

## CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

### I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:**  
*Environmental Watch on the North West Caucasus*

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):**  
*Public Campaign for Western Greater Caucasus Biodiversity Protection from Planning of Olympic Games in Sochi Region / Russia*

**Implementation Partners for This Project:** International Socio-Ecological Union, Greenpeace Russia, NABU, Druzhinas for Nature Preservation Movement, WWF Russia, Center of Environmental Policy of Russia, Sochi Branch of Russian Geographical Society, NGO "Our Sochi", Krasnodar Regional Branch of All-Russia Public Association "United Civil Green Alternative" (GROZA) (NGO "ETnICA"), Maikop City Organization of VOOP, Environmental group "For Life!", Center for the protection of constitutional rights and liberties of people, Public Environmental Council of Sochi, Public Council of Sochi, Public Chamber of Sochi, Committee of Sochi's Rescue, Design Laboratory "Ar-Ko", "Eco-Expert" Ltd, etc.

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** May 1, 2006 - October 31, 2006

**Project Dates (really):** Juny 15, 2006 – July 10, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** 12/2007

### II. OPENING REMARKS

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

In connection with the fact that it was extremely important to support the active public participation in the process of decision making relative to the Olympic Games 2014 location, and since the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus did not possess any other means for realization of these activities, the accomplishment of the project lasted longer than it was expected – more than one year.

### III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

**1. What was the initial objective of this project?**

The initial objective of this project was the prevention of Olympic Games 2014 realization on the especially protected areas of Western Caucasus and within boundaries of World Heritage Site and also averting of negative and irreplaceable effect to its biodiversity. Unfortunately, this goal was not achieved. In July, 2007, Sochi was elected as a place of Olympic Games realization and 8 principal Olympic objects are still being planned to be located in the Sochi National Park, 3 of them will be placed in the protective zone of the World Heritage Site.

**2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.**

The main tasks of our project did not change during its realization. But they enlarged significantly. The project exceeded the limits of its initial framework and encompassed far larger spheres of activities as it was planned originally. This was caused in many respects by new events and challenges which were not known on the preparation stage of the project. Particularly, the activity directed on the averting of Sochi National Park zoning change initially was not supposed in the project. The zoning change entailed the public environmental impact assessment, initiation of

court actions. Besides, we did not plan that the most important thing in the informing of wide public would be informational assistance of various mass media activity whose pressmen would come to Sochi. Conducting of various public actions, called to express environmental public NGOs' and people's attitude to the idea of Sochi Olympic Games realization, became also additional direction by realization of the project.

### **3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?**

#### ***- The monitoring of the information on issues connected to organization of Olympic Games in Sochi***

This task was accomplished very successfully. During realization of the project the monitoring of publications on Olympic subject-matter was carried out in the Internet and in printing mass-media, and also by means of connections with state bodies. Various documents on the civil-engineering designs of Olympic facilities on the territory of the Sochi National Park and in Imeretinskaya Lowland were received directly in the Management of Sochi Development.

The most significant information was distributed through the specialized mailing list Kav\_Zap which covered a wide circle of people concerned with environmental problems which were caused by the idea of realization of Olympic Games. The mailing list includes addresses of 291 men, representatives of NGO, scientists, experts, journalists, local dwellers.

#### ***- The establishing of a working partnership with local, Russian and international environmental NGOs, and also scientific public***

During realization of the project close contacts with wide circle of public organizations, concerned by ecological threats that the realization of Olympic Games incurs, were maintained.

The coalition of local public organizations acting against realization of Olympic Games was formed. The Sochi branch of Russian Geographical Society (further RGS), NGO "Association in defense of the constitutional rights of citizens - our Sochi" (Further - NGO "Our Sochi"), Sochi Public Council, Salvation Committee of Sochi Resort, Maikop City Public Organization of All-Russia Nature protection Society, environmental group "For Life!" formed it. Within the framework of this coalition the coordination of actions of local public was realized, various public actions (meetings, pickets) were carried out, joint statements were directed.

