Current EPF Grants

OPEN DOOR PROGRAM:

Alliance Goodwill Mission – Missionaries 12,013 Gel
Georgia (Bolnisi) 09/12/2011 – 12/11/2011
To foster ethnic minority young women's participation in local decision making, the grantee will organize gender training program, so that the project target group is able to recognize the differing priorities, needs, activities, and responsibilities of men and women, boys and girls across life stages and in the various roles they play. The project will create "safe space" for young women to express their opinions about gender roles and relationships and, in this process, challenge their long-held attitudes, as well as to improve their capacity to meaningfully participate in public life and community decision making.

Meskheti Development Center 58,832 Gel
Georgia (Akhaltsikhe) 06/15/2011 – 08/20/2012
In cooperation with institute Optica and GCT Holding, Meskheti Development Center will implement a 12-month-long project aimed at introducing Social Enterprise (SE) as a viable model in support of vulnerable households living below the poverty line and population heavily affected by the August 2008 War. Within the framework of the project, two dry-fruit producing enterprises are planned to be established. Sound marketing strategy and proper advertising campaign is expected to add to sustainability of the SEs and expand their activities in line with their social missions. Moreover, successful implementation of the project will contribute to creation of two additional success cases, which in itself will further promote social enterprise concept in Georgia.

Caucasus Peace Support Center 8,890 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 08/1/2011 – 01/31/2012
The project aims to create an Abkhaz language web portal, www.newsinabkhazian.com, to serve as a trustworthy source of unbiased information for the Abkhazian communities living in the occupied territories of Georgia. Through this portal, the grantee will promote confidence building between the Georgian and Abkhazian communities. The web portal will post Abkhaz language translations of socio-economic and political articles published by the leading Georgian newspapers and magazines, thus, contributing to eliminating the longstanding informational vacuum in the breakway territories of Georgia (Abkhazia) about the major events and trends experienced by the rest of country. At the same time, the web portal will address the increasing lack of Abkhaz language informational materials, which is a subject of growing concern for the Abkhaz population residing in the territories of Georgia. This depoliticized opportunity for Abkhazians to learn about the developments in Georgia will contribute ro the restoration of the people-to-people contacts between these two estranged communities. The project also contributes to the strengthening of the role of civic sector in conflict resolution and is fully in line with the Georgian Government's strategy toward the occupied territories.

The Centre for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG) 62,649 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 08/1/2011 – 04/30/2012
The project aims to increase public involvement in the oversight of foodstuffs placed on the internal market through conducting a targeted public awareness raising campaign on consumer rights and food safety issues, while at the same time creating a consumer assistance service and searchable online database for follow-up activities and analyses. As a result of the project, the citizens will be informed about consumer rights and food safety issues, so that they are better able to protect their rights and, in turn, enhance the level of food safety in the country. By equipping consumers with practical information on how best to protect their rights, the grantee will ensure that not only the consumers, but also food producers and sellers will pay more attention to the quality of products and service conditions.
Project developments can befollowed on the web-site www.momxmarebeli.ge

Union of Blind $15,260
Georgia (Tbilisi) 06/15/2011 – 10/30/2011
To improve the social integration of blind and visually impaired people and to promote intercultural dialogue among youth of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, the grantee will organize a living skills and intercultural awareness training program for the selected 42 blind and visually impaired young persons from the three South Caucasus countries. As a result of the training program implemented by the grantee, the participants will acquire the skills that are necessary to engage in activities of daily living (ADL), which will, in turn, promote their integration in the society. At the same time,

the project will contribute to confidence-building and the creation of favorable conditions for an effective dialogue among youth of the three countries.

Peaceful and Business Caucasus $43,882
Georgia (Kutaisi) 02/11/2011 - 04/15/2012
The grantee aims to build on the earlier project supported by Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) by implementing confidence building activities involving Georgians, Abkhazians, and South Ossetians, in order to maintain and enhance the achieved results. Responding to the needs of the beneficiaries participating in the previous confidence building project, the grantee will be conducting targeted trainings on business plan development and small business management, so that the participants are able to produce joint micro-business projects to seek funding from microfinance organizations. Specifically, the project will work with 7 Abkhaz, 7 Ossetian, and 14 Georgian entrepreneurs to develop business plans for at least 12 joint ventures, which will then be submitted to various micro-finance institutions and donor organizations to secure funding. The funcationality and the demand-driven nature of this assistance will likely lead to increased interest from other members of these communities and contribute to the peace building process currently under way in Georgia.

To ensure the broadest possible impact and the lasting nature of these activities, the grantee will also establish a resource center on the Georgian-controlled territory near the administrative boundary line (Khurcha), as well as pilot community centers on the Abkhaz-controlled territories in Gali, Ochamchire, and Tkvarcheli. The community centers' in Abkhazia will serve as means for Georgian-Abkhaz rapprochement through implementing joint activities in the areas of mutual interest and for dissemination of information among the Abkahz community.

