

CONFIDENTIAL

Project Title: Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform (ECO.Georgia)

**Project number/
cost centre:**
**G-011655-002 /
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Title of the assignment: Forest vegetation assessment

Tender number
7000019404

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I. General information

1. Brief information on the project

Climate change impacts and the demand for fuelwood from rural population put significant pressure on Georgia's forests: up to 90% of rural households (1.43 million people) rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that households use obsolete technologies, such as traditional stoves with a lifetime of two years and an efficiency of 35% or less. Fuelwood demand exceeds sustainable harvesting levels, considering reduced productivity of many forests in the country because of extensive forest degradation. This forest degradation leads to a loss of carbon absorption capacity which is projected to decrease by five times between 1990 and 2030.

In order to address this negative development, the project "Enabling the Implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform - ECO.Georgia" supports the Government of Georgia to implement its transformational forest sector reform agenda to put the entire nation's forests under the framework for sustainable forest management (SFM). It will do so by supporting the establishment of a nation-wide SFM system (Component 1) and in parallel promoting market development for energy efficient appliances and alternative fuels (Component 2) to address the main driver of forest degradation. The project will safeguard the reform implementation by diversifying livelihood opportunities and strengthening local self-governance in forest adjoining rural communities (Component 3).

The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) with GIZ being the project's accredited entity. The German contribution is part of the wider German support in the priority area "Environmental policy, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the South Caucasus", which aims at the sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and climate protection, particularly for the benefit of the rural population. Similarly, both the share of renewables in the energy composition as well as the energy efficiency levels will increase.

Especially rural households using firewood as their source of heating energy will benefit from improved air quality and reduced fuelwood demand through eased access to energy efficient stoves. Forest-related small and medium-sized enterprises and their employees will receive support to improve economic efficiency and environmental sustainability of their business activities. Additionally, staff members of relevant public institutions (National Forestry Agency NFA, Department of Environmental Supervision DES, Environmental Information and Education Center EIEC, Rural Development Agency RDA, municipalities) will receive direct support through human capacity development measures.

ECO.Georgia primarily contributes to achieving the SDG 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems) of the 2030 Agenda of the UN, but also to achieving SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), SDG 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), and SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

This contract is being signed in the framework of the project "Green Transformation Georgia (ECO.Georgia)". The project including all its activities has been approved by the Government of Georgia through Decree N743 from April 08, 2026 amending Decree N1542 from August 31, 2021, approving the signature of the Implementation Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for the ECO.Georgia project.

The duration of ECO.Georgia is from April 2021 until May 2030

2. Context

The GIZ has been supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), main implementing partners: its Forestry Policy Department (FPD), the National Forestry Agency (NFA), Department of the Environmental Supervision and Rural development Agency (RDA), as well as EIEC in different directions dealing with forest sector reform, with strong focus on introduction of close-to-nature Sustainable Forest Management into forestry practice.

As part of the commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the government of Georgia ensures regular reporting of climate-change-related issues in the form of national communications and biennial update reports. Concerning Land Use, Land-Use Changes and Forestry (LULUCF), forests are considered to have a net carbon sequestration capacity, as the annual growth of aboveground biomass (mainly in form of wood) is considered to outweigh the loss due to timber and firewood harvesting.

At the moment, as a consequence of lacking data, Georgia is only able to report on a Tier 1 basis to UNFCCC, i.e. working with default values from similar European forest ecosystems, but The National Forest Inventory (NFI) and the Forest Management Inventories (FMI) of Georgia, carried out in the recent years, have generated the necessary basis of the existing aboveground forest biomass stocks and increments for a reporting scheme on a Tier 2 or even Tier 3 basis.

Only little data are available of the belowground biomass and the nutrient and carbon stocks of Georgian forests. To close this gap, a nation-wide forest soil inventory and soil assessment of 33 natural forest ecosystems was conducted between 2019 and 2024 in the frame of the ECOserve and ECO.Georgia projects implemented by GIZ, and along with soil, forest vegetation was also assessed on the soil sampling sites, so that along with soil data, vegetation data is available resulting in complete data for sampling sites. Having full site description, covering belowground as well as aboveground (vegetation) assessment is important for comparison with other areas and interpretation.

Forest vegetation assessment is an integral component of the ongoing soil survey. It provides essential information required for the following purposes:

1. To enable a comprehensive assessment of aboveground and belowground carbon stocks;
2. To facilitate a thorough comparison between degraded and natural forest soils and identify their distinguishing characteristics;
3. To support the update and refinement of soil classification systems; and
4. To generate scientific information for the publication of international research articles on Georgia's forest soils and their carbon content.

The process of soil study and vegetation assessment on the sampling plots has continued and it was decided to include sampling of additionally up to 16 forest sites. This would enrich the data base and would make comparison results more valid.

While soil study for the above-mentioned additional sites is ongoing (under different GIZ contract), vegetation assessment on those additional sites needs to be carried out in order to result in complete site descriptions dataset.

3. GIZ shall hire the contractor for the anticipated contract term, from September, 2026 to April, 2027.

The services described in Section 4 shall be provided until December 2026.

