

**USDA Forest Service Trip Report  
Georgia and Armenia, October 18-30, 2004**

**USFS Team Members:**

DeAndra Beck, Special Assistant to the Director, International Programs Office

Lara Peterson, Russia, Europe, Eurasia Program Specialist, International Programs Office

## **USDA Forest Service Trip Report Georgia and Armenia, October 18-30, 2004**

**Purpose:** DeAndra Beck and Lara Peterson, from USDA Forest Service International Programs (FS/IP) office, travelled to Georgia and Armenia October 18-30, 2004 to assess the potential for USDA Forest Service technical assistance to these countries. This trip was completed at the request of USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES), USDA-Georgia Rural Development Program (RDP), and USDA-Armenia Marketing Assistance Project (MAP).

### **Georgia:**

**Context:** Forests and protected areas in Georgia are under increasing threat from community pressures, including fuel wood collection, grazing, and illegal harvesting near cities and villages. The Georgian Forest Department has limited human and financial resources to address these concerns, a situation that has been exacerbated by a historic reliance on enforcement rather than community education and partnerships. The newly appointed Chairman of the Forest Department, Bidzina Giorgobiani, has proposed a series of structural and legislative changes to reform the Forest Department and to be financed by the World Bank. Coincident with the need to increase the institutional capacity of the Forest Department is the need to work with local communities to identify fuel alternatives, develop education and outreach tools, participate in forest management and identify business opportunities consistent with forest management plans.

USDA has been working in Georgia for several years to facilitate the economic development of the country's rural sector by enhancing the quality of agricultural goods and services produced. Although not currently engaged in the forestry sector, USDA-Georgia recognizes that rural communities depend on this resource for fuel-wood and other products, and that Georgian forests are under increasing threats from community pressures. They would like to expand their programs accordingly to meet these needs. Therefore, USDA-Georgia invited a team from FS/IP to Georgia to assess the potential for USFS technical assistance to the country and to develop a proposal for the allocation of monetized proceeds from the sale of bulk commodities under P.L. 480 Title I towards forestry efforts in Georgia. Due to political sensitivities associated with the monetization process and to avoid raising expectations, FS/IP was asked by FAS-Moscow to limit interactions with Georgian government officials during this trip. Ability of FS/IP to manage a forestry program using monetized proceeds is dependent upon allocation of USAID funding to offset agency administrative and operational costs; therefore, the team met with USAID to discuss priorities and opportunities for collaboration. The team met with USDA-Georgia, the Georgian Forest Department, the World Bank Forestry Development Project Implementation Unit, USAID-Georgia, and nursery owners in addition to travelling to the Adjara region to visit potential reforestation sites. Meetings and site visits confirmed the need for a community forestry and outreach initiative in Georgia, and FS/IP is excited about the potential for developing a forestry program in Georgia. A one-page concept paper for a Community Forestry and Outreach Initiative was developed in the field (see appendix A). Meeting overviews and possible next steps are presented below.

### **Meeting overview:**

- **USDA-Georgia:** USDA-Georgia has a strong and growing program with competent and enthusiastic leadership and staff who are very supportive of working with FS/IP to develop a forestry initiative in Georgia. Based on current field activities, USDA-Georgia recommended

that a forestry proposal should have a strong focus on rural development and youth education. USDA-Georgia currently employs one forestry specialist, Arsen Somkhishvili, dedicated to this process. Mr. Somkhishvili organized the site visits and accompanied the FS/IP team for meetings in Tblisi and in the field. USDA-Georgia offered to share resources and space with an FS/IP project; however, it is unclear how recent organizational changes with USDA program management will affect future interactions.

- **Georgian Forestry Department:** The team's meeting with the Georgian Forestry Department (GFD) was brief and general. GFD is undergoing many organizational and legislative changes, and Chairman Giorgobiani is interested in incorporating lessons learned from other countries into the process, notably Western Europe where he spent a number of years studying. The World Bank is supporting much of the restructuring. Though at the request of FAS the team did not discuss the potential for forestry work using monetized funds, FS/IP did agree to provide scholarships for up to one Georgian to attend each of the three Forest Service International Seminars in 2005.