Georgian Arts and Culture Center $28,717
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/11/2011 - 10/14/2012
Georgian Arts and Culture Center (GACC) will implement an 8-months project aimed at improved social-economic situation in Dusheti region through support income generation activities among local cultural institutions and local craft-based NGOs. Within the project, the grantee will provide three workshops/trainings to local NGOs and individual craftsmen in social entrepreneurship, as well as NGO development, management, fundraising, and business plan development. Special attention will be paid to establishing a craft business and developing its marketing and promotion strategies. In addition, GACC will provide technical assistance to one of the local NGOs, Georgian Center for International Collaboration and Steady Developmen (GCICSD, so that it succeeds in becoming a sustainable social enterprise. As a result of this project, GCICSD is supposed to serve as a reliable partner for other local NGOs and individual craftsmen in marketing their products through GCICSD facilities, such as specially created show-room. The grantee will also work on developing partnerships with local and international tour operators, in order to include specially developed cultural tourist and crafts routes in their recreational products. The income generated from these activities will be used for employee salaries and will be reinvested to expand the organization's activities.

Georgian Institute of Russian Studies $8,742
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/01/2011 - 09/30/2011
The grantee aims to increase the public's awareness of the international context of Russo-Georgian relations through creating a web video journal, which will showcase interviews with experts and public figures on this subject matter. At the same time, the GIRS will popularize alternative online media outlets as useful sources of information. By utilizing this innovative method, the grantee will circumvent current realities in the country and will be able to provide the public good quality analytical materials. As a result of this project, the GIRC will be able to strengthen its institutional capacity and move a step closer to becoming an independent policy institute.

Georgian Association for Psycho Social Aid Ndoba $24,997.50
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/01/2011 - 10/31/2011
The project will contribute to improving mental health care for children and adolescents, through (1) developing an independent assessment of the current system and (2) implementing civic monitoring activities to identify gaps in the current policies to ensure their proper implementation. The grantee will provide a lasting platform of public discussions and civic education, which will contribute to the development of sound strategy for improving policies for and procedures of providing mental health care to children and adolescents. As a result of the project, the stakeholders will obtain a professional, independent assessment of the existing policy and legal framework on child mental health sector and receive recommendations derived from international best practices. By implementing a targeted information

campaign on the issues of mental health care for children and adolescents, the grantee will contribute to strengthening the capacity of decision-makers and stakeholders to engage in informed and participatory decision-making.

Organization of Tbilisi Caregivers $24,224
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/07/2011 – 01/31/2012
The grantee will undertake the monitoring of rehabilitation works implemented by Tbilisi City Hall in the historical part of the capital (Bread Square and Gudiashvili Square), in order to promote transparency and ensure broad public participation in the process of preserving the cultural heritage. By providing qualified assessment of rehabilitation works and by implementing targeted public information and advocacy campaigns, the grantee will increase the public's participation in advocating for their rights and interests, while at the same time monitor the legitimacy of licensing of reconstruction works. This issue-based advocacy for preservation of historical landscape of Tbilisi and prevention of questionable new construction projects can create a precedent of wide and informed participation of civil society groups in the solution of such issues that have long been neglected by them. The grantee's activities (e.g. public presentations, media campaign, monitoring, and advocacy) will create a platform for constructive dialogue and participatory decision-making for affecting positive social changes.

Center for Ecological Justice $17,595
Georgia (Tbilisi) 01/17/2011 – 09/16/2011
The project aims to contribute to designing participatory solutions to environmental problems facing Kaspi industrial zone by implementing various civic monitoring activities targeting ecologically hazardous enterprises located in the area and supporting civic education and public awareness campaigns to galvanize the local communities. Along with finding mutually advantageous solutions to the acute ecological problems caused by various industrial entities located in Kaspi, the grantee will ensure that Kaspi residents develop a practice of informed participation in resolving various problems faced by their community.

Local Self-Government and Contemporary Challenges $12,115
Georgia (Tbilisi) 01/15/2011 – 04/30/2011
To promote transparency and responsiveness of local government bodies in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region and encourage citizen participation in local decision-making, the grantee will equip Mtskheta, Dusheti, Kazbegi, Tianeti, and Akhalgori municipalities with modern, multifunctional websites in both Georgian and English languages. The websites will provide information about ongoing activities in these municipalities, as well as post detailed budgets and public procurement announcements. This will contribute to more informed participation of citizens in local affairs. Through providing tourism information in English and Georgian, the websites will also contribute to the economic development of the area, as more people will be able to get up-to-date information about what is happening in various parts of the region. Apart from developing the websites, the grantee will train the relevant municipality staff in website maintenance, thus, ensuring the sustainability of the project. The project will also enhance the Government's current push towards e-governance.

