

**International Projects
Naturvernforbundet**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011



**Norges
Naturvernforbund**
Friends of the Earth Norway

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT



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ISBN: 978-82-7478-283-9
ISSN 0807 – 0946

Norges Naturvernforbund, established 1914

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INTRODUCTION

In this report you can read about the international project activity that Naturvernforbundet implement in 20 countries in CIS region and some African countries. All the projects are oriented towards climate, sustainable energy and education. In addition to the project activity we do policy work on international climate negotiations, as well as other international issues like illegal fishing.

In 2010 we saw good progress and results in all projects, and are happy to share some of our important achievements with you:

In 2010 we started main projects for two African NGO networks – Oilwatch Africa and Jeunes Volontaires pour L’environnement (JVE). Oilwatch unites civil society organisations that work against environmental impact of the oil industry, and is led by our partner Environmental Rights Action in Nigeria. JVE is a youth network that aspires to become the biggest environmental youth organisation in Africa, and their main direction is climate change issues.

In Russia we have followed the development for civil society organizations closely. Russian environmental organizations have since the breakdown of the Soviet Union constantly been exposed to various forms of pressure from the authorities, but the situation has significantly worsened during the last years, when environmental organizations have been facing political attacks and various forms of pressure from governmental structures from circles close to the political establishment. Naturvernforbundet has worked with several Russian organisations on this issue, and have documented assaults and incidents. At the same time we have worked to strengthen the biggest Russian environmental umbrella organization, Russian Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU), and had particular focus on supporting the climate work of RSEU.

The educational project SPARE grows bigger and bigger, and have during the educational year 2010/2011 around 300 000 participating pupils. In 2010 we also joined an initiative by the American organisation Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), which wants to increase education on energy efficiency worldwide.

It is a difficult job for small and weak NGOs to influence on energy and climate policy. Through practical energy projects our partners develop knowledge and experience on energy issues, knowledge that make them able to influence on regional and national policies and activities within energy and climate. In Tajikistan we completed in 2010/2011 a health care station built from straw bales, which has received wide attention. Other technologies we do in our projects are windows restoration, insulation, solar water heating, water disinfection, energy efficient greenhouses and energy efficient stoves. In Togo and Mozambique we have been digging deeper into the challenge of charcoal production from one side, and inefficient stoves on the other side, and will continue to work on these issues.

In 2010 we also started to develop a new international strategy 2011-2020 for Naturvernforbundet, which was adopted by our National board in February 2011. The strategy identifies six main future programs for our international work - Clean energy in Africa and Caucasia, Climate policy in Eastern Europe, Environmental management in Arctic, International environmental policy as well as the Educational program SPARE. An important part of the strategy is also to link our international work better to the national work of Naturvernforbundet.



REPORT:

CAPACITY BUILDING OF RUSSIAN NGOS

- ☒ Country: Russia.
- ☒ Financed by: Norwegian Ministry of Environment (NOK 500.000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organizations: Kola Environmental Centre, Zelenyj Mir, Karelian branch of All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation, Ariston.
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: Kjersti Album, kja@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

Strengthen environmental NGOs in North West Russia.

Implemented activities:

Our partners have been active on most of the important environmental issues in their regions. They manage their project activities with their limited finances and man-power, and continuously respond to upcoming tasks and serve the population with information and help on environmental issues.

Kola Environmental Centre and Green World have focused on natural values and the threat from industrial growth and lack of comprehensive area planning. Karelian VOOP has worked with trout breeding and Ariston with pollution from aluminum industry. In addition, a com-

mon seminar on information work was organized.

Achieved results:

Within the project a strong advocacy work on various local and regional environmental issues have been implemented. Kola Environmental Centre has showed national potential, and is now one of the driving forces in the successful and upcoming Russian Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU). After suggestion from KEC, RSEU has approved Arctic as a new program. Both KEC and Green World have become very skilled in information work, both own-produced materials and in their presentations in mass media.

REPORT:

DECOMMISSION OF OLD NUCLEAR REACTORS IN RUSSIA

- ☒ Country: Russia
- ☒ Project web site: www.decomatom.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 1.600.000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organizations: Kola Environmental Centre (KEC) www.kec.org.ru, Zelenyj Mir/ Green World www.greenworld.org.ru, Za Prirodu/ For Nature (no web site)
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: Kjersti Album, kja@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

The long-term goal of the project is that an official plan for decommissioning of the oldest Russian nuclear power plant reactors is developed and implemented. The plan should provide a safe, secure and environmentally reliable way to decommissioning, and set an acceptable time table for closure. In shorter term, the project shall contribute to a public debate on the future of the reactors, to participation of civil society in the process, and capacity building in environmental NGOs.

Implemented activities:

In 2010 we continued our work for improved dialogue between authorities and civil society, and improved public awareness around safety and security for nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel. Amount the biggest events in 2010 were a screening tour of our documentary film "Wasteland", a study tour to the US and a workshop on juridical aspects of decommissioning.

The documentary, which was finished in 2009, shows the pollution around the Mayak reprocessing facility, where the spent nuclear fuel from Kola nuclear power plant is sent. The film was prohibited several places in Russia, but this turned out to be good promotion.

From the study tour to the US we learned about American experiences of decommissioning, which are far more extensive than Russian, and about Vermont procedures for decision on lifetime extension, which differs both from Russia and from other US states.

