



Reference: Case numbers: ARM 09/008, AZE 09/008

Project: Establishing structured approach towards training of Environmental Inspectors in Armenia and Azerbaijan

Project duration: September 2009 – December 2011

Project budget: 215,136.00 EURO

Implementing organization: REC Caucasus

The project is implementing with the financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted in October 2012

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR THE CAUCASUS

1. DESCRIPTION: NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

1.1. Name of Beneficiary of Grant Contract: Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus)

1.2. Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Norway

1.3. Name and Title of contract Person: Malak Shukurova
Executive Director of REC Caucasus

1.4 Title of the Action:

Establishing structured approach towards training of Environmental Inspectors in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

1.5. Starting Date: 1 September 2009

1.6. Reporting period: September 2009 – September 2012

1.7. Target Countries: The Republic of Armenia, The Azerbaijan Republic

1.8. Final Beneficiaries / Target groups:

State Environmental Inspectorate of Armenia, 200 employees, out of which 150 inspectors.

State Environmental Inspectorate of Azerbaijan, 320 inspectors in a total.

1.9. Countries in which activities take place: The Republic of Armenia, The Azerbaijan Republic

Short description of the project

Aim

The aim of this project is to introduce a structured approach towards trainings for the employees of the State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) of Armenia and Azerbaijan, also establish a mechanism of information exchange that will help SEI employees to continuously learn about new developments.

Background

Within the 2003-2007 work programme, the EAP Task Force Secretariat organised numerous training and know-how transfer events at the level of sub-regions (e.g. in the Caucasus) and countries, including Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. In total, training involved about 300 people. Most of the training events were conducted in cooperation or with logistical support from EECCA RECs. The training programme was based on the —Toolkit for Better Environmental Inspectorates, which is a comprehensive manual reflecting modern theory and practice of environmental compliance promotion, monitoring, and enforcement. The programme had a positive impact and, as a result, the Secretariat and its partners in EECCA have faced an increasing demand for training, which is difficult to satisfy without enlarging the number of trainers and creating a mechanism that would enable trainers to continuously update the training programmes and materials.

REC Caucasus with cooperation of OECD EAP TASK Force implemented several projects in the period 2003 – 2008:

Sub-regional managers workshop IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE IN CAUCASUS, June, 16-20 2003, Tbilisi, Georgia

Translation and putting out of OECD publications “Guiding Principle for Reform of Environmental Enforcement Authorities in Transition Economies of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia” and the “Glossary of Terms Used in Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Promotion” in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian languages.

Institutional Development Seminar and Management Training, November, 2005, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Peer Review of Environmental Compliance Assurance System of Armenia, (organisation of training for inspectorates), June 2005, Yerevan, Armenia.

The project was prepared in frame of OECD EAP Task Force and EECCA RECs joint work programme under the Programme Area 2. Environmental Policy Reform, project JP/2.2.4. “Training Programmes for Inspectorates” and aims to promote a structured approach towards training of environmental inspectors and facilitate networking among specialized institutions in the EECCA region and with similar institutions in OECD and CEE countries.

Individual capacity (or competence) can be defined as a set of standardized requirements for an individual to properly perform specific duties within an organization and encompasses both knowledge and skills. A continuous improvement of employees’ individual capacity is essential for any enforcement authority, including State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI), to achieve its objectives and maintain high standards of service to the general public. There is a clear need to change the current approach to training of the individuals within SEI and make it more coherent and structured, based on a clear understanding of incentives to enhance performance.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, similarly to many other countries of EECCA, the development of individual capacities of the employees faces a number of problems that hinder the successful full-scale performance of the SEI. The main problems linked to the training of inspectors in Armenia and Azerbaijan are lack of professional training opportunities for SEI specialists, inconsistency of the knowledge flow, lack of holistic approach to SEI specialist skills development, limited access to up-to-date materials, lack of cross-country experience exchange.

Overall Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to introduce a structured approach towards trainings for the employees of the State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Promotion of consistency in SEI planning and execution.
- Improvement of SEI performance.
- Establishment of a strong regional network of Environmental Inspectorates.
- Sharing of experience on regular basis.