As a whole, following realization of the project on the initiative of Environmental Watch the wide circle of public organizations, concerned with the plans of realization of Olympic Games in Sochi, was formed. It has found expression in the joint statement to the International Olympic Committee (further - IOC) of 47 organizations from July 2, 2007 "No to the Olympic Games at the cost of nature destruction and Sochi dwellers' rights violation".

Within the framework of the project active cooperation with scientific public of Sochi, Krasnodar Territory and Republic of Adygeya was continued. In particular, close connections with the scientists of scientific departments of the Caucasian Reserve and Sochi National Park, Maikop State Technological University, Krasnodar State University, Sochi State University of Tourism and Resort Business, Scientific Research Institute of Mountain Forestry and Ecology, Institute of Regional Biological Researches, Sochi and Krasnodar Branches of RGS, Sochi Research Centre, "Eco-Expert" Ltd, architectural workshop "Ap-Ko", "Eco-consulting" Ltd, Research Centre of Balneology and Rehabilitation and others were maintained.

One of the serious achievements of the project in the given direction is bridging of close cooperation of Environmental Watch with the European Party of the Greens. Significant assistance in this cooperation was rendered by Alexey Yablokov, the chairman of "Green Russia" (organization with the status of the observer in the European Party of the Greens). Environmental Watch prepared the projects of two documents of the European Party of the Greens concerning the plans of realization of Olympic Games in Sochi. First, on October 15, 2006, a resolution "The Olympic Games cannot be a reason to destroy the unique biodiversity of the Western Caucasus" was adopted on the 5th Council Meeting in Geneva, and then on July 3, 2007, before acceptance of the decision about a place of realization the Olympic Games, the European Party of the Greens directed to the IOC an appeal with the request to refuse to Sochi in its Bid.

Cooperation of the Environmental Watch with the German organization NABU received large

development during realization of the project, since NABU had been working successfully for a long time in the sphere of biological variety preservation on the Caucasus. With the informational support of the Environmental Watch NABU launched an active informational campaign in Germany concerning ecological defectiveness of realization of Sochi Olympic Games in June and before the acceptance of the IOC decision in July.

***- The informing of the Russian and international public on danger to biodiversity from realization of Olympic Games in Sochi for Caucasus***

This task also was accomplished successfully. The fact that Olympic Games in Sochi are to become in the whole history of the Olympic Games the most problematical in the ecological respect grew widely known in Russia and in the world.

The basic informational instrument during realization of the project was a regular issue and distribution of original press-releases in Russian and in English containing the urgent information about danger of realization of Olympic Games in Sochi. These press releases were dispatched over seven target Russian-speaking mailing lists (IES, IES\_SMI1, Olympic Games IES\_SMI2, IES\_KP, IES\_Zap, IES\_Forest and Eco\_Rus) and by four English mailing lists (EWNC, Olymp2014, EcoCaucasus, WestCaucasus). The mailing lists IES, IES\_KP, IES\_Forest, Eco\_Rus cover a wide circle of NGO representatives, scientists, experts, local dwellers. Altogether more than 1600 people were subscribed to it.

The mailing list IES\_Zap includes especially protected natural territories of Russia whose personnel shows interest to the developments around the plans of the Olympics realization in the Sochi National Park. 230 addresses are subscribed to it. The IES\_SMI1 involves mass media of the Southern Federal District of Russia. 692 addresses of mass media and of correspondents are subscribed to it. IES\_SMI2 covers the central Russian mass media and representations of foreign mass media in Russia. 765 addresses are subscribed. The English mailing list EWNC includes a wide range of foreign NGO representatives (735 subscribers), the mailing list EcoCaucasus covers foreign mass media (725 subscribers). The mailing list Olymp2014 covers vast circles of foreign sports public including various structures of IOC, national Olympic committees (537 subscribers). The mailing list WestCaucasus comprehends various foreign organizations and persons concerned about the World Nature Heritage (409 addresses).

