

UN Global Compact

Communication on Engagement

2016-2018

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT TO UNGC

23 October, 2018

I am pleased to confirm that the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Nana Janashia



Executive Director
CENN

CENN - Georgia

Head Office
27, Betlemi Str.
0105, Tbilisi
t +99532 275 19 03 / 04
f +99532 275 19 05
info@cenn.org

CENN - Armenia

16, Heratsi Str.
0025, Yerevan
t/f +37410 57 57 79
info.armenia@cenn.org

CENN - Azerbaijan

124/128, Gara Garaev Ave.
AZ1119, Baku
t +99412 4 39 41 13
f +99412 4 74 30 04
info.azerbaijan@cenn.org

WHO WE ARE

CENN is a non-governmental organisation working to protect our environment fostering sustainable development throughout the South Caucasus. We specialise in a number of areas including combating climate change, sustainable management of resources, building and developing healthy and prosperous climate resilient communities, and empowering women and girls to participate in creating inclusive solutions.

Since 1998, we have worked with local communities, national governments through to region-wide initiatives to engender green growth at every level. At CENN, we believe that sustainable development is best achieved through networking, cooperation, and engaging with all sections of society. We implement joint initiatives with equal participation across Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to find viable solutions to local and regional environmental challenges.

With representation throughout the South Caucasus, more than 50 members of staff, and a network of volunteers across the region, CENN has the capability and commitment to provide a service that is consistent, professional and of the highest quality. We deliver modern solutions for the public and business sectors and communities, assisting them in managing their environmental and related risks and helping them to achieve a competitive advantage through improved environmental and social performance.

OUR SLOGAN

Shaping the future by changing today.

OUR MISSION

Working with communities, governments, and businesses across the South Caucasus to create sustainable solutions for a healthy environment.

OUR VISION

To foster modern and sustainable development values, building bridges between communities and their surroundings, to develop a progressive society which protects their environment.

OUR GOALS

- Work with communities, governments and businesses to develop sustainable solutions, safeguard our environment and improve people's lives
- Be innovative and proactive in response to environmental concerns
- Build a strong and responsible civil society
- Provide open, inclusive and effective multi-stakeholder networking
- Support good governance and accountable business to safeguard our environment and improve people's lives
- Lead by example as one of the foremost organisation in the Caucasus

OUR COMPETENCES

- Civil society development and institutional strengthening
- Environmental research and policy
- Compliance management
- Education, knowledge management and networking

OUR THEMATIC DIRECTIONS

- Resources Management
- Climate Change and DRR
- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- Gender and Environment
- Green Economy through Compliance Management
- Integrated Waste and Pollution Management
- Sustainable Development and Socio economic integration

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Youth Summer Green Camps

CENN's Green Center in Bulachauri has been hosting Green Camps every summer since 2010. The camps were divided into groups and hosted high school students from public and private schools throughout Georgia. In 2016-2018, the syllabus of the camps included various environmental topics including forest ecosystems and their sustainable management, appreciating the difference among various plants, biodiversity conservation, integrated waste management and steps taken by Georgia in that area, the impact of mining on natural and socio-economic environment of Georgia, urbanization and trends in urban development, natural risk reduction and management possibilities, climate change and the consequences related to its risks, climate-smart agriculture and pasture management.

Niko Ketskhoveli School Award

CENN, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and the Parliament of Georgia, is holding a school environmental competition, Niko Ketskhoveli Award 2018.

Annual school award was established in 2014 with the support of Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). It aims at fostering environmental education and involvement of youth in civil life.

Over the period of four years, up to thousand schools and more than a hundred partner organizations participated in the competition. The competition involved implementation of environmental projects and events on a community, municipal and regional levels. Various schools competed throughout the year in research and advocating, preparation of development programs, introduction of new technologies, organization of educational, cleanup and tree-planting activities and promotion of an environment-friendly attitude under expert support and supervision.

Niko Ketskhoveli Award has various thematic directions, such as forestry, rural development, waste management, renewable energy solutions, eco-tourism, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, water and sanitation, gender, etc.

