

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Vsemirnyi Fond Prirody

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Site Network for Birds and Wetlands: Inventory, Protection, and Community Management - Phase II

Implementation Partners for this Project: Russian Bird Conservation Union, Wetlands International-Russian Programme

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): 1 February, 2008 – 31 January, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): March, 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The main project's problem was its interrupting and dividing on 2 parts. The project was interrupted, but we couldn't stop working. The field projects had been started; we received reports and information about IBAs and priority bird species, we had to collect and analyze it. Despite the fact that this report applies to Phase II of the project, it includes some activities concerned to both phases. For instance, all publications were compiled using data of field projects, which were in Phase I or caretakers recruiting wasn't interrupted. Therefore it's difficult to divide our achievements into two parts, and this report includes, for the most part, both project phases.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Network of IBA caretakers enhanced through this project and provided with new knowledge on priority bird species, conservation needs, and developed sites management recommendations; provide effective conservation practice and prevent species decline and sites destruction.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level: Network of IBA caretakers enhanced through this project and provided with new knowledge on priority bird species, conservation needs, and developed sites management recommendations; provide effective conservation practice and prevent species decline and sites destruction.	In result of the project in the North Caucasus region 80 IBAs (72% of all IBAs) are covered by caretakers, in priority corridors caretakers' network covers all 29 IBAs. The caretakers and local people enhanced their capacity and got new skills during trainings on meeting in Makhachkala and during site action field projects, because many of these projects contained a considerable educational part. Other field projects concerned IBA or birds conservation activities (poaching inspections, optimization of flow pattern and guarding routs). Regional IBA coordinators and caretakers participated in conservation actions in the IBAs, where immediate intervention was necessary - IBA "Taman", which suffered from ecological accident

	in Kerch strait, and IBA "Imeretinskaya lowland", where building of Olympic objects is planned. In result of this project we have broad, developed network of IBA caretakers in North Caucasus.
1. Network of IBA caretakers will cover all known IBAs in Greater Caucasus Corridor and Caspian Corridor (29 sites) by the end of the project.	The volunteer network creation continued during 2 recruiting seasons. All known IBAs in Greater Caucasus Corridor and Caspian Corridor (29) are secured by 42 caretakers and 3 caretakers groups. Their names and addresses were listed (see attached file).
2. For 13 priority birds the species conservation action plans will be developed, printed and distributed by the end of the project.	17 field projects for collection of new data on priority bird species were carried out. In results bilingual book with species conservation action plans has been published. It contains articles about 14 species, because <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> was co-opted in priority birds list. The books were distributed among decision making agencies, ecological NGO, regional IBA coordinators and caretakers
3. 10-year action plans for all priority IBAs and Ramsar sites will be developed, printed and distributed by the end of the project.	The field projects for monitoring IBAs in priority corridors were carried out. Data for all priority IBAs were collected and analyzed. As result the action plans for IBAs in priority corridors were developed and published. The books were distributed among decision making agencies, ecological NGO, regional IBA coordinators and caretakers.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

Project was successful in creation of network for IBAs protection (network of IBA caretakers was established), in the birds species conservation (book with species conservation action plans was published) and in site protection (publication of action plans for IBAs in priority corridors).

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)? No.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Complete Inventory of Important Bird Areas in the priority corridors of Caucasus is carried out including publication of the IBA review and integration of the IBAs with the Network of the wetlands	Complete inventory of Important Bird Areas in the priority corridors and all North Caucasus region were carried out. IBA review was published.
<i>Indicator 1.1: 8-10 local field projects on searching of new IBAs and Ramsar sites will be carried during the project.</i>	17 field projects for identify new IBAs and monitoring known sites were carried out. 43 new IBAs were described and entered in World Bird Data Base and 68 IBAs were monitored.
<i>Indicator 1.2: A network of sites for the priority species protection in the Greater Caucasus and Caspian corridors is completed by the end of 2007.</i>	New data on 14 priority species were collected (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> was co-opted in priority birds list). The book with species conservation plans for 14 priority bird species has been published in Russian and in English.