The mailing lists IES\_KP, Olymp2014, WestCaucasus were created specially within the framework of the project.

The wide circulation of press releases among mass media conducted to their publication by many mass media and also to quoting of the information given by in Environmental Watch on North Caucasus by mass media.

The large resonance among mass media had two press conferences organized within the framework of the project and confined for the arrival of IOC Evaluation Commission to Sochi. The first press conference was carried out in Moscow on February 13, 2007. The second press conference was carried out on February 23, 2007 in Sochi. The second press conference was visited by many correspondents of western mass media.

During realization of the project a new separate direction emerged in the course of task performance on informing the wide public. It's realization was not planned initially. This was an informational and organizational maintenance of foreign and Russian mass media correspondent's activity. In view of the fact that realization of the Olympic Games on the especially protected natural territories attracted wide public attention, many correspondents of printing and TV mass media began to visit Sochi at the beginning of 2007. It was important for them to convey as well the problematical side of the Sochi Bid. They asked to show them valuable natural territories which may suffer from preparation and realization of the Olympic Games on these territories, to help them meet the local dwellers who had suffered from the preparation for the Olympics. Within the framework of this direction of activity the activists of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus rendered organizational and informational support to the following mass media: CDF (Germany) (twice), "Bloomberg" (twice), "Financial Times" (Great Britain), Schweizer Fernsehen (Switzerland), CBS (Korea), Mayak-Film (Switzerland), the 5-th Channel (Russia), "1+1" (Ukraine), "Die Welt" (Germany), "Der Standard" (Austria), "El Pais" (Spain), "Los Angeles Times" (USA), "RTR" (Russia), France Press (France), "Frankfurter Rundschau" (Germany), "Die Furche" (Austria).

The trips with the correspondents of these mass media were made to the area of Krasnaya

Polyana and to Imeretinskaya Lowland.

Also during realization of the project Environmental Watch was rendering informational support constantly to various mass media granting them comments on questions they were concerned with, documents and other materials concerning the plans of Olympics realization, contacts with the experts and local dwellers, victims of the Olympics.

Big significance within the framework of the project was given to cooperation with independent mass media of Sochi - newspapers "Chernomorskaya Zdravnitsa" and "Our Sochi". Many publications of these mass media on Olympic themes were based on the information received from Environmental Watch.

***- The organization of the public environmental monitoring of building activities carried for the realization of Olympic Games***

This task of the project was successfully realized. In this period the activists of the Environmental Watch drove out 5 times to the areas of Olympic facilities construction near Krasnaya Polyana and 4 times to the areas of Olympic facilities construction in Imeretinskaya Lowland. Owing to this fact public environmental NGOs possessed the information about actual state of affairs in the construction areas.

***- The informing of the relevant international institutions and Russian state bodies on illegality of placing of Olympic facilities in territories of the Sochi National Park and Caucasus Reserve***

A large amount of letters were directed to Russian state bodies and also to the companies on the questions of law infringements and damage to biodiversity when locating Olympic facilities on the territory of the Sochi National Park and in the buffer zone of the Caucasus Reserve, and also on the questions of public participation in the process of environmental impact assessment. Altogether on behalf of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus 100 official letters were directed to the state bodies including:

