

Foreword: the context of the project

Climate and conflicts: Redress and Prevention project is a two-year project supported by the Global Campus of Human Rights and Right Livelihood partnership project implemented by two Campuses – Global Campus Caucasus (Yerevan State University) and Global Campus Central Asia (OSCE Academy, Bishkek). It addresses the human rights challenges posed by war, conflicts, poor governance, and environmental degradation in three key regions: Nagorno Karabakh, Transnistria, and the Fergana Valley. The project aims to highlight the missing scientific data and research on climate challenges in these regions, particularly regarding climate change mitigation and poor governance, and to explore how international human rights mechanisms can act locally in de facto states and regions with poor governance.

The project aims to promote a human rights-based approach to climate change and conflict prevention in Transnistria, Nagorno Karabakh, and the Fergana Valley through cross-regional cooperation and academic research. The project consists of **three components**: mapping, research on strategies for effective policy implementation, and workshops and an international conference. The project's objectives include identifying and analyzing the current civil society landscape, developing effective strategies for climate change policy implementation, and promoting human rights-based approaches to climate change and conflict prevention in the region.

Pool of experts

To effectively implement the second component, the project team aims to recruit four senior experts, with two experts envisaged to work on the Fergana Valley case and two on Nagorno Karabakh.

In case of Armenia, senior experts will conduct comprehensive research on environmental and human rights-based climate policies and state strategies of Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh, assess international responsibilities of countries in mitigating climate-induced conflicts, and examine public discourse on the given conflicts. As a result of their work, the experts will develop a comprehensive research report detailing their findings, providing actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders, and outlining strategies for effective mitigation of climate issues arising from conflicts, displaced communities, and climate change policy implementation. This report will serve as a valuable resource for addressing the complex interplay between climate change, conflict, and displacement in these specific regions.

The key responsibilities of the senior researchers

This position is a hybrid position which includes following key responsibilities:

- a) Develop/ contribute to the methodology for identifying and analyzing the research landscape, including approach, tools, techniques, ethical considerations, and participatory research methods.
- b) Conducting comprehensive analysis of environmental and human rights-based climate policies and state strategies, particularly focusing on Armenia and Azerbaijan in relation to Nagorno Karabakh cases.
- c) Assessing the international responsibilities of countries in mitigating climate-induced conflicts, reviewing recommendations of charter and treaty-based bodies, examining how climate change impacts contribute to conflict dynamics in fragile regions. This may also include the legal analysis of decisions by European Court of Human Rights upon environmental matters in Nagorno Karabakh.

- d) Examining public discourse on the given conflicts, analyzing how climate change is and has been discussed in relation to regional tensions and resource competition. The comparative analysis between Fergana Valley and Nagorno Karabakh cases is envisaged.
- e) Developing actionable recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders on effective mitigation strategies for climate-related issues arising from conflicts and displaced communities.
- f) Evaluating the implementation of climate change policies, particularly in relation to Nagorno Karabakh case, and their impact on vulnerable populations and potential for conflict. This includes development research tools, including guidelines, questionnaires for interviews and focus groups, and ethical considerations. If required, run desk analysis of similar reports by local and international CSOs to identify key areas and existing strategies. The research may require local travel to bordering communities of Armenia to be covered by the project.
- g) Analyzing the complex interplay between climate change, conflict, and displacement, avoiding oversimplification, and considering context-specific factors. The dynamics and years to be covered by research would be decided by experts themselves.
- h) Participate in group meetings with other senior researchers, project coordinator, and junior researchers. International travel to Bishkek and participation in international conference in Yerevan to present the research results would be required.

The incumbents (two positions) will be contracted by Center for European Studies, Yerevan State University. The workload weekly will be 30%. No office hours are defined and 70 % of work would require out of office work. The total duration for the position is 7 months. The cost of the task for one position is 550 EU gross monthly (3850 EU total). The successful candidate would be invited to an online interview. The start date for this position is February 17.

Requirements

1. Advanced degree in environmental policy, human rights law, international relations, or a related field, with expertise in climate change and conflict studies.
2. Extensive experience (at least 5 years) in conducting comprehensive research and analysis on environmental and human rights-based climate policies, particularly in the context of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno Karabakh region.
3. Strong knowledge of international legal frameworks, including familiarity with the European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence on environmental matters and climate-induced conflicts.
4. Proven ability to develop research methodologies, including participatory research methods, and to create research tools such as questionnaires and interview guidelines.
5. Excellent analytical and writing skills, with the ability to produce high-quality research reports and actionable policy recommendations for diverse stakeholders.
6. Fluency in English is required.

Application procedure

The candidate is expected to submit an up-to-date detailed CV, highlighting the experience as a researcher, and the list with relevant testimonials and research examples. The applicants are required to send their documents to info@ces.am with the CC to m.muradyan@ysu.am by February 13. Please mention in the “Senior Researcher” in the subject line.

Organization

The work will be conducted under the close supervision of project coordinator, Center for European Studies (CES), Yerevan State University. Should you have any questions concerning the position, please send them by February 11 to m.muradyan@ysu.am.