

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: “Khustup” Nature Protection Non-Governmental Organization

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Assistance to the establishment of new protected area Zangezur in Southern Armenia

Implementation Partners for this Project: Ministry of Nature Protection, Syunik Regional Administration, Armenian Forestry (“Hayantar”) SNCO, Institute of Botany, Institute of Zoology, Fund for Biodiversity Conservation of Armenian Highland, “Ecotourism Association” NGO.

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 18 April, 2006 – 31 December, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): February 12, 2010

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The main purpose of the project was connected with conservation of globally and regionally threatened species (Armenian mouflon, bezoar goat, Caucasian leopard, common otter, Caucasian black grouse etc.) through support to the Government of Armenia in establishment of a new protected area (Zangezur sanctuary) in the southern region of the country.

To achieve the project purpose several activities were carried out: survey on biodiversity, mapping and clarification of boundaries, development of management plan and other legal documents (draft decision on establishment of the sanctuary, charters, boundaries description etc.), infrastructure development and training of the sanctuary staff. In the result of implemented project activities Zangezur Sanctuary was officially established by the Government of Armenia (Decision N1107-N, 05 October, 2009).

Brief information on “Zangezur” sanctuary.

Location: the new protected area (PA) Zangezur Sanctuary is situated in the southern part of Zangezur range and occupies its spurs stretching eastwards from the national border within the upper reaches of Geghi, Gyard (SW part of Bargushat Range), Kaputjugh, Kajarants and Tsakkari rivers. Elevations in the PA range from about 1,800 to 3,900 m above sea level, combining mostly subalpine and alpine meadows with extensive areas of crags and screes. Mountain xerophytes are present in a lesser extent covering middle and lower belts of southern slopes of Bargushat range.

Area: 17,368.77 ha

Purpose: protection of ecosystems (subalpine and alpine meadows, high mountain lakes), conservation of endemic, rare and threatened flora and fauna species (Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and others).

Biodiversity: the sanctuary is an important conservation area of endemic, rare and threatened flora and fauna species (Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and others). It is also important thanks to its four high mountain lakes (Ghazan Lich, Tsak Qari Lich, Gogi Lich, Kapuyt Lich) serving as fresh water reservoirs. The Sanctuary is the habitat for more than 1000 species of vascular plants and about

185 species of vertebrate animals including 25 registered in the Red Data Book of Armenia and 9 – in IUCN Red List

There were some delays in project implementation connected with delayed obtaining of the Governmental decision on the sanctuary establishment as well as seasonal reasons (some field works took longer than envisaged). Details see in section Lessons Learned.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: The established new SPNA “Zangezur” successfully and effectively operates that contributes to conservation of landscape and biological diversity in this area.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level: Successfully and effectively operates the established new SPNA Zangezur that contributes to persistence of ecosystems and biodiversity in this area.	Successfully and effectively operates the established new Zangezur Sanctuary that contributes to persistence of ecosystems and biodiversity in this area.
SPNA "Zangezur" is established and operates by end of 2008	"Zangezur" Sanctuary was established by the Republic of Armenian Governmental decision (N 1187-N from 15.10.2009) in October 2009 with the aim to protect biodiversity (Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and other species) and alpine and subalpine meadows. By the same Governmental decision the borders and map of the sanctuary as well as its charter were approved. The function of management of “Zangezur” Sanctuary was vested with “Shikahogh State Reserve” State Non-Commercial Organization.
A special protection regime operates on the whole territory of the established SPNA by end 2008	Upon decision of Armenian Government a special protection regime operates on the whole territory of the sanctuary. Some staff was already appointed right after establishment of the sanctuary, the recruitment of the rest of the planned staff will be continued in 2010.
The natural reproduction of flora and fauna species increased by the end 2010	In the result of the establishment of “Zangezur” Sanctuary as well as capacity building of the staff, the preconditions were created for effective protection of flora and fauna species and reproduction of the threatened species on the whole territory of the sanctuary via day to day patrolling of the area.