National Center for Monitoring and Research on Production of Ecologically Clean and Genetically Modified Products $28,042
Georgia (Kutaisi) 01/17/2011 – 07/17/2011
The project aims to increase civic activism on food safety issues in Imereti region through (1) production of TV talk-shows, (2) publication of educational materials, (3) organization of workshops for local community representatives, CSOs, and the media, (4) implementation of quality testing of food products and service conditions in food stores, and (5) provision of consumer consultations. As a result of the project, residents of Imereti region will be informed about consumer rights and food safety issues, so that they are better able to protect their rights and, in turn, enhance the level of food safety in the country. By equipping consumers with practical information on how best to protect their rights, the grantee will ensure that not only consumers, but also food producers and sellers will pay more attention to the quality of products and service conditions.

Radarami 83,735 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/06/2011 – 04/30/2012
The project is designed to address the acute for contemporary Georgia concerns such as poor information and awareness of the international trends and democratic values. The project will fill this gap by translating and distribution of 4 outstanding non-fiction works of famous international authors in Tbilisi and in 36 regional municipalities making them available to readers across Georgia. The books are widely discussed and read throughout the world and embrace wide

variety of topics, including global crisis or effects of globalization on the developing world. Thereby the project will inform the great deal of Georgian population unable to read these books in English but willing to know more about various analytical frameworks and discussions in the rest of the world and immerse into the international culture. Ordinary citizens interested to understand and discuss those ideas will have a chance talk to each other across territorial and generational lines. Cooperation with the several leading media outlets, the website (www.radarami.org) and social networks will secure a due outreach for the project activities. The project co-funded by Black Sea Trust will contribute to the greater access of the Georgians to the new and important source of knowledge, enhance democratic awareness in the local society and open a new platform for discussion of topical international issues in Georgia.

COMPETITION AWARDS

ENGAGE AND MONITOR FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

CIVIC MONITORING #1

Center for Protection of Civil Interests $19,534
Georgia (Batumi) 10/01/2010 – 10/31/2011
The grantee aims to increase the level of engagement of local community groups in the process of ongoing land reform in Khelvachauri municipality by supporting participatory monitoring and follow-up advocacy to resolve land reform related issues identified by the population.
Land reform is one of the most salient problems for local communities and the project will contribute to proactive participation of local civic groups in the decision-making process related to land privatization and distribution. By strengthening the monitoring and advocacy capacity of local CSOs and equipping the targeted communities with knowledge and skills on essentials of participatory monitoring, the grantee will contribute to transparent land reform processes and will increase the decision-makers' accountability before the communities. As a result, the grantee will contribute to developing healthy and effective dialogue between communities and public authorities about land reform issues in their respective municipalities.

Georgian Insurance Institute $19,836
Georgia (Tbilisi) 10/03/2010 – 03/31/2010
The grantee aims to create an effective mechanism to monitor the current insurance scheme in Georgia and engage citizens in waging an advocacy campaign to protect their rights vis-à-vis insurance companies and hospitals. The project will create a lasting consultancy network for the insured and work with the media to ensure that they consistently inform the public about insurance policies and practices in Georgia. The project will provide the public much needed and timely information about various forms of insurance, engage all major stakeholders in a constructive dialogue about these issues, enhance the Georgian citizens' capacity to advocate for their rights, and as a result contribute to the improvement of insurance policies in Georgia. At the same time, the applicant CSO will strengthen its advocacy and monitoring capacity, which in turn will contribute to strengthening the Georgian civil society sector.

Transparency International Georgia $19,943.22
Georgia (Tbilisi) 01/10/2010 – 30/09/2010
The grantee aims to support improved public policies and inclusive decision-making by developing an online tool, which will allow for direct reporting of issues from affected citizens, as well as for civic monitoring of Tbilisi City Hall's activities to solve problems related to streets and public spaces. The project will help and encourage Tbilisians to report local problems to the administration of Tbilisi and produce an open-source online platform, which will collect, locate, and display users' reports on a map. This innovative and user friendly platform can be adapted by other civil society organizations (CSOs) to support civic monitoring in other issue areas and will be provided to them free of charge. Thus, the project will facilitate direct communication on local problems between citizens and Tbilisi City Hall, leading to increased public awareness and debate about public safety issues on the streets of Tbilisi.

