



University of Idaho



## **Caucasian Black Grouse Research, Monitoring and Conservation Management in Georgia**

### **Quarterly Progress Report # 3 - Technical**

For the period of July – September, 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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## 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)

### Activity 2: Ecological and population studies

Duration: July - September, 2004

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

(a) Population biology study

- Intensive field studies are conducted in two selected locations – Akhaltsikhe and Lagodekhi districts.
- Roosting sites are identified and observed in both locations
- Five marked birds with radios are monitored in Lagodekhi – their movement is chased and new information on daily activities is collected.
- The information on predation is obtained - one marked bird is killed by a raptor or fox (to be determined) .
- Local involvement: involvement of locals 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

- Additional data on species distribution are collected from 7 sites (Kazbegi, Kvareli, Telavi, Oni, Tsageri, Akhaltsikhe and Borjomi)
- The data input in GIS is continued
- The model creation and analyses is initiated

(c) Species Range Fragmentation Pattern and Connectivity Level Study

- The additional samples for further genetics study are collected (feathers, feces and blood) in the following locations – Kazbegi, Kvareli, Telavi, Oni, Tsageri, Akhaltsikhe and Borjomi
- The agreement is achieved with the State Museum to use their materials in genetics study – 12 samples of Caucasian Black Grouse are provided by museum, including locations out of Georgia – Russia and Azerbaijan
- The training of genetics assistant is continued

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.
- The analyses of habitat requirement data will be continued;

- Samples for genetic study will be collected from additional sites;
- The genetics assistant will travel to USA (University of Idaho) to conduct samples analyses

Problems: Unfortunately the material for genetic study is not collected by the CBG project in Turkey this year, as it was expected. In case our colleagues will be able to collect the samples next year, we will be able to add that information to our analyses.

### **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: July - September, 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- 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.
- Two of GCCW staff is going to attend a conference in Izmir, Turkey and present project progress report to European colleagues

Problems: no problems to report for this period.

### **Activity 6: Public awareness**

Duration: April-June 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- Mid-term Report on this activity is prepared and submitted to BP
- Totally 6 news-paper articles are published and 2 press releases are spread in Georgian national and local mass media about the project goals, ongoing and implemented actions, and results.
- The press-conference was conducted in Lagodekhi
- The distribution of a produced leaflet is continued
- The distribution of a book "Caucasian Black Grouse" is continued
- Preparation of the book "Galliforms of Georgia" is continued
- The project sites are visited and meetings with local authorities are conducted
- The presentation is prepared for the Grouse conference in Wales to present project findings
- The presentation is prepared for the IBA conference in Izmir, Turkey to present site actions for the project

Plans for the next quarter:

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

Problems: no problems to report at this moment

### **Activity 7: Project Monitoring**

Duration: July – September, 2004

The following progress is made in this activity:

- All prepared reports and materials are submitted to the project monitoring expert from BirdLife International
- The comments and suggestions on prepared materials are provided.

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: July - September, 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
- Small grants agreements are developed and signed with local organizations to make more effective the project results: the Mlokosievitchi Society” in Lagodekhi, the Union “ORBI in Akhaltsikhe, The Society of Nature Fans in Telavi and the Kazbegi Nature Protection Society.



Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife,  
GCCW  
PO Box 56, Tbilisi 0160, Georgia  
Tel.: (995-32) 32-64-96  
Fax: (995-32) 53-74-78  
E-mail: [office@gccw.org](mailto:office@gccw.org), [ramaz@gccw.org](mailto:ramaz@gccw.org)  
Internet: <http://www.gccw.org>



World Pheasant Association, WPA (including  
IUCN Grouse Specialist Group)

7-9 Shaftesbury Street, Fordingbridge,  
Hants, SP6 1JF, UK  
Tel.: (44 1425) 65-71-29  
Fax: (44 1425) 65-80-53  
E-mail: [office@pheasant.org.uk](mailto:office@pheasant.org.uk)  
Internet: <http://www.pheasant.org.uk>

BirdLife International, European Division Office



Droevendaalsesteeg 3, Alterra Oost, Bld. 100,  
NL-6708 PB, Wageningen, The Netherlands  
Tel: (31-317) 478-832  
Fax: (31-317) 478-844  
E-mail: [Szabolcs.Nagy@birdlife-europe.nl](mailto:Szabolcs.Nagy@birdlife-europe.nl)  
Internet: <http://www.birdlife.org>

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources,  
University of Idaho



PO Box 441136, Moscow, ID 83844-1136, USA  
CNR room 105, 6th and Line, Moscow, ID, USA  
Tel.: (1-208) 885-64-34  
Fax: (1-208) 885-90-80  
E-mail: [kreese@uidaho.edu](mailto:kreese@uidaho.edu)  
Internet: <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/fishwild>