Expected Outcomes

- Increasing of skills and ability of State Environmental Inspectors;
- Sharing experience between State Environmental Inspectors in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Planned Activities

1. Training needs assessment

- 1.1 Development of questionnaires
- 1.2. Organisation of survey
- 1.3. Analyse of filled questionnaires
- 1.4. Preparation of training needs assessment report (Annex Ia and Annex Ib)

2. Development of long term training programme

- 2.1. Development of 3-4 training modules
- 2.2. Translation on national languages
- 2.3. Preparation of training package (Annex IIa and Annex IIb)

3. Conduct trainings

- 3.1. Identification of participants
- 3.2. Organisation of training-of-trainers workshop (2)
- 3.3. Organisation of trainings for inspectors (12)

4. Establishment of bilingual web portal for trainers and inspectors

- 4.1. Development of web page
- 4.2. Collect and place information on web
- 4.3. Maintaining/updating web portal

Results to Date:

Activities

The project implementation was initially delayed due to the following two major reasons:

1. As part of joint work programme of EECCA RECs and OECD EAP Task Force, project activities should have been started in parallel and under the guidance of the Secretariat of OECD EAP Task Force, however due to objective reasons REC Caucasus has been informed that Secretariat was not able to start their part of activities on time due to late provision of funds from donor.

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2. Significant restructuring process started in REC Caucasus in the end of 2009. New institutional structure was approved by the RECs Board of Directors and introduced in January 2010. Due to changes, contracts with the previous staff members were terminated, but new programme staff has not been hired. Moreover, several internal and external audits started in organisation in 2010. Therefore implementation of some projects, including this one, was postponed.

Due to those facts the Project implementation process started with significant delays and relevant project reports were not submitted to the donor in accordance to contractual requirements.

Launching of the project and as well as preparatory meeting with State Environmental Inspectorate of Armenia and Azerbaijan were conducted in Baku (September 10, 2010) and Yerevan (September 14, 2010). Discussion on identification of initial methodology for needs assessment conducted with national authorities, process of identification of competence profiles and major focus areas for possible trainings started.

Several consultation with OECD EAP Task Force secretariat, partner of the project, have been also conducted to finalise methodology for capacity needs assessment exercise and identification of targeted areas.

Relevant questionnaires were developed on the basis of the Guidance for the Organization of Trainings within State Environmental Inspectorates of EECCA countries, elaborated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and sent to all stakeholders on December 2010. Filled questionnaires were submitted to REC Caucasus till January 17, 2011.

The filled in questionnaires have been analyzed by the Project Team in close cooperation with the Ministries of Environment. The working group have been conducted in Armenia and Azerbaijan for the preparation of training need assessment report in March 2011 (Annex Ia and Annex Ib).

REC Caucasus, with consultative and methodological support of the OECD, aims to fill the existing gaps by implementing training needs assessment (TNA) for the staff members of the Inspectorate (based on the methodology suggested by OECD and approbated in Georgia), develop a coherent multi-year training program and training materials (based on "Toolkit for Better Environmental Inspectorates") and organize trainings for SEI employees, which will provide them with practical and up-to-date knowledge and skills necessary to successful performance of SEI.

The Project introduces a structured approach towards trainings for the employees of the State SEI of Armenia and Azerbaijan and also establishes a mechanism of information exchange that will help SEI employees to continuously learn about new developments.

Project expected results:

- Professional knowledge and skills gaps are identified through training needs assessments (TNA)
- Gaps are addressed through conduction of trainings session and knowledge transfer.
- The structured approach with strong mechanisms of training provision for SEI is established.

