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Executive summary

14th March, 13:30 (Yerevan Time)

Meeting hall of Tavush Marzpetaran

1st Consultation Session at the Emerald Site AM0000005 “Ijevan” within the Framework of Capacity Building Program

I. Introduction

A capacity building event (3rd event) was organized as part of the World Bank-led activities under EU4Environment Program sub-component 4.1: Support to protect biodiversity and natural ecosystems (Emerald network). Activities under this sub-component are aimed at advancing the establishment of the Emerald Network and management of the Emerald Sites in the Eastern Partner countries, including Armenia.

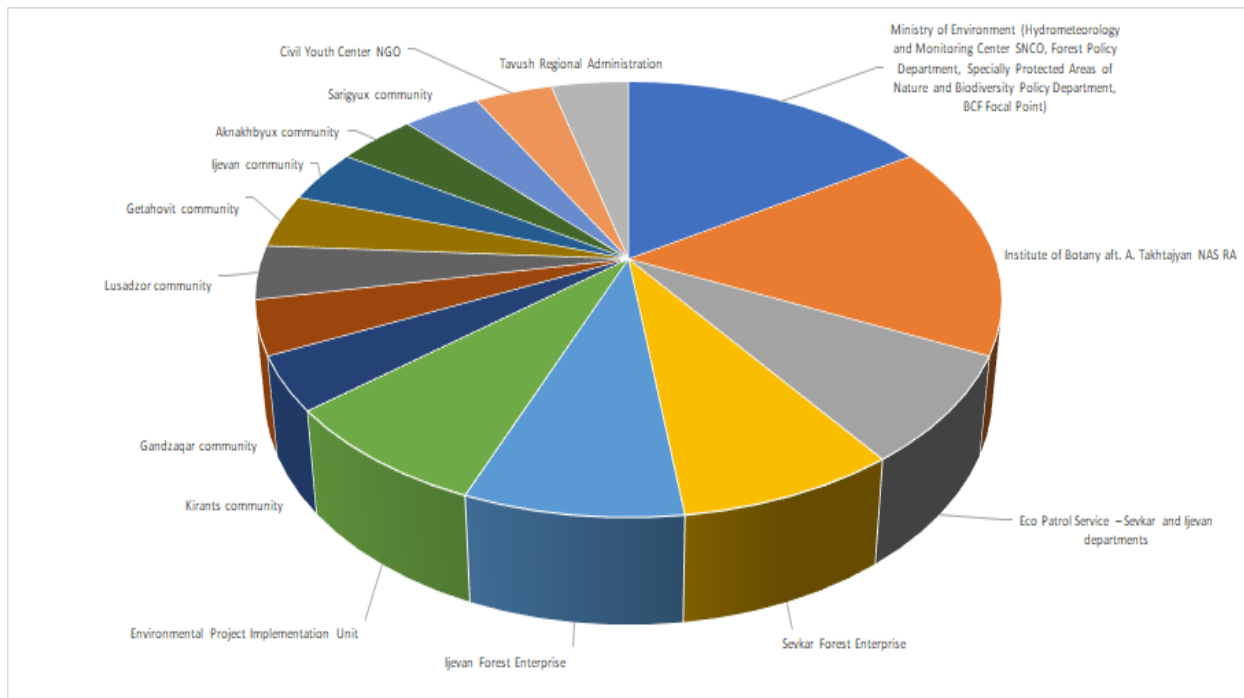
This event aimed to offer a valuable opportunity to relevant stakeholders, such as government officials, private sector representatives and local communities, to be informed about the advancements of the Emerald Network in Armenia and to enhance their knowledge regarding the management of Emerald sites.

II. Overview of Participants

25 persons participated in the event, from following organizations:

- Ministry of Environment (Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center SNCO, Forest Policy Department, Specially Protected Areas of Nature and Biodiversity Policy Department, BCF Focal Point)
- Environmental Project Implementation Unit
- Sevkar Forest Enterprise
- Ijevan Forest Enterprise
- Eco Patrol Service – Sevkar and Ijevan departments
- Tavush Regional Administration
- Kirants community
- Gandzaqar community
- Lusadzor community
- Getahovit community
- Ijevan community
- Aknakhbyux community
- Sarigyux community
- Civil Youth Center NGO

- Institute of Botany aft. A. Takhtajyan NAS RA



The complete list of participants is attached to the summary as separate document.

III. Objectives - Event Review

Objectives

The objectives of the event were to improve the capacities of the local target group on the management of Emerald sites and to present the advancement of Emerald Network in Armenia and new management plan for Ijevan site. The session was held in the Meeting Hall of Tavush Marzpetaran and conducted by project team of the Project: Armenia: Advancing the establishment of the Emerald Network and management of the Emerald Sites.

Event Review

The meeting commenced with a welcome to all stakeholders and an introduction to the purpose of the meeting: to present and discuss the advancement of Emerald Network in Armenia and new management plan for Ijevan site. The project team provided a detailed presentation outlining the overview of the project and Emerald Network, key components of the plan, including specific Protected Objects, Conservation Objectives, Conservation Measures, Monitoring Plan and community engagement initiatives.



Discussion and Q&A session overview:

Topics of discussion included habitat and species conservation and management options, monitoring activities, governance structure, stakeholder engagement and the allocation of resources.

Stakeholders actively participated in the discussion, sharing their insights, concerns, and suggestions regarding various aspects of the management plan.

Key points raised by stakeholders included the importance of balancing conservation efforts with socio-economic development, harmonization of activities for management of Emerald site and management of forest enterprises, including also state sanctuaries and ensuring inclusivity in decision-making processes.



IV. Follow-up & Next Steps

Following the discussion, the project team expressed their appreciation for the valuable feedback provided by stakeholders. Team Leader Alla Aleksanyan mentioned that all comments from different stakeholders will be taken into account and stakeholder input will be incorporated into the final version of the management plan, conducting further consultations with relevant parties.

Additionally, Bern Convention Focal Point mentioned about further steps and efforts coordinated by MoE for establishment and advancement of the Emerald Network in Armenia.

V. Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were delivered by Alla Aleksanyan. She expressed gratitude to participants for the constructive discussion and also acknowledged the challenges discussed.

All participants reiterated their commitment to collaborative efforts in conserving and managing the Emerald Network Site effectively.