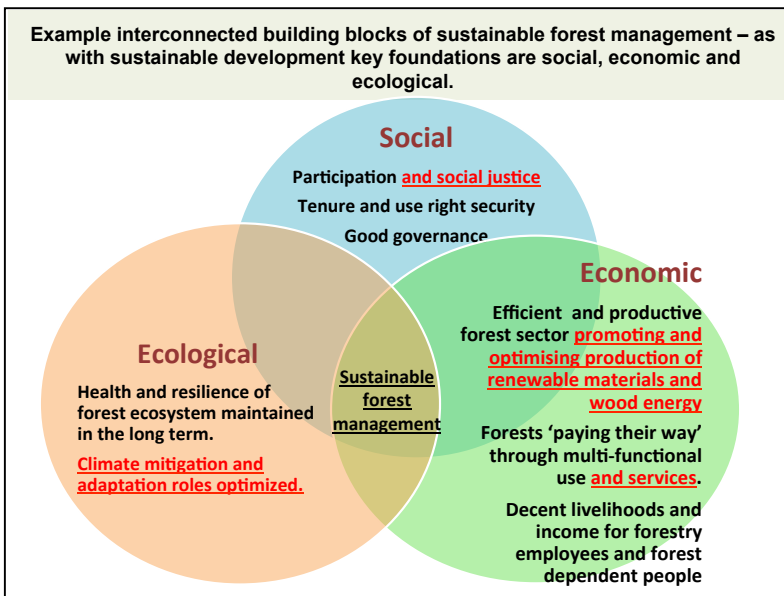


Figure 2. Building blocks of SFM

For forest managers, sustainably managing a particular forest tract means determining, in a tangible way, how to use it today to ensure similar benefits, health and productivity in the future. Forest managers must assess and integrate a wide array of sometimes conflicting factors – commercial and non-commercial values, environmental considerations, community needs, even global impact – to produce sound forest plans. In most cases, forest managers develop their forest plans in

consultation with citizens, businesses, organizations and other interested parties in and around the forest tract being managed. Along with the importance of good governance for the protection and sustainable management of forests it is necessary to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination and coherence between forest policy and other policies that affect forests and forestry.

3.2. Key principles of Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies

Forests and forestry can successfully provide multiple benefits to society. Healthy forests are critical to public health and well-being. They filter air and water, provide jobs and a wealth of paper and wood products, and are places to enjoy wildlife and nature. Forests and forestry have a potential to contribute both to the sustainable economic growth and competitiveness, and to safeguarding the quantity and the quality of the natural resource base. At the same time, forests are crucial to halt the loss of biodiversity and to mitigate climate change.

3.3. Key ways how to release potential of forestry for a green economy

Getting the legal and procedural foundations in place:

Forestry is a long-term investment and thus people require asset security.

- Secure long-term tenure and user rights.
- People have little incentive to protect and maintain government-controlled forest.

Putting in place a supportive enabling environment that makes forestry attractive.

- Moving away from disabling governance environments that often indirectly encourage illegality to an enabling governance environment that encourages sustainable forest management and legal use.
- Make long-term sustainable forest management attractive to individuals and private enterprises; streamline bureaucracy, procedures and transaction costs.
- Monitoring and control of forest management is important but must be done in a user friendly and constructive way.

Helping forests pay their way:

Use forests sustainably or lose them completely.

- The biggest threat to forests is clearance and conversion to more profitable land uses.
- The biggest threat is not forest use in itself especially if tenure is secure.
- Therefore it is essential to work harder at releasing the full financial potential of sustainable forest management, the full and wide range of products and services to help forests compete better with other land uses and be a more attractive investment for people and enterprises.
- Support forest based enterprise development.

Challenging and changing mindsets to see forest resources as sources of green- carbon friendly renewable materials and energy:

Sustainable forest use can be carbon neutral or negative:

- A growing tree captures carbon in its trunk, branches and soil.
- Sustainably managed forest where growth and productivity are encouraged can produce a sustained offtake of materials and wood fuel that releases less carbon into the atmosphere than it captures, thus having a negative carbon footprint.
- A managed and used forest, which promotes more growth, can capture more carbon than a stagnant unmanaged and unused forest.

Promote sustainable timber:

- Promote sustainably produced timber as a preferable alternative to non-renewable and high carbon footprint materials like concrete, steel and plastic.
- Carbon is not only captured in the growth of the wood, but kept in the wood itself when used in products.

Promote sustainable wood fuel as an opportunity, don't see it as only a threat:

- Promote sustainably produced wood fuel which is much more carbon friendly than natural gas and also potentially more carbon friendly than other so called renewable energies like hydro.
- Sustainable wood fuel may be the only true carbon negative energy source as its production in growing captures more carbon than is released in burning – especially if wood for energy is a by-product of timber production.
- Sustainable wood fuel should be equally promoted and rewarded in tax regimes etc. as other renewable energies.
- Challenge the widespread assumption that wood use is a major cause of deforestation, and instead promote its development within sustainable forest management as a way to

make forestry more attractive and provide locally available 'green' energy source and incomes.

