



CENN Annual Report 2021

Contributing to 17 SDGs

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAG	Climate Action Group	ICC	Information Consultation Center	NFA	National Forest Agency
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network	I-CISK	Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge	NPWPP	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development			NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
COP	Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention	ICT	Information and Communications Technology	PPP	Public-Private Partnership
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease	IDP	Internally Displaced Person	PV	Photovoltaic
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture	IPM	Integrated Pest Management	PwD	Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organization	IRDG	Improving Rural Development in Georgia	RDA	Rural Development Agency
CSRDG	Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	RIK-Hub	Rural Innovation Knowledge Hub
DRM	Disaster Risk Management			RWC	Rural Women Council OR Rural WASH Council
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	LA	Local Authority	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
EDEC	Education Development and Employment Centre	LAG	Local Action Group	SE	Social Entrepreneurship
EMS	Emergency Management Service	LDS	Local Development Strategy	SFMRD	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development
EU AA	European Union Association Agreement	LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer	SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	MCEC	Mediation and Civic Engagement Committee	UN	United Nations
FFS	Farmer Field Schools	MEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
FG-IACCRD	Forest Group of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for Rural Development	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	USFS	United States Forest Service
		MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform	VC	Venture Capital
GNTA	Georgian National Tourism Administration	NbS	Nature-based Solution	VET	Vocational Education and Training
		NCDC	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health	VNR	Voluntary National Review
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points			WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
HPP	Hydroelectric Power Plants	NCP	National Climate Platform	WWD	World Water Day
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions		
IACCRD	Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Rural Development	NEA	National Environmental Agency		
		NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training		



A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear team, donors, and partners,

2021 was yet another tough year. Coronavirus variants surged across the world and the real effects of the pandemic on the economy, social welfare, and public health began to emerge. Now, as we slowly emerge from the worst effects of the pandemic, our focus has shifted to a green post-COVID recovery. Aside from the pandemic, humanity increasingly faces the negative effects of climate change. 2021 tied for the sixth warmest year in NASA's records, stretching more than a century. No one doubts that climate change is now the main existential threat of our time, affecting all three main pillars of the global Sustainable Development Goals, such as the environment, society and economy. Understanding how the planet is changing and how rapidly that change occurs is crucial for global communities to take responsibility and start caring for the environment. We believe that climate inaction is the main hindering factor of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda. With this in mind, we are taking active steps to initiate more action explicitly on climate change.

When founded in 1998, CENN focused mainly on environmental activities. Over the years, however, it became increasingly clear how complex and interconnected the problems of our modern world are – where not a single aspect of development, or a single stakeholder, is sufficient on its own. As a result, even before SDGs, CENN adopted a holistic approach to development – integrating environmental, social and economic aspects. Creating synergies between disciplines, facilitating an open space for dialogue among state, non-state or private stakeholders, and providing a voice for vulnerable groups have become essential in CENN's development initiatives.

In 2021, our team came together to re-evaluate and contemplate the scope of our work to meet these global demands. After careful deliberation and reflection, we decided to expand the scope of our work and launched our new strategic directions, all of which sit under the Sustainable Development Goals. We are proud to have the opportunity to work on global issues such as democracy and good governance, education and youth, public health and well-being and of course, rural development, energy and inclusive economic development.

This year, the CENN team decided to present annual results in terms of their contribution to specific global SDG targets. This report is structured according to the thematic directions of CENN, and the main achievements of each initiative are grouped both by thematic directions and corresponding SDGs. The results show that CENN's activities correlate with targets from all 17 SDGs. We hope that this example will be inspiring for other CSOs as well, to reflect and showcase their contribution in achieving global development goals.

We at CENN strongly believe that SDGs are not just the responsibility of the government, but are a joint commitment that should unite all sectors – including CSOs, businesses, and academia, as well as stimulate transboundary cooperation. Therefore, we encourage everyone to take part in this initiative and cooperate together for a better, peaceful, democratic, greener and inclusive future!

Yours sincerely,

Nana Janashia

Executive Director

Climate Change, Environment and Energy

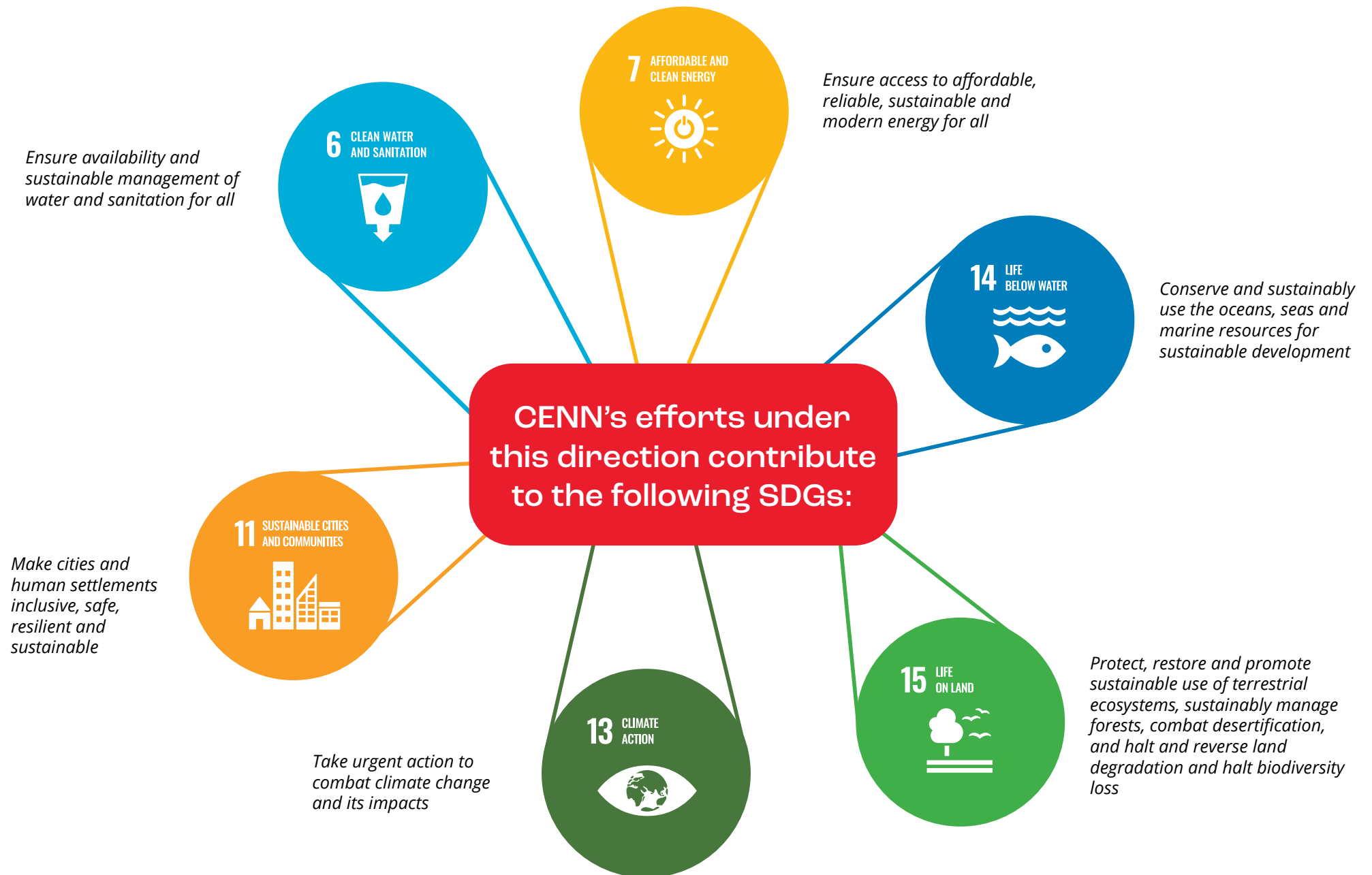
CENN's work in the Caucasus region to tackle challenges related to climate change, environmental protection, and green energy extends over two decades. We partner with governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to create sustainable solutions for complex environmental problems.

CENN promotes inclusive environmental governance, application of modern approaches and technologies, and builds sound environmental management systems at every level to support better natural resources management and biodi-

versity protection, increase climate resilience and energy security, and create lasting opportunities that sustain livelihoods.

Under this direction, CENN focuses on environmental protection, natural resources management, promoting climate resilience, and supporting renewable and energy-efficient technologies. In 2021 CENN's main achievements in these areas include successful advocacy, developing analytical documents, providing capacity building based on best international practices, and piloting innovative energy-efficient solutions for rural areas.





Environmental protection and natural resources management

Environmental degradation and exploitation of natural resources represent one of the key challenges in the Caucasus region. The region is prone to a range of hazards, which can result in casualties, damages to infrastructure, and economic loss. These are often caused by unsustainable use of natural resources, economic activities, and improper waste management. With this in mind, CENN in close cooperation with partner organizations are working with communities, the government, and businesses to steer development towards sustainable solutions through capacity building of stakeholders and supporting the introduction of green and innovative practices. Moreover, CENN programs contribute to the delivery of commitments taken by the government of Georgia under the SDGs, NDC, and EU AA concerning the sustainable use of natural resources.

SDG Target 15.2:

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally



Simplified Rule of Land Registration Risking Loosing of Forest Lands was stopped

A simplified land registration rule has been in place in Georgia since 2016, which encouraged the chaotic process of changing the forest status and registering excluded lands in private ownership during last years. Mass registration has led to the fragmentation of forest ecosystems. According to the official data, during 2016-2021, in disagreement with the MEPA and the National Forest Agency (NFA), in violation of forest legislation, the State Registry, based on self-government declarations, carried out more than 18,000 cases pertaining to forest lands and registered them in private ownership. This data is based on research by specialists, as well as public information provided by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

As a result of CENN's successful advocacy, the Minister of Justice issued an order according to which the city halls

are advised not to issue the property certificates for the territories located in forest areas managed by the National Forest Agency (NFA) without prior consultations with the NFA. As a follow-up, during the reporting period, official letters were sent to 30 municipalities to stop the expropriation of forest land and follow Order # 310. Moreover, after the press conference organized by CENN and partner NGOs (30 CSOs were mobilized), the Environmental Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia instructed to suspend all ongoing registrations.

On November 24, 2021, the Parliament of Georgia approached the Ministry of Justice about the suspension of the current registrations of forest lands until the implementation of new legislative changes, which, in turn, became the subject of differences of opinion. The Government of Georgia has taken responsibility to develop a by-law in a participatory manner, which will mitigate the risks arising from the new legislative changes related to the loss of forest lands.

Funding

Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

Project

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Social Cutting and Illegal Firewood to be Reduced

CENN continues supporting the implementation of the Forest Code by engaging in the preparation of relevant key decrees and providing expertise. Forest Code creates a system in Georgia, which restricts excessive and illegal firewood harvesting. According to the Forest Code, the population will not be able to cut firewood themselves, hence,

illegal activities in the forestland will be gradually reduced. Instead, in order to provide the local population with firewood, the Government's forestry programme ("Business Yards") has been established. The "business yards" will completely replace social cutting and illegal firewood market. CENN is now providing support to elaborate its financial, technical, social, economic and business models; is actively working with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development on improving the renewable biomass market.



Youth-Led Initiative Promotes Sustainable Forest Management in Western Georgia

As part of the "Youth for Sustainable Development" sub-grant program initiated by CENN, local youth involved in the eco-club of Poti Public School #4 implemented a number of educational activities. The youth raised awareness about the endemic Oak tree (*Quercus hartwissiana*) and

provided practical workshops on planting and growing the endemic Oak tree and meetings with the experts. The eco-club also organized several field trips and study visits, including at the phytopathology and biodiversity department of Shota Rustaveli Batumi State University, as well as to Kintrishi and Kobuleti protected areas, particularly the territories covered by the peat swamps. 50 school students were directly engaged in the project, including disadvantaged groups and those with fewer opportunities, such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

SDG Target 15.3:

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world



In 2021, CENN started working on two analytical documents: (1) a Country case study for the meta-analysis of drought and land degradation and (2) a national policy review of institutional barriers, capacity gaps, and opportunities/recommendations for NbS-drought. The activity is implemented as part of an international initiative of IUCN covering Kenya, Burkina Faso and Georgia, in which CENN contributes as a national partner of IUCN in Georgia. The overall goal of the initiative is to incorporate nature-based

solutions (NbS) in the national drought management by producing globally robust and locally valid evidence on NbS drought; undertaking national policy and institutional analysis with multi-stakeholder dialogue and consensus building to identify pathways for implementation of NbS, as well as feeding recommendations into existing projects and planning mechanisms in order to model the adoption of NbS-drought.

Youth in Kakheti Region
Raise Awareness about the
Negative Effects of Land
Burning

As part of the “Youth for Sustainable Development” sub-grant program initiated by CENN, local youth from the Kakheti region implemented a project aimed at stopping land burning. The project focused on the harmful effect of burning biowaste (such as autumn leaves and the fields after harvesting the crops) often resulting in forest fires. The project included a series of awareness-raising and advocacy activities such as social media campaigns featur-

ing photo and video materials to spread information about the adverse effects of burning biowaste. In addition to multimedia materials, farmers, experts, and activists shared their experiences and best practices in this sphere using the story-telling method. In total, about 150,000 people received information in relation to the adverse effects of burning biowaste and the eco-friendly solutions to the challenge. The project was implemented by “Civic Initiative” – a grassroots NGO operating in the rural areas of East Georgia, in Signaghi Municipality. CENN has analysed the root causes of the problem of frequent forest fires caused by open agricultural burning and has elaborated relevant recommendations.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

SDG Target 14.1:

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

National Plastic Waste Prevention Program of Georgia Offers Action Plan to Tackle Marine Litter

National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP) of Georgia among other objectives aims to tackle sea-based sources of plastic marine litter, and monitor and curb rivers and marine litter more effectively. The measures offered in the action plan include preventing marine litter from ships, development of measures to reduce loss or abandonment at sea of fishing gear, de-

velopment of measures to limit plastic loss from aquaculture, establishing an effective monitoring system and mapping of marine litter including micro-plastics, developing an action plan of measures on marine litter in line with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Waste Framework Directive, raising awareness of littering and enforce fines; promote river-banks and beach clean-up activities and improving waste collection, particularly near the river banks and coasts, and improve coordination between the authorities responsible for waste management, water and the marine environment at national and local levels.

