



Sustainable Management of Biodiversity (SMB) South Caucasus



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Sustainable Management of Biodiversity – A Technical Co-operation Programme in the South Caucasus

Partner Countries:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Donor:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ)
Overall term:	June 2008 to May 2016 (1 st phase: June 2008 to May 2011)
Overall budget:	up to 20.000.000 EUR (1 st phase: up to 6.500.000 EUR)

Context

The pressure on the natural resources of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is high and 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, an economic profitable business based on biodiversity, particularly in and around conservation areas, has so far tended to be seen as a threat to nature. Concepts such as sustainable management of the diversity of species do not exist in state, civil society or private sector contexts. So far, development prospects deriving from sustainable use have been given insufficient recognition.

Objective

Main objective of this Technical Co-operation Programme is the integration of the economically efficient and sustainable use of natural resources into the government sector, business and society as a means of preserving resources. Successful examples of the linking up of sustainable use of natural resources and economic development in rural areas are expected to raise further state and private investment in the sustainable use of natural resources. Conservation areas are no longer considered the only way to preserve the diversity of species.

Approach

Development cooperation gives priority to efforts to help to create the conditions needed for sustainable biodiversity management in the Southern Caucasus countries. Support is provided for the reform of relevant laws, ordinances and implementation guidelines, organizational development and the development of capacity and potential at the related governmental bodies, staff development within and outside the environment ministries, and environmental communication.

One local-level priority is the management of natural resources at the pilot areas. The sustainable and economic use of biodiversity is promoted in these locations through the development of value chains. Local trade opportunities and alternative ways for people to earn a living are intended to provide women, in particular, with new means of generating their own income.

The marked differences between the three countries in the Southern Caucasus call for a differentiated approach. The activities are implemented in a country-specific and needs-oriented manner. The programme also promotes the cross-border dialogue and technical exchange between the countries.

Main Programme Components in Armenia

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

Early after its independence in 1993 the Republic of Armenia signalled the United Nations by signing the CBD how important biodiversity is and that Armenia wants to take over full responsibility for its conservation. GTZ in the frame of SMB is supporting the Government of RA in creating favourable political, legal and institutional conditions for sustainable use of biodiversity.



Establishment of a National Biodiversity Monitoring System

Having reliable up to date information on the situation of biodiversity in Armenia and being aware of ongoing changes is a crucial basis for sound policy and decision making. GTZ supports the Government of the Republic of Armenia in setting up a National Biodiversity Monitoring System in compliance with international standards and best practices.



Increasing Public Awareness on the Value of Biodiversity

What is the value of biodiversity? People should understand the importance of biodiversity for their well-being and they should know how it could be used sustainably to maintain all benefits in the long term. Only then they will be able to take individual and political responsibility for their future. The SMB addresses environmental awareness campaigns to children, local communities, political decision makers and other groups of Armenian society.



Management of Protected Areas

Effective management of protected areas depends on sound budgets. SMB tests how sustainable use of biodiversity could contribute to finance the management of protected areas in Armenia.



Creating Local Incomes

Precondition for conserving biodiversity are sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. SMB creates financial benefits for local communities who sustainably use biodiversity – and therefore increases people's motivation to conserve the source of their incomes.





photos: © WWF Armenia / A. Malkhazyan / FPWC / GTZ



Ministry of Nature Protection
Government Building 3,
Republic Square, Yerevan
Tel.: +374-10- 521099
E-mail: interdpt@mnp.am
www.mnp.am

Ministry of Territorial Administration
Government Building 2,
Republic Square, Yerevan
Tel.: +374-10- 525274, 511302
E-mail: mta@mta.gov.am
www.mta.gov.am

Ministry of Agriculture
Government Building 3,
Republic Square, Yerevan
Tel.: +374-10- 524641
E-mail: naxartex@yahoo.com
www.minagro.am

gtz

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH**
GTZ Programme Office Yerevan
Nalbandyan Str. 48/1, 0010 Yerevan
Tel.: +374-10-546031
E-mail: thomas.eberherr@gtz.de
www.gtz.de