

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Environmental Law Center

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Provide support to conservation agencies specifically to improve implementation of international conventions (CBD, CITES and Ramsar)

Implementation Partners for this Project: Ministry of Ecology and Nature Resources

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): June 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Support of officials in implementation of international convention, directed to protection, use and bio diversity management, deepening of cooperation between government bodies, NGO and public structures

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
The legal analysis of a condition of the legislation of Azerbaijan on protection, use and management of the biodiversity	The legislation database of Azerbaijan on biodiversity was created within the framework of the project, analysis of legislation and its implementation was held. Review of the legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity was prepared.
Preparation of offers on correspondence of the national legislation to conventions	Recommendations of harmonization legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity by the international conventions were prepared.

Training officials to drawing up the reports	2 trainings for officials on report making on conventions on biodiversity were held. User guide on implementation of conventions for officials was prepared.
Dialogue between officials and NGO for protection of a biodiversity	Review of evaluation of civil society participation was prepared. 3 work meetings and a conference with dialogue between officials and NGO for protection of a biodiversity were held.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The staff of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), especially the staff of PAs can use this “Manual” in future for preparing their reports both in national level and for secretariats of conventions.

The “Manual” and recommendations to the Government on changing of report forms on biodiversity, harmonization these forms with the requirements of international conventions’ secretariats will be considered by decision makers who responsible for modernization of reporting system

After accepting these recommendations of the project group, Government will have new possibilities to monitor and control the state of environment and especially biodiversity.

After accepting of our recommendations by government, the civil society will have new possibilities of public monitoring and more professionally participate in conservation of biodiversity of Azerbaijan.

Responsible persons of MENR will consider the recommendations prepared by the project team and will insert changes into the legislation and procedures.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The Public and Responsible personnel, especially at the local level have received new skills for cooperation in the sphere of biodiversity conservation. The dialogue between NGOs and PA staff is established.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Study the situation on implementation of conventions and presentation of accountability	
1.1. Creation the Focus Group of project and determination of official partners.	Official partners of the project were selected in beginning of the project. Fishing Institute, Institute for Forest conservation and restoration of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Commission of Ecology, Energetics and Natural resources of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan Republic, Institute of Genetics, Zoology and Botany of National Academy of Sciences, representatives of

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	<p>ecological NGOs agreed on participating within Focus Group of the project. After development of the project Manual on implementation of conventions on biodiversity, Institute of qualification improving of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources as a partner to the project will use it for training of officials.</p> <p>During the project 4 meetings of Focus groups were held:</p> <p>On the first meeting of the Focus group aims and tasks of the project were discussed, concrete offers on achievement of project's aims were stated.</p> <p>On the second meeting of the Focus group results of project's research were presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of evaluation of civil society participation; - Review of the legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity - Recommendation of harmonization legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity by the international conventions - Legislation database of Azerbaijan on biodiversity <p>On the third meeting of the Focus group results from the conference, trainings of officials and published User guide on implementation of conventions for officials were presented.</p> <p>On the fourth meeting of the Focus group offers on changing the legislation on biodiversity prepared by project's work group, ways of lobbying, applying and implementing were discussed. Ways of project results' distribution were also discussed.</p>
<p>1.2. Information database about implementation the conventions by Azerbaijan.</p>	<p>Information on conventions implementation was collected by project's work group. Information data base was created, all the reports, made within the project were included there as well. The documents are in Azeri, English and Russian.</p>
<p>1.3. Work meeting and interview with interested persons.</p>	<p>Meetings and interviews with officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources were held. The purpose of the meetings was collection of information on projects implementation. Officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources offered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of national accountability system with the purpose of taking into account appropriate requirements of the conventions on accountability.

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation new laws and legislative acts for Conventions requirements' implementation. - Development of guides (manuals, books) for preparing reports, according to Conventions' requirements. - Training of officials on applying national legislation, convention requirements, report making. <p>Meetings and interviews with civil society representatives, environmental NGOs, local communities living near nature protected territories, mass media were held.</p> <p>Meetings and interviews with municipality's representatives of national parks were held.</p>
<p>1.4. Project's site creation.</p>	<p>Pages in Azeri on Ecolex NGO URL were added. All information, collected within the framework of the project will be included (placed) in already created following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information about the project; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aims, tasks of the project; - events, press-releases, - trainings, work meetings; - information on Conventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - texts of the conventions, and protocols, - reports; - recommendations of convention secretariat on conventions reports; - information on government bodies, responsible for conventions implementation, contact of key officials; - information on national system of accountability on biodiversity; - review of situation on conventions implementation; - offers on improvement of national system of accountability. - information on national legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - list and texts of laws and legislative acts; - review of national legislation; - offers on harmonization of legislation and conventions requirements; - information on participation of public in conventions implementation. - manual on conventions implementation. - other necessary information. <p>Part of the information, especially about the project, conventions, national legislation and public participation had already been placed on web site.</p>

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	In future Russian and English versions of the web pages on biodiversity will be available.
Output 2: Study of officials' needs to give them targeted help	
2.1. Determination of needs in education.	During meeting and interviews with officials needs in training of officials were outlined. On the basis of collected information project's trainer developed training models. On the basis of prepared models trainings for officials were held.
Output 3: Evaluation of civil society participation in government events on implementation of conventions	
3.1. Review of evaluation of civil society participation.	Interviews with NGO representatives were held. Purpose of these meetings was collecting information on public participation in events of government bodies on conventions implementation. Base of public participation assessment were requirements of Aarhus Convention and national legislation. As a result review of public participation was prepared.
Output 4: Analysis of national legislation and correspondence to conventions and protocols	
4.1. Gathering of laws and statutory acts creation of database about protection bio diversity.	Electronic and hard copies of laws and normative acts on biodiversity protection were collected. Texts of laws were typed on computer. Electronic data base of legislation was created. List of laws was placed on web page.
4.2. The analysis of the legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity with an estimation of its harmonization by the international conventions and its reports.	Biodiversity legislation was analyzed. Legislation review and initial proposals of legislation changes according to conventions were prepared.
Output 5: Preparation of review of International conventions implementation in Azerbaijan	
5.1. Preparation of electronic database of legislations on biodiversity and publishing in CD.	On the basis of Azerbaijan's legislation texts on biodiversity collected by the project electronic database of legislation was created. Database is published on CD. Within the framework of the project 500 CD copies with legislation on

