

## Participation of GITEC at 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The **ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9)** to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 19 to 30 May 2008.

The CBD was concluded in 1992 at the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro and is the central international instrument to protect the biological diversity at genetic, species and ecosystem level. Focus of the CBD was initially on the protection and sustainable use of forests and marine ecosystems but has meanwhile being developed to a discussion forum for the relationship between global trade and economics – environmental conventions including the equal sharing of benefits generated from biodiversity and genetic resources and the rights of indigenous populations.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 190 signatory states to the Convention had the specific goal to halt the dramatic loss of biodiversity thus complying with their undertaking given in Johannesburg in 2002 on the World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss considerably until 2010 at the global, regional, and national level.

The meetings of the COP are held every two years and are, apart from the government delegates, always accompanied by the visits, exhibitions, side events and presentations of all kind of environmental and development organisations.

These have been assembled in the “Plaza of Biodiversity” where GITEC Consult participated in two exhibitions presenting two important projects that GITEC is implementing in the field of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, namely the Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the Southern Caucasus and the Protection of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest – Mata Atlântica (PPMA).

### Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the Southern Caucasus

There is hardly any other place outside the tropics with a richer biodiversity than the Caucasus region. Covering an area that is nearly one and half times the size of Germany, it stretches across Georgia, Armenia

and Azerbaijan, countries which partly were engulfed in conflicts with each other over the past decades. The three countries agreed to establish the Transboundary Joint Secretariat (TJS) as a forum to facilitate transnational co-operation in biodiversity conservation and nature protection. The TJS started operation in February 2007. Funding is provided by German financial co-operation in the framework of the BMZ Caucasus Initiative, which aims at defusing conflicts in the region by promoting and supporting cross-border activities.

countries and the TJS presented their efforts for the first time together in one exhibition display which has been organised and facilitated by GITEC Consult. The TJS was represented by its core team members, Mike Garforth, Team Leader, and Margalita Khidirbegishvili, Regional Adviser.

The exhibition drew great attention from the visitors who included official delegations from the three countries with M. Aram Harutyunyan, Honourable Minister of Nature Protection of the Republic of



*Side by side – Armenia (Ms. Hasmik Grigoryan, First Category Adviser, Ministry of Nature Protection) and Azerbaijan (Ms. Malak Shukurova, Lead Adviser, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources); Georgia (Ms. Tea Barnovi, Chief Specialist Agency of Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources)*

Amongst others the three countries prepared in trilateral workshops and meetings guidelines of how to integrate regional planning and pasture management into national park management. These guidelines were combined into a regional master plan called “National Park Management Planning Guidelines”: The three countries will adopt and adapt the master plan according to their respective conditions. Arriving at a regional consensus is one of the great achievements of the TJS, which has as one of its project objectives to provide a basis for mutual co-operation.

At the occasion of the COP 9 conference in Bonn the responsible ministries of the three

Armenia most notably. The exhibition provided a wealth of information on the biodiversity conservation efforts in the three countries as well as on their joint activities within the TJS. This combined presentation of national sector policies and programmes is evidence of a new level of co-operation based on the governments readiness to adopt regional approaches to solve regional problems.

### Protection of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest – Mata Atlântica (PPMA)

The CBD has defined as part of its Strategic Plan to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss. Thus, for the CBD to succeed, it has to reach its objectives and targets in Brazil, since 15% to 20% of the recognized species in the World are found within Brazil.

Especially the Atlantic Rain Forest is regarded as a ‘hotspot’: one of the richest biomes in terms of biodiversity in the world while being at the same time the second

most endangered of destruction, as 70% of the Brazilian population is living within its borders. Therefore, the Brazilian – German co-operation through KfW Development Bank and GTZ is supporting six Brazilian states and their environmental agencies in their efforts to develop modern mechanisms for protected area management, environmental control and restoration with native species.



*View of Rio de Janeiro – Mata Atlântica*

In order to present the Brazilian Atlantic Rain Forest with its particularities to the public, the German – Brazilian Cooperation invited for an exhibition on the Plaza of Biodiversity from 19 to 30 of May 2008. The exhibition presented comprehensive information material, stunning photos and films on the beauty of the Rain Forest, facts and figures on the biodiversity, the German-

Brazilian projects and its results, but also the threats to this unique forest. The stand was organized and accompanied by the personnel and key staff of the most important projects carried out in the Atlantic Rain Forest. GITEC participated in the organisation of the exhibition and was represented by Mr. Thomas Wittur, the team leader of the KfW-financed Atlantic Forest Preservation Project PPMA in the state of Rio de Janeiro which is completely inserted in the Atlantic Rain Forest biome. The PPMA invests in 11 state protected areas, around 126,000 hectares, and in more than 27 municipalities. GITEC is supporting the State Forest Institute (IEF) of Rio de Janeiro in implementing the project measures to preserve and restore the Atlantic Rain Forest, namely the establishment of protected areas, management plans for protected areas, establishment and training of fire combat units, creation of institutional structures of a state environmental control system and preparatory studies for various fields such as ecotourism, park architecture, state guidelines for management planning of protected areas and others. GITEC is also providing institutional support to the Ministry of Environment (SEA) regarding the set up of the State Institute of Environment (INEA).