The project is prepared in frame of OECD EAP Task Force and EECCA RECs joint work program under the Program Area 2. Environmental Policy Reform, project JP/2.2.4. "Training Programs for Inspectorates" and aims to promote a structured approach towards training of environmental inspectors and facilitate networking among specialized institutions in the EECCA region and with similar institutions in OECD and CEE countries. Individual capacity (or competence) can be defined as a set of standardized requirements for an individual to properly perform specific duties within an organization and encompasses both knowledge and skills. A continuous improvement of employees' individual capacity is essential for any enforcement authority, including State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI), to achieve its objectives and maintain high standards of service to the general public. There is a clear need to change the current approach to training of the individuals within SEI and make it more coherent and structured, based on a clear understanding of incentives to enhance performance.

The Project involves staff Environmental Inspectorate, including its representatives in every administrative division of the Republic of Armenia and Republic of Azerbaijan.

REC Caucasus Country Offices will provide expert support as well as facility and materials for all stages of project implementation. RECC Country Offices role is organization of training needs assessment, support to Ministries of Environments to develop training program and organization of training sessions. State Environmental Inspectorate of Ministries of Environment will provide professional, informative and organizational support throughout all stages of project implementation.

OECD EAP Task Force will provide methodological and consultative support throughout all stages of project implementation.

Before organization of training session RECC has involved qualified experts in the field of environmental inspection to develop training modules based on modern knowledge, best international experience and currently applied local experience.

Phase I

[First round of training sessions](#)



The project team in close cooperation with the Ministries of Environment of Armenia and Azerbaijan have prepared the training modules. The training modules have been prepared in two languages (national and English), (Annex IIIa and Annex IIIb).

Meanwhile the organization of training sessions have been started. REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministries of Environment and State Environmental Inspection Agencies has launched the first round of professional trainings for environmental inspectors in June 2011 in Armenia and in September 2011 in Azerbaijan.

During the two-day professional training modules, subsequent case studies, questionnaires, as well as presentations, information package including national and EU legislation, EU directives (IPCC, Environmental liability, etc), information on co-operation between local and national agencies in the sphere of environmental inspection, legislation frameworks regulating environmental inspection, organization of work within environmental inspection/institutional issues and many other topics have been presented and discussed (Annex IIa and Annex IIb)

Environmental inspectors from State Environmental Inspectorate (SEI) of Ministries of Environment of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been selected to take part in the sessions of professional trainings.

During the session the brief information on the project mission, goal and expected results have been given.

There was especially valued the idea of the project, which was born long before it started and emphasized the importance of the project which is based on assessment of real needs within the State Environmental Inspection and will serve as a capacity-building and skill –building tool both for experienced and start-up professionals.

Bearing in mind the regionality of the project and as well as the common background in the region, Project team tried to keep the almost the same agenda in both countries. So the first session has started with the presentation on “The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (96/61/EC) implementation procedures in and the collaboration between state management and local self government bodies in the field of environmental inspection” during the session were discussed the main targets of the IPPC Directive: a framework directive aiming at a high level of protection for the environment as a whole, operating permits for industry with conditions to be based on “best available techniques” (BAT), which provides for an exchange of information on BAT, environmental permit system, permissions toward separate components of environment, complex permission and the scope use. Also was presented the institutional regulation of environmental permitting system, timeframes, permission for small and medium business organizations, and permits transition strategy by IPPC directive requirements and etc. During the first session also presented “Implementation of self-control towards compliance with the requirements of environmental legislation” introduction on draft law”.

Presentation were made on “Legal field regulating Environmental inspectorate control procedure” and “Judicial protection procedure of Environmental control results and the role of inspectors in that procedure”, on “Environmental and natural resource use fees, financial-economic mechanisms of inspectorate” and “Collaboration of Ministries of Environment with international organizations, expected outcomes from the collaboration”.

Trainers were discuss general approaches of introduction of Inspectorate reforms in Azerbaijan and Armenia, environmental risks, according to environmental field approaches of preparation of check lists, development of work plans, as well as presented environment impact assessment and organization of inspectorate control and also presented Specification of state control towards requirements of the flora and fauna.

