



University of Idaho



Caucasian Black Grouse Research, Monitoring and Conservation Management in Georgia

Quarterly Progress Report # 2 - Technical

For the period of April - June 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



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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: Completed (January – March 2004)

This activity is completed and a detailed report is submitted (Deliverable 1) containing three chapters:

- *Existing Data and Status of Caucasian Black Grouse* - Conservation status and current state of knowledge; Distribution and evolutionary relationships; Main habitats and ecology; and Population size and trends
- Information Required for an Effective Conservation Management
- *Description of Planned Research Activities*: applied methods, sites selection, needed human resources, Needed Equipment & Consumables and Expected results for three study topics: Population Biology Study; Current Distribution and Habitat Requirements Study; Species Range Fragmentation Pattern and Connectivity Level Study

The report contains two attachments - 1. Collated bibliography on the Caucasian Black Grouse and 2. Information on Caucasian Black Grouse from different data holdings; and one map - Known points of CBG distribution in Georgia.

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 2: Ecological and population studies

Duration: April - June 2004

All three parts of this activity are in progress during this reporting period:

(a) Population biology study

- Intensive field studies are in progress in two selected locations – Akhaltsikhe and Lagodekhi districts.
- Various methods are tested for radio-telemetry study in both districts.
- Five birds are marked with radios so far, and the capture of birds for marking is continuing.
- Detailed information is collected on Caucasian Black Grouse lekking sites in these two districts – locations, number of birds, sex ratio, daily activity, behavioral aspects, etc.
- Local involvement: the training of locals and their involvement in field work is in progress (a) in Lagodekhi area two representatives of Lagodekhi Nature Reserve and two persons of a site based NGO “Mlokosievitchi Society” are involved; (b) In Borjomi area, three representatives of NGO “ORBI” and a local person in Bakuriani are involved.

(b) Current distribution and habitat requirements study

- A GIS base is created for this study;

- Data are collected from 4 sites (Kazbegi, Lagodekhi, Akhaltsikhe and Borjomi) and data input in GIS is initiated

(c) Species Range Fragmentation Pattern and Connectivity Level Study

- The samples for further genetics study are collected (feathers, feces and blood) in the following locations – Lagodekhi, Kazbegi, Borjomi, Bakuriani, Akhaltsikhe.
- The genetics assistant is identified and the training is initiated

One of the important results of this activity is that the negotiation with Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park is initiated to conduct some of the study activities in the Park territory. The verbal agreement is made with Park officials that Caucasian Black Grouse research and monitoring program will become integral part of different programs - wildlife research and monitoring, visitors, interpretation, etc. GCCW will provide assistance to this protected area to develop and initiate this species program, as well as wildlife research and monitoring programs.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Capture and radio-mark of Caucasian Black Grouse individuals will be continued in the selected two sites. The already marked birds will be monitored.
- Habitat requirement data will be collected from additional 5-6 sites;
- Samples for genetic study will be collected from additional 5-6 sites.

Problems: No problems to report for this period

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: April-June 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- The CBG list-serve and working group is enlarged – 5 new members have joined.
- Web-site development is in progress.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Web site of a CBG working group and a project will become available in the Internet.

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

Activity 6: Public awareness

Duration: April-June 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- Four news-paper articles are prepared and submitted to the news-papers and journals
- The leaflet on project objectives and activities is produced and distributed
- 1000 copies of the book “Caucasian Black Grouse” is distributed in project sites
- Preparation of the book “Galliforms of Georgia” is initiated
- The project sites are visited and contacts are established with local mass-media
- Registration is made to attend the Grouse conference in Wales and present project findings in January 2005.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Articles will be published in Georgian news-papers;
- The book preparation will be completed “Galliforms of Georgia”

Problems: It was scheduled to conduct the press-conference in this quarter, but because the field work activities have started little later (due to late spring in this year), the materials to present for mass-media is not available yet.

Activity 7: Project Monitoring

Duration: April-June 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- Project monitoring expert from BirdLife International (Szabolcs Nagy) has visited Georgia and reviewed the prepared reports, materials and project implementations progress.

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: April-June 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- Administrative support to project implementation is provided;
- Proper book-keeping is on place;
- Project sites are visited and meetings with local stakeholders are conducted
- Overall coordination for project implementation is provided



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