Next steps:

- 1) Identify appropriate seminar participants
- 2) If the FS/IP proposal is successful, identify ways to coordinate with the Forestry Department and World Bank to most effectively complement their efforts

- **World Bank Forests Development Project Implementation Unit (PIU):** The PIU is working very closely with the State Forestry Department to improve forest governance and management. The plans are ambitious and comprehensive, and project components include forest sector governance and reform, improved forest management and planning in pilot areas, forest protection and reforestation in priority areas, and project management and monitoring. Similarly to other projects in the region, however, this effort has been slow to start and show on-the-ground results. The forest management model being developed for Georgia utilizes the experience of Baltic and Western European countries.

Next steps:

- 1) If the USFS proposal is funded, coordinate with the PIU to avoid duplication of efforts

- **USAID-Georgia/US Embassy:** John Hansen (USAID-Georgia), who was recently assigned to Georgia, expressed interest in supporting a forestry initiative if it addresses USAID's priorities for the region, including alternative energy sources and rural community development. If the proposal meets their criteria, USAID-Georgia has the capacity to provide funds to offset the dollar costs of managing a forestry project in Georgia. FS/IP agreed to solicit input from USAID on a one-page proposal prior to submitting it to FAS-Moscow.

Next steps:

- 1) Incorporate USAID feedback into the one-page proposal
- 2) Develop a preliminary project budget detailing allocation of USAID and monetized funds
- 3) Negotiate arrangements for project management

- **Gori nursery:** The team visited a former state nursery in Gori that has been privatized. The purpose of this visit was to assess local capacity for seedling production, particularly within the private sector. The facilities at the Gori nursery, which occupies 24 ha, are very basic. Though the director of the nursery has good technical knowledge, he would need to put some thought into expanding his client base and making the business self-sufficient. Yet, he is

open to suggestions. This nursery is situated close to Tbilisi and may be useful when looking at markets in and accessible to the city.

Next steps:

1) Evaluate the potential for working with this nursery in conjunction with specific projects resulting from the proposal

- **Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park:** The team visited the Borjomi-Kharagauli Park to observe its proximity to local communities, its recreation capacity, and the illegal harvesting of wood from the park. The park covers more than 76,000 hectares and contains unique biodiversity. Although it only became a National Park in 1995, this territory has long had protected status. Therefore, Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park provides a distinct contrast to areas that have been under more active utilization.
- **Batumi Seedling Production Initiative:** As with the Gori nursery, the team visited a former state nursery in Batumi that has been privatised in order to assess local capacity for seedling production. Mr. Manvelidze's nursery facilities are more impressive than those at Gori nursery. Additionally, he has shown some initiative in collecting seeds to propagate nut-bearing tree species and developing maps of the different ecological zones in the Adjara region. After consultation with USDA-Georgia, his plan is to establish three nurseries in several ecological zones, which will supply seedlings to reforest degraded sites within the respective zones. He seems open to collaboration, although it will be necessary to find a way to make the nursery self-sustaining to avoid dependency on donor and/or state funding. Severe degradation was evident at the potential reforestation sites he showed us. Additionally, more thought will need to be put into selection and management of these sites to avoid conflict with traditional land-users and to cultivate a sense of community ownership of the project. As such, the institutional arrangements with plantation owners should be examined. The Batumi Botanical Gardens, which the team drove through, are in close proximity to the selected sites and could provide an interesting resource for research. Overall, problems related to deforestation in the Adjara region are starkly evident from touring the region.

Next steps:

- 1) If this nursery is incorporated into the project, work with implementers and the nursery director to improve management plans
- 2) Evaluate the potential for working with multiple nurseries to avoid a monopoly of resources or dependence on donor funding
- 3) Ensure that community outreach is incorporated into any restoration sites in the area

**Summary Actions:** Based on the week long site visit, FS/IP concurred that it would be useful to develop and submit a forestry proposal to FAS-Moscow for allocation of foreign currency. FS/IP was clear with all parties that any foreign currency proposal would be contingent on leveraging funds from USAID-Georgia to cover dollar costs associated with administration and operation of the project.