In conformity with the focus of the COP 9 on financial resources and financial mechanisms for biodiversity protection, the pro-

ject is developing innovative financial instruments, amongst others elaboration of guidelines for utilisation of environmental compensation funds, elaboration of business plans for selected protected areas to generate own incomes and the creation of a State Trust Fund for Protected Areas with the assistance of FUNBIO, the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund, aiming at providing financial and material support to the state protected areas.



*State Secretary for Biodiversity Cecilia Wey de Britto, Brazilian Ministry of Environment (second to the right) at COP 9*

For more information refer to our project website: <http://www.ief.rj.gov.br/ppma/> (in Portuguese)

## WEST AFRICA (ECOWAS REGION): Feasibility Study on Financing Family Planning

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) comprises 15 countries, ranging from the archipelago of the Republic of Cape Verde in the West, to Niger and Nigeria in the East. The majority of its member states are categorised as “Least Developed Countries” by the United Nations. Not surprisingly, the region also includes some of the countries with the worst health indicators in the world. In Niger and Sierra Leone, for example, more than 25% of all children die before reaching the age of five years. The death rate of birth giving females is 100 times higher than in the European Union.

The causes for this deplorable situation include, besides poverty, malnutrition and missing or weak health services, insufficient access to family planning services and products that could allow preventing unwanted pregnancies, including those occurring during adolescence or too soon after the previous birth. Although international donors are supporting reproductive health programmes in several ECOWAS countries, the total amount of funding is insufficient. Moreover, short planning and commitment cycles of external aid, and the

need to cope with different donor procedures inhibit long-term planning. German financial co-operation through KfW Development Bank is now trying to support family planning in West Africa through a regional approach, cooperating with the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), health branch of ECOWAS. As a first step, GITEC, together with two consortium partners, will conduct a feasibility study on mechanisms for financing family planning products through a regional approach.



The objectives of the envisaged programme are threefold: Improving security of sup-

plies with family planning products, enhancing political and working-level co-operation between countries in the ECOWAS region and building technical and institutional capacity at WAHO. In its initial phase, the study will analyse reproductive health programmes in all ECOWAS member states, with a focus on systems for financing and procurement of family planning products. In addition, existing co-ordination and co-operation mechanisms in the region will be reviewed, as well as the need for specific technical, institutional and financial assistance at regional and country level. Based on this situation analysis, selected countries will be proposed to participate in a first phase of the regional financing mechanism. The study will perform an indepth analysis of the conditions and needs of these proposed countries and define areas of support for each of them. In the third and last phase, the study team will propose a detailed implementation plan for the German financial co-operation support, including the design of financing and procurement mechanisms, contracting arrangements with selected countries and capacity building measures for WAHO.

## AZERBAIJAN: Energy Demand and Supply in the Samur-Yalama Region

As a component of the Transboundary Joint Secretariat for the Southern Caucasus project (mentioned in page one and two of this issue) GITEC and its Austrian partner have carried out a study on energy demand and supply in the region of the future national park in the Samur-Yalama Region, Azerbaijan for KfW Development Bank.

A former feasibility study carried out in 2003 into the establishment of the Samur-Yalama National Park identified a number of risks to successful implementation. The prevailing energy crisis in the study area was singled out as the greatest risk, together with the lack of job opportunities and the lack of economic alternatives to subsistence farming. The study report observed that poverty, low educational standards, and the high dependence on fuel wood for heating and cooking were the most serious problems threatening the forests in the project area unless a practical, affordable alternative to fuel wood could be found.

A mission was launched in order to carry out a study gauging the current situation in the Samur-Yalama National Park project

area with regard to its energy supply and the progress of the gasification programme for the region. Furthermore, the potential of biogas as an alternative energy source was to be evaluated. The results of the study are indeed encouraging.

The gasification process in the project area of the Samur-Yalama National Park project area has made steady progress. At the time of the study, 76% of the population was connected to the natural gas supply network.



*Small Scale Biogas facility (3m<sup>3</sup> Digester)*

Furthermore, the study revealed a large interest in biogas and biomass facilities not only on the Government side, but also among the citizens of the region. Although the development of renewable energies have not been addressed as priorities of the energy sector, the potential for their utilisation is great. Biogas plants on household level alone could contribute up to 30% of the energy requirements of the region. Solar (for heating), wind and also geothermal (used for the heating of greenhouses) energies offer further potential for a more decentralised energy supply.