Democratic Development Union of Georgia $19,961
Georgia (Ozurgeti) 01/10/2010 – 30/09/2010

The grantee aims to increase the engagement of community groups and local media in monitoring the implementation of the state program to support the countryside (Village Support Program), targeted to assist villages in Ozurgeti and Chokhatauri districts. The project will target three villages from each district (Tkhinvali, Makvaneti, and Chanieti in Ozurgeti district; Kokhnari, Khevi, and Khidistavi in Chokhatauri district). The project will (1) encourage community organizations and youth groups to engage in participatory civic monitoring and resolve problems identified by the communities through constructive dialogue with municipalities, and (2) support targeted media campaign to highlight issues relevant to the implementation of the state's Village Support Program. As a result of the project, the quality and extent of civic monitoring activities in Guria will be enhanced, through creation of a Public Advisory Assembly as a sustainable civic resource and promotion of lasting cooperation between CSOs and the media. The trainings implemented by the grantee will target local communities and representatives of municipalities, in order to increase their awareness of civic participation and contribute to constructive dialogue between these groups, when tackling issues facing these communities.

CIVIC MONITORING #2

Public Union *The Young Scientists' Club of Ozurgeti* $22,963
Georgia (Ozurgeti) 2/14/2011 - 3/15/2012
According to the Law of Georgia on Local Self-Government, local self-governing units have the right to establish unions (associations) in a legal-organizational form for the coordination of their activities in accordance with the rules set by the Georgian legislation. These entities provide various municipal services to the local communities (e.g. road infrastructure development) and, therefore, should not be left without scrutiny by civic groups. To ensure that non-entrepreneurial legal entities established by Ozurgeti and Lanchkhuti self-governing units properly fulfill their obligations and provide quality services to the residents of these communities, the grantee will partner with other local CSOs and media outlets to conduct participatory civic monitoring activities. Ozurgeti Young Scientists' Club, Lanchkhuti Information Center, Guria TV, and newspaper *Guriis Moambe* will partner with local community groups to initiate candid public discussions about these entities and lead the efforts of participatory civic monitoring of their activities. To do so, the grantee will create mobile civic monitoring groups, which will include journalists and community members, trained in modern civic monitoring methods and capable of identifying problems and devising solutions to them. As a result of these activities, the grantee will foster active participation of underserved communities in local political processes and bolster issue-based cooperation between CSOs and the media outlets, thus, promoting transparency of these municipal entities and making them more responsive to local community needs.

Civic Development Institute $18,678
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/14/2011 – 09/14/2011
The grantee will conduct participatory civic monitoring of the Safe School Program, recently launched by the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science (MES), in order to raise public awareness and advocate for changes. To do so, the grantee will utilize social networks and conduct presentations and roundtable discussions among the stakeholders. As a result of these activities, the grantee will develop recommendations and submit them to the MES and other relevant state agencies. One the one hand, the project will enhance the transparency of the Safe School Program, providing the public with much demanded information about its implementation, including the actual roles played by the Resource Officers with respect to the school administration, faculty, and students. On the other hand, it will ensure that various community groups are engaged in civic monitoring to advocate for their interests. Ultimately, the project will contribute to ensuring that the roles played by the Resource Officers correspond with the needs of the entire community, as opposed to its smaller segments. At the same time, the project will promote the use civic journalism as one of the means of ensuring citizen participation.

SMALL GRANTS:

2011

Gori Community Development Union 8,500 Gel
Georgia (Gori) 10/15/2011 – 04/14/2012

Current EPF Grants

The project will strengthen the institutional capacity of Gori Community Development Union and support its development as a strong civil society organization, capable of raising public awareness about various pressing issues and galvanizing local communities to take civic actions to improve their lives. The grantee, together with local youth and in partnership with three experienced CSOs, will identify concrete problems facing 12 villages of Gori municipality and engage all stakeholders to advocate for their solution. The project is awarded within the small grants competition, which aims at institutional capacity strengthening of newly established regional CSOs.

Tserovani Community Organization *Side by Side* 8,490 Gel
Georgia (Mtskheta) 10/15/2011 – 06/14/2012
The project will strengthen the institutional capacity of the Tserovani-based Union Side by Side and will support its development as a stronger civil society organization able to advocate for the protection of the IDP rights and fulfillment of their needs. The grantee, together with the local community and experienced partner CSOs, will implement advocacy campaigns designed to foster the socio-economic integration of IDPs residing in the Tserovani Collective Center. The knowledge, skills, and resources acquired during the project implementation will help the grantee to establish new partnerships with experienced civic organizations, attract new funds, and provide long-term assistance to its stakeholders. The project is awarded within the small grants competition, which aims at institutional capacity strengthening of newly established regional CSOs.

