

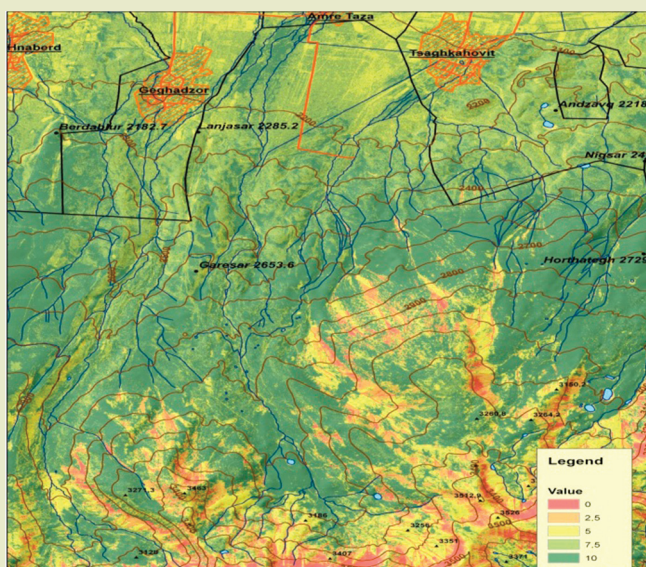
Integrated erosion control in mountainous regions of the South Caucasus

Erosion control: safeguarding the future

Client:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
Partners:	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Armenia, local communities and associations
Duration:	10/2013 – 03/2017
Budget:	6,7 Mio. Euro
Countries:	Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

◀ Example - the way we achieve impacts:

In the South Caucasus, degradation of natural vegetation and erosion are often the result of overgrazing. GIZ and its partners in Armenia have therefore developed a satellite imagery-based method to assess the sensitivity of high-mountain pastures. This sensitivity model uses multispectral satellite images to determine the vitality of vegetation cover. Based on calculations of slope inclination and soil and meteorological data, maps are then produced to provide information about the risk of erosion and the maximum grazing capacities for the areas concerned. Pastoral communities can draw on the information contained in the maps to make appropriate adaptations (such as rotation or seasonal restrictions) to the management of their herd/flock. In 2014, pastoral communities in the pilot region of Sisian used this information to introduce sustainable, soil-conserving grazing in 30 municipalities, yielding environmental and economic benefits.



◀ Objectives

The project aims to develop strategies for integrating erosion control into national regulations on sustainable land use and the conservation of biodiversity.

◀ Challenges

Local people's acceptance, based on strong and sustained self-interest, is essential for the project's success. Developing incentive schemes that appeal to local communities is therefore a key success factor.

◀ Activities

Erosion and the condition of pasture land are assessed and mapped in the pilot regions as a basis for identifying suitable erosion control measures. Targeted reforestation of small areas, community forest management and mechanical and biological erosion protection measures are carried out. Incentive schemes to encourage integrated erosion control are being developed and innovative value chains promoted.

◀ Impacts

Soil erosion has been reduced and degraded areas rehabilitated, which contributes to the conservation of biodiversity. Sustainable pasture management safeguards the livelihoods of local communities and improves living conditions in rural areas. The participatory, community-based approach also helps to maintain peaceful social relations.



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