

Tashir Riverbank Restoration and Climate Resilience through Sustainable Tourism



“The Climate Bridge” Project

On May 26, 2024, several communities in northern Armenia, including Tashir, were severely affected by devastating floods. The overflowing rivers destroyed bridges, roads, and residential houses, endangering the lives and livelihoods of more than 9,700 residents. In Tashir alone, around 150 houses, 11 car bridges, and 13 pedestrian bridges were damaged, revealing the area’s vulnerability to climate change impacts. The project aims to address these consequences while ensuring future resilience and sustainable community development.

Overall Objective

To restore the Tashir Riverbed and central bridge through a combination of natural and structural solutions, thereby enhancing resilience to climate change risks while promoting socio-economic recovery and the tourism attractiveness of the community.

The specific objective is to create a pilot model that demonstrates the use of nature-based and cost-effective methods, allowing similar communities to replicate these solutions in other river areas.

Main Project Results

				
Restored Riverbank	Resilient Bridge	Annual “Climate Bridge” Festival	Business Promotion	Community preparedness
A fortified coastline integrating natural and structural defenses	Resilient infrastructure that withstands future climate impacts	Identified reinforcement solutions for bridges that are both resilient and culturally attractive	Boosting local businesses and tourism, creating new jobs and income	Increasing community preparedness by building early warning and hazard management skills

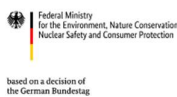
The main directions of activities include:

1. Technical assessment of the riverbank and bridge, and preparation of a reinforcement plan.
2. Testing of nature-based solutions for strengthening riverbank sections.
3. Organization of a community-driven “Climate Bridge” festival.
4. Capacity building for local youth and women in the fields of ecotourism, green business, and environmental programs.
5. Information and educational campaigns to promote sustainable behavior.



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The project will contribute to enhancing community resilience, reducing flood-related damages, improving water quality, and preserving biodiversity. By revitalizing tourism, it is expected to increase economic activity and financial circulation within the community. The project will also promote employment opportunities for women and youth, as well as the revival of social and cultural life in the area.

Role of the Tashir Community

- Acts as the **"local implementing partner"**, coordinating construction permits, logistics, and on-site supervision of works.
- Supports environmental impact assessment and the organization of local public meetings.
- Provides **co-financing and community infrastructural support** during restoration and festival activities.
- Ensures the **long-term maintenance** of restored riverbanks, bridges, and recreation areas.
- **Co-organizes the annual "Climate Bridge" festival**, promoting tourism and cultural heritage development.
- Collaborates with **community groups, SMEs, and regional authorities** to ensure the **replicability and sustainability** of project results.

After the completion of the project, the community will take responsibility for maintaining the riverbank and continuing the organization of the festival. Local businesses and NGOs will become beneficiary partners of the project, ensuring its financial and organizational sustainability.

Planned implementation period: 2025 – 2027

Total budget: EUR 585,000, of which

90% GIZ grant,

10% local investment

Location: Lori marz, Tashir Cohesive Community (includes 23 villages)

Implementing organization: Energy Saving Foundation

Partner and Co-financier: Tashir Municipality

