

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice 18 - REC Caucasus - Sustainable Land Management
Project title	Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region
Project acronym	N/A
Project centre	REC Caucasus
Associated programme	Environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy
Beginning date	06.01.2008
End date	31/01/2012
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
Area Type	River waters
Sea-area	N/A
Coastal zone	N/A
DESCRIPTIONS	
Best Practice Summary	<p>Since 2007, REC Caucasus has started to implement the project “Sustainable Land Management for Mitigating Land Degradation and Reducing Poverty in the South Caucasus Region” in the three South Caucasus countries. The overall objective of the proposed Project is to ensure continued ecosystem functions and integrity, reduce poverty, enhance food and water security and income for rural farmers in the South Caucasus countries by combating desertification, strengthening the natural resource base and revitalize the agricultural sector, and increase awareness about best practices for disaster management decision-making and to building local government capacity in development of environmental democracy and public participation.</p> <p>Main objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening policy, planning and regulatory environments for promotion of sustainable land management (SLM) in transboundary watersheds of the South Caucasus region</li> <li>2. Demonstrating benefits of watershed based sustainable land management and alternative livelihood for rural people while protecting fragile ecosystems, including water security issues and disseminating lessons learned and best practices through developing a replication strategy.</li> </ol> <p><b>The project has been implementing in the following watersheds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khrami-Debeda river watersheds (Toumanyanyan, Alaverdi, Akhtala (Armenia); Bolnisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi (Georgia))</li> <li>• Alazani-Iori river watersheds (Lagodekhi, Dedoplistskaro, Sagarejo, Sighaghi (Georgia) Belaken, Zagatala, Sheki, Gakh, Oguz, Mingachavir, Samukh (Azerbaijan))</li> </ul> <p>A number of activities were carried out to fulfill the objectives of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bilateral watershed Action Plans (complying with EU guidelines and</li> </ul>

recommendations) for improved land planning, management and monitoring in trans-boundary river basins of the South Caucasus region are elaborated, agreed among stakeholders and effectively used by 16 municipalities of Toumanyar, Alaverdi, Akhtala, Belaken, Zagatala, Sheki, Gakh, Oguz, Mingachavir, Bolnisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Telavi, Lagodekhi, Dedoplistskaro, Sagarejo in decision-making;

- 12 pilot projects are successfully implemented and local government and community groups in 12 vilagies of the Khrami-Debeda and Alazani-lori transboundary river basins have awareness, practical knowledge and capacity to plan and manage lands, forests, pastures and arable areas in a sustainable way to protect fragile ecosystems and enhance food security and income;
- 3 National assessment reports on land management related national legislations and institutional set-up in South Caucasus countries with comparative analysis with EU guidelines and recommendations for legal and institutional improvements for SLM are available and used by the relevant ministries in all three South Caucasus Countries in the process of EU approximation;
- based on results and main findings of the project in Azerbaijan and Georgia the Alignment of National Action Programme and Reporting Process under UNCCD process have been initiated by RECC and capacity strengthening activities of decision makers successfully commenced in both countries.

<b>Keywords</b>	Local Action Plan, Public Involvement Assessment Reports. EU guidelines.
<b>Data theme</b>	Watersheds, Sustainable Land Management,
<b>CENTRE-INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Project centre</b>	REC Caucasus
<b>Role of research centre</b>	Leading and implementing organization
<b>Other partners and countries</b>	CENN
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<b>Latest-update</b>	05.04.2015