



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE  
Economic and Environmental Activities**



# **CASE**

## **(Civic Action for Security and Environment)**

### **Small Grants Programme**

## **Report on Small Grants Projects, December 2010**

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. The CASE Management Structure .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. CASE Armenia .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.1 Projects Supported under CASE Armenia .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. CASE Azerbaijan .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3.1 Projects Supported under CASE Azerbaijan .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4. CASE Tajikistan.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>4.1 Projects Supported under CASE Tajikistan.....</b>	<b>23</b>

## **Executive Summary**

The Civic Action for Security and Environment (CASE) is a small grants programme developed by the OSCE to support co-operation between civil society and government in support of effective environmental governance that would be able to adequately address security threats resulting from environmental challenges. Established in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan in 2009 and 2010, CASE brings together key environmental stakeholders, the government, civil society representatives and experts from the OSCE and UNDP and other international organizations. These stakeholders work together in CASE National Screening Boards to guide implementation of the Initiative in the country. These Screening Boards select civil society projects based on a set of criteria that take into account environmental challenges on the ground. The CASE approach carefully balances the twin goals of the programme: building the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and tackling environment and security challenges.

While priorities necessarily vary between the three countries of implementation, common challenges addressed by CASE projects include low public awareness on security risks posed by environmental challenges, environmental degradation caused by mining and industry, deforestation and land degradation, vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters, the consequences of climate change, and a lack of capacity for effective environmental governance. These priorities are closely aligned with those of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative, of which CASE is a part.

Total funding for CASE currently stands at EUR 496,000. The government of Austria contributed EUR 40,000, the government of Canada (through ENVSEC) EUR 148,000, the government of Luxembourg EUR 200,000, and Statoil EUR 108,000. This amount is allocated to support CASE activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan as well as to support corporate level co-ordination and capacity building activities by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

In its first year and a half of implementation, CASE has supported 32 small grants projects, 17 in Armenia, 7 in Azerbaijan, and 8 in Tajikistan. CASE has built the capacity of a number of civil society organizations and used their projects to reach out to thousands of beneficiaries. A total of 212,477 EUR have so far been expended on small grants. This represents 90% of total project expenditure. This figure compares favorably to other small grants programmes that have administration costs in the 15 to 40% region. This superior efficiency of CASE is a function of its streamlined delivery system and a management system that draws on the infrastructure and experience by the OSCE Field Operations on the ground.

Most projects supported under CASE have an awareness-raising or capacity-building focus and have budgets in the 6,000 to 10,000 EUR range. CASE projects usually operate at the grassroots level focusing on a limited number of communities that grantee organizations are intimately familiar with. Faced with a strong budget constraint, CASE projects draw heavily on the services offered by the OSCE-supported Aarhus Centres for stakeholder outreach, awareness-raising and meeting facilitation. Several projects have also contributed to larger activities implemented under ENVSEC or the Global Environmental Facility.

In late 2010, the OCEEA organized a CASE Co-ordination meeting with CASE practitioners (government, UNDP and OSCE representatives) and grantees, in Vienna, to discuss progress made and lessons learned, and strengths and challenges of the Initiative and chart the way for CASE implementation in 2011 and beyond. In 2011, CASE will reinforce its focus on building the capacities of CSOs by organizing trainings on environment and security challenges and project management tools. A new cycle of projects will be phased in by mid-2011.

## 1. The CASE Management Structure

CASE was developed in recognition of the contribution of civil society in environmental governance, and is designed to offer a lean option for building the capacity of CSOs to address environment and security challenges in co-operation with their governments. CASE supports CSOs in implementing outstanding projects in the field of security and environment through small grants. The programme is currently being implemented in the three countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan.

The overall objective of CASE is to build sustainable civil society capacity and to create an enabling environment for CSOs to be strong partners to their governments as well as to other stakeholders in tackling environment and security challenges.

CASE has three target outputs:

- To increase public and political awareness on the linkages between environment and security.
- To strengthen the capacity of CSOs in the field of environment and security.
- To render financial and technical assistance to CSOs on projects demonstrating cooperation in the field of environment with government, civil society, the private sector and international organizations.

CASE functions in a decentralized way: Its institutional set-up is designed to devolve as much responsibility to local stakeholders as possible, while ensuring continued strategic guidance by the OSCE. The CASE programmes in each of the three countries are guided by a CASE Country Strategy that is formulated in a participatory process involving the government and civil society with support of the OSCE field operation. This country strategy defines broadly priority environment and security challenges that projects eligible for support under CASE may address. The actual selection of projects submitted for support under CASE is then conducted in a decentralized way by the CASE National Screening Board, where representatives of the government serve alongside civil society representatives as well as representatives of UNDP Country Offices and OSCE Field Operations. This ensures consideration is given to the environment and security challenges of the country, as perceived by its government and local civil society.

CASE exhibits strong linkages with the ENVSEC and Aarhus Centres Initiatives. Aarhus Centres are institutions that support good environmental governance on the basis of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. The Centres support involvement of citizens in environmental decision-making. For the implementation of all CASE projects, Aarhus Centres serve as a platform for linking CSOs with local and national government, and support CASE grantees with expertise, logistical support and meeting space. Several CASE projects implemented by lower-capacity CSOs are de facto headquartered at local Aarhus Centres.

ENVSEC Partner Agencies, particularly the OSCE, UNDP, UNECE and UNEP implement a variety of projects in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan, some of which feature strong synergies with the current CASE portfolio. Of the current project portfolio, one CASE project is directly complementary to an ENVSEC water management project in Azerbaijan. Another CASE project implemented in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan is linked to a large-scale activity implemented by UNEP through the Global Environmental Facility.

## 2. CASE Armenia

In Armenia, CASE is guided by the Armenia CASE National Strategy that identifies all technical and operational issues related to implementation, assigns responsibilities to CASE stakeholders, and establishes country-specific criteria that CSO project proposals have to meet to be considered for support under CASE. The County Strategy was developed by the CASE National Screening Board based on the consultations of the ENVSEC National Advisory Group for Armenia in June 2009. The document particularly identifies challenges for environment and security in Armenia that are to be prioritized by CASE projects.

Key challenges to be addressed by CASE-supported projects include the rehabilitation of Lake Sevan; deforestation; industrial waste treatment and private and industrial waste disposal; the environmental situation in the national capital Yerevan; ground erosion in the main agricultural zone of Armenia, the Ararat plain; biodiversity preservation; air pollution in Yerevan and the industrial and mining hubs of Alaverdi, Ararat, Vanadzor and Hrazdan; water pollution and low capacity for wastewater treatment.

In accordance with these challenges, CASE Armenia admits projects addressing the following topical priorities:

- Sustainable management of natural resources (water, bio-diversity, bio-security, mountains, etc)
- Tackling climate change
- Combating land degradation
- Natural and man-made disasters
- Hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals management
- Reduction of the negative impacts of mining
- Sustainable use of energy
- Sustainable transportation
- Environmental education
- Strengthening of Armenian civil society capacities for environmental actions

These thematic priorities are to be addressed jointly with the cross-cutting themes of:

- Support for environmental governance
- Social aspects of environmental security, including migration, gender equality etc.
- Role and participation of women
- Role and participation of youth

CASE Armenia is funded through ENVSEC, which contributes EUR 99,000 originally donated by CIDA, and through contributions by Luxembourg, contributing EUR 40,000, and by Austria, contributing EUR 12,500. Seventeen projects are currently under implementation under CASE Armenia. 6 phase-one projects of varying duration commenced in February and March 2010 and issued their first interim reports in July 2010. Another 5 phase-two projects started in April, May and June. Finally, a third batch of 5 phase three projects commenced implementation in November 2010. The CASE Armenia National Screening Board has decided to cap individual grant amounts at around EUR 6000. To date EUR 104,761 have been awarded in grants under CASE Armenia - that is EUR 6,162 per project on average. Table 1 below relates all projects implemented under CASE Armenia to the topical priorities they are addressing.