In the study, the consultant recommended investments in a biogas pilot project in the Muhktadir area at the South-Eastern border of the national park. Selection of participants for the pilot took place at the end of the mission. Given the fact that the supply with natural gas through the national network will not reach each and every village household in the coming years, low-cost small scale biogas facilities can not only improve the standard of living of these villagers but also contribute to conserving the biodiversity in and around the Samur-Yalama National park.

## ARUBA: Arikok National Park, Roads and Park Centre

In Newsletter No. 54 GITEC has reported on the preparation activities concerning the implementation of works in Arikok National Park on the Caribbean island of Aruba. After the preparation study for a detailed engineering design and an environmental impact assessment for the upgrading of selected road sections, GITEC was also entrusted with supervision services and technical assistance in form of tender evaluation, site supervision and post construction services.



The project is part of a programme which was launched by the Government of Aruba, represented by the Territorial Authorizing Officer for EDF (TAO), and the European Commission. The development of the park, as a special focus of this programme, aims at stabilising the islands tourism sector by increasing the number of visitors. This will

yield direct benefits to the nations economy, as well as to the environment. Arikok National Park covers some 35 km<sup>2</sup> (or 18%) of the islands surface, in a rough, semi arid region in the eastern part of Aruba, which was displayed as protected area in September 2003.

The scope of works in the park comprehends the improvement of a) the road infrastructure and b) the construction of a visitors centre and a separate administration and rangers building:

a) The improvement of the un-designed tracks, with light bituminous surface-treatments on the main road (5.2 km of the Northern Loop) and minor upgrading on the secondary routes (totalling approximately 11 km of ways), as well as the construction of two parking lots at the park centre, the improvement of selected walkways and the installation of border posts at the limits of the park.

b) The erection of a visitors centre and an adjacent administration/rangers building, applying an environment friendly design with rainwater tanks in the concrete made basements, which are covered by an open, cross ventilated wooden roof structure. The well being of the users shall be reached by natural cooling processes using effects of water evaporation jointly with the stream

of the steady winds on the island. After an extensive tender process the works have been entrusted to an international Dutch construction company. In February 2007 the construction of the roads commenced, the foundation stone for the park buildings was laid in September of the same year. The handing over of the constructions to the client is scheduled for the end of 2008 and will be followed by the support to the client during the post construction phase of one year.



The international project team is composed of Project Manager Dipl.-Ing (FH) Udo Becker and the Materials / Road Surfacing Expert Mr. W.-R. Böwig, and is supported by a number of specialized national staff. Both international experts are supported by GITEC's Department of Transport and Construction in Germany.

## LEBANON: Emergency Repair Programme for Water and Energy Supply in South Lebanon

In view of the pressing needs of the civil population in South Lebanon following the 2006 military conflict with Israel, immediate measures to reconstruct the infrastructure in the war-afflicted areas were established in a pragmatic manner. The most needed facilities were water and energy supply.

The military conflict in Lebanon, presently interrupted by a ceasefire since August 14th, 2006, has caused serious damages to the infrastructure throughout the country, particularly the social infrastructure like water supply and wastewater schemes and facilities, roads, electricity supply, telephone connection and public buildings for administration, education and health have suffered heavy damages.

In order to alleviate the situation of the destitute population, international governments and donor institutions decided to support the Lebanese government. Following this intention the German financial co-operation through KfW Development Bank launched a multi-phase immediate aid programme in co-operation with the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction, acting as executing agency.

After the successful implementation of a first phase with small projects and an investment volume of 1.4 million EUR the second phase commenced in August 2007. Its main objective is to select priority water supply and sewerage facilities for rehabilitation, including electrical installations for pump stations, and to go ahead with the im-

plementation for those installations where planning and design documents have widely been prepared. GITEC is responsible for the review of design documents, tendering and construction supervision. It is envisaged to invest 9 million EUR until the end of Phase II in December 2008.

The Phase II measures will comprise the purchase of equipment for 50 rural chlorination stations, the provision of power supply through medium voltage lines for 4 pump stations for the water supply of about 30 villages, 4 rural sewer systems, the rehabilitation of river courses in urban centres

and construction of sewage and storm water pipes in Beirut.

After competitive bidding the contract for Phase III has been awarded in 2008 to GITEC. The commencement of services is scheduled for the beginning of July 2008. Phase III consists of the design, tendering and construction supervision for a trunk sewer between the Nahr El Bared Palestinian refugee camp and the wastewater treatment plant in Tripoli (about 13 km) and the rehabilitation or construction of sewer networks for the communities along the trunk sewer (about 140,000 inhabitants).



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