



University of Idaho



Caucasian Black Grouse Research, Monitoring and Conservation Management in Georgia

Quarterly Progress Report # 1 – Technical

For the period of January – March 2004

Report prepared by:

Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife, GCCW

In Partnership With:

**World Pheasant Association, IUCN Grouse Specialist Group
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho
BirdLife International, European Division Office**

Report submitted to:

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Pipeline and Southern Caucasus Pipeline (SCP) operated by BP



April 2004, Tbilisi, Georgia

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I. TECHNICAL REPORT

This part of the report provides description of conducted work according to activities scheduled by the contract.

Activity 1: Data Collation and identification of study sites

Duration: January – March 2004

Published materials on Caucasian Black Grouse distribution in Georgia is collected and reviewed. The unpublished information and experts opinion is also compiled.

The following results are achieved in this activity:

- A table of known points of species observation in Georgia and a map is prepared (attachment 1).
- Areas for intensive ecological and population studies are identified: two sites for intensive population biology study (using radio-telemetry) are: Lagodekhi area (mainly Lagodekhi Nature reserve with newly added territories) and Borjomi area (Tskratskaro pass). Additional 10 sites are chosen for habitat requirements and genetics study.

Plans for the next quarter:

- The detailed report on this activity is in preparation and will be submitted by the end of April 2004.

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 2: Ecological and population studies

Duration: January – March 2004

Only two parts of this activity are initiated during this reporting period: (a) population biology study (from March 2004), and (b) current distribution and habitat requirements study (from January 2004).

The following progress is made:

- Visits to potential study areas are conducted (Lagodekhi and Borjomi districts);
- Local participants are identified and initial training is provided in Lagodekhi and Borjomi areas. In Lagodekhi area the training were provided to the representatives of Lagodekhi Nature Reserve (two persons) and a local NGO “Mlokosievitchi Society” (two persons). In case of Borjomi area, two representatives of NGO “ORBI” and a local person in Bakuriani have attended the training. All these people will participate in the planned field work in this two sites, where the intensive population biology studies are planned (Attachment 2).
- GIS operator is hired;
- Necessary field equipment is identified, purchased and delivered.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Intensive field studies will be conducted in two selected locations: birds will be marked with radios for further monitoring;
- Habitat requirement data will be collected in 4 sites;
- Samples for genetic study will be collected in 4-6 sites.

Problems: due to the late spring in Georgia, the snow cover still remains high in mountain areas. The lekking of Caucasian Black Grouse will start little later, and additionally, the access to the CBG locations is limited. Because of these reasons, the scheduled fieldwork will be postponed for 10-14 days.

Activity 3: Development of the Monitoring Plan

To be initiated in May 2005.

Activity 4: Development of the Management Plan

To be initiated in February 2005.

Activity 5. Regional and International coordination

Duration: January-March 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- The CBG working group is created with 24 members from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Turkey, Iran and European countries – UK, Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands (Attachment 3).
- E-group is established: list-serve is developed with support of IUCN Grouse specialist working group (CBG@ssclist.iucn.org).
- Web-site development is in progress.
- The partnership with Doga Dernegi in Turkey has been advanced: two team members of GCCW have attended a CBG workshop in Ankara, Turkey in March 2004 organized by Doga Dernegi. Standardization of methods for CBG study and collaboration between two projects (Georgia and Turkey) were discussed in this meeting. Agreement was achieved to communicate regularly and exchange information.

Plans for the next quarter:

- It is planned to enlarge the CBG list-serve and formalize working group operation.
- Web site of a CBG working group and a project will become available in theInternet.

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 6: Public awareness

Duration: March 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- The press-release on project activities is prepared and distributed in Georgian mass-media
- Preparation of news-paper articles is in progress
- Preparation of the leaflet on project objectives and activities is initiated

Plans for the next quarter:

- Articles will be published in Georgian news-papers;
- The leaflet on project objectives and activities will be produced and distributed.
- 1000 copies of the book “Caucasian Black Grouse” will be distributed in project sites.