<i>Indicator 1.3: At least 5 new IBA are supposed to identify by the end of 2007.</i>	We identified far more new IBAs in the framework of current project than planned. 43 new territories were described and their statuses were confirmed.
<i>Indicator 1.4: The status of newly identified sites (IBAs, Ramsar sites, bird sites of national and regional importance) is determined by the end of 2007.</i>	All new sites were inserted in World Bird Data Base and their IBA statuses were confirmed by BirdLife International experts. From 111 IBAs in North Caucasus 36 are Ramsar sites (see attached file with List of IBAs)
<i>Indicator 1.5: Mapping and digitizing of all data on IBAs within Great Caucasian and Caspian corridor IBAs is carried out by the end of the project.</i>	The boundaries of 70% known and newly identified IBAs were made more precise with authors, many of them were changed in some way for improving conservation purposes. Mapping of the new identified IBAs was realized. Digitizing the data on boundaries of all IBAs in North Caucasus was carried out. Data were presented in gis format and used in project publications and for practical activities on IBAs
<i>Indicator 1.6: All new IBA data are entered in World Bird Data Base and in National IBA Database managed by coordination center of RBCU.</i>	Revising of 70 known IBAs, previously inserted in World Bird Data Base, was carried out. Information about all new IBAs and data on IBAs monitoring have been entered in World Bird Data Base. Datasheets for all 111 North Caucasus IBAs added to National IBA Database in RBCU coordination center.
<i>Indicator 1.7: IBA review will be compiled and distributed among the target groups in the North Caucasian region by the end of the project.</i>	IBA review with articles for 111 IBAs in all North Caucasus regions was published and distributed among the target groups
<i>Indicator 1.8: Colored poster with map of the IBAs and Ramsar sites and information about threatened birds and their protection needs will be issued by the end of the project.</i>	Colored poster with map, which was designed used project data, and photographs of IBAs, which were taken by participants of the field projects, was designed, printed and distributed among the target groups (see attached file).
<i>Indicator 1.9: The IBA review will be distributed among the decision making agencies.</i>	The IBA review was distributed among the decision making agencies (Ministry of Nature Resources of Dagestan, Ministry of Nature Resources of Severnaya Osetia Republic, Dagestan hunter society, Reserves: Dagestansky, "Ersy", "Severo-Osetinsky", Kabardino-Balkarsky", "Tiberdinsky", "Caucasky", "Chernie zemli", National parks Prielbrus'e and Alania, Universities in regional centers and others)
Output 2: Prospective action plans for priority IBAs in the priority corridors are developed.	Prospective action plans for priority IBAs in the priority corridors were developed
<i>Indicator 2.1: Current conservation status of all priority IBAs will be determined by the end of 2007</i>	During IBA monitoring data on SPAs were collected. There are 10 Nature Reserves, 3 National Parks, 25 Zakazniks, 3 Ramsar sites and 33 Ramsar sites from the Shadow List among known and newly identified IBAs.
<i>Indicator 2.2: Prospective 10-year actions plans for them will be compiled by the end of 2007 and published by the end of the project.</i>	The book with action plans for 29 priority IBAs has been published. It contains geographical, ornithological and economical characteristics of each IBAs, analysis of threats and recommendation for IBAs conservation. The book was distributed among the target groups.
<i>Indicator 2.3: All sites of top importance will be proposed as prospective Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) - by the end of the project.</i>	Information about 32 Caucasus IBAs of top conservation importance was proposed by RBCU for including in the new National List of prospective

	<p>Specially Protected Areas which was submitted by Russian Government.</p> <p>RBCU participates in protection of IBA "Imeretinskaya lowland", where building of Olympic objects is planned. After consultations with the regional coordinator and the local experts, it was decided that more effective and realistic can be concentration on protection of the remaining sites parts of the IBA, where SPA will be organized. IBA "Tlyaratinsky zakaznik" will be added to Dagestansky Reserve. Documents for including IBA "Tuleny Island" to Dagestansky Reserve are also developed.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 2.4: The prospective action plans for priority IBAs in the priority corridors will be delivered to all stakeholders and distributed among the decision making agencies.</i></p>	<p>The books with action plans for priority IBAs were distributed to Caucasian stakeholders and the decision making agencies in the North Caucasus region</p>
<p>Output 3: Conservation site actions at the hotspot IBAs is carried out for minimizing and avoiding threats to priority bird species and their habitats.</p>	<p>Conservation site actions at the hotspot IBAs were carried out</p>
<p><i>Indicator 3.1: At least 4-5 local site based projects based at local sites and aimed actions for practical conservation of birds and their habitats in IBAs will be carried out during the field seasons in 2007.</i></p>	<p>Two site-actions projects were carried out in summer 2006 (on 8 IBAs) and in winter 2007 (on 9 IBAs) in Caspian priority corridor. The results of these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursions to 3 IBAs with children were organized. • Exhibitions with posters and other information about priority bird species and IBA protection were organized in 8 schools. • Trainings for IBA caretakers and local people on bird identification and IBAs protection were organized. • Poaching inspections on 9 IBAs were carried out. • Repair of irrigated systems on IBAs Temirgoiskie lakes were realized <p>In total more than 100 people participate in the mentioned projects.</p> <p>5 site-actions projects were carried out in the summer 2007 in Caspian corridor (4) and Great Caucasus (1). Projects reports were received. The projects covered 18 IBAs</p> <p>The results of these projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Exhibitions with posters and other information about priority bird species and IBA protection were organized in 10 schools. – Excursions to 10 IBAs with children, school teachers and students were organized. – Organization of 2 new children ecological hobby groups on the base of IBAs. – 6 trainings of IBAs and birds protection for teachers and 4 trainings for hunters, game managers and National Reserves' security were carried out. – Ecological education activities based on IBAs cover a lot of school in different Dagestan regions. There were conferences, lectures, competitions, festivals devoted birds in the Dagestan schools. – Leaflets and posters about IBAs and threatened birds of Dagestan and Great Caucasus were