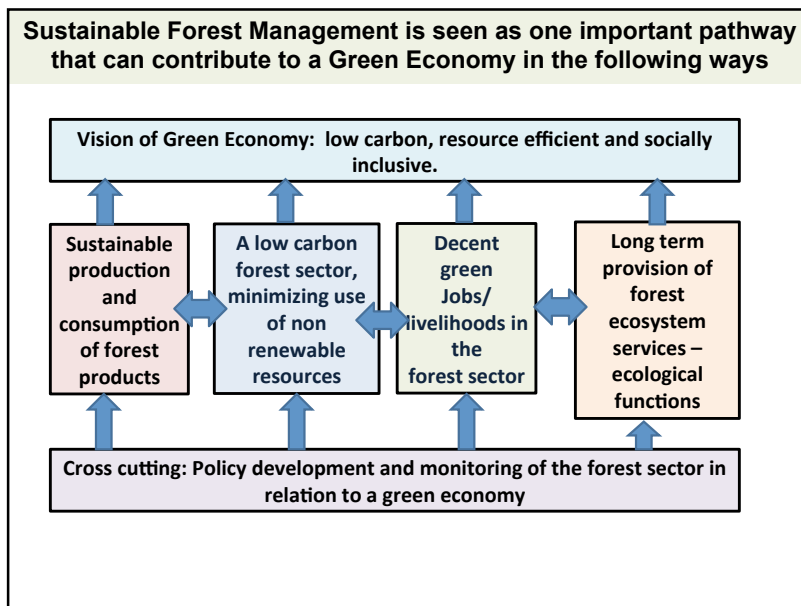
Climate finance for forests:

- Climate finance can be sought for afforestation and reforestation through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that is an obligation for countries under the Kyoto Protocol.
- Climate finance can be sought for maintaining natural forest through Reduced Emissions from avoided Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+).

However, climate finance should only ever be seen as an extra, a complement to the previous actions that provide incentives for sustainable forest management.

Raising profile of forests as fitting green economy principles best:

Forestry, if its full potential as a renewable resource is released through sustainable forest management can tick all key green economy principles...



- ✓ Carbon
- ✓ Social
- ✓ Economy
- ✓ Ecology and climate

figure 3. SFM contributing to Green Economy

4. Rationale and objectives

Globally governments have increased the pace of change towards more sustainable development through policies for greener economies. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a green economy is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive. It promotes economic growth that is increasingly based on more sustainable management and use of resources. But on the other hand, it is not about promoting green approaches, with only the environment in mind, the initiatives must contribute to development, equitable economic growth if they are to satisfy green economy principles.

If the potential for Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) is unlocked it can deliver a full range of interconnected carbon/climate, economic, social and ecological benefits on a sustainable basis, perfectly in line with green economy principles. However much more needs to be done to ensure forestry fulfils its potential in playing a key role in a green economy. For example through providing a conducive policy and legislative environment to make sustainable forestry more attractive for rural people and the private sector, through more secure tenure, user rights and business friendly procedures, creating more green jobs and improving livelihoods. Also more needs to be done to increase the profile and potential of wood as a source of renewable materials and energy, equal to or better performing in terms of carbon credentials than other renewable sources of energy. In addition of course forestry can provide key environmental services, enhancing water and soil quality, biodiversity and climate mitigation.

The strategic direction of forestry in Georgia is dovetailing with the principles of Green Economies. The Georgian Forestry Concept was adopted in December 2013 with the goal of “improvement of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the Georgian forests, protection of biological diversity, effective use of the economic potential of forests taking into account their ecological values, public participation in forest management related issues and fair distribution of derived benefits.” With forests covering 40% of the country’s territory at the moment, fully releasing the economic and social potential of forests whilst maintaining and enhancing their ecological contribution can play a key role in sustainable development and have medium term impacts across the country.

However in the various documents that have been developed to outline what a green economy might look like in Georgia– beyond its environmental functions, forestry, has been ignored. The priorities emerging as green economy related strategy documents in Georgia include 1) Energy Efficient Buildings, 2) Energy Production from renewable sources, mainly hydropower, 3) Development of more sustainable transport through more climate friendly fuels, efficiency and greater electrification. 4) Promotion of more efficient and greener, particularly organic agriculture. 5) Waste Management including improved recycling and 6) Environmentally friendly tourism development.

The only minor mention of forestry relates to their protective environmental role. To put it simply, the ‘green’ in green economy is seen as the primary role for forestry, the ‘economy’ potential of forestry is overlooked, and the compatibility of both use/enterprise development - engaging farmers and the private sector- and sustainable forest management is not fully appreciated in many countries with a legacy of centralised command and control protectionism.

