



MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



Implemented by  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

# Management of Natural Resources and Safeguarding of Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Rural Development in the South Caucasus (ECOserve)

## Commissioned by:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## Partner organisations:

RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure

RA Ministry of Environment

RA Ministry of Economy

**Current commissioning period:** December 2018 to December 2024

**Budget:** 20.810.870 €, co-financing 4 mln € EU4Sevan

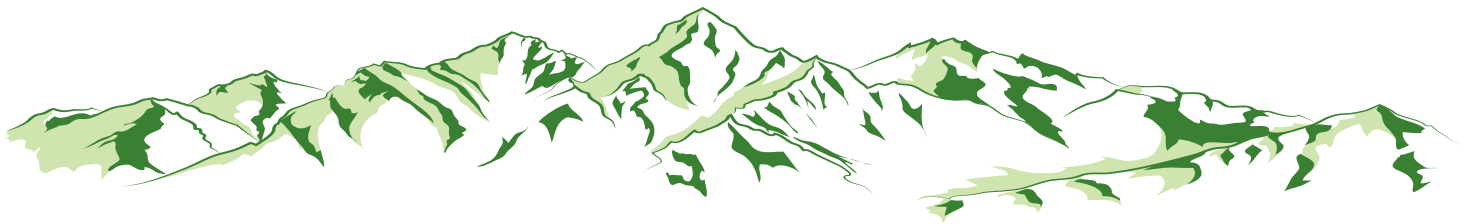
**Countries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia

**Extension:** The extension of ECOserve has been approved until December 2024 (EU4Sevan), and ECOserve activities will continue through August 2023



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE, OPPORTUNITIES

for people and nature



## Brief Description

ECOserve is an environmental programme that supports the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. It is commissioned by the German Federal Government and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. ECOserve follows a regional approach by working with all three countries of the South Caucasus.

The overall objective of ECOserve Armenia is to improve the preconditions for sustainable pasture management (SPM), with particular attention on energy security of the rural population. Environmental awareness-raising and education are among the key measures of the programme.

## Challenges

Among the key factors that have resulted in pasture and forest degradation are the overuse and underuse of pastures in the country, excessive fuelwood use, lack of alternatives and low level of environmental awareness.

The rural population suffers from energy poverty and people depend on natural resources to meet their basic heating needs. There is lack of robust data, rules, sustainable practices, and expertise at all levels among the population and related institutions. Holistic approaches to sustainable and biodiversity-friendly use of natural resources are insufficient.

## Fields of Intervention

- Information on pasture and grassland/ rural energy is used for decision-making
- Institutional framework for SPM is improved (intersectoral cooperation)
- Pilot activities for SPM, Energy Efficiency (EE) and Alternative Energy (AE)
- Environmental education and awareness-raising
- Regional exchange

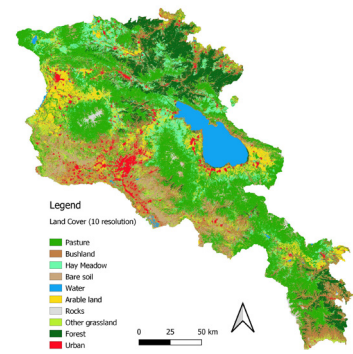
# Results and Achievements

## Sustainable Pasture Management

- Nationwide mapping of Armenian pastures and grasslands.
- Capacity Development in the Ministry of Economy of the RA for the future use of GIS mapping models.
- Support on fodder production and pasture

improvement activities as alternative solutions for decreasing pressure on pastures and ensuring income for rural population.

- Support of the Program Coordination Platform for Sustainable Management of RA's Natural Fodder Areas: Pastures and Grasslands.



## Improved Energy Situation in Rural Households

ECOserve has been working on marketable approaches to increase energy efficiency (EE) and/or provide alternatives to reduce the use of fuelwood (and dung) for heating in rural areas:

- EE assessment of selected solid biomass stoves and identification of high energy efficient models,
- acquisition, on a cost-sharing basis, of locally produced EE stoves (particularly benefiting women) by more than 70 beneficiary families

from the pilot communities of Lori, Shirak, and Kotayk marzes,

- replication of the approaches by local partner organizations, and distribution of more than 110 EE stoves,
- implementation of a gender differentiated socio-economic survey with 380 respondents on fuelwood heating practices.



## Environmental Education and Awareness-Raising

Strategic Collaboration with the Armenian National Agrarian University for strengthening environmental education and research

Environmental Curricula Development and Capacity Building

- New BSc programme in Precision Agriculture.
- New MSc programmes in Sustainable Agriculture & Precision Agriculture.
- Improved MSc programmes in Forestry Science & Organic Agriculture.
- ToTs & development of training material.



### Greenovation Challenge

As a result of the Regional Greenovation Challenge, three winning projects were implemented in Tavush, Armavir, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik regions.

Financial and ecological literacy to promote energy efficiency in communities of Armenia

- More than 3600 rural inhabitants from 10 marzes of Armenia attended the trainings.
- Practical tools were developed for assessing the investments and savings for selected energy efficiency measures.
- Some trainees initiated energy efficiency improvements at household or community level.



In the framework of the awareness-raising campaign on Lake Sevan social billboards were produced to raise awareness about environmental and water pollution with plastic and pandemic waste.

Environmental Educational Center at Yerevan Botanical Garden

Environmental education center "EcoEpiCenter" was established at Yerevan Botanical Garden together with the Institute of Botany and WWF.

## "Restoration of Riparian Zones in Armenia" COVID-19 Response Project in Gegharkunik Region

The "Restoration of Riparian Zones in Armenia" COVID-19 Response Project supports the Government measure #15 to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 in Gegharkunik region.

Main achieved results in 2021:

- Short-term employment for 1012 people who have lost their income due to the Corona pandemic was provided.
- More than 1 million willow and poplar cuttings were planted in the riparian zones of 6 rivers.
- A total of 376 150 kg of solid waste, out of which 1107 kg recyclable plastic and glass, was removed during clean-up measures along 10 rivers flowing into Lake Sevan.
- More than 1000 people received on-the-job trainings before planting and clean-up activities. Around 200 villagers took part in 3 module trainings on waste management, as well as environmental events.



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