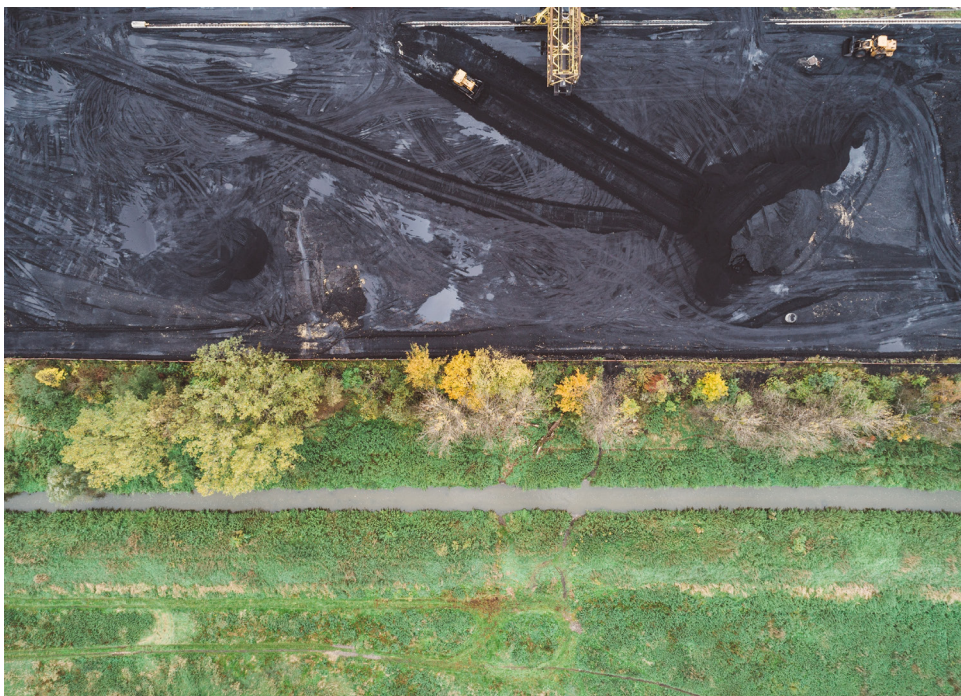
Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Project	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia



Climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience

Climate change is already clearly evident in the Caucasus region. There is a noticeable increase in average annual temperature and changes in annual precipitation patterns. The region is prone to natural disasters and climate change intensifies these processes.

To overcome the adverse impacts and facilitate adaptation to climate change in different sectors, CENN is supporting governments to introduce the climate-smart and resilient practices, conducting research on climate change in close cooperation with the research institutions and providing results along with recommendations to the relevant stakeholders, piloting climate-smart practices and developing the issue-based constructive dialogue and cooperation mechanisms among various stakeholders.



SDG Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

CENN in cooperation with the National Environmental Agency (NEA) has started working on a streamflow prediction system in the Alazani River basin with the involvement of international experts. Within the initiative, CENN has already handed over needed equipment to hydrometeorological stations of the NEA. The equipment will be used to operate stations in the Alazani River basin in order to effectively collect hydrometeorological data. The project is being implemented by the Institute for Water Educational (IHE Delft) together with a consortium of 13 member organizations.



Funding	European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme
Project	Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge (I-CISK) (CENN's role - national partner)

SDG Target 13.b:

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Promoting participatory development and implementation of climate-related strategies in Georgia

Within the framework of the newly created multi-stakeholder climate change platforms - (National Climate Platform (NCP) - operating at the national level and Regional Climate Action Groups (CAGs) operating in Racha, Guria, Imereti and Kakheti regions), consultation meetings were held at the national and regional levels in close cooperation with the MEPA. With the support of CENN, thematic working groups (energy, agriculture, tourism, waste management, biodiversity etc.) were created

under the NCP. In addition, a working group was created which aims to MEPA in the work on the draft document of the Fifth National Communication of Georgia to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as on the financial issues related to climate change. The CAGs that have been active at the regional level, were actively working on such topics as the planned Bakhvi 1 HPP in Ozurgeti municipality, the new Forest Code and chestnut disease in forest groves. To ensure efficient advocacy work of the regional platforms, CENN provides tailored capacity development programs on climate change, water security and integrated resources management as well as on RBA, communication, and lobbying for pro-poor climate change policies for the members of the CAGs.



Funding	European Union
Project	Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation

Climate Change Adaptation Plan Developed for Agriculture in Marneuli

CENN developed climate change scenarios and climate change adaptation plan for agriculture in Marneuli municipality. The analysis includes site-specific

tendencies of climate changes between the years 1960-2020 and expected scenarios projected for 2021-2050. As an integral part of the documents, it includes adaptive mechanisms to climate change for the three major agricultural systems of Marneuli municipality (crop production, livestock and sustainable land management).



Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

SDG Target 11.b:

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Georgia

CENN continues to support the National Forestry Agency (NFA) of Georgia in disaster risk reduction via sharing best international practices and providing additional capacity building. In 2021, CENN, in cooperation with the US Forest Service (USFS) and Austrian Development Cooperation, has identified hot spots in the river basins of Kisiskhevi (Telavi municipality) and Khodasheni (Akhmeta municipality) for the elaboration of the DRM plans based on the standard of the USFS. Elaboration of the hazard zone map for allocation of the forest cut areas is in progress on a countrywide level via the involvement of national and international experts. Moreover, fieldwork for

the elaboration of the DRM plans has begun and NFA and MEPA representatives were trained in integrated watershed management. In addition, training was held for NFA, NEA and EMS representatives on the watershed condition framework as a practical tool for watershed management. The tool is intended for the NFA to allow them to consider DRR in the allocation of forest-cut areas. The aim of the project was to introduce the US forest service’s practice of watershed management and its cooperation model with their multi-sectoral working group representatives to NEA and NFA specialists. CENN actively cooperates with USFS and ADC to benchmark the international basin management practices in the forestry sector and to develop basin management plans for natural hazards-driven disasters.

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), USFS
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD); Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Disaster Risk Management in Watersheds of Georgia



Introducing Sustainable River-Basin Management to Local Youth

In 2021, CENN implemented a DRR campaign “Youth for the rivers” which included seminars and practical study tours for school students. Students learned the main reasons for natural risks, related to the co-existence of natural and anthropogenic factors in the watershed basin areas. Moreover, participants were informed about the role of forest ecosystems in maintaining the sustainability of

river basins based on Orvili, Zemo-Khodasheni, Telaviskhevi, and Kisiskhevi river basins. Modern geological, hydrological, forestry and geographical methods were also demonstrated by experts during field research. The participants were given recommendations on how to integrate the practical knowledge gained during these field trips into the activities of eco-clubs to increase public awareness of DRR issues in the communities and make actions more targeted. Eco-clubs from more than 10 schools from the Kakheti region participated in the educational campaign.

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)



SDG Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Analysis of Water Security in Four Regions of Georgia

CENN developed a situation and causality analysis report covering water security priority issues in four regions (Racha, Guria, Imereti and Kakheti) of Georgia to identify existing problems related to water security and their immediate, underlying and structural causes. The report was prepared through participatory multi-stakeholder debates on climate change and the water-energy-food nexus facilitated by the regional multi-stakeholder platforms - Climate Action

Groups (CAGs) and in close cooperation with key stakeholders. In addition, CENN prepared a report on candidate strategies and actions addressing priority issues (mainly issues related to access to water resources) and causes, discussed and agreed upon with local stakeholders via meetings with regional CAGs. As a result, 4 target watersheds were identified: Rivers Ilto (Kakheti region), Khvargula/ Chveshura (Racha region), Pichori (Guria region) and Kvirila (Imereti region). The work on the development of climate change scenarios for target watersheds is underway.

Funding	European Union
Project	Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation



Renewable energy and energy efficiency

Energy supply security and energy efficiency are among the top regional priorities that stem from environmental and geopolitical issues. Potent energy policies and technologies are a stepping stone for regional stability and economic development. In this regard, the availability of domestic energy sources and their transportation routes as well as efficient use of local and regional resources and the development of renewable energy technologies are the promising possibilities to guarantee a positive balance between the environment and sustainability and improvement in energy security. What is more, the utilization of energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies reduces carbon emissions and provides energy at an affordable price, thus facilitating economic well-being.

CENN provides solutions to the energy deficiency in the region by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies such as biofuels, wind energy, photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal energy to the governments, private sector and community members. We believe that mainstreaming alternative energy solutions will reduce pressure on natural resources, provide cheaper energy and alleviate poverty.

In 2021, CENN began the implementation of region-specific rural energy plans for selected target regions of Georgia, and among other initiatives focused on improving energy-efficient stove production in the Kakheti region.



SDG Target 7.2:

By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix



Implementation of Rural Energy Plans has started

CENN prepared four region-specific rural energy plans for the Adjara, Kakheti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions. The plans provide policy and technical recommendations for promoting sustainable energy solutions. The rural energy plans were prepared as a result of the recommendations of the feasibility study and were discussed among key stakeholders. In 2021, following up on key recommendations of the rural energy plans, CENN started the implementation of a pilot project “Promoting the production-utilization of renewable energy to

reduce energy pressure on forests”. The project includes: improving energy-efficient stove production (Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions); Supporting the development and production of energy plantations and solid biomass briquettes (Samegrelo region); Equipping forestry “business yards” with educational stands (nationwide) and solar water heaters (Bodorna Village Business Yard in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region); Introduction of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient technologies in the Keda Municipality Schools and creation of community demonstration sites (Adjara AR). In addition, the Business Association “Georgian Forest Product” created by CENN, mobilized companies operating in the solid-energy production and utilization sectors.

Funding

Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

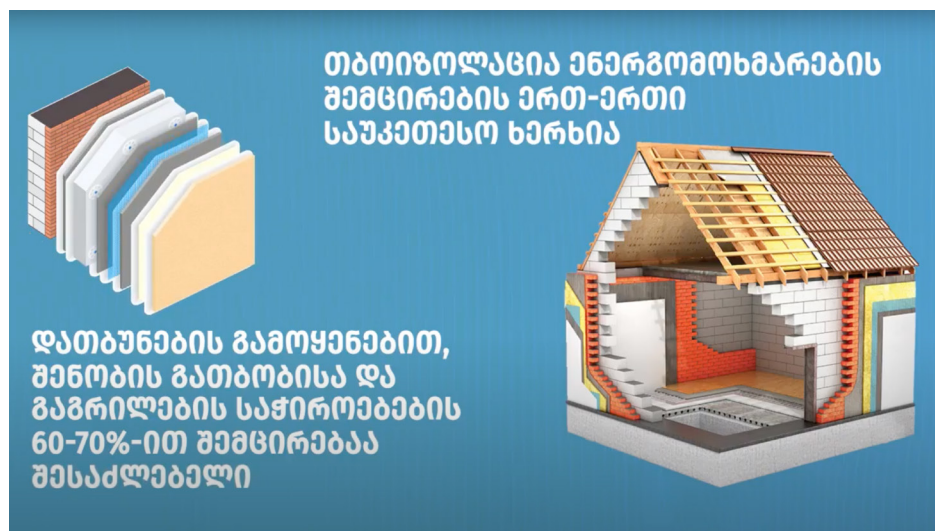
Project

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Promoting Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies in Rural Georgia

CENN conducted a campaign promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in eight municipalities (Keda and Khulo in the Adjara region, Akhalkalaki and Borjomi in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, Kazbegi in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, Tetrtskaro in the Kvemo Kartli region, Lagodekhi, and Dedoplistskaro in Kakheti region). The campaign aimed at increasing

awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient and renewable technologies, and provide information about available funding opportunities such as IRDG/RDA matching-grants. The tools applied included community meetings, an online study tour to Bazaleti Green Technology Center, as well as trainings and an active social media campaign. In addition, as part of the campaign, a bus equipped with energy-efficient technologies travelled across the villages and towns of the target regions. The campaigns directly engaged more than 300 people and indirectly - up to 25,000.



Funding	European Union/ENPARD, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project	Elaboration and Implementation of a Promotional Campaign for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies in Rural Areas

[Watch the video](#)

Increased Funding Opportunities for Solid Bio-energy

As a result of the inter-agency coordination and lobbying initiated by CENN, new financial mechanisms for supporting the private sector were created for assisting rural development. As a result, the private companies and households involved in the sustainable use of forest resources, as well as businesses producing energy-efficient stoves, will be able to participate in grant schemes of the State “Agro-credit Program” and therefore, expand their businesses and contribute to rural poverty reduction. In particular, RDA allocated grants and credits for a solid bio-energy utilization project in Mtskheta-Mtianeti with the total amount of GEL 2 million. The initiative to include financing for forest-related directions in the rural development grant programs has been part of the Green Budget Document, a guidebook of recommendations for sustainable policymaking, prepared by CENN in cooperation of the Parliament of Georgia.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

SDG Target 7.3: By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Energy Efficient Stoves in the Kakheti Region

CENN has successfully completed the first phase of a pilot project on improving energy-efficient stove production in the Kakheti region. The energy efficiency of the stoves produced by the beneficiary IRON + LTD, in cooperation with Georgian Technical University, was increased up to 74-80%. As a next step, it is planned to upscale the pilot initiative in other regions, as well as involve biomass producers.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Agriculture and Rural Development

Due to a lack of other economic opportunities, agriculture became one of the key sectors in the Caucasus region.

