



Forestry Development Project (P147760)

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA | Belarus | Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy Global Practice | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing | FY 2015 | Seq No: 13 | ARCHIVED on 18-May-2021 | ISR46217 |

Implementing Agencies: THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, Ministry of Forestry, BellesExport

Key Dates**Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date: 27-Mar-2015

Effectiveness Date: 30-Jul-2015

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 28-Feb-2018

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 02-Apr-2018

Original Closing Date: 31-Aug-2020

Revised Closing Date: 31-Aug-2021

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The Project Development Objective is to enhance silvicultural management and reforestation and afforestation, increase the use of felling residues and improve the public good contribution from forests in targeted forest areas.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components Table

Name

Improving silviculture and the sustainability of forest management:(Cost \$36.47 M)

Improving forest fire prevention, monitoring, detection and suppression, improving forest management information systems:(Cost \$4.88 M)

Building the capacity for sustainable forest management (including GEF Project management):(Cost \$2.10 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

This is the second-to-last ISR covering project implementation progress between October 2020-March 2021 based on the information shared by the implementing agency Bellesexport.

The construction of a new forest nursery in Mogilev oblast has been completed, and it was officially opened on September 16, 2020. This is the 4th and final nursery being supported under the project. Previously completed three forest nurseries include: (i) the Ivatsevichi nursery opened in April 2018, (ii) the Glubokoye nursery opened in October 2018, and (iii) the Minsk Oblast nursery opened in September 2019. These nurseries will improve the quantity and quality of seedlings for afforestation and reforestation, and they will create new jobs. The Ministry of Forestry has equipped



the Mogilev forest nursery with all the necessary additional equipment to be ready for the first plantation season this spring 2021. The variety of supplied equipment includes: a line for filling cassettes with substrate and sowing seeds in them, metal holders (frames), plastic cassettes of 64FD and 100F types, and a multifunctional loader.

During the virtual mission in June, the Bank agreed with the Ministry of Forestry on the ways to support forestry staff to address COVID-19 impact and post recovery. The project through GEF Grant would purchase 90 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for the forest enterprises staff in 4 new forest nurseries. This procurement has been completed and all PPEs were delivered in January 2021. PPEs include coveralls, respirators, half masks for working with chemicals in new nurseries and SFEs. They would also be procured for "Bellesozaschita" to ensure safe working conditions in radioactive areas. Other procurement items that have been completed include : i) 82 items of manual gasoline sprayers for forest nurseries, ii) 6 units of equipment for testing and repairing fire hoses for "Bellesozaschita", and iii) 1 car for the "Bellesozaschita" to conduct the testing and repairing of fire hoses and carrying necessary testing equipment. The unmanned aerial vehicle to be used in the Ministry of Forestry is expected to be delivered by this month.

The other completed project activities include: i) delivery of 9 harvesters for thinning to Grodno State Production Forestry Association; ii) supply of 12 harvesters for thinning and 5 forwarders to Gomel State Production Forestry Association; iii) delivery of a pine core drying machine, 40 000 plastic box for packing, and 42 000 plastic containers for seeding to Republican Breeding and Seed Production Center; and iv) supply of 2651 metal holders (frames) for placing the containers to Mogilev SFE Forest Enterprise. The SFEs also received all training as planned under the contracts and no quality claims were made as of January 2021.

Under the GEF Grant, 5 contracts for analytical activities of Component 1 and Component 3 are now under implementation for US\$ 0.45 million, of which US\$ 0.04 million has already been disbursed. Currently, there are no delays, all reporting materials are submitted by the consultants on time, except for workshops and seminars, which are being postponed or rescheduled due to the COVID-19 situation in the country and as recommended by national authorities. As planned, one GEF Steering Committee meeting was held on January 21, 2021 and the World Bank team was invited to participate in the meeting in the role of observer. The Ministry has developed an Electronic Reference Book of protected areas to improve information support for forestry workers about the location and characteristics of protected areas located in the state forest Fund of the Republic of Belarus. Similarly, for development of the "Reforestation Management Information System", the PIU contracted Private Trade Unitary Enterprise "SOFTMAX Telemetry Systems", which has finalized the report and developed the software LesInfo.

Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	☐ Moderate	☐ Low	☐ Low
Macroeconomic	☐ Moderate	☐ Low	☐ Low
Sector Strategies and Policies	☐ Moderate	☐ Low	☐ Low
Technical Design of Project or Program	☐ Low	☐ Low	☐ Low
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Fiduciary	☐ Substantial	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate
Environment and Social	☐ Low	☐ Low	☐ Low
Stakeholders	☐ Low	☐ Low	☐ Low
Other	--	--	--
Overall	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate	☐ Moderate

Results

PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

The Project Development Objective is to enhance silvicultural management and reforestation and affor



► Area of young and middle-aged production-forest thinned according to approved management plans (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	132,500.00	168,000.00	105,000.00	165,000.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The reported actual value is for the interim reporting period of July 2020-January 2021. In the next progress reporting period due in June 2021, the Ministry of Forestry will report the final actual value, which will include the remaining 8 months of 2021. Per their estimates, the indicator will reach the planned end target.			
► Amount of carbon (CO2) sequestered (Metric ton, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	4,643,384.00	5,285,315.00	5,285,315.00	5,245,627.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The reported indicator value already exceeds the planned end value. It includes the seedling production capacity of the 3 seedling lines in the new forest nurseries. It also accounts for 6.52 million seedlings planted in the growing fields in the spring 2020. In the next reporting period due in June 2021 the indicator will be finally evaluated for Y6. It will account the capacity of seedling production of all 4 new seedling lines as well as the seedlings planted in the growing fields as results of the planting season in spring 2021.			
► Economic performance of participating SFEs enhanced (Amount(USD), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	22,604,000.00	21,578,000.00	15,826,000.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The indicator is on track and for Year 6 it has exceeded the planned amount of 15 826 000 for Year 6. This indicator measures the excess of revenue over expenditures inclusive of all financing sources for participating State Forest Enterprises.			
► Capacity to produce high quality seedlings increased (number of container grown seedlings per year in project-financed nurseries) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	14,341,200.00	14,341,200.00	23,700,000.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	<p>The reported indicator value for Year 6 for July 2020-January 2021 remains as in previous ISR reporting period, however it is on track. This is linked with the reporting methodology of the Ministry of Forestry and that the rotations of planting will start in spring 2021 . So the actual value will be reported in the next June 2021 progress reporting.</p> <p>To note that the value of 14 341 200 includes 2 rotations periods in the three operating new nurseries in Ivatsevichi, Glubokoe and Minsk. It also accounts the seedling materials from these new forest nurseries which were transferred to leshozes for growing fields. Construction of the 4th nursery in the Mogilev Forestry has been completed, and it has been officially opened in September 2020, the first rotation of seedling production is planned for spring 2021.</p> <p>The Project helped new nurseries to obtain new types of cassettes which could technologically help to significantly increase the seedling production capacity. Overall the Ministry of Forestry assured the Bank</p>			



team that the planned end target will be achieved , despite the fact that this end value was estimated based on the seedling production capacity of 6 new forest nurseries. The end target was revised as negotiated for AF Loan to be 23.7 million from the 6 new forest nurseries suggested as part of restructuring for AF which was cancelled by WB at the request of Belarus Government.				
► Average utilizable volume of commercial timber harvested during intermediate felling in targeted SFEs increased (Cubic Meter(m3), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	28.50	34.50	34.50	35.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The Year 6 actual will be updated with the results of 8 months of 2021 in the next progress reporting. As per the Ministry of Forestry it will reach it's planned end target. Current value remains optimal for keeping the productivity level on a sustainable level. This measures the intensity of the thinning operations and cannot exceed 35m3/ha per thinning operation.			

Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Improving forest fire prevention, monitoring, detection and suppression, improving forest management information systems				
► Reforms in forest policy, legislation or other regulations supported (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The Ministry of Forestry processed a number of by-laws and decrees to fulfill the provisions of the new Forestry Code since it was introduced in 2017. This also included the clarifications of the forest management activities composition; detailing other types of logging. Procedure for measuring, marking and accounting of harvested wood has been clarified. Similarly, the State Program "Belarusian Forest" for 2016-2020 has been reviewed and update for new planning period is being prepared. A draft of the State Program "Belarusian Forest" for 2021-2025 has been developed, drawing up proposals to update the strategic plan for the development of the forestry industry for the period from 2015 to 2030. This new Program was approved in the end of January 2021.			

