

ASSOCIATION ZEKARI

Elaboration of the rehabilitation model of the erosive slopes of mountainous Racha and demonstrative rehabilitation of one of these slopes

Under Eco Awards 2010 Program, the Association Zekari implemented a project aimed at reducing the negative impact of erosion and preventing landslides in the region of Racha.

Racha is a high-mountainous region of Georgia. Therefore, soil erosion and landslides are prominent problems for this area. However, illegal and uncontrolled wood cut, climate changes, earthquakes magnified the negative impact of the above-mentioned problems. In accordance with the official statistics obtained from the local municipality, the total area of erosive land in Ambrolauri region (lower Racha) is 163,3 ha.

Local population is concerned about erosion process, which has negative impact on the land-plots that are being used for housing, farming, pastures, roads within villages, etc.



*Photo by: Association Zekari
Erosive slope*

Project Objectives

- Introduce environmentally safe and effective mechanism for erosive slopes' recovery.
- Increase knowledge of local stakeholders on recovery of erosive slopes.

Activities, results

- Based on the combination of scientific works and folk traditions, a model was elaborated consisting of six stages: fencing, cutting off the creeping soil to prevent the development of additional eroded areas, positioning willow beams in the ground for soil reinforcement, planting of anti-erosion trees (acacia, hornbeam, willow, buckthorn), interseeding and monitoring. The model is easy and at the same time quite cheap.
- To keep the population well informed, project material with photos was printed to go into the local newspaper to tell people about how the project was progressing. Later a full color, illustrated brochure, Specifics for Restoration of Erosive Slopes was prepared and published.
- Series of meetings were held with the population of the target villages to inform them about the model of restoring the erosive slopes. The brochure describing the model was disseminated during these meetings



*Photo by: Association Zekari
Positioning willow beams in the ground*

- Baring in mind that schools are the liveliest part of the target communities, the idea of establishing eco-clubs were introduced in schools of the villages. The teachers expressed commitment to provide environmental education through these eco-clubs.
- In October 2010 a round table event was held, with the participation of the representatives from local government, international organizations and local NGOs where active discussion was held on the opportunities of replicating the model, proposed by the association.

- The local council addressed the association with a request to implement similar projects in other villages as well. The organization prepared a new project to practice this experience across the whole Racha region, especially in the villages threatened most by erosion and landslides. The proposal was submitted to a grant competition announced by the US Embassy and received funding, thus granting an opportunity to replicate the project in seven other communities.
- In the framework of additional award, acknowledging successful completion of Eco-Awards Program 2009-2011, Zekari created its web-page - www.zekari.org.ge, prepared and printed additional brochure describing the model used in the given project and following project funded by the US Embassy. Additional presentation with participation of various stakeholders took place as well.

Project Duration

April, 2010 - January, 2011

Donors and Partners

The following project was implemented within the framework of the Eco-Awards 2010 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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