



Sustainable Development Centre REMISSIA

**Annual Report
2015**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

Sustainable Development Centre - Remissia aims at supporting the government agencies and other key stakeholders in preparation of sustainable development strategies and action plans at national and local levels. It also aims at supporting the transfer of knowledge, methodologies and the state-of-the-art technologies for sustainable management of the processes undertaken in the sectors of energy, environment protection and natural resources management, economy and so on. Strengthening the national and local capacities is among Remissia's strategic objectives as well.

The main approach of Remissia while performing its mission is to focus its efforts on those sectors, ecosystems and regions that are particularly vulnerable or contribute to the ongoing climate change process.

Supporting inclusiveness and participation in decision-making and implementation processes, human rights protection and integration of gender issues are core principles of Remissia's activities.

Sustainable Development Centre Remissia recognizes the priority of sustainable development principles in economic development of Georgia and therefore conducts its activities in the following areas:

A) Supporting the implementation of activities of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, Covenant of Mayors and other supporting conventions and agreements for sustainable development in the following areas:

- Compiling inventory of greenhouse gases;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Promotion of environmental friendly technologies transfer;
- Climate Change vulnerability assessment and preparation of adaptation measures for different economic sectors and ecosystems;
- Monitoring the effects of climate change;
- Any other activities related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol's implementation.

B) Development, fund raising and implementation of sustainable development projects;

C) Supporting the international and regional cooperation in promoting sustainable development and climate change issues;

C) Training of national experts for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and other activities for sustainable development;

D) Increasing awareness of the above-mentioned processes;

E) Providing consulting activities to governmental agencies, the private sector and the scientific - research institutions.

The organization is authorized to perform any activity not prohibited by law and related to the implementation of the above objectives.

Below you will find a brief overview of the activities undertaken by Remissia in 2015.

I. DESCRIPTION OF ONGOING AND NEWLY LAUNCHED PROJECTS

Project Name: Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) Clean Energy Program

Donor: Winrock/USAID

Dates: 2013-2016

Project Background and Description

In 2013 Remissia joined Winrock Int. Georgian Office in implementation of the USAID's project "Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) Clean Energy Program" together with several local and international partners.

The program supports increased climate change mitigation by building municipal capacity for at least 10 municipalities in analyzing, planning and implementing climate change mitigation measures (Component 1); increasing private sector investment in energy efficiency (EE) and green buildings (Component 2); and strengthening Government of Georgia (GOG) capacity to develop and implement a national Low Emission Development (LED) strategy (Component 3).

Within the project Remissia leads **Component 1: Georgian Municipal Energy Efficiency (GeMunee)**. Under Component 1 Remissia leads the development and implementation of municipal **Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs)**, **MRV Plans and Technical Project Proposal** and development of analytical tool (**muni-EIPMP**) to be used for selecting mitigation options and programs.

As for the **Component 3: Facilitation and Technical Assistance for EC-LEDS Steering Committee (SC) and the Expert Working Group (EWG) and Sector sub-working groups (SWGs) and development of Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)** since December 2015, Remissia started to play a major role in terms of providing technical assistance to the EC-LEDS Steering Committee, EWGs and SWGs in the process of elaboration of LEDS document.

Project Results for 2015

Component 1

In 2015 Remissia supported **Gori, Telavi and Akhaltsikhe Municipalities** (ranked as priority municipalities according to adopted evaluation criteria) to elaborate **Sustainable Development Action Plans (SEAPs)** and technical project proposals in the framework of their commitments undertaken under the Covenant of Mayors (CoM) initiative. SEAP documents entail communication strategies and MRV (Monitoring, Review and Verification) Plans per each respective self-governing unit.

Remissia also supported **Tbilisi City Hall** to monitor the progress of Tbilisi SEAP (elaborated and adopted in 2011) and produce the monitoring report. Based on the findings of the monitoring

report, the project provided technical support to update **Tbilisi SEAP** and elaborate **MRV (Monitoring, Review and Verification) Plan** and one technical project proposal.