Building the capacity for sustainable forest management (including GEF Project management)				
► Number of people trained (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	2,243.00	2,775.00	3,448.00	3,000.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	Indicator is on track and the actual value for Year 6 even exceeded the planned annual target. Some of the face-to-face trainings were postponed or rescheduled due to the COVID19 measures of the Ministry of Forestry. However the Ministry intensified number of online trainings, which allowed to keep up the indicator value.			



The number of female trained is also on track, there is an increase in the number of female entering the sector and receiving the required training., despite the fact that the forestry sector in Belarus is male-dominated.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of people trained - female (Number, Custom Breakdown)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	110.00	148.00	157.00	150.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Govt institutions provided w/ capacity buildg to improve mgt of forest resources (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	8.00	12.00	11.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The indicator is on track. The delegates from the Ministry of Forestry and selected SFEs participated in total in the 12 study exchanges meetings/programs/ workshops in Poland, Romania, Kazakhstan, Switzerland and Belgium. In view of the COVID 19 situation, some of the planned study tours and exchange visits for the remaining period till August 2021 were postponed or dropped. The Ministry of Forestry is closely monitoring the situation and will discuss with the Bank team if during the remaining period any capacity building activities could be arranged in the remaining period till project's closing.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project-supported organization(s) publish reports on inputs and effect of consultation and information dissemination activities on project/program/policies (Yes/No) (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	Final reports with results from 14 project activities are available on the UE "Bellesexport" and MOF websites. The project progress information is regularly provided on the website of the Ministry of Forestry and the main media forestry journals and magazines ("Belarusian forest newspaper"; magazine "Forestry and Hunting", "Architecture and Construction"; newspaper "Soviet Belarus-Belarus today" and "Minskaya Pravda"). Stands on the construction of forest nurseries with visual graphic and text materials are established by district executive committees to inform the local population about the construction of nurseries.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	37,924.00	38,487.00	35,500.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	The indicator has exceeded the planned target already in Year 6.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Female beneficiaries (Percentage, Custom Supplement)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	0.00	17.40	17.70	17.50
Improving silviculture and the sustainability of forest management				
► Nursery lines for container grown seedlings of native tree species established (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	4.00	4.00	6.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	20-Oct-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	<p>This indicator in Year 6 includes all seed lines in the 4 established new forest nurseries - Ivatsevchi (opened in April 2018), Glubokoe (opened in October 2018), Minsk (opened in September 2019), and Mogilev (opened in September 2020). The end target value was retracted as part of AF restructuring cancellation to 6 nursery lines, and the total number of financed nursery lines will be 4 as per the Ministry of Forestry priorities and needs. However the capacity of these 4 seedline (23,7 million seedlings) plus the volumes of SFEs nursery fields provide the forestry sector of Belarus with sufficient growing materials to ensure sustainable forest management.</p>			
► Improved thinning regime developed (Yes/No, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	<p>Indicator is on track. Supplied units of machinery to all SFEs continue to contribute to the introduction of new technologies for forest thinning operations. In addition, adjustments to the Provision of the Ministry of Forestry No. 68 dated December 2019 were made, taking into account the existing forestry practice such as clarifying the grounds for felling. The version of this Provision remains valid as of January 2021.</p>			
► New areas outside protected areas managed as biodiversity-friendly (ha) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	1,226,700.00	4,646,164.00	4,642,805.00	4,500,000.00
Date	27-Mar-2015	01-Jul-2020	31-Mar-2021	31-Aug-2021
Comments:	<p>The indicator is on track and even Y6 data covering June 2020-January 2021 exceeds the planned target of 4,500,000 hectares. The area of mixed stands under the authority of the Ministry of Forestry is indicated, with the exception of specially protected natural areas (forest reserves and natural monuments). Moreover, the Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus has new requirements of forest management with an emphasis on biodiversity conservation throughout the territory.</p>			

Performance-Based Conditions

Data on Financial Performance

Disbursements (by loan)