2010

Research and Intellectual Club *Dialogue of Generations* (RICDOG) $4,861
Georgia (Kutaisi) 09/10/2010 – 03/31/2011
The project goal is twofold - to create effective mechanisms for inclusion and civic integration of Kutaisi -based vulnerable youth from the groups of high social risks (probationers, IDPs) and improve institutional capacity of the implementing organization, Research-Intellectual Club *Dialogue of Generations*. The project will contribute to the enhancement of self-mobilization and development of social competencies of the target youth groups. It will increase their involvement in the social-economic and political processes through engaging them in monitoring of the local youth programs.
Research-Intellectual Club *Dialogue of Generations*, a recently established NGO, will partner with experienced NGOs in Kutaisi that will support the development of technical, organizational, and professional capacities of the newly established NGO.

Civil Society for Human Rights and Freedom $5,000
Georgia (Batumi) 10/01/2010 - 03/31/2011
The grantee aims to improve the responsiveness of Batumi City Hall and the local community to the needs of persons with disabilities residing in Batumi area. Specifically, the project will increase public awareness and understanding of the need to improve access for the blind and wheel-chaired persons to local government offices and other community establishments. The project will wage an advocacy campaign to equip Batumi streets, as well as community spaces and public offices with wheelchair accessible ramps and other fixtures designed to facilitate free movement of the disabled residing in the area. While advocating for better access for persons with disabilities, the grantee will also improve its own advocacy capacity, enhance its public image, and build connections with the local community.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROGRAM:

Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) 4,960 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 11/01/2011 – 01/31/2012
The project aims at (1) contributing to the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU) and (2) fostering wider participation of civil society in the process of alignment with European institutions. To achieve these goals, the grantee will prepare a report on Georgia's progress toward fulfilling its commitments under the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP), as it pertain trade and intellectual property rights. At the same time, the grantee will assess the extent to which Georgia has moved forward with preparing groundwork to begin negotiations about the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) in the same issue areas. It is expected that the

report prepared by the grantee will serve as a discussion focal point between the Government of Georgia and civil society organizations, fostering wider CSO participation in the process of aligning Georgian policies and laws to the EU standards.

Shota Murghulia (individual) 4,300 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 11/01/2011 – 01/31/2012
The project aims at (1) contributing to the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU) and (2) fostering wider participation of civil society in the process of alignment with European institutions. To achieve these goals, the grantee will prepare a report on Georgia's progress toward fulfilling its commitments under the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP), as it pertains to the field of competition (antitrust) law. At the same time, the grantee will assess the extent to which Georgia has moved forward with preparing groundwork to begin negotiations about the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) in the same issue area. It is expected that the report prepared by the grantee will serve as a discussion focal point between the Government of Georgia and civil society organizations, fostering wider CSO participation in the process of aligning Georgian policies and laws to the EU standards.

Bondo Bolkvadze (individual) 4,915 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 11/01/2011 – 01/31/2012
The project aims at (1) contributing to the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU) and (2) fostering wider participation of civil society in the process of alignment with European institutions. To achieve these goals, the grantee will prepare a report on Georgia's progress toward fulfilling its commitments under the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP), as it pertain customs laws and procedures. At the same time, the grantee will assess the extent to which Georgia has moved forward with preparing groundwork to begin negotiations about the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) in the same issue areas. It is expected that the report prepared by the grantee will serve as a discussion focal point between the Government of Georgia and civil society organizations, fostering wider CSO participation in the process of aligning Georgian policies and laws to the EU standards.

Foundation Liberal Academy 67,160 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 08/10/2011 – 06/30/2012
The project aims to enhance capacity of all concerned stakeholders (CSOs, media, government, political parties, students) in Georgia to better guide themselves in the political and expert scenery of the EU in Brussels through development of a comprehensive and user-friendly online analytical manual. As a result of the project, a valuable reference point for guidance on EU institutional arrangement as relevant to Georgia will be produced, which will result to enhanced direct communication of Georgian stakeholders with key institutions and policy centers in Brussels.

Association Green Wave $30,493
Georgia (Tbilisi) 12/29/2010 - 02/29/2012
The program aims at contributing to the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU) and ensuring wider participation of the civil society in this process through producing weekly radio talk-shows on issues related to Georgia's relations with the EU. The talk-shows will be broadcasted on the Radio Green Wave. It is expected that the project will contribute to increased knowledge and awareness of the population on EU-Georgia relations, as well as improved collaboration among stakeholder groups, including citizens, NGOs, issue-specific interest groups, local business, the media, and public officials.

Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) $49,846
Georgia (Tbilisi) 12/28/2010 - 06/15/2012
The program aims at contributing to the process of Georgia's integration into the European Union (EU) and ensuring wider participation of the civil society in this process through producing weekly TV talk-shows on issues related to Georgia's relations with the EU. The talk-shows will be broadcasted on Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) Channels I and II, as well as on Radio I. It is expected that the project will contribute to increased knowledge and awareness of the population on EU-Georgia relations, as well as improved collaboration among stakeholder groups, including citizens, NGOs, issue-specific interest groups, local business, the media and public officials.