Key gaps

The performance of the forest sector was assessed against the following criteria:

1. Achieving sustainable production and consumption of forest products
2. Minimizing fossil fuel use and the generation of sustainably produced wood fuel based alternatives
3. Decent forestry jobs and forestry supporting livelihoods of local people
4. Advancing ecological health, soil and water
5. Data collection, management and analysis
6. Inclusive forest policy processes that result in policies that satisfy all key stakeholder interests

Only one criteria (Data collection, management and analysis) was rated above satisfactory, all others are below satisfactory, as the following chart shows:

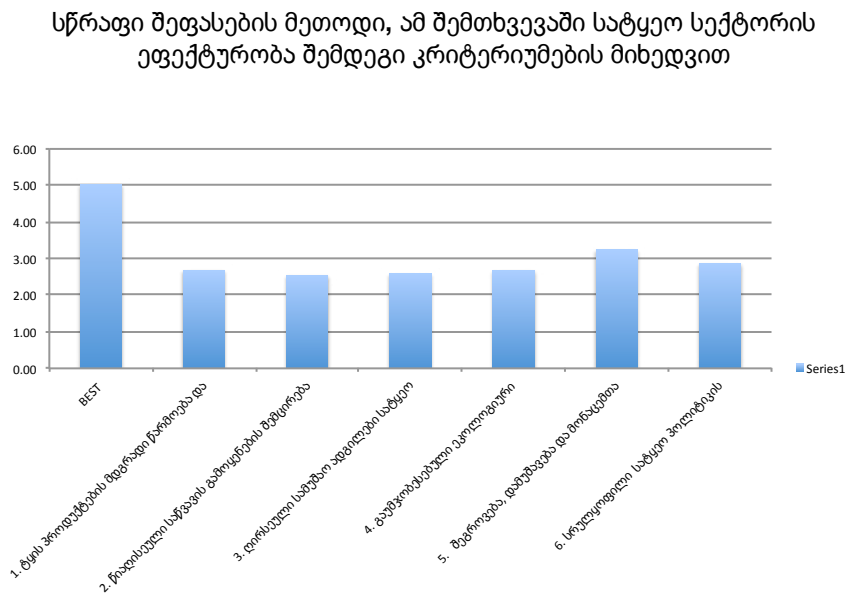


Figure 4. Assessment of forest sector performance

The key gaps in the forest sector with regards to green economy principles identified by the stakeholders involved in the development of the Action Plan are the following:

- Insufficient participation of communities in decision-making
- Insufficient understanding of green economy principles in the forest sector as well among general public (population)
- Lack of qualified personnel in the forest sector
- Insufficient protection of forests
- Complicated procedures for forest use
- Lack of Financial Resources
- Insufficient remuneration of the personnel in the forest sector
- Insufficient public participation in the decision-making process
- The impact of climate change on forests is not studied in Georgia.

5. Stakeholder engagement strategy

To determine the stakeholder engagement strategy and key segments that could be targeted to reach the results, it is important to understand the attitude, power and interest of each stakeholder group in the sustainable forest policy in a green economy issues. The main stakeholders for this Action Plan purposes are: the government, private sector, international donors, civil society / NGOs, mass-media, financial/banking sector, and households.

5.1. Stakeholder mapping

The stakeholders are mapped with a simple tool - the so-called “stakeholder quadrant”⁶ - according to their power/influence in forest policy processes for a greener economy/SFM (vertical axis) and their interest level which largely depends on how affected they are by the consequences of forest policies (horizontal axis).

The map is roughly divided into four squares:

- Low power/influence, low interest/affectedness – “least important” stakeholders.
- Low power/influence, high interest/affectedness – “show consideration” towards these.
- High power/influence, low interest/ affectedness – “meet their needs” and they will become allies.
- High power/influence, high interest/affectedness – “key players”: they are ready to make difference.

