

## CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

<b>Organization Legal Name:</b>	Missouri Botanical Garden
<b>Project Title:</b>	Publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" and "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy"
<b>Date of Report:</b>	30 November 2013
<b>Report Author and Contact Information</b>	Dr. George E. Schatz, Curator, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis MO 63166-0299, U.S.A.

**CEPF Region:** Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot

**Strategic Direction:** Program for Consolidation. Investment priority 4: Publish and disseminate the results of pioneering regional assessment of the conservation status of Caucasus endemic plant species.

**Grant Amount:** US\$40,000.00

**Project Dates:** 1 July, 2011 to 30 September, 2013

**Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):** Partners for the project included: the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority, which comprises botanists from each country within the region, mandated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) to assess and validate the risk of extinction status of the endemic plants of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot; the IUCN Red List Programme in Cambridge, U.K., with whom Caucasus Plant Red List Authority Programme Officer Ketii Batsatsashvili has worked to refine the IUCN Red List Assessments for inclusion on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species; Botanical Garden Conservation International (BGCI), who provided feedback on the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy"; the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development (CCSD) at the Missouri Botanical Garden, who provided assistance with the production of the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy".

### Conservation Impacts

***Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.***

The project has directly contributed to the implementation of the CEPF Caucasus Ecosystem Profile Program for Consolidation, Investment priority 4: Publish and disseminate the results of pioneering regional assessment of the conservation status of Caucasus endemic plant species.

***Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.***

**Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

The long-term objective of publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" and "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" is the effective conservation and sustainable use of the indigenous plant resources of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot. An understanding of the risk of extinction of plant species endemic to the region should lead to their inclusion into broad scale conservation planning processes that identify priority sites and corridors, as well as result in protected area and individual species management regimes. The ultimate goal is to mitigate the decline and prevent the loss of any plant taxa endemic to the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot, while simultaneously ensuring the ecosystem services benefits

that plants provide to both humans and wildlife. In cases of direct exploitation of endemic plant resources by humans for food, medicine, or housing, the long term objective of the "Caucasus Plant Initiative" is the sustainable harvest and/or cultivation of those endemic species.

**Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:**

Progress toward planned long-term impacts of the project have included a number of new initiatives involving international partners working in collaboration with countries in the Hotspot to address plant conservation needs. To prevent the loss of any plant taxa endemic to the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot, the Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Garden Kew, U.K., is working with the Caucasus Regional Seed Bank in Georgia at the National Botanic Garden and the National GeneBank in Azerbaijan, to collect and store seeds of endemic species as part of the 'Saving the Flora of the Caucasus Program'. To address the sustainable harvest of endemic plant resources exploited for food, medicine, and housing, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and Institute for Marketology is working with the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia to implement the 'Sustainable Management of Biodiversity' program. The publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" and the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" should spur additional similar projects aimed at the effective conservation and sustainable use of the indigenous plant resources of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot.

**Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):**

The immediate impact of the publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" and "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" will be the first ever compilation in English of a comprehensive synonymized list of the 2,950 endemic plant taxa of the region, with fully vetted and validated distributional occurrence in the 6 countries of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot. Along with the full list of endemic plant taxa of the region, the book will contain the first ever conservation assessments of 1,164 taxa, including the top 50 priorities for conservation action in each country. The book will thus serve as the first reference manual on the conservation status of Caucasian endemic plants, constituting a conservation baseline for the endemic plant taxa of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot. The publication of the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" will serve as a blueprint and roadmap for priority plant conservation activities in the region through 2020, both for governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:**

All of the planned short-term impacts of the project have been realized upon completion of the grant. The publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" comprises the first ever compilation in English of a comprehensive synonymized list of the 2,950 endemic plant taxa of the region, with fully vetted and validated distributional occurrence in the 6 countries of the region, thus constituting a conservation baseline for the endemic plant taxa of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot. The publication of the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" serves as a blueprint and roadmap for priority plant conservation activities in the region through 2020, both for governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**Please provide the following information where relevant:**

**Hectares Protected: nr**  
**Species Conserved: nr**  
**Corridors Created: nr**

***Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.***

Despite the challenges inherent in working with a small scientific press at a non-profit institution, all short-term objectives will be achieved. During the grant period, MBG Press became understaffed, and was unable initially to refill the vacant staff position because of budget restrictions. In addition to its core obligation to publish two scientific journals, several existing book projects at MBG Press by necessity took precedence over the Caucasus Red Book during the period of the staffing shortfall. The ensuing delays tested the patience of both the scientific editors and the National Coordinators from each country within the Caucasus region. The success in ultimately achieving the short-term objectives is due to the recognition, understanding, and acceptance by CEPF of such unforeseen delays, and the subsequent granting of an extension to allow completion of the project.

Success in achieving long-term objectives will depend upon the continuing engagement of botanists in the Caucasus Region in plant conservation activities and advocacy. While some countries within the region with greater financial resources have been successful at obtaining government funds to further plant conservation efforts (e.g., Azerbaijan), such engagement will rely to a large extent on external international funding. To that end, the CEPF-funded plant Red List assessment projects that have resulted in the publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" and "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy", and the formation of the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority, are catalyzing new collaborative projects, international partnerships and funding streams, including the Millennium Seed Bank of the Royal Botanic Garden Kew, U.K., the Berlin-Dahlem Botanic Garden with support from the Volkswagen Foundation, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit financed by German government. Thus, the outlook for achieving long-term objectives is hopeful, and is a direct consequence of CEPF investment.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?*** no

## Project Components

**Project Components:** *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

### **Component 1 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Publication of the "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region".

