



Who We Are

The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) is an independent, non-for-profit, non-advocacy foundation registered in spring of 2000.

What We Do

REC Caucasus assists the Caucasus states in solving environmental problems through promotion of public participation in the decision-making process, development of free exchange of information and encouragement of cooperation at national and regional level among NGOs, governments, businesses, local communities and all other stakeholders.

In Focus

- ✓ VFL 2013
- ✓ 7th Session of CB Professional Training Inspectors
- ✓ Project Closure Workshop
- ✓ Closure Workshop FCFPP project
- ✓ National Workshop /Agro biodiversity project
- ✓ RECC builds firm partnership relations
- ✓ RECCA hosted YSU students

Supporting Community Resilience in the South Caucasus VFL 2013

The project “Supporting Community Resilience in the South Caucasus” has been launched on December, 25 2012 in Armenia. The regional project on “Views from the Frontline 2013” funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), to be implemented in Armenia and Georgia by Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (RECC) in partnership with OXFAM GB, and the Global Network of Civil Societies for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR).

The Project aims to support the effective implementation of the HFA to build the resilience of vulnerable people and communities at-risk to disasters, especially to provide a global overview of progress in Local Level Action to reduce “extensive” disaster risk, to model a local change process and build local capacities for action and learning; to raise awareness and understanding of disaster risk reduction and community

resilience; to increase participation, dialogue and relationships between different state and non-state actors responsible for reducing risk.

The National Training Workshop focused on presentation of VFL 2013 project implementation setup, VFL 2013 data collection and inquiry methodology, as well as demonstration of previous VFL experience and results has been organized within the project for civil society representatives, community based organizations, NGOs and grassroots working in the field of disaster risk reduction and preparedness. During the workshop, project Participating Organizations (POs) were also provided instructions on the methodology of conduction of project activities, including community surveys, data collection through questionnaires, as well as provision of findings and case studies on a basis of surveys to be held in target five regions of Armenia. The start was very promising and productive as it created firm background for future progress.

Our Areas of Proficiency:

Environmental management
Environmental Education
Agro biodiversity
Awareness Raising,
Sustainable Land Use

Renewable Energy Sources/Energy Efficiency/Eco-village
Environmental Impact Assessment
Sustainable Use of natural resources
Environmental Policy
Energy Saving

Disaster Risk Reduction
Capacity Building
Climate Change
Organic Farming
Community Forest Management
Eco-friendly food production



Seventh Session of Professional Capacity Building Training for Environmental Inspectors

REC Caucasus Armenia National Office in close co-operation with Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and State Environmental Inspection agency organized the seventh session of professional trainings for environmental inspectors on 18-19 December, 2012 within the regional project on “Establishing a structured approach towards training of environmental Inspectors in Armenia” funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Training Program was focused on demonstration of modules, case studies on identification of conflict situations during environmental inspection and analysis; assessment criteria of leakage of water resources; functions of inspectors in illegal poaching; compliance and differences of EC and RA legislation, applicability of rules, available EC supporting tools, as well as presentations on National and EU environmental legislation, EU directives (IPPC, Environmental liability, Best available techniques (BAT), Legal field regulating Environmental inspectorate control procedure, Environmental and natural resource use fees, financial-economic mechanisms of inspectorate. Trainings cover cooperation initiatives of RA Ministry of Nature protection with international organizations, implementation of self-control towards compliance with the

requirements of environmental



legislation, accompanied with practical group works 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. All the selected topics are meant to contribute to the strengthening and enhancement of SEI performance. Environmental inspectors were awarded certificates signed by the Minister of Nature protection Mr. Aram Harutyunyan and RECC Executive Director, Ms. Nune Harutyunyan. Relevant authorities in the field recognize certificates as documents certifying professional knowledge qualification.

Project Closure Workshop

The closure workshop on Norwegian Government funded regional project “Establishing a structured approach towards training of environmental Inspectors in Armenia” has taken place on 26 December at RECC Armenia National Office premises.



The project implemented in 2011-2012 was focused on introduction of structured approach towards trainings for the employees of the State Environmental Inspectorates of

Armenia based on training needs assessments, development of multi-year training program and implementation of series of professional trainings and successfully accomplished. The closure workshop was focused on demonstration of the overall project implementation, project impact on RA SEI better performance and achievements; project legal aspects, EU Directives, case studies, project tools applied /SEI capacities to comply with Flora and Fauna protection requirements; tangible results as well as presentation on training program-based recommendations, best practices and project bilingual web portal.



The closure workshop has gathered together different stakeholders, including representatives of the RA Ministry of Nature Protection, SEI, Yerevan Municipality, Environmental Law Research Centre at Yerevan State University; Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology; “Green Lane” NGO; Asian Development Bank; Foreign Financing Projects Management Centre SI, Ministry of Finance, AWHHE NGO; WWF Armenia, Yerkir.am, Agrarian University of Armenia, “Environmental project implementation unit” SA, USAID Armenia and etc.

While considering project effectiveness and positive impact, the major emphasis was put on ideas suggested, recommendations made and possibilities reviewed by workshop participants for project continuity.