⁶ www.stakeholdermap.com

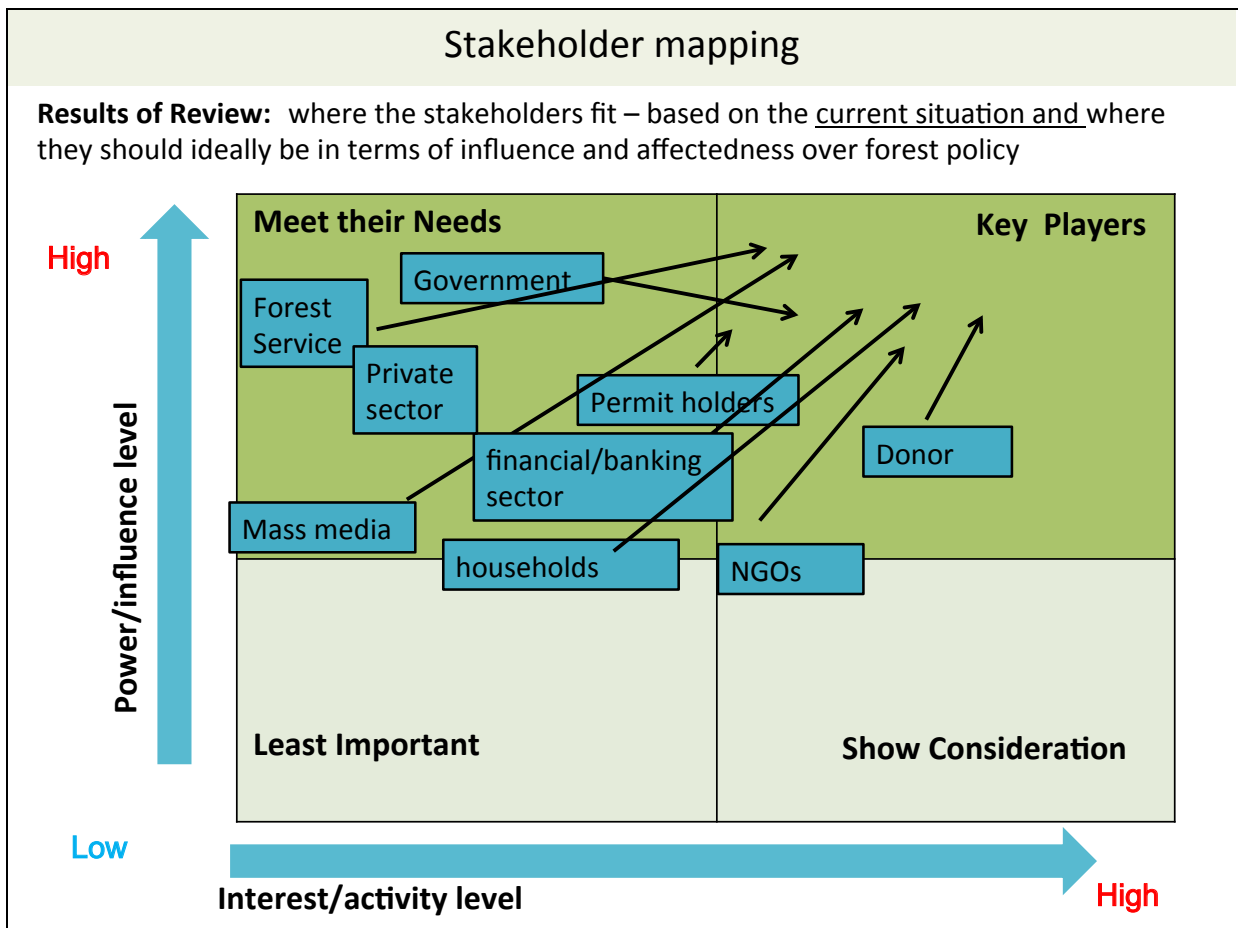


Figure 5 - Stakeholder Mapping

5.2. Map Analyses

Key Players

The general aim of the individual approach to stakeholders is to move them to the top-right corner – the area of “key players”. Key players are ready to cooperate and can deliver too; therefore it is vital to engage them, involve them in governance/decision making bodies, and/or consult them regularly. To move them into the “right” direction it is necessary to increase their interest and positive involvement in the issue.

For the purposes of this Action Plan, international donors and – to the less extent – private sector and the government are candidates to the “key player” group.

Meet Their Needs

Top-left corner of the map is the place influential but largely uninterested stakeholders, as they are not much affected by the consequences of forest policies.

This corner is most populated, displaying – as expected – that the green economy issues are new and largely unknown to most influential stakeholders: therefore the initial steps must be directed towards understanding their needs and finding the points of shared concern. E.g., banks and businesses care about profits – show them the potential of green economy tools in this way, demonstrate achievements of pilot projects, disseminate and recreate them, propose joint initiatives, offer links to those that could help (financing mechanisms, donors, etc.). The

government would respond to the opportunities to attract investments, to generate support for existing/planned policies, to address social needs, to improve international image.

Mass-media and households are among the least interested at this stage; however, forest policies in a green economy could offer significant benefits to the latter through offering increased and sustainable production and consumption of forest products, and use the possibilities of the former in raising an awareness on these products, making clear the difference between them and the rest and creating the "green" demand – an essential and inevitable step towards the green economy.

In established democracies mass media acts as an intermediary between various stakeholders and general public, thus playing important role in raising public awareness and mobilizing public support for environment. Georgian mass media is facing difficulties in fulfilling such a role, though it can successfully serve as a messenger for disseminating information and raising response from the wide clusters of society. Overall, mass media is a significant but passive stakeholder. Massive effort is needed to raise this stakeholder group to active category.

