



Field visit in Gori (Daniel Zollner)

## Integrated Land Use Plans for Municipalities in Georgia (Georgia)

Integrated Land Use Plans for Georgia

### DESCRIPTION

Under the framework of the project 'Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia', four Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs) were developed to support sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Georgian municipalities of Gori, Kareli, Kvareli and Sagarejo. The objective of the ILUPs is to provide strategic guidelines for decision makers and authorities for the spatial development of agriculture at the landscape unit level over the period of 2021 to 2030.

The project 'Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia', financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) for the Caucasus, aims to develop new sustainable land management (SLM) systems at both the commune and farmer plot levels, that integrate climate-smart agricultural production, food security and resilience and thereby contribute to Georgia's objectives for Land Degradation Neutrality.

This WOCAT-based approach describes the development of four Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs) for sustainable agriculture and rural development in the municipalities of Gori, Kareli, Kvareli and Sagarejo (each 1000-2500km<sup>2</sup>).

The objective of the ILUPs is to provide strategic guidelines for decision makers and authorities for the spatial development of agriculture in the four municipalities for the period from 2021 to 2030 at the landscape level. This takes into consideration the balance of nature and human needs, and integrates different sectors and perspectives in the plan. This is to create synergies on the one hand, and to avoid conflicting goals on the other. Special attention is paid to the complex interactions between agriculture, climate change and land degradation. Thus, the ILUPs aim to develop and strengthen Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to provide different options for further development. Above all, the plans aim to bring together relevant aspects from existing strategies and policies with local needs and ideas and link them at the spatial level as far as possible.

The ILUP project was implemented between the years 2019 and 2021. The development of the plan needs different approaches and methods - including literature research, statistical data evaluation, field mission, GIS analysis, and suitability assessment. With inception and field visits, workshops with the municipal LDN working group, interviews with farmers, and analyses of different base maps, the land use, the suitability for their development options, and the degradation risks of the area were identified and reflected step by step. The intersection and aggregation of the data led to the definition of the following main basic functional units:

- High Production Value (HPV) Farmland (for perennials, annual cropland and grassland)
- High Nature Value (HNV) Farmland

### LOCATION



**Location:** Gori, Kareli, Kvareli, Sagarejo, Shida Kartli and Kakheti, Georgia

#### Geo-reference of selected sites

- 44.09027, 41.97063
- 43.87809, 42.02225
- 45.79365, 41.95022
- 45.33072, 41.72265

**Initiation date:** 2019

**Year of termination:** 2021

#### Type of Approach

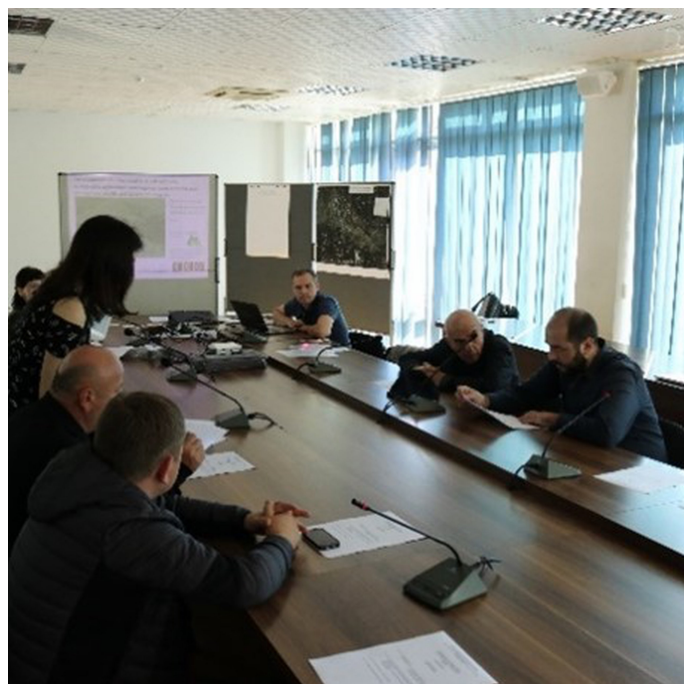
- ☐ traditional/ indigenous
- ☐ recent local initiative/ innovative
- ☒ project/ programme based

- High Social Value (HSV) Farmland and, as a specific output,
- Hot Spots of degradation (water erosion, wind erosion, and salinization).

The results were documented in a sectoral, technical plan for each municipality. The ILUP is intended to serve as a basis for further planning, capacity building and decision making procedures within the framework of legal responsibilities and requirements (e. g. for the municipal spatial plan). A second document (also recorded under WOCAT) is based on the outcome of this showcase and predominantly focuses on LDN implementation options by the application and adoption of various SLM and CSA practices.