Besides presentations, five Group Work sessions have been carried out during the two-day training on case studies prepared by trainers. Inspectors have been working on

- “Identification of conflict situations during environmental inspection and analysis”
- “Assessment criteria of leakage of water resources and water basins, the atmospheric emissions, hazardous waste installation and processing of the environmental risks”
- “Supporting tools of EC available for Armenia and Azerbaijan (Twining)”.
- “Special conditions of Environmental impact assessment and inspection toward them / Hydro electro stations, mining/
- “Discussion of practical issues required for assessment of environmental inspection in maximum permissible environmental emission and water use”
- “Functions of inspectors in illegal poaching”
- “Compliance and differences of EC and national legislation, applicability of rules”

Interactive discussions and presentations on results have been conducted after each group work by environmental inspectors and facilitated by trainers and working group facilitators.

To assess the quality and impact of the training session, all training participants and trainers have complied evaluation forms, which are proving the productiveness and efficiency of organization and conduction skills of professional trainings by REC Caucasus. At the end of the training session Environmental inspectors have been awarded Certificate.

The followings should be mentioned as main outcomes of conducted trainings:

- The importance of application of structural approach in environmental inspection was better understood by training participants (environmental inspectors);
- The participants have increased their knowledge on basic elements of environmental inspection, strategic planning and personnel administration during inspection process local experience and the best applications applied at international level
- Practical activities (group works) enabled participants to use learned knowledge and properly apply during provision of the inspection activities.

- At the end of the training session, it was decided to continue provision of such type of trainings on environmental inspection in future.

Phase II

Training of Trainers in Armenia and Azerbaijan



Training of Trainers (TOT) on June 24-25 in Armenia and June 30-July 1 in Azerbaijan, 2011 Project Team in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection in Armenia and Ministry of Environment in Azerbaijan conducted training of trainers (TOT). The aim of the training of trainers (TOT) was to introduce structured professional knowledge in regard with environmental inspection procedures, institutional structures of Inspection, environmental indicators, risks and Directives in EC countries, as well key points and components to conduct efficient, productive and successful trainings through development of technical skills of trainer. Environmental inspectorate trainers: representatives of Ministries of Environment have been taking part in the sessions of TOT.

TOT was consisted of two parts: professional and technical parts.

During two-day TOT sessions, in professional part case studies of EC countries (Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium) on Environmental Legislation compliance and Indicators, Institutional structure of State Environmental Inspectorate in EC countries (Austria, Germany, Swiss, Norway and Belgium), Directive (2004/35/EC) on Environmental Liability and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) have been presented and actively discussed by all participants. Presentation-communication-management, time management and team building skills have been presented and practiced in technical part of TOT.

Just to make more impressive the impact of TOT and achieve desirable results, sample of Team building and Ice Breaker has been practiced by training team.

Post evaluation sheets have proven the productivity and efficiency of TOT. Training participants have made some recommendations in regard with the trainings to be implemented in next session including training materials, modules, presentations and training conduction, presentation, communication, group works, time management skills and how to make it proactive.

Phase III



Second round of training sessions

On July 31 and August 01, 2011 in Armenia and on December 28 and 30, 2011 in Azerbaijan the second round of professional trainings for environmental inspectors have been organized.

Two-day professional training sessions have been held for the second group inspectors. Modules, subsequent case studies, questionnaires, as well as presentations, information packages including national and EU legislation, EU directives (IPCC, Environmental liability, etc), information on co-operation between local and national

agencies in the sphere of environmental inspection, legislation frameworks regulating environmental inspection, organization of work within environmental inspection/institutional issues and many other topics have been presented and discussed (Annex IIc and Annex IId).

Most of the time of the second round of training sessions has been allocated to group works according to recommendations suggested by participants and trainers in the first round of training sessions and TOT.

Six focus group works have been conducted by trainers. Group works helped to enhance productiveness of sessions through knowledge transfer in a practical way. Trainees had a chance to interact on the topics chosen by trainers, observe, analyze, discuss, improve their knowledge and gain professional expertise. While practicing knowledge and expertise, environmental inspectors have been dealing with various tasks, such as identification of conflict situations during environmental inspection, functions of inspectors in illegal poaching, assessment of environmental risks, application of EC supporting tools available for Armenia and Azerbaijan (Twining and Taiex). The groups have also been working on clarification of special conditions of environmental impact assessment and inspection control over those conditions in Hydro-electro stations, mining and discussed practical issues, which are required for assessment of environmental inspection in maximum permissible environmental emission and water use.



