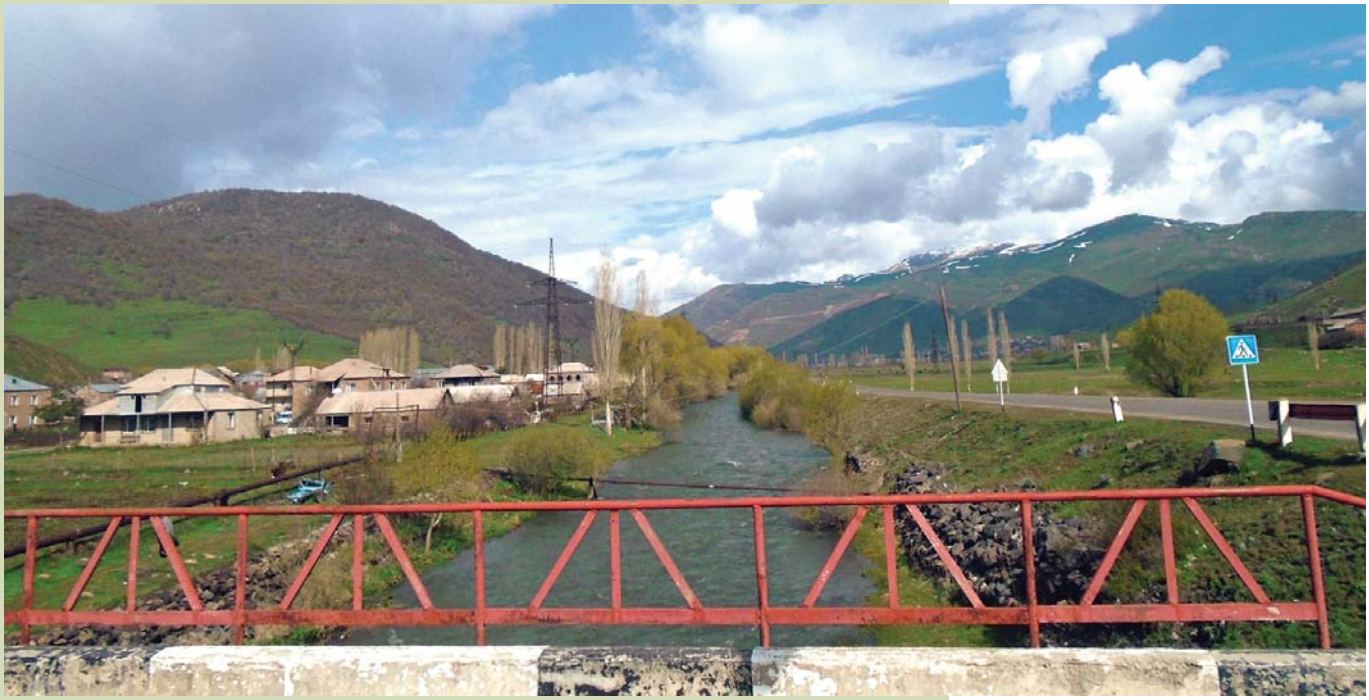
CDE PRESS RELEASE

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Action Research and Pilot projects on mitigation of climate change in the Settlements of the Marmarik River Valley (Armenia, Kotayk Marz)



This project within the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign affairs (FDFA) research programme "Environment and Security" contributes to action research on community energy and natural resource management in Armenia and Georgia. This recent research phase (2018 - 2019) is focused on methodological adaptation and institutional development.

Energy management receives much attention at the national and international levels related to the large-scale supply of energy, but people in remote rural or mountain regions of Armenia and Georgia feel that their local situation is not sufficiently addressed: "Much is done in Caucasus, but what about energy demand-side technology and management adapted in our village conditions?"

To address this gap the FDFA programme "Environment and Security" with this specific project for the Caucasus South region seeks to supports bottom-up approaches on natural resources management – here with focus energy - including local transboundary institutional exchange and development. Program is jointly implemented by "Khazer" Ecological and Cultural NGO of Armenia, the "Green Movement" NGO of Georgia and the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) at University of Bern, Switzerland and partner State Universities of Yerevan and Tbilisi.

The overall aim is to foster locally based environmental cooperation by establishing a sustainable partnership between researchers, villagers, and experts across the border.

The goal of the project was to study the settlements of the Marmarik river watershed basin watershed basin area and implement pilot projects.

Installation of solar water heater on the roof of Meghradzor Educational and Cultural Center

These are Aghavnadzor, Meghradzor, Marmarik and Artavaz villages, as well as Vanatur and Jrarat settlements within Hrazdan urban community.

Discussions were conducted through seminars - consultations among the population, youth and students.

The survey was conducted within the framework of the project, working meetings were held, resulting in the detection of the population's attitude towards natural, especially water resources. A training and educational workshop was also organized for the local population to raise their environmental awareness.

The residents were presented with the components of concrete pilot projects envisaged within the framework of the project. It was explained that the projects should have environmental orientation and the principles of their selection were determined.

The agreed principles of project selection are:

1. Elections should be carried out by residents based on their needs, especially social.

2. The project should have an environmental orientation and correspond to Armenia's strategic plans and international commitments in that area.

3. Beneficiaries should be broad groups of residents.

4. The project should have a community significance, potential for repeatability, and also "infectious" so people would want to apply in other collectives and in individual versions.

5. Visible and presentable.

During the dialogue and consultations with the local population based on the aims and objectives of the project the ideas of the specific small pilot project desirable for them were determined, based on which the subject and list of possible pilot projects to be implemented in the villages were identified.

The final agreement was reached to install one solar water heater in the Vanatur and one in the Jrarat nurseries, also another water heater in Meghradzor village, where an educational and cultural center is being formed on the initiative of a group of residents.

The demonstration of the pilot project was accompanied by awareness and explanatory work. It was explained that they are purposeful and correspond to the commitments undertaken by Armenia under the UN Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

The water heater was installed under the following conditions:

• The project provides a solar water heater, the support and connection accessories to the water supply network, and the receiving party ensures the installation and the connection.

• A contract is signed, according to which the water heater and equipment are initially provided for free of charge use. Then, in case of good and efficient use, water heaters will be handed over to the users as property.

The project "Environment and Security in the South Caucasus in the Sustainable Resource and Water Use Area" in the Razdan Municipality was implemented by the Swiss Research Program "Environment and Security" (Environment and Safety in the South Caucasus in the Sustainable Resources and Water Use Area) in cooperation with Bern (Switzerland) and Yerevan Armenian State Pedagogical University after Kh. Abovyan.

One type of a solar water heater (each with a capacity of 150 liters) has been installed in each of these two kindergartens in **Jrarat** and **Vanatur,** with pre-made pedestals.

Pilot projects were implemented with a 50% in-kind contribution by kindergarten's personally.

A solar water heater with a capacity of 150 liters was also installed in the **Megradzor** Educational and Cultural Center.

Installation of solar water heater on the roof of Jrarat kindergarten

Solar water heater installation on the roof of Vanatur kindergarten

This pilot project was implemented with a 50% in-kind contribution of the beneficiary.

"Khazer" Ecological and Cultural NGO
Saryan str. 38/27,
Yerevan 0002, Armenia
khazerngo@gmail.com
www.khazer.org