



Shaping the Future by
Changing Today
N. JANASHIA



Annual Report 2023

25 YEARS OF ACTION FOR A GREENER FUTURE

years

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Agency	GFPA	Georgian Forest Product Association	NEA	National Environmental Agency
ADC	Austrian Development Cooperation	GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation	NFA	National Forest Agency
B2B	Business-to-business	GNTA	Georgian National Tourism Administration	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
CAG	Climate Action Group	HEKS-EPER	Swiss Church Aid	PMCG	Policy and Management Consulting Group
CBO	Community-based Organization	HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach	PV	Photovoltaics
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network	ICC	Information Consultation Centre	PwDs	People with Disabilities
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development	I-CISK	Innovating Climate Services through Integrating Scientific and Local Knowledge	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease	IHE Delft	Delft Institute of Water Education	SDGWE	SDG Watch Europe
CPC	Centre of Participation and Involvement	IPPA	Integrated Participatory Planning Approach	SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture	IRI	International Republican Institute	SMHI	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
CSI	Civil Society Institute	ISFED	International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy	SUP	Single-use Plastic
CSO	Civil Society Organization	LA	Local Authority	SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
CSRDG	Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia	LAG	Local Action Group	UN	United Nations
CTC	Center for Training and Consultancy	LDS	Local Development Strategy	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
EEB	European Environmental Bureau	LEADER	Links between the Rural Economy and Development Actions	VET	Vocational Education and Training
ENPARD	European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development	LGBTIQ	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer	VNR	Voluntary National Review
EU	European Union	MAP	Multi-actor Platform	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
EU AA	European Union Association Agreement	MEPA	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture	WFD	Westminster Foundation for Democracy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform		
FFS	Farmer Field Schools	MSWG	Multi-Stakeholder Working Group		
FMP	Forest Management Plan	NbS	Nature-based Solution		
GA	Georgian Amelioration	NCP	National Climate Platform		
GEF	Global Environment Facility	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions		
GEL	Georgian Lari				



A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear team, friends, and partners,

Today, we confront a significant threat from the changing climate, as its impacts become increasingly evident and tangible. Globally, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe, and the recent rise in landslides underscores the urgent need for climate action. Emerging from the consequences of the tragedies in Shovi and Guria, it is clear that proactive measures are essential to mitigate climate change effects and safeguard lives.

Environmental challenges disproportionately affect vulnerable communities. Studies underscore how climate change intensifies inequalities and disproportionately affects women and minority groups. Recognizing the social and gender impacts of climate change is critical, yet remains insufficiently addressed.

Despite the challenges of 2023, Georgia embarked on a historic journey in December to determine its European future. Achieving EU candidate country status offers significant opportunities but also entails immense responsibility. Throughout this process, upholding democratic principles, fostering cooperation, sharing knowledge and experience, and supporting local organizations and businesses are essential.

Recognizing the urgent need for democratic, fair, and inclusive development, we believe dedicated efforts in this area are crucial for overcoming obstacles across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Demonstrating our commitment to transparency and accountability, the CENN team presents annual results aligned with specific global SDG targets. This report highlights how our initiatives contribute to all 17 SDGs, showcasing their social, economic, and environmental impact.

This year, we emphasize the vital role of the civil society sector in fostering democracy to address political instability, social disparities, and environmental degradation. Our role is pivotal not only in confronting current challenges but also in catalyzing Georgia's EU integration.

Together, let us stand strong and work towards a better, peaceful, democratic, greener, and inclusive future.

Yours sincerely,

Laurent G. Nicole
Executive Director
CENN



Pawel Herczynski, the Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia and Nana Janashia, CENN's Co-founder and Executive Director (1998 - 2023) during their welcoming speeches at CENN's 25th Birthday & World Environment Day, June 5, 2023.

Nana Janashia

CENN's Co-founder and Executive Director
(1998 - 2023)

In August 2023, Nana Janashia, one of the founders of CENN, tragically passed away. Nana was a source of inspiration for us all, dedicating her life to making the world a better place. Over the course of 25 years, with her leadership and unwavering commitment, CENN has spearheaded over 300 impactful projects across the Caucasus region, fostering a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Nana's vision and unwavering dedication have played a crucial role in shaping a more environmentally friendly and harmonious world. While her physical presence is no longer with us, Nana's spirit will continue to live on through the work of CENN. As we remember her, we are reminded of the power of one individual's passion to transform lives and pave the way for a better tomorrow.

“

***“For 25 years, CENN has been a leader in environmental protection and sustainable development throughout the Caucasus region. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, including raising public awareness about environmental issues, promoting resource efficiency and circular economy principles, advancing renewable energy initiatives, supporting sustainable agriculture practices, enhancing waste management systems, safeguarding biodiversity, and inspiring youth to embrace green values.*”**

Our initiatives have improved the lives of many people, and I have no doubt that the next 25 years will be even more transformative. Let's continue inspiring change and setting an example!”

Nana Janashia.

“We believe in the power of civil society as a catalyst for positive change. The EU, in partnership with CENN, will continue to advocate for green policies, promote sustainable consumption, and support initiatives that empower local communities. CENN's dedication inspires us to do more and do better for our environment,”

Ambassador Herczynski.

Climate Change, Environment and Energy

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

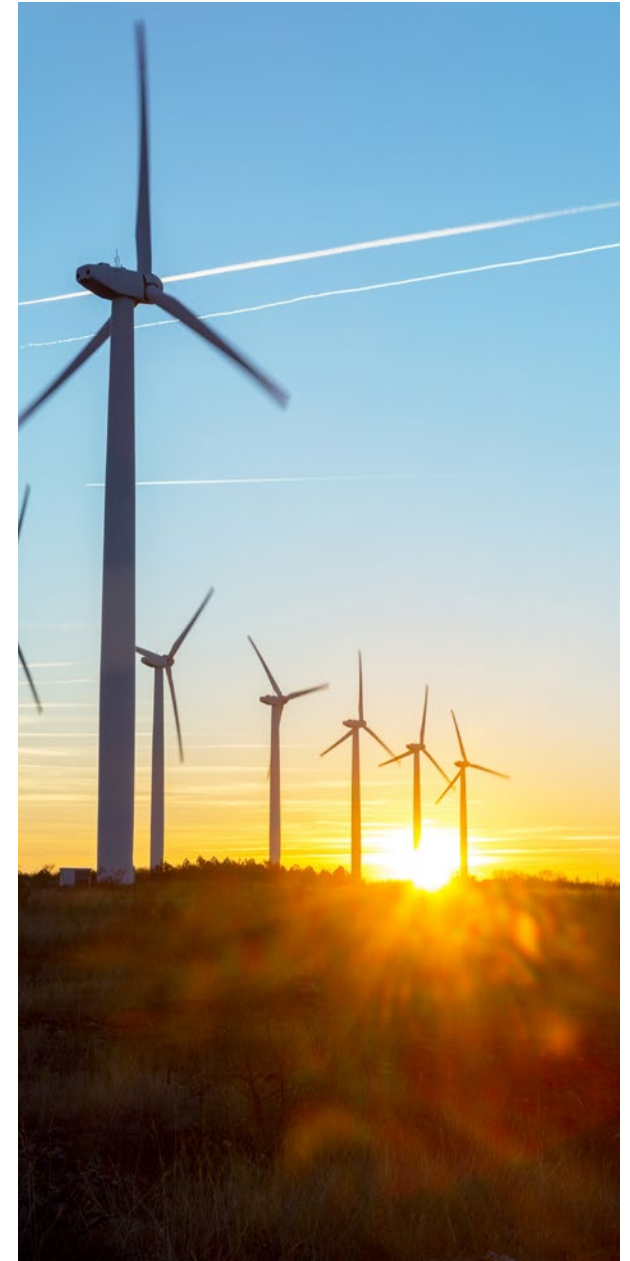
CENN promotes inclusive environmental governance, and the application of modern approaches and technologies, and builds sound environmental management systems at every level to support better natural resources management and biodiversity protection, increase climate resilience and energy efficiency, and create lasting opportunities that sustain livelihoods.

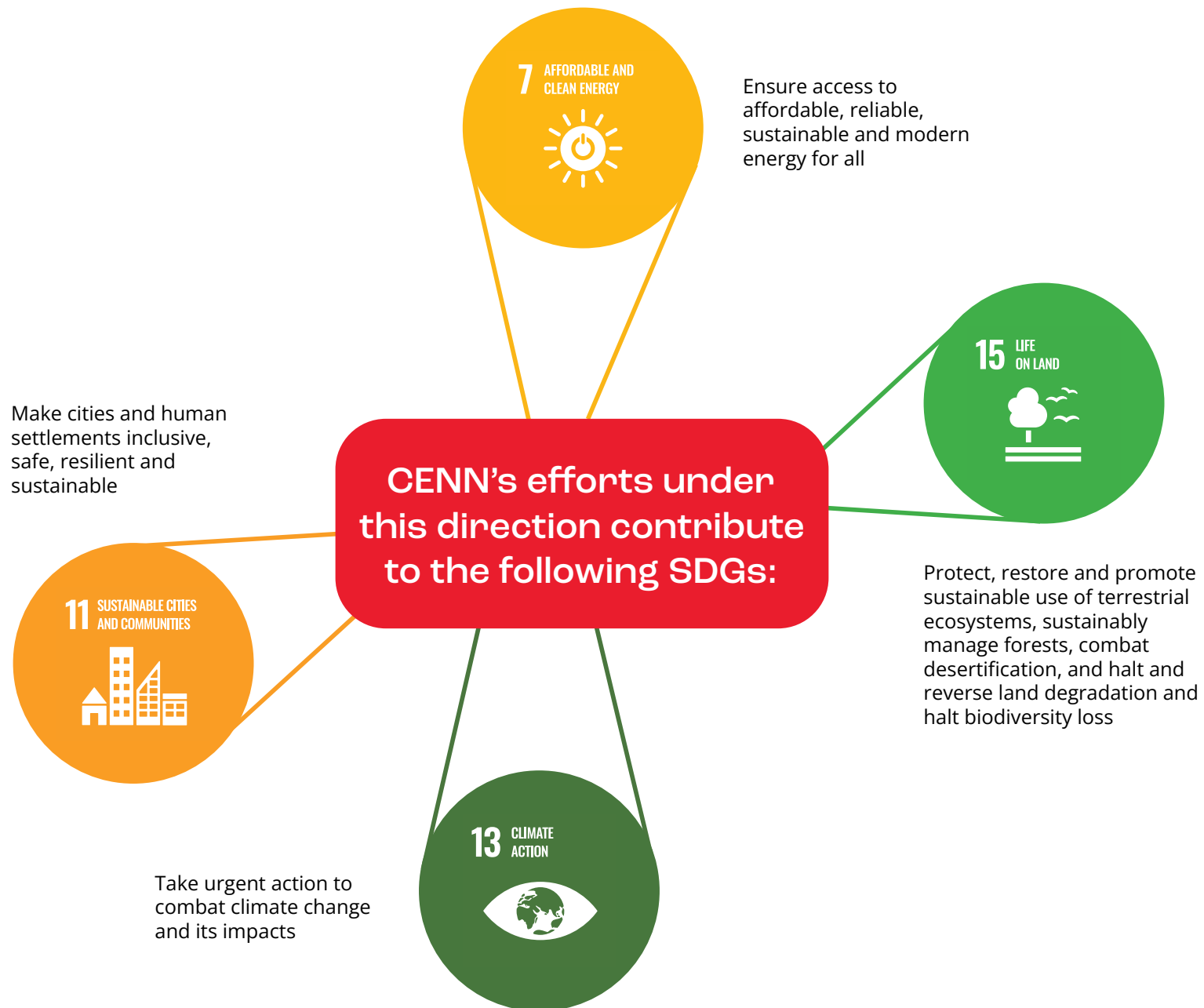
In 2023, under environmental protection and natural resources management, CENN addressed challenges in forest management and promoted sustainable development via an awareness-raising campaign about Forest Management Plans in Kvareli, Telavi, and Tianeti municipalities (Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions) and a public hearing of Forest Management Plan in Akhmeta municipality. The actions revealed the need for enhanced awareness, active citizen participation, and adaptable strategies to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable forest development in the region.

