



- an improvement of irrigation water availability,
- an increase in accessibility of long-term and low-interest loans,
- change of cropping pattern, especially by altitude;
- an importance of info-sharing activities, especially through short TV programs aired on national or local TV channels mainly focused on introduction of good agricultural practices.

Consultation workshops' results revealed some basic issues in the flow of information and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation options towards climate change impacts among rural population. The role of such consultations in developing the knowledge and adaptive innovations will be an integral to the future of farming and rural communities in Armenian regions. The final regional stakeholder workshop will be held in 2013, where Final Response to Climate Change Report and recommendations will be presented.

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

- ✓ Second stakeholder consultation Workshop/World Bank Study
- ✓ On-site filed visits
- ✓ Round Table Discussion
- ✓ Implementation of Pilot Projects
- ✓ FCFPP Media Tour
- ✓ Social Advertisement Video Clip
- ✓ National Workshop on TEEB
- ✓ City Conference /LEAPs project
- ✓ Training on LEAPs Methodology

Second Stakeholder Consultation Workshop / World Bank Study

The second stakeholder consultation workshops, within the regional analytical and advisory activities program (AAA) on developing Adaptation and Mitigation strategies in the Agricultural sector for Armenia, have been launched in Ararat, Vayots Dzor and Gegharkunik regions, on 10th and 12th October, 2012. The consultation workshops were focused on revealing the potential impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector of the country to be defined based on the information and feedback provided by local farmers consulted during the workshops.

62 active farmers from different communities have attended workshops held in Artashat, Yeghegnadzor and Martouni towns. While working in groups and prioritizing adaption options, almost all groups highlighted

- the need for creation of crop insurance program,

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



On-Site Field visits within Agro-biodiversity project

In October 2012, field visits carried out to the project pilot communities were characterized with their productivity. International expert Mr. Darko Znaor joint with RECC Armenia Agrobiodiversity project team had meetings with Local Government representatives of Paruyr Sevak and Rind communities and communities members, which helped to reveal main problems caused by Climate Change and difficulties that communities experience and measures undertaken to resist and adapt so far.



As it was identified, despite severe climate change consequences, communities still believe in the means and methods of impact mitigation and open to learn new adaptable and applicable methods that project proposes on behalf of their welfare and improvement of life standards. However, visits also indicated aridity and semi-aridity of selected areas and problems, like the lack of complex measures undertaken against desertification, renovation of drinking water system, availability of irrigation water, establishment of water basins and green houses that might be helpful for local population.



As envisaged by the project, intended pilot projects are mainly focused on the resolution of these local issues in particular.

Round Table Discussion with International expert Mr. Darko Znaor

RECC Armenia hosted international expert Mr. Darko Znaor on 29 October, 2012 and held round table discussion focused on review process towards implementation of pilot projects within Agro-biodiversity and Climate change regional project in vulnerable pilot communities Rind and Paruyr Sevak respectively in Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions.



RECC Armenia staff and project national expert team attending round table, discussed the results of field visits conducted to pilot communities Rind and Paruyr Sevak and shared impressions on arid and semi-arid landscapes observed, effective meetings held with local government representatives, community members. In addition, pilot projects prepared by pilot communities were also demonstrated and discussed. The table of recommended crops/species was presented and some important factors on criteria for selection of relevant species and crops for cultivation in the pilot communities were shared by an international expert. As a priority crop for cultivation, winter wheat was selected by Armenian national expert team, as it is more resistant towards climate change. Selection of areas to be cultivated has also been carried out and agreed.

Implementation of Pilot Projects within Agro-biodiversity project

On a basis of the project objective to support development and implementation of coping mechanisms to improve resilience of local communities to future climate change through introduction of sustainable agricultural practices in selected pilot communities of Rind and Paruyr Sevak in Vayots Dzor and Ararat regions, pilot projects in accordance with local adaptation needs and on-site assessments done in arid and semi-arid ecosystems, have been elaborated by joint efforts of project experts and pilot communities.



As per pilot projects, winter wheat crop type was selected by national expert team (cultivation period of which is September-December). While selecting this crop, in terms of adaptability and profitability for local communities, several characteristics and specifications of this crop have been taken into account by national experts.



Land plowing and wheat cultivation works were finalized till the mid of December 2012 in Rind community of Vayots Dzor region. As proposed by pilot project, over 14ha of area allocated for cultivation is plowed and 4200 kg winter wheat is already sowed in the community.

FCFPP Media Tour

Media Tour within the framework of the EU funded FCFPP regional project on 2-3 November, 2012 was launched for representatives of local media and Yerevan State University Ijevan branch students of Nature Protection and Nature Use department interested in sustainable forestry, community participation in reforestation and landscape restoration activities at the local level.