The workshop on juridical aspects of decommissioning gathered NGOs with juridical background, to give advice and comments on the coming laws on radioactive wastes and spent nuclear fuel.

Transports of nuclear waste to Mayak turned out to be big issues for our network in 2010, both because of the dangers with transport, and because the Mayak area is heavily polluted and reprocessing there should stop. We put a lot of effort into stopping the planned German transportation of spent nuclear fuel to Mayak, an issue that was successfully resolved. We also followed the transport of Serbian spent nuclear fuel along the Norwegian coast to Murmansk, receiving media attention in both Norway and Russia.

Achieved results:

During the years of this project, we have attained knowledge about decommission experience in the world, as well as developed a common policy on decommission and its related issues between the partner organisations. We have gained more respect and contacts, and our partners are increasingly invited to relevant events and relevant stakeholders. This creates better conditions for dialogue.

We have noticed increased interest in Rosatom for decommission issues, and even seen some small steps in the direction of planning for decommissioning. Also some regional authorities have shown interest, but it is a problem that the policy is dictated from federal level and regional level has little to say.



ARTICLE:

DEVELOPMENTS IN RUSSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

By Yngvild Lorentzen and Kjersti Album, with the kind assistance of Russian partner organisations

In 2010 the tougher climate from the authorities towards the organizations that saw emerged 2009 continued. But at the same time, we have seen positive developments in environmental NGOs, especially in the growing strength of the nation-wide network organisation Russian Socio-Ecological Union.

Story of success: Russian national public organization Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU)

When the Russian Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU) organized its conference in Moscow in October, several new active and broadly known organizations and movements joined the network. Most noticeable are the Movement for the Protection of Khimki Forest, Movement «Let's Save Utrish!», and Musora.Bolshe.Net - the movement working Russian-wide on problems of household wastes. These new members of RSEU, which are active and ruled by young people, show that RSEU is an attractive network organization.

The conference approved creation of new RSEU programs on protection of Volga and Caspian Sea, protection of nature values in the Moscow region, system of compensational measures to environmental damage from infrastructure projects, and monitoring development in the Arctic following demarcation of border between Norway and Russia in the Arctic.

Most notable of the thematic programs of RSEU is the climate program, where a RSEU Climate Secretariat was established 2007 at the premises of the NGO "Friends of the Baltic" and the Centre for Environmental Initiatives, with Norwegian funding. Through the climate secretariat the RSEU has succeeded in becoming an important Russian voice on climate issues.

RSEU has developed climate policy between the different member organisations, participated actively in international climate negotiations, and lobbied Russian delegations and authorities.

With Norwegian funding, RSEU has organized annual RSEU climate conferences over the last three years. These conferences gave the opportunity for many RSEU activists to meet regularly, which is highly appreciated, and proves an effective way of developing policy and discussing strategy.

RSEU is discussing the possibility to establish representation in Moscow to improve access to decision makers. But so far, premises are considered too expensive.

Story of ongoing problems: Political take-over of civil organizations

Naturvernforbundet notes that the new RSEU member Movement for the Protection of Khimki Forest is under pressure from the government in such serious matter that we are concerned for personal security of their members. RSEU board member and leader of the Khimki movement, Evgenia Chirikova has faced attempts to take the children from her, interrogation by the police, additional tax inspections etc. Other members have been attacked by criminals.

In August, president Medvedev suspended the disputed highway project through the Khimki forest near Moscow. Given "such a number of appeals," the president said additional public and expert discussions were necessary. In December however, the government's commission approved the plan and sent it to the president. The Movement for the Protection of Khimki Forest continues their protests, and has filed a law suit to the European Court of Human Rights.

In 2009 the All-Russian Society for Nature Conservation (Vserossiiskoe Obschestvo Okhra-

ny Prirody, or VOOB) was exposed to an attempt of political take-over by representatives close governmental political circles.

The attempt was resisted by a majority of the member groups, but the struggle about who has the legitimate authority after a political take-over has continued in 2010. In November and extraordinary congress was summoned, and it was agreed to consider all regulations adopted by the new management invalid. However, after the congress the new fraction filed a lawsuit on the illegitimacy of the Congress. This lawsuit is not yet resolved.

In November 2009 we saw a political take-over of the well-known and well respected organization Russian Geographical Society . At the elections Vladimir Putin was elected as head of Stewardship Committee, while Sergey Shoigu, Minister of Civil defense, emergency situations and natural catastrophes, was elected president. Our fear that this was a conscious attempt to get a well respected “civil society” organisation to appear as supportive to governmental political positions in the upcoming struggle for resources in the Arctic, so far seem to be supported. The organisation organised a pro-Kremlin conference on Arctic issues in autumn 2010.

Creating problems for environmentalists

An issue that affects the whole civil society in Russia is article 31 in the Russian constitution, which guarantees freedom of assembly. Civil society activists claim that this article is not followed by the authorities, and in Moscow and St. Petersburg rallies in support of this article are organized every 31rd, in months with 31 days in it. By law, organizers must inform the authorities about scheduled events, but in 2010 the demonstrations in Moscow and St. Petersburg to support article 31 have not received permission. Activists have been detained both in Moscow and St. Petersburg. People have reported being arrested simply for wearing a badge with the number 31 on it.