Field visits with local farmers and SLM experts in Gori (Mikheil Kurdadze)



LDN Working Group Meeting (Mikheil Kurdadze)

## APPROACH AIMS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Main aims / objectives of the approach

The objective of the ILUPs is to provide strategic guidelines for decision makers and authorities for the spatial development of sustainable agriculture in the four municipalities for the period from 2021 to 2030 at the landscape level. It takes into consideration the balance of nature and human needs and integrates different sectors and perspectives in the plan. This is to create synergies on the one hand and to avoid conflicting goals on the other.

### Conditions enabling the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values:** basically, awareness of the necessity to use the land in a sustainable manner exists
- **Availability/ access to financial resources and services:** a few international financing tools are existing (GEF, GCF, etc)
- **Institutional setting:** agricultural experts at the local level
- **Collaboration/ coordination of actors:** - permanent working groups existing (LDN working groups, ministerial working groups etc.) - active actors in the region
- **Legal framework (land tenure, land and water use rights):** legal framework has been established recently
- **Policies:** abundant framework documents existing
- **Land governance (decision-making, implementation and enforcement):** recently re-structured administrative entities (is a potential in the long run)
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support:** national service provider existing
- **Markets (to purchase inputs, sell products) and prices:** adjacent urban areas

### Conditions hindering the implementation of the Technology/ ies applied under the Approach

- **Social/ cultural/ religious norms and values:** historically conditioned reservation
- **Availability/ access to financial resources and services:** holistic, transsectoral, and adaptive financing mechanisms restricted
- **Institutional setting:** lack of education possibilities
- **Collaboration/ coordination of actors:** continuing lack of cooperation
- **Legal framework (land tenure, land and water use rights):** lack of land registration
- **Policies:** implementation of the policies is the challenge
- **Land governance (decision-making, implementation and enforcement):** recently re-structured administrative entities (phase of change)
- **Knowledge about SLM, access to technical support:** lack of knowledge and capacity
- **Markets (to purchase inputs, sell products) and prices:** - high economic pressure on the world market - low income level in the regions
- **Workload, availability of manpower:** demographic change

## PARTICIPATION AND ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

### Stakeholders involved in the Approach and their roles

What stakeholders / implementing bodies were involved in the Approach?	Specify stakeholders	Describe roles of stakeholders
local land users/ local communities	various farmers	visits to the fields with the local farmers, discussions about the type of cultivation, specific



		needs and ideas
researchers	Tbilisi State University	Scientific expertise on land use and soil productivity
NGO	REC Caucasus	Supervisors, consultants, GIS analyses, participation in the LDN Working Group Meeting
local government	- Executive Office of the Gori Municipal Council - City Hall (formerly Municipal Administration "Gamgeoba"), Municipality of Gori - City Hall (formerly Municipal Administration "Gamgeoba"), Municipality of Kareli - City Hall (formerly Municipal Administration "Gamgeoba"), Municipality of Kvareli - City Hall (formerly Municipal Administration "Gamgeoba"), Municipality of Sagarejo	Participation in the LDN Working Group Meeting
national government (planners, decision-makers)	- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) - Agricultural and Rural Development Agency (ARDA)	Participation in the LDN Working Group Meeting, process steering and embedment into national policies
international organization	UNEP	Steering of the whole GEF project (with the ILUPs as one component of it)

### Involvement of local land users/ local communities in the different phases of the Approach

	none	passive	external support	interactive	self-mobilization	
initiation/ motivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
monitoring/ evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
						<p>Local land users were consulted to gain experience and insight into the situation of agriculture in the different areas. The interviews were then incorporated into the preparation of the maps and land use plans.</p> <p>- during the inception mission - in the course of the interactive ILUP workshops</p> <p>- supervision and critical reflection by experts and the client - presentation and reflection at the GEF project steering committee meeting (about 30 persons - decision makers from different policy levels, national and international experts, project manager etc.)</p>

### Flow chart

#### Decision-making on the selection of SLM Technology

Decisions were taken by

- ☐ land users alone (self-initiative)
- ☐ mainly land users, supported by SLM specialists
- ☐ all relevant actors, as part of a participatory approach
- ☒ mainly SLM specialists, following consultation with land users
- ☐ SLM specialists alone
- ☐ politicians/ leaders

Decisions were made based on

- ☐ evaluation of well-documented SLM knowledge (evidence-based decision-making)
- ☐ research findings
- ☐ personal experience and opinions (undocumented)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The following activities or services have been part of the approach

- ☐ Capacity building/ training
- ☐ Advisory service
- ☒ Institution strengthening (organizational development)
- ☐ Monitoring and evaluation
- ☐ Research

#### Institution strengthening

Institutions have been strengthened / established

- ☐ no
- ☐ yes, a little
- ☒ yes, moderately
- ☐ yes, greatly

at the following level

- ☒ local
- ☐ regional
- ☐ national

Describe institution, roles and responsibilities, members, etc. Representatives of the municipalities - regional expertise, practical implementation, embedded into local policies.

Type of support

- ☐ financial
- ☒ capacity building/ training
- ☐ equipment

Further details

Discussions and workshops to contribute to a better common understanding and transsectoral learning from each other.

## FINANCING AND EXTERNAL MATERIAL SUPPORT

### Annual budget in USD for the SLM component

- ☐ < 2,000
- ☐ 2,000-10,000
- ☒ 10,000-100,000
- ☐ 100,000-1,000,000
- ☐ > 1,000,000

Precise annual budget: n.a.

Global Environmental Facility (GEF), in the frame of the project: Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia

### The following services or incentives have been provided to land users

- ☒ Financial/ material support provided to land users
- ☐ Subsidies for specific inputs
- ☐ Credit
- ☐ Other incentives or instruments

### Financial/ material support provided to land users

Different sources and options of support are recommended in the ILUPS, but needs to be decided.

## IMPACT ANALYSIS AND CONCLUDING STATEMENTS

### Impacts of the Approach

	No	Yes, little	Yes, moderately	Yes, greatly
Did the Approach empower local land users, improve stakeholder participation? - integration of local decision maker was core part of the planning procedure - more empowerment of land users planned for the detailed planning phase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach help land users to implement and maintain SLM Technologies? The ILUP is designed to be the fundamental basis for any kind of SLM technologies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve coordination and cost-effective implementation of SLM? The whole plan is dedicated to coordinate approaches and implementations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of land users to implement SLM? Little in the process of elaboration, but will improve significantly in the course of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve knowledge and capacities of other stakeholders? Little in the process of elaboration, but will improve significantly in the course of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach mitigate conflicts? The whole plan is designed to mitigate land use conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach empower socially and economically disadvantaged groups? A large proportion of the approach is dedicated to small farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve gender equality and empower women and girls? The gender aspect is integrated into the plan, but needs implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve issues of land tenure/ user rights that hindered implementation of SLM Technologies? The approach underlined the necessity of land registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to more sustainable use/ sources of energy? Some components are dealing with energy topics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach improve the capacity of the land users to adapt to climate changes/ extremes and mitigate climate related disasters? Little in the process of elaboration, but will improve significantly in the course of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Did the Approach lead to employment, income opportunities? Little in the process of elaboration, but should improve significantly in the course of implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Main motivation of land users to implement SLM

- ☒ increased production
- ☒ increased profit(ability), improved cost-benefit-ratio
- ☒ reduced land degradation
- ☒ reduced risk of disasters
- ☐ reduced workload
- ☐ payments/ subsidies
- ☐ rules and regulations (fines)/ enforcement
- ☐ prestige, social pressure/ social cohesion
- ☐ affiliation to movement/ project/ group/ networks
- ☒ environmental consciousness
- ☐ customs and beliefs, morals
- ☒ enhanced SLM knowledge and skills
- ☐ aesthetic improvement
- ☒ conflict mitigation

### Sustainability of Approach activities

Can the land users sustain what has been implemented through the Approach (without external support)?

- ☒ no
- ☐ yes
- ☐ uncertain

## CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

### Strengths: land user's view

- clear overview of land suitability
- diversification options

### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: land user's view how to overcome



- set of proposed measures and actions

#### Strengths: compiler's or other key resource person's view

- fundamental for strategic and coordinated development, practical framework for implementation
- stringent target system, compiled at different levels
- integrated development approach, combining all dimensions of sustainability
- core tool to adapt to and mitigate climate change

- plan might raise expectations and an "atmosphere of departure", that cannot be fulfilled in due time - consistent and timely implementation of proposed measures
  - acquisition of financial resources
  - strengthening local structures and participation
- plan will not enter next phases, thus implementation might get stuck and/or will not meet the needs on plot level fully Consistent and timely implementation of the proposed next steps (review process, detailed planning, embedding into municipal land use planning system)

#### Weaknesses/ disadvantages/ risks: compiler's or other key resource person's view how to overcome

- Risk that further planning process gets stuck and/or lacks participation - intensive land user involvement
  - cross-sectoral participation
  - detailed (process) planning (at plot level)
- Risk of weak implementation because of lack of framework conditions - further land registration needed
  - detailed planning needed (next phase)
  - according financing mechanisms needed
  - embedding into communal planning environment

## REFERENCES

#### Compiler

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#### Full description in the WOCAT database

[https://qcat.wocat.net/af/wocat/approaches/view/approaches\\_5897/](https://qcat.wocat.net/af/wocat/approaches/view/approaches_5897/)

#### Linked SLM data

n.a.

#### Documentation was facilitated by

##### Institution

- Global Environment Facility Georgia (GEF Georgia) - Georgia

##### Project

- Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GREENLANDS)

#### Key references

- Zollner, D., Zumbulidze, M., Kirchmeir, H., Fuchs, A. und Huber, M. 2021: Gori Integrated Land Use Plan (ILUP Gori) for sustainable agriculture and rural development with special emphasis on SLM, CSA and LDN. Part A – ILUP Gori. Version 2.0. Klagenfurt, Tbilisi, Gori. 80 p. + documentation volume/ annex.: REC Caucasus, E.C.O- Institute of Ecology
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