Presentations on the results of group works have been efficient and shown evidence of knowledge and expertise obtained from a range of resources, information and knowledge provided by trainers. Working groups have presented well-balanced arguments and drawn appropriate conclusions to the tasks above described.

The followings should be mentioned as main outcomes of conducted trainings:

- The importance of application of structural approach in environmental inspection was better understood by training participants (environmental inspectors);
- The participants have increased their knowledge on production self control, its advantages, types of monitoring and its parameters;
- The participants have increased knowledge on importance of effective communication during environmental inspection activities and its role in preventing environmental violations;

- The participants get knowledge on local experience and the best applications applied at international level in the fields of production self-control and effective communication during environmental inspection.
- Practical activities (group works) enabled participants to use learned knowledge and properly apply during provision of the inspection activities.

Phase IV

Third round of training sessions



On January 27-28, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and State Environmental Inspection Agency has launched the third round of professional trainings (Annex IIe).

Training sessions were officially opened by Advisor to the Minister of Nature Protection.

First day training session was started with the presentation on **“The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (96/61/EC) implementation procedures in RA and the collaboration between state management and local self government bodies in the field of environmental inspection”**, and continued with other presentations on topics:

1. **“RA Law on “The implementation of self-control towards compliance with the requirements of environmental legislation”.**
2. **“Environmental and natural resources use fees, financial economic mechanisms in SEI under MNP”**
3. **“Organization of implementation of the inspection works by environmental inspectors”**
4. **“RA Environmental Statistics” (legal filed, analysis, the aim of the procedure)**
5. **“General approaches of investment of inspectorate reforms in RA, (environmental risks, approaches for development of questionnaires according to the environmental field inspection, development of work plan, questionnaires)”**

The second day also continued with presentation of trainers based on the Modules of the Project. The trainings were finalized with group works seven group works within the Case studies listed above have been conducted by the Environmental inspectors and assisted by trainer, and facilitators. Training participants have been divided into 3 groups, 6 and 7 inspectors in each group and smoothly entered into the case suggested and continued their work demonstrating situations where conflicts are found while conducting inspection and invested their expertise, after this it continued in conditions of discussions: question-answer: discussion sessions took place after each presentation, which covered multiple issues raised by environmental inspector, trainers. Discussions were interactive.

On 25-26 January of 2012 REC Caucasus has organized third round of two-day training sessions (Annex II)



During two days sessions the following two topics were discussed:

- 1) Environmental violation and legal actions taken to eliminate its consequences and international experience in this field;**
- 2) Inventory of entities (users of nature), (Annex IIIc)**

Executive officer of the embassy of Norway to Azerbaijan Mr. Kristian Lundby Gjerde participated at training session.

The trainings sessions have been opened by welcome word of Mr. Gjerde. . Norwegian government supports different development projects in the country. This project is one of them. The project aims to increase capacity of environmental inspectors leading to increase of quality of services provided by them. Final result of this is improvement of environment where we all live. Mr. Gjerde thanked Azerbaijan Country office of REC Caucasus for good organizational work and wished success to training participants.

During two-day training sessions participants have been informed on formal and informal response mechanisms. There are 2 forms of response to violations: formal and informal. Informal responses may include telephone calls, site visits, warning letters and notices of violations. The purpose of informal action is to force the offender to comply with the requirements, or to initiate a formal legal process. Formal mechanisms are either civil or criminal. Civil action may be taken either in the administrative way or by applying to a court or other judicial body.

The second day also continued with presentation of trainers based on the Modules of the Project. The special emphasize was given to the international experience in the field of environmental inspection.

