

# Afforestation with Hazelnut Plantations in Western Georgia

Traditional plantations in Black Sea Region

Recovery of abandoned and degraded lands

Employment and training opportunities

Community outreach

Carbon from forestry agriculture first of its kind



## The project in a nutshell

The project sequesters carbon on previously abandoned land in rural Western Georgia. By creating a permanent forest cover, it stops ongoing degradation, replenishing soil and vegetative stocks.

**Project type:** Afforestation Project

**Project start:** May 2007

**Project size:** 2.821 ha

**Trees planted:** 1.693.513

**Conservation area:** 282 ha (>10 %)



## Background

After the collapse of the 1990's, the Samegrelo region on Caucasus' Black Sea Coast – previously a cornerstone of fruit, nuts and wine supply to the soviet empire – was left with lack of capacity, deteriorating infrastructure and uncertain land tenure issues. Land abandonment, slash and burn clearing for grazing and small-scale crop cultivation, deforestation of wind-breakers and illegal waste dumping followed. Financing for agricultural projects became difficult to obtain – and dried out altogether in 2010.

Carbon finance offers a solution to these serious problems, merging the need for start-up capital with climate action and ecosystem protection. Afforestation with traditional hazelnut plantations offers a replicable model for Samegrelo, rehabilitating soil, land and water resources; recovering land production potential; facilitating transfer of technology and know-how; generating local employment and income opportunities.



## Economic benefits

- More than 700 people from the region employed by the project
- Economic revival, based on sound environmental and climate protection principles
- Further job and investment opportunities expected

## Climate and environmental benefits

- Carbon sequestration in hazelnut trees, contributing to mitigation of climate change
- Restoration of previously degraded soils and vegetation cover
- Protection of watersheds with newly established ecosystem buffers
- Conservation of over 250 ha of natural forests

## Better infrastructure

- New roads provide access to remote locations
- Better and more reliable power supply
- Establishment and maintenance of fencing



## Technology and knowledge transfer

- Training provided to all the workers
- Use of newest machinery
- Knowledge transfer to local farmers
- Working with local schools and students

## Community benefits

- At least one member of each household working for the project
- Courses and training for local students
- Donor funding for regional development

## Safer environment

- Reduced crime and illegal activities
- Removal of war zone mines
- Prevention of illegal waste dump practices

“ The project has brought long-term job opportunities, new hope and a safer, better life for all of us ”

Romani Kobakhidze  
at the stakeholder meeting



Agrigeorgia is the full subsidiary company of the Ferrero Group. Ferrero products has committed itself to a low carbon footprint, promoting virtuous activities at all internal levels, from supply chain to production, that minimize its carbon emissions and promote positive sustainable development, with special attention to land-based carbon credits.



## **GET-Carbon** Solutions for a Better Planet!

GET-Carbon identifies, develops and commercializes a wide range of climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions, with special focus on agriculture and forestry for rural development.

## How to visit the project

The main office of Agrigeorgia is located at:

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