	<p>printed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Game animal agencies and caretakers carried out poaching inspections on 2 IBAs. – Recommendation for IBAs protection were developed for IBA “Caucasus reserve” and 2 adjoining IBAs – Information about projects and IBA protection published in Dagestan republics’ and regional newspapers. The documentary films devoted IBAs were provided and showed on Makhachkala TV – Monograph devoted IBAs, bird conservation and ecological education was published in Makhachkala (Dagestan) <p>(See document attached)</p>
<p><i>Indicator 3.2: Site-based field work for practical conservation actions in the IBAs where immediate intervention is necessary will be launched when and were required - during the project.</i></p>	<p>RBCU is alarmed about IBA “Imeretinskaya lowland”, very important territory for birds’ migrations, where building of Olympic objects is planned. RBCU submitted letters in various instances with suggestions to protect this territory. After IBA Coordinator visited IBA and consulted with the regional coordinator and the local experts, it was decided to not protest against construction of Olympic objects, but try to improve protection on the part of IBA.</p> <p>Ecological accident in Kerch strait - flood of oil as a result of ship-wreck and as consequence extensive pollution of water area - has occurred on IBA Taman’. IBA coordinator has contacted with local people and regional IBA coordinator, caretakers, local NGOs. Monitoring of a situation and saving of suffered birds were carried out. RBCU worked in cooperation with the EMERCOM, WWF, Green Peace and local NGOs. The letters expressed position RBCU on this question are submitted to various instances. The appeal of the ecological organizations to the Government, Duma and Federation Council was accepted. The question was widely covered in the press.</p> <p>During project we consulted with regional specialists about mining project near IBA “Kurdzhips river valley”. We clarified that this project wasn’t meanwhile threatened for IBA.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 3.3: Information about local conservation actions will be disseminated via websites of RBCU and Wetlands International, and mass media during the project - at least 10 publications a year.</i></p>	<p>Information with the results of site action projects has been published in web sites of RBCU (http://www.rbcu.ru/programs/IBA/report^d.html – 2006 and http://www.rbcu.ru/programs/IBA/pro_nk_2007.html - 2007).</p> <p>The results of site action projects were published in 3 regional newspapers</p>
<p><i>Indicator 3.4: Information about local conservation actions as well as inventory work will be placed in special RBCU IBA Bulletin issue - prined by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p>The reports about local conservation actions and IBA monitoring field projects have been published in RBCU IBA Bulletin. The Bulletin was posted to 220 addresses - IBA coordinators, caretakers and decision making agencies.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 3.5: Involvement of mass-media in distribution of the sites and species conservation during the project progress.</i></p>	<p>Information about the project, IBA protection and about IBA caretakers groups published in Dagestan republics’ newspapers (at least 5 articles), Dagestan Geographic society proceeding</p>