Closure workshop on EU funded FCFPP regional workshop

REC Caucasus Armenia launched a closure workshop on the EU funded “Forestry community Forest policy and Practice in Mountain regions of the Caucasus” Regional Project at Russia Hotel in Tsakhkadzor town, Armenia.



The progress towards achievements of sustainable forest management, its methods and approaches applied as well as results of CFM planning, grassroots actions, sustainable approaches and methods of community based forest management, including methods of landscape restoration and reforestation for natural disaster prevention, positive impact of project intervention, as well as film presentations on the best practices on sustainable use of forests, community forest management and reforestation have been demonstrated during the workshop.



The Closure Workshop put emphasis on the specific goals of the FCFPP regional project, mainly raising overall awareness on the activities undertaken that responded to current demands of the countries in

elaboration of relevant to institutional, legal and technical set-up for community forest management, in raising awareness and capacity building of local communities and local authorities on sustainable forest management and demonstration of best approaches of immediate reforestation and landscape restoration in areas affected by landslides, mudflows, avalanches and other natural disasters preventing measures. The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Nature Protection, Mr. Khachik Hakobyan, Adviser to the Minister of the Ministry of Nature Protection Mr. Samvel Amirkhanyan, the Chief Forester of Hayantar SNCO under Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Rubik Petrosyan, RECC regional Director, Ms Nune Harutyunyan, RECC board member, Ms Dshkhuhi Sahakyan, and project national expert team, as well as representatives from different organizations, World Bank, Local NGOs, LSG of Koghb and Jujevan communities have attended workshop.



The Workshop has also drawn participants' attention on reforested and restored landscapes, in two communities of Koghb and Jujevan, in Tavush region. The workshop contributed to strengthened formal and informal exchange on forestry related issues between the project's national stakeholders thus providing platform for sharing experience and potential mutual support, common visions related to community forestry management and forest protection in the national and regional context, as well as shared view regarding the best available sustainable community

management forms, related policies and practices that could be applied at the national level.

The project closure workshop was also specified with screening of Social Advertisement Video Clip on sustainable forest management, forest conservation and other forest related topics aimed to address deforestation and climate change issues.

National Workshop within Agro-biodiversity regional project

RECC Armenia has launched National Workshop on Agro-biodiversity regional project on 29 November 2012. The National Workshop has taken place in the project pilot region, Vayots Dzor.



The major goal of the National Workshop was to demonstrate outline of climate-change adaptation measures to be implemented in the pilot communities of Paruyr Sevak and Rind (Ararat and Vayots Dzor regions), as well as discuss implementation of pilot adaptation projects approved by the Project Steering Committee. Besides this, project latest achievements, short film highlighting project positive impact, community members' expectations from project implementation, prepared by an Armenian InterNews Media Support NGO and further activities were also presented by the project team. More than 30 community members have attended national workshop and received information materials including project leaflets, bilingual newsletters and other project related materials.





REC Caucasus builds firm partnership relations

REC Caucasus is always on the way of looking for new interventions and building firm partnership relations at local, national and regional levels. After its establishment in 2003, an organization has implemented more than 60 projects at local, national and regional levels, which have contributed to the regional and national policy development, capacity building, facilitation of dialogue and networking, confidence building, information exchange on environmental issues and the strengthening of civil society in the South Caucasus states.



REC Caucasus is an organization, which serves as a “bridge” between the public and governments of South Caucasus countries through promotion of regional co-operation, enhancement capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends, as well as ensuring global environmental benefits by reducing

environmental threats and risks.

It is worth to note, that the organization has also an extensive experience in involvement in the international environmental processes stipulated by international agreements and conventions, in particular UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNECE conventions, and by other initiatives, such as ENVSEC, Eastern Partnership, etc. Over the years, an organization has built a serious technical and administrative capacity and assisted various national and international organizations, NGOs, private entities in implementation of their activities.

REC Caucasus Armenia hosted YSU students

On 21 December, 2012 REC Caucasus Armenia hosted students of the Faculty of International Relations of Yerevan State University of Armenia. The major goal of this seminar-meeting was to raise awareness on RECC and its focal areas, projects and programs among students, as well as provide answers to questions of their interest.



Short seminar-meeting was conducted by RECC Director Ms. Nune Harutyunyan and RECC Armenia projects Team Leader Ms Dshkhuhi Sahakyan. The meeting created platform for an interactive communication among RECC and YSUA students, where many issues of concern have been raised and discussed, ideas shared and exchanged. What are the main priority issues of concern for the organization,

how it implements its mission and strategy, what is the external and internal policy of an organization, are national priorities considered in organization’s strategy, how does it deal with barriers if those are raised while cooperating at regional and international levels.



Students were happy to receive answers to their questions. They also expressed their positive impression in regard RECC’s projects and initiatives contributing to resolution of environmental issues at various levels, as well as diplomatic policy to serve as a “bridge” and provide a gateway for dialogue, networking and cooperation among environmental stakeholders and partners at global, regional, national and local levels.

Our Contacts

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