

Association Green Alternative

Association Green Alternative was registered in 2000. As the membership organization Green Alternative includes 19 active members nowadays and ten staff person. The organization was formed from the group of leading campaigners of Friends of the Earth Georgia and accordingly activities carrying out by organization are continuation of previous work.

The group tries to become one of the leading pressure group in Georgia, using expertise and experience of members, through research and lobby for action to be taken at all levels of society, from grassroots to government and even international. Integrated approach for solution of Environmental, Social and Economic problems is essential for us.

Mission Statement

The mission of Association Green Alternative is to create framework for economically viable and socially desirable alternatives to protect environment; to protect Georgia's unique biological and cultural heritage; and to advocate for social justice and public participation in decision-making.

It pursues this mission through the public awareness raising campaigns, resistance to environmentally and socially destructive programs and project, promotion of the principles of equity and justice in society and support to local industry and community development. Association tries to increase public participation in decision-making process through the capacity-building of local NGOs and grassroots, help in "know how" transfer and developing easily replicable visible pilot projects benefiting local peoples.

Association Green Alternative

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This project is implemented by Association Green Alternative. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union



European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

The principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law form are a cornerstone of the European Union. The "European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights" (EIDHR) was created in 1994 following an initiative of the European Parliament. The EIDHR is a funding programme that supports and promotes human rights and democracy in non-EU countries around the world. €100m are allocated annually under this budget-line.

In these fields, as well as in conflict prevention, it is an essential complement to the objectives of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. This programme is managed by the European Commission.

Georgia is one of 29 focus countries for the EIDHR.

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Development of Local Capacity for Prevention of Illegal Logging in Georgia



A project is implemented by Association Green Alternative

Development of Local Capacity for Prevention of Illegal Logging in Georgia

Since February 2005 association Green Alternative with financial support of the European Union is implementing project for "Development of Local Capacity for Prevention of Illegal Logging in Georgia".

The long-term objective of the project is to prevent illegal logging in Georgia.

Project Goals:

- ♣ Development of local stakeholders' capacity to prevent corruption and illegal logging in the forestry sector of Georgia;
- ♣ Increase public participation and transparency in decision-making processes in the forests management;
- ♣ Promote the transformation of existing forest management practices and the forest industry to sustainable forestry;

Project location: Samtskhe-Javakheti (including Borjomi and Akhalsikhe regions), Kolikheti lowland (including Kolikheti National Park), Racha (Oni region).

Illegal and corrupt activities in the forest sector are believed to be common in both developing and industrialized nations and can include the entire industry from wood harvesting and transport, to industrial processing and trade. Also Corruption can be spread at various levels, from the issuance of permits and concessions to the local law enforcement level.

Considering above-mentioned, the project activities are focused in two directions:

1. Creation of Independent Forest Monitoring Network of Georgia - this includes public awareness raising on illegal activities in forestry sector of Georgia and their negative social and economic impacts; community mobilization; training (theoretical and practical) on different methods of monitoring; publication of citizen's guide, etc.

2. Legislation review and preparation of recommendations to ensure transparency and prevent corruption and illegal activities in forestry sector of Georgia. This activity includes review of existing forestry-related policies, laws, regulations,

international treaties and law enforcement techniques to assess their ability to fight corruption and illegal activities. This review will also identify opportunities to participate in and influence the decision-making process. On the bases of the review appropriate recommendations for creation of legislative framework for prevention of illegal logging and corruption in forestry sector will be submitted to the Georgian government.

Also special Report reflecting cases of violations, corrupt agreements and illegal activities revealed during the project implementation will be prepared and widely distributed.

Following methods of independent monitoring will be used during the project implementation:

1. Legislation review:
 - ♣ Environmental legislation (national legislation, international agreements and conventions);
 - ♣ Law enforcement legislation;
 - ♣ Tax Code, Custom's Code, etc;
 - ♣ Sector's Institutional arrangement;
 - ♣ Permits and licenses related legislation;
2. Paper audits:
 - ♣ Assessment of licences' issue procedures against legislation requirements;
 - ♣ Assessment of payments of fees against legislation requirements;
 - ♣ Collection of official documentation about cases violations;
 - ♣ Information gathering about legal procedures followed during the registered violations and etc.
3. Field investigations:
 - ♣ Detect illegal logging cases;
 - ♣ Reveal violations related to sawmills;
 - ♣ Record cases of log illegal transportation (within the country movements, transit);
 - ♣ Reveal illegal timber storage facilities, and etc.
4. Trade and Production Data analysis:
 - ♣ Monitoring of import and export trade data;
 - ♣ Monitoring production and consumption data
5. Journalistic investigation.

Each of these methods could be used separately, but simultaneous use makes independent monitoring process more effective.

Project target groups: Local communities, NGOs, CBOs, local activists, loggers, sawmills' workers and owners, local

authorities, law enforcement structures, entrepreneurs, representatives of different governmental structures, etc.

Independent Monitoring Network of Georgia

Independent monitors play an important role in helping to increase transparency in the forest sector and improve decision making. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) frequently fulfill this role given their independent nature. There are a number of specific activities that "independent monitors" can undertake, from larger policy and legislative assessments, to operational field investigations.

Independent Monitoring Network of Georgia is an informal working group consisting of representatives of NGOs, research institutions, private individuals and consulting companies aiming to improve forestry governance by increasing transparency, preventing corruption and illegal forests logging, and promotion of sustainable forest use. This network wishes to prevent further deforestation and degradation of forest ecosystems and natural resources and violations of forest regulations and rules.

To achieve the above-mentioned goals, the Network will closely collaborate with Governmental structures, private sector, media representatives and local communities concerned with issues of corruption and illegal logging.