In January 2010, the office of Baikal Ecological Wave was raided by the police after the organisation criticized the re-opening of a pulp

and paper mill. Without showing a warrant, the police confiscated the organization's computers under the pretext that the organisation was using unlicensed software. The police refused to have a look at the certificates presented to them to prove the legality of the software. In July, the computers were returned, and the Irkutsk police apologized to the ecologists.

Nice words, but different reality

In his address to the Federal Assembly Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed that the quality of the environment should become one of the key parameters for socio-**economic** development. As much as these words are appreciated by environmental NGOs, there is so far little indication that words are followed by action.

In October, Kola Environmental Centre and other environmental organizations of Murmansk wanted to participate at the II Arctic Forum in Murmansk. According to organizers, more than 800 participants from different countries attended. However, all the public environmental organizations of Murmansk region were denied speaking.

REPORT:

CLIMATE 2012

- ☒ Country: Russia
- ☒ Financed by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 950 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organisations: Russian Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU), and local organizations.
- ☒ Project responsible in Norges Naturvernforbund: Kjersti Album, kja@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

To strengthen environmental NGO's capacity and influence in the field of energy efficiency and climate change. An active and well informed civil society will contribute to constructive Russian positions in the international climate negotiations and mitigation measures at home. Establish RSEU as a NGO stakeholder able to influence on national climate and energy policies.

Achieved results:

RSEU has in 2010 coordinated regional climate initiatives and followed federal climate policy. The RSEU climate conference is established as an important gathering of Russian NGOs working for reduces greenhouse gas emissions and increased energy efficiency. The website www.rusecounion.ru has developed into an important source of information analyzing Russian energy and climate policy.

Seven regional environmental NGOs have worked on the educational project SPARE (www.spareworld.org) with more than 500 schools participating from Murmansk to Vladivostok. The organisations have made regional school competitions on energy efficiency and conferences on energy efficiency and climate issues for regional decision makers.



ARTICLE:

NUCLEAR TRANSPORTS ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST

By Kjersti Album

In December 2010, Naturvernforbundet alerted the Norwegian coastal monitoring service (Kystovervåkningsentralen) that the Danish ship Puma was on its way to Norwegian waters loaded with spent nuclear fuel. Naturvernforbundet received this information from its partner organisation Green World, and the information was later confirmed also by other sources.

The spent nuclear fuel was from a Serbian research reactor, and was to be transported along the Norwegian coast to Murmansk. In Murmansk, spent nuclear fuel is reloaded to railway wagons at the icebreaker base Atomflot, and the fuel is then transported to the Mayak facility for reprocessing.

Naturvernforbundet and Russian partners oppose transports of nuclear waste to Mayak, because of the enormous environmental problems around the site. The Mayak facility is old and outdated, and the surrounding area is among the most polluted areas in the world.

Naturvernforbundet's concerns for the safety of the transport was confirmed when Puma experienced problems on its way south along the Norwegian coast. Puma took in water and needed help from the Coast Guard. This shows the risk with nuclear transport along our coast. If an accident happened when the ship carried nuclear waste, the consequences could have been devastating.

Two weeks before Puma offloaded its spent fuel in Murmansk, the German Ministry of Environment stopped a similar transport to Mayak, due to environmental concerns with the Mayak facility. The spent nuclear fuel from Rossendorf would be sent in 3 separate shipments, along the Norwegian coast to Murmansk.

“Movement for Nuclear Safety” and “Green World”, two of Naturvernforbundet's co-partners in the nuclear field, worked intensively from October 2010 to stop this transport. In addition to meetings with German, US and United Nations officials, the organizations collected signatures and sent appeals to Angela Merkel, US president Obama and Russian president Medvedev. Among the supporters of the appeal was Naturvernforbundet.

The initial reason for these transports from European countries to Russia is that the spent fuel is of Soviet origin, and thus should be repatriated to the country of origin.



ARTICLE:

SPARE 15 YEARS:

2 MILLION PUPILS EDUCATED IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

By Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien

For 15 years Naturvernforbundet, in cooperation with local environmental organizations and enthusiastic teachers, has activated pupils in the quest to avoid dangerous climate change. During these years about 2 million pupils in almost 30 countries has learned about energy and environmental implications and developed their own activities to save energy in practice.

Naturvernforbundet has a long history with international school projects. In the 1980's acid rain in Europe was the main issue. In the early 1990's most states acknowledged the challenge and agreed on substantial emission reduction. Based on an existing network of schools, SPARE was established by Naturvernforbundet in 1996. Since then the program has continuously been improved by a number of European environmental NGOs. The first year more than 50,000 school children participated in Central Europe, Nordic countries, the Baltics and the UK. The first SPARE textbook was based on Nordic experiences and translated into 10 languages. Step by step NGOs and schools of North-West Russia became more involved. In 2001 the former Soviet republics in Caucasus and Central-Asia joined SPARE, thus making the program one of the largest of its kind in the world. During the years a textbook containing information and methodical materials has been developed based on input from NGOs and enthusiastic teachers all over Europe.

Shaping the future

At present, more than 300,000 pupils participate in SPARE every year, while the network of SPARE schools now exceeds 7,000. The SPARE textbook is available in more than 20 languages. The textbook and additional materials are also

available on CD and on the Internet.