Dairy information and Promotion Association $86,021

Current EPF Grants

Georgia (Tbilisi) 03/23/2009 - 02/19/2011

The proposed project aims to contribute to improvement of food standards and safety in Georgia. Primary objectives of the project are to promote Georgian producers of food products, support Georgian producers in meeting EU food safety requirements, support Georgian government in implementation of food safety law and increase consumer awareness regarding the food safety issues. Activities in support of objectives include creation of expert groups, who will work with existing documents to develop risk study and risk mitigation actions to be discussed and approved by the relevant government structures; to develop training materials regarding different food safety requirements to be presented and discussed with small and medium size food produces at the national level through a series of seminars in Tbilisi and regions; to update existing information regarding small and medium size food producers and make it accessible through print registry (matrix) and electronically; and to design and implement a complex public programs, articles and website. The project will be jointly implemented by Association Dairy Georgia in partnership with International Centre for Trade Policy and Law and Growth, Development and Continuous Improvement of Your Business Association, with each partner having a distinct role.

ECO-AWARDS 2011:

LTD MIDIFILM 40,748 Gel

Georgia (Tbilisi) 07/15/2011 – 12/25/2011

In order to promote environment protection, LTD MIDIFILM will implement 5-month project that envisages preparation and broadcasting of documentaries on environmental problems and their solutions. Within the project, MIDIFILM will highlight all 16 projects supported under 3--year Eco-Awards Program initiated and funded by BP and its co-partners BTC and SCP, later joined by HSBC and administered by EPF. During the project implementation the grantee will visit project locations and will prepare video material that will later be used for production of documentaries. Prepared documentaries will be aired by Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB) and Georgian Hot News (GHN) Internet Television with an aim of promoting and increasing public awareness about environmental aspects, concrete problems Georgian population is facing in different regions of the country and mechanisms to overcome or mitigate the negative impact of these problems. It should be noted that as a result of the project innovative media product of original format will be introduced, which will also have an educational dimension. At the same time prepared documentaries could be used for preparing different promoting material for various purposes.

Vashlovani Protected Area Friends' Association $109,784

Georgia (Dedoplistskaro) 04/01/2011 – 11/30/2011

Conservation of Georgia's wildlife diversity requires protection of intact natural habitats, as well as restoration or enhancement of habitats that have been negatively impacted by human activities. The Friends' Association of Vashlovani Protected Areas (established under the project implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature within Eco-Awards Program 2009) will implement an 8-months-long project aimed at ensuring the survival of the endemic Kolkhian pheasant, both in terms of restoration of Kolkhian pheasant in its natural habitats and development of pheasant farming as an income-generating activity among the local population. Specifically, the grantee will to set up a nursery near Eagle Gorge comprising of 18 open-air cages constructed in Kogota Gorge and 10 open-air cages constructed on the territory near the village of Tsiteltskaro with aim to hatch about 100 genetically pure Kolkhian pheasants necessary for further breeding and restoration of the species. About 10 socially vulnerable families will be identified and involved in nursing the pheasants. These families will be compensated for the services rendered. The grantee will ensure that all interested stakeholders, including these families, are provided trainings and consultations about pheasant farming. The relevant information will be disseminated through special booklets and a website to be created for this purpose. The project envisages close cooperation with various stakeholders, including the Agency of Protected Territories that will be then provided with genetically pure Kolkhian pheasants to be placed in natural habitats.

Civil Society Institute $35,447

Georgia (Tbilisi) 04/01/2011 – 11/30/2011

The Civil Society Institute (CSI) will implement an 8-months-long project aimed at improving social-economic situation of local farmers residing in 5 mountainous villages of Adjara, through introducing and popularizing ecologically safe and efficient methods of agriculture. With this aim, 9 demo-plots will be created where various products will be produced by using different environmentally safe methods of agriculture. The project target groups, as well as the whole community

of the selected villages, will be provided theoretical and practical trainings. At the same time, permanent coaching and consultancy will be rendered to those farmers, who will be actively involved in agricultural works on demo-plots. The project aims at popularization of ecologically safe models of agriculture among public schools and increases their role in civic education process. With aim to ensure that the public is informed about the grantee's efforts, special booklets describing the model will be published and disseminated. The grantee is planning to work toward replicating the employed environmentally safe agricultural model throughout Georgia. Consequently, the grantee will ensure that the project results, together with the relevant statistical data will be presented the national and local authorities.

Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA) $39,680
Georgia (Mtskheta) 04/05/2011 – 12/05/2011
The Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA) will implement a 7-months-long project aimed at providing support to small farmers and disadvantaged villagers in 6 selected communities of Chokhatauri and Khobi districts to overcome the poverty and sustain the livelihoods through building their skills and capacities in environmental protection and utilization of renewable energy resources. The complex project envisages introduction and popularization of various environmentally safe technologies with aim to decrease pressure on the local environment and engage in income generating activities. To address the needs that were identified in the selected area, the grantee will engage in such activities as forestation of the eroded land areas, construction and introduction of alternative energy sources, such as solar water heating system, solar fruit dryers, and briquetting for production of fuel-briquettes from agricultural residues. The local populations' involvement is essential to ensure the successful implementation of the project. Consequently, the grantee will conduct informational meetings and seminars, as well as trainings on demo-plots, excursions, and other outreach activities. During the training sessions on construction and usage of solar heating collectors, fruit dryers and briquetting machines, the grantee will identify the most active participants from the targeted communities and will offer them support in starting up small businesses to construct and distribute the above-mentioned equipement. In addition, the grantee is planning to conduct active outreach campaign, which envisages the preparation, publication, and dissemination of various booklets and informational papers.

Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (Rec Caucasus) $59,520
Georgia (Tbilisi) 04/18/2011 – 12/17/2011
Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) will implement an 8-months-long project aimed at introducing a practice of sustainable use of natural resources in local communities and increase their preparedness against natural disasters in the high-mountainous region of Racha-Lechkhumi. The project, which will be implemented in three selected villages, envisages identification of risk zones and preparation of maps to be handed over to the municipality. With aim to ensure active involvement of the local population in the project's activities and increase their awareness about both the anthropogenic factors of natural calamities and best practices of forest and land management, the grantee is planning to conduct interviews and community meetings. In addition, reforestation of heavily eroded 5ha land area and restoration of 3ha of pastures is planned, not only to demonstrate how restoration methods work in practice, but also to alleviate some of the anthropogenic pressures on the local environment. At the same time, the project specialists will prepare resource management plan for the selected area, taking into account all the identified hazard risks. Once developed, these plans will be submitted to the municipality, as per the agreement reached between the grantee and the local authorities.

Association Caucasus Genetics $40,305
Georgia (Tbilisi) 11/30/2011 – 04/01/2011
In support of minimizing environmental degradation caused by overgrazing, Association Caucasus Genetics together with Farmers' Organisation Algeteli 2008 and Imprescon partners will implement an 8-months project, to introduce the local farmers with sustainable pasture management methods. The project is co-funded by Mercy Corps. The grantee will organize practical experiments during 2011 grazing season. Controlled rotational grazing will be practiced and demonstrated in Tetritskaro region. Based on the gained experience, an environmentally sustainable pasture management model replicable for other areas will be developed and promoted to all interested stakeholders in Georgia. With aim to increase public awareness about the problem and the ways to avoid it, a series of seminars will be conducted for villagers. A practical training event will be organised, to introduce participating farmers, herdsmen, and project staff to project practices. In addition, special leaflets will be prepared, published, and disseminated widely with focus on rotational grazing systems and the practical environmental benefits together with costs and benefits for farmers in a short and long run.

Current EPF Grants

ECO-AWARDS 2010:

Rural Advisory Service $46,278
Georgia (Akhaltsikhe) 05/21/2010 – 09/30/2011
To improve the management of local pastures in selected municipalities in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti. The Rural Advisory Service will implement a 13-month project to increase public awareness about preventing ecological risks through the effective use of pastures. The grantee will conduct special trainings and provide relevant information in the form of booklets and leaflets to the local population through partner CBOs. About 300 farmers from three villages and surrounding areas that are actively using pastures will be informed about cost-effective and environmentally safe technologies for pasture management. The grantee will develop three demonstration plots, where the effective and environmentally safe usage of pastures will be modeled. Seeding will be demonstrated using the "overseeing" technique, which is environmentally safe and limits soil damage. The grantee will purchase special equipment for overseeding and, after project completion, provide this service for a fee to local farmers. In addition to this, another three land plots will be selected, where insects and flora that naturally restore pastures will be raised in a protected environment. The grantee will prepare a special brochure on the results of these activities at the end of the project.

Association Flora and Fauna $76,102
Georgia (Batumi) 03/23/2010 - 05/31/2011
To contribute to the preservation of the Black Sea eco-system and resolution of two important problems: 1) expansion of Rapana venosa, a predatory mollusk, and its catastrophic impact on biodiversity and 2) ghost fishing (the term used for lost or abandoned fishing gear that harms the environment). The association Flora and Fauna is undertaking a one-year project along the Black Sea coast (Ajara, Guria, Samegrelo) that aims at increasing public awareness about the above-mentioned problems through an active information campaign, including special lectures, seminars/roundtables, and brochures and introduction of safe methods of catching Rapana venosa. The project includes special training on diving for selected fisheries and purchase of special diving equipment for them. Selected brigades equipped with aqualungs have committed to catching Rapana venosa, which will contribute to preserving local biodiversity and improving the socio-economic conditions through the sale of Rapana venosa. At the same time, the divers will remove lost and abandoned nets in the sea. In addition, the grantee will conduct seminars/trainers for fisheries on preparing and using special traps for Rapana venosa. In addition, the grantee will publish a special booklet of recipes for cooking with Rapana venosa and how to use its shell, e.g. preparing souvenirs. All the materials and information prepared will be uploaded on the organization's web-page: www.florafauna.org.