**Table 1 CASE Armenia - Priorities Addressed**

<b>Topical Priority (no. of projects in brackets)</b>	<b>Project Title, Location</b>
Hazardous waste and hazardous chemicals management (4)	<p>Safe Environment, Alaverdi</p> <p>Improvement of the Environment in the Hrazdan Region, Hrazdan</p> <p>Public awareness raising on environmental problems, Goris</p> <p>Assessment of risk of heavy metal pollution of farm products in Armenia, Alaverdi</p>
Reduction of the negative impacts of mining (3)	<p>Safe Environment - Alaverdi</p> <p>Improvement of the Environment in the Hrazdan Region - Hrazdan</p> <p>Assessment of Security Risks of Environmental Hot Spots Lori, Syunik Regions, Sevan Basin (Gegharkunik region)</p>
Sustainable Transportation (1)	Consumer Association, Yerevan
Environmental Education (6)	<p>Seminars on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and Environmental Information - Kotayk, Lori and Syunik regions</p> <p>Creation of Ecological Information Network - Yeghvard</p> <p>Whither Yerevan, Yerevan</p> <p>Provision of Expertise on ISO 14001:2004 EMS Standard Requirements and Implementation Benefits - multiple locations</p> <p>Production of a Film on Environmental Problems in Gegharkunik region - Gegharkunik</p> <p>Nature is a Boomerang - Aragatsotn region</p>
Sustainable management of natural resources (3)	<p>Development of LEAP for Kapan, Kapan</p> <p>Strengthening capacities of communities on environmental management -Hrazdan River quality improvement -Ararat and Armavir regions</p> <p>Informing, developing knowledge and abilities of farmers to engage in organic agriculture – Tavush</p>
Strengthening of Armenian civil society capacities for environmental actions (2)	Assessment of Security Risks of Environmental Hot Spots - Lori, Sevan Basin, Syunik regions



diseases among the population. The Yerevan-based NGO Consumers Association implemented a project devoted to improving the services provided by the public transportation system of Yerevan while making public transport more environmentally sustainable. The project, carried between February and November 2010, featured an assessment of the current condition of the Yerevan public transport system that gave room for the opinion of citizens and elaborated proposals for the Yerevan municipality and the Ministry of Transport on how to mitigate pollution while raising the efficiency of Yerevan public transport. The results of the assessment and proposals for improvement were widely discussed via roundtables open to the public. Consumers Association was awarded a CASE grant of EUR 6,591 for execution of this project. A first interim report was submitted by the CASE grant recipient in July 2010. Within the first four months of implementation the assessment had been completed, and an opinion poll among citizens conducted. Monitoring of transport flows proved that Yerevan public transport relies to a very high degree on micro-buses instead of safer and more fuel-efficient buses and trolley buses. In meetings with local and national government officials and CSOs, Consumer Association raised this issue successfully and local authorities committed to a substantial reduction of the use of micro-buses. In parallel, the project team, with the assistance of the Environmental Law Resource Centre at Yerevan University, drafted first proposals for legislative amendments that would raise legal standards for transportation and improve the performance of the Armenian Traffic Inspectorate in enforcing these standards. These activities were accompanied by a public awareness-raising campaign featuring four roundtable discussions with interested citizens at the Yerevan Aarhus Centre. Upon evaluation of the results of the assessment and the opinion poll by experts, the CASE grantee formally presented municipal government and the Ministry of Transport with a final set of conclusions and recommendations for ameliorating the situation.

## **2. Safe Environment – Alaverdi**

Anahit – Women Support Centre identified an arsenic mining waste fill in the city of Alaverdi in a deteriorated condition. The state of waste fill implied a risk of groundwater contamination, the event of which would present a major health hazard to public health for both local residents and populations relying on the water of the nearby Debed river. Supported by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 3,155, Anahit developed a project assessing the state of the fill and developing proposals for its rehabilitation. The project was implemented between February and August 2010. To assess the risk of groundwater contamination a seismic examination of the area was conducted and a plan of action developed jointly with the Alaverdi municipality and the owner of the fill, the private company Armenian Copper Programme. In parallel, the CASE grantee organization raised public awareness of the issue.

In spring 2010 Anahit commenced examination of the site in co-operation with another NGO possessing technical expertise, the Centre for Ecological Noosphere Studies, which was tasked to sample the soil to detect possible contamination. Laboratory analysis of the samples was being conducted by the Armenian Rescue Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Nature Protection and specialists of the Alaverdi Health Care Centre. Anahit worked successfully to develop cooperative relations with all stakeholders. An indication of this positive relationship, the Armenian Copper Programme agreed to finance the seismic monitoring activities to be carried out at its site. Both the seismic monitoring and soil were conducted successfully, and a plan of action for rehabilitation of the burial was elaborated by experts from both NGOs and submitted to the Armenian Copper Programme, Alaverdi municipality and representatives of the Ministry of Nature Protection at a meeting in late August. All project activities were accompanied by extensive awareness-raising efforts, including public discussions with over 100 participants at the Alaverdi Aarhus Centre, the production of two TV programmes about the fill and its

condition aired on local Ankyun 3+ TV station, and a number of articles published in the local Hetq newspaper. In its final project report delivered in November 2010, Anahit noted the good co-operation with Alaverdi municipality throughout the project. The organization concluded that the project made an important contribution by assessing the threat from the Alaverdi waste fill and focusing public attention on it. In the coming months Anahit will continue to mobilize public pressure to facilitate a speedy rehabilitation of the dangerous site.

### **3. Seminars on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) and Environmental Information - Kotayk, Lori and Syunik regions**

Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) are publicly accessible databases showing pollutant releases or transfers by private as well as public enterprises, with information disaggregated down to the plant level. PRTRs are advocated internationally through the PRTR Protocol, a protocol to the Aarhus Convention. Currently, Armenia has not ratified the PRTR Protocol. The Scientific and Educational Centre for National Development (SECND) implemented a project designed to raise awareness on and build support and capacity for the introduction of PRTRs in Armenia. This project, implemented between February and August 2010 was designed to harness the political will and produce the technical capacity for Armenia to implement the protocol. The project was entirely financed by a CASE grant amounting to EUR 5,920.

SECND designed awareness-raising and capacity-building seminars with business executives and open to the public held at regional Aarhus Centres in the three target regions of Kotayk, Lori and Syunik, with the potential to be replicated across Armenia. In their final project report, submitted in August 2010, SECND reported on the successful execution of all three seminars. These seminars relied on UN PRTR reports and PRTR guideline documents and were specifically tailored to the situation in and needs of the host region. In Goris, Syunik region, the interest in the seminar was exceptionally high and attendance surpassed the expectations of the organizers. The Aarhus Centres provided valuable support in reaching out to the local business community, and hence made a large contribution to overcoming the most difficult challenge in implementation of this project. During the three seminars all participants were provided with information material and were asked to evaluate the seminars. The results of this evaluation showed satisfaction with the seminars, and communicated a desire for more information, but also indicated skepticism toward introduction of PRTR on part of several private sector representatives. This underlines the importance of sustained awareness-raising and advocacy work of CSOs on this issue. In the final project report, SECND showed itself satisfied with the project result. The major challenge involved in the project was to motivate the private sector to participate, and assistance from the Aarhus Centres was especially valuable in this respect. The seminar evaluation conducted by SECND has identified demand for expansion of the initiative. Accordingly, SECND indicated a desire to hold at least one additional PRTR seminar in the city of Kapan in the future.

### **4. Improvement of the Environment in the Hrazdan Region – Hrazdan**

The city of Hrazdan and its periphery are a major industrial and mining hub of Armenia, host to cement and asphalt producing industries, a caloric power plant and several mines of copper, gold, iron and phosphate.

The NGO Varvogh Astgh implemented a project addressing the environmental impact of industrial and mining pollutants in partnership with private companies and municipal authorities. The goal of the project was to assess industrial pollution in Hrazdan and raise awareness about the negative environmental consequences of unsustainable industrial



activity. In the course of the project, which was implemented between March and December 2010, Varvogh Astgh, in co-operation with expert consultants interviewed and monitored pollutant emissions by 31 local industry units and published a report detailing the results. The grant recipient also co-operated in depth with several industrial enterprises, holding four seminars at the local Aarhus Centre with staff of a local cement factory, a thermo-electric power plant, the municipal water utility, and a solid waste management company. At these seminars Varvogh Astgh gathered information and advised participants on how to reduce their environmental footprint. The companies engaged positively in these seminars and received substantial benefits. The cement company, for instance was alerted to the opportunity of selling avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions under the Kyoto Clean Development Mechanism. It subsequently developed a project proposal and submitted it to UNDP. The three seminars were taped and edited into an hour-long broadcast to be aired by a local Hrazdan TV station.

Based on all the information collected, finally, an expert group composed of representatives of civil society, academia and international organizations prepared a report suggesting emission reduction measures for Hrazdan industry. Project output fed into a broader awareness-raising campaign launched by the grantee NGO in fall of 2010. This included the drafting of a booklet and the development of curricula for awareness-raising seminars for secondary school students on the environmental challenges facing the Hrazdan region. 79 seminars based on this curriculum were held by volunteers in November and December of 2010. All project activities were financed by a grant of EUR 4,930 awarded to Varvogh Astgh by CASE.

## **5. Creation of and Ecological Information Network – Yeghvard, Kotayk Region**

In the city of Yeghvard, Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO implemented a project addressing the lack of awareness of the population of the environmental problems facing Yeghvard and its surrounding area and the lack of an appropriate action plan on part of the municipality to address these problems. Project activities, implemented between March and December 2010, focused on designing and holding awareness-raising seminars and facilitate public discussions on the environmental challenges facing Yeghvard municipality, with a view to preparing an expert report that would serve as the basis for a local environmental action plan for Yeghvard municipality. The project funds of EUR 3,220 were provided entirely by CASE. Project activities were implemented by youth volunteers.