Representatives of the Ministry of Nature protection, EU Delegation to Armenia, local and national NGOs, media, community members actively involved in RECCs' reforestation works in Koghb and Jujevan were also invited to join media tour. The Media Tour took place at "Zikatar" training center, in Tavush region 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 have been demonstrated during the Media Tour. An event accompanied with landscape restoration activities (tree

planting) also highlighted best practices, lessons learnt on sustainable use of forests, community forest management and reforestation. The deputy Minister of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA, Mr. Khachik Hakobyan while attending the media tour has also planted 3 trees of different types. Over 1800 trees were planted in the territory of 3 hectare

Social Advertisement video clip on FCFPP EU funded regional project

Social advertisement video clip on FCFPP regional project, especially with highlights on sustainable forest management, forest conservation and other forest related topic aimed at addressing deforestation and climate change issues, secured land tenure, forest rights, poverty reduction, as well as reforestations and landscape restoration issues is prepared by "Art Sight" LLC Armenian company and REC Caucasus Armenia.



The final version of social advertisement video clip is broadcasted through Armenian Television. This initiative contributed to increase of public awareness on the importance of Community Forest Policy and Practice, with major emphasis on protection and conservation of forests, as key role players in our green future.

National Workshop on TEEB regional project

RECC Armenia launched National Workshop within the TEEB regional project on 20 November, 2012 in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia. The

workshop focused on the presentation of project results, latest achievements, and the scope of positive impact of the project intervention, future project activities, as well as replication potentials in surrounding areas of pilot communities, including forest ecosystems.



Information on animals diversity in surrounding areas of selected communities including information on the most threatened, rare, endemic species, on trend and dynamics of changes in animals diversity, possible conservation measures including measures could be implemented by local communities, especially by young people and relevant section of the Local plan on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use was shared by the project experts.



Major recommendations outlined

- establish fruits and berries collection /procurement centre
- establish SMEs to enable local population realize their fruits and berries
- clarify the most typical and important directions for the community development;
- enhance ecotourism possibilities in Koghb community.





City Conference within US Embassy funded national project LEAPs

On 13 November, 2012 RECC Armenia organized Project City conference in Dilijan town. The major goal of the conference was to raise public awareness on newly started project funded by US Embassy, as well as met with wide spectrum of civil society to discuss environmental issues existing in Dilijan town.



More than 40 representatives of civil society together with Dilijan City mayor, Mr. Armen Santosyan, City council members, officials of different infrastructures, REC Caucasus Armenia, LEAPs Focal point of The RA ministry of Nature Protection and representatives from the Embassy of United States to Armenia, Ms Liana Sahakyan (Grant Specialist Public Affairs) and Mr. Jay Treloar (Information Officer) attended the conference.

The project idea was greatly welcomed by all conference attendees, who shared their views in regard with resolution of Dilijan

environmental issues and expressed their willingness to support effective project implementation and be involved in all stages of project intervention. Common consensus among project staff and civil society representatives of Dilijan town has been reached towards implementation of further activities in accordance to the project action plan.



The conference was finalized with an emphasis on importance of the project in term of addressing environmental issue together with Stakeholders' Committee, which will consists of active representatives (citizens, local government officials, NGOs, CBOs, business and private sector, scientists, youth and women) interested in resolution of environmental issues.

The questionnaires on identification of Dilijan environmental issues were also completed by conference participants, which will help to get quite real picture of current situation in terms of environmental problems.

Training on LEAPs Methodology

Favorable background created and consensus achieved assisted LEAPs project team in continuation of project activities and entering into introduction of core objectives and methodology of the project.



Two-day trainings held by project experts were focused on demonstration of the legal basis for project implementation, what is Local environmental planning, disciplines of strategic planning, the role of participants in the LEAPs procedure, analysis of baseline situation. Based on example of abstract city presented by project expert, SC members became familiar with LEAPs methodology while revealing and identifying main problems of an abstract City, prioritizing them and drawing "the tree of problems", as well as elaborating "the tree of objectives" by working in groups.

Training was very productive, as it delivered essentials of LEAPs methodology via example of abstract city, which will be used in identification of environmental problems and development of tree of objectives for Dilijan town. To this end, interviews with LEAPs project experts Ms. Dshkhuhi Sahakyan and Ms. Evelina Ghukasyan were taken by Tavush TV local company.

It is worth to note, that in the result of project intervention, a well-developed Local Environmental Action Plan will be an asset for community targeting long-term impact and sustainability,

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