In 2023, under climate change mitigation, adaptation, and climate resilience, CENN continued developing a streamflow prediction system and climate change scenarios in target watersheds, supporting the National Forestry Agency (NFA) of Georgia in disaster risk reduction via providing evidence-based recommendations and additional capacity building based on best international

practices. Streamflow prediction is one of the essential components for proper planning and management of water resources. The developed system would be used for agricultural planning, flood control, and hydropower operations. Furthermore, CENN continued supporting local CSOs in playing a key role in solving local climate change-related issues and engagement of civil society in developing and implementing climate-related strategies to be promoted through national and regional multi-stakeholder platforms.

Lastly, in 2023, regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency, CENN promoted energy-efficient technologies such as solar panels, e-mobiles, energy-efficient stoves as well as environmentally friendly vehicles through awareness-raising initiatives. These solutions mitigate carbon emissions and enhance urban liveability, fostering healthier, cleaner environments.



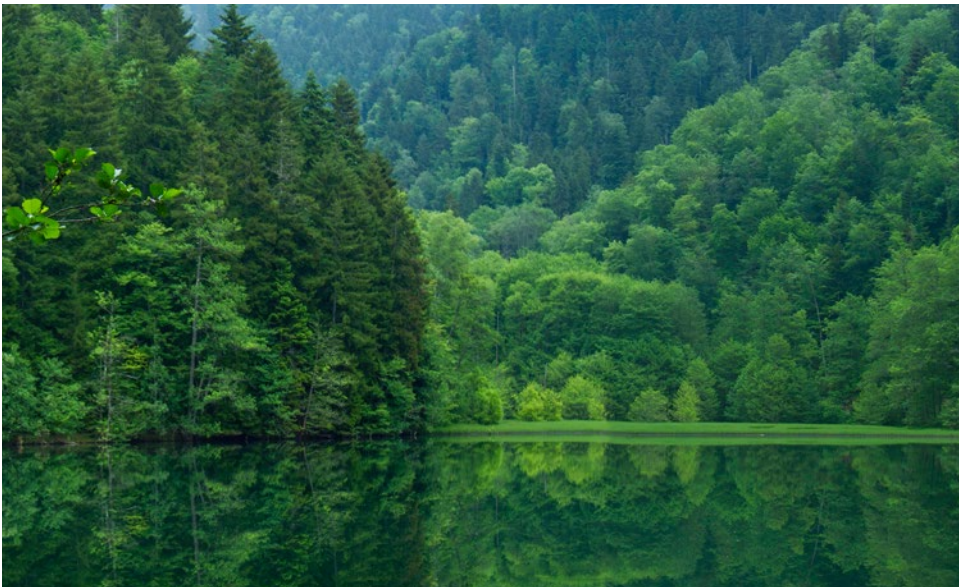


Environmental protection and natural resources management

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, damage 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



Contribution 1: Supporting Public Participation in Forest Management

In 2023 CENN undertook a comprehensive initiative in Kvareli, Telavi, and Tianeti municipalities to address challenges in forest management and promote sustainable development. At first, stakeholder analysis was conducted utilizing eco-cultural checklists to identify forest-dependent stakeholders, laying a robust foundation for participatory planning aligned with the Integrated Participatory Planning Approach (IPPA).

Through the awareness campaign CENN effectively disseminated information on Forest Management Plans (FMP) through workshops and materials, fostering increased understanding and support within municipal stakeholder groups. At the workshops the importance of sustainable forest management, stakeholders' crucial roles, and the positive impact on local communities and the environment was emphasized. Workshops provided platforms for in-depth discussions, addressing specific queries, and fostering a nuanced understanding of the FMP processes.

In addition, a public hearing for the Akhmeta FMP was conducted. The

hearing facilitated direct engagement with stakeholders and allowed for informed decision-making. CENN utilized strategic dissemination of information about Akhmeta's FMP public hearing based on media landscape analysis, engagement with thematic associations and local entities, and active telephone communication with the stakeholders. In addition, CENN created and distributed educational materials that explained the fundamentals of Forest Management Plans (FMPs).

Finally, the baseline survey was conducted to assess relevant data for informed decision-making on the perception of forest-dependent inhabitants regarding their influence on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and related decision-making within the municipalities of Kvareli, Telavi, and Tianeti. The study has revealed challenges in forest management, including uncontrolled timber harvesting, lack of awareness about sustainable initiatives, and low citizen engagement. The findings underscore the need for enhanced awareness, active citizen participation, and adaptable strategies to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable forest development in the region.

Since 2022, self-governments have been suspended from preparing documents confirming the right to register forest lands, and the function has been

completely transferred to the National Public Registry Agency, which, in turn, has begun to agree on individual cases of registration with MEPA. With this goal, MEPA, hired 5 GIS specialists in 2022 to evaluate individual cases of forest land registration and prepare conclusions and developed the amendment of the government statute regarding the “granting, termination and correction of the forest status”. From January 1, 2022, to December 2022, as per the changed practice due to the project’s advocacy campaign, 561 correspondences were submitted to MEPA for the registration of property rights of individuals. Of these, 341 plots were given a negative assessment, and the proceedings were stopped for the rest due to incompletely submitted documentation.

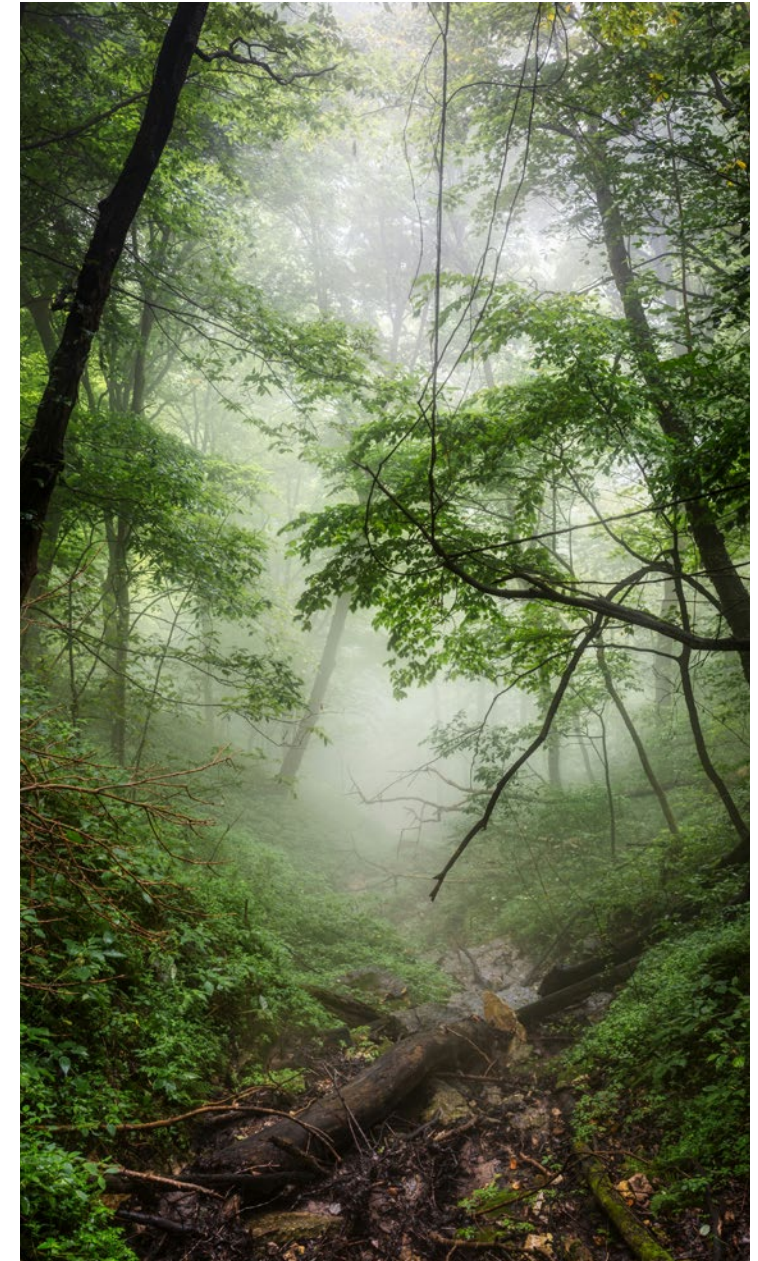
The end result of the campaign was to halt the chaotic process of forest land exclusion, in which an average of 3,000 forest lands per year were illegally registered to private ownership, resulting in the loss of billions of state assets and thousands of hectares of unique forest ecosystems. The new legislation still contains gaps, however, in December 2022 an agreement was reached with the MEPA and the Parliament of Georgia on the assessment of the practice after 1 year, based on which the legislation will be revised once again.



Funding	German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Project	Support of Public Participation in Forest Management Within the project “Enabling Implementation of Forest Sector Reform in Georgia (ECO Georgia)”

Contribution 2: Continued Effort to Reduce Anthropogenic Pressure on Forests

In 2023, CENN started a new project aimed at reducing anthropogenic pressure on forests by promoting diversification of rural economy and sustainable multi-functional forest use. The project is built on CENN's successful experience in the field of sustainable forest management. The initiative aims to promote inter-sectoral cooperation, participatory decision making and green budgeting to implement rural development activities, as well as expansion of sustainable forest product markets through the creation of incentives for the commercial utilization of forest resources. Most importantly, the project aims to promote creation of additional income opportunities locally, and with specific focus on enabling the most vulnerable groups including women and youth. The project covers Adjara A/R, Guria, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Kakheti regions and will be implemented until June 2027. More activities will be reported in the following reports. Among other activities, the annual SDG-themed Niko Ketskhoveli Award for school students will be continued as part of the initiative.



