



Sustainable Management of Biodiversity (SMB) South Caucasus



Sustainable Management of Biodiversity

A Technical Co-operation Programme in the South Caucasus

Partner Countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ)

Overall term: June 2008 to May 2016 (1st phase: June 2008 to May 2011)

Context

Pressure on the natural resources of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia is high. It is accelerating the destruction of the rural population's sources of income. This is the result of widespread rural poverty, high demand for energy and raw materials, and rapid economic growth. In the Southern Caucasus countries, business based on biodiversity, particularly in and around conservation areas, has tended to be seen as a threat to nature. Concepts such as sustainable management of biodiversity do not yet exist in state, civil society, or private sector contexts.

Objective

The main objective of the programme is to integrate the sustainable use of natural resources into government sector, business and society. Establishment of conservation areas is no longer considered the only way to preserve biodiversity. Successful examples linking sustainable use of natural resources and economic development in rural areas will raise state and private investment in this field.

Local Level

At the local level we promote the sustainable use of biodiversity through the development of value chains. Effective management of biodiversity can open possibilities for local populations to engage in alternative trade and business opportunities. These practices have been proven to provide women, in particular, with sustainable sources of income.

National Level

Our programme helps create the conditions needed for sustainable biodiversity management in the Southern Caucasus countries. At the national level we offer support through:

- Reform of relevant laws, ordinances, and implementation guidelines
- Development of institutional structures and capacity-building
- Staff development within and outside the environment ministries
- Environmental education

Regional Level

The marked differences among the three countries in the Southern Caucasus call for differentiated approaches. The activities are implemented in a country-specific and needs-based manner. The programme also promotes cross-border dialogue and technical exchange among the three countries, sharing best practices and opening economic opportunities where applicable.

Activity Fields

Framework Conditions

A supportive framework is needed to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Training courses and study tours help our partners to develop new ideas for conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

We support the implementation of the CBD through capacity building and technical assistance.



Biodiversity Monitoring

We can only manage natural resources in a sustainable way if we know enough about their condition. Monitoring plant and animal species, their habitats, as well as the threats they face provides this information. Monitoring allows better planning and management of biodiversity.

We support biodiversity monitoring at the national level.



Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Sustainable management of biodiversity helps to protect our nature. This requires careful planning and full participation of resource users. Our pilot areas are Shirvan National Park and Zaqatala Region.

We support the development of management plans and models of sustainable resource use.



Public Awareness

The more people know about waterbirds, gazelles or medicinal plants, the more they care. Therefore we work with children, students, and teachers to increase their knowledge and appreciation for Azerbaijan's unique nature.

We support the development and implementation of public awareness campaigns to promote the understanding of biodiversity.



Value Chains

Wise use of natural resources is also profitable. Better processing and marketing of natural products increases local income. Natural resources, however, need to be collected in a sustainable way for the benefit of future generations.

We support the development of value chains for selected natural products and environmental services.





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