Next steps:

- 1) Submit one-page forestry proposal to FAS-Moscow and USAID-Georgia for review
- 2) Upon acceptance of the proposal for further consideration by both FAS and USAID, develop a more detailed 5 page proposal, including budget

- 3) Define working relationship between FS/IP, USDA-Georgia, USAID, Georgian partners, and other groups active in the forestry sector in Georgia

## **Armenia**

**Context:** The forested territory in Armenia, concentrated in the north and southeast parts of the country, has been steadily decreasing over time. Deforestation rates reached their height during Armenia's energy crisis during the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union; however, demand for fuel wood, in addition to lack of enforcement, corruption, illegal cutting, inadequate forest legislation, and rural poverty, continues to threaten the forest resources and stability of the environment.

Responsibility for the Armenian Forest Service, Hayantar, was recently transferred from the Ministry of Nature Protection to the Ministry of Agriculture. USDA has had a very positive working relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture for many years through its Marketing Assistance Project (MAP), which provides technical, financial, and marketing assistance to agribusinesses, farmer marketing associations, and cooperatives. Therefore, Minister of Agriculture, Davit Lyokyan, requested help from USDA in the subsequent restructuring process. The FS/IP team was invited to attend the International Agroforum, held in Yerevan October 28-30, to present an overview of US Forest Service International Programs and to meet with Ministry officials and others working in the forestry sector. This was an exploratory trip; no specific funding sources have been targeted, and the feasibility of USFS intervention in Armenia is uncertain. This portion of the trip included consultation with USDA-Armenia, meetings with USG and Armenian officials, NGOs, and other groups working in the forestry sector, and participation in Agroforum. Meeting overviews and possible areas for USFS intervention are detailed below.

### ***Meeting Overview:***

- **USDA-Armenia MAP:** USDA MAP, started in 1996, has a strong presence in rural areas throughout Armenia through agricultural projects and youth clubs. This network could provide a strong foundation for expanding the program into the forestry sector. Additionally, the program already receives strong in-country political and local support that could be leveraged. MAP staff is extremely competent and willing to work with the USFS should any projects develop in Armenia; however, it is unclear how recent USDA organizational changes will affect current and future programs. Moreover, the USDA MAP program lacks local staff that have forestry expertise; collaboration on forestry programs may require additional human resources.
- **Armenian Ministry of Agriculture:** Forest management is a main concern of Minister Lyokyan, as the ministry recently inherited responsibility for forest management in Armenia from the Ministry of Nature Protection. Historically, timber and fuel resources were imported from Russia, thus the break-up of the Soviet Union and subsequent lack of resources led to a severe energy shortage. This resulted in high levels illegal cutting for fuel wood in already scarce forests, a problem that still persists due to rural poverty and cultural practice. This situation is more thoroughly described in reports by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the World Bank (WB). The Ministry of Agriculture now manages approximately 80% of Armenian forests. The remaining 20% of forest resources as well as water resources are managed by the Ministry of Nature Protection, which also has authority over enforcement and monitoring. The current World Bank project

focuses on reforming the forestry sector in two pilot sites, but little is being done throughout the rest of Armenia. There is also a significant lack of human resources for forestry work. As Armenia was considered a low-forested country, no in-country forestry training existed during the Soviet Union. A new forestry department is currently being developed at the Armenian Agricultural Academy; however, significant training is needed to develop a tradition of sustainable forestry. In addition, there are gaps in forestry initiatives and legislation in Armenia despite increased efforts to address these issues. International assistance in Armenian forestry is a relatively recent phenomenon and the ministry would welcome any assistance in combating the numerous problems facing the sector. As community pressures are a key source of deforestation pressures, poverty reduction needs to be addressed simultaneously with more technical forestry issues.

