



Regional Environmental Policy South Caucasus

Being one of the most biologically rich regions worldwide, the South Caucasus is identified as globally outstanding for biodiversity. Due to widespread rural poverty, high demand for energy and raw materials, rapid economic growth, and a neoliberal economic policy, pressure on the natural resources of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is rising constantly. As a result, the regions' unique species are facing multiple threats, while the destruction of the rural population's sources of income is accelerating.

In order to contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity protection in the region, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development through GIZ is currently running a regional programme on environmental policy and law in the South Caucasus.

The capacity building programme supports the Environment Ministries in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and other environment-related institutions by providing information on existing and relevant EU environmental legislation. This serves as a precondition for further developing national environmental policies in order to implement national environmental legislation.

The thematic foci of the training programme are in line with the priorities identified in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Each country has signed an Action Plan with the European Commission in 2006; progress reports on their implementation are published regularly.

While benefitting from GIZ's expertise in promoting expert dialogues and establishing networks for exchanging experiences and transferring knowledge, the programme also aims at facilitating regional cooperation to help defuse conflicts and prevent crises in the region.



This programme forms part of the German Federal Government's „Caucasus Initiative“, which was launched in 2001 to facilitate regional cooperation with the three South Caucasus republics.



Fostering better management, policy formulation and implementation practices

National training seminars of the generic training area strengthen skills of the Environment Ministries' staff of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in communication management, project planning and personnel management. Participants acquire planning and analytical tools that help organise workflows within their ministry more effectively. This also supports their compliance with international obligations. Strategic management training targets top-level management and completes the training area.

Sustainable biodiversity management support and industrial environmental policy formulation

In the training area on 'Sustainable biodiversity management', participants will gain a profound understanding of the EU and international legal basis for sustainable biodiversity management. Courses focus on the implementation of relevant EU legislation and potentials for synergies between environmental and nature conservation policies in

order to strengthen each country's biodiversity management. Participants learn about internationally recognised instruments and methods for sustainably managing biodiversity, closely connected to trends in the South Caucasus countries.

Courses on 'Industrial environmental policy' provide participants with skills for a greening-the-economy approach. EU legislation in the area of industrial environmental policy (e.g. the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive [IPPC]) is based on the conviction that prevention is better than cure. The knowledge acquired enables the participants to develop corresponding environmental policies and improve the legislative basis in their countries. Besides legal aspects, the courses focus on innovative instruments for implementing industrial environmental policies, such as market incentive programmes and voluntary measures.

In both thematic training areas national training courses are supplemented by international study tours with participants from all three Environment Ministries.



Programme activities

National training courses on environmental and generic issues are regularly organised in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. A yearly international study tour is organized in Germany. These study tours supplement related national training courses with hands-on examples and site visits. A steering group continuously monitors and fine-tunes the programme.



GIZ Profile

Broad-based expertise for sustainable development – under one roof

Working efficiently, effectively and in a spirit of partnership, we support people and societies in developing, transition and industrialised countries in shaping their own futures and improving living conditions. This is what the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is all about. Established on 1 January 2011, it brings together under one roof the long-standing expertise of the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) gGmbH (German Development Service),

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The company at a glance

GIZ operates in more than 130 countries worldwide. In Germany we maintain a

presence in nearly all the federal states. Our registered offices are in Bonn and Eschborn. GIZ employs approximately 17,000 staff members worldwide, more than 60% of whom are local personnel. In addition, there are 1,135 development workers, 750 integrated and 324 returning experts, 700 local experts in partner organisations and 850 'weltwärts' volunteers. With an estimated turnover of EUR 1.9 billion as at December 2010, GIZ can look to the future with confidence.

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