- RF Government -1
- RF Ministry of Natural Resources -5
- RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs - 1
- RF Ministry of Agriculture - 1
- RF Ministry of Economic Affairs and Trade - 1
- RF General Prosecutor's Office -4
- RF Calculating Chamber - 1
- Rosprirodnadzor - 10
- RF Public Chamber - 2
- FGUP "Development of Sochi City"- 5
- Bid Committee "Sochi -2014"- 6
- RF President Plenipotentiary in the South Federal District - 1
- North Caucasus Department of Rostekhnadzor- 2
- Kuban Basin Water Department - 3
- Krasnodar Territory Administration - 1
- Legislative Assembly of Krasnodar Territory - 3
- Krasnodar Prosecutor's Office - 1
- Rosprirodnadzor Department on Krasnodar Territory - 3
- Rosselkhozadzor Department on Krasnodar Territory - 1
- Sochi Administration - 20
- Sochi Prosecutor's Office - 10
- Sochi National Park - 10
- Caucasus Reserve - 1
- JSC "Krasnaya Polyana" - 4
- Institute "EcoEcs" - 3

High profile in the framework of the project was devoted also to information of foreign and international organizations about environmental problems which Sochi Olympic Games realization brings.

In the framework of this activity the following letters were directed:

**- to the International Olympic Committee :**

- 31.10.2006, "Olympic Facilities Construction Will Ruin Imeretinskaya Lowland Once and for All!" (joint statement of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus and Sochi Branch of Russian Geographic Society;

- 5.02.2007, "About Meeting of Alarmed Public With IOC Evaluation Commission" (joint statement of the Environmental Watch, NGO "Our Sochi – Association in Defense of Constitutional Rights of Citizens", Maikop City Organization of All -Russia Society Nature Protection Society, Institute of Regional Biological Researches, Constitutional Rights and Liberties Defense Center, Sochi Public Council, Krasnodar regional branch of the All-Russia Public Organization "Amalgamated Civil Green Alternative", initiative group of Imeretinskaya Lowland residents.

- 15.02.2007., "About the Meeting of Concerned Public with IOC Evaluation Commission" (2);

- 19.02.2007., "About Meeting of Concerned Public with IOC Evaluation Commission" (3);

- 2.07.2007., "No to Olympic Games by the Cost of Nature Destruction and Violation of Sochi residents' rights!" (joint declaration of the Environmental Watch and of 46 Russian public organizations)

**- to the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development**

- 18.05.2007; "About EBRD investment into environmentally defective projects connected with the plans of Olympic Games realization in Sochi";

**- to the UNESCO World Heritage Center and UNESCO World Heritage Committee;**

- 23.06.2007. "About threats to the object of World Nature Heritage Site "Western Caucasus (joint statement of the Environmental Watch, Institute of Regional Biological Researches, Maikop Public Organization of All-Russia Public Nature Protection Society, public environmental group "For Life!"

In addition to the official letters, the position of the Environmental Watch was announced to IOC directly during the meeting of public environmental organizations with IOC Evaluation Commission (22.03.2007), where the coordinator of Environmental Watch Andrey Rudomakha participated, and to the President of European Bank of Reconstruction and Development during Annual Meeting of the EBRD in Kazan (21.05.2007) where Environmental Watch deputy coordinator Dmitry Kaptsov participated.

The important aspect of the project was preparation and sending to IOC "Anti-Bid Book" in which the inadmissibility of Sochi as a place of Olympic Games realization had been reasoned. "Anti Bid Book" was prepared by the consultant Valery Brinikh, the former director of the Caucasus Reserve, attracted to the project realization.

***- The establishing of the dialogue among all stakeholders***

The given task was not carried out in the full. Unfortunately, equitable and full value dialogue of state bodies and public on the environmental issues of Sochi Bid was not established. Despite tremendous efforts on the part of public in this course, the state bodies of Russia turned out to be incapable to honest and equitable dialogue with the environmental public. Their declarations about willingness to the dialogue turned out only imitation of such dialogue.

Environmental Watch undertook enormous efforts for establishment of multilateral constructional dialogue between all interested parties, including Russian state bodies, IOC, the Bid Committee "Sochi-2014".