Over the years, CENN has been pushing the frontiers of innovation to develop and advance best practices in sustainable agriculture and rural development. We build capacity and educate local farmers, and promote new technologies and strategies to boost productivity and improve the lives of rural people. The Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach applied by CENN in rural areas gives local people a voice and the tools to make a real difference in their community.

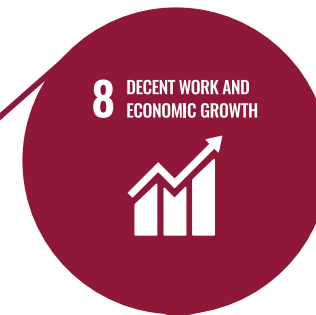
In terms of rural development, CENN focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture practices, supporting increased food security and engaging local communities in Rural and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). In this thematic direction, CENN's efforts in 2021 focused on identifying major capacity gaps and needs, contributing to income-generating opportunities and the sustainable growth of the vulnerable population, promoting local needs-based development and creating alternative sources of income.



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



CENN's efforts under this direction contribute to the following SDGs:



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Reduce inequality within and among countries



Sustainable Agriculture

Agricultural systems in the Caucasus region need to increase their outputs in a sustainable manner and, at the same time, adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and the loss of fertile lands to meet the demands of the population.

CENN promotes sustainable agriculture and farming practices by capacity building of the farmers, which, among many others, includes the establishment of demonstration plots and organization of field days and farmer field schools to emphasize the long- and short-term benefits of sustainable agricultural practices while reducing the environmental impact of the sector. CENN supports strategic planning of the sector through partnership and cooperation between government, the private sector, and non-governmental and international organizations.



SDG Target 2.4:

By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Framework Plan for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) for Marneuli

Based on climate change scenarios and the agriculture adaptation plan of Marneuli municipality, CENN developed a Framework plan for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA). The Framework Plan for CRA is based on climate change scenarios and the adaptation plan and includes a general overview of agriculture in Marneuli municipality, identified challenges of the sector and vulnerable groups, capacity-building strategy and recommendations for different stakeholders. The Framework plan was prepared in an inclusive manner with a cycle of meetings with the local population and multi-sectoral stakeholders focusing on two directions: (1) challenges in value chains of open ground and (2) greenhouse production of vegetables. In addition, SWOT analyses for



both production systems were created and possible solutions in response to weaknesses and threats were determined. Local challenges identified by the Framework Plan for CRA will be addressed by stakeholders via the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA).

Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Capacity Development of Farmers in Marneuli

The needs assessment conducted in Marneuli municipality identified major capacity gaps and needs related to climate-resilient agriculture practices. The assessment revealed that the main obstacles for farmers to adopt more climate-resilient agriculture practices are lack of financial resources, lack of technical knowledge about modern methods and technologies, and malfunctioning local water management systems. Findings revealed that knowledge of modern technologies and approaches, especially, on climate-resilient agricultural practices are significantly low among farmers. Based on the needs assessment, CENN developed the capacity-building program for farmers of Marneuli, which includes specific thematic clusters with determined learning outcomes, indicators, targets and timeframes, and is need-based and recipient-centered. The capacity-building program will be launched in 2022.






**ფეხმეხების საჭიროებების კვლევა
და შესაძლებლობების გაძლიერების
პროგრამა**



*Praise Marneuli - კლიმატის ცვლილების მიმართ
მდგრადი სოფლის მეურნეობა*

მარნეული
2022

Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Food security, safety, and sustainability

Despite the existing potential and natural resources, countries of the Caucasus region are net importers of agricultural products. Furthermore, due to climate change and other global crises scenario, the state of food security and nutrition in the region is under threat. To ensure that the population has access to nutritious, safe, and affordable food, improvements in the primary production, supply chains, and reduction of food loss and waste is urgently needed.

In an attempt to reduce hunger and malnutrition, CENN is working with various stakeholders to improve the productivity of the agricultural sector in a sustainable way, facilitate the strengthening of an agri-food value chain and reduce food loss and food waste in the supply chain.



SDG Target 2.1:

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Strengthening Vulnerable Groups in Marneuli via Climate Resilient Agriculture

The framework plan for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) developed for Marneuli municipality explicitly focuses on the challenges of vulnerable groups. SWOT analyses and possible solutions were elaborated in terms of

strengthening and integration of vulnerable groups. As an overall objective, the project supports income-generating opportunities and the sustainable growth of the vulnerable population in Marneuli via inclusion, capacity building and introduction of CRA practices such as selection of climate-resistant varieties/hybrids of crops, integrated pest management (IPM), drip irrigation system, crop rotation, mulching, cultivation of seedlings and vegetables in greenhouses, etc.



Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Local Farmers Learn How to implement Sustainable Land Management Practices in Pasturelands

To empower local farmers and cooperatives to implement sustainable land management practices in pasturelands, CENN implemented a series of capacity-building activities in Kazbegi Municipality of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, Dmanisi Municipality of the Kvemo Kartli region, and Gurjaani Municipality of the Kakheti region, in 2021. CENN developed a brochure “Intensification of Livestock Production” covering such topics as intensive use of local cattle breeds taking into account lowland and mountainous conditions, improved livestock nutrition in lowland and mountainous areas based on local conditions, intensification of cattle farming (cow housing), sustainable management of pasturelands and economic analysis of extensive and intensive farming methods in dairy and beef cattle breeding.

The trainings covered a range of topics essential for local farmers, including animals Infectious/invasive diseases and prevention and control methods, land use and existing land management practices in Kazbegi, Dmanisi and Gurjaani municipalities, the impact of cli-

mate change on land degradation and land cover, grazing systems and practices used to increase land resilience and adaptation to ongoing and future climate change. In addition, in order to ensure practical learning and demonstration, CENN organized Farmer Field Schools (FFS) focusing on intensification of livestock production: animal feeding and nutrition, feed production, characterization of local and foreign breeds of cattle and their advantages and disadvantages, determination of cattle needs and animal welfare. In addition, CENN provided training for representatives of regional Information Consultation Centers (ICC) of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, which on their own conducted additional trainings for farmers on the characterization of local and foreign cattle breeds and their advantages and disadvantages based on the local environment; the impact of climate change on pastures and sustainable pasture management practices and access to finances and farm management. In total, more than 100 local farmers participated in the trainings.



Funding	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Project	Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands

Rural and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Community-Led Local Development is a new model for Georgia, when local people form local partnerships that design and implement integrated development strategies. This approach helps to increase the skills of rural people and help them to get involved in addressing the local challenges that eventually lead to sustainable rural development.

CENN successfully piloted the CLLD model in the regions of Georgia and created Local Action Groups (LAGs) from active community members to support local actors overcome existing development constraints. We support community institutions and members to promote inclusive governance, create a common vision and participatory initiatives for rural development, apply effective agricultural practices, innovative approaches, and new technologies, and create business linkages with market players.

CENN, through the promotion of CLLD, supports approaches and activities, which lead to reaching economic, environmental, and social goals of rural development.



SDG Target 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Promoting Local Tourism via Developing Hiking and Biking Trails

To promote local tourism, diversify local income sources and promote non-timber sources of income from local forests, CENN has been actively creating new attractions in the forests of Georgia. Keda-Shuakhevi hiking and biking trail in Adjara AR, connecting Shuakhevi and Keda Municipalities, has the potential to create up to 30 new jobs. Another example is the recreational management project for Mukhuri village, developed based on the Mukhuri Village Development Plan, elaborated

via the involvement of international expertise and consultations with MEPA. In addition, in 2021, CENN also started development of hiking trails projects for Chuberi (Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti) and Kisiskhevi (Kakheti) in cooperation with the National Forest Agency (NFA) and the Georgian National Tourism Administration (GNTA). Importantly, the designing process of new tourist sites is based on the implementation and assessment of the new guidelines and regulatory acts in the field of ecotourism and forest tourism such as Guideline on Identification and Management of Recreational Forests, National Guideline on Planning and Marking of Hiking Trails and National Operational Guideline on Hiking Trails Development.



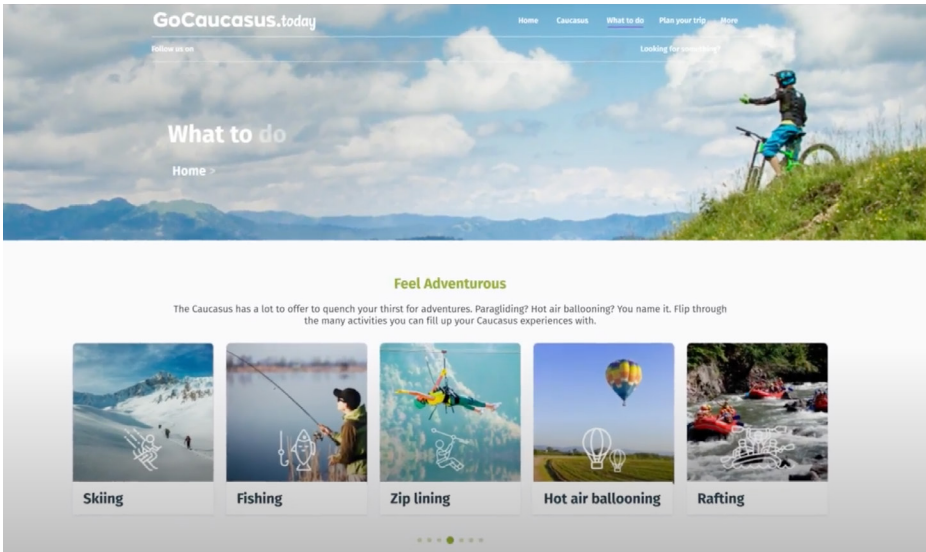
Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

GoCaucasusToday – a Single Tourism Destination Portal for the Caucasus Region

CENN created and successfully piloted the first tourism destination portal - [GoCaucasusToday](#) covering the Caucasus region. The portal features unique experiences in adventure, eco and rural tourism in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, including information about 200 beneficiary SMEs and promotes multi-destination tourism in the region. It contributes to an increase in both ex-

tra-regional market and intra-regional tourist flows. The portal has been promoted at an international level using various digital marketing tools such as social media (Facebook and Instagram), google advertising and thematic travel platforms: [National Geographic](#), [Red Fedora Diary](#), [Bilikiapp.com](#), [Wander-Lush travel blog](#), and [Georgian Travel Guide](#). In total, 19 digital marketing campaigns were held to advertise and promote the portal. The total reach of the campaigns was 1,333,372 people, from which the GoCaucasus portal was visited by 109,283 users.

Funding	USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project (EDGE)
Project	Digital Caucasus: Synergies and Digital Transformation of SMEs for Smart Economic Growth in the Caucasus



[Watch the video](#)

Promoting Tsalka as a Tourist Destination

CENN organized an active media and outreach campaign to raise awareness about Tsalka as a tourist destination. The campaign including media tours for journalists to Tsalka Municipality, social media posts, articles in online and printed newspapers/magazines, TV reportages in media, radio reportages in radio channels, information newsletters, etc.

Funding	European Union/ENPARD
Project	EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERS Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality



SDG Target 10.2:

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Local Development Strategy (LDS) of Tsalka Municipality

One of the key documents developed by Location Action Group (LAG) in Tsalka municipality is the gender and youth-sensitive Local Development Strategy (LDS), which incorporates the specific needs of vulnerable groups. Tsalka LDS is approved by the local authority and serves for planning and support to prioritize the development needs of Tsalka municipality in the regional and national agenda and programs. With the assistance of the LDS, Tsalka municipality attracts investment opportunities, thereby facilitating further social, cultural and economic integration and development. The Mediation and Civic Engagement Committee (MCEC) created under Tsalka LAG advocated the issues identified by the LDS. As a result, 4 infrastructure and tourism projects were lobbied to Tsalka City Hall to be reflected in the 2022 municipal budget.



Funding | European Union/ENPARD

Project | EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERS Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality

Promoting CSO Engagement in Localization of SDGs in Georgia

CENN has started assisting the SDG Secretariat of Georgia in implementing the localization Action Plan in five pilot municipalities – Rustavi, Telavi, Zugdidi, Kutaisi and Batumi – of Georgia. The action creates synergies with other ongoing efforts and focuses on filling the gaps in empowering local CSOs. Namely, the main focus of the initiative is to increase the capacities of local CSOs to actively engage in dialogue with local self-governments when working on the preparation of local policy documents for SDGs, reflecting local development priorities.