Show Consideration

Bottom-right corner contains those stakeholders that are most vulnerable and/or have enough interest in in forest policy processes for a greener economy/SFM but lack the necessary influence to exert effective support. These can be freely involved as resource bodies, and must be informed and consulted on the issues of their particular interest. In some cases they can provide significant assistance in getting the message through due to their knowledge, experience and credibility.

The NGOs fall into this category and donors – in part – also may be sharing this corner.

Georgian NGOs have established links and partnerships with foreign governments, international organizations, and NGOs. Cooperation is less intensive with the national and local governments; cooperation with the private sector is rather rare. Such a situation is partly caused by the correlated (or, for this reason, uncorrelated) interests with those stakeholders; another simple reason is linked to finances – neither the government nor private sector are able and/or willing at this stage to support NGO activities and services financially. “Even the most experienced and sophisticated NGOs are forced to shift their activities to areas where donor funding is still available”⁷.

The factors mentioned above drive the agenda of Georgian NGOs and – eventually – indeed impose certain limitations to the power of civil society in Georgia. NGOs have limited influence on the decision-making of the government or of the private sector. Successful NGOs have become “professional groups that are part of the elite rather than a part of the larger society”⁸. Poorer and remotely located NGOs experience severe pressures and are on the decline in both numerical and capacity terms, therefore depriving the already troubled communities of environmental services even more.

⁷ 2008 NGO Sustainability Index For Central And Eastern Europe And Eurasia . USAID, 2009. (www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/dem_gov/ngoindex/2008/complete_document.pdf)

⁸ 2006 NGO Sustainability Index For Central And Eastern Europe And Eurasia . USAID, 2007. (www.usaid.gov/locations/europe_eurasia/dem_gov/ngoindex/2006/georgia.pdf)

Some of the NGOs become well-trained and competent think-tanks, and/or consultancy service providers. NGOs are well positioned to connect with multiple stakeholder groups. At the same time, civil society enjoys less influence on the situation than before. Civil society should seek partners that can bridge this gap. In some cases, NGOs can help in raising awareness, creating public consensus on certain issues, etc.

The interest of international donor community to the problems of environment in Georgia has achieved observable positive impact, and a low profile of the sector domestically has made this impact even more important. In late 90's, foreign assistance helped to shape Georgian environmental institutions (both Governmental and NGOs) and to establish their agenda through various studies and capacity-building initiatives. Later, the focus shifted towards pilot projects meant to demonstrate opportunities and provide possible blueprints for domestic institutions to follow.

Foreign Governments – the European Commission, individual EU members – Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, UK, Denmark, as well as the USA, Norway, Switzerland, Japan and others - have been active through their foreign aid agencies, embassies and other Government institutions. UN system organizations (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNECE, WHO, FAO, IAEA), World Bank Group, OECD, OSCE, NATO have provided expertise and financing for a long list of projects⁹.

Typically, international partnership-based projects are generated as a follow-up of political documents (global and regional conventions, treaties, bilateral agreements, memoranda) that provide the foundation for cooperation on the state and/or institutional level. Project design is a subject to stricter rules, they are well monitored, almost never get underfunded or ceased, and – compared to domestic initiatives – prove better awareness of interests of other stakeholders, e.g., major groups.

Donors and IFIs can continue working on the issues relevant to the SFM in a green economy on two levels.

On the strategy level, cooperation with the government should continue for the establishment of cooperation basis that would focus on common priorities, inviting Georgia to address global problems as well as to use tested methods in domestic policy. Through this cooperation, increasing role of the green business on the international level will facilitate the timely understanding and response of Georgian government to the domestic challenges of the same kind.

On the tactical level, gradual shift of focus from pure aid projects to those with the effect of multiplication and barriers' removal should continue¹⁰, using, where possible, market- and profit-oriented cooperation instead of donor-beneficiary-type relationship. Teaming up with the government is desirable – in many cases, government-owned institutional schemes can successfully channel donor financing; teaming up with local actors (NGOs, banks, private sector) is vital in order to encourage concerted actions involving several donors and/or existing financial mechanisms (e.g. clean development mechanism (CDM)), thus joining resources and avoiding duplications.

⁹ Part of projects listed at the Ministry of Finance website: (www.mof.ge/en/3212)

¹⁰ E.g. mentioned above: (www.europeandcis.undp.org/environment/bdslm/show/3D25BB8A-F203-1EE9-B13C5713251AA7D2) ; (www.ebrd.com/projects/psd/psd2007/37820.htm) and (www.energocredit.ge/?page_id=7&language=en)

Donor funding should link criteria of success to final result – sustainable effect on the society as a whole.