Environmental Watch showed great interest in all public hearings on the project of federal target program "Sochi Development", which took place at the end of January and at the beginning of February, 2007. Environmental Watch participated in the meeting of environmental NGOs with the Minister of Nature Resources Yuri Trutnev on January 31, 2007 and in consultations with environmental NGOs, which were conducted by the Bid Committee "Sochi-2014" in Sochi on February 12-13, 2007. With great difficulty it achieved the right to participate in the meeting of the IOC Evaluation Commission with NGOs during its visit to Sochi on February 22, 2007.

However, the true dialogue was not established, since Russian state bodies, relating to the Olympic project, were not interested in such dialogue. Out of all state bodies the constructive dialogue was supported only with the management of three especially protected natural territories,

whose natural complexes would suffer as a result of realization of Olympics – the Sochi National Park, the Caucasus Reserve and the Sochi State Wildlife Preserve.

***- The submission of an appeal to the international institutions and Russian state bodies on environmental treat and illegality of realization of Olympic Games in Sochi from scientist of The North Caucasus***

Unfortunately, for many reasons, the present statement was not signed and dispatched. Many scientists of Sochi were attracted to various projects connected with the plans of Olympic Games realization, and it was difficult for them to sign this statement.

***- The publishing and distribution among the local population and other stakeholders of a booklet "What Winter Olympic Games threatens the Sochi"***

The given booklet was not prepared and distributed because the cost of its preparation and multiplication turned out to be much higher than it was planned at beginning of the of the project. Information of the local dwellers was held by means of other informational instruments such as mass media, meetings, leaflets.

***- Available archives of materials and documents on themes of the campaign are formed***

Following the informational monitoring and documents received from state organizations and developers, scientists and specialists, the Environmental Watch formed big archives of documents, publications, maps and other materials on the campaign subjects. It contains the most complete archives of such documents among all NGOs engaged in such problems even such big NGOs like WWF and Greenpeace. These archives are the important basis for further actions in conducting the campaign for Olympics 2014 transfer to another place.

These archives were available for all concerned activists NGO and were presented to everybody on the enquiry. In particular, the given releases were delivered to International Socio-Ecological Union, Druzhinas for Nature Preservation Movement, Sochi Branch of Russian Geographical Society; NGO "Our Sochi", NGO "ETnICA", Maikop City Organization of All-Russia Nature Protection Society.

**4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.**

Our great disappointment was the fact that environmental NGOs did not have a single whole position on the separate key stages in respect of the Olympic Games project realization. On the part of some NGO the idea occurred that the Olympic Games realization would be possible without nature damage, and this does not correspond to reality in any variant of developments. Unfortunately, only on some stages of the campaign it was possible to reach consolidation of all environmental NGOs. But later on this unity was lost. In our opinion, this was right the main factor that allowed IOC to approve Sochi as a host city of the Olympics 2014. If the position of the NGO was indivisible on the point that the Olympic Games in principle are not possible in the Sochi National Park, the IOC decision would be different for sure. In our opinion, the way of compromises on the part of public in such situation at full inability to compromises on the part of Russian officials was quite ineffective.

Our severe mistake was the fact that during the IOC Committee's visit to Sochi the Environmental Watch also expressed its willingness to compromises in respect of Olympic Games possibility in Sochi. We realize at present that the way of compromises was senseless in the campaign on Western Caucasus biodiversity protection.

**5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.**

The positive lesson in this campaign was the fact that the small regional organization like

Environmental Watch is able to have an influence on very serious problems even with the extreme lack of resources when it is good informed and rests upon wide support of local NGOs and if it has activists who are ready to work voluntarily.

One of the negative lessons received in the result of realization of this project consists in the fact that the very serious danger for nature protection consists in existence of pseudo-NGOs, called to imitate environmental NGO. Namely such role in the situation with the West Caucasus biodiversity preservation played the Association of Reserves and National Parks of North Caucasus. This organization, which has no one public environmentalist, organized pseudo-public hearings on the project of Sochi National Park zoning change where on the part of public "approved" this project giving the possibility of concentrated development of 10 thousand hectares in the reserved and especially protected zone of the Sochi National Park.