Funding	Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)
Project	GREEN Caucasus - Enhancing Green Rural Economy and Energy in Georgia

Climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience

Climate change is already 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 the decision-makers to introduce 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



Contribution 3: Development of Streamflow Prediction System in the Alazani-Iori River basin

CENN and the National Environmental Agency (NEA) cooperate on the development of a streamflow prediction system in the Alazani-Iori River basins. Streamflow prediction is one of the essential components for proper planning and management of water resources. The developed system would be used for agricultural planning, flood control, and hydropower operations. For this purpose, CENN together with NEA and members of the Alazani Multi Actor platform (MAP)¹ works with international hydrologists and IT experts from the [Delft Institute of Water Education \(IHE Delft\)](#), the [Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute \(SMHI\)](#) and [GECOsistema](#) to create the above-mentioned service for the Alazani-Iori River Basin. In 2023, the local and international experts have collected and analysed hydrological data for

the selected basins and integrated it into the water flow prediction portal. The hydrological station data is crucially important for the model calibration and water availability prediction which therefore will be automatically generated from the portal to be provided to the end users: farmers, hydropower plants operators, etc. additionally, during the field work conditions of the irrigation system was investigated to provide sufficient recommendations for improved water management and sustainable climate-related adaptive solutions.

¹ The Alazani multi-actor platform (MAP) was created by CENN within the project, consisting of private and public sector representatives and aimed to identify needs in terms of climate services in the Alazani River Basin.

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)

Contribution 4: Supporting Local Initiatives for Climate Resilience

In 2023 CENN continued supporting local CSOs in playing a key role in solving local climate change-related issues through an open grants competition. The first phase of the sub-granting program was implemented in 2022-2023, while the second phase was initiated in 2023. During the first phase, 10 local CSOs implemented projects on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. During the second phase, after a thorough selection process and training of potential sub-grantees, 10 projects were selected for funding out of the initial 21 proposals.

The projects that were implemented by the end of 2023 covered Imereti, Guria, Racha, and Kakheti regions. Four projects were implemented in the Guria region: (1) The Centre of Participation and Involvement (CPC) implemented a project aimed to assess the risks of pollution of the River Supsa basin and implementation of preventive mechanisms through citizen involvement and awareness raising. (2) Lanchkhuti Information Centre implemented a project aimed at promoting sustainable development of the municipality via cooperation among civil society and local government. As a result of the participatory process a strategic document

“2023-2028 Green Municipality - Lanchkhuti” was prepared reflecting the needs of the local population for sustainable development and climate resilience, and was adopted by the Municipality. (3) Community Foundation Lotusi planted a 1.5-kilometer windbreak in a small town Laituri (Ozurgeti Municipality, Guri Region) that will reduce wind speed, protect soil from wind erosion, reduce crop loss, protect the environment from pollution, reduce noise, and protect residents from damage caused by frequent and strong winds. (4) Guria Development Union implemented a project aimed at increasing environmental security-related issues of women farmers.

Three projects were implemented in the Imereti region: (1) Orioni established eco councils in local schools to promote sustainable development and environmental protection and arranged an eco-square in Zestaponi with solar lights and mini solar power plant to charge notebooks and smartphones. (2) Community Union – Sveri worked on promoting solar energy in Chiatura municipality via installing a solar station in Sveri Public School and decreasing electricity costs of the school. (3) Union of Scientists of Imereti region – Spektri implemented a project aimed at supporting local community in Tkibuli municipality in adapting to climate change and increasing their capacity by demonstrating the practical use of solar energy and providing access to knowledge and information about energy efficiency - installation of a hot wa-



ter helio system was carried out in Tkibuli Kindergarten N1, as a result of which about 100 children of the kindergarten are provided with hot water.

Two projects were implemented in Kakheti region: (1) Community Council of Tushebi implemented a project aimed at increasing availability of the drinking and irrigation water in Upper Alvani, Akhmeta municipality. (2) NGO Kakheti introduced renewable/solar energy supply to the kindergarten of the village of Kasristskali and raised awareness among local youth, kindergarten teachers, and students about climate change and renewable energy sources.

Finally, in the Racha-Lechkhumi region, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regional Development Fund – Youth installed water reservoirs in 10 target schools of Oni and Ambrolauri municipalities to collect rainwater and use the collected water for technical purposes.

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



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

Contribution 5: Promoting participatory development and implementation of climate-related strategies in Georgia

In 2023, CENN continued to support newly created multi-stakeholder platforms at the national (National Climate Platform (NCP)) and regional levels (Climate Action Groups (CAGs)) to facilitate the engagement of civil society in developing and implementing climate-related strategies as well as promotion of collective actions to mitigate CC's adverse effects on the environment, water security and the population's health.

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. In 2023 CENN in cooperation with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) organized three workshops on Advocacy and Policy Dialogue Needs Assessment of NCP and CAG members. The purpose of the workshops was, on the one hand, to

reveal the challenges and needs of the NCP, as well as the NCP member CSOs and CBOs for advocacy, cooperation, and policy dialogue on environmental and climate change issues, and on the other hand, to develop recommendations for advocacy and policy dialogue strategy. Together with the experts, the participants worked on the directions of advocacy and policy dialogue, on the basis of which the advocacy and policy dialogue strategy and action plan were co-developed. This document is a guide for the NCP and CAGs and other CBOs to initiate better advocacy, cooperation and policy dialogue on environmental and climate change issues. In addition, NCP in coordination with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) organized a meeting where MEPA presented the 2022 report on the implementation of the 2021-2023 action plan on climate change in Georgia.

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' co-operatives, in total 136 members in



four (4) target regions. In 2023 CAG members have been involved in the development of significant sectoral policy documents, such as providing recommendations for a draft new Climate Action Plan for 2024-2025 (energy and forestry sectors) and participating in the presentation of “Georgia’s Road to Decarbonisation” which aimed to introduce Georgia’s Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), and public consultations on the white and green papers developed for the draft climate law of Georgia. In addition, the CAGs are involved in advocacy with local municipalities. In 2023 the activities including improving access to potable water and updating the municipal waste management 5-year plan of the Gurjaani Municipality, rehabilitation of the 25-ton damaged headwork in Tkibuli Municipality, restoration of degraded soil in Chiatura Municipality, restoring windbreaks in the Ozurgeti municipality, rehabilitation of the damaged headwork in Ambrolauri Municipality etc.

CENN continued providing a series of trainings to increase the capacities of the members of CAGs around such topics as nature-based solutions, disaster risk reduction and disaster management, watersheds and sustainable forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, requirements and procedures established by the Law of Georgia on Environmental Liability etc. In addition, CAG members had the opportunity to participate in a Business-to-Business (B2B) networking event on plastic reduction opportunities and the recycling landscape, which brought together up to one hundred stakeholders from the government, waste recycling businesses, HORECA and other private sector, local and international organizations, and the media. The event aimed to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders involved in the circular economy sector with the help of interactive sessions.



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.



SDG Target 7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Contribution 6: Promoting Energy Efficiency through Georgia's Sustainable Energy Day

In June 2023, CENN hosted a large-scale public event, "Georgia's Sustainable Energy Day" in cooperation with Tbilisi City Hall. The event aimed to encourage Georgia's development of a green economy, promote energy efficiency and raise public awareness of alternative and renewable energy. To do so, the event offered an exhibition of energy-efficient technologies, educational seminars, and different entertainment programmes. Representatives of

various state authorities, the private sector, international institutions and donor organisations, school students, teachers, and other interested individuals participated in the event. Besides kids' zones, 14 companies presented their energy-efficient and renewable technologies at the booths in Dedaena Park. Products and services displayed at the exhibition covered solar panels, e-mobiles, EE stoves, and briquettes, consulting services, and granting opportunities. The event showed useful energy efficiency solutions and acted as a forum for education, awareness, and inspiration towards a more sustainable future through the outdoor exhibition, educational seminars, and the specially curated Kids Zone.

Funding	European Union and KfW development bank
Project	Technical Assistance Project in Support of the Georgian Energy Sector Reform Programme (GESRP), implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in partnership with the German independent energy consulting company GOPA intec (role of CENN: implementing partner)

SDG Target 11.2:

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Contribution 7: Promoting Energy Efficient Transportation

In September 2023, CENN joined the European Mobility Week initiative that aimed to inspire and mobilize individuals, communities, and organisations to embrace sustainable mobility solutions. These solutions mitigate carbon emissions and enhance urban liveability, fostering healthier, cleaner environments. In line with the overarching theme for this year's event - "Save energy", CENN with the support of the EU and KfW and in partnership with GOPA intec. organized a one-day public event on energy-efficient mobility. The event program encompassed a diverse range of activities, including promoting clean and intelligent transportation solutions, interactive workshops on energy efficiency, and informative sessions centred around Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) - Affordable and Clean Energy. The participants had the opportunity to explore and test environmentally friendly vehicles, including scooters, bicycles, rollers, electric bicycles, and more. Throughout the day, engaging energy quizzes tailored for young individuals have been conducted, and educational activities such as board games on SDGs and colouring workshops on energy efficiency organized.



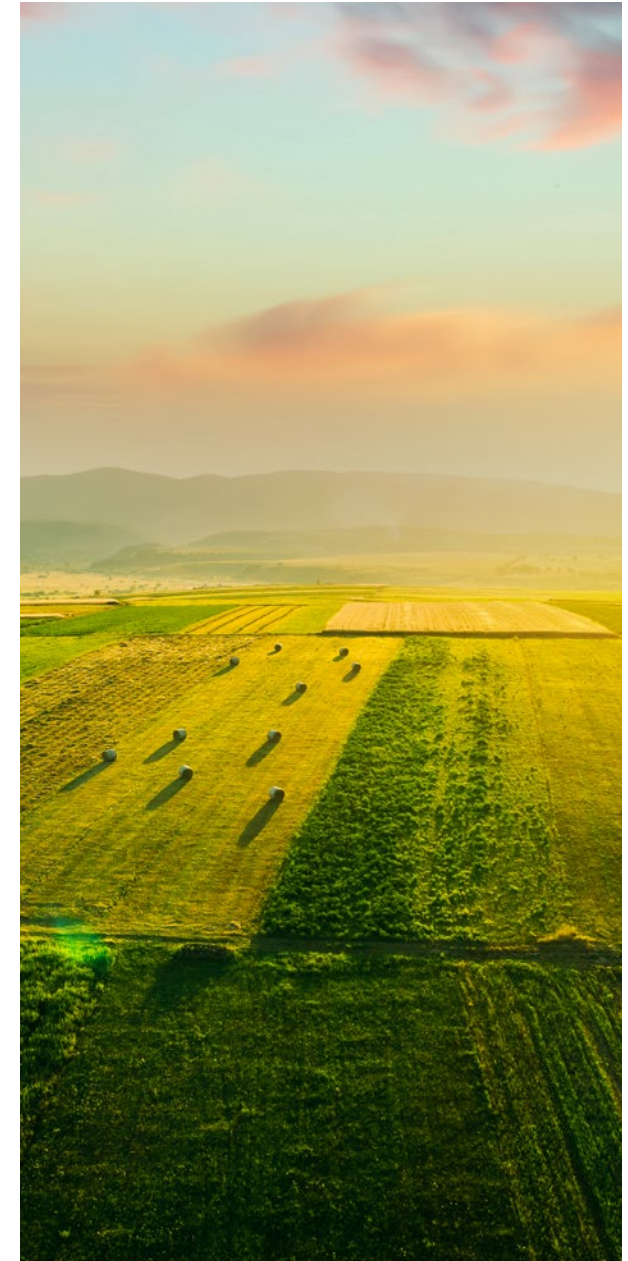
Funding	European Union and KfW development bank
Project	Technical Assistance Project in Support of the Georgian Energy Sector Reform Programme (GESRP), implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in partnership with the German independent energy consulting company GOPA intec. (role of CENN: implementing partner)

