

## Project Update: July 2013

The project implementation started in middle of May 2013. According to the plan we met heads of the target Municipalities and all the representatives of the target Community Centers.

Educational materials are prepared for the planned training course – 12 training sessions will be conducted about biodiversity/conservation of natural resources and conservation of the River Alazani Riparian forests.

The first stage of training took place and team conducted following training - environmental priorities of Kakheti region; ongoing government base reform of the environmental protection and natural resources of Georgia; and planned reform of self-government of Georgia and local forestry reforms.

A meeting with the Chairman of the Agency of Protected Areas is planned in the first week of August 2013, where conservation issues of the River Alazani Riparian Forests will be discussed.

Local community is interested in conservation of the target area though they have no idea how profitable protected areas can be for them. One of the main points of the training is discussion about these issues.

We gathered materials about agricultural activities of the local population in the River Alazani riparian forests during the meetings with the community centres. Now we are looking forward the information about property forms of the River Alazani riparian forests from the organs of state.