- **Hayantar (Armenian Forest Service):** Illegal cutting for fuel wood is a critical problem in Armenia and has social, rather than technical, roots. Nonetheless, forest management problems also exist. Armenia currently faces the task of reforming the forest sector and finding alternative energy sources to meet the needs of the population. Institutional reforms have focused on a Latvian model, as the Baltics are leading the process of forest sector reform among post-Soviet countries, though they intend to incorporate various models into the Armenian system. Hayantar feels that the recent division of forest management responsibilities is a positive step towards reform. There is a need for a national forest plan to provide a cohesive framework to make it easier to work with individual communities. Hayantar echoed concerns that the WB project only focuses on two regions, thereby allowing the Forest Service to develop only in those areas. A new Forest Code is in development, calling for privatization and adaptation to a semi-market economy. Hayantar is under great pressure from the NGO community, but feels that their reports are not accurate and that a complete forest inventory and evaluation is needed. Reported levels of deforestation are likely the result of a combination of several factors: decline in forests, decrease in inventory efforts, and lower reforestation efforts. Corruption is a problem in the forest sector due to low levels of pay and lack of adequate resources for employees. They do feel they have made some progress, however, through international donations, creation of task forces on illegal logging, development of a new Forest Code and national forestry program, renewed reforestation efforts, and development of a forestry faculty. They know of the success of USDA projects in Armenia would like to cooperate with USDA FS.
- **USAID-Armenia:** USAID-Armenia currently has no forestry programs, but their current focus on energy and water issues does have the potential to incorporate forestry projects. Focus on energy efficiency began with the energy crisis of the early 1990s. Historically, projects focused on improved regulations and privatization of the energy sector. More recent efforts involve improving energy efficiency and identifying alternative heating sources. A regional water project recently ended. Upcoming projects focus on water delivery and implementation of a basin-level trans-boundary water management plan, pending agreements between Armenia and Azerbaijan. USAID-Armenia recognizes the importance of forestry issues related to watershed protection and energy resources and indicated there may be opportunities for a larger forestry project in the future.
- **World Bank PIU:** The WB project focuses on two marzes (regions) in NE Armenia, totalling 7,000 ha. Project components include: 1) community watershed protection; 2) state forestry management (financed by SIDA); and 3) biodiversity. Three nurseries are planned and are in the design phase. Size and location of nurseries will be developed along with forest management plans. WB requested USFS technical assistance to identify proper materials, technology, distributors, and procurement methods for this work (e.g.

biodegradable seedling containers and high quality, low cost nursery structures and irrigation systems). Management plans will be developed over the next year with local and international experts and, following ministry approval, action plans will be developed. As forests are state property, there are no true community forests. However, the project has identified two pilot sites for developing community plans to manage forests for fuel wood and NTFPs. An adequate legislative framework is necessary before community forestry can be properly developed. In addition, certification will be investigated on a 150 ha site. WB indicated that project implementers lack necessary technical skills. They would like to develop capacity in the following areas: forest modelling; management planning; and remote sensing and GIS. Project implementers feel that separating functions of the ministries (management vs. monitoring) was a positive step, although institutional reorganization needs to complement this first step. WB implementers participated in drafting the new Forest Code, which allows for private and community ownership. However, they believe that such a move should not be taken immediately given current socio-economic conditions. To solve some of these issues, the project also addresses community development and alternative fuels. In addition, the project has a protected area component; they are waiting for a report from FS experts who travelled to Georgia in the summer of 2004 so they can organize procurements for next spring.