### **Component 1 Actual at Completion:**

The "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" was published in 2014, but was issued with a 2013 publication date. Complimentary copies were sent to each of the participating countries in the Caucasus region.

### **Component 2 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

Publication of the "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy"

### **Component 2 Actual at Completion:**

The "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" was published as a 28-page illustrated pamphlet, both in hard copy and as a downloadable pdf file accessible on both the Missouri Botanical Garden's and Plants 2020's websites. The Caucasus Plant Initiative outlines a regional strategy to achieve the 5 Objectives and 16 Targets of the 2010-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

**Component 3 Planned (as stated in the approved proposal):**

**Component 3 Actual at Completion:**

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

Both components have been fully realized.

***Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.***

The "Red List of the Endemic Plants of the Caucasus Region" is the first ever compilation in English of a comprehensive synonymized list of the 2,950 endemic plant taxa of the region, with fully vetted and validated distributional occurrence in the 6 countries of the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot. Along with the full list of endemic plant taxa of the region, the book will contain the conservation assessments of over 1,100 taxa, including the top 50 priorities for conservation action in each country.

The "Caucasus Plant Initiative: A Regional Plant Conservation Strategy" is a 28-page illustrated pamphlet that outlines a regional strategy to achieve the 5 Objectives and 16 Targets of the 2010-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. It is accessible online as a downloadable pdf file at: Missouri Botanical Garden: <http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/pdf/RedBook69mobot.pdf> or Plants 2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation: <http://www.plants2020.net/news/1057/>.

## **Lessons Learned**

***Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.***

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

Despite the unforeseen delays that necessitated an extension of the grant period, the decision to involve the MBG Press in the production of the Caucasus Red Book was both correct and critical to the ultimate success of the project. The highly technical nature of the content, specifically the arcane aspects of scientific nomenclature that had to be carefully verified and resolved for over 3,000 plant names, many of which were originally published in the Russian literature, could only have been efficiently edited by the MBG press working in close proximity with the scientific editors. It was also essential that the project design included salary support for Caucasus Plant Red List Authority Programme Officer Ketii Batsatsashvili, as well as support for her visit to the Missouri Botanical Garden to work with the scientific editors and establish a working relationship with the MBG Press.

***Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)***

Successful implementation of the project is a direct reflection of the constant and continuing communication efforts among the members of the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority. At the center of that network is MBG staff member Dr. Tatyana Shulkina. Her personal connections to

botanists in the region and ability to serve as a liaison among them and their institutions, and with institutions and funding agencies in Europe and the U.S., have been the key elements contributing to the success of the project.

***Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:***

International frameworks and collaboration are essential for catalyzing national conservation initiatives. The Convention on Biological Diversity's Decision on a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation serves as a powerful framework for guiding both national (and regional) policy initiatives. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species is the de facto standard for informing national governments of the global conservation status of the biodiversity present within their borders. The Missouri Botanical Garden is in the unique position to collaborate with each of the countries in the Caucasus Hotspot (as well as many other Biodiversity Hotspots), providing the necessary liaison both between and among the countries and the international community and donors outside of the region. Conservation initiatives have the maximum potential for success when all of these elements and partners are in place.

## Additional Funding

***Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.***

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
MBG	In-Kind	\$40,000	Salaries of MBG staff

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

- A*** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B*** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C*** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

## Sustainability/Replicability

***Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.***

The two project components (publication of the Caucasus Red Book and Caucasus Regional Plant Conservation Strategy) have served to sustain and continue the engagement of each of the countries in the Caucasus Biodiversity Hotspot in the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority and plant conservation activities in general. Through the Programme Officer, Ketevan Batsatsashvili, national coordinators within the Caucasus Plant Red List Authority have continued to refine Red List assessments, working with the IUCN Red List Office in Cambridge, U.K., to incorporate Caucasus plant assessments on to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. With the completion of the two project components, the Missouri Botanical Garden will now work on establishing a Caucasus Project module within MBG's internet accessible database TROPICOS, where all of the information contained within the Caucasus Red Book will be available, as well as links to type specimens recently digitized at the Komarov Botanical Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia, and Georgian National Herbarium, Tbilisi, as part of the Mellon Foundation Global Plant Initiative (GPI) Project.

***Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.***

The project catalyzed an independent initiative to produce a national plant Red List of Azerbaijan, and has spawned new collaborations with the Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, U.K. ('Saving the Flora of the Caucasus Program'), the Berlin-Dahlem Botanical Garden ('Developing Tools for Conserving the Plant Diversity of the Transcaucasus', supported by the Volkswagen Foundation, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit and its partner the Institute of Marketology ('Sustainable Management of Biodiversity', financed by the German government).

## **Safeguard Policy Assessment**

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

There were no required actions related to environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

## **Additional Comments/Recommendations**

none

## Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

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**\*\*\*If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages\*\*\***



**Performance Tracking Report Addendum**

**CEPF Global Targets**

**(Enter Grant Term)**

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.  
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

<b>Project Results</b>	<b>Is this question relevant?</b>	<b>If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.</b>	<b>Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.</b>	<b>Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013. (Attach annexes if necessary)</b>
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	no			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no			

**If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table**