Funding | German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Recover Better Support Fund

Project | Continued Nationalization of SDGs via Promoting Localization and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Georgia

Economic Growth

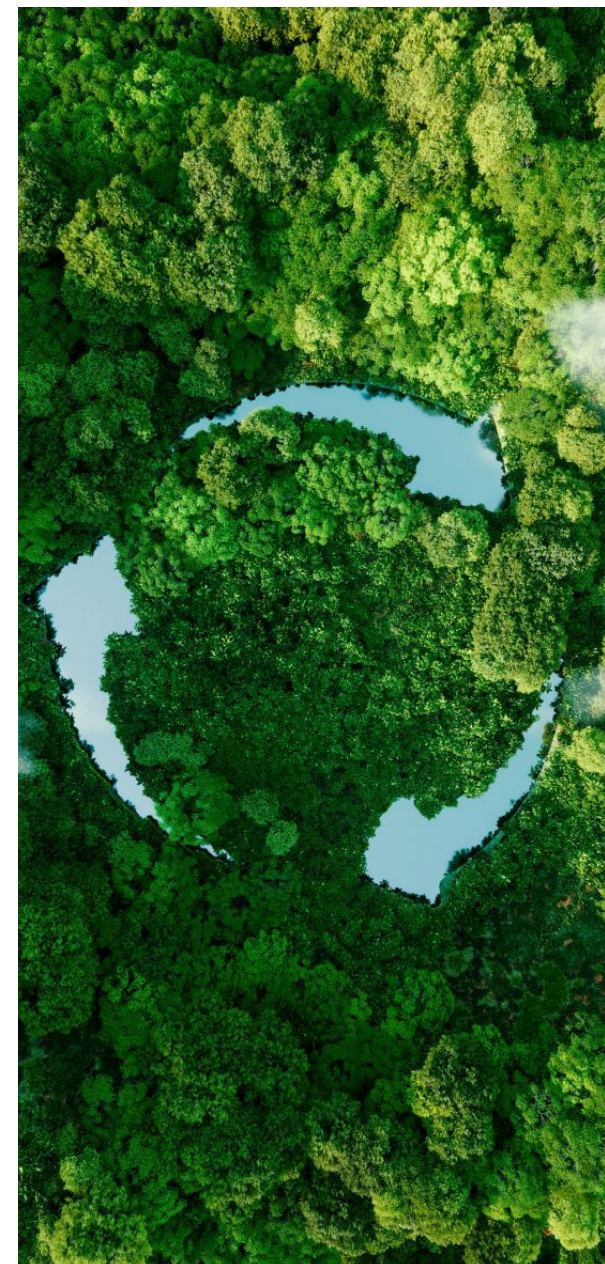
Economic growth is critical for Caucasus region countries to solve their development challenges, drive progress and improve living standards.

CENN strives to create a fair and prosperous society in the region by supporting inclusive, sustained, and resilient economic development while preserving the natural environment. We partner with governments, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations to foster modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economic development.

CENN assistance includes supporting decision-makers to develop and implement relevant policies and legislation to create an enabling business environment and promote the circular economy and resource efficiency. We build the capac-

ity of the private sector to develop the workforce, apply innovations and new technologies, and improve productivity and sales.

CENN's approach towards economic growth focuses on promoting a circular economy, resource efficiency, creating enabling business environment for an inclusive economy and developing innovation, technologies and research. In 2021, major results in this direction cover providing analytical support to decision-makers to decide on strategic policy areas, engaging in policy-level discussions on the development of green and social entrepreneurship, providing assistance to SMEs in market integration, supporting job creation and diversification of income in rural areas, and increasing access to digital skills and technologies.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



CENN's efforts under this direction contribute to the following SDGs:

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Circular economy and resource efficiency

Existing production and consumption patterns in the Caucasus region are mostly based on a linear economy. The development of a sustainable, low carbon, resource-efficient and competitive economy requires a transition to a circular economy, where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained in the economy for as long as possible, and the generation of waste is minimized.

CENN is developing solutions for the transition to a circular economy in the region. We promote resource-efficient models by supporting decision-makers to develop policy frameworks and introduce modern approaches. We build the capacity of the private sector to apply resource-efficient practices, support waste aggregating and recycling companies to improve their business operations and create opportunities for citizens to separate waste. CENN also assists educational institutions to integrate the circular economy concept into their programs and raises awareness of various stakeholders about the circular economy and proper waste management practices.



SDG Target 12.5:

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

New Strategic Document - National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP)

In 2021, CENN in cooperation with the MEPA and all relevant stakeholders developed the National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP) to set plastic prevention targets for Georgia and identify appropriate measures to address the production and consumption patterns of plastic products. NPWPP was prepared in line with the requirements of the Waste Management Code, the National Waste Management Strategy (2016-2030), and the National Waste Management Action Plan of Georgia. The NPWPP considers best international practices related to plastic management presented in the strategic documents, such as: the European Green Deal, an EU action plan

for Circular Economy and a European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The document includes a comprehensive situation analysis in terms of plastic waste management in Georgia, relevant legislative framework and already implemented reforms, as well as remaining gaps and challenges. Based on the analysis, it provides a strategy for Georgia, to become plastic waste prevention and recycling-oriented country, fostering sustainable and safe consumption and production patterns of plastics, and offers appropriate priority directions and an action plan. As a result, in 2021, at a political level, a consensus was reached among the main stakeholders to reduce plastic pollution by implementing the NPWPP. MEPA included activities listed in the action plan of the NPWPP in the National Waste Management Action Plan for 2022-2026 (NWMAP). Moreover, MEPA intends to approve the NPWPP through the decree of the Minister in 2022.

Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Project	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia

Enabling a business environment for an inclusive economy

Businesses are engines for economic growth, playing a key role in fostering economic activities through their value chains. Creating and maintaining a business climate that stimulates inclusive and sustainable economic development is at the core of efforts to spur growth in the region.

CENN provides professional technical assistance to foster an enabling business environment by improving policy frameworks, promoting public-private dialogue and multi-stakeholder consultative mechanisms, and supporting an entrepreneurial ecosystem and inclusive business development.



SDG Target 8.3:

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Promoting Social Entrepreneurship Legal Framework in Georgia and Armenia

CENN along with its partner Green Lane NGO (Armenia) continues advocating for the improvement and establishment of the Social Entrepreneurship legal framework in Georgia and Armenia. In Georgia, recommendations focus on the need to recognize social entrepreneurship at the policy level, the need for having a responsible structure at the central level, the importance to encourage cooperation between traditional and social enterprises in the delivery of products or services, to increase access to funding opportunities by identifying social entrepreneurship as a priority,

the importance to introduce financial and social impact accounting/reporting, etc. While the main findings and recommendations were issued both to Armenian and Georgian decision-makers and stakeholders, a number of additional suggestions were prepared for Armenia, where the adoption of the law on social entrepreneurship is progressing rapidly. The amendments to the Armenian legislative framework focus on tax deductions, social impact bonds and a more flexible system of free-of-charge volunteer involvement in the SE activities. The legislative recommendations were presented at a regional conference "Green Economy and Inclusive Growth in the South Caucasus", organized by CENN on June 18, 2021, and sparked a lively discussion among various stakeholders.



Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Project	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia

Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Expo on Green and Social Entrepreneurship

In 2021, CENN organized a first-ever social and green enterprise exhibition to increase the visibility of green social enterprises in Georgia and Armenia. The event highlighted the importance of a regenerative and green economy and showcased green and social enterprises in Georgia. The Expo of social and green enterprises was attended by enterprises operating throughout Georgia which work in social and environmental directions and are of particular value in promoting youth development, sustainable tourism development, and the green economy. Armenian enterprises also participated in the Expo. Armenian enterprises presented their business values and products in the format of the video. It should be noted that participating companies were supported by the SEED project through promo and visual materials. In total, 62 different social enterprises were presented, among them recycling companies, second-hand clothing stores, toys made of ecologically clean materials, and manufacturers of different accessories. More than 400 participants attended the expo.

Funding	European Union/EU4Youth; Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED); Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)



Improving Market Integration and Expanding Linkages for SMEs from South Caucasus

CENN facilitated establishing new linkages among beneficiary SMEs and potential clients both on a country and regional levels in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. This has been achieved via organizing a total of 13 events including a conference on sustainable tourism, rural fairs and familiarization trips and trade shows. Women and youth-led enterprises have been promoted via conducting competitions in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and providing awards for the Best Women and Youth-led Rural Enterprises active in sustainable tourism.

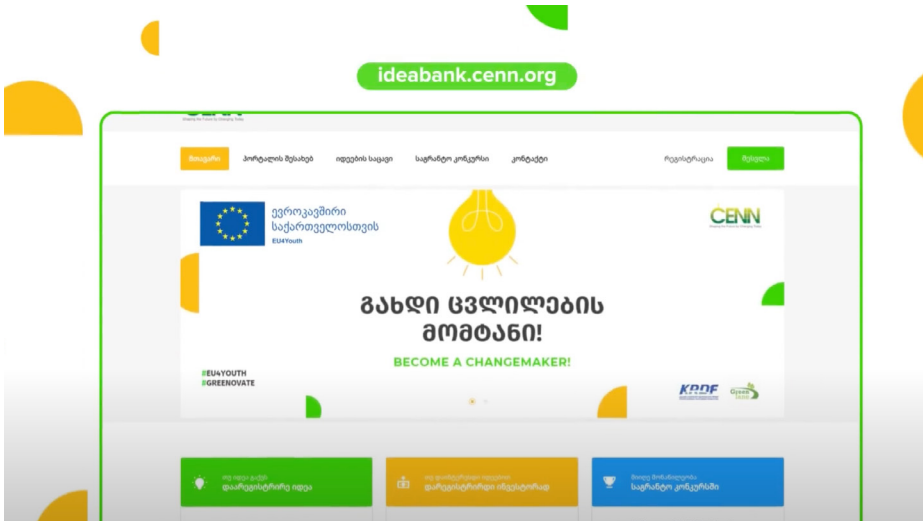
Funding	USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project (EDGE)
Project	Synergies and Digital Transformation of SMEs for Smart Economic Growth in the Caucasus (Digital Caucasus)



Promoting Innovative Entrepreneurship Ideas in Georgia and Armenia

With the overall goal of promoting innovative entrepreneurship ideas contributing to sustainable development, CENN launched “Idea Bank” - digital repository of innovative action ideas that can be supported by investors, venture capitalists, state and/or successful entrepreneurs in the future. The registration and submission of SE&GI ideas are open and free of charge. In 2021, 33 project ideas were published on the portal. The portal can be found at this link: <https://ideabank.cenn.org/en/>

Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)



[Watch the video](#)

Diverse Income Generation in the Forestry Sector

CENN continues supporting small and medium entrepreneurs in the forestry sector of Georgia by supporting income generation diversification and non-timber forest products production. After the approval of the Forest Code, as advocated by CENN, the income generated from the production of non-timber forest products has become legal and accessible. One example of a successful entrepreneur using NTFP is Freeze Tea, a pilot project, which resulted in the creation of 60 new jobs with more than half women employees. Based on this successful example, CENN in cooperation with Caucasian LLC established the Georgian Forest Product Association to upscale the “Freeze Tea” pilot project.

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)



New Financial Mechanisms for Private Sector in Rural Development

As a result of CENN's successful advocacy, new financial mechanisms for supporting the private sector were created to support rural development. In particular, Rural Development Agency (RDA) allocated grants and credits for a solid bio-energy utilization project (The project concerns the assembly of the production and supply cycle of energy-efficient stoves, which includes: maintaining the production process, providing services, and creating a private certification and educational space in the Bazalet Innovation Center) in Mtskheta-Mtianeti (total budget totaled GEL 2 million, including grantee's own contribution), which was prepared and developed in cooperation with CENN.

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

SDG Target 8.5:

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

New Jobs created in Tsalka Municipality

By the end of 2021, a total of 53 sub-grant projects were funded in Tsalka Municipality, with a total amount of more than 750,000 EUR. The projects covered such thematic areas as agriculture, tourism, non-agricultural commercial projects, education and social

inclusion. As a result of the sub-grants that were already implemented in Tsalka municipality, 111 new jobs have been created (employing 58 women and 53 men). The grant competitions involved additional capacity-building activities for the local community members in the form of 5 types of trainings on topics such as financial management and accounting in business, E-commerce and digital marketing, innovative entrepreneurship in agriculture, legal as-

pects of agro tourism, food safety, etc. In order to ensure equal conditions and maximum access to information about grant competitions during the pandemic, CENN organized Europe Bus Mobile Road Show and visited all 42 villages and the city of Tsalka, distributing grant component-related materials. As additional support to increase the capaci-

ties and visibility of local entrepreneurs, CENN provided support for participation in thematic study tours, familiarization trips and rural festivals in Georgia and in Armenia, e.g., the production of potatoes, cheese and honey from Tsalka Municipality was introduced to international visitors in the Harvest Festival in Armenia.



Funding	European Union/ENPARD
Project	EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERs Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality

Facilitating Youth Transition to Job Market via Job Fairs

In 2021, CENN organized two job fairs in Georgia to facilitate youth transition to the job market. Job fairs were organized in close collaboration with local authorities, state employment agency, local educational institutions and international organizations. One job fair took place in Gori municipality (Shida Kartli region) and was organized in cooperation with Gori City Hall, Governor’s Office in Shida Kartli, Gori State University and another EU-funded project – Skills4Jobs implemented by Education Develop-

ment and Employment Centre (EDEC). The other job fair was held in Akhaltsikhe municipality (Samtskhe-Javakheti region), at the premises of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University. Prior to the implementation of the fairs, career orientation training programs were also provided to the vulnerable youth from the target regions, and more than 300 participated. In total, there were 76 companies presented at both job fairs, with up to 500 job opportunities in the areas of food, manufacturing, construction, banking, trade and service companies. Up to 400 job seekers attended both events in total (61% women) and eventually 22 were employed (73% of employed were women).



New Social Enterprises Established in Georgia and Armenia

As a result of the Caucasus Social Innovation Grant Competitions in Georgia and Armenia, organized by CENN in 2021, 27 new social enterprises were established engaging more than

140 people through full-time or temporary employment (internship), more than 50% of them women. The funded enterprises focus on a variety of thematic areas including waste management, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism and health in Georgia and agriculture, green production, eco-tourism, eco production and inclusion in Armenia.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Innovation, technologies and research

Investment in innovation, technology, and research is essential for economic development and social progress in the region. With this, CENN strives to produce new knowledge, increase economic competitiveness, and enhance the quality of life and social well-being.

CENN promotes innovation and new technologies in various sectors, including waste management, agriculture, energy, and climate change via technical support and sub-grants. We pilot creative and renewable solutions that demonstrate positive impacts on the environment and cost-effectiveness to spur inclusive economic growth and improve development outcomes.

CENN also conducts research and analysis to advance the use of data and evidence in decision-making. Our work ultimately empowers communities, the private sector, and governments to make informed decisions and find innovative solutions.