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 7: Project Monitoring

Duration: January-March 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- BirdLife International has developed the Project Performance Evaluation Criteria and indicators (Attachment 4)

Plans for the next quarter:

- Project monitoring expert will review the prepared reports and materials;

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 8: Project Management

Duration: January-March 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- An administrative assistant is hired;
- Partnership agreements are developed, agreed and signed with World Pheasant Association, University of Idaho and BirdLife International;
- Administrative materials and equipment (project car, computers, photo-cameras, etc) are identified and purchased;
- Financial reporting forms are agreed with the donor;
- Proper book-keeping is on place;
- Overall coordination for project implementation is provided.

II. Attachments to the Technical Report

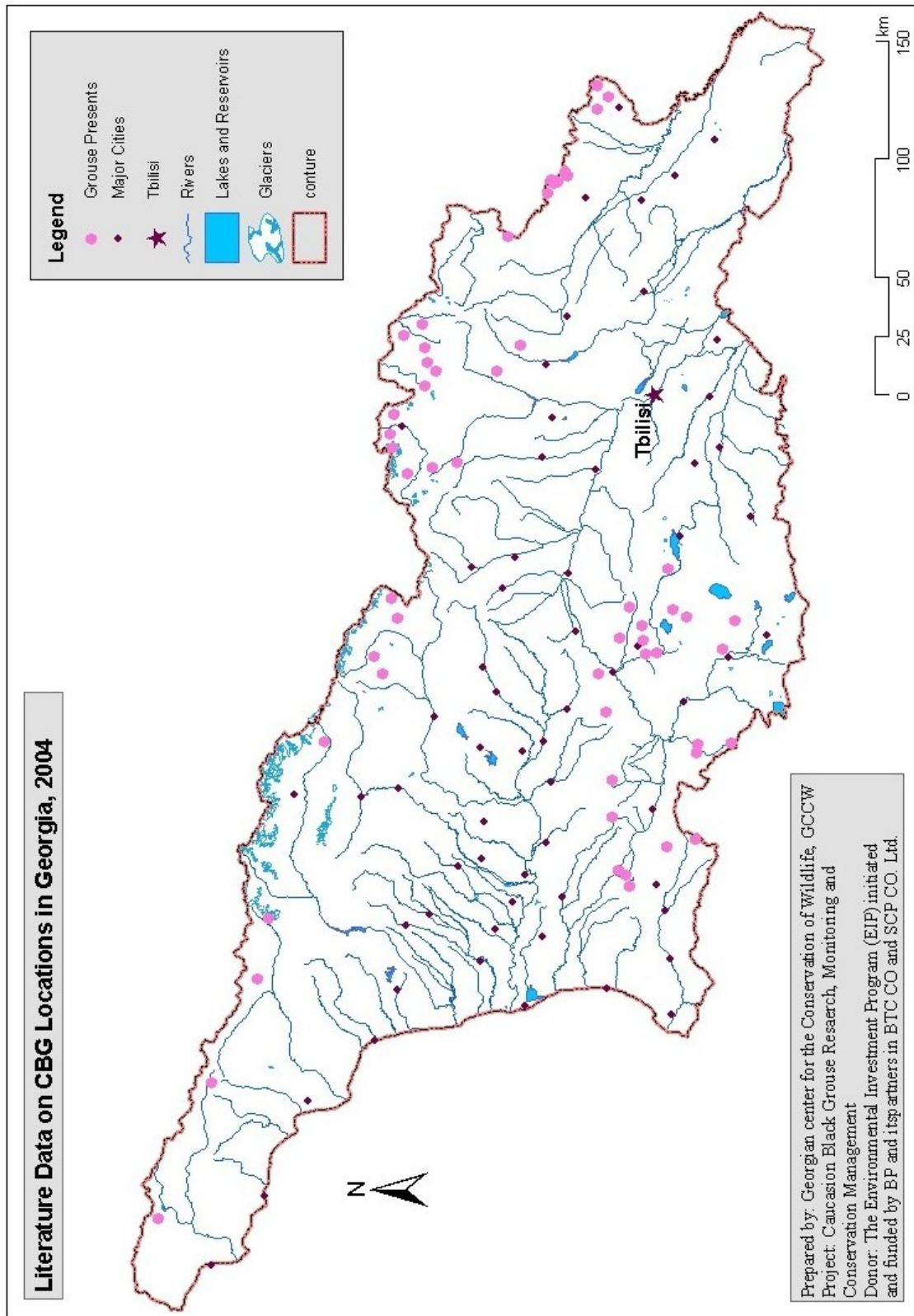
Attachment 1

Known points of species distribution in Georgia

Table 1. Observation sites of Caucasian Black Grouse in Georgia

Region	Location	Location detailed	Author
West Caucasus	Abkhazeti	Kodori, Upper riach,	O. Vitovich
West Caucasus	Abkhazeti	Bzifi Upper riach	O. Vitovich
West Caucasus	Abkhazeti	Mzimta riv. Upper riach	O. Vitovich
West Caucasus	Abkhazeti	Khutia mtns	M. Kutubidze
Central Caucasus	Svaneti	*	G. Radde
Central Caucasus	Svaneti	Enguri riv. Upper riach	O. Vitovich
Central Caucasus	Racha	Rioni riv. Upper riach	O. Vitovich
Central Caucasus	Racha	Chutxaro mtns , , .	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Racha	Qajiani mtns	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Racha	Gebi	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Racha	Glola	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Racha	Mamisoni mtns	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Racha	*	M. Kutubidze
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Khazbegi mtns, kobi mtns	M. Kutubidze
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Jvari pass	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Truso gorge	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Chaukhi	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Chkheri riv. Basin	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Khuro mt.	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Khde gorge	GCCW
Central Caucasus	Kazbegi	Devdoraki gorge	GCCW
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Lagodekhi mtns	L. Mlokosevich
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Lagodexi subalpine line	L. Kirichenko
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Didi Qochalo mtn., , & from 1800 to 2500	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Bneli gorge mtns.	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Kudigora ridge	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Lagodekhi	Ninigora ridge	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Tsifrani,	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Quchechi	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Qopchi	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Borbalo	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Tsinoxadu	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Kistani	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Shatili	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Mutso	Z. Sikharulidze