In co-operation with an environmental expert and the Yeghvard Aarhus Centre manager, the CASE grantee held seminars and roundtables in 18 communities, educating some 250 participants, including government officials, teachers, and students on regional environmental challenges and their rights to environmental information and participation under the Aarhus Convention. In parallel, Yeghvard Youth Ecological NGO has invited experts to hold seminars with local farmers and businesses on the city's solid waste problems, and issues related to fishery and nature conservation with a view to producing a report to be submitted to the municipality.

A major shortcoming of Yeghvard environmental governance is the lack of environmental expertise at municipal level. In a first step to address this, the grant recipient has partnered with the Environmental Law Resource Centre at Yerevan University to deliver detailed information on environmental legislation in Armenia to the municipality. In December 2010, project experts were finalizing a draft local environmental strategy to be submitted to the Yeghvard municipality for consideration.

## **6. Public Awareness-raising on Environmental Problems – Goris, Syunik Region**

In 2009 the municipal authority in the city of Goris developed a Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) with support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). LEAP is a participatory mechanism for local environmental planning that is based on extensive citizen consultation. The Women's Development Resource Centre, a local NGO, developed a project under CASE that sought to improve the implementation of the LEAP developed by Goris municipality and UNEP. To this end, the grant recipient brought together community representatives in seminars and public discussions to gather experiences with implementation of the Goris Environmental Action Plan. Special consideration was given to the state of local cultural heritage sites and recreational sites and their preservation. In addition, the grant recipient launched a major of an eco-education and awareness raising programme. The project was implemented between March and October 2010 and funded by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 3,475.

The project stands out by being implemented entirely by women of the Women's Development resource Centre and young women volunteers. Moreover, the community action and education activities overwhelmingly target children and youth.

The grant recipient involved community members and representatives of the municipality in roundtables and public discussion held at the Goris Aarhus Centre to gather opinions on the implementation of the Local Environmental Action Plan, and the preservation of recreational and important public sites in the city. In this context, the Women's Development Resource Centre organized excursions to the most polluted parks and public spaces that were covered by the local media. These excursions were followed by public clean-ups and tree-plantings at landmark sites that featured extensive community participation. Taking into account the results of these discussions and excursions, the expert group on the Local Environmental Action Plan completed its strategy for the protection of green spaces in fall 2010. The strategy was adopted by the City Council as part of the budget of 2011.

As part of its awareness-raising campaign, the Centre held a poster contest for students. Students from 374 villages throughout the region, as well as 80 students from Goris, participated in the environmental poster competition. The project team also developed a curriculum for eco-education seminars with kindergarten and school children and held seminars in kindergartens and schools in spring and summer. In fall, the Centre held environmental seminars for secondary school and university students. In total, 20 seminars were held. Several of the project's activities were taped and edited by Last, a local TV station that produced and aired two programmes on the project.

## **7. Quo Vadis Yerevan – Yerevan**

Entitled Quo Vadis Yerevan, this CASE project implemented between April and October 2010 by the CSO Antenna is designed to raise awareness of, collect opinions on and generate ideas for urban sustainable development of the Yerevan municipality. Its purpose was to foster environmentally sustainable action by city planners and community members alike and put sustainable development in the public limelight. To this end Antenna conducted interviews with community members, public officials and environmental and development experts and based on these produced two times twelve episodes of the radio programme Quo Vadis Yerevan for broadcasting on national as well as local radio stations. The project budget, financed entirely by CASE, is EUR 6,153.

Antenna identified and interview more than thirty expert interlocutors from both Armenia and European Union countries for the programme. It had finished the first episode in August and The remaining eleven episodes were aired on local and national radio throughout fall and

winter of 2010. The programme was as and to be available for download on the internet. The programme was also pressed on CD and distributed widely in Yerevan.

To facilitate outreach among urban youth, Antenna set up profiles on social media sites and is offering space for blogs. In its final project report Anna highlighted the value for the organization created by implementation of this project. The organization's staff made valuable contacts with environmental experts, NGOs and public officials and will use the programmes in future education activities. It is also planning the production of a follow-up series of programmes on current environmental challenges.

## **8. Assessment of risk of heavy metal contamination of farm products in Armenia – Alaverdi, Lori Region**

Agricultural plots in the vicinity of the mining operations are at risk of being subject to contamination with heavy metals in dust or tailing residues. To assess this risk for Alaverdi and Akhtala the Centre of Ecological Noosphere Studies at the National Academy of Science of Armenia is implementing a project assessing the danger of contamination of farm produce with heavy metals in proximity of the Alaverdi and Akhtala mining facilities. The Centre samples soil water and farm produce at several sites that are identified by the use of satellite imagery. Upon the analysis of relevant soil water and farm produce samples possible contamination prevention, and, if applicable, rehabilitation measures are elaborated and forwarded to municipal authorities. Public discussions at the Alaverdi Aarhus Centre inform the interested public of the findings and suggested countermeasures. All project results are published in a booklet that is distributed to interested NGOs and Aarhus Centres. The project is financed entirely by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 5,675.

In April the project started off with an introductory public meeting at the Alaverdi Aarhus Centre that was designed to raise awareness of project activities and was covered on local television. The project team submitted its interim narrative report in August 2010. The Centre has taken soil and water samples from four agricultural model plots growing a variety of crops, from wells, and from the Debet River in the vicinity of the Alaverdi and Akhtala plants for laboratory analysis, which is currently underway. After finishing the sampling and laboratory analysis, the Centre will develop and circulate its conclusions and recommendations to local authorities. The Centre will submit a final project report in February 2011.

## **9. Assessment of Security Risks of Environmental Hot Spots - Lori, Syunik Regions and Sevan Basin (Gegharkunik Region)**

The environmental NGO Ecolur is implementing a project that seeks to assess and raise awareness of environmental challenges facing several regions of South Armenia. This broad awareness-raising project focuses primarily on mining and mineral tailing operations in the three regions of Lori, Syunik and the basin of Lake Sevan. The project team collects environmental information about these regions, and in cooperation with local Aarhus Centres in Alaverdi, Gavar and Kapan, local government and local businesses Ecolur organizes public monitoring of the situation, and identifies challenges, and efforts addressing these challenges. This monitoring activity includes assessment visits involving a group of experts. The results of these assessments are published by Ecolur and discussed at three roundtables open to the public and involving experts are held in the three regional Aarhus Centres of Alaverdi, Gavar, and Kapan. Based on the results of the roundtables, experts propose measures to address the challenges identified to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and regional and municipal governments of the target regions. These activities are reported on the Ecolur website ([www.ecolur.org](http://www.ecolur.org)) and in newspaper articles.

The project started in April 2010, was active until December 2010 and was entirely financed by a CASE grant amounting to EUR 6,120. In April and May 2010 Ecolur began to liaise and exchange information with regional environmental NGOs and the local Aarhus Centres on major environmental issues identified: These included environmental consequences of gold and uranium mining in Kapan, Syunik region; an ore-processing plant three kilometres from the shore of Lake Sevan, and a hydropower project on the Argitchi river.

In summer, Ecolur, in co-operation with the Aarhus Centre in Gavar, launched an awareness-raising campaign on changes to the riverbed of Argitchi River in the course of construction of a hydropower plant. These changes to the riverbed would leave five local communities without access to drinking and irrigation water. Apparently, the construction had commenced without any permit, and upon lobbying by Ecolur and the Gavar Aarhus Centre for a solution to this problem the Ministry of Nature Protection halted the construction works. Ecolur and the Gavar Aarhus Centre now filed a report over the damage that resulted from the illegal activities against the company with the office of the public prosecutor. The Argitchi River issue was also raised in the course of the Gavar roundtable. This roundtable otherwise focused on the issue of ore-processing close to Lake Sevan and on citizens' rights under the Aarhus Convention. The ore-processing plant close to Lake Sevan is currently under construction. While the environmental impact assessment is pending, one part of the factory is apparently in operation and ore is processed in an open cast manner, exposing the surrounding area to toxic chrome dust. Ecolur has worked to draw attention to this issue

In fall, Ecolur held the second roundtable at the Aarhus Centre in Alaverdi. The roundtable focused on socio-economic issues in relation to mining activities in the Tumanyan region. The main topics that had been researched during the summer months, included logging in Teghout and Snogh, a new uranium tailing dump at Tchotchkan and the Alaverdi arsenic waste fill.

The third roundtable focusing on environmental issues in Syunik region was to take place in Kapan in winter 2010. Topics discussed were to include the results of Ecolur's monitoring of uranium prospecting, and deforestation in the region.