	<p>and in Stavropol krai regional newspapers. Permanent column about bird conservation and IBAs was appeared in Babaurt's regional newspaper (Dagestan). The documentary films devoted IBAs were provided and showed on Makhachkala TV. Information about IBAs Sulakskaya and Turalinskaya Bay was presented on Dagestan News site - http://www.riadagestan.ru/news/2007/11/29/33132/ The information about training for local caretakers (2007) was spread broadly by newspapers and TV of Makhachcala (Dagestan).</p>
<p>Output 4: Well-coordinated "site-supporting" network (caretakers network) is established for all IBAs of exceptional concern.</p>	<p>Well-coordinated caretakers network was established in the North Caucasus region</p>
<p><i>Indicator 4.1: Broad network of local people observing and protecting IBAs (IBA caretakers) will be created by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p>Caretakers were recruited during the field projects for IBAs monitoring and site-actions projects. In result in the North Caucasus region 84 territories (80 IBAs) are covered by 86 caretakers and 7 caretakers' groups (see attached file). In priority corridors all IBAs (29) are secured by 42 caretakers and 3 caretakers groups (see attached file).</p> <p><i>The Caucasus caretakers acquired skills necessary to protection of IBAs.</i></p> <p>50 caretakers, regional coordinators and local people took part in the training for the local caretakers and regional coordinators in February 2007 in Dagestan Republic, Machachkala. During meeting training "How to solve the problems of IBAs protection" was provided, caretakers' role in IBA's conservation, problems of IBA protection and monitoring in North Caucasus ecoregion were discussed</p>
<p><i>Indicator 4.2: Manual for IBA caretakers will be compiled and printed.</i></p>	<p>After the discussion about the Manual structure with caretakers at the meeting in Dagestan, we decided, that it should contain the serious chapter about legislation. That's why we combined Manual with Guidelines on legal tools for IBA caretakers, which was planned to publish in frame of BBI Matra project "Strengthening Civil Society's Contribution to Protecting Core Areas of the Pan European Ecological Network in Russia" supported by Nature and Food Quality of Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. Such co-funding has allowed to not exceed funds and to include in Manual large chapter about legal tools for IBAs conservation.</p> <p>Manual for IBA caretakers has been published and distributed among caretakers, regional IBA coordinators and decision making agencies.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 4.3: Development and printing of the diplomas and stickers for to nominate most active caretakers.</i></p>	<p>The special diplomas were design and presented to the most active caretakers. The caretakers and the caretakers groups received also materials about IBAs conservation, binoculars, guides and stickers.</p>
<p>Output 5: Analysis of current status and condition of all priority bird species across North Caucasus is fulfilled. Species Action Plans are developed and distributed on national and international levels.</p>	<p>Species Action Plans were published and distributed on national and international levels.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 5.1: Booklet with species conservation</i></p>	<p>The team of regional authors was formed and</p>

<p><i>plans for 13 priority bird species of the priority region will be published in Russian and in English by the end of the project.</i></p>	<p>during the field work collected information on the priority bird species distribution, resident status and conservation needs. The bilingual book with species conservation action plans has been published. It contains articles about 14 species, because <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> was co-opted in priority birds list.</p>
<p><i>Indicator 5.2: The report with the propositions on strengthening for some bird species conservation will be delivered to the decision making agencies.</i></p>	<p>Project materials were distributed among decision making agencies, ecological NGO, regional IBA coordinators and caretakers.</p>

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

Complete inventory of Important Bird Areas in the priority corridors and all North Caucasus regions were carried out and Review of all Caucasus IBAs were published. For IBAs in the priority corridors detailed prospective action plans were developed and printed. For *priority bird species protection* bilingual book “Action plans for conservation of globally threatened birds in Caucasus eco-region” were published. In conservation site actions during the project were involved more than 100 volunteers and broad recruiting company was organized. As a result of these activities well-coordinated caretakers network was established in the North Caucasus region.

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

All outputs were realized.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

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)

Manual was planned to print in the beginning of the project. But later we decided to discuss its contents with caretakers and put off Manual printing till 2008. We think that it will be better to plan such publication in the end of the project.

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

We had problems with printing of our materials. We planned project budget 3 years ago, then cost of printing service increased and we didn’t have enough funds to print all publications. The actions taken to overcome the above problem: We printed 2 books in Makhachkala (Dagestan), where printing cost is less than in Moscow.

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 in USD	Notes
Nature and Food Quality of Dutch Ministry of Agriculture.	A	2000	Manual for IBA caretakers was combined with Guidelines on legal tools for IBA caretakers, which was planned to publish during BBI Matra project "Strengthening Civil Society's Contribution to Protecting Core Areas of the Pan European Ecological Network in Russia" Such co-funding has allowed to not exceed funds and to include in Manual large chapter about legal tools for IBAs conservation.

***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.

Some activities of this project, such as IBAs monitoring, caretakers' work and environmental education in some schools will continue in the future.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Every year more than 100 volunteers participate in project conservation actions. People from Nature Reserves, Forestry agencies, Game animal agencies, local NGOs, school children, school teachers, farmers etc. took part in the regional local projects. Regional project leaders were in constant working contact with regional stakeholders. A lot of trainings, excursions, lectures were carried out. Information about rare birds and site conservation was spread broadly. These activities were very important for local people, regarding their attitude towards Caucasus environmental problems.

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.

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