Least Important

Bottom-left corner – “least important” stakeholders – usually are not targeted directly. General channels of communication – website, e-mail dissemination, newsletters – are considered enough to cover these stakeholders. However, in our case no stakeholder is placed entirely in this corner. This is natural, as for the purposes of the Action Plan only important stakeholders have been reviewed.

6. The Action Plan for the Georgian Forest Sector in a Green Economy

The Action Plan follows the structure of the Rovaniemi Action Plan¹¹ and consists of 5 pillars with their respective goals:

- A. Sustainable production and consumption of forest products
- B. Forestry contributing to a low carbon economy.
- C. Promoting more and better green jobs and improved forest based livelihoods.
- D. Long-term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services.
- E. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy.

A. Promoting increased and sustainable production and consumption of forest products

Goals: The production and consumption of forests products is sustainable and based on the green economy principles

	<i>Possible Actions</i>	<i>Possible Actors</i>
A.1.	Establishment of adequate institutional structure	
A.2.	Increase indirect use of forests	
A.3.	Develop infrastructure - Enhancing the motivation of population	
A.4.	- Promotion of local production of decorative plants for greening the cities	
A.5	Define the existing resources and potential (of the state of forests) Making an inventory	
A.6.	Increase access to forest services	
A.7.	Develop labelling and certification systems for forest products.	
A.8.	Increase the forest roads network - Developing cable lines for taking out wood	
A.9.	Promote the development and implementation of green building standards	GBCG, MoE, FA, private sector, NGOs

¹¹ The Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, adopted on 13 December 2013 in Finland, describes how the forest sector in the UNECE region could lead the way towards the emerging green economy at the global level. It provides an overall vision, objectives and specific activities, and identifies potential actors, who might contribute to achieving the stated objectives. It is not a binding plan, nor does it contain prescriptive recommendations to Governments, international organisations or stakeholders, who are free to adopt, adapt, in full or in part, or not to implement the Action Plan as they wish. The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan. The latter will also explore ways and means to measure contribution and the progress of the forest sector towards a green economy.

B. Forestry contributing to a low carbon economy

Goals:

- The share of forest products in the economy is increased
- Export of forest products is increased by 10%
- Legal controlled sustainable firewood use is increased, as a result unsustainable illegal firewood use is stopped, an alternative to gas and electricity etc. is provided and energy security is enhanced
- Energy efficiency is increased by 50%

	<i>Possible Actions</i>	<i>Possible Actors</i>
B.1.	Simplify procedures for the use of wood and non-wood resources	Government, Forestry Agency
B.2.	Promote rational and effective use of forest resources (both timber and non-timber resources)	Government, Forestry Agency
B.4.	Promote the substitution of non-renewable and high-carbon materials and energy by renewable and low-carbon alternatives	Government, Forestry Agency
B.5	Introduce modern technologies	Government, Forestry Agency
B.6.	Maximise the share of fuel wood (renewable) resources in an energy balance, taking into account their finite resources.	Government, Forestry Agency
B.7.	Improve the infrastructure for preventing fires	Government, Forestry Agency
B.8.		Government, Forestry Agency
B.9.		Government, Forestry Agency
B.10.		Government, Forestry Agency
B.11.		Government, Forestry Agency
B.12.		Government, Forestry Agency
B.13		Government, Forestry Agency
B.14		Government, Forestry Agency
B.15	Study the impact of climate change on forests and develop relevant recommendations	Government, Forestry Agency, scientists, donors

C. Promoting more and better green jobs and improved forest based livelihoods

Goals:

Additional decent green jobs are created

Forest revenues are increased

Fair distribution and stimulation of private sector is achieved

	<i>Possible Actions</i>	<i>Possible Actors</i>
C.1.	Implement educational (bachelor, major, and doctor) programmes	
C.2.	Develop Education bases: - Establish research institutes and support them - Carry out exchange programmes	
C.3.	Prepare qualified personnel through: - Trainings and seminars - Carrying out partner and exchange programmes	
C.4.	Establish coordination mechanisms among other educational institutions (universities, colleges, etc.) and employers	GoG, FA, Universities, private sector
C.5.	Promote tourism development - Develop tourism infrastructure in the forests - Support efforts to attract visitors	Private sector. Government
C.6.	Promote simplification of the use of forest resources for the private sector and their availability	Government
C.7.	Carry out complete and systemised inventory of forest resources and services	
C.8.	Establish a unified information bases (statistical, monitoring and information about the inventory of forests) and ensure access to it	
C.9.	Offer investment schemes and means for the forest sector	
C.10.	Develop different models and schemes (private, state, community) of forest management	
C.11.	Establish economic and market instrument for forest sector management	

D. Ecological maintenance and enhancement – long-term provision of Forest Ecosystem Services.

Goals:

Keeping the wood cover – at least 40% of the Georgian territory is covered with forests
 Increase of forest resources by 30%