## **10. Provision of expertise on ISO 14001:2004 EMS standard requirements and implementation benefits – several locations**

The ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems specifications is a standard for resource and waste management applied in industry around the world. Application of ISO 14001:2004 ensures more efficient use of resources and a resulting reduction of waste, reducing a company's environmental footprint and lowering costs of production. The NGO Khazer designed a project raising awareness of and building capacity for application of the ISO 14001:2004 environmental management system among key industrial enterprises in Armenia. In the framework of this project, Khazer developed a booklet on the ISO 14001:2004 standards and measures to implement it for distribution among private companies in Armenia. In addition, the project team organized a workshop with the participation of representatives of private companies and convened an expert team to support pilot application of ISO 14001:2004. The project budget is provided by CASE and amounts to EUR 4,420.

Khazer completed the drafting of the information booklet and circulated 100 copies, including among participants of its project workshop held in July 2010. The workshop was held in Yerevan and attended by representatives of the private sector, civil society and local government and focused on the benefits of introduction of the ISO system for all stakeholders. At the workshop, the private sector representatives present expressed their interest in the ISO system, not least because compliance opens up new venues for them for cooperation with international donors and investors. At the workshop, Khazer identified suitable partner companies for pilot implementation of ISO:14001 However, only three of he

five identified pilot companies invited , Rusal Armenal, Electric Network of Armenia, and Gegamet Plus, agreed to participate in the implementation of the ISO 14001:2004 system facilitated by the expert team. This pilot implementation at company level comprised the commission of a gap analysis by experts and based on this tailored implementation of the management system. The project concluded in September 2010, but the experts continue co-operating with the target companies in implementing the ISO 14001:2004 system.

## **11. Production of a film on Environmental Problems in Gegharkunik region – Lake Sevan Basin (Gegarkhunik Region)**

Lake Sevan is Armenia's biggest lake, a reservoir of drinking water and recreational area of national importance. Unfortunately the lake's water quality is deteriorating, due to wastewater flow, as well as construction and agriculture around the lake. The NGO Blejan implemented a project designed to document and raise awareness on environmental degradation damaging the Lake Sevan's water quality and eco-system. Implemented between May and November 2010, this was a short-term project the activities of which centre around the production of a documentary highlighting the environmental degradation around the lake and raising awareness on protection measures including the legal protection framework built around the Law on Lake Sevan. The documentary was produced under the guidance of environmental experts, aired on regional television and shown at public viewings cum workshops in 30 locations across the region. At these workshops the project team informed interested individuals, NGOs and public officials of the legal framework protecting Lake Sevan, the environmental challenges facing the region and possible protection and mitigation measures. The project budget, covered by CASE, amounted to EUR 5,927.

Blejan finished production of the film in late November 2010 and held an initial screening for Gavar municipality representatives in early December 2010. The film was aired twice during primetime on 3 different regional TV stations during the week of 13 December. In addition, Beljan circulated 200 DVD copies of the film to environmental stakeholders. Blejan began its public screening tour of cities and smaller municipalities of Gegarkhunik in late November 2010. With the financial support of the regional government, Blejan has extended its tour to 44 screenings cum discussions, and expects to reach over 3000 viewers by the end of January 2011. In implementing this project, Beljan cooperated closely with the Aarhus Centre in Gavar, whose staff wrote the screenplay for the film.

## **12. Development of Local Environmental Action Plan for Kapan – Syunik Region**

Kapan is the biggest city of South Armenia and a major hub for production of non-ferrous metals. The Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for the Caucasus between June and September 2010 will support the Kapan municipality in developing a Local Environmental Action Plan to address in an organized and effective way the environmental challenges facing the municipality. The Aarhus Centre in Kapan, the local government and a major mining company active in Kapan are involved in the project throughout implementation. The LEAP process is fairly standardized: After a kick-off conference designed to raise the awareness of the population is held, LEAP experts set out by developing an environmental status report outlining the main challenges faced by Kapan. For this the experts draw on community questionnaires and community meetings and input from a Stakeholder Committee where civil society organizations also have a voice. Upon finalization of a draft, the stakeholder committee and local authorities are invited to a public hearing on the draft LEAP to provide comments and feedback, before the final handover of the plan takes place. For financing of project activities REC Caucasus relies on a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 6,001.

REC submitted its interim project report in December 2010. For this project, REC Caucasus set up a LEAP expert group tasked with guiding stakeholders through the process of LEAP development. To support the LEAP process and raise awareness among the local population a stakeholder committee from among civil society and the private sector was convened. The stakeholder Committee was the main decision-maker and involved in all stages throughout the drafting and consultation process. Stakeholder Committee members received training by REC on each step of the LEAP process to enable them to exercise their duties effectively and to build their capacity to devise LEAPs in the future.

The first phase of the project concluded with the development of the draft Environmental Status Report in November 2010. REC reported sound collaboration with all stakeholders on the Stakeholder Committee and especially the local and regional governments. Phase Two of the project will feature the development of the LEAP based on the Environmental Status Report. The draft LEAP will then be discussed at a major public hearing, the results of which will feed into the final document that is developed by the experts in close consultation with the Stakeholder Committee. The LEAP will be handed over to the municipality in a ceremony as part of a final stakeholder Conference in early 2011.

### **13. Capacity building, awareness-raising and participation initiatives of the economic mechanisms of environmental management – 10 regions**

The Association of Young Environmental Lawyers and Economists, an NGO, developed a capacity-building project targeting environmental governance. The project is supported by a CASE grant of EUR 6000. The Association will train public officials on economic mechanisms for effective environmental management that will focus on pollution reduction, and efficient management of natural resources, reducing risks of corruption. To establish a baseline the Association will collect data on the current environmental management legislation. Based on this data the CASE grantee will perform a comparative analysis of the practice in Armenia to standard European practice. The results of this analysis will feed into the development of a training manual that will serve as the basis for the trainings for local public officials, Ministry of Environment representatives, environmental inspectors and civil society representatives that the Association will perform. All data, analysis and the training manual generated in this project will be made publically available. In implementation of this project, the association will partner with the Armenian Aarhus Centres that serve as headquarters for project execution and will host the training workshops in the regions. This short-term project started implementation in November 2010 and will be implemented over 4 months. The CASE grantee will submit its final project report in May 2011.

### **14. Strengthening capacities of communities on environmental management -Hrazdan River quality improvement -Ararat and Armavir regions**

Under the umbrella of ENVSEC UNDP is implementing a regional project on “Development and Establishment of Initial Legal and Institutional Frameworks for Joint Management of the Kura-Aras River Basin”. Hayanist Intercommunity Association, an NGO developed a project under CASE that is complementary to the larger ENVSEC project. The CASE-supported project will focus on management of the Hrazdan River by several communities of the Ararat and Armavir regions. Implementation of the project, which is supported by a CASE grant of EUR 5,990, started in November 2010 and will be completed by March 2011. The CASE grantee will perform an analysis of and suggest adaptation measures for natural and man-made pressure on water resources, in a Basin where water quality has been degrading. This degradation represents a severe threat to the livelihood of the local population in Ararat that depends overwhelmingly on agriculture. The CASE grantee organization will carry out a scientific assessment of pressures on the water resources of the basin accounting for the

effects of impact that existing mining activities, industrial enterprises, agricultural land use, animal husbandry, residential water use, solid waste and morphological changes. Results are reported to the affected communities in public meetings as well as to the environmental departments of the two regions in focus. In a second step the CASE grantee develops an action plan for reduction of environmental risks resulting from these pressures. During the development phase of this plan the local population, municipalities and the regional government as NGOs and the ENVSEC project stakeholders. Hayanist will submit a final project implementation report in March 2011.

#### **15. Informing, developing knowledge and abilities of farmers to engage in organic agriculture - Tavush region**

The Tavush region of North-eastern Armenia is home to an extensive farming population and to one of Armenia's biggest forests. Unsustainable farming techniques have led to land degradation and significant deforestation, both threatening the livelihood of local populations. The Tavush Farmers Association, a local CSO has developed a project that seeks to sensitize the local population on these challenges, educating farmers in organic farming techniques and sustainable land management. The project, which started in November 2010 is supported by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 9,893,-, and will deliver ten intensive training seminars on organic farming and sustainable land management held by consultants and experienced practitioners for up to 50 interested farmers in the region, as well as a series of awareness-raising activities in participating communities, involving students, teachers, and public officials. The training workshops will be complemented by the creation of five demonstration plots for organic fertilizer production and three demonstration plots for sustainable land management and organic planting. The farmers trained in these seminars are expected to serve as knowledge multipliers and will be encouraged to pass on their acquired skills to the sensitized locals involved in farming and forestry. The project will be finalized by April 2011, when the Tavush Farmers Association will produce a final project report.

