

# **DRIVING PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH CAUCASUS**

**Baku, Azerbaijan  
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# REC C facts

- REC Caucasus was established in 2000 by the governments of South Caucasus Countries and the European Union
- RECC's main aim is to assist in solving environmental problems as well as in developing the civil society in the countries of the South Caucasus
- Headquarters of REC Caucasus is located in Tbilisi, Georgia with national offices in each country
- National office in Baku, Azerbaijan is established in 2009

# Focal Areas

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Land Degradation
- Forest/Biodiversity
- Green Economy
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Change
- Waste and Chemicals
- Green Cities, LEAPs and Transport

# Areas of activities

- Policy and Reform, support to national, regional, international commitments of countries in achieving agenda 2030
- Practical Tools Development
- Training and Capacity Development
- Awareness Raising, Advocacy and Promotion of SDGs within Society
- Technical Assistance
- Gender Mainstreaming and Promoting Inclusive Society
- Sharing of Critical Environmental Knowledge with all Partners in the Region
- Promoting Public Participation in Decision-Making

# Policy and Reform

- Development and revision of policies and environmental legislation with specific focus on EU Harmonization in all three South Caucasus countries (including commitments on EU Association agreements)
- Development of regional policies and programmes (Regional Biodiversity and Action Plan Concept)

# Practical Tools Development

➤ More than 100 medium and full size projects in the Region

➤ Practical

tools:

- Integrated community land use planning tools
- Community forestry planning methodology
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) methodologies and instruments for local level
- Community pasture management tools
- Livable Urban Areas: Integrated Urban Plans for Balanced Regional Development
- Financial Participatory Approach (FPA) tool
- Resource efficiency cleaner production Primers and Technical Guides for SMEs in agriculture, food production, chemical and construction material production,
- Strategic environmental assessment of Solid Waste Management Strategy and Roadmap, provision of SEA expertise/assessments

# Training and Capacity Development

- Regional training programmes are delivered for decision-makers, media, SMEs and farmers covering following topics:
  - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
  - Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production
  - Sustainable Land Management and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
  - Community Forest Management
  - Integrated Water Resources Management
  - TEEB- The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity

# Supporting SDGs implementation in South Caucasus

- Improve the measurement and valuation of natural capital; Promote the internalization of negative externalities and the sustainable use of natural capital; Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; Shift consumer behaviors towards sustainable consumption patterns; Promote Corporate and Social responsibility, Improve access to services, healthy living and well-being; Promote multi stakeholder participation and education for sustainable development

## **Verifiable indicators:**

1. Educational Course and publications related to SDGs
2. Establish a High level Regional Network in South Caucasus for implementation of SDGs
3. Holding regular country dialogues on implementation and monitoring of SDGs in each South Caucasus countries
4. Providing unique platform for free information and expertise exchange and communication between stakeholders from all three South Caucasus Countries

**REC Caucasus supports  
the Sustainable Development  
Goals**

## SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land



## SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



## SDG 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

## SDG 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



## SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



## SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

## SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



## SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



## SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



**2030**



# Gender Mainstreaming and Promoting Inclusive Society

RECC is working with Governmental and Financial Institutions promoting 3Es approach (Environment, Economy and Equity) ensuring development projects are inclusive based on environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness

# REC C & GEF

- Currently RECC is serving as an executing agency for the 9 medium sized GEF funded projects of national and regional scopes;
- RECC has developed technical competences, good understand of local needs and created the image of reliable partner for the stakeholders to ensure implementation of GEF agenda trough supporting participatory policy planning, capacity strengthening and gender mainstreaming in the region of South Caucasus;
- Via executing GEF funded projects, RECC assists the countries in their Political and Environmental transition and transformation, and provides a bridge for transferring GEF's regional and global experience to local vulnerable communities.
- RECC's work in Promoting GEF focuses on sustainable development and better synergies between economic competitiveness. green growth and social inclusiveness, mainstreaming sustainable rural development into national development planning.

# Current GEF projects in Azerbaijan

## ➤Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region

*The main goal of the project is to empower decision-makers in government and key stakeholders with technology and information to help reduce deforestation, facilitate commitments to restoration and conserve forest biodiversity by developing innovative user-friendly tools that easily share information, provide on-the-fly analyze.*

## ➤GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 national reporting process –Umbrella IV

*To enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical, socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national level and report against the UNCCD Strategy*

## ➤Azerbaijan's Integrated Transparency Framework for Implementation of the Paris Agreement – in the process of negotiation

# Thank You!

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