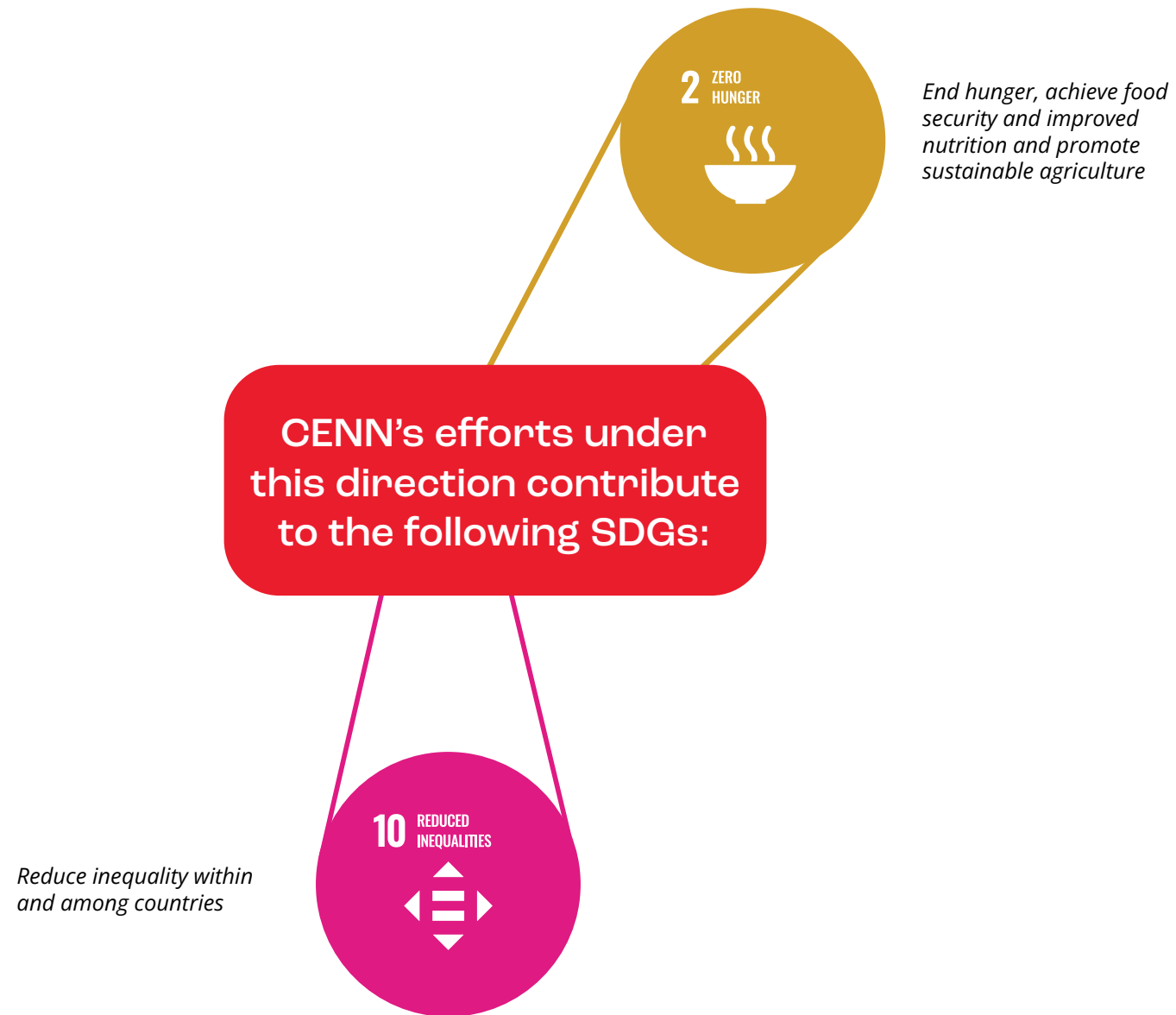
Agriculture and Rural Development

Agriculture is one of the key sectors in the rural areas of 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 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 sustainable agriculture, in 2023 CENN addressed the challenges caused by climate change via engaging in continued advocacy for local challenges, increasing the capacities of local farmers on climate resilient agriculture, showcasing sustainable agriculture and farming practices through demonstration plots as well as providing local farmers with financial support for agricultural production and processing. Under food security, safety, and sustainability, CENN continued

supporting agricultural cooperative with members of active women eco-migrant farmers and provided capacity building to local farmers to implement sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including, sustainable land management. Finally, under Rural and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), CENN addressed the lack of participatory local development by developing Local Development Strategies (LDSs) with direct engagement of local communities and newly established Local Action Groups (LAGs) in the Guria region.





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 (FFS) to emphasize the long- and short-term benefits of sustainable climate resilient 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, which help maintain ecosystems, which strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Contribution 8: Advocating for Climate Resilient Agriculture in Marneuli

In 2023, CENN continued advocating for solutions to local challenges related to climate-resilient agriculture in Marneuli municipality (Kvemo Kartli region). The challenges were identified in the Framework Plan for Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) prepared in 2021, which is based on climate change scenarios and the adaptation plan. The CRA includes a general overview of agriculture in Marneuli municipality, identified challenges of the sector and vulnerable groups, capacity-building strategy as well as recommendations for different stakeholders. The advocacy campaigns apply participatory methodology including selecting issues via a participatory process, mapping relevant stakeholders, collecting evidence-based data, facilitating dialogue between right holders and duty bearers, and elaborating col-

lective actions for problem-solving. The Multi-Stakeholder Working Group/dialogue platform (established by CENN) was involved in the advocacy campaigns through the identification and prioritization of challenges, collection of information related to the selected problems, collection of photo/video materials, mobilization of community members, informing them about advocacy campaigns, collection of signatures from the local population, and initiating and participating in meetings with local and regional authorities and other stakeholders. In 2023 the advocacy campaigns resulted in three solved cases benefiting more than 3500 local community members. The solved cases include improved access to irrigation water, and updated municipal waste management plan. In total since the beginning of the project, 21 cases were identified and 12 have been solved. From the beginning of the project around 6000 people benefited as a result of the campaigns.

Funding

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

SDG Target 2.3:

By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Contribution 9: Financial Support for Local Initiatives on Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture Practices

In order to increase the capacities of local farmers in Marneuli municipality, CENN has implemented a sub-granting program. A total of 15 local initiatives were financed, of which 40% were women-led. Up to 100 individuals directly benefited from the financed projects.

The sub-granting program supported grant recipients to cope with their present challenges in agricultural production/processing and invest in initiatives that can improve the prosperity of their families and their communities. The supported projects included the purchase of agricultural machinery, arrangement of greenhouse constructions, establishment of windbreaks, arrangement of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, purchase of solar panels, development of a horticulture plot, and set-up of water tanks, and wells.

The assessment of the sub-grant program's effectiveness and impact reveal positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes. Grantees reported a significant reduction in production costs, including a decrease in seasonal workers, electricity and water usage, and the quantity of pesticides and herbicides. On average, their annual household income from agricultural production increased 20-30% compared to 2022 year. In general, farmers reinvested their profits in various ways, such as purchasing additional agricultural land, allocating funds for their children's education, and covering bank loans. In terms of environmental impact, financial assistance enabled grantees to considerably reduce water usage, follow an agri-calendar, and conduct all seasonal activities on time, hence mitigating the effects of climate shocks.

**Funding**

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Contribution 10: Capacity Development of Farmers in Marneuli

In 2023, CENN continued to deliver a series of trainings to increase awareness on climate change among farmers and the capacity of farmers on climate resilient agriculture in Marneuli municipality. CENN joined forces with Cartlis Academy and co-created a holistic certificate course on climate-resilient vegetable production. CENN and Cartlis Academy jointly provided consultations, technical assistance, and operational support in vegetable production. The certification course “Climate-resilient vegetable production” covered the negative implications of climate change on agriculture, the importance of Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA), Climate-Resilient Agricultural practices, and technologies; main aspects of vegetable crop fertilization; principles of Integrated Pest Management; types of irrigation systems in vegetable crops and their importance and a practical masterclass in

the greenhouse. The certificate course significantly enhanced the knowledge of 25 farmers on the implications of climate change on agriculture, equipping them to better adapt to increasing climate-related risks. Furthermore, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of good agricultural practices, leading to a notable 20-30% increase in yields.

In addition, CENN organized two study tours for up to thirty farmers. In the first study tour farmers of the biological farming association “Elkana”, from Tianeti municipality, visited Marneuli for training and inspiration on topics such as vegetable crop seedling production and climate-resilient agricultural methods of production in the open field. In the second study tour, farmers from Marneuli municipality visited modern orchards, plant nurseries, organic production farms, and fruit and vegetable processing enterprises in the Kakheti region and gained an understanding of agricultural value chains.



Funding

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Contribution 11: Demonstration Plots in Marneuli Showcase Sustainable Agriculture and Farming

CENN continues promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices by conducting field days on two demonstration plots established in 2022 in Marneuli municipality. One demonstration plot is a greenhouse of 300 square meters, designed to produce vegetable seedlings on the base of Maradisi village's women agricultural cooperative, "Green Maradisi". The other demonstration plot is an area of approximately 8000 square meters, showcasing the benefits of climate-resilient agricultural practices for open field production of high-value vegetable crops.

In 2023, CENN hosted 3 field days and trained 84 farmers on climate-resilient agricultural techniques. According to the participants, they acquired new knowl-

edge of vegetable seedling production and growing technologies and now apply good agricultural practices of seedling production as well as provide knowledge-sharing on climate-resilient agricultural practices in their communities.

Throughout the year, established demonstration plots continued to showcase climate-resilient and environmentally friendly practices, including effective water management, soil nutrient management, integrated pest management, crop rotation, raised beds, and the use of drought-resilient varieties and high-quality seeds. As an added value, demonstration plots serve as a tool to scale up best agricultural practices outside of the project activities. Particularly, the demonstration plots provided a material base for practical learning of a vocational training program in vegetable crop production in a greenhouse of the vocational college "Modus." In addition to the educational aspects, the demonstration plots also yielded economic benefits for owners.



Funding

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Contribution 12: Women's Agriculture Cooperative Established in Marneuli

CENN continues to support the women's agricultural cooperative "Green Maradisi", which was established in 2022, consisting of women eco-migrant farmers in the village of Maradisi. In addition, CENN also established a demonstration plot (a greenhouse for vegetable seedling production) on the grounds of the cooperative.

