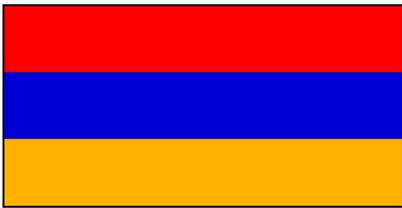




What was your best CEPA intervention in this triennium?

Susanna HAKOBYAN, CEPA NGO Focal Point, Armenia



Your Position/Role and Country:	Senior Scientific Researcher, Head of the Laboratory of Invertebrates, Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of the Scientific Center for zoology and Hydroecology / CEPA NGO Focal Point, Project Leader, Armenia
Title of your CEPA activity/product	Wetland Management Training Course for the Staff of Sevan National Park (Armenia) and Kolkheti National Park (Georgia) / 24 participants from Armenia (15) and Georgia (9) increased their knowledge and skill in different aspects of wetland management, including conservation and wise use.
Other collaborators – please identify other organizations that assisted you or were your partners	<i>in Armenia</i> – Ministry of Nature Protection; Sevan National Park; Dilijan National Park; WWF Armenian program office; fish-breeding JSC ‘Miavar’; <i>in Georgia</i> – Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources; Kolkheti National Park; Kobuleti Nature Reserve; WWF Caucasus program office; NGO ‘Tchaobi’
Key stakeholder group(s) targeted by your product/activity (e.g. decision-makers, teachers, families, journalists etc.)	protected area managers – 13; ministerial officers – 4; provincial administration officer -1; representatives of NGOs – 3; business sector (fish breeders) – 2; representative of scientific institution - 1
What was your key message?	Armenian and Georgian wetland managers should closely cooperate since the unique region called Caucasus is their common home.
When did this event take place/when was your product launched?	Project started in October 2006 and closed in December 2009. The exchange tour of Armenian colleagues to Kolkheti National Park (Georgia) was held in June 2009. The exchange tour of Georgian counterparts in Sevan National Park (Armenia) was held in August-June 2009. The training course was held in Sevan (Armenia) in October 2009
Brief description of your product/ activity / material you used	Armenian and Georgian trainers, mentors, and participants worked and lived together during in very friendly atmosphere and comfortable conditions. The clear evidence that the cooperation is improved are exchange study tours of Armenian colleagues to Kolkheti National Park (Georgia) and of Georgian counterparts in Sevan National Park (Armenia)
What was your intended outcome from this product/activity? (e.g. change in behaviour of target group; volunteer help with a wetland project; newspaper article; fund-raising etc)	Increased knowledge on different aspects of wetland management and change in behaviour of target groups as they understood the challenges (not only environmental) is much easier to overcome together.
What kind of impact did this activity/product have on the target audience?	Participants learned how to: - apply selected monitoring techniques; - estimate the values and problems of ‘own’ wetland protected area; - value and estimate the role of given species, site and corridor in ‘own’ wetland protected area; - analyze the relationship between wetland protected areas, adjacent lands, and communities; - develop problem solving and decision making skills related to all stakeholders; - assess management objectives and translate them into practical measures; - prepare management plan for own wetland protected area.
Is there a follow-up activity/product planned, if yes briefly describe	Warm relationships established already 4 years ago continue to develop up till now. An evident examples is the joint organization of IMCG excursion through Georgian and Armenian wetlands in 2009 with participation of over 30 scientists from Europe, Asia, Australia and both Americas / product planned and already launched is joint comprehensive research in transboundary Javakhety Wetlands (Georgia) and Lake Arpi National Park / Ramsar Site launched in 2012.
Why do you identify this as your best CEPA intervention? What makes it stand out?	Warm relationships established and good perspectives for further cooperation
What was the source of your funding?	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)