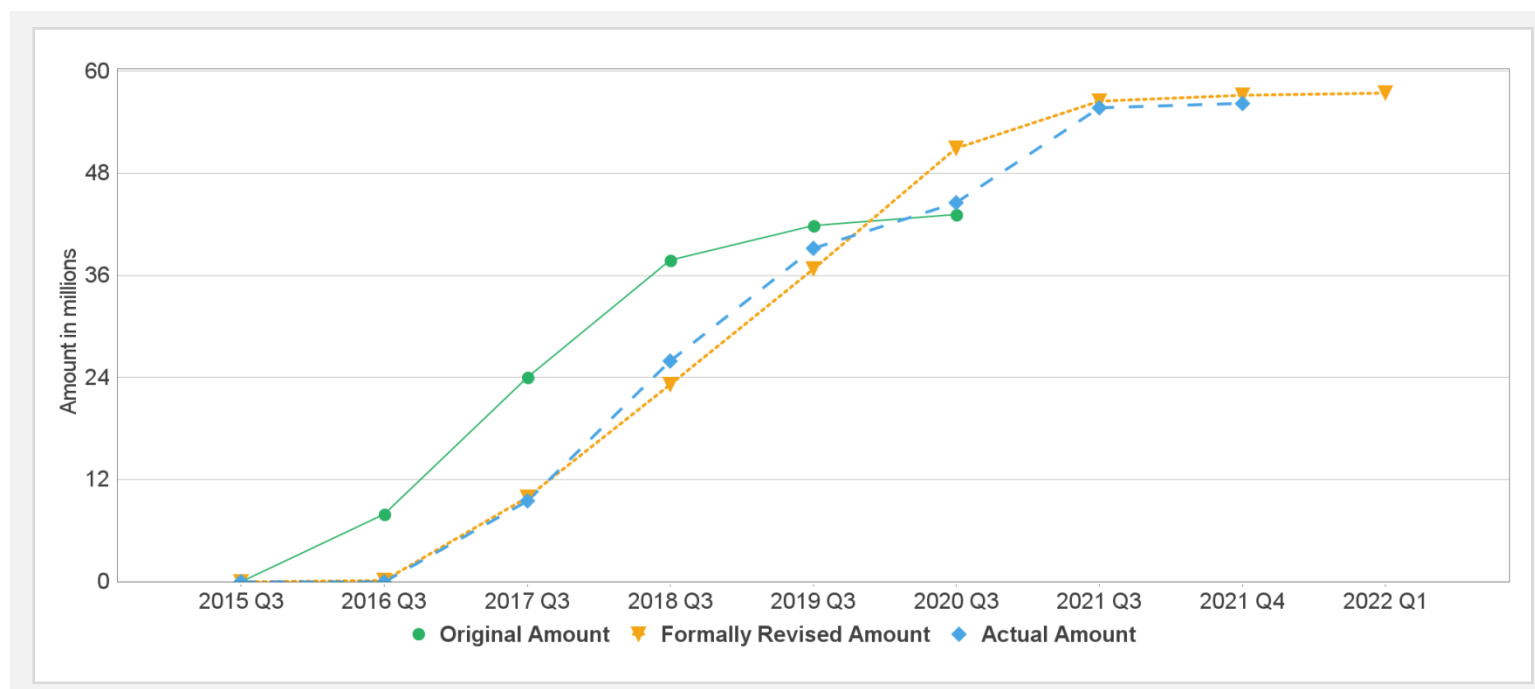


Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P147760	IBRD-84740	Effective	USD	40.71	40.71	0.00	40.41	0.30	99%
P147760	IBRD-88210	Effective	USD	14.40	14.40	0.00	13.27	0.55	96%
P152636	TF-A1173	Effective	USD	2.74	2.74	0.00	2.49	0.25	91%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P147760	IBRD-84740	Effective	27-Mar-2015	02-Apr-2015	30-Jul-2015	31-Aug-2020	31-Aug-2021
P147760	IBRD-88210	Effective	12-Mar-2018	11-Apr-2018	09-Aug-2018	31-Aug-2021	31-Aug-2021
P152636	TF-A1173	Effective	02-Apr-2015	02-Apr-2015	30-Jul-2015	31-Aug-2020	31-Aug-2021

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

Level 2 Approved on 17-Sep-2018 ,Level Approved on 09-Apr-2019 ,Level 2 Approved on 17-Jul-2019

Related Project(s)



P147760-Forestry Development Project ,P152636-Forestry Development Project ,P165121-Belarus Forestry Development Project - Additional Financing