Throughout the year, CENN continued the capacity building and business development of the cooperative via various workshops and trainings. In addition to

promoting climate-resilient agricultural production, CENN also supported the skills development of cooperative members on the cooperative's governance, accounting and financial management, communications, business planning, and operations management.

The cooperative produces various seedlings of high-value vegetable crops in the greenhouse arranged by the project and sells products throughout neighbouring municipalities. The greenhouse has the capacity to produce over 500,000 seedlings. In 2023, the cooperative sold over 88,000 vegetable seedlings.



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 scenarios, 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 are 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

Contribution 13: Local Farmers Learn How to implement Sustainable Land Management Practices in Pasturelands

CENN continues strengthening capacities of local farmers to implement sustainable land management practices in pasturelands in Kazbegi Municipality of the Mtskheta-Mtianeti region, Dmanisi Municipality of the Kvemo Kartli region, and Gurjaani Municipality of the Kakheti region.

In 2023, up to 70 farmers and representatives of Information Consultation Centres (ICC) participated in the the-

matic trainings on Cattle Farm Management and Milk Hygiene and Safety. The trainings aimed to strengthen the capacity of farmers and ICC representatives on the farm planning and standards, livestock nutrition and feed production, livestock breeds common in Georgia and the world and their breeding processes; milk production and processing conditions, milk hygiene, correct milking practices, basic principles of food safety, milk safety and related Georgian legislation.

For increased sustainability and impact, CENN started working on the development of knowledge material "Sustainable Pasture Management" which is aimed to be published in 2024.

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 (role of CENN: implementing partner)

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 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 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

Contribution 14: Local Development Strategies (LDSs) in Guria

CENN has started development of Local Development Strategies (LDSs) with the involvement of newly established LAGs in Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti, and Chokhatauri. For this purpose, a detailed territory analysis was prepared including a baseline survey, business and socio-economic assessment, tourism development assessment, human capital assessment, and spotlight report on affordable, accessible, and safe water and energy. Multiple consultations were held to obtain feedback for the studies that were developed for the territorial analysis of Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, and Lanchkhuti municipalities.

At the next stage, consultations were held with local communities in order to identify sectoral development directions. As a result, 7 priorities were identified, including tourism development; environmental protection; agriculture; social and economic development; youth, education, culture, and sports;

healthcare and social issues; good governance; and women empowerment. For each priority direction, SWOT analysis was conducted, based on which strategic areas for intervention were identified for the LDSs. The LDSs will be finalized in 2024.

Furthermore, CENN provided support to local product and service providers and DMOs, including a series of training for local tour guides and other nature tourism stakeholders on mushroom identification and mushroom hunting tours planning and management, and business development training for tourism service providers in the Kiskhevi area.

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.

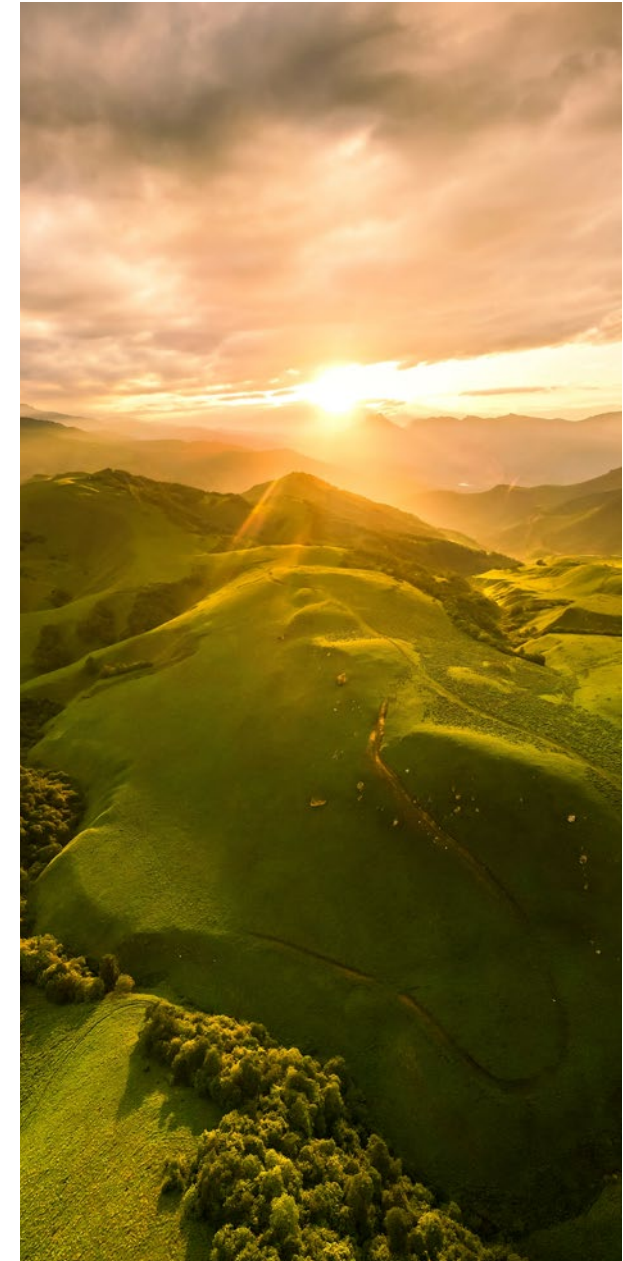
Funding	European Union (EU), ENPARD 4
Project	Green Guria: Supporting Local Democracy and Rural Development for Inclusive and Resilient Green Growth

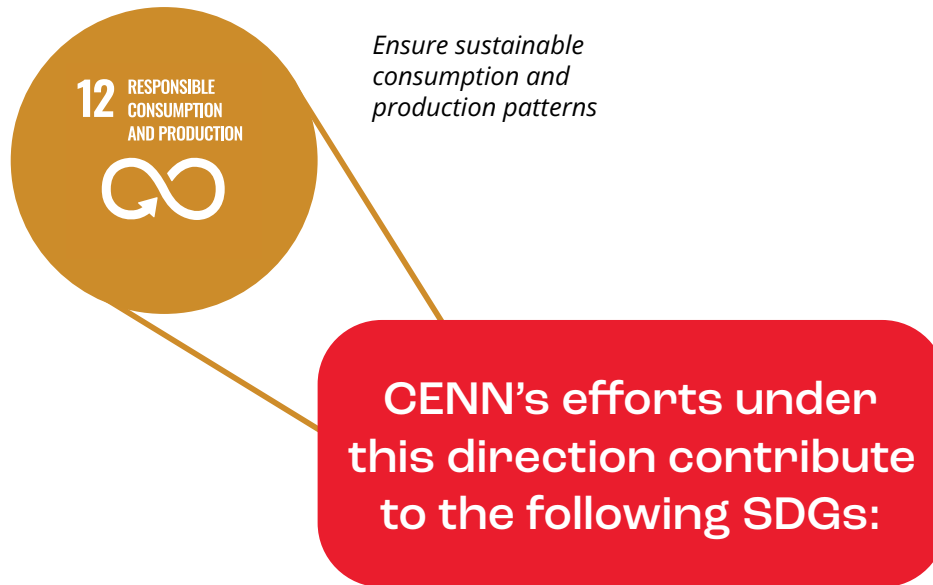
Economic Growth

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 capacity 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 2023, CENN was promoting circular economy and resource efficiency by implementing an innovative behaviour-centred project aimed at reducing single-use plastic (SUP) consumption in the offices as well as conducting a comprehensive awareness raising campaign on waste management.





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 in integrating 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

Contribution 15: Reducing Single-use Plastic Consumption in Offices

Upon successful completion of an innovative behaviour-centred project aimed at reducing single-use plastic (SUP) consumption implemented in 2022, CENN scaled up the initiative in 2023. As part of the scale-up project, CENN conducted a competition, accompanied by capacity-building activities targeting businesses and organizations.

Capacity building covered such topics as introduction to behaviour-centred design, waste audit, and green procurement, audience research and data analysis, intervention strategy and action plan design, and monitoring and evaluation. ProCredit Bank and BMG (Georgian TV media) were partners for the initiative, contributing with their expertise, experience, and platforms. The committee of judges to evaluate the activities consisted of international and national experts.

A total of 12 companies and organizations² signed up for the competition. Based on the evaluation scores, three winners were selected for the competition for significantly reducing consumption and procurement of single-use plastics: (1) National Democratic Institute (NDI); (2) Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace and (3) Georgian Farmers' Association. The key results achieved by winning entities include reduction of plastic bottle usage four times, reduction of plastic straws, reduction of water use, replacing SUP cutlery with wooden alternatives, and initiation of waste separation.

Leveraging the competition format to involve businesses, along with the inclusion of role model companies, proved highly effective in engaging a broader spectrum of companies and organizations. This format generated both social influence and tangible incentives, motivating companies to participate actively. The support of strong, notable partners further elevated the project's visibility and extended its reach to broader networks. Insights from the pilot project revealed substantial potential for further scaling up the initiative and CENN will continue to apply behaviour-centred design in its future initiatives.

² Smartly Ltd. (Bolt), Georgian Farmers' Association, U.S. Embassy in Georgia, the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Georgia, National Democratic Institute (NDI), Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace Hotel, Silk Hospitality (Radisson), APM Terminals, Sachkhere Youth Centre, Peace Corps, EFES Georgia and Green Geo

Funding	BE.Innovative, implemented by Rare as part of the PREVENT Waste Alliance initiative funded by the German Government through GIZ
Project	Beat Plastic Pollution - Reducing Single-use Plastic Consumption in Georgia

Contribution 16: Awareness Raising Campaign on Plastic Waste Management

In 2023, CENN conducted a comprehensive awareness raising campaign on plastic waste management, which included promotional videos, competition for journalists and business to business (B2B) networking event.

As part of the campaign, the journalists were provided with training on the legal framework of plastic management and existing practices in Georgia, after which they prepared concept notes on plastic reduction and recycling opportunities. The winning journalists were contracted to work on the media products on plastic waste.

The campaign included videos promoting plastic reduction opportunities on an individual level and showcasing success stories of plastic reduction in the private sector. Furthermore, the campaign also included a B2B networking event on plastic reduction opportunities and the recycling landscape. This event facilitated knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders involved in the circular economy sector via interactive sessions. The B2B event has brought together 85 stakeholders, including more than 20 private sector representatives. Among the attendees were representatives of the Georgian government, waste processing businesses, HORECA and other private sector, local and international organizations, and the media. Overall, the campaign had an active media and social media presence on waste management issues.