SDG Target 9.c:

Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Rural Innovation Knowledge (RIK) Hubs promote access to the internet and technologies

CENN, Green Lane NGO and KRDF established 6 Rural Innovation Knowledge (RIK) Hubs in Gori, Ninotsminda, Akhmeta (Georgia) municipalities and Lori, Tavush and Shirak (Armenia) prov-

inces. The hubs provide space and facilities for the development of young people, especially women and girls, in remote and vulnerable communities. Each Rural Innovation Knowledge Hub provides access to the internet and technology for at least 200 young people (including the youth from neighboring villages) to address information gaps in remote locations and enable them to discover new opportunities for growth and income generation.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Improving Skills of Local SMEs for Digital Transformation and Increased Competitiveness

CENN engaged in strengthening the resilience of the tourism sector in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan by boosting innovation and supporting the digital transformation of tourism service providers. The initiative focused on promoting ICT tools and E-Commerce solutions for the digital transformation of SMEs in the sustainable tourism VC. As a result, CENN supported more than 200 SMEs in Georgia, Armenia and

Azerbaijan to strengthen their business operation and management practices via tailored trainings, match-making events and B2Bs, as well as by providing ICT applications. As a result, beneficiary companies improved skills and knowledge in digital marketing, e-commerce and online business management tools, which supported their digital transformation and increased competitiveness (improved services and products, which had a positive impact on sales; improved online presence (web-page, social networks) and management of booking platforms, which increased the number of customers; updated business management approach, which has decreased workload).



Funding	USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project (EDGE)
Project	Synergies and Digital Transformation of SMEs for Smart Economic Growth in the Caucasus (Digital Caucasus)

SDG Target 9.4:

By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Innovative Solutions Needed to Promote Plastic Waste Recycling and Prevention

National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP) prepared by CENN in 2021 aims to create an enabling framework to promote investment and innovation in the plastic value chain, namely by such measures as utilizing financing schemes, including a PPP to

support innovative solutions and new technologies aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of primary plastic production and introducing economic instruments to promote plastic waste recycling and prevention. NPWPP is a comprehensive analytical document providing policy recommendations in line with the requirements of the Waste Management Code, the National Waste Management Strategy (2016-2030), and the National Waste Management Action Plan of Georgia.



Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Project	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia

Democracy and Good Governance

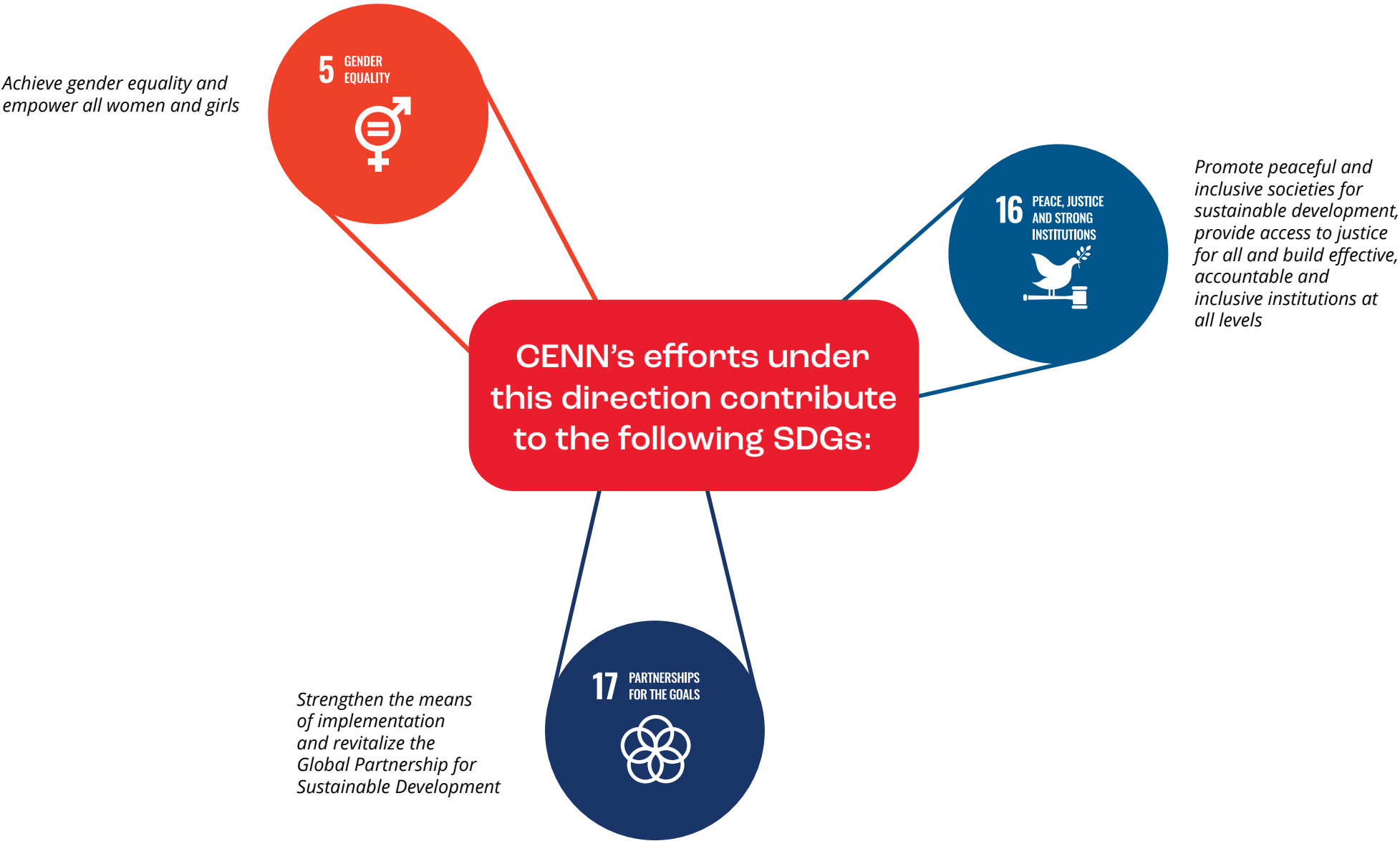
Democracy and Good Governance is a crucial issue for the South Caucasus region for further development towards the European path.

CENN believes that democracy and good governance go beyond the government and actively works with various stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, media, civic activists, etc. We acknowledge the importance of effective, transparent and accountable public institutions and strive for strengthening democratic governance systems. With the partnership of international donors and organizations, we improve government capacities on the local, regional and national levels, actively contribute to inclusive policy-making and ensure the involvement of vul-

nerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, minorities, IDPs, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ, eco-migrants in the decision-making process.

In terms of strengthening democracy, CENN focuses on promoting participatory and inclusive governance, human rights protection, civil society development, gender equality and women empowerment. In 2021, CENN continued creating and supporting diverse multi-stakeholder platforms at the local, regional, national and international levels; enhanced efforts to promote the participatory implementation of SDGs and continued mainstreaming gender equality in all its ongoing initiatives.





Participatory and inclusive governance

Addressing existing challenges of sustainable development is impossible with the limited effort of any given sector alone, and requires a partnership of all sectors, both public and private. The participatory decision-making process remains to be a challenge in Georgia, both locally and centrally. The guarantees to engage in the policy-making process are scarce, inconsistent and often limited to merely informing or consulting, rather than meaningful and inclusive dialogue.

Over the years, CENN has secured a reputation of a reliable, effective, resourceful and results-oriented partner in a relationship with the state and private institutions. CENN is facilitating a participatory decision-making process and engagement of non-state stakeholders. We are active members and/or co-chairs of relevant thematic working groups on the central level, and initiators of various multi-stakeholder platforms at the local, regional and national levels. In addition to advocating for more inclusive processes, we engage directly with local actors including CSOs, communities and youth, to increase their capacities as change-makers.



SDG Target 16.7:

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

New Multi-Stakeholder Working Group created in Marneuli

The multi-Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG) was established in Marneuli to promote economic opportunities and social inclusion of local stakeholders. MSWG has 17 members from three different sectors (civil society, private sector, and public sector). 3/4 of the

members are women. 30% of members are ethnic Azerbaijanis, 65% are ethnic Georgians, and 5% are ethnic Armenians. In 2021, a number of workshops were held for MSWG for team building, capacity strengthening and public outreach. As a result of the meetings, drafts of the advocacy campaigns were elaborated in response to the local challenges, such as scarcity of irrigation water and considerable decline of forests.



Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

New Multi-stakeholder Platforms on Climate Change

In 2021, CENN created new multi-stakeholder platforms at the national and regional levels to facilitate the engagement of civil society in developing and implementing climate-related strategies in the regions of Racha, Guria, Imereti and Kakheti. The National Climate Platform (NCP) unites up to 80 representatives of central and regional authorities, international development organizations, educational institutions, national and regional NGOs and private sector representatives. Additionally, at

the regional level, Regional Climate Action Groups (CAGs) unite representatives of the central government at the local level, regional and local authorities, local NGOs, CBOs, youth unions / eco-clubs, educational institutions/ VETs, private sector, and farmers' cooperatives, in total 136 members in four (4) target regions. In order to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the newly created platforms, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between CENN and MEPA. In addition, Climate Action Hubs (4) are established in the target regions of the co-applicants' premises to empower them and facilitate the involvement of local stakeholders in climate actions.

A Multi-stakeholder Platform on Climate Change in the Alazani River Basin

CENN created a multi-stakeholder platform in the Alazani River basin consisting of 17 representatives of the private and state sector. The platform identifies climate change-related challenges in the Alazani River basin and defines relevant research topics. The platform is part of the "Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge (I-CISK)" project,

financially supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. The project is being implemented by the Institute for Water Educational (IHE Delft) together with a consortium of 13 member organizations. The main objective of the I-CISK project is to develop next-generation climate services (CSs) that follow a social and behaviorally-informed approach for co-producing CSs that meet the climate information needs of citizens, decision-makers and stakeholders at the spatial and temporal scale relevant to them.



Funding	European Union
Project	Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation

Funding	European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme
Project	Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge (I-CISK) (CENN's role - national partner)

Continued Support to Local Action Group (LAG) in Tsalka

Based on EU LEADER principles, CENN has established and continues supporting the Local Action Group (LAG) in Tsalka municipality. The Tsalka LAG operations cover all villages (42 in total) and the city of Tsalka - 100% of the population in the municipality, creates equal opportunities for the local population, represents the interests of vulnerable groups and is currently fully functional. Tsalka LAG has 190 total members, 38% of which are women. In 2021, CENN continued to support the successful operation of Tsalka LAG in a number of ways, including thematic and organizational trainings and study tours (in Georgia and Armenia). The Capacity Development of the Tsalka LAG members covered such topics as matchmaking & B2B events for tourism businesses (hotels, restaurants and winemakers), training on financial management for the municipality, organizational and team-building development, intensification of livestock production (including animal feeding and nutrition, feed production, characterization of local and foreign breeds of cattle regarding

their positive and negative characteristics), animal health and veterinary - animals infectious / invasive diseases and prevention and control methods, supporting the local dairy processing businesses in terms of implementation of HACCP standards and obtaining a national certificate of recognition, etc. Furthermore, to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of Tsalka LAG, CENN supported the preparation of LAG's self-evaluation report. As another step towards increased sustainability, in addition to the ongoing support from EU/CENN, Tsalka LAG secured additional funding for two projects: a project under UNDP small grant programme is aiming at supporting the agriculture development opportunities for the vulnerable population of Tsalka Municipality in Georgia via the food security and sustainable climate-smart practices; in a second initiative Tsalka LAG became local implementing partner of the Mercy Corps supported project Rural Development through Youth Entrepreneurship, which aims to increase the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of rural youth, develop agricultural and non-agricultural value chains (including in agro- and eco-tourism), and increase access to finances and markets.



Funding	European Union
Project	Local LEADERS Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality - EMBRACE Tsalka

Successful Advocacy via Mediation and Civic Engagement Committee in Tsalka

A mechanism for local needs-based advocacy, a Mediation and Civic Engagement Committee (MCEC), composed of representatives of the private, civil, and public sectors, functions in the framework of the Tsalka LAG. MCEC provides support for vulnerable groups including rural women and youth on issues related to socio-economic challeng-

es, eco-migration status, and human rights, such as the right to education, housing, and an adequate standard of living, health, and gender equality. In 2021, as a result of advocacy of the MCEC, several cases have been successfully resolved, including rehabilitation works of a road, paving works of the streets in the city of Tsalka, and the legalization of real estate for 25 teachers (ecomigrants) resettled by the state in Tsalka municipality in the 90s. The MCEC continues working on a dozen other cases identified through community consultation meetings.



Funding	European Union
Project	EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERs Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality

Association - Georgian Forest Product

CENN and its local partners - LLC Caucasian and Living Roots - have established the Georgian Forest Product Association (GFPA). Forty private companies have already become members of the Association. The Association has played a mediation role between the state and business in for lobbying enactment of new regulations on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and has

been actively involved in the discussion of forest resources usage regulating decrees, identified gaps, deficiencies in the documents, as well as production and disposal of solid biomass. The Association promotes generating legal employment opportunities in the forestry sector for the private sector. In 2021, the Association worked with the MEPA and NFA to reduce the permit costs of NTFPs usage and simplify bureaucratic processes, protecting 20 companies from bankruptcy and 2,000 people from unemployment.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Multi-stakeholder Platform for Sustainable Management of Forest Resources

CENN has created and continues to support the functioning of the multi-stakeholder platform “Forest Group of the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for Rural Development” (FG-IACCRD) and its synergies with the National Forest Program (NFP). Together, these plat-

forms create opportunities for various state and private agencies, international partners, non-governmental organizations, academia, and other stakeholders to engage in the forest sector reform. CENN facilitates the engagement of relevant non-state stakeholders in the process. As a recent achievement, FG-IACCRD has officially become part of the Civic Committee, created under the IACCRD, which allows better access to the decision-making process in the rural development sector.

Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) on Social and Green Entrepreneurship

CENN continues supporting multi-stakeholder dialogue on social and green entrepreneurship in Georgia and Armenia via platforms established in 2020 at the regional, national and sub-national levels. The platforms, involving different state and non-state actors, operate to promote youth engagement in social entrepreneurship and green innovations. At the sub-national level, the platforms are created in Gori, Ninotsminda,

and Akhmeta municipalities in Georgia and Lori, Tavush and Shirak provinces in Armenia; at the national level, MSP is created for Georgia and Armenia, while the regional MSP unites both countries. In 2021, 18 meetings of all MSPs took place, with more than 200 participants that discussed support mechanisms for the youth projects (grants, business skills and opportunities, etc.). In addition, the sub-national councils have been also active discussing issues related to the RIK Hub campaigns and capacity building needs of local youth, as well as partnership opportunities with other RIK Hub members.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

SDG Target 17.16:

Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Transboundary Cooperation on Social and Green Entrepreneurship

CENN organized the Transboundary Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Conference on Social and Green Entrepreneurship, which focused on the importance of the existence of social entrepreneurship legal framework in both countries. As a result of the Conference, Georgian and Armenian contexts were analysed and discussed in details. The Conference accelerated the process of unification of opinion of CSOs around the topic of SE legal framework. As a result of the conference, 20 legal rec-

ommendations were submitted for the establishment of SE legal frameworks in Georgia and Armenia.

In addition to policy-level cooperation, CENN strives to promote regional and cross-border synergies among young people and social entrepreneurs, building strong societies. One example from 2021, was a study tour to Armenia, connecting youth from Rural Innovation Knowledge (RIK) Hub members from both countries. As a result of the study tour, local youth from Georgia and Armenia held a joint event celebrating world social entrepreneurship day, attended by more than 100 people.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Global Cooperation Needed for Cross Border Management of Plastic Waste

National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP) prepared in 2021 envisages global cooperation for improved cross-border management of plastic waste, and includes such measures as supporting cooperation on plastic waste prevention with the Black Sea

basin countries, engaging in international fora to develop a global response to the increase in marine litter and implementing the requirements of the Basel Convention related to plastic waste (changes in legislation, improving monitoring system). NPWPP is a comprehensive analytical document providing policy recommendations in line with the requirements of the Waste Management Code, the National Waste Management Strategy (2016-2030), and the National Waste Management Action Plan of Georgia.



Funding	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Project	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia

Transboundary Cooperation of Conflict- Affected Youth on Climate Change

CENN approaches climate change as a universal threat and an opportunity for transboundary cooperation of youth and building a strong civil society. For this purpose, CENN initiated a project “Youth for Sustainable Development (Y4SD): Building Cross-Border Confidence through Joint Climate Actions for Resilience Building” which aims at empowering youth, teachers, students, and environmental professionals from the conflict-affected communities to unite forces and advocate for action

against climate change. At the initial stage of the project in 2021, a framework for partnership has been created by the active involvement of teachers, educational resource centers, university representatives, youth, and educators from the conflict-affected regions of Georgia, including occupied Abkhazia. The preparation phase included planning of the training of peer educators on sustainable development environmental protection, and actions against climate change, as well as the joint environmental campaigns and first-ever baseline assessment on climate change awareness in the conflict-affected communities. The joint initiatives contribute to the people-to-people and community-led peacebuilding and reconciliation.



Project

Youth for Sustainable Development (Y4SD): Building Cross-Border Confidence through Joint Climate Actions for Resilience Building

Human rights protection and civil society development

Previous experiences demonstrate how crucial it is to develop a strong local civil society capable to participate in policy development and engage in human rights protection to ensure the delivery of rights-based social services, as well as equal access to decision-making, especially for people living in vulnerable and marginalized communities. Participatory incentives and enhanced efforts in building foundations for broad-based democratic ownership from CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs) are important catalysts to address concerns regarding the protection of human rights and the empowerment of ethnic minorities. CENN works on civil society development, including formal and non-formal groups. We believe that a strong and competent civil society furthers the self-reliance and resilience of society.



SDG Target 17.9:

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Promoting Participatory Implementation of SDGs in Georgia

CENN is a co-chair of a Working Group of the SDG Council of Georgia on Sustainable Energy & Environment Protection (along with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and UN FAO). In this capacity, in 2021, CENN started an initiative aimed at supporting the SDG Secretariat of Georgia in ensuring multi-stakeholder dialogue in the process of implementing SDGs. The

action envisages empowering CSO co-chairs and CSO members of four thematic working groups under the SDG Council of Georgia and focuses on creating a clearer space and mechanisms for CSOs to engage in SDG-related planning, monitoring and reporting processes. The measures include increasing the capacities of CSOs in terms of methodology on SDG indicators and/or nationalization of relevant new targets, as well as monitoring SDG implementation and linking their activities with SDGs to be reflected in VNR and annual monitoring reports.



Funding	German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Recover Better Support Fund
Project	Continued Nationalization of SDGs via Promoting Localization and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Georgia

Gender equality and women empowerment

CENN strongly believes that sustainable development is best achieved through empowering girls and women, enhancing the voice of marginalized and vulnerable groups, and promoting gender-sensitive participatory processes at all levels.

Gendered drivers and impacts of environmental degradation and climate change amplify existing gender inequalities. In many contexts, women's dependence on and unequal access to the environment – land, water, and other natural resources – and public services and infrastructure, including energy, transport, water, and sanitation, mean that they are disproportionately affected by climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters.

Women and girls should be an integral part of developing solutions to reduce the impacts of climate change. Therefore, enabling women's voices and promoting women leadership are prerequisites for resilience building, sustainable development, and the fulfilment of gender equality and human rights. CENN strives to ensure women's substantive and meaningful participation in sustainable development-related strategies, policies, programs, and projects and to empower them as agents of change. CENN through various programs and initiatives support increasing women's employment opportunities, particularly for rural and vulnerable women.



SDG Target 5.5:

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Marneuli Girls Club Established

Twenty (20) active girls from different villages of Marneuli were united via the Marneuli Girls Club. The aim of the Club is the capacity development of girls and young women towards agriculture, environmental protection, sustainable development and modern technologies. The activities of the Club in 2021

included training courses on sustainable development, SDGs, Agenda 2030, human rights of vulnerable groups, entrepreneurship, COVID-19 and vaccination, civic activism, democracy and civic engagement, public speaking, media literacy and cybersecurity. In addition, the Girls Club joined the international 16-day campaign against gender-based violence through a seminar on challenges faced by rural women and the importance of international campaigns.



Funding	Heks-Eper
Project	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Tsalka Rural Women Open Café

In Tsalka municipality, women, youth and vulnerable groups are engaged and integrated into community discussions and cross-cultural dialogues organized weekly at “Tsalka Rural Women Open Café”, a public space for open discussions, trainings, and meetings with successful women. Up to 40 Rural Women Open Café events have been carried out in 2021. A total of 450 people attended the Cafés out of which 350 were women. Translation of the events was also provided as necessary.



SDG Target 5.a:

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women in the Forestry Sector

Women are actively involved in the collection and processing of NTFPs. Namely, more than 1,000 employees of the members of the Georgian Forest Product Association are women. To build the capacity of local communities, particularly women and girls, the Rural Women Councils (RWCs), established with the support of CENN, were invited to develop local initiatives/proposals stimulating women and vulnerable groups' engagement in sustainable forest management and rural development. For this purpose, CENN launched the women empowerment support program for RWCs, in parallel to the practical trainings on project writing, project develop-

ment and management, as well as on community initiatives and methodologies, communication and advocacy. The trainings assisted the members of the RWCs in the process of developing the local initiatives. Additionally, in December 2021, individual consultations were held with each Rural Women Council in order to clarify any queries concerning the concept notes and project proposals. In January 2022, the proposals for local initiatives have been finalized, in parallel, the needs assessment for operational support was also carried out. Moreover, the Georgian Ecotourism Association was contracted to develop training manuals focusing on enhancing rural women's ability to generate income through multifunctional use of forest, focusing on ecotourism, as well as the manual for training the hiking guides involved in ecotourism.

Funding	European Union/ENPARD
Project	EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERS Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Education and Youth

Education is central to the development and improvement of the lives of young people in the Caucasus region and globally. Education is critical in eradicating poverty and inequalities and in promoting sustainable and inclusive growth of societies.

CENN has mainstreamed youth inclusive formal and non-formal education in its various programs and projects in the region, as we recognize the importance of the role of educated youth in shaping an environmentally conscious and responsible society. CENN offers numerous opportunities for adolescents and youth for self-expression and growth as well as leadership towards sustainable development. We partner with central and local government representatives, educational institutions, namely, schools, universities, VET centers, policy and decision-makers to educate youth and accelerate the green and digital transition of societies.

With the support of CENN's past and ongoing engagements, 500+ school eco-clubs were established in the region, diverse university curricula were introduced in the Caucasus countries, as well as hundreds of young people, were empowered via non-formal education – Green Camps, environmental and youth campaigns and activism. With formal and non-formal education endeavours we also contribute to youth's further transition to the job market.

Under education and youth, CENN focuses on the strengthening of education systems, human capital development as well as youth development, entrepreneurship and leadership. In 2021, CENN continued diverse educational efforts, combining physical and online formats. The main results include incorporating sustainable development in formal education, professional and non-formal education, reaching thousands of people via awareness-raising campaigns and promoting the development of rural youth through entrepreneurship.





Strengthening education systems

A strong education system is a cornerstone for continuous and inclusive education for the young generation in the Caucasus region. Systemic policy reforms, harmonization of existing educational practices (introducing both – formal and non-formal education platforms/projects) and governance to modern standards and job market requirements are streamlined in CENN's past and ongoing work.

Our teams work alongside ministries, schools, eco-clubs, universities, VET centers and various educational institutions to conduct research, develop teacher, pupil and student standards and benchmarks; create platforms for learning-by-doing and knowledge and skills development via activism and volunteering, and creating teacher training curricula; develop and distribute new teaching and learning materials; provide certification courses for teachers and students. We also assist graduate and undergraduate programs to introduce cutting-edge methodologies and skills development programs for students.



SDG Target 4.7:

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Mainstreaming Sustainable Development in Formal Education

CENN has been cooperating with local universities in Georgia and Armenia to mainstream sustainable development in national education systems and ensure an increased number of youths with essential knowledge and skills for innovative solutions. As a result, the Green Entrepreneurship course was added to the Bachelor program of the Business and Technology faculty of Ilia State University (Iliauni), while A

Sustainable Agriculture Master's Program was launched in Armenia at the Armenian National Agrarian University (ANAU). The Bachelor's course and Master's program create additional opportunities to raise environmental awareness and share in-depth knowledge with youth about green social entrepreneurship, as well as food security and climate change, with the overall goal to connect professionals willing and able to find innovative and inclusive solutions. In 2021, 19 students attended the Green Entrepreneurship course, and 9 students were admitted to the Master's program in Sustainable Agriculture.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

A School in Imereti Region Incorporates SDGs into the Curriculum

As a part of the “Youth for Sustainable Development” sub-grant program implemented by CENN, Sachkhere Public School #2 in the Imereti region incorporated the topics related to sustainable development into the school curriculum, particularly the subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geography and Civic Education. The Sustainable Development Goals have been clus-

tered according to the principle of “5 P: Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership and teachers incorporated SDGs in their respective teaching plans. In addition, a number of informational and non-formal educational activities have been conducted on such topics as SDGs, equality and harmful practices such as early marriage, healthy lifestyle, bullying, conflict and violence and their prevention, waste management, etc. Up to 200 people engaged in the activity directly, including school students, teachers and youth from disadvantaged and vulnerable communities as well as PwDs.



Educational Module on Green Space Management for Local Self-Governments

In 2021, CENN provided support to the VET institution “New Wave” in Kobuleti, Adjara AR, to integrate an educational module on tree care and pruning into the curriculum. For this purpose, two knowledge materials: (1) a training

course on tree care and pruning and (2) an educational module on green space management were prepared. Implementation of a learning module on green space management started in August 2021 and the first participants of the course were members of Kobuleti Municipality. Upon request from Rustavi City Hall, the educational module on green space management was also implemented for Rustavi city hall representatives.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Annual SDG-themed Niko Ketskhoveli Award for Schools

Since 2014, CENN held annually the Niko Ketskhoveli Award for school students all around Georgia. What started as an environmental initiative has turned into a completely SDG-themed competition. Participants compete by planning and implementing various community initiatives directly connected to achieving SDG goals, such as campaigns, studies, clean-ups, tree planting and grafting, trainings, presentations, growing own food, social enterprising, volunteer work, charity, etc. The year-long competition promotes youth activism and provides participants with valuable skills such as observation, data collection, analysis and research, as well as teamwork and collaboration with other schools and governmental agencies. During the competition,

participants receive feedback from a Jury comprised of various institutions such as the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, National Forestry Agency, Ministry of Education and Science, Tbilisi Zoo Education and Research Center, and FAO Georgia.

In 2020-2021, out of more than 350 participating schools, 4 winners of the Niko Ketskhoveli Youth Award have become: Gvimriani Public School (Kakheti region), Kitskhi Public School (Imereti region), Rustavi IX Public School (Kve-mo Kartli region) and Sachkhere II Public School (Imereti region). In terms of awards, CENN purchased the materials needed for the implementation of the projects planned by winning schools' eco-clubs. The competition has become popular among participants and for the next round of competition, Niko Ketskhoveli Award 2021-2022, up to 400 schools registered, including 100 schools participating for the first time.

Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

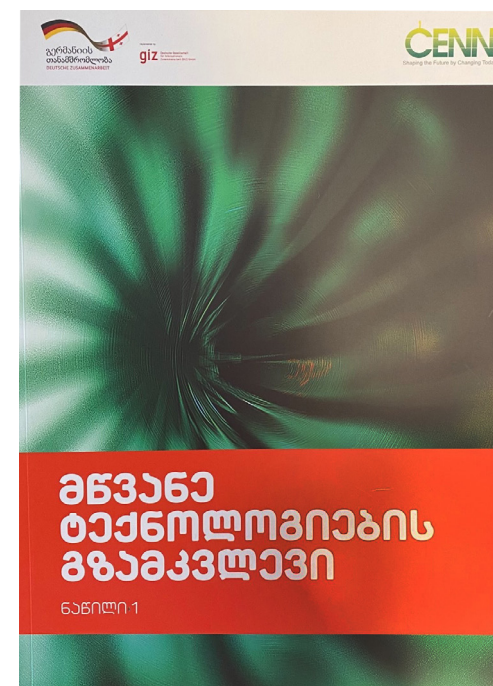


Guidebook for schools on Green Technology and Sustainable Forest Management

CENN prepared a practical guidebook “Green Technology on Sustainable Forest Management and Alternative Energy” for schools. The guidebook covers such topics as the importance and value of forests and ecosystem services at the local, regional and national levels; sustainable and multi-purpose forest use (i.e., firewood production and use; use of timber resources and non-timber resources; soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, rural development); alternative energy sources, energy efficiency, renewable energy, the importance of proper insulation measures, adequate use of wood fuel (firewood/timber), use of solar power systems for heating water and electricity production, use of energy-efficient cookstoves/ovens. The guidebook was piloted in public schools

of Akhmeta municipality, where the teachers were trained on thematic as well as pedagogic tools.

In addition, CENN created a special challenge “Make your school energy-efficient” that was incorporated in the Niko Ketskhoveri School Award based on the guidebook. The challenge includes such ideas as performing energy audits of schools, elaborating recommendations on energy savings for their families, organizing thematic photo/art, or blog competitions, as well as thematic quizzes, and surveys in the communities on the consumption of various energy resources. To further promote awareness of local youth, CENN also organized a competition of green business ideas with a thematic focus on the sustainable use of forest resources, timber and non-timber resources, rural development, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, and promotion of women’s participation in the forest sector.



Funding	German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Project	Towards a Green Future: Youth for Forests

Human capital development

We believe that human capital is a cornerstone for green growth, innovation, and sustainable development overall. Equipped with modern knowledge, skills, and jobs, human resources stand to be the most important driver of economic growth and a sustainable key to social progress in the Caucasus region.

CENN prioritizes human capital development across all interventions, focusing on building thematic modern knowledge for various target groups such as farmers, foresters, teachers and schoolchildren, female entrepreneurs, social and green start-uppers, private sector representatives, and many more. To achieve this goal, CENN offers a mixture of various tools – from tailored trainings, coaching, and experience sharing – to the creation of educational programs, curricula, and knowledge materials, as well as knowledge transfer and sharing mechanisms.

Moreover, CENN prioritizes continued education for its staff members, offering thematic training and courses for professional and personal development to maintain knowledgeable and skilful team members.



SDG Target 12.8:

By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

CENN promotes the celebration of thematic environmental days and significant global events to increase awareness of the general population, especially the youth. In 2021, the awareness-raising initiatives included media campaigns, tree planting activities, open-air exhibitions, competitions, clean-ups, study tours, movie screenings, trainings and workshops and so on.

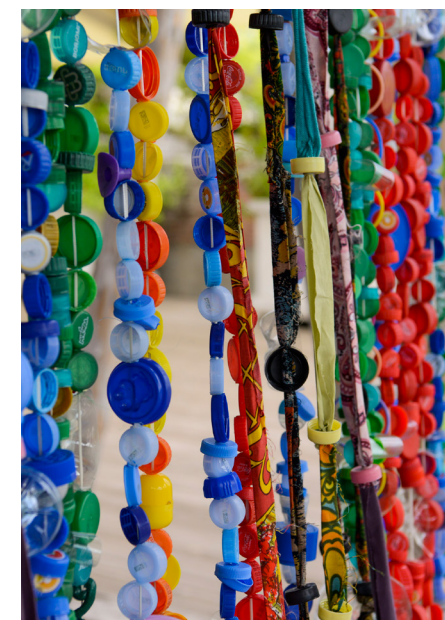
The environmental days that were marked by CENN activities included Earth Day, Global Climate Action Day, EU Green Week, World Water Day (WWD), Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention (COP), World Environment Day, International Day of Forests, International Day of Youth, etc.

The various awareness-raising activities organized by CENN have reached more than 500,000 people.

These are some of the highlights from the year:

- ▶ An open-air exhibition of the famous Austrian artist and environmental activist - Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928-2000), followed by thematic guided tours was organized in Krtsanisi Park to celebrate World Environment Day.
- ▶ Tree planting activities were held to commemorate environmental days such as the International Day of Forests (March 21) and Earth Day (April 22). One of the planting activities was supported by a nursery "Kheturi", established by a former active participant of the CENN Niko Ketskaveli eco-club. The nursery "Kheturi" focuses on the preservation of endangered boxwood in Georgia.
- ▶ An informational social campaign on the general outcomes and achievements of Georgia at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention (COP 26) was launched to raise the awareness of the general public on climate-related issues.
- ▶ Act for Climate campaign in Akhmeta, Chiatura, Ambrolauri and Ozurgeti municipalities raised awareness of civil society in tackling climate change and involved youth, eco-clubs, educational institutions, and local authorities and media representatives.

- ▶ A nationwide media campaign, including TV stories, articles, radio shows, social media posts and CENN informational newsletters, was launched on WASH-related challenges, especially of those in the COVID-19-affected communities.
- ▶ A series of online environmental social evenings covering topics of reforestation, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable food and waste management, climate literacy, SDGs, and citizen engagement were organized to celebrate April 22, Earth Day.
- ▶ Climate Change poster competitions for youth were held to reflect on the processes of climate change, challenges and possible solutions.
- ▶ School competitions were held in Tsalka municipality to encourage the celebration of environmental days through the inclusion of ethnic and religious minority groups and other vulnerable groups.
- ▶ WASH Ideas Competition was announced for school students to mark World Water Day and covered the topics of water resources and climate change, WASH and COVID-19, WASH and human rights, sustainable management of water resources.
- ▶ CENN increased awareness of more than 174,000 people about the benefits of plastic waste prevention and the importance of the National Plastic Waste Prevention Program (NPWPP) via nationwide communication and informational media campaigns including competitions for photographers, journalists and bloggers.
- ▶ RIK Hubs in Georgia and Armenia engaged in the Youth in Focus campaign via webinars covering topics of Youth and Entrepreneurship, Youth Development Opportunities, Importance of Volunteering, Youth Participation in Decision-Making Processes etc. as well as a competition to reveal young leaders in rural areas.

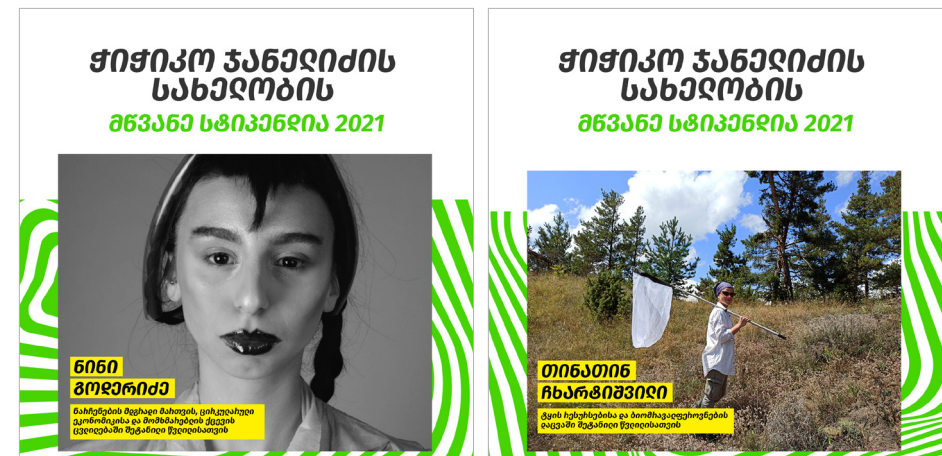


CENN Green Scholarship Empowers Local Youth to Become Change-makers

CENN has established annual Green Scholarships for exceptional youth activists promoting sustainable development and youth engagement in their communities. In 2021, CENN awarded six young people with Green Scholarship in the following nominations:

1. **Tinatin Chkartishvili** (Tbilisi), won the nomination “protection of forest resources and biodiversity”, sponsored by the SFMRD project with funding from the ADA. She is a young nature conservationist and plans to use the scholarship amount to research the correlation between tourism and forest health in her native Guria as well as in Sabaduri protected forest.
2. **Nino Goderidze** (Tbilisi), won the nomination for “sustainable waste management, circular economy and changing consumer behaviour”. Nino is a young fashion designer and plans to use the scholarship to continue her research on vegan, biodegradable leather.
3. **Nino Gogsadze** (Chiatura, Imereti region), won the nomination “for contribution in raising awareness about climate change and decreasing environmental impact”, sponsored by EU-funded project GEO-CAP. Nino plans to use the scholarship on assisting school students from villages with the most ecological impact from manganese mining, establish eco-clubs and cooperate with Georgian Manganese LLC, the largest manganese mining company in Georgia.
4. **Tatevik Khotsanian** (Akhalkalaki, Samtskhe–Javakheti region), won the nomination for “social and green entrepreneurship”, sponsored by the EU-funded SEED project. Tatevik plans to use her scholarship to promote sustainable waste management and circular economy in remote villages and engage ethnic minorities.

5. **Ketevan Javakhishvili** (Gori, Shida Kartli region), won the nomination “rural development”, sponsored by EU-funded project EMBRACE Tsalka. Ketevan has opened a library in the Khurvaleti IDP settlement where she lives herself and plans to use the scholarship for promoting youth activism in the IDP settlement of Khurvaleti.
6. **Roland Kikvadze** (Chokhatauri, Guria region), won the nomination “rural development”, sponsored by the EU-funded project EMBRACE Tsalka. Roland has been mobilizing youth for clean-up activities and plans to use the scholarship to create an eco-club for local youth.



Promoting Voluntary Work among Youth

Since 2014 CENN is a part of Bread for the World (BftW) South-North and North-South exchange service. Within the cooperation, CENN has hosted 4 German volunteers and has sent 11 Georgian youth to Germany in order to work in German organizations for a year. In 2021, an active alumna of CENN Ana Barbakadze was selected to participate in the above-mentioned programme. Within the program, she is volunteering at Green Liga Berlin in Berlin, Germany and is actively involved in planning and conducting various workshops for children, events for the local community such as eco markets, festivals, etc. Ana will complete the program in August 2022 and will be back to Georgia to continue her studies in Liberal Arts at Ilia State University. She is planning to use her knowledge and experience gained in Germany for the development of civil society in Georgia.

ჭიჭიკო ჯანელიძის სახელობის მწვანე სტიკანდია 2021



**თამარკიკა
ხიჭანაძე**

სოციალური და გარემოსდაცვითი
შეტანითი წვლილისათვის

ჭიჭიკო ჯანელიძის სახელობის მწვანე სტიკანდია 2021



**ნინო
გომსაძე**

კომუნიკაციების სფეროში აქტიურობის
აშխსაფაფა და ჯანსაფრს ზიანის
შეტანითი წვლილისათვის

ჭიჭიკო ჯანელიძის სახელობის მწვანე სტიკანდია 2021



**ირაკლი
კიკნაძე**

სოფლის განვითარებაში შეტანითი
წვლილისათვის

ჭიჭიკო ჯანელიძის სახელობის მწვანე სტიკანდია 2021



**თამარკიკა
კიკნაძე**

სოფლის განვითარებაში
შეტანითი წვლილისათვის

Youth development, entrepreneurship and leadership

Youth play a significant role in building a better future that is greener, more inclusive and digital. CENN is striving to give young people more opportunities for the future. Youth in the Caucasus region is still facing challenges in terms of education, training, learning, employment, entrepreneurship and participation.

In the past years, we have witnessed the determination and strength of the younger generation to create more employment opportunities in green industries. CENN, therefore, provides various development programs for rural youth to accelerate their social, environmental, and innovative business models and become key drivers of societal changes through entrepreneurship which empowers them in becoming able to generate income and employ those in need. To achieve this, we work with public, private, and academic sector representatives.



SDG Target 8.6:

By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Local Youth Development through Rural Innovation Knowledge Hubs (RIKs)

In addition to giving access to innovative knowledge and technologies to local vulnerable communities, RIK Hubs serve as centres promoting youth activism. To meet the needs of vulnerable youth communities, RIK Hubs develop and execute 6-month action plans consisting of campaigns and events dedicated to social entrepreneurship, green innovation, youth activism and environmental topics. 43 campaigns were implemented in 2021 by 6 Hubs,

reaching 1,000 beneficiaries in Georgia and Armenia. In addition, in 2021, a regional campaign took place for the first time. The campaign was dedicated to the Social Entrepreneurship and Green Growth topics and consisted of 2 regional synergy meetings, covering more than 100 participants from both countries. With the goal to cover more youth, not in employment, education or training (NEETs), CENN partnered with youth workers certified by the State Youth Agency and visited the borderline village of Mereti. The field visit aimed to reach NEET youth living in rural areas as well as to spread information regarding social entrepreneurship and the activities provided by Gori RIK Hub.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Youth initiatives in Tsalka

CENN implemented various youth initiatives in Tsalka municipality including supporting the Tsalka sports school for promoting a healthy lifestyle among youth, mobile birthday center for local youth, eco-hub on the basis of local school, establishing an eco-hub in Tsalka town’s school.