- **Swedish International Development Coordination Agency (SIDA):** SIDA's overriding goal in the Caucasus is to facilitate poverty reduction and prevent conflict. Their regional office is located in Georgia, though they currently have no forestry projects there. SIDA is responsible for financing the state forest management and institutions component of the World Bank Project in Armenia, initiated three years ago. This project includes forest policy, public participation, and training. Accomplishments and activities are as follows: development of a national forest policy, which was recently approved by the Armenian government; initiation of a participatory process to aid the development of the new Forest Code; work with the Ministry of Agriculture to reorganize the Forest Department; completion of an assessment of illegal logging; and preparation of an illegal logging action plan (ILAP). SIDA feels that moving Hayantar to the Ministry of Agriculture was a positive step for forest management. They believe efforts should be aimed at poverty reduction and alternative fuels, not just enforcement, as most illegal logging can be attributed to fuel wood needs. Green NGOs are pushing these issues forward to receive increasing attention, but according to SIDA, they don't thoroughly understand forestry issues. NGOs want to outlaw cutting, but demand for forest resources and therefore illegal logging can only be decreased by increasing the output of productive forests. Therefore, capacity for forestry work must be built up in Armenia. SIDA feels there are good lines of communication between SIDA, World Bank Armenia, and World Bank Georgia, as well as with the NGO community and local villagers.
- **Armenian Agriculture Academy:** The Armenian Agricultural Academy is establishing a new forestry department, which currently exists as a program within the Agronomy Faculty. The forestry department will have increased degree opportunities and course subjects. The Armenian Agricultural Academy has a cooperative relationship with several Swedish Universities. This program provides exchanges, equipment, and materials for the forestry department, along with methodological support. Dr. Sayadyan, lecturer in the Forest Department, explained that though there are still nurseries functioning in Armenia, financial restraints have limited their capacity. He also believes that a program of public education should be created to instill a tradition of forestry that did not previously exist in Armenia.
- **Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC):** ATC was established in 2000 through a cooperative agreement between the Armenia Agricultural Academy, USDA MAP, and Texas A&M

University. This center offers a three-year agribusiness degree to Armenian students, providing skills in international marketing, finance, management, computers, and language.

- **NGOs:** There is an extensive NGO community in Armenia. The team met with several that MAP indicated were most active in the forestry sector.
  - **Greens Union of Armenia:** Greens Union of Armenia seeks to protect the environment through advocacy and the promotion of safe energy sources. This NGO helped develop the current Forest Code (ratified in 1994). They have also organized expeditions to monitor illegal logging, though specific activities were unclear. Key stances include: opposition to the new Forest Code and forest privatization; current forestry projects do not adequately address needs or NGO input; international grant systems have undermined grass-roots efforts and project sustainability; and transfer of the Forest Department to the Ministry of Agriculture was a positive move, though division of responsibility still needs to be worked out; and solutions should focus on available resources. This NGO has strong philosophical arguments critical of current forestry trends in Armenia, but was hard-pressed to identify concrete ways to improve the situation. It was unclear from this short meeting how strong their presence is in Armenia and in the field.
  - **Armenian Tree Project (ATP):** The team joined a group that visited a nursery of the Armenian Tree Project. On the way, the team visited several reforestation sites in Yerevan. Before and after pictures showed dramatic changes and highlighted the heavy deforestation of the early 90s and increased cover as a result of greening projects. ATP has a unique and effective approach that emphasizes community participation through contracts with communities that guarantee minimum survival rates to ensure maintenance of trees donated by the project. One hundred percent of ATP's funding comes from donors, particularly the Armenian-American Diaspora. Project managers have not built in mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainability. Potential solutions include expanding species cultivated at project nurseries to include ornamentals, selling art work of project artisans, and establishing donation collections on the tourist market. The nursery was established within a refugee village to provide jobs to the community and cultivate project ownership. There is also an environmental education center on site. The staff were knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and innovative, but could benefit from technical assistance and market development.
  - **EPAC Environmental Public Advocacy Center:** EPAC was established in 1997 as Armenia's first environmental law advocacy organization. EPAC seeks to increase public participation in environmental decision making in Armenia and through this, catalyze enforcement of environmental laws. They represent and advocate individual and citizen groups' interests, facilitate public meetings and discussions, post emerging legislation in papers, and hold workshops. They were not aware of SIDA's efforts to increase public participation in forest legislation; either the results were not as far-reaching as SIDA indicated, or communication among environmental groups is not as coherent as indicated by EPAC. EPAC did, however, seem well connected to current environmental activities in the region. They have been actively involved in developing land and water codes for Armenia, but have worked less with the Forest Code. The Director is not against the theory of privatization, which has worked well elsewhere. But, she and others feel the timing is bad; without proper checks and balances, opportunities for corruption and unsustainable activities are too great. The

legislative basis for proper forest use must be developed and enforcement ensured for privatization to become a viable option in Armenia.