Another episode of "public activity of this organization became its participation in the meeting of Russian environmental NGO with IOC Evaluation Commission, where its representatives declared that the Olympic Games in Sochi would not bring any environmental damage, but on the contrary, they would become positive for its preservation. Evidently, this was neither first, nor last appearance of this pseudo-NGO, and evidently, position of this NGO was presented to the Russian authorities as the opinion of environmental public.

## **6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.**

After completion of the project on enthusiasm and on the use of personal means of the activists of the Environmental Watch on North Caucasus, the active public participation in the control of the Olympics preparation process is going on.

In particular, the informational monitoring and informing of public is going on, the work with journalists including informational and organizational maintenance of TV shooting groups is underway. The press releases on these subjects are being issued and dispatched as before though in smaller volume, information of public is being maintained through mailing list Kav\_Zap.

Official influence on state structures and IOC also goes on with the purpose of damage minimization by realization of Olympic Games. Particularly, on the Day of Black Sea Protection (October 31) the official appeal prepared on the initiative of Environmental Watch "No to construction of ports in Imeretinskaya Lowland!" of eight local ecological organizations was directed to IOC, to the President and to the Chairman of RF Government, to the head of Krasnodar Territory Administration and also to the head of the company "Basic Element". Also the official letters are being directed to the bodies of Public Prosecutor's Office, Rospirodnadzor, Sochi administration, Caucasus Reserve, Sochi National Park on various environmental infringements in connection with the preparation for the Olympics.

The activists of Environmental Watch keep on the public ecological monitoring of activities on preparation for the Olympic Games realization. After completion of the project two trips to the areas of construction of Olympic objects on Krasnaya Polyana were made, one trip to the area of Alpine complex "Rosa Khutor" construction, second - to Grushevy Ridge where the construction of Luge/Bobsled Track, Mountain Olympic Village and Biathlon Complex are planned. Also a trip was made to the area of construction works in the mouth of the Psou River in Imeretinskaya Lowland.

Besides, an ecological meeting together with the Sochi Salvation Committee was organized in Sochi on September 15, 2007, on the eve of the International economic forum. The main subjects of the meeting were environmental problems caused by the plans of realization of Olympic Games in Sochi (more than 500 men participated).

Also strengthening of the international contacts of the Environmental Watch in the sphere of public influence on the plans of Olympic Games continued after completion of the project. At the beginning of September, 2007, the representative of the Environmental Watch Tatyana Lysenko went to Austria on the invitation of the European Party of Greens where she presented the report prepared by the Environmental Watch "Olympic Games in Sochi - this is the way to the worse world". Also she had meetings with the representatives of the European Green Party, Austrian National Committee, the company "Strabag".

At present the web-site is being elaborated where the extensive information concerning environmental problems of Olympic Games will be placed.

As a whole, the campaign for protection of a biological variety of Western Caucasus proceeds. Environmental Watch is looking for additional resources for its energization.

## **7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.**

The activity directed on prevention of zoning change of the Sochi National Park (SNP) became the significant direction by realization of the project. New zoning was directed on creation of a legal opportunity to construct the Olympic facilities on the area of a settlement Krasnaya Polyana. According to new zoning, about 10 thousand hectares of valuable lands were planned to remove from the reserved and especially protected zones of the Sochi National Park. If it succeeded to prevent, it would be impossible to build the Luge/Bobsled Track, the Mountain Olympic Village, the Biathlon and Ski Complexes and the Alpine Ski Center on the unique natural areas of the Caucasus. When it had become known, Environmental Watch on North Caucasus organized public ecological examination of the zoning change project within the framework of which its unscientific character and tendentiousness was proved.

