

<b>Name:</b>	<b>35. ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE SYUNIK MOUNTAIN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS OF ARMENIA</b>		
<b>Region</b>	Asia	<b>Country</b>	Armenia
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Forest & woodland; Mountain		
<b>Nature of approach</b>	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (identifying and/or developing adaptation approach, awareness raising, capacity building, incorporation into relevant strategies); Implementation of EBA measures (natural resource management)		
<b>Description of approach</b>	<p><b>Objective/Expected outcomes</b> Based on assessments of impacts of climate change, including variability, Armenia's Syunik forest region has been identified as vulnerable, particularly to the threat of aridification. Some impacts are already being felt, with expansion of semi-desert and steppe vegetation belts and decline of the alpine vegetation belt. The goal of the project is to enhance national capacities to adapt to climate change impacts, through the incorporation of adaptation into the forest management framework, to improve climate change resilience of the forests to ensure the forest continues to deliver ecosystem services to local communities (including forest fire prevention and from forest resources).</p> <p><b>Actions</b> The project is working with the Government of Armenia to introduce innovative technologies for forest restoration, pest management and forest fire prevention that take full account of both present and projected climate impacts. Ultimately, 75,000 hectares of forest area will benefit from restoration measures designed specifically to address degradation pressures induced by climate change, including improvement in forest management, pest control and forest fire management.</p> <p>An innovative pest control approach is also being tested in a 4,000 hectare area, helping to replace the use of pesticides that exacerbate the vulnerability of already fragile forest ecosystems. The project will also introduce measures to minimize fire risks by improving thinning and other management operations as well as by raising awareness about actions that lead to forest fires.</p> <p><b>Results achieved</b> To date, 35 hectares of forest have been rehabilitated with a mix of local tree varieties, to increase the adaptive capacity of the ecosystem. 42 community residents have found temporary seasonal employment during the forest rehabilitation pilot project. It is expected that this number will increase once the forest ecosystems are restored and the benefits of their services are realized.</p> <p>The project has also focused on education and awareness activities, including a seminar on the 'Vulnerability of Mountain Forest Ecosystems and Enhancement of Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts' for media representatives, outreach activities with schools, and other advocacy measures including signboards on the risks of forest fires.</p> <p><b>Lessons learned</b></p>		
<b>Type of organisation</b>	Government; UN Agency	<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Government of Armenia; GEF, UNDP
<b>Further information and contact details</b>	<p><a href="http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3417">http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3417</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.nature-ic.am/res/pdfs/projects/CP/Forest/Project_Overview_October_2010_eng.pdf">http://www.nature-ic.am/res/pdfs/projects/CP/Forest/Project_Overview_October_2010_eng.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.adaptationlearning.net/project/adaptation-climate-change-impacts-mountain-forest-ecosystems-armenia">http://www.adaptationlearning.net/project/adaptation-climate-change-impacts-mountain-forest-ecosystems-armenia</a></p> <p>Contact: Regional Technical Advisor, Keti Chachibaia, <a href="mailto:keti.chachibaia@undp.org">keti.chachibaia@undp.org</a> or UNDP/GEF Project Task Leader Aram Ter-Zakaryan, <a href="mailto:aramterzakaryan@gmail.com">aramterzakaryan@gmail.com</a></p>		