Funding	European Union/ENPARD
Project	EMBRACE Tsalka - Local LEADERs Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality

SDG Target 1.2:

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Students Explore Entrepreneurial Potential of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

CENN in partnership with the Association “Georgian Forest Product”, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Agrarian Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, launched the Green Economy School (GES) for undergraduate and graduate students. The School focused on opportunities for green entrepreneurship, especially commercial use of non-timber forest products. The 9 finalists selected from up to 50 participants of the competition underwent a three-day training on rural entrepre-

neurship. Within the School program, students learned about the creation and piloting of various types of business models for the use of non-timber forest products, rural development and SGDs. During the training, students, together with mentors, worked on forestry development projects, learned about the potential of non-timber forest products in Georgia as well as sustainable forest resources collection, production and marketing, met with private companies to learn about practical experiences in developing business plans and assessed business opportunities. The participants were assigned to further develop their business ideas and were mentored by business development experts.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)

Hundreds of Rural Youth Increased Knowledge of Green Entrepreneurship

CENN has conducted diverse capacity-building activities focusing on green and social entrepreneurship topics, identified as a result of consultations with the youth and through RIK Hubs in six target areas - Gori, Ninotsminda, Akhmeta municipalities in Georgia and Lori, Tavush and Shirak provinces in Armenia. In 2021, more than 150 trainings were conducted through 6 RIK Hubs in both countries, covering such topics as: social/green entrepreneurship, SDGs, human rights and WASH, project proposal development, business communication, etc. Up to 2,800 participants attended the trainings in both countries.



Youth Social Entrepreneurship Incubator Program – “GREENcubator”

CENN implemented an intensive incubator program GREENcubator for future social entrepreneurs in Georgia and Armenia. The incubator program was held for the potential grantees to be selected as part of the Caucasus Social Innovation Competition. GREENcubator programs involved intensive mentoring

and tailor-made skills development activities, such as trainings, practical exercises and individual mentorship sessions, covering topics on business model types and revenue streams, go-to-market strategies, sales, marketing, branding, crowdfunding and social media management. The ultimate goal of the acceleration programs was to assist the participants in their business model development and help them become eligible for receiving the grant. GREENcubator lasted for two months and covered more than 100 participants from Georgia and Armenia.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

SDG Target 4.3:

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

New Training Centers in the Regions of Georgia and Armenia

CENN has established two new training centers aimed at empowering rural youth – Argokhi Permaculture Centre in Akhmeta municipality, Argokhi village in Georgia and Green Training Centre (GTC) in Tavush Region in Armenia. Argokhi Permaculture Centre was renovated and equipped to function as a

training and co-working facility for the local communities and will function as a camp facility as well. Green Training Centre in Armenia is a pilot farm to demonstrate the benefits of green entrepreneurship for young people in communities. Establishing a green educational centers will target the youth and schoolchildren to promote education and training of socially responsible citizenship from early ages of childhood, as a continuous effort throughout life.



Funding	European Union/EU4Youth
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)

Non-Formal Education of Sustainability through Green Camps

CENN annually implements Green Camps for rural youth, providing participants with a variety of learning opportunities including trainings, lectures as well as practical workshops, field trips and research activities. The Green Camps cover a diversity of topics including sustainable development, rural development, environmental protection, climate action, entrepreneurship

and innovations, human rights, science and technology, waste management, circular economy, WASH, active citizenship, etc. The Green Camps provide youth with invaluable skills such as team-building, presentation, participation, public speaking, critical thinking and constructive feedback. The participants are also taught about the rules of behaviour in the wild nature and are given a chance to apply this knowledge in practice while going on a field trip. In 2021, CENN conducted a total of 8 camps in Georgia and Armenia, benefiting 185 participants.



Funding	European Union, New World Programme
Project	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED); Local LEADERS Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality – EMBRACE Tsalka; Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)

Public Health and Well-being

Recognition of the importance of public health is essential to tackle numerous problems that pose a threat to human health. A decline in the quantity and quality of global water supplies, food shortages, and hunger, the proliferation of man-made toxins and pollutants into the environment, global warming and its impact, unequal access to natural resources are just a few examples that bring a challenge to human well-being.

By contrast, a healthy population is a critical facet of a thriving economy as people are productive, creative, and economically active. People are less dependent, accomplish more work and provide less strain on state budgetary institutions. Thus, a greater populace of productive workers leads to the well-being of society.

CENN complements assistance in major improvements of health that include mitigation of environmental hazards, provision of access to safe water resources, and improving the quality and avail-

ability of health care. Making efforts to develop public health will not result in every person being healthy; however, we try to facilitate conditions where people can be healthy.

In terms of public health and well-being, CENN's activities focus on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), public health risk mitigation and recovery and strengthening public health systems. In 2021, CENN's efforts were focused on two municipalities – Tsalka in the Kvemo Kartli region and Akhmeta in the Kakheti region. The implemented activities included support to schools in safe post-COVID re-opening, assisting the local communities to solve WASH-related problems, increasing the capacities of local healthcare centres in terms of WASH and COVID-related topics and strengthening local communities to engage in WASH-related advocacy both individually and as part of Rural WASH Councils (RWCs).



Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



CENN's efforts under this direction contribute to the following SDGs:



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WHO estimates that almost 90% of diarrheal diseases are due to hazardous water supplies, poor sanitary conditions, and inadequate hygiene practices. In addition, diseases that stem from sub-standard WASH conditions prove to be a vast problem for developing countries. Community well-being, child malnutrition, and other health problems are all related to inadequate WASH systems in Georgia.

Rural communities, especially rural schools and public health centres, lack safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Where such facilities exist, they are often inadequate in terms of quality or quantity. Such conditions affect the population by exposing them to helminths infections, toxins and pollutants, diarrheal diseases, and more, in addition to affecting children's ability to learn at school.

CENN facilitates the development and implementation of national policies related to WASH, capacity building of communities, and awareness-raising in terms of healthy communities, schools, kindergartens, and health centres.

CENN, in direct relevance to SDGs, implements infrastructural projects that improve the WASH conditions in rural communities already affecting more than 15,000 people, develops the human capital of community institutions, and empowers local women and youth to take a leading role in water resources management and improves accessibility to WASH services.



SDG Target 6.2:

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

CENN organized a WASH ideas competition and WASH small grants competition for the local population to promote innovative infrastructural initiatives aimed at improving WASH conditions in rural schools, healthcare centres and communities of Tsalka and Akhmeta municipalities. The implemented projects improved the safety of drinking water in the school of Gumbati (Tsalka municipality), rehabilitated the water system in the village of Argokhi Youth Culture House (Akhmeta municipality). With the projects implemented in the frames of the WASH small grants competition, the members of local commu-

nities have improved access to WASH services at the Bediani Orphanage in Tsalka municipality, installed a water system in the existing health care centre in the village of Kasristskali (Akhmeta municipality), arranged WASH infrastructure in the public school in Tsalka municipality, arranged WASH infrastructure and rehabilitated sanitary facilities in the "Sports Hall" of Kvemo Alvani village (Akhmeta municipality). As a result, a total of 7 projects were implemented with local community involvement and partnership, directly benefitting more than 3,000 people.



Funding	New World Programme
Project	Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)

SDG Target 6.b: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Empowering Local Communities to Engage in WASH Advocacy

In 2021, CENN worked actively with local communities in Tsalka and Akhmeta municipalities, to increase their capacities for engaging in WASH-related activism and advocacy. With this goal, CENN developed training modules covering such topics as sustainable and climate-smart water resources management, community project design and implementation, community advocacy and lobbying , public outreach campaign planning, core principles of WASH, and health literacy and COVID-19. As a result of awareness-raising efforts, more than 1,700 local actors were empowered (among them 70% women and youth).



Strengthening Akhmeta and Tsalka Rural WASH Councils (RWCs) for Local Advocacy

CENN continues to support Rural WASH Councils (RWCs), created as part of previous efforts in the regions. Rural WASH Councils are comprised of local community members and aim for solving WASH-related challenges in a participatory manner. To strengthen the councils, new members were added from the local population. In 2021, to support advocacy efforts of RWCs, CENN mobilized target groups and held regular meetings with relevant local stakeholders such as mayors of Akhmeta and Tsalka, representatives of infrastructure services, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Akhmeta and Tsalka LAGs and NGOs. The objective of the meetings was to discuss the WASH situation, including covid-19 related issues, and advocate for solving local problems. As part of promoting further cooperation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Rural WASH Councils in Tsalka and Akhmeta municipalities.



Funding	New World Programme
Project	Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)

Public health risk mitigation and recovery

Ensuring public health risk mitigation and promoting the well-being of the population of all ages is essential to sustainable development. Currently, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other — COVID-19 is destabilizing the global economy and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe.

It is widely accepted that global warming has a negative impact on the main pillars of health – economic, environmental, and social determinants. It affects the essentials for good public health: safe drinking water, clean air, food safety, etc. In this context, the global south suffers the most by being exposed to environmental injustices, toxic emissions, and polluted water.

According to the WHO's 2017 report, the health status of Georgia's population has over the past three decades generally followed the trends observed in the rest of the WHO European region. However, despite noticeable improvements since 2000, the country still faces multiple health challenges. According to the same report, air pollution is among the top 10 risk factors and the associated age-standardized burden of disease.

CENN recognizes the importance of healthy and resilient communities for green growth and sustainable development. Fostering the well-being of the population and mitigation of public health risks is a priority in CENN's programs. Namely, CENN supports governmental institutions in the development of relevant policy documents, conducts studies in close cooperation with research institutions, and provides valuable information and recommendations to the relevant stakeholders. In addition, CENN carries out issue-based constructive dialogues and implements advocacy campaigns for the creation of green spaces, combating indoor and outdoor air pollution, WASH issues, and beyond.

SDG Target 3.3:

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

COVID-19 and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Assessments

In 2021, CENN developed assessments of COVID-19 and WASH in Schools and Dispensaries of Akhmeta and Tsalka Municipalities. Assessments were conducted in 38 schools and 20 healthcare centers, indirectly affecting 4,238 people. In addition, in order to ensure the safe post-COVID reopening of schools in Tsalka and Akhmeta municipalities, CENN together with EU-WASH and National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) developed the WASH Schools Guideline, which pro-

vides information to government agencies, parents, and the general public on school-related health risks, focusing on water and sanitation issues, to effectively plan risk assessment and mitigation measures. It also provides information on school management under COVID-19. The guideline provides extensive thematic material that explains key aspects, principles, approaches, and strategic visions related to water, sanitation, and hygiene issues. The guideline was prepared in a participatory manner and incorporates recommendations provided by the governmental representatives, school teachers, local NGOs, WASH Councils and LAGs.



Funding	New World Programme
Project	Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)

Strengthening Public Health Systems



SDG Target 3.8:

Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Capacities of Local Healthcare Workers Increased

In order to improve local capabilities and resources to address healthcare problems in Tsalka and Akhmeta municipalities, CENN has increased the capacities of local healthcare centre workers with a series of trainings covering such topics as the global context of WASH medical facilities; overview of the global COVID-19 and WASH conditions; WASH support standards in medical facilities; practical tips to ensure WASH improvement and sustainability in medical facilities; key findings and recommendations of WASH & COVID-19 assessment in rural health care centers of Akhmeta and Tsalka municipalities; and key challenges of COVID-19 vaccination. In total, 130 members of local health workers were trained.



Funding	New World Programme
Project	Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)

Knowledge Materials



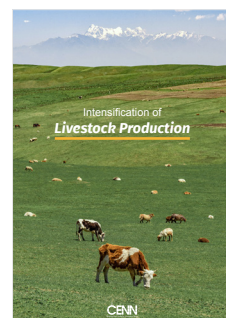
[Guidebook of Flora of Georgia \(update of the previous version\)](#)



[Social Entrepreneurship in Georgia - Legislative Environment, Challenges and International Practice](#)



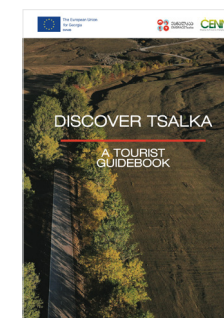
[Guidebook: Green Technology on Sustainable Forest Management and Alternative Energy](#)



[Intensification of Livestock Production](#)



[Sustainable land management](#)



[Discover Tsalka - A Tourist Guidebook](#)



[Climate Change in Tsalka Municipality](#)



[Climate-Resilient Agriculture Framework Plan for Marneuli Municipality](#)



[Sustainable Management of Water Resources](#)



[Participation of Citizens in the Implementation of Self-Government](#)



[Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Technologies](#)

Video Lessons

- [Video lesson on Intensification of livestock production](#)
- [Video lesson on Climate Change and Land/Pasture Degradation](#)
- [Video lesson on Animal Health and veterinary \(Animals Infectious/invasive diseases and prevention and control methods\)](#)

Annex: Projects implemented in 2021

Donor	Project Title
Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia (SFMRD)
European Union (EU)	Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation
European Union/ENPARD	Local LEADERs Embrace Sustainable Development in Multi-Ethnic Tsalka Municipality – EMBRACE Tsalka
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the financial support of European Union/ENPARD	Elaboration and Implementation of a Promotional Campaign for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies in Rural Areas
European Union/EU4Youth	Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development for Green Growth in Borderline Regions (SEED)
EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme	Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge (I-CISK)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the financial support of Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands
German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Towards a Green Future: Youth for Forests
German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), Recover Better Support Fund	Continued Nationalization of SDGs via Promoting Localization and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Georgia
Heks-Eper	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality
New World Programme	Community Action to Improve WASH Services in Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (GEO-WASH)
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	National Plastic Waste Prevention Program for Georgia
USAID Economic Development, Governance and Enterprise Growth Project (EDGE)	Digital Caucasus: Synergies and Digital Transformation of SMEs for Smart Economic Growth in the Caucasus



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CENN Annual Report 2021

Contributing to 17 SDGs