	<i>Possible Actions</i>	<i>Possible Actors</i>
D.1.	Increasing the territories covered with forest, Renewal of degraded forest. Increase in productivity of forests resulting in 20% increase in reserves of wood resources. Renewal of other degraded territories	
D.2.	Improvement of ecological state of forest	
D.3.	Protection of biodiversity.	
D.4.	Improve monitoring and early warning of forest pests and diseases	
D.5	Improving sanitary situation	
D.6.	Attention to the renewal measures of the forests, especially to the rare and endangered species	
D.7.	Improvement of eco systems, encourage the natural renewal of forests and other conservation maintenance regeneration measures	
D.8.	Elimination of illegal logging	
D.9.		
D.10.	Attracting investments (revenues) - Establishment of subsidiary enterprises - hunting farms - plant nurseries: fast-growing plants	
D.11.	Attracting investments revenues grow– state subsidies decrease (saving state funds and increasing state well-being)	
D.12.	Increase the role and importance of the forest sector and make it visible in the economy of the country, consequently with its possibilities to contribute in the green economy	

E. Policy development and monitoring of the forest sector in relation to a green economy.

Goals:

	<i>Possible Actions</i>	<i>Possible Actors</i>
E.1.	Develop sustainable forest state policy	MoE, other line ministries, NGOs
E.2.	Develop Action plan for the forest sector in a green Economy including public participation and periodic revision, intended to achieve multiple use and sustained yield of the forest	NFA, FAA, MoE, NGOs, private sector, other ministries
E.3.	developing short-term and long-term indicative plans taking into account the local requirements	
E.4.	taking into account the corresponding conditions for each region of Georgia, both with the legislative and forest use view.	
E.5	decentralisation	
E.6.	Enhance cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination and coherence between forest policy and other policies that affect forests and forestry	MoE, other line ministries, NGOs
E.7.	Improvement of existing legislative basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of comprehensive legislative basis (Forest code, norms and regulations, standards); - Improvement of legislative bases for establishing and implementing the principles of sustainable management and green economy - Improvement of the legislative bases for preventing illegal cuts and stopping the destruction of forests 	
E.8.	Strengthening the monitoring.	
E.9.	Balanced participation of state non-governmental and private sector	
E.10.	Raising public engagement in public awareness, the decision making process and keeping a representative balance in the decision making process.	
E.11	Modernisation of material-technical bases	

Annex 1. Background and the process

საქართველოში მწვანე ეკონომიკისათვის სატყეო სექტორის სამოქმედო გეგმის შემუშავების პროცესი



The workshops focused on forest-policy formulation, bioenergy generation from wood, data collection on forests and forests products, trends in forest ownership and the role and rights of local communities and private sector.

ეროვნული, სამუშაო და ადგილობრივი შეხვედრები

- (რეგიონული შეხვედრა - მარტი, 2014, ასტანა ყაზახეთი)
- ეროვნული შეხვედრა, თბილისი 9-11 ივნისი, 2014
- 1-ელი სამუშაო შეხვედრა, 13 ივნისი, 2014
- 1-ელი ადგილობრივი შეხვედრა, მცხეთა, 19 სექტემბერი 2014
- მე-2 ადგილობრივი შეხვედრა, ქუთაისი, 22 სექტემბერი 2014
- მე-3 ადგილობრივი შეხვედრა, ოზურგეთი, 23 სექტემბერი, 2014
- 4th ადგილობრივი შეხვედრა, ბათუმი, 24 სექტემბერი, 2014
- მე-2 სამუშაო შეხვედრა, 11 თებერვალი, 2015
- მე-2 ეროვნული შეხვედრა, 12 თებერვალი, 2015
- (რეგიონული შეხვედრა - აპრილი, 2015, თბილისი, საქართველო)

ადგილობრივი შეხვედრების მიზანი

რაც შეიძლება მეტი დაინტერესებული მხარის ჩართვა. საკითხების ანალიზი, რომელიც ეყრდნობა ადგილობრივ გამოცდილებას და რეალობებს და საკუთრების გრძნობის გაჩენა მწვანე ეკონომიკასთან დაკავშირებული სტრატეგიებისადმი, რომლებიც შექმნის პროცესშია.

იმისათვის რომ მონაწილეებს მისცემოდათ შესაძლებლობა გაეკეთებინათ დამოუკიდებელი ანალიზი და გამოემუშავებინათ რეკომენდაციები, ადგილობრივ შეხვედრებზე გამოყენებული იქნა სხვადასხვა მონაწილეობითი მეთოდები.