4. The contractor shall provide the following work:

The objective of the assignment is assessing vegetation on up to 16 forest sites/clusters according to NFI/FMI methodology (annex N1) at those sites where only soil profiles were assessed so far. Each forest site must be described by one cluster consisting of 3 sample plot. Forest sites located in different regions of Georgia mostly in: Guria, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kakheti, and Mtskheta-Mtianeti (please see annex 2 – “Soil Assessment Sites”. Precise locations of sites will be shared with a contractor later).

In particular, the contractor shall fulfil the following tasks:

- Attend a virtual kick-off workshop with GIZ for ensuring proper understanding the tasks, presenting the team and reflecting on the ideal implementation of this work package.
- Carry out fieldworks and assess vegetation according to the NFI/FMI methodology on up to 16 forest sites where soil has been assessed (listed in the annex 2).
- Submit the data in the appropriate format (Open foris, collect and Excel).
- Regularly exchange with the GIZ and its contractors involved in soil study.

Milestones/partial works	Date/location/responsibility
Milestone 1: Kick-off meeting and Vegetation assessment on up to 16 forest sites.	Kick-off meeting within 2 weeks after contracting and Vegetation assessment expected within 12 weeks after contracting

Deliverable: (Milestone 1) assessment data for up to 16 sites in appropriate format (Open foris, collect and Excel)

II. Tender requirements

1. Qualifications of proposed staff

The tenderer is required to propose personnel for the positions specified here and described with respect to the areas of responsibility and qualifications on the basis of relevant CVs. The below specified qualifications represent the requirements to reach the maximum number of points in the technical assessment.

1.1 Expert 1: Team Leader (EX1-TL)

1.1.1 General qualifications

Education: University degree in Environmental protection or forestry.

Professional experience: 5 years of professional experience in the environmental protection or forestry sector.

1.1.2 Experience in the region/knowledge of the country

5 years of experience in projects in Georgia

1.1.3 Language skills:

business fluency in English C1

1.2 Expert 2: Forester (EX2-F)

1.2.1 General qualifications

Education:	University degree in forestry
Professional experience:	3 years of professional experience in greed-based forest inventory (NFI or FMI)

1.2.2 Experience in the region/knowledge of the country

3 years of experience in projects in Georgia

1.3 Expert 3: Forester (EX3 - F)

1.3.1 General qualifications

Education:	University degree in forestry.
Professional experience:	3 years of professional experience in greed-based forest inventory (NFI or FMI).

1.3.2 Experience in the region/knowledge of the country

3 years of experience in projects in Georgia

1.4 Expert 4: Assistant to Forester (EX4 - A)

1.4.1 General qualifications

Education:	University degree in forestry or Natural Resources Management
Professional experience:	1 years of professional experience in forestry, green space management or similar field

1.4.2 Experience in the region/knowledge of the country

1 years of experience in projects in Georgia

1.5 Expert 5: Assistant to Forester (EX5-A)

1.5.1 General qualifications

Education:	University degree in forestry or Natural Resources Management
Professional experience:	1 years of professional experience in forestry, green space management or similar field

1.5.2 Experience in the region/knowledge of the country

1 years of experience in projects in Georgia

2. Quantitative requirements

The contract to be concluded is a contract for works. The specification of inputs below serves as an orientation for the tenderer.

Fee days	Number of experts	Number of days per expert	Comments
Preparation/debriefing	1	2	
Implementation	4	8	
Travel expenses	Number of experts	Number of days/nights per experts	Comments
Per-diem allowance in country of assignment	4	16	2 days per expert
Overnight allowance in country of assignment	4	8	Overnight stays outside Tbilisi (2 experts per site)
Travel costs (train, private vehicle)	4	16	Round Trip to each 16 sites

Since the contract to be concluded is a contract for works, you should offer your services at a fixed lump sum price, which provides **an itemised breakdown of all the relevant costs (fees, travel costs, etc.)**. **The specification of inputs should provide guidance in this respect.** The assessment of the financial bid is based on the lump sum price tendered, which must be realistic for the services to be rendered. In the contract itself, the budgets will be contractually agreed as **maximum amounts**.

3. Conceptual

The tender should indicate how the services outlined in Section I.4 (Tasks) are to be provided. Reference should be made to the following criteria:

Strategy (3.1): The tenderer is required to consider the tasks to be performed with reference to the objectives of the services put out to tender (see Chapter 1 Context). Following this, the tenderer presents and justifies the explicit strategy with which it intends to provide the services for which it is responsible (see Chapter I.4 The contractor shall provide the following work).

The tenderer is required to present the actors relevant for the services for which it is responsible and describe the **cooperation (3.2)** with them.

The tenderer is required to describe the key **processes** for the services for which it is responsible and create an **operational plan** or schedule **(3.3)** that describes how the services according to Chapter I.4 (The contractor shall provide the following work) are to be provided. In particular, the tenderer is required to describe the necessary work steps and, if applicable, take account of the milestones and **contributions** of other actors (partner contributions) in accordance with Chapter I.4 (The contractor shall provide the following work).

III. Requirements on the format of the tender

The CV submitted for each expert can have a maximum of four pages. The concept (if required) should not exceed five pages. If one of the maximum page lengths is exceeded, the content appearing after the cut-off point will not be included in the assessment. External content (e.g. links to websites) will also not be considered).

IV. Other provisions

1. Budgeting and payment

Final payment will be effected after provision of all the deliverables given above.

Annexes

- Annex 1 – NFI/FMI field manual
- Annex 2 – Soil Assessment Sites.