Funding	DAI/USAID Economic Security Program
Project	Empowering the Public for Circular Solutions in Georgia

Democracy and Good Governance

Democracy and Good Governance are vital for the South Caucasus region's further development towards the European path. CENN believes that democracy and good governance extend beyond the government, involving collaboration with various stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society, media, civic activists, etc. We acknowledge the importance of effective, transparent, and accountable public institutions and strive to strengthen democratic governance systems. With the partnership of international donors and organizations, we improve government capacities on the local, regional, and national levels, contribute to inclusive policymaking, and ensure the involvement of vulnerable, marginalized, and disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, minorities, IDPs, people with disabilities (PWDs), 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 2023 CENN has been working on **participatory and inclusive governance** by promoting participatory development of social services in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti, promoting multi-stakeholder platforms such as new Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Guria region and Multi-Stakeholder Working Group in Marneu-

li. **For human rights protection and civil society development**, CENN continues its efforts to strengthen civil society SDG Networks in the South Caucasus and increase the capacities of local CSOs from Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi, Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti Regions. Lastly, CENN has been supporting **gender equality and women empowerment** by deliberately focusing on girls and women, e.g. through the Girls' Empowerment Club in Marneuli.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



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



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Participatory and inclusive governance

Addressing existing challenges of sustainable development is impossible with the limited effort of any given sector alone. It requires a partnership between 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 as 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 16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels

Contribution 17: Participatory Development of Social Services in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe- Javakheti

CENN continued to stimulate partnerships among civil society and local authorities in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions for improved social service delivery at a local level. The goals of the partnerships are to (1) stimulate evidence-based multi-stakeholder dialogue enabling CSOs and LAs to understand and respond to the current needs for improved quality, availability, and sustainability of local social and community-based service delivery and (2) enable the inclusive social policy-making process.

In 2023, the CSO-LA working groups together with experts evaluated existing social services against 21 criteria based on the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and provided specific recommendations to each target municipality in Kvemo Kartli. As a result, 30 recommendations were taken into account by 6 municipalities. CSOs provided valu-

able input by bringing the voices of the vulnerable groups to the process and the municipalities took ownership of the services by incorporating the services in local budgets.

In addition, CENN worked with experts and CSO/LA groups to help design comprehensive, HRB social services that aim to put people out of vulnerable situations and promote their meaningful integration into society whilst having their rights protected. As a result, 5 municipalities have approved the new social services and have incorporated them into their budgets. These municipalities were: Dmanisi (Women's socio-economic empowerment program, which will be implemented through raising women's employment-entrepreneurial skills and awareness on gender-related issues), Gardabani (Elderly people socialization program), Bolnisi (A need-based youth socio-economic empowerment program), Tsalka (Facilitating the realization of economic and social rights of families where parents/caregivers take care are single parents or have children with disabilities), and Tetrtskaro (Promoting the early development of children).

CENN also provided capacity building of municipality representatives on monitoring and evaluation of social services and social service procurement. The trainings were requested by the municipality representatives and was part of the capacity needs assessment on applying the working principles of the Rights-Based Approach. The topics covered during trainings included the socio-economic environment in Georgia, main approaches of social policy, methodology and design of development of municipal social services, management of social services, social service effectiveness measurement and accountability, basics of monitoring and evaluation, etc.

Overall, these results have helped establish and strengthen community-led mechanisms that reinforce transparency and accountability of duty-bearers, promote participatory development and delivery of gender- and child-sensitive quality social services, and respond to the post-COVID needs of vulnerable groups in the Kvemo-Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions.



Funding	European Union
Project	Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region

SDG Target 16.7:

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

Contribution 18: Three New Local Action Groups (LAGs) are Established in Guria

In order to promote participatory bottoms-up mechanisms for sustainable rural and territorial development CENN established three new Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Guria, Ozurgeti, Lanchkhuti, and Chokhatauri. LAGs are comprised of private, public, and civic sectors and will become engaged in the rural and territorial development process following the EU's LEADER/CLLD approaches. As part of the process, CENN conducted a series of community mobilization activities bringing together local actors via community meetings, roundtable discussions, project presentations, and meetings with various interest groups and stakeholders. During the meetings the local communities were informed about the LEADER approach, a European model for rural development, and the opportunities to become engaged in the project activities, including becoming members of the Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti Local Action Groups (LAGs).

Upon creation, each LAG was provided with organizational development training covering topics such as legal, institutional, and financial governance and management; project cycle and grant management and fundraising, advocacy and lobbying; public outreach and Public-Private Partnership, facilitation, and negotiations. In addition, LAG members were given thematic trainings on topics such as sustainable natural resources management, climate-smart and sustainable agricultural practices, food safety and production standards, and waste management. CENN will continue institutional strengthening of LAGs as they are given an increasing role in developing and implementing Local Development Strategies (LDS) in each municipality.

Funding

European Union (EU), ENPARD 4

Project

Green Guria: Supporting Local Democracy and Rural Development for Inclusive and Resilient Green Growth



Contribution 19: Multi-Stakeholder Working Group in Marneuli

The Multi-Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG) continued operating to strengthen more inclusive, integrated, and participatory development of Marneuli municipality. MSWG was established to promote economic opportunities and social inclusion of local stakeholders. MSWG has 18 members mostly from the civil society sector, up to half from ethnic minorities, and with the majority of women. MSWG operates in three main ways” (1) facilitates a multi-stakeholder process to identify common actions and promote the implementation of climate-resilient agriculture in Marneuli municipality. This includes discussions on local challenges and issues related to agriculture and environmental sustainability and advocating for solutions with local government; (2) strengthens networking and relationships between local actors as a foundation for collaboration; and (3) provides communications and knowledge sharing on climate change, climate-resilient agricultural practices, and environmental issues among the local population.

In 2023, six meetings of MSWG were held to evaluate implemented advocacy activities and plan the next steps. Special attention was paid to institutional development of MSWG, including division of roles and responsibilities, admitting new members, electing a new chairperson and deputies of committees, redistributing members into committees, etc. During the year the members of the MSWG participated in the public overviews of the draft budget documents for the Marneuli municipality, covering the 2024 year and the 2024-2027 period. The MSWG presented its vision and recommendations with a focus on creating a municipal action plan to address the issue of polluted irrigation channels, enhancing the City Hall’s involvement in environmental initiatives (organising clean-up and tree-planting activities, as well as conducting awareness-raising campaigns), promoting a more active multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership to foster agriculture development throughout the Marneuli municipality. This case can be signified as a progress of the project’s dialogue platform (the MSWG) in advancing participation in the decision-making process at the local level.



Funding

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

Human rights protection and civil society development

Previous experiences demonstrate the importance of developing a strong local civil society capable to participate in policy development and advocate for human rights 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

Contribution 20: Strengthening Civil Society SDG Networks in the South Caucasus

CENN in partnership with German NGO Forum on Environment and Development worked on strengthening civil society SDG Networks in the South Caucasus. The goal of the project was to strengthen the development of civil society networks in the South Caucasus and to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of the participants on the topics of SDG monitoring, SDG networking, and SDG advocacy. The

participants in the project were civil society representatives from the countries of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. As a result, overall, 25 civil society representatives throughout the South Caucasus established linkages and raised their understanding of SDG monitoring and advocacy with the special emphasis on the processes of Voluntary National Review (VNR).

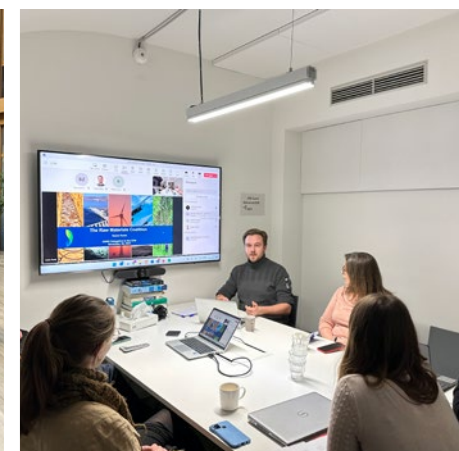
During the capacity-building events, special focus was given to the understanding of SDG advocacy mechanisms. The focus was also on UN Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which the countries of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan will

present to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2024.

A central event of the project was the three-day SDG conference held in Tbilisi, which focused on how SDG monitoring and network building can support effective advocacy work. The conference had two main objectives: firstly, to strengthen the development of civil society SDG networks in the South Caucasus through networking opportunities. Secondly, it was an opportunity for the participants to mobilize around their activities in connection with VNR 2024. The conference provided an opportunity to learn from various experts including from SDG Watch Europe and

the international network Action 4 Sustainable Development.

In addition, a study tour was organized for CENN staff to Germany, Belgium and France with the thematic focus was on the topic of “building civil society SDG networks”. During the five-day trip, the participants met thirteen organizations/stakeholders who are committed to an ambitious implementation of the SDGs in the EU and at national level, including European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Focus 2030, European Youth Forum, German SDG Alliance „Netzwerk Agenda 2030” and EU-wide cross-sectoral network of civil society organizations SDG Watch Europe (SDGWE).



Funding

German Federal Foreign Office

Project

Strengthening Civil Society SDG Networks in the South Caucasus (role of CENN: implementing partner)

SDG Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Contribution 21: Study Tour in Brussels for local CSO representatives

As part of the initiative to support the development of local CSOs and connect them with international climate activism, in 2023 CENN organized a study tour to Brussels hosted by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). The study tour gathered fourteen representatives of civil society organisations and members of regional multi-stakeholder platforms called Climate Action Groups (CAGs) from the four focal regions: Guria, Imereti, Kakheti, and Racha-Lechkhumi. The tour aimed to showcase the European policy-making practices to the Georgian local civil society organisations.

The EEB, which is a network of around 180 environmental citizens' organizations based in more than 40 countries, offered a comprehensive program that combined informative presentations, networking opportunities, and practical engagements with policymakers and experts in environmental sustainability. Participants were provided with a diverse range of topics and activities aimed at fostering collaboration and understanding in the realm of environmental policy and advocacy.

The study tour included presentations on the structure and political landscape of the EEB, a visit to the European Parliament Hemicycle and Parliamentarium, thematic sessions on agriculture, climate, renewables, environmental justice, economic transition, citizen engagement, and communications strategies, featuring presentations from various experts and organizations. The tour also included sessions on coalition building and legislative updates. Overall, the study visit provided participants with an opportunity to engage with the EU policy landscape, fostering a deep understanding of environmental issues. Beyond the discussions and practical engagements with policymakers, the event also facilitated networking and the establishment of new contacts on both international and regional levels. Attendees had a chance to build connections within the environmental advocacy community, contributing to a broader exchange of ideas and collaborative efforts.



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

Contribution 22: Capacity Development Program for Local CSOs in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti Regions

In 2023, CENN continued implementation of the tailored capacity development program with Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA), aimed at strengthening local CSOs in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. The goal is to enhance the capacities of local CSOs, youth, and women groups to advocate effectively for access to gender and child-sensitive social services (with a specific focus on human rights to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health) and promote meaningful and inclusive participation for green and resilient post-COVID recovery in the Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. 10 CSOs (7 in Kvemo Kartli and 3 in Samtskhe-Javakheti) participated in the program, which were selected through an open call and competitive process, based on such criteria as their capacity, motivation to work on participatory democracy practices and social service development in Georgia.

