



Mr. Carl F. Taestensen
Country Director
GIZ-Office South Caucasus
Address: 31 Griboedov Str.
0108 Tbilisi, Georgia

- Per email -

Tbilisi, 10 March, 2020

Dear Mr. Taestensen

With this letter, the Regional Office of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the South Caucasus would like to indicate its strong interest to partner with the Accredited Entity GIZ under the proposed Green Climate Fund project: ***Enabling Implementation of Forest Sector Reform in Georgia to Reduce GHG Emissions from Forest Degradation***, considering the Government's plan to have the Forest Code of Georgia approved by the Parliament in spring 2020 and to thus support Georgia's transition to sustainable forest management (SFM) practices.

Switzerland's commitment to address climate change has been stated, among others, in the Government's Dispatch to the Parliament on Switzerland's Strategy for International Cooperation 2021-24, approved on 19 February 2020. This position will be translated by the SDC into a new Regional Cooperation Program 2021-24 for the South Caucasus. Moreover, extensive exchanges during the past few months between the SDC and the GIZ project team highlighted the importance of supporting alternative livelihood opportunities for the affected rural communities and strengthening local self-governance in forest management in Georgia, in order to further strengthen the two components of GIZ's submission to the GCF.

In view of this, we are pleased to confirm that our office will submit a proposal to our headquarters in Switzerland to contribute to the GCF project in the form of a proposed co-financing up to CHF 5'000'000 over the period of 2020-2024. It is expected that the proposal will be favourably considered by the competent SDC body in its June 2020 meeting.

For indicative purposes, SDC funding would be used in the following areas:

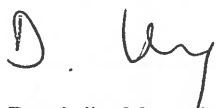
1. Introduction of necessary capacities and municipal level tools for participatory SFM and conservation
2. Development of mechanisms at local level to better protect the interests of adversely affected stakeholders
3. Development of professional skills and delivery of knowledge relevant to SFM
4. Facilitating forest related value chain development

While formal approval by the SDC's competent body is still pending, the given letter reflects the strong support by the office for the envisaged GCF project, with our hope that we will be in a position to join as a contributor in this important endeavour for Georgia.

Reference:

At the same time, our commitment is based on the assumption that the Forest Code, being an indispensable condition for successful project implementation, will be approved in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Danielle Meuwly
Regional Director
Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus
Georgia