Since 2013, Georgia has been actively implementing reforms in its forest sector, prioritizing the establishment of a robust regulatory framework. This includes the adoption of the new Forest Code and its associated by-laws, which are founded on globally recognized principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The Forest Code introduces a systematic categorization of forests, new forms of forest use, and the concepts of state, municipal, and private forest ownership.

With support from GIZ and UNECE/FAO, Georgia has developed and adopted national principles, criteria, and indicators for SFM (C&I). These measures aim to enhance forest policy planning in alignment with Georgia's national plans, priorities, and international commitments.

A notable achievement in the Caucasus region is Georgia's completion of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and the subsequent preparation of a comprehensive report. This initiative has provided Georgia with reliable quantitative and qualitative data on its forests, enabling policymakers to make informed decisions.

The country is also advancing a Forest Information and Monitoring System (FIMS), which aims to digitally consolidate data from various sources such as forest inventories, forest cutting, and forest restoration activities. The development of this system will help improve IT infrastructure and support the creation of interconnected programs. Several modules are currently under development, with the system expected to become fully operational soon.

In the area of forest education and sector popularization, there are seven TVET colleges and four universities nationwide. Additionally, under the Green Climate Fund Project - ECO.Georgia, the "Forest School" training program has been introduced. Targeted at students in grades IX-XII, the program seeks to cultivate interest in forestry while teaching the core principles of sustainable forest management and biodiversity. Under the same project, a Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP) is being developed to ensure that forestry professionals acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to implement actions under the new Forest Code effectively.

Georgia is diversifying its forest products by developing the economic value chain of timber and non-timber forest resources. Research has been conducted to identify specific non-timber forest products with significant economic potential. Through the project of ECO.Georgia, the country is supporting business operators by helping them establish a market presence and develop the skills needed to produce non-timber forest resources successfully.

Efforts to combat forest fires, a key cause of forest degradation, are also ongoing. Georgia has established bilateral transboundary cooperation with Armenia and Azerbaijan, supported by

the OSCE. These initiatives focus on joint measures to prevent forest fires and improve coordination and existing cooperation frameworks.

Strengthening the capacities of the National Forestry Agency and the Department of Environmental Supervision remains a priority. Both agencies are being equipped with modern technologies, including patrol vehicles, cameras, and tablets, to enhance their operational efficiency.

Additionally, Georgia is transitioning its policies and management practices towards sustainable harvesting and fuelwood provision. Business Service Yards (BSYs) have been established nationwide, providing a sustainable alternative for fuelwood procurement and reducing pressure on forest resources.

The country is also promoting energy-efficient practices and the development of alternative fuel markets.

Ongoing or future planned activities

- Finalizing the FMI inventory and developing management plans
- Granting the categories of forests
- Setup of Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRV) for emission inventory for major industrial sectors, inluding forest-related emissions
- Practical implementation of municipal forest management

Voluntary National Contibutions (VNC) of Georgia

Member State: Georgia
Date/Forum session that voluntary national contributions were announced:
Date voluntary national contributions transmitted to secretariat through Permanent Mission to the United Nations:

Time frame	Concise description of each contribution and any associated activities	Supports the global forest goals and targets	Contribution included in nationally determined contribution	Contribution also contributes to:		
				Sustainable Development Goals targets (list)	Post-2020 biodiversity framework (list)	Other
By 2030	Contribution 1: Afforestation/reforestation activities on identified 1,500 ha of degraded lands/ Assist natural regeneration of forests through different methods on 7,500 ha	1.1	No[1]	15.1	2, 3, 11	Bonn Challenge Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
By 2030	Contribution 2: Implementation of forest maintenance and protection measures on 70, 000 ha	1.1	No	15.1	2, 3, 11	
By 2030	Contribution 3: Reforestation on identified 20, 000 of degraded lands[2]	1.1	No	15.1	2, 3, 11	

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[1] The process of NDC update is underway in Georgia, therefore, inclusion of presented VNCs in NDC is not yet decided
[2] Separate national contribution, not a part of contribution 1 (Bonn Challenge)