In 2023 CENN provided trainings for the CSO on their needs assessment prepared the previous year. The trainings covered such topics as proposal writing, project management cycle, civic participation in the decision-making process of the local governments, advocacy and working with vulnera-

ble groups. In addition, as part of the overall goal to increase the capacities of local CSOs and local self-government authorities, CENN with the partnership of Caritas Czech Republic also organized a study tour to the Czech Republic. During the study tour, the participants visited Prague City Hall, town halls, social houses, non-profit organizations, and other institutions in smaller regional and district towns where they learned about their activities as well as the overall legal framework. The visited institutions work on such social issues as mothers and children in need, homeless people, care services for older people, integrating ex-prisoners back into society, people with disabilities, etc. In total, 15 people representing CSOs and Local Authorities participated in the study exchange. In 2024 twinning activities will be organized as a follow up of the tour.

Furthermore, as part of the capacity development, the target CSOs were provided with financial support for implementation of local projects. In 2023 four projects were implemented on such issues as promoting access to drinking water for IDPs living in Koda (Tetritskaro municipality), reflecting the improvement works of the stadium of the village of Disveli in the municipal budget of 2024 (Bolnisi municipality) and awareness raising of local stakeholders about waste management and in cooperation with local municipalities, adding waste collection bins in Martkopi and Tsalka municipalities.



Funding	European Union
Project	Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region

Contribution 23: Civic Participation Program for young adults in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti

CENN continued implementation of Civic Participation Program for young adults (18-30) in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. The programme aims to support the youth to overcome socio-economic issues in their communities and increase their civic participation. The Civic Participation Programme consists of four components: Civic Education Camp, Training, Mentoring, and Implementation of campaigns.

25 participants were selected for the second stream of the program to participate in the 5-day long Civic Education Camp. The camp included guest speakers on various civic participation topics, as well as meetings with activists and authors of local initiatives. The camp covered topics such as Human Rights, Civic memory and the challenges of Russian propaganda, Media – functions, forms and its role in the democratic development of the government, Protecting the rights of ethnic minorities, etc. The participants also met with the local activists and authors of local community initiatives. During the second half of the camp, participants were divided into groups and worked on individual project proposals. In total, 5 projects were drafted, out of which four were selected for financial support.

Following the civic education camp, the participants were offered a series of trainings and mentoring to assist the groups in finalizing their projects. The trainings were conducted on the following topics: Developing advocacy cam-

paigns, Project Writing and Project Cycle Management, Communications, and Media Relations.

The following campaigns were selected for support: (1) “We Care”, a project designed by four young adults from Samtskhe-Javakheti which aims to increase awareness about inclusive education for rural residents in Ninotsminda municipality; (2) “Let’s employ women”, a project designed by three young adults from Samtskhe-Javakheti with the goal to increase awareness about career development among rural women in Aspindza and Akhaltsikhe municipalities; (3) “Young people for a better future”, the campaign comprised of six young adults from Bolnisi municipality to increase the integration between the ethnically Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani youth and (4) “Young people for a better future”, the project on spreading information about educational programs outside of school among ethnic minority youth in Shulaveri village and Lezhbadin village, and raise awareness of gender and cultural stereotypes.

In addition, the campaigns from the first stream of the Civic Participation Program were also finalized in 2023. The implemented campaigns covered such topics as positive parenting methods and better access to information for members of the Azerbaijani-speaking community, civic engagement and its importance in the process of community development, participation of young people in public life at the local level, gender stereotypes, waste management, and green entrepreneurship, setting up libraries and reading clubs in the villages, discussion on bullying, early marriage, and human rights, etc.



Funding

European Union

Project

Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region

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's 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 supports 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

Contribution 24: Marneuli Girls' Club Unites Active Girls

CENN continued supporting the Girls' Empowerment Club in Marneuli, which unites up to twenty local girls, around half from ethnic minorities living in various villages of Marneuli. In 2023 the focus was on promoting a better understanding of the aim and mission of the Girls' Club among members, supporting ownership and commitment building, establishing interconnections among members to foster collective actions, providing awareness raising of members on economic, social, and environmental dimensions of agriculture, and climate change implications on the agricultural sector and initiating small-scale community actions focusing on civil activism, and youth engagement in local development processes.

Throughout the year the club has organized 7 open discussions, meetings with 4 successful women, and 3 film screenings. The main topics of the activities were the need to promote civil activism and youth engagement in community work for the well-being of their communities, the importance of European Integration for Georgia, and the role of civil activism in the process of integration, waste management, and youth eco-activism. Among other activities, in order to celebrate World Environmental Day on June 5, the club organized a clean-up event in Tsereteli village, followed by an open discussion on the negative economic, social, and environmental consequences of pollution and possible actions young people can take.

Funding

HEKS-EPER

Project

PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality

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 promoting sustainable and inclusive growth of societies.

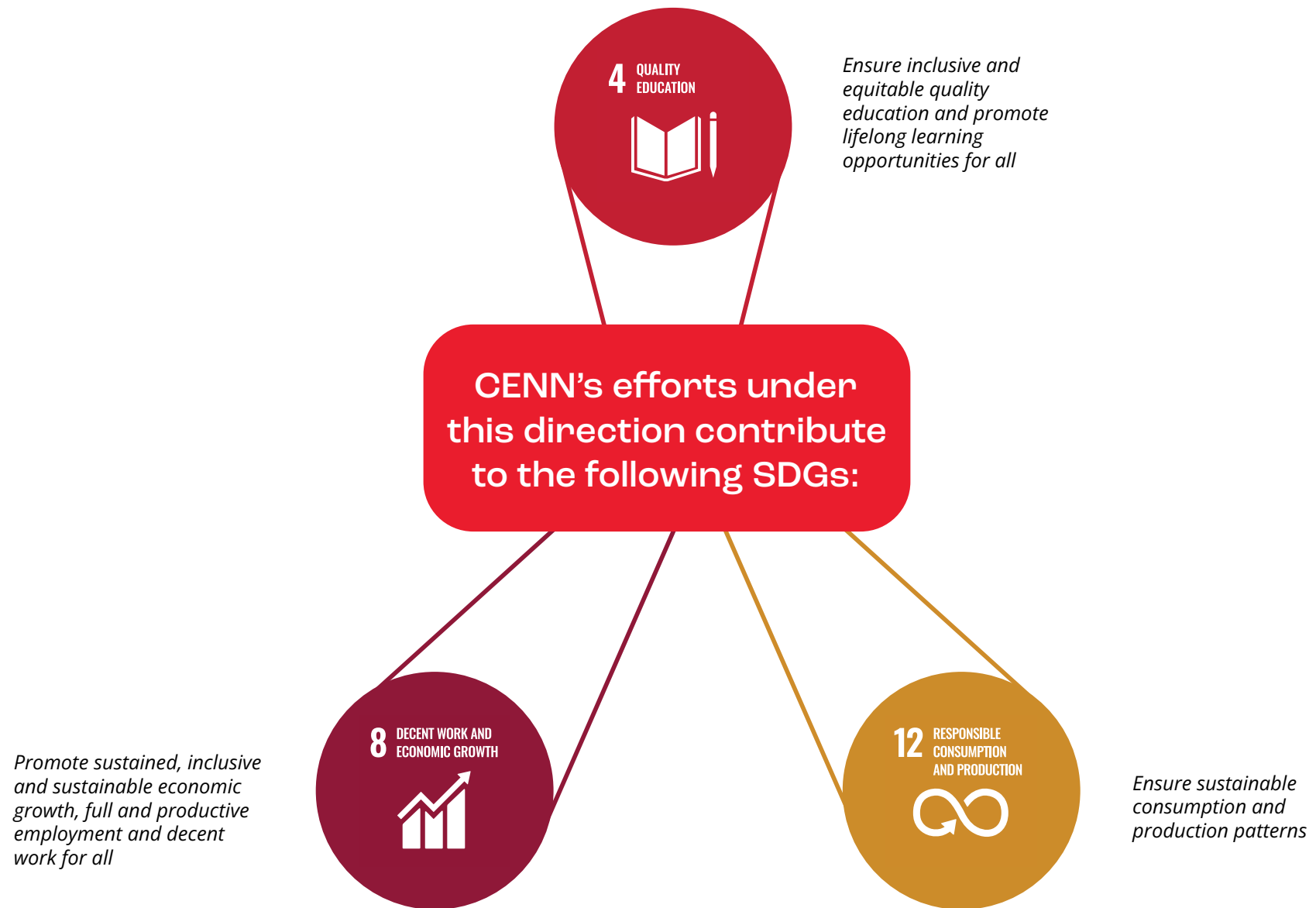
CENN has mainstreamed youth inclusive formal and non-formal education in its various programs and projects in the region, as we recognize the importance of the role of educated youth in shaping an environmentally conscious and responsible society. CENN offers numerous opportunities for adolescents and youth for self-expression and growth as well as leadership toward sustainable development. We partner with central and local government representatives, educational institutions, namely, schools, universities, VET centres, 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 2023 CENN continued **strengthening education systems** by organizing the Annual SDG-themed Niko Ketskhoveli Award for Schools, promoting youth activism, and providing participants with valuable skills such as observation, data collection, analysis and research, as well as empowering school teachers and students in the disadvantaged rural areas. In terms of **human capital development**, **CENN remains active in organizing diversity of** awareness-raising initiatives included media cam-

paigns, tree planting activities, open-air exhibitions, competitions, clean-ups, study tours, movie screenings, trainings, and workshops, etc. Finally, under **youth development, entrepreneurship, and leadership**, CENN's focus lies in increasing employability skills among youth and providing various opportunities for non-formal education on such diverse topics as sustainable development, rural development, environmental protection, climate action, entrepreneurship and innovations, human rights, science and technology, waste management, circular economy, WASH, active citizenship, etc.





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 centres, 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 innovative 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

Contribution 25: Annual SDG-themed Niko Ketskhoveli Award for Schools

Since 2014, CENN has 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, Ministry of Education and Science, Tbilisi Zoo Education and Research Centre, and FAO Georgia.

In 2023, out of more than 500 participating schools, 3 winners of the Niko Ketskhoveli Youth Award were: Marneuli Public School #2 (1st place); Gori Public School #9 (2nd place), and Letsitskhvaie Village Public School (3rd place). CENN awarded schools with technical equipment for the school community projects. Furthermore, competition partners announced their chosen eco-clubs and awarded them with special prizes, including book vouchers from the Ministry of Education and Science, a chance to be Ministers for a day in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, and other prizes from more than 10 private and state partners of the competition.

Funding

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

Project

GREEN Caucasus - Enhancing Green Rural Economy and Energy in Georgia

Contribution 26: Empowering School Teachers and Students as Community Leaders

CENN implemented a project aimed at empowering school teachers and students in the disadvantaged rural areas. The project was implemented in six target municipalities Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions. The municipalities were selected as they are conflict-affected, representing ethnic and religious minorities and living in a multiethnic, disadvantaged, isolated, and marginalized environment.