The schools that have the highest scores make it to semi-finals. Traditionally, the final is organized on March 21st, on International Day of Forests. International organizations and governmental agencies, regional administrations, local municipalities and private companies served as project supporters.

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia

The project is implemented with the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and will run from 2018 to 2022. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and delivery of commitments taken by the government of Georgia under the SDGs, NDC, and EU AA with regard to sustainable green growth. The outcome of the project is to create an enabling environment and effective interagency coordination for improved forest and watershed management, sustainable rural energy solutions, and diversification of rural income opportunities. The project will be implemented nationwide in Georgia with pilot actions in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Adjara AR, Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti.

Upscaling WASH Initiatives by Providing Essential Social Services for Women and Youth in Disadvantaged Rural Communities of Georgia

The project will run from 2018 to 2020 and will aim to improve WASH conditions in rural schools and households of disadvantaged multi-ethnic communities in Georgia by implementing innovative WASH projects and empowering women and youth. The project aims to support technology transfer and innovation in the WASH sector and to offer pro-poor benefit distribution by providing essential social services to excluded communities

Expected results:

- Creating a foundation for informed decision-making and prioritizing WASH issues in rural schools.
- The WASH sector is prioritized by the relevant authorities.
- Public awareness on WASH in rural schools is increased
- Capacity of people involved in WASH (i.e. local authorities, state-owned and private service providers, WASH councils of local communities) is increased.
- Newly introduced WASH technologies are practiced in different regions of Georgia.
- Approx. 5000 people (at least 10 public schools and at least 5 vulnerable communities) benefit from improved access to safe water and basic sanitary needs.
- The private sector contributes to the implementation of the WASH project
- Women and youth are engaged in advocating WASH issues.
- Acquired knowledge, habit changes and life skills on WASH are practiced by women and youth from vulnerable multi-ethnic communities.

Water for the Poor: Eliminating Discrimination and Inequalities in Access to Water and Sanitation in Vulnerable Multi-Ethnic Rural Communities

The project will be implemented between 2017-2020 with the support of the EU Commission. The overall objective of the action is to protect and promote the right to health and to adequate living standards of citizens in vulnerable multi-ethnic communities of Georgia. The specific objective of the action is to protect health and social rights and improve well-being of the women and youth in vulnerable multi-ethnic rural communities of Kakheti (Akhmeta, Sagarejo and Lagodekhi municipalities) and Kvemo Kartli (Dmanisi, Marneuli, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka municipalities) regions through reduction of discrimination and introduction of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) standards.

Expected results:

The project will advocate and lobby for protection of health and social rights of vulnerable groups through enforcement and improvement of WASH related legislative and policy instruments. Local actors will be mobilized to: identify the key types of HR violations and priority measures to be addressed, organize community led WASH advocacy campaigns and set up multi-stakeholder task-forces - Regional WASH Advisory Committees - for a structural dialogue on WASH.

The project will empower women and youth groups through capacity and institutional building (creation of Rural Women Councils - RWCs), provision of knowledge materials on human rights and WASH, technical support and sub-grants to resolve water conflicts and inequalities in vulnerable communities. Specific WASH measures will be implemented to address immediate WASH needs of selected vulnerable schools, shelters, kindergartens, orphanages and health centers in multi-ethnic communities with participation of local actors.

The project will advocate for state and non-state financing of WASH issues. An active media advocacy campaign throughout the project will ensure increased public awareness about Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) conditions in the target communities and visibility of the project

Georgia Community WASH Initiative (GC-WASH) to Eliminate Inequalities in Access to Water and Sanitation in Vulnerable Multi-Ethnic Rural Communities

Project will last between 2017 and 2019 under the support of the New World Program, Coca Cola, and Global Water Challenge (GWC). The project will improve the well-being of vulnerable multi-ethnic communities via introduction of WASH standards and empowering local women and youth to advocate for their needs.