#### **16. Nature is a Boomerang – Aragatsotn region**

The environmental youth NGO, Hayrenapasht has determined a lack of environmental awareness among the population of the Armenian Aragatsotn region. To address this gap, Hayrenapasht has developed a project that focuses on environmental awareness-raising in the communities of Ashtarak, Sasunik, Ghazaravan, Talin and Aparan. The project activities that are financed by a CASE grant of EUR 5,948 and will be implemented between November 2010 and May 2011 will feature a series of awareness-raising workshops for community officials, NGOs and interested citizens raising specific local environment and security challenges and informing participants about their rights under the Aarhus Convention. 4 seminars will be held in Ghazavaran and focus specifically on the problem of soil erosion. In parallel to these workshops, Hayrenapasht volunteers and community members will plant trees in Ghazavaran as a soil erosion prevention measure. In the communities of Aparan and Talin another 4 seminars focusing on local environment and security challenges are held. The 4 seminars to be held in Sasunik will focus specifically on the environmental and health risks posed by a nearby waste landfill. Finally, the city of Ashtarak plays host to a series of coordination and capacity-building meetings with local civil society organizations.

#### **17. Environmental Impact of Strong Earthquakes – 15 Aarhus Centres**

Armenia is a country at high risk of major earthquakes. To support the manifold efforts at disaster prevention, the Armenian Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth (AASPE), a think tank, is implementing a project under CASE that seeks to gather, summarize and disseminate up-to-date knowledge on major earthquake risks and related hazards (such as landslides, associated pollution etc) for the Armenian population. The analytical work that AASPE performs is complemented by awareness-raising seminars to be held in Aarhus Centres of Armenia. The project is funded by a CASE grant of EUR 5,470,- and will be implemented between November 2010 and April 2011. In the course of analyzing the information available AASPE will develop a list of the most important objects and facilities at risk from earthquake damage. AASPE will conduct field visits to assess the risks to these major objects and produce maps and explanatory notes accompanying these lists. Information will be circulated to the governments in all ten regions of Armenia and will be available through Aarhus Centres for the broader public. In addition, the project outputs are discussed at open roundtables held at the 14 Armenian Aarhus Centres. All produced content will be uploaded to AASPE's website and summarized in a final report that is to be presented at a press conference in Yerevan and a conference at Yerevan State University for secondary students and school teachers.



### 3. CASE Azerbaijan

In Azerbaijan, implementation of CASE is guided by the CASE Azerbaijan Country Strategy. The country strategy identifies all technical and operational issues related to implementation of CASE in Azerbaijan, assigns responsibilities to CASE stakeholders, and establishes country-specific criteria for the selection of project proposals to be supported by CASE small grants. Importantly, the document identifies challenges for environment and security in Azerbaijan. These include land erosion, land degradation, deforestation, soil contamination, desertification and water pollution. In line with these priorities CASE Azerbaijan admitted projects addressing the following themes for support under CASE:

- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Combating land degradation;
- Natural and man-made disasters;
- Management of hazardous wastes and chemicals;
- Mining;
- Sustainable transportation;
- Climate change;
- Energy.

These thematic priorities are to be addressed jointly with the cross-cutting themes of:

- Support for environmental governance;
- Social aspects of environmental security;
- Role and participation of women;
- Role and participation of youth;

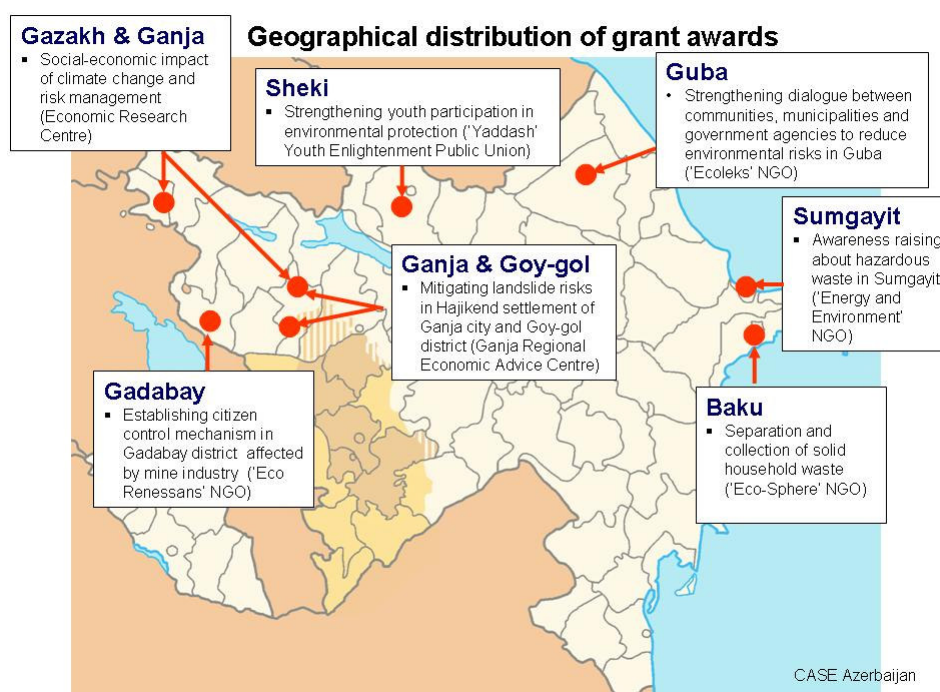
CASE Azerbaijan is funded by Statoil, contributing EUR 108,000, CIDA contributing EUR 49,000 and by Austria, contributing EUR 12,500. CASE Azerbaijan's approach to grant making has been to support fewer but larger projects with feasible objectives and sustainable impact. In line with this, a total of three projects have already been implemented under the first phase of CASE Azerbaijan. The grants awarded for these projects under CASE phase one amount to EUR 28,052. In June, the OSCE Office in Baku announced a call for a round of fresh project proposals for phase two. Over the summer the CASE National Screening Board has been evaluating the 20 proposals received and selected four of them for implementation in phase two, which started in November / December 2010. Grants awarded under phase two of the Initiative in Azerbaijan amount to EUR 42,502. The average grant size for projects selected under CASE Azerbaijan is EUR 10,079. Table 2 provides an overview of the topical priorities addressed by projects under CASE Azerbaijan phases one and two. The CASE National Screening Board in Azerbaijan paid strong attention to select a portfolio that provides a good match in terms of topical priorities to the scope of environment and security challenges outlined in the country strategy.

**Table 2. CASE Azerbaijan - Priorities Addressed**

<b>Topical Priority (no. of projects in brackets)</b>	<b>Project Title, Location</b>
Climate change (1)	Socio-economic threats of climate change and risk management- Ganja, Gazakh
Mining (1)	Establishing of Citizen Control Mechanisms in Gadabay District Affected by Mine Industry - Gadabay
Support for environmental governance(1)	Establishing of Citizen Control Mechanisms in Gadabay District Affected by Mine Industry - Gadabay
Management of hazardous wastes and	Collection and separation of solid household

chemicals(2)	waste – Baku Awareness-raising about hazardous industrial waste in Sumgayit – Sumgayit
Participation of youth (1)	Strengthening youth participation in environmental protection – 10 districts
Natural and man-made disasters (2)	Mitigating landslide risks in Hajikend settlement of Ganja city and mountainous and foothill villages of Goy-gol district and environmental enlightenment of communities - Ganja, Goy-gol district  Coordinating the activities of communities, municipalities and government agencies on reducing environmental risks in Guba district - Guba

In terms of geographical distribution, the seven projects supported under CASE focus on



eight different environmental hot spots of Azerbaijan, as Map 2 illustrates: While the focus of phase-one projects has been on bigger urban centres that also feature active Aarhus Centres supporting grantees, the selection process for phase two made sure that adequate attention is given to balanced geographical distribution of projects.

**Map 2 CASE Azerbaijan Projects**

### 3.1 Projects Supported under CASE Azerbaijan

#### 1. Socio-economic threats of climate change and risk management – Ganja, Gazakh

Adaptation to climate change is among the major priorities of CASE in Azerbaijan. The Economic Research Centre, an independent research institute, implemented a CASE supported project that seeks to help the country's agricultural sector adapt to climate change. The Centre assessed the socio-economic impact of climate change around the cities of Ganja and Gazakh and developed adaptation measures together with the government, affected farmers and agro-businesses in cropping, livestock, dairy and wine production as well as civil society actors. To put its initiative on a broader basis, the Centre organized a climate change alliance among civil society organizations in Azerbaijan. The project was funded by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 9,965 and was implemented

between April and November 2010. The Economic Research Centre submitted its final project report in December 2010.

