

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	World Wide Fund for Nature Caucasus Programme Office
Project Title:	Enhancing the landscape and ecological integrity of the Greater Caucasus Corridor through establishment of Khevsureti National Park, Georgia
Date of Report:	30.04.2015
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CEPF Region: Caucasus Hotspot

Strategic Direction: Support civil society to promote transboundary cooperation and improve protected area systems in five target corridors

Grant Amount: USD 437,501.93

Project Dates: July 2011 - March 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Conservation Impacts

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

This project contributed to development of strategic direction 1: Support civil society to promote transboundary cooperation and improve protected area systems in five target corridors

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

- The Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Areas were established on 28 April 2014;
- Following documents were prepared: Pshav-Khevsureti NP Management Plan, Support Zone Development Plan and Tourism Development Plan;
- Beekeeping development project for local households has been successfully completed;
- Series of activities conducted – trainings, study tours and technical support for local population and guest house owners;

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

- To strengthen landscape and ecological integrities of the Greater Caucasus Corridor;
- To maintain continuity of ecological processes and ecosystem services;
- To conserve unique biological diversity and improve conservation status of endangered and critically endangered as well as endemic and relict species of flora and fauna in the Caucasus Hotspot;

- To support hotspot-wide sustainable development process through replication and sharing experiences from the given project;
- To develop a model for multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral conservation planning in support of integrated management and sustainable development.

Actual Progress toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

- Establishment of Pshav-Khevsureti National Park can be considered as the filling of gap between existing Tusheti and Kazbegi National Parks;
- Newly established NP will promote conservation of many endangered, relict and endemic species of plant and animals;
- Joint meetings with stakeholders, decision makers, trainings and study tours for local population, the discussions of management plan of the NP helps to develop a model for multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral conservation planning in support of integrated management and sustainable development.

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

- To strengthen legal and institutional mechanisms for biodiversity conservation within the East Greater Caucasus through establishing Khevsureti National Park covering at least 30,000 hectares;
- To enhance landscape and ecological integrities of the East Greater Caucasus large conservation landscape (covering almost half of the Greater Caucasus Corridor) through creation of Khevsureti National Park as filling a gap between existing Tusheti and Kazbegi National Parks;
- To involve local communities in biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable development of the region for long-term safeguarding of ecosystem services on which the local communities are depended;
- To elaborate basic strategic documents – Support Zone Development Programme and Tourism Development Programme that will significantly contribute to the sustainable development of the region with full consideration of locals` needs as well as conservation priorities;
- To raise additional / matching funds to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of the target area.

Actual Progress toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

- In contrast with planned 30 000 ha the established Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area comprises: Pshav - Khevsureti national Park - 75 936 hectares, Roshka Natural Monument - 133 hectares, Asa Sanctuary - 3 943 hectares and Pshav-Khevsureti national Park support zone – 30 050 hectares - totaling to about 110 000 ha;
- To enhance landscape and ecological integrities of the East Greater Caucasus large conservation landscape (covering almost half of the Greater Caucasus Corridor). Newly created Pshav-Khevsureti National Park as filling a gap between existing Tusheti and Kazbegi National Parks;

- Local population was involved in biodiversity conservation and promotion of sustainable development of the region through meetings, trainings, study tours, the discussions of management plan of the NP, etc.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 80,012 hectares +30,050 hectares Pshav-Khevsureti national Park support zone

Species Conserved: Fauna: Wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*), East Caucasian tur (*Capra caucasica cylindricornis*), Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), (*Rupicapra rupicapra spp. caucasica*) possibly Caucasian leopard (*Panthera pardus saxicolor*), Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) Lynx (*Lynx lynx*), Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), Bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*), The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Caucasian Snowcock (*Tetraogallus Caucasicus*), Caucasus viper (*Vipera kaznakovi*), Caucasian Parsley Frog (*Pelodytes caucasicus*) e.t.c.

Flora: *Betula raddeana* , *Ulmus glabra*, *Quercus macranthera*, *Juniperus foetidissima*, *Sorbus hajastana* e.t.c.

Corridors Created: Newly established Pshav - Khevsureti National Park can be considered as filling a gap between existing Tusheti and Kazbegi National Parks;

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

Short-term: Newly established Pshav-Khevsureti National Park covers more than 80 000 ha

Long- term: Pshav-Khevsureti NP can be considered as filling a gap between existing Tusheti and Kazbegi National Parks; Newly established NP will promote conservation of many endangered, relict and endemic species of plant and animals.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Negative: Frequent changes in governmental structure management (e.g. staff) significantly impacted the project duration and implementation some planned activities

Positive: High interest expressed by local population transformed during project fulfillment into positive attitude to establishing of National Park. Accordingly, high involvement in planning of NP, especially from Pshavi population, which in the end triggered the significant increase in initially planned area of NP.

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: Basic surveys and assessments for creation of Khevsureti National Park carried out.

Component 1 Actual at Completion: All planned activities have been performed and provided the following products: Biological assessment report; Socio-economic assessment report; Land-use inventory report; the relevant GIS maps and the first outline of the Park boundaries.

Component 2 Planned: Wide-participatory approach applied for planning of Khevsureti National Park

Component 2 Actual at Completion: At the earliest stage of the project implementation an inception meeting with the Agency of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment Protection and all key stakeholders was organized.

Committee on Establishing of Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area was created and the planned meetings were conducted. Also biannual meetings of the Local Support Group were regularly conducted.

The similar meetings and communication was conducted thorough out every stage of the project.

Communications materials (Calendar with information material) on the importance of Phav-Khevsureti National Park for local communities were produced and distributed in local communities.

Component 3 Planned: Khevsureti National Park legally declared

Component 3 Actual at Completion: Law on "On Establishment and Management of Pshav-Khevsureti National Park" was adopted by the Parliament and legally declared after signature by president of Georgia.

