

GENERAL PROJECT INFO	
Dataset ID	Best Practice16 REC Caucasus - Participatory Water Resource Management
Project title	"Participatory Water Resource Management"
Project acronym	'PWRM
Project centre	Black Sea Eco Academy
Associated programme	European Union through Oxfam Co-funding: Keda Municipality, Georgia
Begin date	01.07.2010
End date	01.03.2011
Ongoing	No
LOCATION	
Geographical coverage	Georgia, Adjara, Keda Municipality
Area Type	Rural
Sea-area	Black Sea
River Zone	Chorokhi-Adjaristskali
DESCRIPTIONS	
<i>Best Practice Summary</i>	<p>High-mountainous Adjara is constantly affected by natural recourses flooding, land-slide, avalanches, damaging buildings and making lands unusable for living and agricultural use. Also the village suffer from periodic drought and flash-fires in the summer months. In the dry season, crops often suffer from lack of water, damaging livelihoods and impacting upon nutrition. There is also a lack of readily accessible drinking water due to some village's remoteness and poor level of infrastructure.</p> <p>Yet the local budget does not provide for preventive measures of natural disasters and is only aimed at liquidation of the damaged property. Population has no affective, established tools to influence local government in terms of natural disasters. Case study focuses on small scale project prepared and implemented in one of the high-mountainous villages of Adjara – Kvashta.</p> <p>Following a community-led needs assessment and the participatory development of mitigation strategies, the villagers put forward plans for the rehabilitation of an existing reservoir, and the establishment of two new ones.</p> <p>Kvashta lobbyist, newly elected in the framework of the Black Sea Eco Academy (Georgian partner NGO) and OXFAM GB implemented project actively advocated the project budget with the local government securing co-financing. The negotiations were successful and the municipality agreed to fund and</p>

maintain the reservoirs.

The village of Kvachta is located in Keda municipality, in the mountains of Georgia's Autonomous Republic of Adjara, on the Black Sea Coast. Despite recent development of tourist infrastructure in the region's capital Batumi, the population remain almost entirely dependent on livestock and the cultivation of a small number of crops: Maize, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumber and beans.

Facilitated by the Black Sea Academy, the community formed a Village Emergency Group, led by Vardo Beridze which performed a participatory needs assessment to identify the key risk factors in the village. Following the assessment, they drew up plans for a series of reservoirs across the large, but sparsely-populated village.

The resources available in the village and through Oxfam were sufficient to provide only one reservoir, so the lobbyist Irakli Jakeli registered as a lobbyist for Kvashta Village, negotiated co-financing for the efficient implementation of the project with the local Government.

The Keda *Gamgebeli*, Irakli Baramidze and Chairman of Sakrebulo, Badri Diasamidze, passionate advocates for disaster risk reduction in the region, visited the site and consulting with the villagers, happily agreed to allocate municipality funds to the project.

The *Local Government* understanding of the importance of risk reduction, and it's participation in wider disaster-related activities were certainly an important factor in this case. It is also possible that for the *Gamgebeli* being new in his post, the project was a good opportunity to prove his commitment to his constituents.

The activities were resulted in:

- The reservoirs have been completed, giving the village access to water for irrigation and fire-fighting in the dry season. The reservoirs were constructed by expert contractors, using funds from the municipality and Oxfam, and in kind support from the village. The reservoirs are now operational and provide water to land across the locality. Irrigation will boost production of the village's staple crops, even during drought, securing and strengthening the livelihoods of the local population.

- Improved access to water has brought improved health and hygiene to the village, with readily available water for washing and cleaning. It has also met a critical need for drinking water

	<p>for animals in the dry season.</p> <p>- Having water readily accessible also reduces the risk of fires. One reservoir was constructed in the vicinity of a new, wooden school to protect the building and the pupils and teachers inside.</p> <p>A sustainability plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of the community and local government with regard to maintenance has been drawn up, formally transferring ownership of the project to the village.</p> <p>The community will monitor the reservoirs to ensure their proper use. Maintenance of the reservoirs will be carried out by the local municipality to ensure the sustainability of the infrastructure.</p>
Keywords	<i>Water resource management, community involvement, agricultural development, reservoir, nature protection.</i>
Data theme	<i>Water related issues: management, conservation and protection; Nature-related issues: disaster risk reduction;</i>
CENTRE- INFORMATION	
Project centre	<i>Black Sea Eco Academy</i>
Role of research centre	<i>Ensure successful implementation of the project</i>
Other partners and countries	<i>Oxfam GB</i>
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ADMINISTRATION	
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