<p>The key habitats and landscapes are preserved on the SPNA territory by the end 2010</p>	<p>The territory of “Zangezur” Sanctuary is the key habitat for the species such as Caucasian leopard, Armenian mouflon, bezoar goat, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and others. The sanctuary is the only one in Armenia, where Armenian mouflon is protected. Their reproduction and protection on the territory of the sanctuary has a very important role for the presence of the mentioned species on the whole territory of Armenia. The intensity of activities in the sanctuary will be gradually increasing over time, which will result in effective protection of key habitats on the territory of the sanctuary.</p>
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Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Cooperating with different partners such as the Academy of Science, Institutes of Botany and Zoology, Ministry of Nature Protection and others, the project was successfully implemented. In the result the Governmental decision on establishment of “Zangezur” Sanctuary was obtained and the sanctuary established. Its creation is a guarantee for improved protection and increased reproduction of endemic, endangered and rare flora and fauna species such as Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and others. The Sanctuary includes underrepresented in the system of protected areas of Armenia ecosystems like subalpine and alpine meadows as well as freshwater ones like high mountain lakes and rivers’ banks.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

During the implementation of the project the only unexpected negative impact was the delayed governmental decision on establishment of the sanctuary, for which the project had to be extended as some project activities (infrastructure, staff training, etc.) were possible to implement only upon obtaining Governmental decision.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: The project is provided with human and technical resources	The project was provided with human and technical resources
1.1. The office space is rented, the furniture and equipment is purchased and installed by February 2006	The project started on 18 April 2006, the office was rented and the furniture, equipment and supplies were purchased and installed on the 1 st of May 2006. The purchase of the off road (4x4) car was completed in June 2006.
1.2. The project staff including the project coordinator, administrator and accountant is set up by February 2006 with defined roles and responsibilities. The Labor Contracts and Terms of References are signed.	The key project staff including the project coordinator, administrator, accountant, driver, cleaner was recruited with defined roles and responsibilities. The Labor Contracts and Terms of References were signed.

<p>1.3. The staff successfully accomplishes the management and monitoring of the project. The financial and technical progress reports (quarterly, annual and final) are composed and submitted to CEPF.</p>	<p>The staff has successfully accomplished the management and monitoring of the project. The financial and technical progress reports (quarterly, annual and final) have been composed and submitted to the CEPF.</p>
<p>Output 2. Survey on landscape, flora and fauna species diversity (including the endemic, rare and endangered species) of the proposed area and surroundings, as well as mapping (in GIS) of their habitats is implemented.</p>	<p>The research and inventory on flora and fauna species diversity (including the endemic, rare and endangered species) of the proposed area and surroundings, as well as mapping (in GIS) their habitats have been implemented</p>
<p>2.1. Survey on landscape, flora and fauna species diversity in the territory of the planned SPNA is completed by January 2007</p>	<p>The field research and inventory on flora and fauna species were conducted by specialists- scientists from the Institutes of Academy of Sciences (botanists, mammologist, ornithologist, herpetologist and entomologist) in July and August of 2006. The scientific research groups worked in 2007 as well for 3 months period.</p>
<p>2.2.The mapping of flora and fauna species distribution is completed by February 2007</p>	<p>The mapping of flora and fauna species distribution started in August 2007.</p>
<p>2.3.The 2.1-2.2 indicators results analysis is done and the flora and fauna distribution is generalized and a map with the proposed SPNA boundaries is drawn by February 2007</p>	<p>In August 2007 the mapping specialist implemented mapping activities of boundaries, analyzed the mapping of flora and fauna population distribution, which later was generalized and took its final form.</p>
<p>Output 3.Based on the results of the Output 2 the clarification and drafting of the boundaries as well as creation of the digital map for the whole area of SPNA are implemented with consideration for all land users.</p>	<p>Based on the results of the Output 2 the clarification and drafting of the boundaries as well as creation of the digital map for the area were implemented with consideration for all land users.</p>
<p>3.1.Field works aimed to clarification of the SPNA boundaries are accomplished by June 2007</p>	<p>The clarification of the boundaries was realized by a special mapping organization “Hoghachap” Ltd. The mapping organization together with the local consultant on protected areas implemented survey of the area, refined and updated the area topographic map in 1:10000 scale, The field works aimed at clarification of the SPNA boundaries was accomplished in June 2007.</p>
<p>3.2.The boundary-posts pointers are fixed up by June 2007</p>	<p>The boundary-posts pointers were fixed by the mapping company in June 2007.</p>
<p>3.3.The creation of the digital map and the description of boundaries for the area implemented with consideration for all land users by June 2007</p>	<p>The digital map with scale 1:10000 and description of the boundaries of the sanctuary was completed in June 2007.</p>
<p>3.4.All the necessary documents on the boundaries description and the map of SPNA are prepared by June 2007</p>	<p>All the necessary documents on the boundaries description and the map of the sanctuary were prepared by June 2007</p>
<p>Output 4. A draft management plan of SPNA “Zangezur” is developed and coordinated with all stakeholders. The final management plan of SPNA “Zangezur” is developed.</p>	<p>A draft management plan of “Zangezur” Sanctuary was developed and coordinated with all stakeholders. After completion of consultations with the stakeholders (Ministry of Nature Protection, Syunik Regional Administration, Armenian Forestry (“Hayantar”) SNCO, Institute of Botany, Institute of Zoology, the adjacent</p>