In April, the Centre started collecting data for its impact study from government agencies and other sources and conducted interviews with farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in Gazakh and Ganja. In a study the Centre analyzed the progress Azerbaijan had made in implementing international commitments including in the area of climate change. A first draft of the climate change study, including recommended mitigation measures was ready by early August. The mitigation measures developed were based on the results of the survey among agro-businesses that was conducted with 65 participants in Ganja and Gazakh.

In late August the ERC held two awareness-raising seminars in Gazakh and Ganja. The objective of the events was to introduce participants to some of the challenges that climate change poses to the agricultural sector and to present the results of the survey carried out among farmers in Ganja-Gazakh. The events attracted 60 participants representing civil society, academics, agriculture and the municipalities. In group discussions the participants worked together to recommend measures for the adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate change and the role NGOs could play in this process.

Based on the research carried out in the course of the project, the ERC developed training curricula for farmers and agro-businesses around Ganja and Gazakh. The training workshops were held in Dashkesen, Goygol, Shamkir, Samukh, Goranboy and Gazakh in early December 2010. At these workshops 48 participants were educated on techniques to factor into their cost calculations the marginal costs of climate change. These calculations were tailored individually to the needs of cropping and animal husbandry businesses, and dairy and wine producers at each location.

In order to raise public awareness about project results among a broader audience the ERC held a public roundtable and a debate aired on national television. The roundtable was held in Baku and focused on the survey taken around Ganja and Gazakh. Representatives of parliament, ministries, civil society organizations and the media attended. The TV debate focused on the consequences of climate change for agriculture and featured experts from government ministries and the ERC.

The project concluded with a final conference in December, where project results were presented and the NGO Alliance on Climate Change and Development was officially launched. The ERC is currently developing a work plan for 2011 for this alliance.

## **2. Collection and separation of solid household waste - Icheri Sheher (Baku)**

Solid waste management remains a major environmental challenge for the fast-growing capital of Azerbaijan. The NGO Ekosfera developed an awareness-raising project for the population of Baku old town designed to encourage adequate collection separation of household waste. For this pilot project, which Ekosfera plans to replicate across the capital, Ekosfera cooperated with the Baku old town administration and the waste management company JSC Tamiz Shahr. After training local volunteers, the Ekosfera launched awareness-raising and training activities. Apart from capacity-building for garbage collection workers, training activities included workshops on waste separation specifically targeting children, awareness-raising seminars targeting women, regular community-based seminars and distribution of information material on waste separation. The degree of compliance by households was measured through random sample interviews with old-town residents. The project drew on a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 8,514 for funding. Ekosfera submitted its interim narrative report in August 2010.

For the adequate disposal of separated waste, Ekosfera entered into an agreement with JSC Tamiz Shahr, a company involved in large-scale waste disposal and incineration in Baku, and the old district administration, which put up separate colour-marked waste containers across the old town, and distributed matching bins to old-town households. Project stakeholders also reached agreement on disposal of separated waste in the Balakhany landfill that is managed by JSC Tamiz Shahr. Training of volunteers and old town garbage collection workers, as well as the major awareness-raising events and seminars took place already in April, May and July of 2010. In a survey conducted early on in the project a majority of residents indicated they were already making use of the waste separation structure provided by the old-town administration.

During the summer, Ekosfera held its awareness-raising meetings on waste separation with school children. Overall, 300 children in old-town Baku were informed about waste separation. Holding three meetings with female old town residents, old town administration and the local waste management company Ekosfera made sure to involve the old town community in the unfolding project activities and to give room to the opinion of women. The project's substantive activities concluded with a large gathering of youth and old town residents that encouraged the use of multi-use bags. The event was covered in local and national TV and by a number of newspapers. Ekosfera closed the project with a press conference in early November that highlighted the outcomes.

In its final project report, Ekosfera points to the success of the project: Serving as a pilot, the activities and methodology will be replicated by Ekosfera across the country in the future. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the project had been successful in transforming waste separation habits. Ekosfera will however partner with the waste management company to conduct a second survey to measure definitively the impact of the project. Ekosfera received the pledge from the old town administration and the waste management company that correct disposal of separated waste will continue to be practiced after the end of the project.

### **3. Establishing citizen control mechanisms in Gadabay district affected by mine industry – Gadabay**

Gadabay district is a major mining centre of Azerbaijan. The NGO Eco-Renaissance developed a project under CASE supporting active participation by the local population in environmental governance in Gadabay District. The project aimed at establishing a community monitoring mechanism for mining activities in the village of Arikhdan. It is carried out in cooperation with the mining company conducting operations in Arikhdan, the Azerbaijan International Mining Company (AIMC). After introducing residents to the environmental consequences and risks of mining, Eco-Renaissance selected a number of local residents of Arigdam for training on the consequences of mining in terms of pollution, citizen environmental rights, and mechanisms of environmental monitoring conducted by the Civic Response Network (CRN), an initiative supported by the Open Society Institute. A permanent working group of 5 was set up and is supported throughout the monitoring process and subsequent reporting. Project implementation started in April and concluded in November 2010. CASE covered about three quarters of the project budget with a small grant in the amount of EUR 9,573.

Eco-Renaissance kicked off the project with a roundtable in Arigdam in early May, informing stakeholders, including representatives of the Azerbaijan International Mining Operating Company, and the municipality about the project. In late May, Eco-Renaissance, in cooperation with CRN staff delivered a two-day training on civic control in areas affected by mining for 20 participants. In early June, the project team established the working group from among these participants and provided an additional 4-day intensive training to working group members that was tailored to their specific responsibilities. The training included

negotiation techniques, media relations and reporting skills and was conducted by an environmental expert with experience of conducting monitoring of Kyrgyzstan's substantial gold mining operations.

In November 2010, Eco-Renaissance and the Gadabay working group conducted monitoring that included observation and interviews with local residents documenting environmental impacts of the AIMC gold processing plant in the village. The main environmental problems identified included air emissions due to technological malfunctioning dispersal of dust, discharges of liquid industrial waste into a local river, damages to buildings due to heavy explosions involved in mining, and severe risks of soil contamination from wastewater tanks in the case of flooding. A report detailing these results was shared with the AIMC.

After the monitoring exercise Eco-Renaissance together with the Gadabay Working Group conducted a survey among 100 residents of Arikhdan. The purpose of the survey was to gauge public opinion regarding the operation of AIMC in the district. In the survey 22% of survey respondents noted the pollution of drinking water as a result of mining, but showed their overall satisfaction with social programmes implemented by AIMC.

During project implementation Eco-Renaissance liaised with local print and TV media to ensure coverage of the process. The project concluded in November 2010.

Eco-Renaissance remains committed to supporting the working group which is now part of the CRN, ensuring the sustainability of project results. In the coming months the working group will negotiate a mitigation activity plan and emergency action plan with the mining company representatives as well as Arikhdan municipality, and the Gadabay district emergency commission.

#### **4. Strengthening youth participation in environmental protection – multiple regions of Azerbaijan**

The Yaddash youth organization is implementing a project supported by CASE that seeks to educate youth in ten districts of Azerbaijan on environmental and security challenges facing the country and to galvanize them into environmental action. The project is funded by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 11,953 and is implemented between November 2010 and March 2011. Yaddash selects 20 young leaders in a publically announced selection process for a 5 day intensive training of trainers on environmental security and on UNECE environmental conventions as well as networking skills carried out by environmental professionals. In the second phase of the project these young trainers will deliver 10 one-day trainings in different 10 districts of Azerbaijan for about 20 youth each. The overall goal of the project is to advocate at least 2000 young people from all over Azerbaijan on environment and the security challenges facing their communities.

#### **5. Awareness-raising about hazardous industrial waste in Sumgayit – Sumgayit**

An environmental NGO, the Energy and Ecology Public Union developed a CASE-supported project that seeks to make the population of Sumgayit aware of the effects of hazardous industrial waste on public health and the environment. To that end, the CASE grantee partners with a local petrochemical company, Azerkimya, and the Sumgayit municipality. Project activities are financed by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 9,585 and have started November 2010. Under the project a group of students of ecology at Sumgayit State University and selected employees of Azerkimya will receive training by expert consultants on health and environmental impact of hazardous substances, including mercury and dioxin. These activities are complemented by meetings with Azerkimya staff, and a public

roundtable in Sumgayit featuring participation of a larger group of stakeholders, including interested citizens and local public officials. The training material produced will include an instruction video to be broadcast on local television.

