



ADJARA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ASDA)

Support to further Sustainable Development of Protected Territories of Georgia through Introduction of Alternative Energy Sources and Tourism Development

Under Eco Awards 2010 program, Ajara Sustainable Development Association (ASDA) implemented a project aimed at supporting further sustainable development of Protected Territories of Georgia through introduction of alternative energy sources and tourism development. The project was implemented in the Ajara region, namely within the Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi Protected Area.

A lot of projects are implemented with support of international organizations and funds in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agency of Protected Territories with an aim to preserve unique biodiversity and develop ecotourism in the country. Among other issues, however, development of proper infrastructure still remains one of the important problems requiring special attention. Introduction of environmentally safe mechanisms and methods, e.g. alternative energy sources is one of the key issues in this regard.



*Photo by : Adjara Sustainable Association
Installing Helio Systems*

Project Objectives

- Introduce solar-powered electricity and water heating systems within the territories of Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi Protected Area.
- Increase knowledge of local stakeholders about problems in the tourism field and realistic approaches to solving those problems to through knowledge sharing and cooperation with other project under Eco-Awards 2010.

Implemented Activities and Outputs

- The visitor center of Kintrishi Protected Area was equipped with solar-power electricity system.
- The visitor center of Kintrishi Protected Area was equipped with solar-power water heating system.
- Rangers' House of Mtirala National Park was equipped with solar-power electricity system .



*Photo by : Adjara Sustainable Association
Installing Helio Systems*

- One guesthouse in the buffer zone of Mtirala National Park was equipped with solar-power electricity system, which directly resulted in increased number of tourists and correspondingly, in improved socio-economic conditions of its owner. The solar systems proved its reliability in practice.
- In cooperation with the Georgian Tourism Association, a similar project was implemented in Tusheti Protected Area. Within the framework of the project, a joint seminar was conducted with an aim to exchange the practical knowledge about

- Beneficiaries of the GTA project and representatives of the administration of Tusheti Protected Area organized a study tour to Kintrishi Protected Area to share experience and achievements. The tour was also important in terms of establishing contacts.
- As a result of the project, the interest towards tourism services has increased among the residents of the buffer zones of Mtirala and Tusheti Protected Areas, resulting in improved cooperation between them and the administration of the Protected Areas.
- The interest towards the use of alternative energy is steadily increasing, not only among the residents of the buffer zone villages, but also among the municipalities as well. It is envisaged that Kobuleti municipality, under its village development program will fund organization of one guesthouse and will fully equip it with solar-power electricity system.
- In the framework of additional award, acknowledging successful completion of Eco-Awards Program 2009-2011, ASDA created the organization's bilingual web-page – www.asda.ge, where information about the given project, as well ASDA's other activities was uploaded.

Project Duration

April 1, 2010 – July 1, 2010

Donors and Partners

The following project was implemented within the framework of the 2010 Eco-Awards Program. Eco-Awards Program is initiated and financed by BP, on behalf of its oil and gas co-venturers (BTC Co. SCP Co.) and administered by Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF).

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