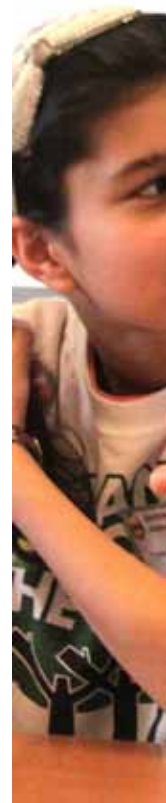
We know that on the individual level this participation has changed the course of further education and work career for thousands. The knowledge on energy, climate and environment in the regions with SPARE has increased.

More than 15,000 teachers have during these years improved their skills, both in content and methodology necessary for teaching the topics of SPARE. We know that knowledge on these topics is used, not only during the SPARE program, but also in all the other topics which our teachers specialize in, like physics, geography, mathematics, ecology, social sciences and arts.

Integration in curriculum

Much of the SPARE success is based on continuous work by local environmental organizations that have recruited teachers, lobbied educational authorities, developed additional materials, implemented teacher training and made competitions and round table discussions. By working with SPARE, the organizations have also been able to establish themselves as important stakeholders within the sphere of environmental education, climate and energy in their own countries.

During the past 15 years the formal educational plans have included more topics related to energy and environment. In countries as Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Belarus the SPARE materials are recommended literature and partly adopted to educational plans. In the Caucasus and Kazakhstan the Ministry of Education has recommended SPARE, and in Russia and Tajikistan the content is officially approved for use in elective courses. The aim of SPARE is to develop materials, methodology and human resources for schools which anticipate for these important topics to be a part of the national curriculum.



SCHOOL PROJECT

SPARE

SIMPLY SAVING THE PLANET

Learn – do – tell is the slogan of the project, and we put particularly high focus on doing energy efficiency measures in practice, both at school and at home.

The competition

All SPARE countries conduct a national competition, and five works from every country, from which 5 works are nominated for the international final. The works we receive tell about high interest and creativity in solution of environmental challenges linked to energy! We have nomination categories for pupils as well as for teachers.

What you need to know...

Education is essential to avoid dangerous climate change. With SPARE Naturvernforbundet has developed a way to reach out. The main activities take place in countries with a weak environmental movement and low awareness on climate change. This includes both oil and gas producing countries with high energy consumption and countries with very limited energy resources. The last years also African environmental organizations have started to develop educational programs linked up with SPARE. We are moving towards a global approach. SPARE is what everyone should know, and do, to build their future without contributing to dangerous climate change.





REPORT:

SPARE AND PRACTICAL ENERGY PROJECTS IN CAUCASUS, CENTRAL-ASIA AND MOLDOVA

- ☒ Countries: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova
- ☒ Web site: www.spareworld.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 5 660 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organizations: Tajikistan: Little Earth. Kyrgyzstan: BIOM. Kazakhstan: EcoObraz. Uzbekistan: ADEK. Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan Youth Union. Georgia: Ekokhedva. Armenia: Tapan. Moldova: Gutta Club.
- ☒ Project coordinators in Naturvernforbundet: Yngvild Lorentzen, yl@naturvernforbundet.no, Central-Asia, Moldova and Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlie, kaks@naturvernforbundet.no, Caucasus.

Project objective:

Contribute to solve problems related to environment and energy through education and practical energy activities.

Achieved results:

The region face a severe lack of up to date knowledge on problems linked with environment, energy and climate, in all levels of the society. SPARE has in 2010 reached more than 6000 schools, 300 000 pupils and 10 000 teachers with relevant information on the topic. We believe that SPARE gives a contribution to improve environmental education in the countries. In addition to the pedagogical component, SPARE participants have implemented concrete energy saving measures at school and at home, and have informed their local societies about the importance of efficient energy consumption.

The educational activity has gradually led into practical energy projects. Parents and local society has started to ask for concrete solutions on their everyday problems, so in this way we see that SPARE actually reaches out to the local society.

The pilot projects give concrete contributions

to solve the energy situation at local level, and inspire local society to apply similar technology. An example is the windows restoration activity, where simple means can give energy saving effect for 5-10 years.

Naturvernforbundet believe that the pilot projects contribute to reduce barriers for introduction of more energy efficient low cost technology and practices in the region. One great example is a straw bale medical center build together with the local community in a village outside Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The center is a nearly zero energy house with help from solar energy to heat air and water, the first in Tajikistan. It shows that it's possible to build a good isolated house from only local materials.

Our partners work with both education and practical projects on environment, energy and climate. This have increased the competence of our partners-organisations, which increasingly are capable of lifting these issues on the local, regional and national agenda. The project helps to stimulate activity in local societies, and we believe these components are important parts of a long term transfer to more democracy and public participation in general.

REPORT:

STRENGTHENING THE BELARUSIAN GREEN MOVEMENT

- ☒ Project name: NGO-involvement in Belarusian energy and climate issues.
- ☒ Country: Belarus
- ☒ Financed by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 881 667 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organisations: Center for Environmental Solutions (CES), Green Alliance Belarus (GA)
- ☒ Project responsible in Norges Naturvernforbund: Kay Asbjørn Knutsen Schjørlien, e-mail: kaks@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

The Belarusian environmental NGOs have got possibilities to influence the Government policies/decisions within sustainable energy solutions and climate change, as well as in other important environmental areas.

Achieved results:

The main goal with the NGO-project in Belarus is to gain influence on national development of a sustainable policy on energy, climate and environment. In 2010 the project contributed to this goal by demonstrating energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to a wider public, by advocating for a stronger climate policy of Belarus on national and international level, by organizing environmental expertise of proposed nuclear power plant, and by strengthening the environmental NGOs.

