

## Georgia Soon to Have its National Action Programme to Combat Desertification Aligned with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy

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REC Caucasus is implementing the project on Alignment of National action programme with the 10 year strategy. The Ministry of Environment of Georgia has initiated the project and Global Environmental Facility (GEF) supported it.

Georgia ratified UNCCD in 1999. Since then, several important efforts were made in country towards their implementation. Georgia developed and approved the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) in 2003 that identifies the priority regions facing the risk of desertification, defines the main factors contributing to desertification in these areas, and determines short- and medium-terms actions. Georgia has also submitted three national reports on the implementation of convention

Beside the fact, that Georgian land resources are limited and protection of land and soil is essential one of the major problem Georgia facing today is an absence of comprehensive and integrated vision in the land management sector, lack of efficient land management policies, weak regulatory framework, limited access to appropriate information and technology, weak institutional capacities and lack of cooperation between the various stakeholders along with high rate of natural disasters are causing significant problems in SLM sector and for overall ecosystem integrity.

Taking note of the above the one of the key objectives of the project is to elaborate National Action Plan to combat desertification with focus on national priorities and being in full compliance with 10-year strategy of UNCCD.

The main objectives of the project is to align the NAP with the 10 year strategy, to train the different stakeholders in fulfillment of the National Reporting System and to develop the e-atlas of land resources and land degradation. The aim of the project is to support and enhance the Ministry of Environment of Georgia, Focal Point of UNCCD, in implementation of UNCCD commitments and liabilities.

**On December 25, 2012 REC Caucasus together with the representatives of Ministry of Environment of Georgia conducted the inception workshop on the project Alignment of National Action Programme and Reporting Process under UNCCD Process.**

The main goal of the workshop was to introduce the project aims and outputs to the stakeholders; moreover, to discuss necessary implementation steps, approaches and measures to update the Georgian National Report in order to introduce it to the Convention to Combat Desertification.

The National Workshop was attended by all stakeholders of the country, such as governmental entities, including National focal points for CCD, academic institutions, non-governmental sectors, etc.

Following issues were addressed during the workshop:

- Alignment of National Action Programme with the 10 year strategy under the UNCCD;
- Introduction the national report submission process;

- Introduction of the already submitted information;
- Presentation of the ongoing and recently finalized projects linked to the implementation of UNCCD.

As a result of the workshop, the project was introduced to the different stakeholders together with the project implementation Steering Committee; the national report has been reviewed and additional information gathered for updating the report.

The experts group organized by the REC Caucasus is to gather the information from different stakeholders, to assess and analyze the existing situation and make the recommendations for actions to be included in the National Action programme to combat desertification, land degradation and draught in Georgia. They also are assure to conduct the trainings for stakeholders to aware them how to fulfill the information for PRAIZ portal and to collaborate with the focal point of Georgia.

The project duration is one year. It has started on mid October of 2012 and ends until November 2013.