- **Armenian Forests NGO:** Armenian Forests began 2 years ago as a project of the Tufenkian Foundation and achieved NGO status a year and a half ago. Their primary goal is reforestation and aforestation in Armenia. They feel forestry issues in Armenia are connected to larger problems including corruption, illegal logging, lack of alternative heating solutions, etc. Studies indicate that 70% of harvested wood is used for fuel. Most wood harvested is used locally, though some whole logs are being exported. They have worked with SIDA and WB on forest policy issues and will lobby sound legislation to protect forests and provide for reforestation. They would like to open a forum for public participation to urge accountability of government agencies. Armenian Forests has several model reforestation projects. They use local hires and community members are involved in tree planting and maintenance. Trees are being planted primarily for ecological reasons and erosion control. Harvesting newly established forests is not allowed. They hope to expand their efforts in collaboration with Hayantar. Seedlings currently come from Hayantar, private nurseries, and densely forested areas. However, those collected have a low regeneration and germination rate. They are currently developing nurseries to support reforestation efforts. One goal of their work is to create employment opportunities to make gas more affordable, and they are working with local mayors to control cutting and create incentives for using alternative fuels. They are also working to publish education materials. While ATP focuses on community planting, AF focuses on the ecological functions of forests. There is some coordination, but their mandates, niches, and events are divergent. Challenges to reforestation efforts include maintenance and registration of reforested lands. This NGO has worked well with SIDA and WB, but feels the WB project should have a larger reforestation component. They too are concerned about the privatization of forests, because there are no proper safeguards in place; once resources are gone, there is no going back. Armenian Forests suggested several areas where USFS technical assistance could fill gaps not currently being addressed, including training activities; development of a training institute and field-based learning activities; harnessing funding for reforestation efforts; establishment of a seed orchard; forest monitoring and inventory; development of management plans; satellite and GIS mapping; collection of baseline forest health inventory data; capacity building for forest protection against pests and fire; and urban/forest interface.
- **Ecoteam – Energy and Environmental NGO:** ECOTEAM focuses on promoting the development of environmentally sound renewable energy sources and energy saving through advocacy work, development and application of new advanced technologies, and community participation. ECOTEAM is actively involved in increasing public awareness and has developed extensive informational materials, including booklets, newsletters, etc. Their programs are run both with and without outside grants. They are well connected in the international NGO and environmental community. ECOTEAM has worked on practical alternative energy solutions with UNDP/GEF and WB, as well as nature protection issues related to energy consumption. In their view, even where gas is available, it is too expensive for villagers; therefore, trees continue to be cut for fuel wood. ECOTEAM has not been involved in the Forest Code draft process, but they are interested in related issues such as biomass energy and watershed and water quality issues. They believe that in villages, small hydropower plants would be the most effective alternative fuel source

even though these require high initial investments. Therefore, biomass is the best short-term solution. Though there has been a lot of talk about renewable energy in Armenia, they feel there has been little action. Interests and abilities include alternative energy sources, technical solutions, small grants, energy efficiency, USAID projects with schools, windmills, biogas, etc.

## **Appendix A**

### **Community Forestry and Outreach Initiative**

#### **Context**

Forests and protected areas in Georgia are under increasing threat from community pressures, including fuel wood collection, grazing, and illegal harvesting near cities and villages. The Georgian Forest Department has had limited human and financial resources to address these concerns, exacerbated by a historic reliance on enforcement rather than community education and partnerships. The newly appointed Chairman of the Forest Department, Bidzina Giorgobiani, has proposed a series of structural and legislative changes to reform the Forest Department and to be financed by the World Bank. Coincident with the need to increase the institutional capacity of the Forest Department is the need to work with local communities to identify fuel alternatives, develop education and outreach tools, participate in forest management and identify business opportunities consistent with forest management plans.