East Caucasus	Khevsureti	Khakhmati	Z. Sikharulidze

East Caucasus	Kakheti	Kakheti ridge	O. Vitovich
East Caucasus	Fshavi	Kartli ridge	O. Vitovich
East Caucasus	Mtiuleti	Mleta mtns	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Saxravi ridge	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Fokhali	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Ninika mtns	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Qvisha	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Zurgidzval ridges	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Didi Dabali gora ridge	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Shavi Klde	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	Tetri Duruji riv. Mtns	M. Kutubidze
East Caucasus	Kakheti	from Khadori pass (intsoba riv.) to Zaqatala	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	*	O. Vitovich
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Gujareti mtns	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Gvirgvina mtns	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Sabatkne mtns?	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Kokhtagora mtns	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Kodiana mtns	M. Kutubidze
Trialeti ridge	Trialeti ridge	Tskhratskaro & Tsikhisjvari mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	O. Vitovich
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Lomismta mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Dedabera mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Mzis amosvlis gora	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Sakhornia mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Grdzeli gori mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Buqsieti mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Mefistskaro mtns	M. Kutubidze
Meskheta ridge	Meskheta ridge	Zekari pass	M. Kutubidze
Javaxeti ridge	Javakheti	Javakheti upland	O. Vitovich
Javaxeti ridge	Tsalka	Surroundings of Tsalka	M. Kutubidze
Samsari ridge	?	?	?
Erusheti mtn's	Meskheta	mtns near to the border of turkey	M. Kutubidze
Erusheti mtn's	Meskheta	Chobareti mtns	M. Kutubidze
Erusheti mtn's	Meskheta	Kldekari	M. Kutubidze
Erusheti mtn's	Meskheta	Uraveli mtns	M. Kutubidze
Arsiani ridge	???	Sari-chai riv. Mtns.	M. Kutubidze
Arsiani ridge	Achara	Goderdzi pass	M. Kutubidze
Shavsheti ridge	?	?	?
Samsari ridge	Javakheti	Abuli mtns	M. Kutubidze
Samsari ridge	Javakheti	Samsari mtns	M. Kutubidze
Samsari ridge	Javakheti	Shavnabada mtns	M. Kutubidze



Attachment 2

Areas for intensive ecological and population studies

Population biology study:

- Lagodekhi
- Borjomi district (Tskratskaro pass or Zekari are): exact site will be chosen during April after visiting study sites. These visits were planned to conduct in March, but due to the late spring in Georgia and high snow cover, the access to these sites were limited.