The initiative had two main directions and addressed the needs of teachers as well as local school students. As part of Teachers Civic Engagement Program, 36 teachers from 6 municipalities participated in the comprehensive “learning by doing” program. The teachers were provided with tailor-made trainings on topics such as advocacy, democracy and good governance, civic participation, project proposal writing, sustainable development, and community-based actions. In addition, teachers participated in teachers’ camp, where they had sessions covering the design of school activities, and various methods for effectively involving children, and dedicated two days to immersive project proposal writing sessions. Working collaboratively in groups, they navigated through the process, initiating with problem analysis and concluding the camp with comprehensive project proposals, complete with budgets and logical frameworks. As a result, six teacher-led initiatives have been successfully carried out in the targeted municipalities. These projects involved 604 participants, including teachers from various schools and local youth. The projects covered diverse topics, such as environmental challenges at both global

and local levels, democracy, participation, and issues related to the engagement of ethnic minorities, children’s rights, and youth issues related to different drugs.

In addition, 10 month-long Youth Leadership Program was implemented to give 36 school students the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to effectively engage in student-led peacebuilding. As part of the program the participants were trained on how to conduct community needs assessments, and eventually developed project proposals based on the findings of the community assessment and addressed a variety of issues such as environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and civic engagement. The school students were also provided with training in project writing and implementation, sustainable development, campaign planning, and forestry. Like teachers, school students were also given the opportunity of intense mentoring to further develop their community initiatives. As a result, six projects, led by young people, were implemented, involving over 600 youth from both their own villages and beyond. The youth initiative groups organized various activities aimed at empowering and raising awareness among the locals on the following issues: waste management and circular economy, education and youth exchange through the creation of youth spaces, tourism as a means of accessing decent work, significance, and importance of active living among youth, computer literacy, English language proficiency and Gender-related issues and underage marriage.

Overall, the project benefitted 54 schools and more than 1,200 teachers and school students representing ethnic and religious minorities. As part of the project, 12 community-led initiatives were implemented by students and teachers addressing such topics as sustainable development, underage marriage, democracy, youth participation, computer literacy, climate change, quality ed-

ucation, etc. The project contributes to promoting peace and reconciliation, civic engagement, and social inclusion between ethnic and religious minorities, and communities along the administrative borderline by empowering teachers and students as community leaders.



Funding	U.S. Embassy in Georgia, Vulnerable Communities Engagement Program
Project	EduLinks – Creating Linkages through Education - Phase 2

Human capital development

We believe that human capital is a cornerstone for green growth, innovation, and sustainable development. Equipped with modern knowledge, skills, and jobs, human resources stand to be the most important driver of economic growth and a sustainable pathway 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, women entrepreneurs, social and green start-uppers, private sector representatives, and many more. To achieve this goal, CENN offers 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 2023, the awareness-raising initiatives included media campaigns, clean-up activities, competitions, clean-ups, study tours, movie screenings, trainings, and workshops, etc.

The environmental days that were marked by CENN activities included Earth Day, World Environment Day, World Clean-up Day etc.

These are some of the highlights from the year:

- In 2023, CENN launched a year-long campaign for promoting SDG advocacy. [A special calendar for SDG Advocacy](#) was developed and various awareness raising content was created and shared throughout the year, including videos, factsheets and infographics. The informational videos covered the topics of [need for SDGs](#), [quality education](#), [zero hunger](#), [good health and wellbeing](#) and [gender equality](#). Furthermore, as part of the campaign CENN showcased inspiring stories from local actors in Georgia – SDG Heroes, who contribute to implementation of SDGs. The SDG Heroes selected for the campaign included [Gvantsa Molashvili](#), Civil Activist from Telavi (SDG 1, SDG 2), [Mariam Gomidze](#), an Architect from Batumi (SDG 9, SDG 11), [Eduard Partsvania](#), working on inclusive education, employability and innovation (SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 9), [Tatia Topadze](#), contributing to sustainable energy, climate change and inclusive society (SDG 7, SDG 13, SDG 16) and [Pavle Tvaliashvili](#), underlying role of civil society in SDGs and priority areas for Rustavi (SDG 16, SDG 17).
- In 2023 CENN collaborated with local media outlets, namely Marneuli TV and Radio Marneuli to conduct a media campaign addressing the issue of polluted irrigation channels. The campaign's primary objective was to identify local institutions/agencies responsible for cleaning up irrigation channels and raise awareness among communities and individuals about which bodies to contact for channels' clean-up. To achieve this, developed media products featured ho-

tlines of the city hall and Sakrebulo of Marneuli municipality, and Georgian Amelioration. The Media campaign reached over 1,500 individuals. According to the representative of the city hall's statistics office, there has been a significant increase in farmers' calls to the hotlines, demanding for the clean-up of channels compared to the figures from 2022.

- On June 5, 2023, CENN hosted an event dedicated to World Environment Day and CENN's 25th anniversary, in which diplomatic missions, international development organizations, government agencies, local civil society organizations and the business sector participated. As part of World Environment Day celebrations, representatives from key embassies in Georgia active in environmental protection provided opening remarks to present their objectives and plans to advance environmental issues in Georgia. The session highlighted the role of different countries and their organizations in supporting Georgia's environmental agenda and advancing SDGs. It offered insights into the strategies and initiatives that various stakeholders in the environmental sector pursue. The session also provided an opportunity for guests to learn about potential areas of collaboration.



- CENN led the Schools Campaign with support from Energy Cities. The campaign started in March 2023 and aimed at raising awareness and changing behaviour among students and teachers about energy efficiency. As part of the campaign, training on energy efficiency and renewable energy for students and teachers was organised, audits to improve energy and water performance were conducted, and a 3-month campaign was planned to reduce energy and water consumption in schools with local and international experts. 10 Tbilisi schools were involved in the campaign, covering more than 150 students and 15 teachers. After the end of the

campaign, all students and teachers were awarded participation certificates, and 3 schools with the best campaign cash vouchers. The objectives of the campaign were to (1) Enhance awareness of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, (2) Increase awareness and broaden the understanding and knowledge of the public about Energy Efficiency in Georgia and the Georgian Energy Sector reforms, (3) Promote EU Energy Policies, and (4) Advertise project campaigns, events, and competitions.



- CENN in cooperation with Ilia State University implemented the students' competition on climate change. The purpose of the competition was to raise awareness of climate change issues in the field of academia and to encourage scientific orientation among students. The articles created by the participants covered the consequences and risks caused by climate change in Georgia and were based on conducted desk research, review, and analysis of recent articles on the topic of climate change. On June 5, 2023, on World Environment Day and CENN's 25th anniversary, the winners were awarded:
 - In 1st place was Mariam Kiladze, from Ilia State University, with the topic "Biochar and climate agriculture in Georgia". She was awarded 1,500 GEL.
 - 2nd place went to Tea Imnadze, from the Agricultural University, with the topic "Climate change affects grape and wine plants and intelligent viticulture." She was awarded 1,200 GEL.
 - 3rd place went to Maka Papashvili, from the National University of Georgia, with the theme "Agriculture resistant to climate change and its development in Georgia," was awarded 1,000 GEL.

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 are 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 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

Contribution 27: Empowering Young Professionals in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti Regions

In 2023, CENN launched the Young Professionals Program in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions. As part of the program, 10 motivated young people underwent a one-month fellowship in 9 organizations (HEKS-Eper, CSI, PMCG, CENN, Caritas, CSRDG, CTC, ISFED, and IRI) in Tbilisi. Participants acquired valuable experience in teamwork, familiarization with organizational workflows, active involvement in project implementation, and event coordination. Complementing this practical exposure, a team-building workshop and project writing training were conducted, equipping program participants with essential knowledge and skills to participate in the grant competition announced for YPP program participants.



Funding

European Union

Project

Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region

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

Contribution 28: 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, climate-resilient agriculture, food systems, food loss, food waste 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 wild nature and are given a chance to apply this knowledge in practice while going on a field trip. In 2023, CENN conducted 5 camps in Georgia and Armenia, benefitting more than 100 participants, including thematic camps for women and youth. As a result of Climate Change Thematic Camp for Women and Youth, participants implemented their initiatives aimed at raising awareness about sustainable use of water resources, climate-smart agriculture practices, sustainable waste management, energy efficiency etc.

**Funding**

European Union; HEKS-EPER; Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

Project

Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation; PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality; Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region; GREEN Caucasus - Enhancing Green Rural Economy and Energy in Georgia

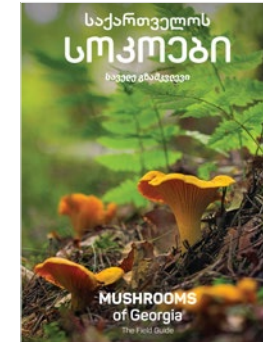
Knowledge Materials



[Green Guria / Rural Development](#)



[Field Guide - Plants of Georgia](#)



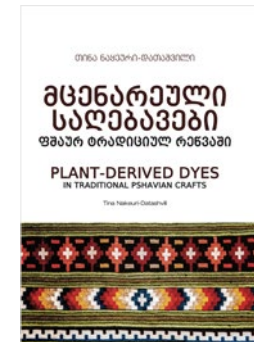
[Field Guide - Mushroom of Georgia](#)



[Analysis of the context of social services in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli using the human rights-based method](#)



[Basic research of existing social services in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli](#)



[Plant-derived Dyes in Traditional Pshavian Crafts](#)

Annex: Projects implemented in 2023

Donor	Project Title
Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)	GREEN Caucasus - Enhancing Green Rural Economy and Energy in Georgia
BE.Innovative, implemented by Rare as part of the PREVENT Waste Alliance initiative funded by the German Government through GIZ	Beat Plastic Pollution – Reducing Single-use Plastic Consumption in Georgia
DAI/United States Agency for International Development (US-AID) Economic Security Program	Empowering the Public for Circular Solutions in Georgia
European Union (EU)	Georgia Climate Action Project (GEO-CAP): Promoting Civil Society Engagement in Climate Change Policy Design and Implementation
European Union (EU), ENPARD 4	Green Guria: Supporting Local Democracy and Rural Development for Inclusive and Resilient Green Growth
European Union (EU)	Empowering CSOs to Promote Inclusive and Green Post-COVID Recovery in Multi-ethnic Kvemo Kartli Region
European Union and KfW development bank	Technical Assistance Project in Support of the Georgian Energy Sector Reform Programme (GESRP), implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in partnership with the German independent energy consulting company GOPA intec. (role of CENN: implementing partner)
European Union's (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) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands (role of CENN: implementing partner)
German Federal Foreign Office, implemented in partnership with German organization Forum Environment and Development	Strengthening Civil Society SDG Networks in the South Caucasus (role of CENN: implementing partner)

German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Support of Public Participation in Forest Management Within the project “Enabling Implementation of Forest Sector Reform in Georgia (ECO Georgia)”
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Development of cost-effective and sustainable timber management to increase the National Forestry Agency resources and finance forest conservation
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 (Swiss Church Aid)	PRAISE Marneuli: Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Multi-ethnic Marneuli Municipality
U.S. Embassy in Georgia, Vulnerable Communities Engagement Program	EduLinks – Creating Linkages through Education - Phase 2

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