- Assess WASH conditions of vulnerable groups. Identify and implement priority measures to improve access to safe water and sanitation.
- Build capacity and empower vulnerable groups (focusing on women and youth) in multi-ethnic communities to advocate for their rights to health and adequate living conditions and support adoption of improved hygiene behaviours
- Communicate WASH needs of vulnerable communities to create an enabling policy and institutional environment and attract financing.

Expected results:

- WASH conditions of the 20 vulnerable groups in Dmanisi, Marneuli, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka municipalities are assessed and communicated to relevant authorities and public. Access to water and/or basic sanitary facilities is provided through implementing priority measures to improve WASH conditions in selected hotspots which includes schools, kindergartens and shelters;
- Communicate WASH needs of vulnerable communities to create an enabling policy and institutional environment and attract financing;
- Capacity building and empowerment of vulnerable groups (focusing on women and youth) in multi-ethnic communities to advocate for their rights to health and adequate living conditions and support adoption of improved hygiene behaviours.

Community Engagement and Accountability Initiative

The project will be implemented in 2018-2019 and it aims to strengthen the capacity of the civil society organizations (CSOs) with a focus on the principles of transparency and participatory management. Expected results: two rounds of training workshops will help CSO leaders to foster networking and the exchange of best practice and experience among local CSO leaders and with international counterparts.

Waste Management Technologies in Regions (Phase II)

The project will last between 2017-2020 with the support of the USAID. WMTR II program assists the Government of Georgia (GoG) to modernize the country's waste management sector and support sustainable development and inclusive economic growth, ensuring responsible management of natural endowments that will minimize adverse impacts from waste on human health and natural resources.

The program mainstreams innovative approaches, apply new technologies, and streamline strong partnerships, to achieve, sustain and extend set objectives and solve development challenges. WMTR II will be built on lessons learned and knowledge and experience accumulated over phase I of the program and will be organized in the following main directions:

- Implementation of an Integrated Waste Management System
- Private Sector-Led Recycling
- Illegal Dumping Penalties and Tariff Policy
- Public Outreach

Expected results:

- Integrated waste management systems adopted and as a result, natural resource management is improved;
- An increase in the amount of recyclable waste originating in Georgia sorted, sold, recycled and aggregating is achieved;
- Waste management systems are properly funded through public tariffs and fines, which are imposed in targeted municipalities to reduce public littering/dumping;
- An increase in the number of people who report a willingness to sort is achieved.

Optimizing the Potential of Local Assets for Rural Development of Keda Municipality

The project is being implemented in the timeframe between 2017-2021, with the support from EU commissions ENPARD program in Georgia. The overall objective of the action is to reduce poverty in Georgia by addressing economic, social, and environmental concerns in rural areas; making use of local potential for sustainable and inclusive growth.

The specific objective of the action is to diversify local economic activities, fostering investment and empowering competitive agricultural and environmental practices in Keda Municipality via bottom-up strategic planning of rural development. The proposed project aims to catalyze existing preconditions for growth, and optimize the potential of local assets for diversifying the rural economy in Keda Municipality.

Expected results:

- Keda Local Action Group (LAG) is strengthened and enlarged with equal gender participation;
- Gender and Youth Sensitive Keda Rural Development Strategy is developed;
- Rural economic diversification and inclusive growth opportunities are demonstrated and offered via implementation of innovative (smart, sustainable, resilient) projects.

Sustainable Low Emissions Transport

The project will last from 2017 to 2019 with the support from UN Environment. The overall objective of the action is to assist the Government of Georgia to harmonize Georgian legislation with EU equipment and project human health and environment from negative impacts of harmful emissions from the road transport sector, mitigating climate change by improving vehicle fuel economy and reducing Short-lived Climate Pollutants and promoting investments for walking and cycling infrastructure. This will lead to increased auto fuel economy and lower CO₂ and emissions from the transport sector. In addition, this work will contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy to introduce low sulphur fuels and cleaner diesel vehicles of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).

Expected results:

- Technical Regulation (By-Law) for Introducing EU Emission Standards for Road Transport (Light-Duty and Heavy-Duty) in Georgia is Developed and submitted to the government for approval;
- Reduced emission from negative impacts of harmful emissions from the road transport sector.