თითოეულ შეხვედრას ესწრებოდა 20-25 მონაწილე ეროვნული კონსულტანტისა და ეროვნული სააგენტოს 4-კაციანი ჯგუფის ჩათვლით. ადგილობრივი მონაწილეთა რაოდენობამ შეადგინა 82 ოთხივე შეხვედრაზე. ძირითადი ბირთვი ყველა შეხვედრაზე გახლდათ სატყეო სამსახურების თანამშრომლები, ყველგან იყვნენ წარმოდგენილი არასამთავრობო ორგანიზაციები, ქუთაისში ასევე ესწრებოდნენ შეხვედრას უნივერსიტეტის წარმომადგენლები.

Annex 1. Stakeholders involved in the Development of the Action Plan

“Capacity building for sustainable forest management for a greener economy in Georgia”
Communication Plan
(Draft)
REC Caucasus

What	Who/Target	Purpose	When/Frequency	Type/Method(s)	Budget/Resources
Web based site information	Project Team(project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze) , IT specialist, information officer	Creating a web-based hub for knowledge management on forest-related issues, spread information about the planned project activities, ensuring active engagement of stakeholders in implementation of the project.	10.09.2014	The project fact sheet will be translated and the information on forest-related issues , especially on the potential of forests to contribute to green economy, what is green economy, the potential of forests to contribute to green economy, the potential of wood energy and efficient use of wood. The website information will be prepared by project team and widely linked to other relevant sites(forest agency web-site, web-site of Tbilisi city Forest service) .The website information will be available in english and Georgian . The project leaflet will be used to promote the web-site, during the local and national workshops all participants will be also invited to visit it.	RECC IT specialist 2 man/ days, RECC information officer 2 man/days
Project information leaflet	Project Team(project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer	Raising awareness of broad spectrum of stakeholders on the potential of forests to contribute to green economy, spread information about the project, promoting project’s web-site and supporting active engagement of stakeholders in implementation of the project.	10.09.2014	The project information leaflet will be translated into Georgian and five hundred copies (500)will be published. Information leaflet will be distributed in hard copies among governmental major stakeholders, as well as different target groups, CBOs and NGOs, local schools and public institutions. In addition to this the leaflet will be distributed via RECC electronic network and placed into REC web page.	printing cost 350 USD (the leaflet is ready for printing)

Project newsletters	Project Team (project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer, Nato Kirvalidze.	The newsletter will contain national, international and local news , other informative articles and digest of current events. The articles will focus on green economy concept, potential of forests to contribute to green economy, the potential of wood energy and efficient use of wood.	Bilingual Quarter(3 Editions : edition#1 published by September 15, edition#2- December 15, March 15) Newsletters will be published online as well as in print.	The project team with support of all project partners will prepare A4, four page color newsletters and publish 500 copies of each. The newsletter will be distributed among appropriate government institutions (ministries) and all related stakeholders. The electronic versions of the newsletters will be circulated via RECC e-mail network and uploaded on the websites of RECC and Forest agency. The layout and printing of newsletter will be done by printing company.	Printing cost 2500 USD (3 editions, four page color A4 500 copies of each) design 600 USD
TV spot	(project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer.	Raising awareness on the potential of forests to contribute to green economy	October 7	1:00 minute TV spot "Sustainable forests contribute to a sustainable economy ", which conveys the following messages: -Forest products are our oldest and main source of material and energy. -The smart choice: use wood and energy from healthy forests. -Wood is the largest source of renewable energy in Europe will be prepared in close cooperation with the forest agency and broadcasted at public channel for free of charge in October and November. For preparation of the TV spot the advertising company will be hired.	3800 USD

Video	Project Team (project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer.	dissemination of information about the project activities and results achieved	one TV program will be prepared and broadcasted by March 31, 2015	3 minute video will prepared based on interviews obtained during the local and national workshops/ meetings. People from the regions (farmers, villagers, local authorities... etc.) will be interviewed, asking 3 simple questions, for example: what did you learn today? why forests are important to you, what are the biggest challenges for forests in Georgia. People from different ministries also will be interviewed, who were engaged to the working group of the project. a detailed plan for the video. Editoiral team will summerise the answers and prepare the videio with	
Celebration of the National Forest Day in Georgia, October 10.	Project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer.	Raising awareness about the role of forests in green economy.	1-10 October,2014	Using main message "Families, Farms and Forests - Prosperity for Generations" tree planting activities will be pplaned and implemented in close cooperation with the Forest Service of Tbilisi municipality in diffrenet part of Tbilisi city with participation of mayer and other high level oficals.	RECC IT specialist 2 man/ days, RECC information officer 2 man/days
Publication of the action plan	Project coordinator from RECC(Sophiko Akhobadze), IT specialist, information officer. Nato Kirvalidze, national coordinator	Raising awareness about the role of forests in green economy.	March31, 2015	The Action plan will be developed by National coordinator of the project in close cooperation with the forest agency . Layout and printing of this publication will be done by RECC	2 750 USD