Communication on Engagement from 2017 to 2019 of the NGO "Belarusian Environmental Movement"

NGO "Belarusian Environmental Movement" (Minsk, Belarus) over the years implemented various international environmental projects. The NGO works in close cooperation with the GEF SGP, UNOPS, UNDP, EU, governmental bodies and businesses.

Active member of the National NGO network, GEF-CSO Network (Country Contact Point for Belarus), UN Global Compact Network.

Focal area of NGO: Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Land Degradation, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Green Economy.

**Short-Term Objectives:**
- Protect and campaign, plant trees, and restore forests for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- Create a platform for planting trees on degraded lands and lands affected by the Chernobyl disaster, fires, storms, epidemics, etc.
- Climate change mitigation via afforestation, reforestation and deforestation avoidance.
- Enhance local and global partnership for sustainable development and environmental protection.
- Promote women's environmental leadership.

**Long-Term Mission:**
- Solve environmental problems and develop a progressive society that values and protects their environment.
- Assist communities, governments, and businesses in developing sustainable solutions, safeguarding our environment and improving human welfar.

Our projects consistent with the ideas of the following SDGs
Description of Actions

During 2017-2019 years, all projects of the NGO "Belarusian Environmental Movement" were organized in close cooperation with the private sector, while raising awareness of corporate social responsibility among the members of the UN Global Compact in Belarus. We actively participate in the UN Global Compact Network:

- Propose and implement corporate sustainable development partnerships and engages with other stakeholders.
- Support business participants of the UN Global Compact when they implement and communicate their sustainability efforts.
- Raise awareness of corporate social responsibility among members of the UN Global Compact Network in Belarus and East Europe and Central Asia.
- Organize joint environmental projects with the private sector to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Belarus.
- Established partnerships with private businesses to bring sustainable business practices in the following sectors:
  - Beverages: Coca-Cola Company, Krinitza OJSC, Alivaria Brewery
  - Media: TUT BY MEDIA, Co LTD PRCI
  - Mobile Telecommunications: JV Mobile TeleSystems LLC
  - Banks: Bank Belarusbank, Minsk Transit Bank, Belarusian-Swiss Bank
  - Industrial Transportation: WestTransLine, FLLC "AsstrA Belorussia"
  - Software & Computer Services: SoftTeco LLC
  - Support Services: Centre of System Business Technologies SATIO
Description of the Projects

Organization of sustainable use of biological resources of the Republican Landscape Reserve "Nalibokskiy" (EU/UNDP)
Jan 2016 – Oct 2017
Pilot initiative implemented in the frame of the project "Supporting the Transition to a green economy in the Republic of Belarus", funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme in Belarus. The Project activities focused on development and practical application of green economy principles in the Republic of Belarus through creation of the new organizational model for sustainable storage and processing of wild berries and mushrooms in the territory of the State environmental institution "Republican Landscape Reserve "Nalibokskiy" (area of 86,896 hectares). The building in Gonchary village was purchased, engineering design documentation was provided, positive conclusion of State construction expertise was received. The biological yield of the main species of berries and mushrooms was assessed on the territory of the Naliboksky reserve. In total, the reserve has up to 1084 tons of edible berries and 847.6 tons of mushrooms. Of this amount, the maximum production capacity for freezing (according to the design estimates) allows to freeze and transfer up to 200 tons of berries and mushrooms to the trade networks (frost capacity up to 3 tons per day, storage volumes up to 93 tons).

Created new system of sustainable storage and processing of agro products in the territory of Nalibokskiy national reserve, which aims to provide alternative sources of income to around 2,000 people. Established an effective partnership and joint action mechanisms for NGOs, local administrations and businesses to implement economically feasible projects based on green growth ideas.

More information: http://greenlogic.by/accomplishment_p_5.html
Mitigating negative climate effects by abating the consequences of the bark beetle epidemics in Karsnopolie District Mahiliou region (SGP/GEF)
Aug 2018 – Present
Project goals:
1) Mitigation of the negative impact of climate change by eliminating the consequences of the bark beetle epidemic in the Krasnopolie District of the Mogilev region.
2) Demonstration and dissemination of monitoring methods and technologies that can reduce the threat of the occurrence of bark beetle and deforestation in the future.
3) Strengthening partnerships between public environmental institutions, environmental NGOs, local communities and businesses to address environmental problems.

Within the project, an educational seminar for schoolchildren was conducted. More than 90 kg of seeds of seedlings of trees not affected by the bark beetle were purchased, pheromone traps were acquired, various drones are being tested to identify the best monitoring method.

During the PR campaign for planting trees, which took place on April 13, 2019, 100 000 trees were planted by 300 volunteers from local communities, governmental institutions, international organizations and largest business companies form the Global Compact Network in Belarus.

During the spring of 2019, 777 000 seedlings of pine, spruce and birch were planted within the project. 130 hectares of territories affected by the bark beetle epidemic have been restored.

Eco-art project “SDGs”
February 21-22, 2018
The Regional SDG Coordinators Forum: building a partnership in support of national efforts in the field of sustainable development, organized by the National coordinator for the SDG achievement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations, took place on February 21-22, 2018 in Minsk.

NGO "Belarusian Environmental Movement" together with art group “12” presents professional eco-art project “SDGs” in Belarus, aimed at helping to address urgent environmental issues. The project is designed as a mixture of sculpture and video art. The installation of hemispheres with Earth's cores corresponds to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030, and symbolizes life interdependency for all on the planet. Each goal arises from global challenges where solution will be a systematic approach and joint efforts. It is obvious that all Sustainable Development Goals are closely interlinked and, through their integration, the solution of one problem makes it possible to implement several goals. The video addresses the topic of mutual understanding and openness of people. It shows the necessity to solve global problems through joint efforts.

By combining all 17 parts of the installation we can see an integral form, inseparable organism – one world – where people listen to and understand each other, leaving their mark on history. Artists do not come up with the answers, but raise questions to provoke everyone’s thoughts about their role in addressing global problems.

Rowan alley "17 Sustainable Development Goals"
April 22, 2019
Joint project with the Global Compact Network in Belarus.
On April 22, the inhabitants of the planet celebrate Earth Day. The resolution of the UN General Assembly No.A/RES/63/278, which was approved in 2009, noted that the term “Mother Earth” is quite common in various cultures and generally accepted in most countries of the world, it reflects a clear relationship between us and our planet. Planting a rowan alley "17 Sustainable Development Goals" is a symbolic step that became an example of awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the willingness of managers to make time for cooperation in this direction. 17 rowan trees were planted in the center of Minsk, which symbolize each of the SDGs.

More information:
http://globalcompact.by/index/events/alleya_17_celei_ystoichivogo_razvitiya?fbclid=IwAR1gEuupy3iVSkPifADmBpVNxpnA7UEYytTsNzZ_WafHWaMQNxB_DeydM74