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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

UNDP Belarus

REPORTING PERIOD: 2025

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	Safeguarding Forests of Belarus: A Comprehensive Fire Preparedness Initiative for Community-Based Fire Prevention and Response
Project ID	01003904
Project Duration	2025-2026
Location	Belarus: Brest and Gomel Oblasts
CPD/UNSDCF/RPD/SP Outputs	The implementation of the project is aligned with the Outcome 2 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – "A significant contribution to climate action is made by 2025 through the introduction of key measures of climate change adaptation and mitigation"; and Output 2.4. of the UNDP Country Programme Document for Belarus 2021-2025 – "National emergency preparedness for major hazards strengthened, in line with regional factors and international environmental conventions."
Gender marker	GEN2
Digitalization marker	-
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus
Total budget	USD 2,000,000
Donors (funding sources)	Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund (Government of the People's Republic of China)
Budget (annual budget)	USD 702,750
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period	USD 103,690
Expenditure recorded for the total project	USD 103,690

1. Executive Summary

The project achieved substantial progress towards strengthening forest fire preparedness and response capacities in Belarus during 2025. Activities focused on forest fire risk assessments, procurement of firefighting equipment, development and delivery of training programmes, and establishment of communication and awareness-raising mechanisms for forest fire prevention.

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2. Overall Progress Review

a) Key results achieved

OUTPUT 1. Equipment, materials, and expendables to ensure effective and safe firefighting operations are delivered and used.

- Assessment of forest fire vulnerability expanded from 300 forestry units to 346 units across all six regions of Belarus.
- Equipment needs assessment and distribution lists were completed and approved by the Ministry of Forestry.
- Technical specifications were developed for backpack sprayers, communication radios, boots and uniform accessories.
- Procurement process initiated for 3,050 backpack sprayers and 930 communication radios; initial deliveries completed.
- Project office established and equipped to support implementation.

OUTPUT 2: Training programs and resources for local fire brigades and community volunteers are improved to enhance their fire prevention and extinguishing skills.

- Three training programmes developed for:
  forest firefighting teams;
  community volunteers;
  schoolchildren and school forestry groups.
- Four training events delivered in Brest and Gomel regions.
- Approximately 400 participants were trained, with women accounting for around 40% of participants.
- Training materials were designed for future digital application and wider outreach.

OUTPUT 3: Coordination mechanisms are enhanced between local forest fire brigades from the forest fire fighting service and local community volunteers.

- Legislative review and analysis of forest fire protocols and reporting systems completed.
- Recommendations developed to improve cooperation among local communities, forestry authorities and emergency-response institutions.
- Forest fire communication and reporting protocols updated to facilitate community volunteer participation.

OUTPUT 4: Awareness campaigns on fire prevention practices for communities residing near forested areas is launched with subsequent information materials produced and disseminated.

- Forestry Fire Protection Communication Strategy developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry for Emergency Situations and the National Academy of Sciences.

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- To support awareness-raising on fire prevention among communities residing near forested areas, the design of three video clips and four sets of printed information materials has been completed, and contracts for their production have been awarded.
- Capacity-building launch workshop held with participation from government agencies, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, local authorities, forestry organisations and NGOs.

b) Contribution to the higher-level results

The project directly contributed to UNDP Belarus Country Programme Output 2.4 on strengthening national preparedness for major hazards. Through nationwide assessment of forest fire risks, procurement of modern firefighting equipment, enhancement of community-based prevention mechanisms, and development of specialised training programmes, the project strengthened Belarus's institutional and operational capacities to prevent, detect and respond to forest fires.

The project promoted multi-stakeholder cooperation among the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry for Emergency Situations, local authorities, educational institutions, community volunteers and UNDP. The emphasis on volunteer engagement, community awareness and participation of women in training activities enhanced the inclusiveness and sustainability of fire prevention efforts.

3. Communications, visibility, and partnerships

Project implementation was carried out in close partnership with the Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, UNDP Belarus and UNDP China. Regular coordination meetings and Project Board sessions ensured strategic oversight and effective cooperation among stakeholders.

A Forestry Fire Protection Communication Strategy was developed to guide awareness campaigns aimed at local communities, youth and women. Contracts were signed for the production of three video clips and four sets of printed awareness materials (6,000 copies per set). All communication and visibility materials incorporate the Chinese Aid branding in accordance with project requirements.

The project launch and awareness activities involved representatives of government agencies, research institutions, forestry enterprises, NGOs and development partners, helping to strengthen national ownership and visibility of the initiative.

Programme Analyst

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