

# RECC NEWSLETTER

REC Caucasus Armenia Branch Office

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## 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

- ✓ LEAP Project Closure Workshop
- ✓ RECP project National training
- ✓ TEEB project field visit

## **Development of local environmental action plan (LEAP) for the town of Charentsavan, Armenia” project**

On 25 March, 2014, RECC Armenia organized project final closure conference in Charentsavan town that was focused on demonstration of best practice of Capacity Building and Networking Project funded by the The OSCE Office in Yerevan and successfully implemented by Charentsavan Civil Society and RECC Armenia National office. More than 50 representatives of civil society together with Charentsavan City mayor, Mr. Hakob Shahgaldyan, City council members, representative of The OSCE Office in Yerevan, Mr. Edward Safaryan, officials of different infrastructures, REC Caucasus Armenia-national staff were present at the conference.

Conference participants have attached great importance to LEAP project; in fact the project contributed to building capacities of the government and civil society to address

environmental issues in the town and armed them with a reliable and comprehensive management tool. The project as a good example of Capacity Building and Networking projects has shown that an effective cross-sectoral partnership between citizens, local government officials, NGO representatives, scientists, and business people, as well as active civil participation to learn and to work together towards resolution of community problem helped Charentsavan civil society to succeed and to reach tangible results in the community they live.

The conference was concluded successfully with high commitment of Charentsavan Local government and civil society representatives, referring to an implementation of strategic actions developed and incorporated in Local Environmental Action Plan for the City of Charentsavan, thus ensuring that almost all issues in concern are addressed and solved.

## **Our Areas of Proficiency:**

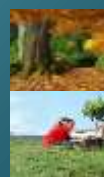
Environmental management  
Environmental Education  
Agro biodiversity  
Awareness Raising,  
Sustainable Land Use



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



These projects are implemented by the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus Armenia Branch Office

## UNIDO Regional Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Demonstration Project

On 14-16 April, in Tsakhkadzor, the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus Armenia Branch Office organized 3 days training for preliminary selected National experts within the framework of the UNIDO Regional Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) Demonstration Programme.



The programme is aimed at improving resource efficiency and environmental performance in each of the six EaP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), in particular in the prioritized agro-food, chemicals and construction materials' sectors, through the widespread adaptation and adoption of RECP methods, practices and techniques. Specific outputs pertain to building capacity for RECP service delivery, implementation at enterprise level and fostering of technology innovation.

The objective of the training was to present to the training participants the Project objectives and outputs, basic and advanced RECP methods and applications, and supportive management/entrepreneurship topics. Training was attended by preliminary selected national experts, 8 representatives of SME's and 6 AUA students.



International expert Nazir Abidjanov specialized on cleaner production conducted the training in order to deliver in a coordinated and sustainable manner RECP assessment, training, information, advisory and related services that are valuable to enterprises and other organizations considering that successful implementation of the RECP programme requires that groups of national experts in each EaP country can deliver RECP services to enterprises and other organizations in different regions and sectors in their home country.

### RECP training

Mr. Nazir Abidjanov started the theoretical and practical part of the training by providing coherence understanding of RECP Methodology, mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into national strategies: steps needed and nationally appropriate mechanisms for delivering value-adding Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) services to enterprises and SMEs. The whole presentation was accompanied with the case studies, success stories and various examples.



The following modules were presented by the trainer:

- ✓ RECP Concept and Practice
- ✓ RECP baseline and indicators
- ✓ RECP Assessment
- ✓ Motivation and team
- ✓ Initial assessment
- ✓ Detailed assessment



Post evaluation questionnaires were completed by the training participants after the presentations of group works. at the end of the training.

Additionally, national experts were asked to complete test prepared by Mr. Abidjanov to evaluate their knowledge on the given training.

At the end of the training participants presented their recommendations for the training

Recommendations raised by participants were targeting project continuity as well as essentials key factors to create stable knowledge-based background to expand the scope of project opportunities.

Training participants also expressed their willingness to support effective project implementation and be involved in all stages of project intervention.





### Field visit to the Koghb and Jujevan communities within the RECC “Support Development of Biodiversity Conservation Policies and Practices in Mountain Regions of the South Caucasus” regional project.

From 25 to 26 April, 2014, representatives of REC Caucasus: Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, regional director of RECC and project regional manager, Ms. Dshkhuhi Sahakyan, project National coordinator and Ms. Hasmik Manukyan, accountant of RECC Armenia conducted field visit to the Koghb and Jujevan communities within the RECC “Support Development of Biodiversity Conservation Policies and Practices in Mountain Regions of the South Caucasus” regional project which is funded by the Norwegian government.



The overall objective of the regional project implemented in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan is to build capacity of local communities and authorities to address biodiversity loss in forest ecosystems of mountain regions of South Caucasus in order to improve participatory biodiversity management.

The main purpose of 2 days visit was the monitoring of implemented

works on tree planting and meetings with the local self-government of the pilot communities as well as with the representatives of the companies responsible for the reforestation. Results of tree planting implemented in the framework of the project and current problems were discussed during the meetings.

The working group conducted also field visits to monitor the implemented treatment works/measures of reforested areas.



Total area of planting territory is 14.5 ha. The number of planted trees is approximately 12 000. In general, increment of planted trees composes 85 % .

The diversity of trees are given above:

- ✓ Fraxinus
- ✓ Maple
- ✓ Oak
- ✓ Walnut
- ✓ Himalayan cedar
- ✓ Diospyros virginiana (eastern persimmon)



The whole territory of the reforested area was fenced.

During the meeting, authorities of local self-government and representatives of local population expressed their contentment from the implementation and results of such a necessary and valuable project that is noticeable and visible today in their communities.