Environmental NGOs have through this project gained possibility to provide input to national policy in the areas of energy, climate, waste management, public participation in environmental decision-making, water management and biodiversity. NGOs are now serving as members in Public council under the Ministry of environment; Ministerial working group on waste management, Ministerial working group on development of the National Law on Habitat Protection, National council on Education of Sustainable Development.

We are especially proud of the work with raising awareness on sustainable energy solutions and climate change. The mobile exhibition “The biggest energy station in Belarus” visited 7 cities in different regions with more than 4000 active visitors, and got a special diploma from the Ministry of environment of Belarus for considerable input in promotion of energy efficiency in Belarus.



REPORT:

SPARE BELARUS

- ☒ Project name: Educational project SPARE in Belarus
- ☒ Country: Belarus
- ☒ Financed by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 1 710 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organisations: Belarusian Ministry of Education, Belarusian Ministry of Environment/Aarhus center, International Sakharov Environmental University, Republican Ecological Center for Education of Children and Youth, NGO Ecoproect, NGO Center of Environmental Solutions (CES)
- ☒ Project responsible in Norges Naturvernforbund: Yngvild Lorentzen, e-mail: yl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

Partnership project between Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, educational institutions and NGOs for development of environmental education on energy and climate issues. Promotion of educational sector as pilot sector for energy saving.

Achieved results:

For Belarus conditions this project is unique, as it unites stakeholders from different sectors for promotion of environmental education. 2010/2011 is the second year of the project, and the project organisation and partnership organisation was well consolidated.

The partners implemented a wide range of activities. A national competition was organised, with around 2000 works sent in for evaluation. The partners have completed development of educational materials, and ensured official approval for application in schools. A wide range of trainings for teachers were implemented, as well as a national conference for the project.

In addition to the educational direction, the partners also inform about and do practical measures and trainings on energy efficiency at the schools.

In November the project partners went for a study trip to Norway, and visited different relevant objects as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The project has given a substantial contribution to development of education on sustainable energy in Belarus.



REPORT:

SPARE BULGARIA

- ☒ Project name: Education on sustainable energy
- ☒ Country: Bulgaria
- ☒ Project web site: www.zazemiata.org, www.sparebulgaria.com
- ☒ Financed by: Norway grants, 165.000 EURO (2009-11)
- ☒ Partner organizations: Za Zemiata
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: Yngvild Lorentzen, yl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

To develop and implement a school educational program on sustainable energy use.

Achieved results:

School educational program on energy and climate developed, tested and approved. The initiative has improved schools interest and capacity for energy efficiency measures. Discussions are ongoing on how to integrate this topics in the standard educational activities.



REPORT:

LOCAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS IN ROMANIA

- ☒ Project name: Local energy solutions
- ☒ Country: Romania
- ☒ Project web site: www.comunitativerzi.ro
- ☒ Financed by: Norway grants, 210.000 EURO (2009-11),
- ☒ Partner organizations: Prietenii Pământului
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: Dag A. Høystad, dah@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

To create a model for local energy planning and involvement.

Achieved results:

The project has demonstrated a number of solutions and technologies suitable for energy efficiency and utilization of local renewable energy sources. Environmental NGOs has improved competence and capacity for working with energy- and climate policy on local and national level. School education program (SPARE) developed, teacher trained and schools assisted to make education on energy efficiency and climate change issues.



REPORT:

NEW ENERGY POLICY FOR UKRAINE

- ☒ Project name: New energy policy for Ukraine
- ☒ Country: Ukraine
- ☒ Project web site: www.eremurus.org, www.nacu.org.ua
- ☒ Financed by: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NOK 1.100.000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organizations: Ecological Club Eremurus, National Ecological Union Ukraine
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: Dag A. Høystad, dah@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

To strengthen environmental NGO's capacity and participation in development of sustainable energy solutions for Ukraine.

Achieved results:

Energy efficiency education is integrated as an elective course in the school system. Seven years after that SPARE started, the Ministry of Education and National Agency on Energy efficiency participate in dissemination of the educational activities. Around 2000 schools participated in 2010. Training program for energy managers on good lighting (efficiency and quality) was well received and a resource bank is established at www.rightlight.net.ua.

The Ukrainian energy policy with prolonged life time for old nuclear reactors, increased coal production and investment in electricity network for export has been challenged by environmental NGOs in countless meeting, media interventions and lobby efforts. Slowly the need for a new strategy with bigger emphasize on efficiency and renewable get supported. On the other hand working conditions for opponents of the government get more and more difficult with the new government.



ARTICLE:

SOLAR PASSIVE HOUSE: MODERN WITH TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

By Dag Arne Høystad

In rural Tajikistan most houses are built with local materials. Clay and straw is locally available and suitable for self-construction. However, traditional materials are discredited by poor construction practice in rural buildings. But low quality, lack of thermal insulation and earth quack protection is related to the building techniques, not the material in it selves. In Choryakorron Dara, a village just outside the capital Dushanbe, a health centre is now built with traditional materials, but in a modern way.

