

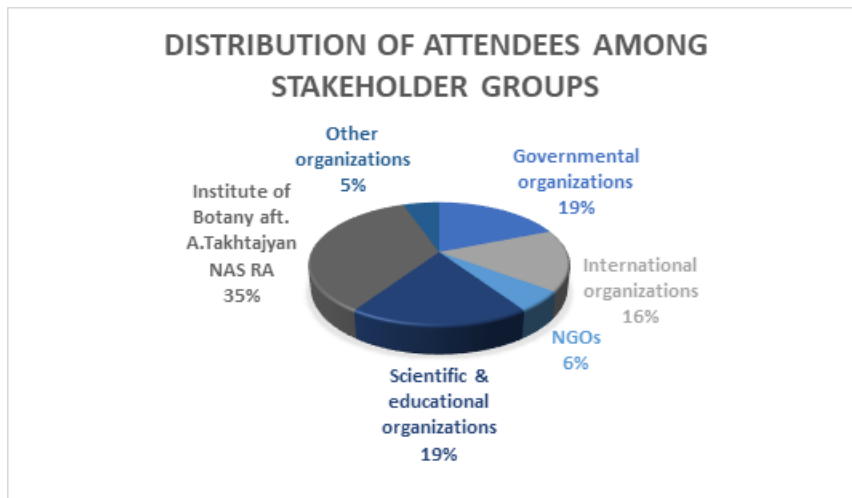


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Summary

28th February, 12:00 -15:00 (Yerevan Time) – hybrid event

Meeting hall of the Institute of Botany aft. A. Takhtajyan NAS RA



Agenda Review

Basic knowledge about the Emerald Ecological Network, its establishment process and requirements, importance at the global level and for Armenia, a general outline of Biodiversity Conservation, Management Plan guidelines and methods, principles of conservation degree assessment were presented by project consortium members. A Q&A session was organized where stakeholders raised various questions.

Q&A session overview:

The list of discussed topics & questions is presented below.

1. The question regarding requirements on representativeness of species and habitats in each Emerald site, which addresses the crucial aspect of ensuring the ecological integrity and biodiversity conservation within designated areas.
2. During the meeting, significant concerns were raised regarding the Emerald sites situated in proximity to mining industrial areas, borders, and military zones. The discussion highlighted potential challenges and risks associated with these specific locations, emphasizing the need for heightened attention and strategic planning. Participants expressed apprehensions about the impact of industrial activities on the ecological integrity of the Emerald sites, potential border-related issues, and the implications of military presence.



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3. A question was raised regarding the assessment of threats and pressures during preparation of the Emerald Management plans. It appears there is a discrepancy with the IUCN in relation to the EU. The EU's evaluation system for pressures and threats is continually changing and evolving, leading to this discrepancy with the IUCN.
4. Another question pertained to the examination of drivers within the EU system. The response clarified that currently, the system does not assess drivers; instead, its primary focus is on preventing and alleviating pressures."
5. An essential aspect highlighted in the discussion is the need for an adaptive management plan. However, it was noted that there is currently no corresponding process at the institutional and legislative levels.
6. Another related concern has arisen, centered on managing the coexistence of multiple landowners and diverse land use practices in the same area. The query pertains to the mechanisms that will be employed to determine their respective rights and responsibilities. It became evident that reforming both institutional and legal aspects at the national level, including governing bodies, is crucial for progressing in biodiversity protection and conservation in Armenia. This reform will provide a clear framework for various aspects of the Management Plan process, such as determining how, when, and by whom stakeholder engagement and adaptive management should be implemented throughout the Management plan duration. It will also address questions like how, when, and by whom the responsibility for monitoring and implementing the proposed Action Plan in the Management plan will be allocated."

Conclusion:

The meeting served as a platform for stakeholders to collaboratively address various topics and issues, become more informed about the Emerald Network in Armenia and the ongoing project, and be motivated to actively participate in different processes and stages. The collective effort is geared towards working on sustainable solutions for the conservation of biodiversity in Armenia within the framework of promoting the Emerald Network

Follow-up & Next Steps:

The organizers of the event mentioned that this marks the first capacity-building event. Subsequent activities include one webinar, two local workshops in pilot areas, and one closing conference, where all the outcomes of the project will be presented. It's imperative to have more stakeholders interested and participating in these events.

Closing Remarks:

Closing remarks were delivered by Irina Ghaplanyan (World Bank). She presented the vision and role of the World Bank in environmental projects, highlighting its commitment to and involvement in initiatives aimed at addressing environmental challenges.

She expressed gratitude to the organizers and participants for the constructive discussion and also acknowledged the challenges discussed.



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Screenshots

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface with a PowerPoint presentation. The slide content is as follows:

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Example for habitat types

1. Structure and Functions

<input type="checkbox"/> Species-poor <i>Phragmites australis</i> stands of high vegetation cover (> 70%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Constant high-water table, i.e. habitat inundated during high water level season, and soils saturated with water during dry season	<input type="checkbox"/> Absence of garbage
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-significant presence of ruderal and/or invasive species (e.g. <i>Acuncto donort</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pure (monospecific) stands of <i>Phragmites australis</i> single age and structure present within total area of the habitat type	<input type="checkbox"/> Absence of high levels of eutrophication
<input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent vegetation semi-natural or natural	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird species and/or reed-dwelling insects present	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of fluctuating water level (e.g. by differentiating colour on reed stems)
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of vigorous reed rhizomes (or rhizome formations) in wetland soils (or near water surface in case of floating reedbeds)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fresh reed stems growing among dry (standing or laying) stems of previous year(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Flowering fresh reed stems exceed 50% of total standing fresh stems (note to be taken into account after flowering season, i.e. after mid-July in wetlands of N. Greece, probably earlier in C.-S. Greece)

Action implemented by:

28/02/2024

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Audio Start Video Participants Chat Share Screen Summary AI Companion Record Show Captions Interpretation Reactions Apps Whiteboards Notes Leave



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Recording



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This project is part of the European Union for Environment” EU4Environment Program, a program that targets six Eastern partner countries (EaP) - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

as part of the Result 4: Ecosystem services and livelihoods; Component 4.1: Support to prepare and implement National Action Plans for Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods (Emerald Network)

Duration: 18 MONTH (November 2022-April 2024)

Consortium:
KartECO - Environmental & Energy Engineering Consultancy, Greece
Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan NAS RA, Armenia




28/02/2024







WP 2: Preparation of National Action Plan

WP1: Project Management


Konstantinos Ga...


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Susann Reiner, S...

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Susann Reiner, Shen NGO

Arus Tumanyan
Arus Tumanyan