



Sustainable Development Centre REMISSIA

**Annual Report
2013**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

NGO Sustainable Development Centre Remissia was founded on 12th January 2011, as a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political organization.

The organization was established with the aim to support the Government of Georgia in establishment of sustainable decentralization and development process through participation in preparation of sustainable development strategies and action plans for different sectors of economy and regions of Georgia, introduction of knowledge and new methodologies for sustainable management, contribution to the state-of-the-art technologies transfer process and development of indigenous know-how, strengthening the national and local capacity building process. In performing this mission Remissia will concentrate its efforts to the sectors, ecosystems and regions particularly vulnerable or contributing to the ongoing climate change process. Development, inclusiveness in decision making and implementation process, human rights protection and gender issue are core principles of Remissia's activity.

Sustainable Development Centre Remissia recognizes the priority of principles of sustainable development in economic development of Georgia and therefore conducts its activities in the following areas:

A) Supporting the implementation of activities of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, Covenant of Mayors and other supporting conventions and agreements for sustainable development in the following areas:

- Compiling inventory of greenhouse gases;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promotion of environmental friendly technologies transfer;
- Climate Change vulnerability assessment and preparation of adaptation measures for different economic sectors and ecosystems;
- monitoring the effects of climate change;
- any other activities related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol's implementation.

B) Development, fund raising and implementation of sustainable development projects;

C) Supporting the international and regional cooperation in promoting sustainable development and climate change issues;

C) Training of national experts for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and other activities for sustainable development;

D) Increasing awareness of the above-mentioned processes;

E) Providing consulting activities to governmental agencies, the private sector and the scientific - research institutions.

The organization is authorized to perform any activity not prohibited by law and related to the implementation of the above objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS CARRIED ON

Project Name: Piloting of sustainable tourism development in Georgia through demonstration of renewable and energy efficiency options in Ushguli – high mountainous touristic village in Mestia, Zemo Svaneti

Donor: Winrock/USAID

Dates: 2012-2013

Amount: USD 75,000

Project Background and Description

This project is a contribution to the broader idea of sustainable development of remote villages in mountainous regions of Georgia and voluntary mitigate GHGs produced in the country's territory. The projects served four principle goals: to contribute to country's energy security and energy independence program (country's priority), to support local population in remote villages in sustainable development of their communities and lifestyle (grant requirement), to facilitate establishment of renewable energy and energy efficiency based villages (touristic sites) in Georgia (sustainable development obligation) and to mitigate emission of GHG (methane) generated from animal waste decay to the atmosphere (country's commitment to the UNFCCC).

The project implementation site was touristic village Ushguli in Zemo Svaneti, Municipality of Mestia in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region of Georgia being admirable alpine mountainous site with attractive alpine meadows and historic heritage. Ushguli is located at the foot of Shkhara, one of the highest Caucasian summits and is considered to be the highest inhabited village in Europe at the altitude of 2,200 m. This site comprises of four villages with about 70 families (about 200 people). Ushguli – the highest village in Svaneti, belongs to UNESCO world heritage sites.

The idea behind the project was to demonstrate the sustainable development of touristic areas in the mountainous regions of Georgia (issue to be initiated by the project at national level), to introduce renewable technologies and energy efficiency measures to the local community in order

to improve energy security of local community (issue to be solved at the local level) and to reduce GHGs (methane generated from decay of animal waste) which contributes to the global environment and climate change problem. Along with these issues aside effects were also anticipated after the project implementation, such as increase of local awareness and technical capacities, improving local environmental and living conditions. Short-term objective of the project was the introduction to Ushguli households modern technologies for biogas energy utilization and ensure their sustainability. To achieve this two different kinds of biogas digesters were installed in two different locations in Ushguli.

Project Results

Main results/outcomes from the project are:

- Demonstration of sustainable tourism development possibilities for mountainous regions of Georgia;
- Awareness and knowledge of the pilot area representatives are increased in order to utilize the local renewable resource (in particular livestock manure) and for ensuring the maintenance service locally;
- Maintenance manual for specific conditions in Zemo Svaneti/Ushguli are prepared and provided to the local population. Locals having site visits to the biogas digester owners for increasing knowledge are trained by producers in the process of system installation.
- Recommendations on the best available in the local and international markets biogas technologies are issued.
- Feasibility study including the detailed plan for project practical component sustainability through risks reduction were prepared.
- Two biogas digesters were installed (different technological approaches , mezophilic and thermophilic digesters have been installed and are monitored).
- Dissemination of the project results and best practices for biogas digester installations in mountainous regions in Georgia.