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	biodiversity were issued.
<p>5.2. Preparation, imposition, editing and edition of "Review of international conventions implementation in Azerbaijan"</p>	<p>On the basis of information collected within the framework of project research "Review of international conventions implementation in Azerbaijan" was prepared. The following were included in this review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of evaluation of civil society participation; - Review of the legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity - Recommendation of harmonization legislation of Azerbaijan on a biodiversity by the international conventions - List of Azerbaijan's legislation on biodiversity <p>This review was published after discussion on the conference.</p>
<p>Output 6: Carrying out seminars at national levels with the purpose of situation evaluation in the countries to generalize experience of convention implementation in the country and to get comments to conventions implementation Review.</p>	
<p>6.1. Preparing and carrying out seminars at national levels with the purpose of situation evaluation in the countries to generalize experience of convention implementation in the country and to get comments to conventions implementation Review.</p>	<p>On the conference held on February 16, 2007 50 participants took part – officials and representatives of civil society. Exchange of experience in implementing of international conventions was carried out; main problems in reporting on conventions were outlined. With active participation of civil society representatives (NGO, science, independent journalists and etc.), officials of central bodies of management of biodiversity as well as representatives of national park administrations, reserves and other protected territories, local administrations of regions, located in main corridors indicated in Analysis of ecosystem of Caucasus region prepared by CEPF, discussed main problems of protection, use and management of biodiversity experience on implementation of international conventions on biodiversity and necessary additional efforts for improvement of the situation.</p> <p>"Review of international conventions implementation</p>

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	<p>in Azerbaijan" was presented on the conference. Participants of the conference gave concrete offers on given document.</p> <p>Offers on changes in legislation of Azerbaijan were also discussed by the participants of the conference. Conference participants stated offers on given document as well.</p>
<p>6.2. Publication materials on project's site.</p>	<p>Materials of the conference were published on internet site of the organization.</p>
<p>6.3 Distribution of the information and results of conference and project.</p>	<p>The following main decisions of the conference were directed to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Justice, Commission on Environmental matters, Energetic and Natural Resources of Milli Mejlis (Parliament), Academy of Science and were distributed on electronic network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on support of offers on changing biodiversity legislation prepared by project's work group; - on attracting public to the process of decision making on biodiversity matters; - on improvement of population's in formativeness on biodiversity matters; - on ecological education.
<p>Output 7: Preparation of User guide on implementation of conventions for officials</p>	
<p>7.1. Development for User guide on implementation of conventions for officials.</p>	<p>User guide on implementation of conventions for officials was developed on the basis of collected information on conventions and research held within the framework of the project. In this User guide concrete comments are described, how to implement conventions' requirements. In Appendix to User guide all necessary normative statements and forms of reporting on conventions.</p>
<p>7.2. Working meeting with participation of officials and civil society for presentation of "User guide"</p>	<p>After preparation of User guide on implementation of conventions for officials work meeting with participation of experts in this sphere, officials of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and NGO representatives was held on March 23, 2007. User guide on implementation of conventions for officials was presented on this meeting and discussions were held. Participants of the meeting stated their comments and offers.</p> <p>The User guide was finished by taking into account</p>

Indicator	Actual at Completion
	comments of participants of work meeting.
7.3. Imposition, edition and publication of "User guide".	User guide on implementation of conventions for officials was published with 400 copies.
Output 8: Carrying out trainings for officials at different levels with the purpose of giving help in implementation of conventions and preparation of reports	
8.1. Carrying out trainings. Distribution of the information about the results of trainings.	2 trainings were carried out. The first training was held in Gandja on April 6-7, 2007, second in Quba on April 27-28, 2007. On the trainings on the basis of the User guide on implementation of conventions for officials and module prepared by the trainer of the project 30 officials (15 per training) were trained. Officials from Especially Protected Territories and Regional offices of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources took part in these trainings. "Review of international conventions implementation in Azerbaijan", database of legislation on CD and User guide on implementation of conventions for officials were distributed among training participants.
Output 9: Development and presentation of proposals on works legislation to correspond to international conventions to Government	
9.1. Prepared and discussed on working meeting proposals to Government.	On May 4, 2007 work meeting with the participation of officials of Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ministry of Justice and Commission on environmental matters, energetic and natural resources of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) was held. On this meeting "Offers on biodiversity legislation's improvement" were presented to participants. After discussions it was offered to begin the process on lobbying presented offers in government.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

Workgroup of the project successfully implemented the project. All planned aims were achieved.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

The project working group gained good practice and contacts with specialists and other representatives of the civil society, which will be used in implementation of future analogical projects. Good new contacts are established with PAs personnel.

ECOLEX NGO in future will use these contacts in implementation of its mission, nature conservation, and continuation of dialogue between civil society and responsible personnel of PAs and the MENR.

The strained relations between MENR and WWF Azerbaijan Office had also influence on project implementation.

ECOLEX NGO will continue its work in this direction. We want to involve the society in preparation and discussion of report on biodiversity.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)

- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF funded project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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