

## **Fostering Community Forest Policy and Practice in Mountain Regions of the Caucasus**

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### **Mission in Adygeya 6-8 June 2011**

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#### **Objectives:**

1. Workshop in Dep. of Forest management of Adygeya: discussion of implementation of reforestation activity in Guzeripl forestry.
2. Observation of the forest tree nursery in Guzeripl forestry.
3. Meeting with Public Forest Council in Guzeripl forestry, obtaining information on its activity and relations with Dep. of Forest management of Adygeya; discussion of steps of CFMP development. Assistance in mapping information obtaining.
4. Meeting in NABU-Caucasus office. Organization of working partnership of Public Forest Council and NABU – Caucasus.

#### **Activity:**

1. Workshop in Department of Forest management of Adygeya, 8 June.

Participants: Head of Department R.Ya. Belmekhov, representatives of staff, N. Alentyev (Head of Adygeyan branch of Russian Forest Protection - Roslesozashita), R. Mnatsekanov (WWF), representatives of Dakhovskaya local administration, Yu. Lagosha (Public Forest Council), project team (see pictures).

- 1.1. Crucial issues, ways and area of reforestation were discussed.

It was confirmed that crucial issue is restoration of forest tree nursery in order to have permanent planting material for reforestation and regeneration of damaged forests. Absence of planting material is an obstacle for modern reforestation.

It was proposed to restore forest tree nursery in Guzeripl Forestry, Khamyshkinskoe forest management unit, Khamyshki village.

Company for implementation of the works will be selected (there are three candidates).

Filling-up is needed for restoration of fir and oak forest conditions of mountain slopes in Guzeripl Forestry.

Beneficial effect of tree nursery restoration is expected for local population who use forest resources; for school in Khamyshki village that will be involved in forest tree nursery restoration and reforestation; for biodiversity regeneration.

Detailed program of forest tree nursery restoration is under developing by Guzeripl foresters and Department specialists. It will be delivered to project team in July 2011.

Public Forest Council is ready to take participation in restoration and reforestation actions.

Co-funding is expected from Department of Forest management of Adygeya.

Roman Mnatsekanov and Nikolai Alentyev offered assistance of WWF and Roslesozashita in consultations and control.

**Protocol of intent was developed and signed by RREC and Dep. of Forest management of RA. Department will organize, control and assist in tree nursery restoration and further forestation actions. Final selection of responsible organization is postponed up to September 2011 for clarification of legal aspects of tree nursery restoration and further forestation actions.**

For implementation of this activity detailed schedule of Project financing is necessary.

1.2. It was discussed that sustainable forest management includes maintenance of natural regeneration of the forests. It was confirmed that permanent system of raising population awareness in sustainable forest management must be organized. Project activity in this direction is extremely useful and fruitful. First steps to involve young people in forest protection and management are made: Forest groups are organized in two schools in Guzeripl Forestry, and highly qualified experts and specialists from WWF were invited to give first practical lessons (May 2011).

Dep. of Forest management emphasizes that public awareness raising in maintenance of natural forest regeneration is an important element of reforestation activity of the project.

**2. Field observation.** Forest tree nursery in Guzeripl Forestry was observed 9 June. N. Alentyev (Roslesozashita) and Maksim Rodionov (forester) took participation (see pictures).

Tree nursery occupies 16 ha. Fir and oak are main planting material. At present only 4 ha can be used for planting, other area is abandoned because of shortage of funding.

Stages of restoration:

1. Reclamation and protection measures: weeding, rooting out, tillage, fencing.
2. Seed harvesting.
3. Planting.

Next stages: filling-up of fir forest (Khamyshki) and reforestation of individual plots in oak forest (Sahray).

**3. Meeting with Leader (Yu. Lagosha) and representatives of Public Forest Council in Guzeripl forestry, 9 June.**

Public Forest Council functions according its program.

Anti-poaching control is regularly carried out by volunteers. Project team emphasized that volunteers have to act according legislation, which has a lot of restrictions for non-governmental actions.

Volunteer Fire Brigade is under organization.

Council members consider that activity of local population in solving forest problems raised markedly because of Public Forest Council establishment.

Due to Project actions Environmental Watch for North Caucasus (EW) consults Public Forest Council in forest legislation.

CFMP development was discussed. Due to Project actions EW prepared mapping information including GIS maps and space images concerning Guzeripl forests. This information is available for Public Forest Council and will be used for its current activity and development of CFMP.

**4. Meeting in NABU-Caucasus with S. Derziyan, Director.**

Participants: project team, Roman Mnatsekanov (WWF), Yu. Lagosha, N. Kovalev (Public Forest Council), N. Alentyev (Roslesozashita)

Subject of discussion: cooperation between forest projects which are carried out in Adygeya.

NABU was informed on reforestation plans and activity of Public Forest Council. It was concluded that agreement on cooperation will be developed between NABU and Public Forest Council. Sides will exchange information; NABU will find some ways to support Council activity by funding. Agreement on partnership is under preparation.

#### **Outputs:**

- 1) Protocol of intentions concerning reforestation activity is signed by RREC and Dep. of Forest management of Adygeya.**
- 2) Information of Guzeripl forest tree nursery is obtained.**
- 3) Public Forest Council, activists from local population and schools will participate in reforestation activity.**

- 4) WWF and Roslesozashita will assist in implementation of reforestation activity by consultations and control.**
- 5) Public Forest Council in Guzeripl forestry is established and acts according legislation.**
- 6) Activity of local population in solving forest problems is raised essentially.**
- 7) Agreement on partnership of NABU-Caucasus and Public Forest Council is under preparation.**
- 8) Public Forest Council cooperates with Environmental Watch in joint actions.**
- 9) Mapping information including GIS maps and space images concerning Guzeripl forests is available for Public Forest Council from EW and will be used for current activity and development of CFMP.**

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