Low cost measures

The new building is designed as a solar passive house. Outstanding thermal insulation combined with solar heating through windows facing south, solar panels for both air and water heating in addition to solar PV makes this a “nearly zero energy house”. Energy supply has been a major challenge for the health centre. Fuel for heating is hard to get and electricity is frequently absent, especially in the winter season. This situation will now improve substantially.

Little Earth in Tajikistan has worked in cooperation with Naturvernforbundet to demonstrate low cost methods for improvement of the energy utilization in existing buildings. Low income limits use of modern materials and expensive equipment. Typical measures are windows restoration, roof and floor insulation, drainage and wall improvements. In modern buildings most measures are easy to implement, but for the traditional buildings it has been necessary to develop new methods and experiment with locally available materials.

Straw and clay

Different mixtures of straw and clay are good building materials. Made in a correct way and armoured, it is possible with these materials to make low cost, energy efficient and strong constructions, that looks like any other buildings. The health centre in Choryakorron Dara is made from straw bales in a wood frame with clay plaster inside and outside. The construction is made by volunteers in the village, assisted by Little Earth staff and experts from Belarus.

More reading:

Energy efficient building methods for Tajikistan, Naturvernforbundet, report 2008

ARTICLE:

RUSSIAS WAKE UP CALL?

By Anders Larsen

2010 was a dramatic year for the Russian climate debate. Heat waves and forest fires in the summer of 2010 affected central parts of Russia. Could this be the start of a political shift towards greenhouse gas reductions in Russia?

” Everyone is talking about climate change now. Unfortunately, what is happening now in our central regions is evidence of this global climate change, because we have never in our history faced such weather conditions in the past. This means that we need to change the way we work, change the methods that we used in the past.”

This is Russian president Dmitry Medvedev commenting on the Russian forest fires. Even though the importance in changing the ways we work in meeting the threat of climate change, Russia has a long way to go in reducing their emissions.

Naturvernforbundet has through 2010 supported Russian Socio-Ecological Union (RSEU) in their climate work. Working to spread their views on climate change and Russian climate policy is the core of their activities, working towards journalists, through their website (rusecounion.ru) and collaboration with regional environmental NGOs. RSEUs climate conference has become a leading meeting for Russian NGOs working on energy and climate issues.

Naturvernforbundet also collaborate with nine regional NGOs in promoting climate mitigation and energy efficiency in schools through the SPARE programme. SPARE partners have also worked on promoting climate solutions towards regional authorities through meetings and seminars.

REPORT:

CLIMATE JUSTICE

- ☒ Country: Norway
- ☒ Financed by: Norad (NOK 165 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organisations: Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) in Togo and Environmental Rights Action (ERA) from Nigeria.
- ☒ Project responsible in Norges Naturvernforbund: Anders Haug Larsen, al@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

Increase public debate in Norway around climate change and consequences for South.

Achieved results:

Naturvernforbundet has worked to increase the understanding and debate connected to views from the south on climate change. The main activities have been organizing a climate conference on perspectives from African civil society on the international climate debate. 120 participants at the conference in Oslo discussed the way forward after the failed climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

Naturvernforbundet has together with our partners in Africa developed an interactive world map introducing the international and domestic climate policy in several countries.

At the international climate negotiations Naturvernforbundet continues to push for a more ambitious climate agreement. Showing the perspectives from civil society in Africa is an important element in achieving this.

REPORT:

CLEAN ENERGY IN TOGO

- ☒ Project name: Resource Centre for Sustainable Energy Solutions
- ☒ Country: Togo
- ☒ Project web site: www.ong-jve.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norad (NOK 550 000 in 2010) and Naturvernforbundet (NOK 57 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organization: Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: John Lineikro, jl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objectives:

Important barriers for a widespread use of attractive, economic and energy efficient technologies for cooking, lighting and water pasteurization are reduced. Capacity on sustainable energy solutions is increased for relevant stakeholders.

Achieved results:

The SODIS technique is found to be easy to manage, cheap, easy to get hold of the material, and with good health effect. The families involved were very conscious of how to use the technique and of the health effects, and the project staff is not able to respond fully to the increased demand. A good number of schools have been included during the year.

The women's groups have increased in number and they are joining forces as groups and strengthening their social relationships, and they are initiating various income-generating activities and many have been able to buy a solar lamp, all for the benefit of their own families and for their communities.

The cooperation with the trade union of women producing and selling charcoal has created a good platform for making a more energy-efficient production of charcoal and also for establishing re-planting.

Thousands of people (in schools, in cooperating communities, and in the general public) have learnt more about climate change issues and sustainable energy equipments.

JVE is seen by relevant government bodies on local and national levels as an important actor and partner regarding climate change and sustainable energy issues.





REPORT:

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN WEST AFRICA

- ☒ Project name: Strengthening the JVE network in West Africa
- ☒ Country/ region: West Africa
- ☒ Project web site: www.ong-jve.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norad/ EMiS (NOK 1 520 640 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organization: Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE)
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: John Lineikro, jl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

The JVE secretariat and the JVE branches in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Togo have strengthened their organizational and professional capacities to work on advocacy.

Achieved results:

The organizational strengthening and increased activity of JVE in four countries have made JVE much more visible to the general public and to people in many official bodies. In the case of Togo, JVE delegates to the Cancun summit and other intermediate sessions have often been associated to the drafting of reports to the President Office or the Prime Minister. In Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso JVE delegates were added to the national official list for COP 16 in Cancun. And in Cancun, the main delegates of several countries strongly requested that JVE delegates support them. Lots of good comments were made on the work of JVE at country level on climate advocacy by officials who paid special visit to the JVE stand.