Component 4 Planned: Khevsureti National Park established and operational

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

The meetings of Committee on Establishing of Pshav-Khevsureti NP discussed various aspects of NP management plan and this process was finalized by acceptance of the plan by Agency of Protected Areas. At the same time the public review of the plan was conducted as stipulated by the law.

Training programme for the National Park staff changed to the NP support zone recipients and was finished. In order to share experience and provider information exchange the operators of guest houses participated in three day study tour in PAN Parks member Borjomi-Khartagauli NP and in Bakuriani area. Also, 18 local people participated in Kakheti area in three day training on proposal writing, project management, relations with financial institutions and other legal issues.

Initially planned purchase of equipment for the park staff members was changed to the purchase of equipment for NP Guest Houses owners. After scrupulous research the eight guest house owners were selected for providing them by - 20 Electric heates, 4 Electric stoves and 6 Refrigerators; apart from this two families received 8 tents, 16 Sleeping bags, 3 Horse saddles and 10 mountain bikes.

Communications materials on the importance of the National Park (colored newspaper 1,000 copies) were distributed; video film and short clip were prepared; Pshav-Khevsureti Guide Book (1,000 copies) published and distributed in key stakeholders and local population.

Component 5 Planned: Support Zone Programme for Khevsureti National Park developed

Component 5 Actual at Completion: The NP Support Zone Programme document was compiled and adopted by APA.

Component 6 Planned: A Tourism Development Plan for Khevsureti National Park elaborated

Component 6 Actual at Completion: A Tourism Development Plan was compiled and adopted by APA.

Component 7 Planned: Trust building measures defined and implemented for local communities

Component 7 Actual at Completion: Beekeeping development project (Sub-grant) implemented, resulted in increased income and levels of support among local households

Beekeeping development trainings: The trainings was held in the Barisakho and Shatili communities by Elkana beekeeping expert. The training covered industrial beekeeping issues, such as–biological basics of beekeeping, main seasonal works at beehives, beekeeping inventories, treatment of bee diseases using organic methods, feeding bee colonies, queen bee replacement method, production of queen bee, breeding in beekeeping, production different products of beekeeping.

On the initial stage of the project the number of beneficiaries increased from 38 to 63 (among them 10 women), thus indicating the high interest of population in the development of beekeeping in Barisakho and Shatili communities.

Component 8: Compliance with CEPF safeguard policy on involuntary resettlement and appropriate mitigation strategies implemented

The project beneficiaries received 413 hives, 105 hives with bee families, the inventories of beekeeping (foundation sheets, hive tool, foundation sheet embedder, queen cage, honey extractor, hive carrying belt), and bee medicines: Varostop, Ecostop. Nozestat. About 15 beneficiaries of the project expressed their interest to study queen jelly production.

Economic Efficiency:

In case of average production minimum 15 kg of honey should be extracted from each hive; The price of 1 kg honey on the market is 15 GEL (around US\$6); the annual honey production from the 518 hives distributed to the project beneficiaries will be 7,770 kg, which will in total make 116,550 GEL (around US\$50,000) income for the project beneficiaries at present stage. In future, along with the honey production, the project beneficiaries will be able to produce other bee-keeping products, among them Royal Jelly, which has high price and demand. This will contribute to the further growth of the incomes of the beneficiaries.

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

All project's components was achieved. Some activities were adapted considering actual needs and objective circumstances.

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

N/A.

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)

Project proposal correctly reflected the actual needs for meetings with local population, as well as other stakeholders. We believe these meetings have resulted in significant success of the project. The idea of using trust building approach proved to be very successful as these measures have caused the wide involvement of local population in the process of establishing the NP.

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

Considering the specifics of the region more attention should be paid to the time-planning and organization of seasonal traveling and transportation possibilities.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

As the Khevsureti area is currently practically de-populated, the conducting of similar projects will invest significantly in keeping (and even reversing) indigenous populations in their historical areas.

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
KFW	C	2 million Euros for Pshav - Khevsureti NP. (All project – 8 million Euros)	Project title: Support Programme for Protected Areas (SPPA)

***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.)*

KfW allocated financial support for Protected Areas in the Caucasus. The program aimed at improving the management of four protected areas in the Greater Caucasus mountain ridge: (i) Kazbegi National Park; (ii) Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Area; (iii) Kintrishi Protected Area in Adjara; and (iv) the Algeti National Park. Consideration of Pshav-Khevsureti Protected Areas in the KfW-funded programme is the result of the CEPF-funded project success which ensures sustainability of our achievements.

Sustainability/Replicability

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

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

None

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

The project triggered the social safeguard policy on involuntary resettlement due to the designation of the new protected areas. The project complied with the requirements of the safeguard policy including by establishing a grievance mechanism. No grievances were raised by local communities, who supported the proposal to designate Pshav-Khevsureti. Protected area.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

No additional comments.

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, 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.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2011 to March 31, 2015. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	yes	80112	80112	1) Pshav - Khevsureti national Park - 75 936 hectares 2) roshka Natural Monument - 133 3) Asa Sanctuary - 3943
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	yes	80112	80112	1) Pshav - Khevsureti national Park - 75 936 hectares 2) roshka Natural Monument - 133 3) Asa Sanctuary - 3943
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.	yes	80012	80112	1) Pshav - Khevsureti national Park - 75 936 hectares 2) roshka Natural Monument - 133 3) Asa Sanctuary - 3943
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	yes	30030	30030	1) Pshav - Khevsureti national Park - support zone - 30050 hectares
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	yes	2	2	Barisakho and Shatili

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

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit														
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other	
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services										
Barisakho				X						X												
Shatili				X						X												
Total																						

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: