



Development of the Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) for KAPAN city, Region of Syunik, Armenia

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OSCE Yerevan Office, 17 March 2010



About REC Caucasus

- Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) is an independent, not-for-profit, non-advocacy organization registered in 2000, to work for environment and sustainable development in the Caucasus region.
- **Mission of the REC Caucasus** is building civil society through promotion of **public participation in the decision-making process, development of free exchange of information and encouragement of cooperation at national and regional level among NGOs, governments, businesses, local communities** and all other stakeholders.
- REC Caucasus assists the Caucasus states in **solving environmental problems** and **supports building democracy**.



LEAP as a SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY

WHAT IS LEAP?

LEAP is an integrated system of environmental planning and action

WHO BENEFITS?

LEAP implies cooperation between all segments of the society, including authorities, business and civil sectors, benefitting the whole community

WHAT DOES IT HELP TO SOLVE?

LEAP helps in identifying and addressing the environmental challenges faced by the community, as well as appropriate solutions for them.



Project Goal, Rationale and Relevance to CASE and ENVSEC Initiative

- The goal of this project is **improvement of environmental management and practical application of environmental planning at the local level** by means of public participation in environmental decision-making process and cross-sectoral cooperation.
- **Project rationale and relevance to CASE Country Strategy and ENVSEC Initiative**
In line with objectives:
 - a. Increase of public and political awareness on the linkages between environment and security,
 - b. Demonstrates cooperation in the field of environment with government organizations, NGOs, private sector and international organizations.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The main **outputs** of the Project are viewed as follows:

- Environmental conditions in the Kapan community are improved by implementing concrete strategies
- Public awareness of Kapan community on environmental issues is promoted
- Capacities of both local government and NGOs to manage and implement environmental programmes are strengthened
- Main environmental priorities are set and prioritized through direct public participation of local community members and LSG
- LEAP for the town of Kapan is produced.



BUDGET

- Requested from CASE: **EUR 16 000**
- Contribution of Syunik LSG (Marzpetaran) - **EUR 715**
- Project duration – 8 months.

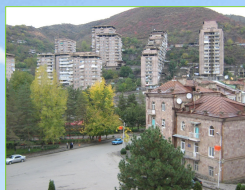


REC CAUCASUS EXPERIENCE

- REC Caucasus has been the first organization to develop LEAP for the towns of South Caucasus region.
- In Armenia LEAPs were developed for the towns of **Ararat** (2003-2007), **Kajaran** (2007, contracted by UNDP) and **Vardenis** (2008-2009)
- Guidelines for LEAP implementation in South Caucasus were developed in 2009



LEAPs Kapan



Summary of activities for phase I

- To introduce the goals of the project as well as to establish a link with the community, a starting **City Conference** with an immediate follow-up training on methodology was organized on August 30, 2010, in the City Hall of Kapan. Local authorities, city council, Ministry of Nature protection and experts, academia, local community representatives and NGOs, OSCE, REC Caucasus staff
- A range of environmental issues and challenges
 - Surface water pollution,
 - Insufficient condition of drainage system,
 - Health issues of the population
 - Air pollution
 - Low level of ecological (environmental) education,
 - Incompleteness of water supply system,
 - Absence of a cleaning station
 - Limited areas of forests and illegal logging,
 - Absence of green recreation areas,
 - The existence of highway of republican significance,
 - The existence of industrial dumping,
 - Low level of environmental awareness



Three-day trainings - "Establishment of local environmental action plans" process with its all stages (Leapville city example)

Preparatory phase

- Situation evaluation phase
 - environmental information collection
 - primary data analysis
 - issues identification
 - priorities determination
 - issues classification

Local environmental action plan final package development phase

- long-range aim decision
- clarification of strategic aims / goals and issues/problems
- actions choice
- classification of actions by priorities
- action plan development



LEAPs Process

- Phase of plan presentation to social society and document approval by LSG
- Actions and events implementation phase
- Monitoring and results evaluation phase

Summary of achievements of the objectives

- Active and motivated stakeholders committee was formed;
- The LEAP process was facilitated and an atmosphere of trust and partnership among the stakeholders was built;
- Problems were identified and priorities were set up through the Training sessions for SC;
- Desktop research, interviews were conducted for collection and analysis of information on environmental situation of the city of Kapan (by national LEAPs experts).

Development of Environmental Status Report (ESR)

- ESR describes existing environmental situation of the target community. It is essential for depicting a picture of community's state of the environment components: air, water, flora, fauna etc.
- Moreover, ESR will:
 - ensure clear complex analysis of environmental issues of the community;
 - provide information on consequences of government, private facilities, individuals' actions as well as provide information on prevention, protection and improvement actions;
 - form «reference point» of the state of environment based on which the efficiency of on-going environmental activities is measured;
 - increase public awareness on environmental problems and lead the society to involvement in environmental situation improvement;
 - contribute to the establishment of partnership between interested parties by enlarging the opportunities for future collaboration.