JVE was invited by the Togolese parliamentarians to take part in the process of the drafting of the national environmental code. As a result a whole paragraph on the environment was added to respond to JVE's view that the draft text was too much directed towards forest exploitation, to the detriment of community-oriented activities and small-scale community-based climate adaptation projects.

JVE is now associated to the National Climate Change Committee in both Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. The Ministry of Environment in Burkina Faso has commended JVE's work and constant advocacy and is exploring ways of developing a closer partnership with JVE.

JVE represented the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) during the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and successfully lobbied the ministers there, with the result that AYICC is granted permanent observer status at AMCEN. AYICC is now recognized by the African Union, much due to the efforts of JVE. Many African organizations are asking JVE to join in their training and campaign activities, as they recognize that from an environmental advocacy perspective, JVE has the best expertise in their country.

REPORT:

OILWATCH AFRICA

- ☒ Project name: Strengthening the Oilwatch Africa network
- ☒ Country/ region: Africa
- ☒ Project web site: www.oilwatchafrica.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norad/ EMiS (NOK 1 520 640 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organization: Oilwatch Africa
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: John Lineikro, jl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objective:

The member organizations in Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Uganda and the secretariat of the Oilwatch Africa network have strengthened their organizational and professional capacities to work with advocacy.

Achieved results:

The Oilwatch Africa network has become more structured, the work is better planned and cooperation has increased. Networks of communities affected by oil-related activities have been established in Uganda, Cameroon and Ghana during the year (established in Nigeria earlier). This has created new linkages in the areas of work and built movement around environment justice and other social issues. More communities have strengthened their consciousness and have become better organized. This has created a platform for building capacity and solidarity and made them able to demand that oil be left in the ground and to monitor environmental degradation and demands for remediation and compensation in cases where degradation has occurred.

Oilwatch Africa's activities in 2010 increased the coverage in media and the awareness among politicians of the consequences of oil and gas industry activities and deeper demands for environmental protection and remediation after incidents. Consistent and frequent field monitoring in Nigeria led to responses from both government agencies and the offending oil companies. Communities are seeing quick actions in terms of stoppage of spills and they are also receiving more attention with regard to provision of basic infrastructures.

Oilwatch Africa as a network and as individual organizations built links with relevant policy makers and legislators in oil and gas issues. Oilwatch Nigeria was invited to train National Assembly staff on environmental issues, and policy makers and government officials now routinely invite Oilwatch Nigeria to make inputs into policy documents on environmental issues before they become public. Oilwatch Nigeria has also been invited to make contributions to draft bills.

In Nigeria and Cameroon trainings were organized for legislative aides and members of Parliament respectively on the preservation of the environment and the benefits of leaving oil in the soil. Oilwatch's campaign, "Leave the oil in the soil", has become a prominent approach in the CSO coalition in Ghana and in general received wide support within and outside the network.



LEAVE THE
OIL IN THE SOIL!

REPORT:

OILWATCH NIGERIA

- ☒ Project name: Promoting public participation and tackling environmental concerns in the oil sector in the South
- ☒ Project name: Country: Nigeria
- ☒ Project web site: www.eraction.org
- ☒ Financed by: Norad (NOK 1 330 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organization: Environmental Rights Action (ERA)
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: John Lineikro, jl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objectives:

In the long term, this project will contribute in empowering communities affected by oil and gas development in Africa to make the right demands in their quest to securing a safer environment conducive for their development; and civil society organisations to be empowered to influence policies and practices around environmental management standards in the oil and gas sector.

Achieved results:

Nigerian politicians have got a stronger basis for making the right legislative decisions in environmental issues, with focus on the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and the Petroleum Industry Bill.

Policy makers, journalists, the academia, the general public, civil society organizations and communities have increased their knowledge on environmental impact assessment, transparency and the overall issue of open space for addressing environmental concerns arising from oil and gas extractive activities.

Oil-affected communities begun to make informed and precise demands from corporations and governments on issues related to their environment and livelihoods and are using the instruments of the law and organized demand channels to address their concerns.

More bonding was created and strengthened between oil-affected communities across Nigeria. It has been shown that Nigerian civil society organizations can form and sustain networks and coalitions.

A yearly environmental forum on the national scale has been institutionalized, where CSOs, CBOs, the academia, media practitioners, policy makers, industries operators and relevant environment stakeholders meet to exchange views and experiences.



REPORT:

CLEAN ENERGY IN MOZAMBIQUE

- ☒ Project name: Local Sustainable Energy Centre in Sofala
- ☒ Country: Mozambique
- ☒ Project web site: www.adelsofala.org.mz
- ☒ Financed by: Norad (NOK 410 000 in 2010) and Naturvernforbundet (NOK 42 000 in 2010)
- ☒ Partner organization: Agência de Desenvolvimento Económico Local da Província de Sofala (ADEL Sofala)
- ☒ Project coordinator in Naturvernforbundet: John Lineikro, jl@naturvernforbundet.no

Project objectives:

Involved local communities have a platform to discuss and raise local energy and development issues. Sustainable energy technologies are available in the target area.

Local sustainable energy projects are implemented. Schools are actively involved in dissemination of sustainable energy solutions.