## **6. Mitigating landslide risks in Hajikend settlement of Ganja city and mountainous and foothill villages of Goy-gol district and environmental enlightenment of communities - Ganja, Goy-gol district**

The city of Ganja and two municipalities of the surrounding Goygol district of North West Azerbaijan are the sites of a land-slide risk mitigation effort by the Ganja Regional Economic Advice Centre. The project, which is financed by a CASE grant of EUR 9,475 seeks to raise awareness on and build capacity of community members for dealing with landslide risks in a region of Azerbaijan that has been rendered vulnerable to land- and mudslides by deforestation. Project activities will be implemented between December 2010 and April 2011. In the first phase of implementation, the Ganja Regional Economic Advice Centre will carry out meetings with community members in three municipalities (Hajikend settlement of Ganja, and Togana and Ashigli municipalities of Goygol). Selected community members are recruited into community action teams that receive intensive training by experts on landslides, preventive measures, vulnerability mitigation, and community response to landslides and other environmental disasters. Community Action Teams are then brought together in roundtables to exchange views, and create networks among affected communities. These intensive trainings will be complemented by more general awareness-raising workshops in the three target communities that seek to address a wider audience, bringing together community action team members, local public officials and interested community members. In the final stage of the project, stakeholders will implement reforestation programmes in the three at risk communities in co-operation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Finally, community action team members will meet with peers from the similarly at risk district of Guba, where the CASE grantee Ecolex is implementing a complementary project (see below), to exchange information. The Ganja Regional Economic Advice Centre will submit its first interim report on implementation of the project in February 2011.

## **7. Coordinating the activities of communities, municipalities and government agencies on reducing environmental risks in Guba district – Guba**

In the district of Guba, the NGO Ecolex is implementing a project complementary to the Hajikend project mentioned above. The project seeks to raise awareness of environmental risks and to educate local residents on landslide risk reduction specifically. Funding for project activities, to be implemented between December 2010 and April 2011 is provided by CASE, in the amount of EUR 11,490. Upon consultations with members and local public officials from several communities in the district for the purpose of data collection and a preliminary assessment of the situation, experts proceed with an in-depth assessment of the security risks resulting from deforestation and landslides, producing an expert report. Expert will also identify three priority locations for reforestation activities in consultation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and local authorities. Awareness-raising workshops will educate residents of the three selected communities on landslide risks and reforestation, before a reforestation programme will be implemented in co-operation with the Ministry of Ecology and the respective municipal authorities. These activities are complemented by a broader awareness-raising campaign on environment and security risks and landslide mitigation in Guba that will also address representatives of civil society and the media, and feature the production of talk shows on landslides for local television. The project concludes with the public presentation of the expert report and a conference held in Guba that will introduce a civil society position paper on the report and its findings.

## 4. CASE Tajikistan

Implementation of CASE in Tajikistan took off with the constitution of the CASE National Screening Board upon the initiative of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan in May 2010. In June 2010, the National Screening Board reviewed and approved the CASE Tajikistan Country Strategy, which identifies technical and operational issues in relation to the implementation of CASE in Tajikistan.

In particular, the document identifies the main challenges for environment and security in Tajikistan, including radioactive waste, pesticide dump sites, land degradation, natural disasters, and the consequences of climate change. Tajikistan regularly experiences landslides, mudflows and floods, as well as periodic earthquakes. The country's glaciers are rapidly receding. One long-run consequence of this glacier melt could be severe water shortage.

In line with these priorities CASE Azerbaijan admits projects for support under CASE addressing one or more of the following themes:

- Environmental awareness-raising for the local population and promoting community participation in environmental decision-making processes;
- Radioactive and hazardous wastes and chemicals;
- Climate change and environmental migration;
- Combating land degradation,
- Natural and man-made disasters;
- Energy saving and efficiency.

These thematic priorities are to be addressed jointly with the cross-cutting themes of:

- Support to Environmental Governance
- Social Aspects of Environmental Security
- Role and Participation of Women
- Role and Participation of the Youth

Based on the priorities and criteria defined in the CASE Tajikistan Country Strategy, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan has posted a call for project proposals by civil society organizations in July 2010. By November 2010 the selection process was completed and a total of eight projects have been selected for implementation under phase one of CASE Tajikistan. Phase-one grants amount to EUR 62,185. On average, grants awarded were in the amount of EUR 8,884.

The CASE Initiative in Tajikistan has benefited from funding by the Government of Luxembourg, which contributed EUR 80,000.

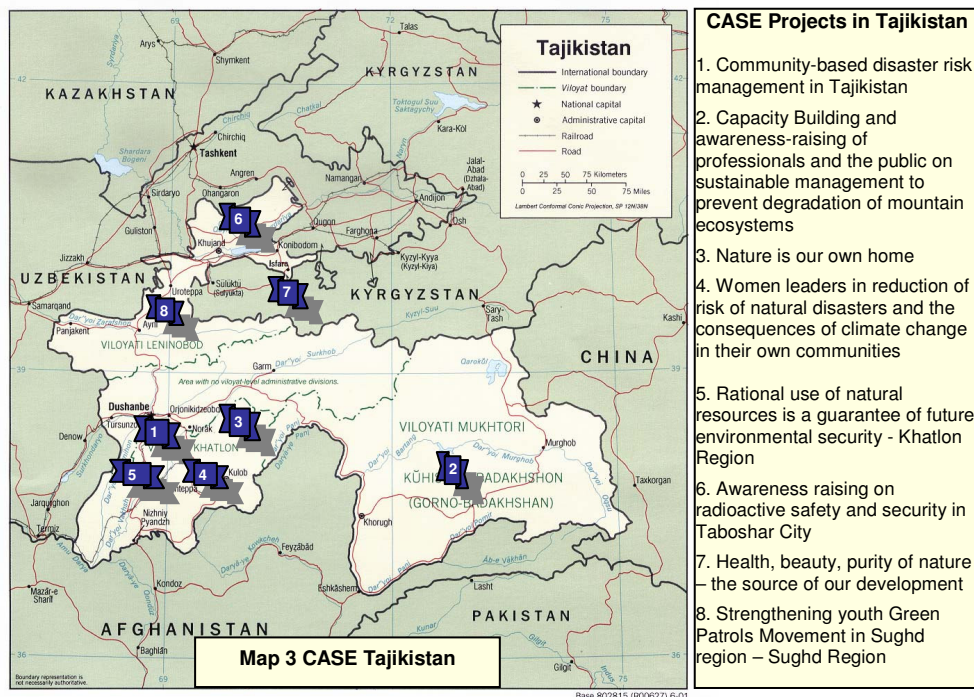
**Table 3 CASE Tajikistan - Priorities Addressed**

<b>Topical Priority (no. of projects in brackets)</b>	<b>Project Title, Location</b>
Natural and man-made disasters (2)	Community-based disaster risk management in Tajikistan – Dushanbe Women leaders in reduction of risk of natural disasters and the consequences of climate change in their own communities - Khatlon Region
Combating land degradation (1)	Capacity Building and awareness-raising of professionals and the public on sustainable management to prevent degradation of mountain ecosystems - Autonomous Region of Mountainous



	Badakshan
Environmental awareness-raising for local population and promoting community participation in environmental decision making processes (3)	Nature is our own home - Khatlon Region Strengthening Youth Green patrols Movement in Sughd region – Sughd Region Awareness-raising on radioactive safety and security in Taboshar City - Sughd Region Health, beauty, purity of nature – the source of our development
Sustainable management of natural resources (2)	Rational use of natural resources is a guarantee of future environmental security – Khatlon Region Nature is our own home - Khatlon Region
Radioactive, hazardous wastes and chemicals (2)	Awareness-raising on radioactive safety and security in Taboshar City. – Sughd Region
Role and participation of women (1)	Women leaders in reduction of risk of natural disasters and the consequences of climate change in their own communities - Khatlon Region

In terms of geographical distribution, the eight projects focus on eight different environmental



hot spots of Tajikistan. As Map 3 illustrates, most projects are implemented in the Sughd and Khatlon regions, where the OSCE also supports Aarhus Centres.

#### 4.1 Projects Supported under CASE Tajikistan

##### 1. Community-based disaster risk management in Tajikistan – Dushanbe

Tajikistan's mountainous areas are prone to frequent natural disaster like floods, land and mudslides and avalanches causing significant damage in terms of loss of life and economic damage. The effects of climate change exacerbate these problems that disproportionately affect rural poor households.

The Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (CCDR) developed a project supported by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 7,951 that seeks to build capacity for



community-based disaster risk management and climate change adaptation among relevant national and local officials, including development programme managers. The latter are to be encouraged to integrate disaster risk management considerations and practices into their development programming, with a view to making their development activities more disaster-resilient and sustainable. CCDDR developed a curriculum for a training course for the professionals working in this field. The outlook of the course is comprehensive, and will feature demonstrations at field sites and a final exam to test progress. The course will be developed and delivered with the assistance of experienced consultants and in consultation with the participants that are given the opportunity to communicate their needs and priorities in a pre-course questionnaire and evaluate the course after its completion. The course material will be published on the Centre's website and in hard copy. The project activities will be implemented between January 2010 and June 2011. A first interim report is to be submitted in March 2011.