The experts' decision of this examination in the form "of the reasoned proposals of public" was presented for the state ecological examination of Rosprirodnadzor. However, the given conclusion was not taken into account, and the state ecological examination under the pressure of Rosprirodnadzor management ratified the obviously illegal project of zoning change. Having exhausted the opportunities of profound expert influence on this issue, Environmental Watch on North Caucasus brought a suit against the infringements of the established procedure of EIA process in the part of organization and realization of public hearings. The given hearings were carried out with coarse infringements, and the state ecological examination did not estimate the given fact. This law suit was lost in connection with biased attitude of the Central Sochi Court. After that the consultant of the project Valery Brinikh had sent the claim challenging the legality of the positive conclusion of state ecological examination concerning the SNP zoning change. Various courts refused to consider this claim during the whole year. But, eventually, the claim of Valery Brinikh was considered (in October, 2007, after the completion of the project), and the court of the first instance made the decisions to satisfy the claim demands in complete volume.

This sensational decision, according to which the conclusion of the state environmental assessment on the project of new SNP zoning had been recognized illegal, created the legal bases to forbid Olympic objects construction on the especially valuable natural territories of the Sochi National Park and in the buffer zone of the World Natural Heritage. After that the huge influence on court was rendered on the part of various state bodies, and the given decision was cancelled in the Court of Cassation. At present the given judicial proceeding is going on.

Also significant efforts within the framework of the project were spent for organization and realization of public measures called to reflect the attitude of the population of Sochi to the idea of realization of Olympic Games.

Among these measures:

- picket with the distribution of the leaflets in Krasnodar (29.10.2006) (organized and carried out by Environmental Watch on North Caucasus together with the Krasnodar branch of the "Civil Incorporated Green Alternative" (GROZA). 13 men participated.);
- the environmental meeting in Sochi (16.12.2006) (organized by Environmental Watch on North Caucasus together with NGO "Our Sochi" and Sochi Salvation Committee. More than 500 men participated);
- the dramatized action in Krasnodar (17.12.2006) (organized and carried out by Environmental Watch together with the Krasnodar branch of the "Civil Incorporated Green Alternative" (GROZA). More than 20 men participated);
- the ecological meeting in Sochi (18.02.2007) (organized and carried out by Environmental Watch together with "Our Sochi" and Sochi Salvation Committee. More than 1000 men participated).

Besides, within the framework of the project Environmental Watch was engaged also in another ecological problem of Sochi, linked inseparably with its basic tasks, existing both since former times and caused by plans of realization of Olympic Games. These problems are: absence of the system of domestic waste recycling, the catastrophic state of urban dumps, the problem of Mzymta river bed transfer in connection with the plans of Adler airport reconstruction, the problem of construction of two new ports necessary for provision of Olympic facilities construction in Imeretinskaya Lowland, and others.



In spite of the fact that the project as a whole could not stop the threats, which have hung above the unique Nature Heritage of Western Caucasus, it had also a certain successes in this sphere. As a result of the appeal of Environmental Watch on North Caucasus and of the Sochi branch of Russian Geographic Society to IOC and to Russian state structures concerning the threat of utter annihilation of Imeretinskaya Lowland natural complexes, the officials have expressed willingness to create a wildlife preserve in the Lowland. Also as a result of the appeal of Environmental Watch to Rosprirodnadzor, it was confirmed that the status and the mode of a buffer zone of the Caucasian Reserve within the limits of the Sochi National Park has being in force. It helps now to struggle with the development of the territories which are included into the buffer zone.

**IV. 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 |
|-------|------------------|--------|-------|
|       |                  |        |       |
|       |                  |        |       |
|       |                  |        |       |

**\*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.

**V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The problem of Western Caucasus valuable nature complexes and biodiversity preservation remains extremely critical in connection with the plans of Olympic Games 2014 realization. The damage for wild nature by the preparation and fulfillment of the Games will be colossal. In this situation it is extremely important to continue actively to accomplish international efforts directed to minimization of this damage.

**VI. INFORMATION SHARING**

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.  
Yes

If yes, please also complete the following:

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