Achieved results:

The extensive discussions in the communities and with the local project committee removed misunderstandings and created a new and better platform for the further development of the project.

More people have got access to sustainable energy equipment and learnt new practices. A strong conclusion has been drawn that it is of great importance for the project to contribute to improve the energy efficiency of the charcoal production in Mozambique.

Some people have established their own businesses of producing and selling improved

stoves and tree seedlings. The introduction of improved kitchen management has made more people aware of various environmental and health aspects and made them see these in the same context.

More communities have been able to organize themselves and thereby got access to government funds for development purposes. ADEL has also contributed to bring into public local leaders' misuse of these funds. More schools have been involved in working on energy, environment and development issues.

ARTICLE:

SHORTCUT TO IMPROVED ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY SERVICE:

IMPROVED ENERGY PRODUCTIVITY

By Dag Arne Høystad

Today 1,4 billion people have no electricity while 2,7 billion people depend on extremely energy consuming methods for cooking. By adopting energy efficient solutions the expected increase in energy consumption in developing countries will be cut by half. Still, all the efforts are concentrated on the production side.

Eradication of extreme poverty, improvements in health and education depend on a substantial improved access to modern energy services. Electricity is needed for light, electronics and motors and improved cook stove must be widely implemented to avoid health problems from smoke and excessive energy consumption. The fastest, cheapest and environmentally best way to improved energy services is to increase efficiency in demand side management.

Production not sufficient

In Africa south of Sahara only, a tiny minority has access to electricity. Excluding South-Africa, the average household electricity consumption per capita is 52 kWh annually. This region with near 800 million inhabitants consume only 40 TWh electricity for households purposes, compared to 35 TWh in Norwegian households with five million people.

The common response to low connection rate is development of the production and supply side. No doubt that supply is needed, but without proper demand side management, much of the output will be wasted or fail to reach the target groups.

Wasteful cooking

Cooking on open fire and production of charcoal represent extreme energy losses. Access to modern stoves and more appropriate fuel will not only reduce the major smoke-related health effects, but also cut the energy consumption significantly. In most countries south of Sahara bio-energy constitute the biggest share of primary energy in the national energy balance (1).

Increased productivity

Also for the electricity sector, energy efficiency offers the fastest and cheapest solutions to more and better energy service. In developing countries the total consumption is low, but the shares of the potential energy savings is greater than in developed countries. The productivity, or useful output from a given unit of energy, is generally lower in developing countries. Technologies are often less efficient and governmental regulations and incitements are missing. A developing country will have a higher investment rate, offering good opportunities to increase efficiency in new infrastructure and projects. At the same time the labor cost are lower, making additional labor intensive energy efficiency measures profitable.

Higher energy productivity is a win-win situation for developing countries, their households and businesses. According to McKinsey Global Institute demand side efficiency can make it possible for countries to cut down on fuel imports, and scale back the expansion of the energy supply infrastructure. This will reduce energy cost for business and household and cut the investment needed in the energy infrastructure by half compared to what otherwise would have been needed (2)

Exclude thermal processes from electrification
For some services as light, electronics, motors and cooling electricity is needed. In modern households the biggest needs are connected to thermal processes as cooking, hot water and air-conditioning. Without proper demand side management this will quickly post an enormous burden on the scarce electricity supply in developing countries. Building infrastructure where the right energy source is used for the right purpose will ensure better utilization of scarce resources and improve energy flexibility and security. In Norway the electricity consumption in household is high due to use of electricity for space heating and hot water supply. In cities in South ill fitted air-conditions sucks energy to cope with indoor climate in poorly design buildings and hot water are produced in electrical boilers while solar thermal panels are available at a cost ten times less than solar PV.

Small increase in emissions

Universal access to modern energy service will give a marginal increase in global energy consumption and emissions. To provide electricity and modern cooking facilities within 2030 is an embassies target. It will improve the living conditions for 35 % of the global population but will not require more than 3 % of the estimated global energy investments in the period. In IEA's estimations the universal energy access will increases the expected CO2 emissions with only 0.8 % (3).

References:

1. Norges Naturvernforbund, 2009. Annual report 2009; Bio-energy in African households: increased efficiency with simple measures.
2. McKinsey Global Institute, 2008: Fueling sustainable development: The energy productivity solution
3. World Energy Outlook 2010, Chapter 8 – Energy poverty



NATURVERNFORBUNDET (FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NORWAY)

was founded in 1914 and is Norway's oldest and largest nature and environmental protection organization. We are a democratic membership organization with about 20 000 members, regional branches in all the country's counties, and approx. 100 local groups across the country.

OUR MAIN GOAL IS to protect nature and environment so that human activity does not exceed the tolerance limits of our planet. We are concerned with a wide range of issues in environmental and nature conservation, but work specifically with the areas conservation, climate, energy and transport. Although we have a national agenda, many environmental questions have proven to have an international or even global character. Development issues, resource allocations and international cooperation are very much parts of our everyday activities.

OUR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT cooperates with environmental NGOs and support civil society development in a number of countries in East and South. The objectives are to strengthen our local partners' capacity and influence in their struggle for a better environment. Environmental Education, Sustainable Energy Solutions and Climate Change are key issues for the cooperation. At the present Naturvernforbundet initiate, implement and maintain projects regarding capacity building, energy saving, renewable energy, climate and education in 20 countries in former Soviet Union and Africa.

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