	communities) the management plan of “Zangezur” Sanctuary was finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection.
4.1.The working group for developing of management plan consisting of different specialists is set up by July 2007	A working group was formed for the management plan development. The group consisted of 3 specialists (1 group leader and 2 specialists) started its activities in June 2007.
4.2.The description of key ecological attributes of the territory and available resources is prepared by August 2007	Working group prepared the description of the key ecological attributes and available resources by August 2007.
4.3.The main threats to the key ecological attributes of the site are indentified by August 2007	Poaching was identified as the main threat to the key ecological attributes of the site which should be prevented by establishing the strong protection regime.
4.4.Strategic actions for biodiversity conservation are indentified by August 2007	Based on result of discussions with Kajaran municipality and Geghi communities located near the planned sanctuary as well as scientists, conservation agencies, some biodiversity conservation activities were proposed by August 2007.
4.5.A draft of the management plan is developed by September 2007	The generalizations and analysis were done and the draft management plan developed in September 2007.
4.6.The seminars and consultations with stakeholders in Syunik Marz are held by October 2007	The seminars and consultations with stakeholders in Syunik Marz (Region) were held in December 2007.
4.7.The seminar (public discussions) with participation of all stakeholders (Ministries, Scientific Institutes, NGOs, etc.) is held by November 2007	The seminar (public discussions) with participation of all stakeholders (Ministries, Scientific Institutes, NGOs, etc.) was held in December 2007.
4.8.The final version of management plan is developed by December 2007	The final version of the management plan was developed in December 2007
4.9.The official approval of the SPNA “Zangezur” management plan from the Ministry of Nature Protection is obtained by December 2007	The final draft of “Zangezur” management plan was submitted to the Ministry of Nature Protection for official approval by December 2007.
Output 5. The Draft Decision on Establishment of the SPNA “Zangezur” and the Non-profit State Organization SPNA “Zangezur”, as well as their Charters are prepared. The Governmental Decision and approval of Charters is obtained.	The Draft Decision on Establishment of the “Zangezur” Sanctuary and “Zangezur” SNCO management body, as well as their Charters was prepared. The Governmental Decision on establishment of “Zangezur” Sanctuary, its management body and approval of the Charters was obtained.
5.1.The Charters of : a/ the SPNA “Zangezur” and b/ the Non-profit State Organization SPNA “Zangezur” is prepared by January 2008	The draft Charters of : a/ “Zangezur” Sanctuary and b/ “Zangezur” Sanctuary management body is prepared by January 2008.
5.2.The Draft Decision on Establishment of the SPNA “Zangezur” and on approval of Charters, as well as all the regular documents are prepared by February 2008	The Draft Decision on Establishment of the “Zangezur” Sanctuary and on approval of Charters, as well as all other necessary documents for governmental approval were prepared by February 2008.
5.3.The procedure of coordination of all	All the necessary documents were prepared for

