

Project information

Study trip: Innovative forest management and integrated concepts of forest- and nature protection in Germany



Excursion in the
Biosphere Reserve
Schorfheide-Chorin
with experts of the
Georgian Ministry of
the Environment

Source: R. Moreaux



Updated: October 2014

Background

In Georgia, more than 40 % of the country is covered with forest. However, the logging increased after the collapse of the Soviet Union because of the shortage of energy sources. The abrupt transition from planned economy to market economy caused an expansion and intensification of use of natural resources. Today, the export of wood is one reason for the growing deforestation in the Caucasus region. The intensity of traditional forest pasture also increases. Therefore the devastation of the forests is as serious as never before. Only few natural forests with high species richness remained. In these forests the local people subsist on traditional forest use and are aware of the importance of ecologically forest use to maintain their livelihood. National and regional nature conservation concepts are needed to maintain the livelihood of the local people and to preserve the biodiversity of natural and cultural landscapes in the Caucasus region. These concepts have to integrate ecologically land use, sustainable resource use, species and ecosystem conservation. In particular, it is important to implement sustainable forestry approaches and to train the forestry staff in applying these concepts.

Target country/region:

Georgia, Germany

Duration:

15.7.-15.10.2014

Beneficiary:

Employees of the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Resources, the forestry agency and reserve agency Georgia

Implementing organisations:

Michael Succow Foundation with the support of GIZ Tbilisi, Georgia

Project number:

43056

Project

The Michael Succow Foundation organised a one-week study trip to Germany to support the further education of Georgian forestry employees. Forest areas and applied models of sustainable and future-oriented forestry in the Harz National Park, in the municipal forest of Lübeck and in the Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin were presented to the Georgian delegation. The results of the sustainable forest management and the conservation concepts were explained by German forestry experts, who accompanied the trip. These concepts and their possible application in Georgia were discussed during a workshop at the end of the trip. The educational trip was coordinated with the programme “Sustainable biodiversity management in the South Caucasus” of the German Society of International Cooperation (GIZ) in Tbilisi, who supported the project by preparing the trip and during the follow up. The aims of the project and the educational trip were to discuss possibilities to transfer the sustainable forestry concepts to Georgian conditions and to apply them in Georgian forests. The transfer of knowledge about those concepts supports the development of sustainable forestry in Georgia.

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for Environmental Protection in Central and Eastern Europe, the
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