Thermophilic biogas digester installed in Ushguli

Remissia continues monitoring of operation of biogas digesters in Ushguli.

Project Name: Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia

Donor: GRID-Arendal/UNEP

Dates: 2013

Amount: USD 2,400

Project Background and Description

Under the auspices of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), United Nations Environment Programme is launching an assessment process on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. The main aim of the project is *to enhance and promote regional stability through transboundary co-operation on adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change*. The project is planned to be as participatory as possible and it will run through different phases such as the production of regional background papers and the preparation of national and regional consultations. Project's final output / deliverable is a report on Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia, mapping and analyzing relevant hot-spots in the entire region. The notion of security in the framework of this project means national security and human security.

The main objective of the report is to enhance understanding and awareness of climate change as a security threat and the consequent need for regional and bilateral cooperation in adaptation in the three regions. The final report will primarily focus on the latest trends of climate change; vulnerabilities; analyses of existing adaptation measures, lessons learned from existing climate change adaptation projects to ultimately provide recommendations from a regional perspective. Local entities provided qualitative and credible insights for the regional background papers, which will be a subject of discussion at the national consultations.

Project Results

Remissia developed national input, providing analysis and bibliography supporting the project. The analyses included the first-hand updated information at national level available from recent national scientific papers, scientifically sound project summaries, statistics, special analyses or similar information sources and when necessary based on consultations with different experts and institutions. The assessment served as the compilation of the latest existing findings, thus also providing a bibliography to relevant information; and suggestions for the relevant experts to be consulted at the later stage of the project (e.g. to be part of national and/ or regional consultations).

Project Name: Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) Clean Energy Program

Donor: Winrock/USAID

Dates: 2013-2015

Amount: USD 566,899 (Remissia total)

Project Background and Description

In 2013 Remissia started to implement USAID's Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) Clean Energy Program together with several local and international partners. The program supports increased climate change mitigation by building municipal capacity for at least 10 municipalities in analyzing, planning and implementing climate change mitigation measures, Component 1); increasing private sector investment in energy efficiency (EE) and green buildings (Component 2); raising public awareness about the benefits of energy efficiency including increased comfort and energy bill savings (supporting Components 1 and 2); and strengthening Government of Georgia (GOG) capacity to develop and implement a national Low Emission Development (LED) strategy (Component 3). The Sustainable Development Center Remissia will lead two of these components: Component 1) Georgian Municipal Energy

Efficiency (GeMunee), and Component 3) assistance to National EC-LEDS Steering Committee SC support.

Under Component 1 Remissia will lead development and implementation of municipal Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) and development of analytical tool to be used for selecting mitigation options and programs. Under Component 3 Remissia will work with international partners to provide technical support to the LEDES Steering Committee and Working Groups to develop a low emission development strategy and implementation plan(s).

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Project Name: Development of Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the city of Batumi

Donor: Batumi City Hall

Dates: 2014

Amount: USD 8,000

Project Background and Description

In 2013 Remissia started to work with the city of Batumi to provide technical support in the development of SEAP. Batumi is administrative centre of Autonomous republic of Adjara and fast growing touristic city. Batumi is a signatory to Covenant of Mayors - the EU initiative involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency, use of renewable energy sources on their territories and decrease Greenhouse Gas(GHG) emissions by at least 20%. As a signatory Batumi has committed to develop and submit SEAP. Remissia will work with Batumi city hall to develop this document, which includes Baseline emission inventory, Business as Usual (BAU) Scenario, GHG emissions abatement strategy, measures and policy recommendations, public awareness raising and emissions monitoring plans. SEAP covers the following sectors: buildings, transport, public lighting, waste and wastewater, green places and urban planning. Batumi SEAP should be submitted to Covenant of Mayors in 2014.