



Sustainable Management of Biodiversity (SMB), South Caucasus

Sustainable Management of Biodiversity



Partner Countries:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Donor:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Overall Term:

June 2008 to May 2016

Overall Budget:

up to 20.000.000 EUR

Running a National Biodiversity Monitoring System (NBMS).

GTZ assists the Georgian Government in establishing and running a national biodiversity monitoring system. The monitoring of biodiversity is a precondition for taking decisions on suitable measures to minimize or stop the loss of biodiversity or to improve the situation of threatened species and habitats. Data generated through the NBMS constitute an important basis for policy making in order to sustain the natural heritage of Georgia for the benefit of future generations. GTZ supports together with its human resource placement organization (CIM) the development of national biodiversity indicators and the testing and implementation of the monitoring system up to the point of its functioning and institutionalization.

Implementing of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The programme takes the NBSAP as its main reference and assists in implementing selected activities to achieve the agreed goals on improving biodiversity protection and sustainable management of natural resources. The programme focuses on those activities suitable to prevent or to minimize conflicts in forestry, hunting, grazing or the use of wild plants. GTZ offers support to the Georgian Government in analyzing the outset situation, policy development and legal advice. It assists also in setting up examples to prove suitability of modern approaches in biodiversity management. Capacity building through on the job-training, study tours as well as formal training courses are part of the services provided.



Raising public awareness on biodiversity. The prevalent understanding of the link between the quality of nature and the wellbeing of human society is a precondition for successful implementation of policies for a prosperous national economy. The Georgian Government is supported by GTZ in broadening its already existing public information campaigns on environmental issues. The programme focuses on educational campaigns on biodiversity and has schools and school children as the main target group. Field-games and art works are combined with lectures and learning materials which makes biodiversity a fascinating topic for kids - the next generation of decision makers in Georgia.

A Technical Cooperation Programme in the South Caucasus



Managing natural resources and biodiversity in pilot areas. The programme will show that a good management of natural resources integrates commercial viability and biodiversity protection in a sustainable way. Therefore pilot areas have been selected to implement modern approaches in natural resources management. The programme is involved in setting up forest management models in Khara-gauli, management models for wild plants in Khacheti and Imereti as well as models for sustainable pasture and farm management in Khacheti. The pilot areas are close to or can even reach into protected areas. Capacity building and additional tailor-made support for politicians, administrative managers as well as for local companies and rural population is subject to the technical assistance offered by GTZ..

Generating income on the basis of sustainable management of biodiversity.

Rural population as well as various small and medium size companies in Georgia already discovered the economic value of biodiversity as well as its vulnerability. The programme supports the establishment of value chains on the basis of wild collection of wild plants and contributes to efficient protection of and economic benefit from the richness of Georgian nature. Finally, certification of cooperating companies along the principles and standards of an internationally acknowledged certification system (*FairWild*) will open international markets for Georgian natural products.



Want to know more? The Biodiversity Protection Service (BPS) of the Georgian Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural resources (MEPNR) has GTZ and CIM as main partners in implementing the regional programme “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity” in Georgia. Together we are continuously publishing information on biodiversity and related topics. Our **BioTopics** are available at BPS or GTZ programme office and can also be downloaded from the following Website: <http://biomonitoring.moe.gov.ge>. There you will also find additional information about actual programme activities in Georgia.



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