documents with stakeholders is completed by February 2008	coordination with stakeholders: all departments of the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finances and Economy and others. The procedure of coordination of all documents with stakeholders was completed by February 2008.
5.4. The coordinated documents on establishment of new protected area "Zangezur" is submitted to the Government by February 2008	The coordinated documents on establishment of "Zangezur" Sanctuary were submitted to the Government by February 2008.
5.5. The Decision on Establishment of the SPNA "Zangezur" and the Non-profit State Organization SPNA "Zangezur", as well as on approval their Charters are obtained from the Government by April 2008	The Decision on Establishment of "Zangezur" Sanctuary, vesting "Shikahogh State Reserve" SNCO as its management body, as well as on approval of "Zangezur" Sanctuary Charter and making changes in "Shikahogh" SNCO charter was obtained from the Government in October 2009.
Output 6. The boundaries and the map for the SPNA "Zangezur" are approved by the Government. The map is registered in the State Cadastre of Armenia.	The boundaries and the map for the "Zangezur" Sanctuary were approved by the same governmental decision from 15 October 2009.
6.1. All the necessary documents on the boundaries description and the map, as well as the Draft Governmental Decision on the SPNA Map Approval are coordinated with stakeholders by April 2008	All the necessary documents on the boundaries description and the map, as well as the Draft Governmental Decision on the Sanctuary Map Approval were coordinated with stakeholders by November 2008.
6.2. The SPNA map approved by the Government is registered in the State Cadastre of Armenia by April 2008	The boundaries and the map for the Zangezur Sanctuary were approved by the Governmental decision N1187-N from 15 October 2009. The map approved by the Government was afterwards submitted to the State Cadastre for registration.
Output 7. The infrastructure for the SPNA "Zangezur" is established	The planned infrastructure for the "Zangezur" Sanctuary was established.
7.1. The office of SPNA "Zangezur" is built or bought and renovated by June 2008	The office space for "Zangezur" sanctuary was bought and renovated.
7.2. Equipment and furniture for the office of SPNA "Zangezur" is fully bought and installed by June 2008	Equipment and furniture for the office of "Zangezur" Sanctuary was bought and installed by December 2009.
7.3. The ranger shelters are bought or built and established by June 2008	2 ranger shelters were bought and established by December 2009. One of them was established in Kajaran area, the other one - in Geghi.
7.4. An off-road (4x4) car is purchased by June 2008	A car ("Honda") was purchased by December 2009.
7.5. 4 horses and 4 saddles are purchased by June 2008	4 horses and 4 saddles were donated to "Zangezur" Sanctuary by "Shikahogh" reserve.
7.6. Equipment for rangers is purchased by June 2008	Respective equipment for rangers (5 binoculars, 10 rucksacks, 10 sleeping bags, 3 posters, photo camera, a table, 4 chairs and 2 beds) was purchased by December 2009.
7.7. The SPNA territory infrastructure (barriers, gates, signs etc) are prepared and fixed up by June 2008	The Sanctuary territory infrastructure (4 barriers, gates, signs on biodiversity conservation and anti poaching activities, etc)

	was prepared and fixed up both in Kajaran and Geghi areas by December 2009.
7.8. Building of new roads and repair of existing roads inside the SPNA completed by June 2008	Repair of existing roads inside the Sanctuary was completed by December 2009.
Output 8. The professional staff of the SPNA "Zangezur" is set up.	The professional staff of the "Zangezur" Sanctuary was set up. This was started right after the official establishment of "Zangezur" Sanctuary.
8.1. The staff for SPNA "Zangezur" is set up by May 2008	The recruitment of the staff for "Zangezur" Sanctuary has started in October 2009 after official establishment of "Zangezur" Sanctuary. It will be continued after the end of the project.
Output 9. The professional development and trainings for protected area staff provided.	The professional development and trainings for protected area staff were provided
9.1. The team of trainers is identified by March 2008	The trainings program, as well as the Terms of Reference for trainers were designed by December 2009. The trainings program includes the topics of protection of biodiversity, map of the territory, use of field equipment, fire management, field monitoring, work with visitors and other related topics. The team of trainers (1 botanist and 1 zoologist) was defined by December 2009.
9.2 The training programme is developed by April 2008	The training materials were prepared by trainers according to Terms of Reference by December 2009.
9.3 The training of the staff is held by May 2008	The staff training was held by December 2009.
Output 10. The new SPNA "Zangezur" is officially inaugurated and starts operating.	The new "Zangezur" Sanctuary was officially inaugurated and started operating in December 2009.
10.1. The new SPNA "Zangezur" is officially inaugurated and starts operating. by July 2008	The new "Zangezur" Sanctuary was officially inaugurated after governmental decision on its establishment and started operating in December 2009.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