Third round of professional training sessions have been completed successfully. As the result of the project implementation, the steps of establishment of strong mechanisms are undertaken and in process of development. Professional knowledge and skills are transferred to environmental inspectors and creation of structured approach towards trainings for employees of the SEI is in process of creation.

Within the project implementation, environmental inspectors have gained knowledge and skills, taken part in group works. The project helped to enhance capacity and capabilities of SEI inspectors.

Phase V

Forth round of training sessions

On May 03-04, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and State Environmental Inspection agency has launched the fourth round of professional trainings (Annex IIg).



During the trainings were mentioned that, the training program is fully in line with the needs identified and covered during the surveys targeting relevant divisions, departments of SEI across Armenia and added that the topics chosen and case studies selected by trainers will cover gaps existing in procedures of SEI.

Project relevance to the current needs of SEI has been marked clearly and added that sessions of professional training include 12 modules and several case studies, which are developed with joint efforts of REC Caucasus and SEI of Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, to raise SEI inspectors' awareness, increase knowledge and enhance skills for better performance.

Training sessions were conducted according to training program agenda. Presentations on modules 1-12, held by trainers.

Demonstrated presentations on modules, as a toolkit developed based on the needs and gaps of SEI, helped to transfer knowledge to SEI inspectors, as well as to create open dialogue environment for both sides either to communicate or discuss obligations of environmental inspection for better understanding core actions and best practices applicable in SEI procedures. Furthermore it was generally acknowledged that the work of State Environmental Inspection can improve by developing guidance that would help them monitor the results of their activities against concrete targets that they have set as part of their inspection planning and programming.

Besides presentations, Group Work sessions have been carried out during the two-day training on case-studies prepared by trainers.

The trainings were finalized by the discussions and the fourth round of professional training sessions have been completed. As the result of the project implementation, the steps of establishment of strong mechanisms are undertaken and in process of development. Professional knowledge and skills are transferred to environmental inspectors and creation of structured approach towards trainings for employees of the SEI is in process of creation.

On 30 April - 1 May of 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan has organized fourth round of two-day trainings sessions (Annex IIh).

During two days sessions the following two topics were discussed:

- 1) Key organizational issues of ecological control**
- 2) Preparation for field inspection (Annex III d).**

The training session have been attended by inspectors from the different regions of the country.



The modules developed by project team and Ministry of Environment of Azerbaijan have been presented. First session have been focused on key organizational issues of environmental control. Comprehensive information on key goals and responsibilities of environmental inspection has been provided.

The second day have been focused on principles of ensuring quality of environmental inspection. The following key elements providing some examples from international experience:

- Share of information;
- Planning, quality of performance, staff qualification, technical means of support;
- Ensuring the quality, evaluation, comparing the results;
- The level of compliance with the requirements, decrease in amount of emissions, increase of quality of water, air, land etc.

Presentations on field inspection tools and international experience in this sector has been provided. The trainers have provided few examples from Netherland experience.

At wrap-up session, the topics studied during all training process were revised again and participants were informed on next planned trainings in the field of environmental inspection. It was decided to continue organization of such type of trainings in future and mainly to focus on applied methodology and best experience in environmental inspection at international level.

The followings should be mentioned as main outcomes of conducted trainings:

- The importance of application of structural approach in environmental inspection was better understood by training participants (environmental inspectors);
- The participants have increased their knowledge on key organizational issues of ecological control;
- The participants have increased knowledge on tools and steps for preparation for field inspection;

- The participants get knowledge on local experience and the best applications applied at international level in the ecological control and field inspection.
- Practical activities (group works) enabled participants to use learned knowledge and properly apply during provision of the inspection activities.

Demonstrated presentations on modules, as a toolkit developed based on the needs and gaps of SEI, helped to transfer knowledge to SEI inspectors, as well as to create open dialogue environment for both sides either to communicate or discuss obligations of environmental inspection for better understanding core actions and best practices applicable in SEI procedures. Furthermore it was generally acknowledged that the work of State Environmental Inspection can improve by developing guidance that would help them monitor the results of their activities against concrete targets that they have set as part of their inspection planning and programming.