Habitat requirement and genetics study:

- Lagodekhi
- Kvareli
- Tusheti
- Kazbegi
- Racha (Oni district)
- Meskheta ridge
- Erusheti ridge
- Samsari Ridge
- Trialeti ridge
- Borjomi National Park.

Attachment 3

Caucasian black grouse working group and listserv

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Attachment 4.

Performance Evaluation Criteria for the Caucasian Black Grouse Research, Monitoring and Conservation Management Project

Background

The Georgian Centre for Conservation of Wildlife carries out a project on Caucasian Black Grouse research, Monitoring and Conservation Management Project. The purpose of this paper is to define the performance evaluation criteria for the project.

Definitions

Performance is defined as the effectiveness in converting inputs to outputs, outcomes and impacts. Hence, *performance indicators* are qualitative or quantitative measures of project inputs/activities (operational results) and outputs, outcomes and impact used to monitor progress towards the achievement of expected result.

Selection of performance indicators

Indicators were selected with the following criteria in mind:

- Relates to an explicit objective.
- Accurately and unambiguously reflects the degree to which the objective is met.
- Is measurable.
- Depends on data that are either readily available or obtainable at reasonable cost.
- Is analytically sound and uses standardized measurement wherever possible to permit comparison.
- Shows trends over time and is responsive to changes in conditions and sensitive to differences between places and groups of people.

Project specific considerations

Table 1 lists project outputs as per the project proposal. These are the easily measurable products of the project. However, the production of these products alone tells very little about the quality of the project outputs. This is more difficult to quantify and judge objectively; therefore the proposed performance indicators are more qualitative and build mainly on reviews by other scientists (peer review).

Most of these indicators will be available only by the end of the project therefore on-going project monitoring shall focus on comparing activities with their respective schedule and budget through the progress reports. Progress reports shall cover the following areas:

- A summary of the current status of the project against the GANTT Chart set out in the project proposal and detailed activity plan;
- The major activities undertaken during the period of the report, as compared to the activity schedule;

- Expenditure during the period of the report, and cumulative to date, as compared to the budget and cost schedule;
- Estimates of the number of clients or beneficiaries served during the period
- The current and anticipated problems, including planned remedial actions;
- Planned major activities and schedules for the next period.

Table 1 Evaluation criteria

Project component	Outputs	Evaluation questions	Performance Indicators	Source of information
Project purpose: Provide the scientific basis for the effective conservation management of the Caucasian Black Grouse	(not relevant at this level)	Is there enough information available to assess the species conservation status?	The species conservation status in Georgia assessed using the IUCN criteria.	Status assessment report reviewed by BirdLife International
1. Data collation and identification of intensive study areas	Map Inventory report	Is the inventory of existing data <i>complete</i> ?	No omissions detected	Peer review
		Are sites evaluated for suitability for further research?	Site evaluation documented in report	Peer review
2. Ecological and population studies	15 local Georgians trained to conduct the large-scale monitoring at site level; 4 experts trained to observe population trends; Reports on (a) species population biology, (b) current distribution and habitat requirements, (c) range fragmentation patterns and connectivity; At least four peer-review papers will be prepared and submitted to international	Is population biology of the species better understood?	15+10 birds radio tracked at each site; Amount of data on habitat selection, seasonal and daily movement, home range, productivity, survival and mortality factors available, stored in database and sufficient to statistical analysis	Project report
			Number of manuscripts submitted for publication.	Copies of manuscripts
			Acceptance of articles by scientific magazines	Acceptance letter

Project component	Outputs	Evaluation questions	Performance Indicators	Source of information
	scientific journals.	Is distribution of the species well understood?	A robust predictive model developed and tested on existing data	Peer review of manuscript/report
		Is the genetic structure of the population understood?	Genetic composition of the population, level of connection between subpopulations described.	Peer review of manuscript/report
3. Development and initiation of species monitoring plan	CBG monitoring plan	Is the monitoring plan adequate?	Representativity of monitoring sites	Statistical test
			Applied monitoring technique is able to detect habitat changes and threats	Peer review
			Number of trained personnel	Project report
			Arrangements in place for future monitoring agreed with key stakeholders	Memorandum of understandings amongst key stakeholders



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