The project was implemented successfully, the new protected area "Zangezur" was established with the planned infrastructure. There were some delays in implementation of some project activities connected with delayed governmental decision on SPNA establishment. However, in general all the planned project outputs were delivered,

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

All the outputs were successfully realized, except the output 7 ("The map registered in the State Cadastre of Armenia"). It was connected with delay in obtaining governmental decision. However, the map (approved by the governmental decision) with all the necessary documents was submitted to the State Cadastre for official registration, which will be done in the nearest future according to the state procedure.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The project was implemented based on the nature protection legislation of Armenia. The establishment of “Zangezur” Sanctuary is very important for conservation of valuable ecosystems as well as endemic, rare and threatened species of flora and fauna. It can serve also for ecotourism development in the region.
The project had no negative environmental impact.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF’s future performance.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

The project was designed rather carefully with planning of the sequence of activities and their duration. This contributed significantly to successful implementation of all phases of the project.

In spite of the good design it was not possible to avoid some delays in implementation of several project activities, which was conditioned by different factors not linked with the project design. Field inventory work took longer than envisaged due to weather and seasonal reasons. However, the main delay in project implementation was connected with obtaining governmental decision. This delay was not conditioned by the project design or implementation, but by state procedures on consultations and establishment of protected areas.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

One of the most important aspects of the project was full involvement and effective cooperation with stakeholders, which ensured successful implementation of the project. It is necessary for such projects to allocate more time for consultations as well as obtaining governmental decisions as sometimes there might be impeding factors not connected with the project design or implementation, which are not possible to influence.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
The Government of Armenia	A	Ca. 40,000 USD	The Government has allocated annual budget for the operational cost of the sanctuary

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)

- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

In the result of project implementation “Zangezur” Sanctuary was officially established and its management function was vested with “Shikahogh” Reserve SNCO. Further financing of the sanctuary will come from the state budget according to the state budget allocations. UNDP/GEF project “Development of the System of Protected Areas in Armenia” started in September 2009 and is aimed at strengthening sanctuaries, including “Zangezur” Sanctuary. So, the activities on development of the sanctuary will be continued during coming 4 years in the frame of the mentioned project. WWF will provide financial and technical support to the sanctuary developing biodiversity monitoring and ecotourism programmes and providing equipment for protection programme. The Caucasus Protected Areas Fund is another opportunity for the sanctuary to get financing during coming years.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

“Zangezur” Sanctuary is a very important protected area not only for the southern Armenia, but also for the whole Armenia. The territory of the sanctuary is a habitat for underrepresented ecosystems of Armenia as well as numerous rare and endemic species, such as Caucasian leopard, Bezoar goat, Armenian mouflon, Caspian snowcock, Caucasian black grouse, Armenian viper and others. It is the only protected area of Armenia, where Armenian mouflon is protected. It is an important element of the network of protected areas in the southern Armenia as well as in the region (together with protected areas of Iran and Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic). Further activities in the sanctuary are important for ensuring proper protection regime and conditions for reproduction and regeneration of valuable species. It is necessary to contribute both state and international funding for developing the sanctuary and protection of its biodiversity.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Martirosyan Vladik
 Organization name: “Khustup” NGO
 Mailing address: khustup@yahoo.com
 Tel (+374) 285 2 74 16
 Fax: -
 E-mail: khustup@yahoo.com