Phase VI

Fifth round of training sessions.

On June 22-23, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and State Environmental Inspection Agency has launched the fifth round of professional trainings (Annex II i)



Training sessions were officially opened by Mr. Samvel Amirkhanyan (Advisor to Minister of RA Ministry of Nature Protection) and Ms. Nune Harutyunyan (RECC Deputy Executive Director).

The participants underlined that the training program is fully in line with the needs identified and covered during the surveys targeting relevant divisions, departments of SEI across Armenia and added that while developing training program, all essential and important issues were integrated into it, so that 12 modules elaborated and several case studies chosen, could assist in meeting requirements of the SEI and covering gaps revealed during the surveys across Armenian regions. The training program has been elaborated and developed based on joint efforts of REC Caucasus and SEI of Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, to raise SEI inspectors' awareness, increase knowledge and enhance skills for better performance.

Training sessions were conducted according to training program agenda. Presentations on modules 1-12, held by trainers. Each of them made the presentation on there modules.

In addition to the presentations, Group Work sessions have been carried out during the two-day training on case studies prepared by trainers.

Inspectors have been working on

- “Identification of conflict situations during environmental inspection and analysis”
- “Assessment criterions of environmental risks in the process of implementing hazardous waste installation and reprocessing, having atmospheric emissions, using water resources and leakage to water basin”
- “Supporting tools of EC available for Armenia (Twining, Taiex)”.
- “Special conditions of Environmental impact assessment and inspection toward those conditions / Hydro electro stations, mining/
- “Practical discussion on required issues for an assessment of environmental inspections’ opinion in the permits issuance procedures of water use and maximum permissible emissions”
- “Functions of inspectors in illegal poaching”
- “EC Supporting tools available for Armenia (Twining, TAIEX)”

Trainers working jointly with inspectors made a clarifications for better performance and assisted in finding appropriate solutions to the obstacles faced theoretically and to be applied practically in their daily works. Presentations on the results of the group works have been carried out by each group, followed by interactive discussions through questions & answers.

On June 8-9, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan has launched fifth round of training sessions (Annex IIj).

Two-day training session focused on following topics:

1) Responses to violations and fixing their consequences

2) Visiting the entity for field inspection (Annex IIIe)



During the first session comprehensive information on forms of responses to environmental violations and its purpose, field inspection programme and initial evaluation of observed data has been provided.

The second day of training session have been focused on application of financial penalties. The detailed information on national guides and rules of application of penalties in cases of environmental violations, control list used during field inspection and as well the case of Poland experience have been provided.

At wrap-up session, the topics studied during all training process were reviewed again and the participants were informed on next planned trainings in the field of environmental inspection. It was decided to continue organization of such type of trainings in future and mainly to focus on applied methodology and best experience in environmental inspection at international level.

The followings should be mentioned as main outcomes of conducted trainings:

- The importance of application of structural approach in environmental inspection was better understood by training participants (environmental inspectors);
- The participants have increased their knowledge on the features responses to violations and fixing their consequences;
- The participants have increased knowledge on tools and steps for visiting the entity for field inspection;
- The participants get knowledge on local experience and the best applications applied at international level in the responses to violations and field inspection.
- Practical activities (group works) enabled participants to use learned knowledge and properly apply during provision of the inspection activities

Phase VII

Sixth round of training sessions.

On August 02-03, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and State Environmental Inspection Agency has launched the sixth round of professional trainings (Annex IIk).



Training sessions were officially opened by Mr. Samvel Amirkhanyan (Advisor to Minister of RA Ministry of Nature Protection) and Ms. Nune Harutyunyan (RECC Deputy Executive Director).

Project relevance to the current needs of SEI was marked clearly and underlined that the sessions of professional trainings encompassing 12 modules, presentations on environmental inspection procedures, applicable tools, several case studies and group works, are developed with joint efforts of REC Caucasus Armenia BO and SEI of RA Ministry of Nature Protection to raise SEI inspectors' awareness, increase knowledge and enhance skills and capacities for better performance.