Remissia continued to develop and test the **Municipal Inventory, Projection and Mitigation Planning (muni-EIPMP)** analytical tool to be used for developing SEAPs. More precisely, EC-LEDS tested and improved the Muni-EIPMP tool while using it for updating and developing abovementioned SEAPs and monitoring report. However the harmonization of data and results from national MARKAL Georgia model still needs to be done as soon as the latter is finalized.

2015 was productive in terms of training and capacity building of the representatives of selected municipalities as well as those who signed the CoM initiative (14 municipalities in total). Remissia conducted 3 following trainings:

- 1) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, Business as Usual (BAU) Projections and Mitigation Measures for Transport, Buildings and Public Lighting Sectors in November
- 2) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, Business as Usual (BAU) Projections and Mitigation Measures for Waste and Greening Sectors in February
- 3) Preparation of project proposals for the GHGs mitigation measures planned to be implemented in the sectors¹ considered in SEAPs (Sustainable Energy Action Plan) in August.

In addition to those training, Remissia was regularly conducting on-job--trainings while working together with the representative of different municipalities on SEAPs or other technical documents.

In 2015 the next 3 municipalities were selected to receive technical support from the project during Year 3 of the project. Those municipalities are: Telavi Municipality, Bolnisi Municipality and Mtskheta.

Component 3

By the end of 2015 it was decided that Remissia would play a leading role in providing the technical support to the Government of Georgia in LEDES preparation process.

Since the actual work on the Component 3 has started in December 2015, it was mainly the planning and preparatory activities that were conducted by Remissia during 2015. More precisely:

- MARKAL update process has been started. For that purpose the weekly meetings with Analytic Department of the Ministry of Energy were held aiming at discussing current data availability, data gaps and steps to start the work on the model update.
- The information from National Statistics office and industrial plants were collected to gather industrial related data for mitigation measures assessment by means of specially elaborated questionnaires.

¹ Transport, Buildings, Outdoor Lightening, Waste Management/Green Spaces

- The preparation of transport sector overview has been started as well with the analysis of available information and documents on transport sector prepared by other projects or government agencies.
 - Remissia also started work on MARKAL-Georgia guidebook with preparation of the section on naming conventions for commodities and technologies.
-

Project Name: Low Carbon Buildings in Georgia

Donor: Ecofys Germany GmbH

Dates: 2015

Project Background and Description

The Mitigation Momentum project is supporting the government of Georgia to develop a proposal for a supported Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for low carbon buildings, which is a key thematic area with high potential in Georgia for both climate change mitigation and local sustainable development. Support for the proposal development is provided by Ecofys, along with local project partners. Remissia assists Ecofys in development of a NAMA concept and proposal by providing national analysis and insight in key thematic areas.

Project Results for 2015

Remissia together with Ecofys (Germany) and ECN (the Netherlands) finalized the elaboration of **NAMA proposal for energy efficient refurbishment in the Georgian public building sector to be uploaded on UNFCC NAMA registry**. The proposal elaboration process was supported by an extensive consultative process. The individual as well as joint working meetings were conducted with the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MoENRP), Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MoESD), Ministry of Energy (MoE) and other stakeholders.

NAMA is a living document and Remissia will continue update and revision of the NAMA proposal according to the findings and lessons learned from other relevant projects and initiatives.

II. DESCRIPTION OF OTHER ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

Remissia's Web Site that was revised in 2014 was regularly updated throughout 2015. All technical reports and papers elaborated, the information about workshops conducted and/or attended by Remissia in 2015 were uploaded in Georgian and English languages.

External and internal audits of operational and financial activities were conducted by independent external audit company and specially creating internal audit group respectively. Both audits identified a certain number of managerial and financial weaknesses and elaborated concrete recommendations for improvement. Remissia started to revise and change its operational and financial rules and procedures as well as practices according to the recommendations and will continue to do so in 2016.

Organizational Capacity Building. In 2015 Remissia two staff members (Project manager and Administrative Assistant) participated in FAST training workshop organized by the Office of Financial Management of USAID. The training covered a wide range of operational and financial rules and procedures that are encouraged and sometimes mandatory to be followed by USAID contractors and sub-contractors.