## **2. Capacity Building and awareness-raising of professionals and the public on sustainable management to prevent degradation of mountain ecosystems - Autonomous Region of Mountainous Badakshan**

In the Pamir Mountain region, CASE grantee Children of the Pamirs developed a project that raises awareness on and builds capacity for sustainable land management and eco-system preservation among local communities. The project, which is supported by a grant of EUR 7,800 responds to a lack of environmental information and management capacity in a region under stress from increasingly unsustainable land use that exacerbates natural disasters and land degradation and endangers the livelihoods of local people. The CASE project is complementary to the GEF-financed project "Sustainable Land Management in the High Pamir and Pamir-Alai Mountains" and drew on results of the latter's need assessments and action plan for designing its project activities. By raising environmental awareness, this project also seeks to contribute to the establishment of an Aarhus Centre in the Badakshan region.

Under the project Children of the Pamirs will conduct training seminars among local community members and local government officials on modern mechanisms of land management that are to be combined with small-scale demonstration projects (on forestry, energy resource diversification, livestock grazing, ecotourism development etc) that will be run by local residents and supported by experts with experience in preserving similar eco-systems. In parallel a TV documentary on sustainable land management describing best practices is to be produced and aired on local television in order to raise awareness among the local population. Project activities culminate in the establishment of a geo-referenced database on sustainable land management activities that will be freely accessible. The project will be implemented between January and December 2011. A first interim report is due in April 2011.

## **3. Nature is our own home - Khatlon Region**

The densely populated and heavily agrarian Kulyab area of ten districts in the heart of Khatlon Province has been severely affected by land degradation owing to inadequate agricultural practices and technologies, such as intensive ploughing up of lands, frequent stubble and pasture burning, insufficient crop rotation, overgrazing, inadequate mowing technology. The CASE grantee Sadoi Kuhsor developed a project, to be implemented between January and October 2011, which raises awareness of the local population, government and civil society actors on the problem of land degradation and other environment and security challenges. Sadoi Kuhsor will focus its activities on people engaged in cattle-raising, gardening, bee- and grain farming. The campaign involves

capacity-building features. Sadoi Khusor will raise four Green Patrol groups among local youths dedicated to environmental awareness-raising and environmental action. Supported by volunteers, Sadoi Khusor will organize four roundtables involving community members, local officials and civil society representatives in 4 target districts Kulyab and instruct them on sustainable land management. It will conduct interviews with community members to assess the level of environmental awareness. These activities will be followed by four trainings of trainers for community leaders and local officials on the linkages between environmental challenges and security as well as on awareness-raising practices. Sadoi Khusor will also develop environmental publications and publish newspaper articles on the topic. Finally, Sadoi Khusor will hold a regional conference on environment and security challenges facing the region that brings together government officials, civil society representatives, community leaders and environmental experts. The project is supported by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 7,640. An interim project report is expected for April 2011.

#### **4. Women leaders in reduction of risk of natural disasters and the consequences of climate change in their own communities - Khatlon Region**

Women in rural areas are a group at high risk from natural disasters, especially since they are often heads of their households as male adults migrate for work. In many instances, women stay behind with increased responsibilities but low capacity for managing environmental risks. The women's NGO Sabzbahor developed a project seeking to raise the awareness and build the capacity of rural women of Vose and Jilikul districts in Khatlon regarding climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The objective of this project that is supported by a CASE grant of EUR 7,981 is to increase the participation of women in decision-making at community level. In ten workshops for least 300 women from communities off Vose and Jilikul women receive training in risk reduction and adaptation measures. In addition, at a roundtable with key local and national decision-makers, the risks presented by natural disasters specifically for women will be introduced. In parallel, Sabzbahor is developing promotion material including leaflets and a documentary film about the risks of natural disasters to raise the awareness of a wider audience beyond the communities that take part in the training workshops under this project. The project is implemented between January and June 2011. An interim report is to be delivered in April 2011.

#### **5. Rational use of natural resources is a guarantee of future environmental security - Khatlon Region**

In the Khuroson district of Khatlon Province, CASE grantee, Marifat, an environmental and women's rights organization is seeking to raise awareness on deforestation, threats to biodiversity and land degradation caused by unsustainable use of forests, including illegal logging. Supported by the Aarhus Centre in Kurgan Tyube Marifat plans to organize a series of 40 workshops aimed at raising awareness on land and forest degradation and introduce participants to skills of conservation and sustainable use of resources. Over one thousand participants from the communities of Gallaobod, Hiloli, Aini and Obi-Kii are expected to attend. In addition, the CASE grantee will develop a publication on the natural flora of the area and the threat to it from excessive harvesting that is to be introduced at community meetings and distributed widely in the district. These efforts will also be accompanied by a media campaign that includes the publication of articles in the district newspaper. Finally, the CASE grantee will design and install a number of roadside billboards along the major Dushanbe - Kurgan Tyube highway alerting drivers to the issue. The project is funded by CASE Tajikistan in the amount of EUR 7,400. Marifat will submit its interim implementation report in March 2011.

## **6. Awareness-raising on radioactive safety and security in Taboshar City - Sughd Region**

In its 2007 environmental strategy, Taboshar municipality identified decontamination by uranium tailing operations as a major environmental and public health risk. In 2009 an information campaign was launched and culminated in a large community meeting that produced recommendations on how to increase radiation safety for the population of Taboshar. The CASE grantee Action for Life took up some of these recommendations in an awareness-raising project that seeks to educate the population of the danger posed by radiation and to help them avoid being subject to radiation. Action for Life will implement a sophisticated information campaign: It will produce a documentary on radiation risks and safety measures to be aired on Sughd TV, reaching a regional audience. Action for Life will also organize viewings-cum-discussions of the documentary in several workplaces across the city. It will moreover hold several free movie and discussion nights in public places, where a series of documentaries covering a wider set of regional environmental problems will be featured. In addition, Action for Life will translate and distribute several hundred copies of an existing pocket handbook on radiation safety, and compile a booklet with recent articles and other publications on the Taboshar radiation problem. It will design posters to be put up in schools and other public locations. Finally, the CASE grantee will produce information billboards and radiation warning signs and install them on key sites that exhibit heightened radiation in Taboshar. With its campaign, the CASE grantee estimates it will be able to interact directly with more than 900 people. The project is financed entirely by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 7,400.

## **7. Health, beauty, purity of nature – the source of our development – Sughd Region**

Deforestation, poor waste management, poor water management and a lack of environmental and health awareness on part of the local population were identified by CASE grantee Shoto as major environmental challenges facing the city of Isfara and surrounding communities in the Tajik part of the Ferghana valley. Shoto developed an awareness-raising project that specifically targets youth and seeks to mobilize them for environmental action. The project team will select 30 dedicated youth volunteers and train them on awareness-raising and information dissemination in the environmental field. These volunteers will support the other project activities.

The project will create a public council comprised of leaders from twelve communities of Isfara district as a mechanism to co-ordinate action on environmental issues. With the support of Isfara municipality and the CASE grantee the council will conduct information sessions on the environmental priorities identified by Shoto for community leaders. To put the resulting dialogue on a sustainable footing, the public council will seek to establish permanent environmental working groups in the twelve communities. Shoto will furthermore support the public council in conducting an awareness-raising campaign including the holding of a roundtable open to the public in the city of Isfara on the environmental challenges facing the district. The project will be implemented between January and December 2011 and is financed by a CASE grant in the amount of EUR 8,000.

## **8. Strengthening youth Green Patrols Movement in Sughd region – Sughd Region**

Since 2003, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan has supported the Youth Group for Environmental Protection (YGPE) in recruiting for and maintaining their Green Patrols. Green Patrols consist of youth volunteers from secondary schools and seek to raise environmental awareness and facilitate environmental action by youth. Origination in Sughd, the movement has since spread to Khatlon, Dushanbe and the Districts of Republican Subordination in the centre of the country. CASE co-finance this project that combines capacity-building for Green Patrol volunteers in ten target districts of Sughd with environmental awareness-raising activities with a grant in the amount of EUR 7,991. The capacity-building activities include three sets of training seminars for 200 green patrol members on environmental monitoring, on environmental journalism, and on climate change and climate change adaptation. In co-operation with local government, Green Patrol members will apply their new skills in environmental monitoring missions focusing on deforestation, waste management as well as local priorities in the ten target districts. In a second step, the monitoring results will be discussed with community members in community meetings. In parallel, YGPE will carry out several awareness-raising events, including an environmental journalism festival for youth, where the best articles will be premiered and published in the organization's school newspaper. For this festival YGPE will invite leading journalists who will among other things attend a roundtable discussing the problem of lack of coverage of environmental issues in the mass-media of Tajikistan. With the support of Green Patrol volunteers YGPE will also hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> exhibition of Energy Savings Technologies on Recycling in the Sughd region with private sector representatives. Finally, YGPE in co-operation with a regional TV station will produce an environmentally-themed children's game show in five episodes.