

# Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus

## First Mission Report



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Report

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WITH FUNDING FROM  
AUSTRIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION

## 1. Objectives and tasks

The objective of the assignment is to provide technical assistance to the National Forestry Nursery - in terms of production of high-quality seedlings, and to provide advice to the MoENRP in nursery management.

In particular, the consultant shall fulfil the following tasks:

- a. Advisory service for the management of the nursery and on-job training of the personnel in the different subjects related to production of high quality seedlings, including production of small containerized seedling; shrub and tree production in big pots; production of plug + 1 seedlings (improved bare root).
- b. Considering “close to nature” approach, advisory support to NFN and NFA in selection of suitable plus trees for seed production and selection of seed production areas; in seeds collection, treatment and preparation of seeds as well as documentation and storage of seeds.
- c. Support and assistance to NFN in trouble-shooting, when and if appears during the assignment period.
- d. Study and short presentation to FPS, NFA and NFN within *the nfp* working Group of the modern development of forestry nurseries in EU countries.
- e. Visit, rough visual assessment of “forest district nurseries” of the NFA and recommendations for improvement when and if feasible.
- f. Drafting the concept of possible development of forestry nursery issue within the MoENRP.

## 1.1 Present situation

“Sartichala nursery” is in good progress, it looks good and the nursery is clean and tidy. Business seems to increase with a new contract with Tbilisi City Hall as well as of contract with Ministry of Environment and National Resources Protection regarding red listed species. The National Forestry Agency is also buying Pine seedlings for the burned area in Borjomi. And within a year or two there will be an increased number of even bigger trees and shrubs for landscaping, city greening and for gardening.

To meet some ideas from NFA to plant fast growing species in order to decrease the pressure to the natural forest from firewood, the nursery is recently started trials with Paulownia and Morus hybrids as fast growing species. Also the nursery has started the production of Poplar for wind breaks.

Most of the surplus seedlings which were not sold or delivered were transplanted into bigger containers or into ordinary nursery soil as coming bare root seedlings, so hopefully no over grown seedlings with bad root systems will leave the nursery in the future.

## 1.2 Following-up and Training sessions in Sartichala National Nursery

There is still a bit to learn and adopt regarding seed improvement and seed stratification, they are still using old fashion methods for this and fully use the guidelines from GIZ. Anyhow, we are aware of the problems with the seeds and have introduced pre seeding in beds or boxes for later transplanting (within 4 – 8 weeks) into the growing containers. This is a suitable method for red listed species as well as for most of the broadleaves with low seed quality.



*Training in transplanting April 2016*

**1.3 Visit to NFA Borjomi temporary Nursery**



<p><i>Visit Borjomi together with Marine Sujashvili, Deputy Head of Forest Maintenance Department of NFA and staff from NFA</i></p>	<p><i>Borjomi temporary nursery</i></p>
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I have visited one of the 9 temporary nurseries belonging to FNA. 6 of the nurseries have started production and the plan is to produce 1 – 1.5 million seedlings from these nurseries.

I plan to visit more of these temporary nurseries during this year and come up with a **concept of nursery management** development within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection.

**1.4 Next Mission May 22 – May 28**

Next mission is planned from May 22 to May 28, continued work and trouble – shooting with Sartichala nursery and continued work with NFA and their temporary nurseries.

## 1.5 Expected support to Sartichala nursery from GIZ

The new water reservoir is losing water too quickly, the Nursery have a critical necessity and a wish that GIZ support with a special “rubber” cloth for the bottom of the reservoir. The expected cost for such work, including the material is 25 000EUR. The reservoir was built last year and the support from the GIZ to cover its bottom with special material was preliminary agreed, however the management of the nursery decided to wait and check whether such cover is necessary or the soil structure and composition is sufficient to keep water.

The nursery manager and his staff would like to do a study tour to Germany to learn more about big tree production: harvesting, harvesting machines and planting operations; also production and using of compost in containers.



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