#### **Proposal Elements**

The proposed effort in Georgia would include the following elements, constituting a two year effort based on a pilot site approach.

1. Community-based forest management and fuel wood production, including local reforestation and afforestation efforts to offset encroachment pressures
2. Education and outreach, including preparation of learning materials; engaging primary and secondary students in seed collection, tree planting, and field-based study; professional development opportunities for Georgian natural resource experts; and raising environmental awareness and community participation
3. Market development, including seedling production, niche products such as fruit and nut plantings, and locust wood production for vineyards
4. Furthering the Forest Department's policy and structural reform efforts
5. National endowment for tree production and community grants

#### **Partners**

Given the value added of coordination and synergy with ongoing programs, efforts will be made to collaborate with both domestic and international partners. Georgia-based partners may include the Forest Department, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education, the Georgia Rural Development Fund, the Agriculture Academy, and small to medium forestry enterprises. International partners may include USAID's programs of relevance (e.g., Georgian Energy Security Initiative), the Peace Corps, USDA Tbilisi, the World Bank, Project Harmony, WWF, and the British Petroleum/BTC pipeline project.

#### **Implementation and Budget**

Forest Service International Programs (FS/IP) office will be responsible for overall management of the proposed effort. The proposal is contingent upon allocation of both monetized proceeds from the sale of bulk commodities under P.L. 480 Title I and USAID funding (likely through the existing IAA with USAID/EGAT) to offset agency administrative and operational expenses. Texas A&M University and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), who have an existing program in Georgia with the Caucasus School of Business and over five years of experience in the region, are prepared to serve as the designated entity to receive and administer the monetized proceeds in support of the overall implementation effort. Forest Service will contribute some salary costs and provide selected opportunities for U.S.-based training.

<b>Freedom Support Act funding</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>PL 480 Title 1 monetized proceeds</b>	<b>\$2,900,000</b>

**Appendix B**  
**Georgia Work Schedule and Contact List**  
**October 20-24, 2004**

**Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

- **USDA-Georgia**

USDA-Georgia  
USDA Agriculture Quality Improvement Program  
#15 Tarkhnishvili Str.  
Tbilisi 0179, Georgia  
Phone: (995 32) 912 883  
[www.usda.ge](http://www.usda.ge)

Jim Richardson  
Team Leader  
Email: [jrichardson@usda.ge](mailto:jrichardson@usda.ge)

Arsen Somkhishvili  
Forestry Specialist  
Email: [asomkhishvili@usda.ge](mailto:asomkhishvili@usda.ge)

**Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

- **Georgia Forestry Department**

Bidzina Giorgobiani  
Chairman, Forestry Department  
Georgia Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources  
9, Mindeli str. 0186  
Tbilisi, Georgia  
Phone: (995 32) 329092  
Fax: (995 32) 320549  
Email: [giorgobiani@iberiapac.ge](mailto:giorgobiani@iberiapac.ge)  
[www.gfd.ge](http://www.gfd.ge)

- **The World Bank Georgia**

The World Bank Georgia  
Forests Development Project  
9, Mindeli str.  
0816 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Phone: (995 32) 357236/237/238

Manana Gvasalia  
Secretary/Translator  
Email: [mgvasalia@iberiapac.ge](mailto:mgvasalia@iberiapac.ge)

Vladimir Abashidze  
 Project Director  
 Email: [yabashidze@yahoo.com](mailto:yabashidze@yahoo.com)

- **USAID-Tbilisi/Embassy**

John Hansen  
 Mission Environment Officer  
 USAID-Tbilisi  
 20 Telavi Str., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Sheraton Metechi  
 Tbilisi, 280003 Georgia  
 Phone: (995 32) 922547, 778540/1/2, 938950  
 Email: [jhansen@usaid.gov](mailto:jhansen@usaid.gov)

Sabine Mau  
 Economic Assistant  
 American Embassy  
 25 Atoneli St.  
 Tbilisi 0105, Georgia  
 Phone: (995 32) 989967 ext. 4640  
 Email: [mausc@state.gov](mailto:mausc@state.gov)

**Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- **Gori nursery**
- **Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park**  
<http://www.borjomi-kharagauli-np.ge/>

**Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- **Batumi Botanical Gardens**
- **Batumi Seedling Production Initiative**

Kartlos Manvelidze, forester

**Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**

- **Drive from Tbilisi to Yerevan**

**Appendix C**  
**Armenia Work Schedule and Contact List**  
**October 25-29, 2004**

**Monday, 25 October**

09:00 USDA staff meeting

16:00 Meeting with Hakob Sanasarian, Greens Union of Armenia

**Greens Union of Armenia**

Hakob Sanasarian (President)

1/5 P. Sevaki, Rooms #19 &21

Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, 375000

(3741) 28 14 11

(2741) 25 76 34

[armgreen@ipia.sci.am](mailto:armgreen@ipia.sci.am)

**Tuesday, 26 October**

09:00 Meeting with Dr. Daniel Dunn, Manager of Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC) 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, ATC

10:00 SIDA

14:30 Dr. Hovik Sayadyan, teaches a course on Agro-Ecology and Forestry at the Armenian Agricultural Academy (Karla will meet you at 14:30 at USDA MAP)

16:30 Armenian Tree Project (ATP) Nursery (Meet at USDA MAP at 16:00)

18:00 Dinner with Jeffrey and Karla

**Wednesday, 27 October**

10:00 Meeting with Ag. Minister Davit Lokyan  
 Dr. Rao Ramkishan will also participate

12:00 Lunch with Aida Iskoyan

**EPAC Environmental Public Advocacy Center**

Aida Iskoyan (President)

11, Parpeci St., Apt.2, Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, 375002

(3741) 53 06 69; 53 92 55; (09) 42 00 21 cell; 55 96 44 (Yerevan State University)

epac@arminco.com

14:00 Meeting with Dr. Marina Vardanyan  
 Environmental & Natural Resources Specialist  
 US Agency for International Development  
 18 Baghramian Avenue  
 Yerevan, Armenia  
 Tel: (374-1) 529-975, Fax: (374-1) 543-871

16:00 Meeting with Hayantar (Armenian Forest Service)

18:00 Meeting with Armenian Forests NGO

**Thursday, 28 October**

10:00 AGROFORUM

14:00 World Bank, Natural Resources Management and Poverty Reduction Project  
Samvel Babloyan (Acting Director); Forest Management Component Expert ???  
Artavazd Hakobyan (World Bank Yerevan Office, Environment and Agriculture Sector  
Operations Officer) (09) 20-50-53 cell phone

IFC Office, c/o World Bank  
Republic Square  
9 Vazgen Sargsyan Street  
Yerevan 375010  
Tel: (374-1) 52-48-84; 65 02 12 (NRMPRP)  
Fax: (374-1) 52-17-87  
Email: [vsargsyan@worldbank.org](mailto:vsargsyan@worldbank.org)

16:00 **ECOTEAM of Armenia non-governmental organization**  
Artashes Sarkissian (Chairman)  
22a Abovian St., Apt. 53 Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, 375002  
(3741) 52 92 77; 54 07 84  
[ecoteam@armico.com](mailto:ecoteam@armico.com) [ecoteam@freenet.am](mailto:ecoteam@freenet.am)  
[www.ecoteam.iatp.irex.am](http://www.ecoteam.iatp.irex.am)

18:00 Dinner at the Government House

**Friday, 29 October**

10:00 Agroforum

18:00 Dinner at Old Yerevan

Filename: 050303\_GA&AM\_Oct04 trip report\_final.doc  
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Stella User\Desktop  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Stella User\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Trip Report  
Subject:  
Author: tdy4  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 3/3/2005 10:26 AM  
Change Number: 19  
Last Saved On: 3/4/2005 2:34 PM  
Last Saved By: Stella  
Total Editing Time: 137 Minutes  
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As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 15  
Number of Words: 5,652 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 33,179 (approx.)