Training sessions were conducted according to training program agenda. Presentations on modules 1-12, held by trainers, (Annex IIIa).

Trainers working jointly with inspectors made a clarifications for better performance and assisted in finding appropriate solutions to the obstacles faced theoretically and to be applied practically in their work. Presentations on the results of the group works have also been carried out by each group, which were followed by interactive discussions.

Sixth round of professional training sessions was completed successfully by SEI and RECC Armenia BO. As the result of the project implementation, the steps of establishment of strong mechanisms are undertaken and in process of development. Professional knowledge and skills are transferred to environmental inspectors and creation of structured approach towards trainings for employees of the SEI is in process of creation. Within the project implementation, environmental inspectors have gained knowledge and skills, taken part in group works. The project helped to enhance capacity and capabilities of SEI inspectors.

On July 6-7, 2012 REC Caucasus in close co-operation with Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan has launched fifth round of training sessions (Annex II L).



Two-day training session focused on following topics:

- 1) Sources of evidence: theory and practice**
- 2) General procedures for sampling (Annex IIIf)**

The first session on the topic of "Sources of evidence: theory and practice". He noted that the sources of evidence - are the documentation that meets the requirements of evidence admissible in court. Documentation, in turn, is a document of any type that contains verifiable information that is used to prove, confirm or justification of any approval.

During discussions the participants from different regions have raised current problems and asked questions. The trainer has clarified all issues answering to all questions.

The second day of the training has started with the presentation on the methods of collection necessary data, including interviews and notes of the inspector.

Then, the other trainers have continued their presentation following the training agenda. The last presentations were devoted to international experience in the field of environmental inspection. The trainers have provided some examples from Holland experience.

At wrap-up session, the topics studied during all training process were revised again and the participants were informed on next planned trainings in the field of environmental inspection. It was decided to continue organization of such type of trainings in future and mainly to focus on applied methodology and best experience in environmental inspection at international level.

The followings should be mentioned as main outcomes of conducted trainings:

- The importance of application of structural approach in environmental inspection was better understood by training participants (environmental inspectors);
- The participants have increased their knowledge on the theoretical and practical part of getting sources of evidence during inspection process, as well on general procedures to be followed during sampling;
- The participants get knowledge on local experience and the best applications applied at international level related to theory and practice for getting sources of evidence and general procedures for sampling.
- Practical activities (group works) enabled participants to use learned knowledge and properly apply during provision of the inspection activities.

Web Site

Have been developed the Terms of Reference for the Web Designer, which is responsible for the following actions: (Annex IVa and Annex IVb).

- Collect and analyse the user requirements and information needs of the stakeholders of the Web Portal;
- Design and develop a Web Portal;
- Collect all information and populate the databases with the information;
- Design / provide a Content Management System (CMS) for content management;
- Train users in updating the information on the Web Portal using CMS.

Recommendations

Training sessions' Recommendations

- Prepare and publish Trainer's guideline;
- Adapt International SEI expertise locally and figure out applicable mechanisms in Armenia and Azerbaijan;
- Develop mechanism for the selection of the best environmental inspectors;
- Initiate and conduct one extra training for the best environmental inspectors (core selected group of 10 or 20 best inspectors);
- Allocate more time to discussions and group works.

TOT's Recommendation

- Presentations on the EU Inspectorate legislation and legal system;
- Presentation on case studies in regard with SEI procedures in EU countries;
- Presentation on SEI methods and activities in EU countries;
- Presentation on obstacles which are result of legislation contradictions in inspectorate activities;
- Training sessions should be focused on group works; (for more productivity and efficiency allocate more time for group works).
- Training participants have also made some recommendations in regard with the training time management, training productiveness, effectiveness, relevance to be implemented in next session including training materials, modules, presentations, participants and training conduction, presentation skills.

Project visibility

Press releases on forthcoming events and reports on conducted activities were disseminated through REC Caucasus network and uploaded on the REC Caucasus web page www.rec-caucasus.org, in order to keep all stakeholders informed about progress and results of project.