

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**  
**On forest certification development in Georgia**

**Between**  
**Forest Stewardship Council**  
Hereinafter referred to as «FSC»,

**And**

**Forest Department of the**  
**Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia**  
Hereinafter referred to as «FDMOEPNR», hereinafter collectively referred  
to as the «Partners»,

Expressing their respective commitment to environmentally appropriate,  
socially beneficial and economically viable management of forest in  
Georgia.

Acknowledging the benefit of sustainable forest management for  
biodiversity conservation, social welfare and economic use of forest  
resources,

Stressing the importance of facilitating the forest sector reform in Georgia

Underlining the importance of developing systems for forest certification in  
Georgia.

Recognizing the critical importance of collaboration to overcoming illegal  
harvesting, and

Have reached the following agreement:

**Article 1. The Partners will support each other in the development of  
strategies, approaches and standards for environmentally appropriate,  
socially beneficial and economically viable management of forest in  
Georgia.**

**The Partners will:**

1.1 establish a joint working group of FSC and «FDMOEPNR» to facilitate  
development of strategies, approaches and standards for economically,  
socially and environmentally responsible forest management and forest  
products trade;

- 1.2 ensure immediate information exchange on the development of these strategies, approaches and standards and work plans in this field;
- 1.3 carry out joint workshops, consultations, field testing and capacity building on these strategies, approaches and standards and related procedures;
- 1.4 hold joint meetings, conferences and study visits as required to facilitate acceptance and implementation of these strategies, approaches and standards.
- 1.5 support each other in comprehensively integrating strategies, approaches and standards for socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable forest management with normative documents, legislation and relevant regulation in Georgia.
- 1.6 support each other in implementing strategies, approaches and standards, and normative documents, legislation and relevant regulation for socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable forest management in Georgia.

**Article 2. The Partners will closely collaborate on the development of monitoring, accreditation and certification (auditing) systems and their collaboration.**

**The Partners will:**

- 2.1 ensure the exchange of experience between the FSC and the «FDMOEPNR» on monitoring, inspection, accreditation and certification (auditing) systems and standards and relevant international norms;
- 2.2 support each other in the development of the monitoring and inspection systems and standards, by providing training and technical assistance, and relevant materials on established international norms;

**Article 3. The partners will efficiently exchange information on all aspects of forest certification including markets for certified forest products in Georgia and worldwide.**

**The Partners will:**

- 3.1 provide each other with information about their respective legislative norms, standards, monitoring, inspection and certification procedures, and work plans;

3.2 cooperate in initiatives related to experience of tracking and controlling the origin of timber and timber products in order to eliminate forest products from illegal logging from forest products trade;

3.3 hold joint meetings, conferences and study visits as required to facilitate successful collaboration;

#### **Article 4. Realization of agreement by the Partners**

**The Partners will:**

4.1 prepare and confirm activity plan for 2007 on implementation of this agreement and activity plan for 2008 based on the implementation results of 2007;

#### **Article 5. The Partners will seek to resolve conflicting interests.**

**The Partners will:**

5.1 in the event of conflicting interests and/or views seek mutually agreeable resolution of the conflict;

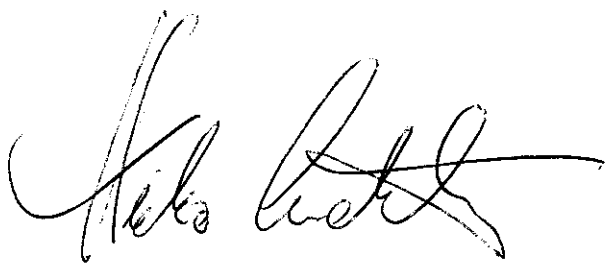
5.2 will not carry disagreements into the public, unless it is mutually agreed.

#### **Article 6. The Partners will enact this agreement jointly.**

**The Partners agree that:**

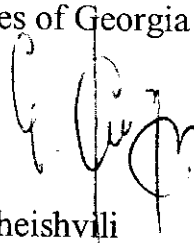
6.1 This partnership agreement is enacted upon its signing.

For the Forest Stewardship Council



Heiko Liedeker  
Executive Director

For the Forest department of  
the Ministry of Environment  
Protection and Natural  
Resources of Georgia



Zviad Cheishvili  
Chairman