Association Zekari $21,371
Georgia (Ambrolauri) 03/29/2010 - 01/31/2011
To reduce the negative impact of erosion and prevent landslides in the high mountainous region of Racha. The Association Zekari is undertaking a 10-month project to introduce environmentally safe and effective mechanisms to prevent and improve erosive slopes and conduct a public awareness campaign among local stakeholders. Within the project, the grantee will prepare, publish, and distribute a special brochure on the specifics of erosive slope recovery. In order to test the proposed mechanism, a pre-selected erosive slope will be recovered. The grantee will conduct meetings/seminars with residents of nine communities that are affected by landslides. The project will be carried out in cooperation with the local municipality.

ECO-AWARDS 2009:

Association for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development *Mta-Bari* $36,610
Georgia (Batumi) 04/15/2009 - 08/14/2010
In the framework of the Ecological Awards Program 2009, the Association for Environment Protection and Sustainable Development MTA-BARI will be implementing 16-month project, which aims at supporting ecologically, economically and socially oriented sustainable use of resources and creating alternative means of income in the villages of Mtirala National Park nearby territory, which covers 3 districts of Autonomous Republic of Adjara: Kobuleti, Khelvachauri and

Keda. The project foresees involving about 100 farm families in cultivation and marketing development of economically important and endangered indigenous species of Adjara wild flora - Galanthus woronowii and Cyclamen coum controlled by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Biological Farming Association Elkana $54,855
Georgia (Tbilisi) 06/01/2009 - 02/04/2011
To reduce the negative impact of agriculture on the environment in the Samtskhe-Javakheti Region and preserve local agricultural biodiversity by introducing the sustainable use of endemic species. The grantee, Elkana, will work with local farmers to introduce and promote the principles of bio-farming in Samtskhe-Javakheti and re-introduce the wheat variety known as Tsiteli Doli, a sturdy, endemic variety of wheat. In cooperation with Begeli, a local bread producer, Elkana will popularize the use of Tsiteli Doli in bread baking, increasing demand for the wheat. The project will result in improved socio-economic conditions for the farmers in Samtskhe-Javakheti.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature Program Office for Southern Caucasus $75,268.64
Georgia (Tbilisi) 03/23/2009 - 11/23/2010
In support of improved stakeholder participation in the protected areas of Georgia, the IUCN Program Office for the Southern Caucasus, together with the Georgian Society of Nature Friends (Telavi) and the Mlokosevich Society (Lagodekhi) and in collaboration with the Agency of Protected Areas (APA) at the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, is implementing the project Facilitating Stakeholder Participation in Protected Areas of Georgia. The project aims at supporting the APA in developing and piloting Terms of Reference for newly established Protected Area Advisory Boards and at creating additional participation mechanisms (Associations of Friends of Protected Areas, Junior Ranger Programs) in three protected areas (Lagodekhi, Tusheti and Vashlovani). By establishing these mechanisms, the project will increase local ownership of protected areas (PAs) and use the skills, knowledge and commitment of stakeholders for the benefit of the pilot PAs, making them more effective tools for biodiversity conservation, livelihood support and sustainable economic use.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Coalition for IDPs' Rights 15,230 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 12/01/2011 – 01/31/2012
The project to be implemented by the Coalition for IDP's Rights aims at fostering social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through introduction of social enterprise (SE) as a viable model for community mobilization and sustainable income generation. As part of the project, the grantee plans to establish a local crafts workshop in Tserovani settlement, where initially it will provide internship and training opportunities to 12 IDP women. Specifically, the women will learn how to manufacture table cloths, scarves, handbags, and belts, all handmade and with exclusive design After the completion of the training, half of the trained IDP women will be employed by the grantee. As a result, six families will improve their socio-economic standing and become better integrated into the society. Others will be supported to start their own enterprises, utilizing the knowledge gained and skills acquired during the training provided by the grantee. The project will be implemented in cooperation with the International Arts Center Istoriali, a leading player in the field of traditional arts and crafts. Together with the training and consultancy, Istoriali will support the grantee in developing and implementing a marketing and public relations campaign, including arranging exhibitions to present its production to the public. The income generated from the sales will be used to remunerate the employees and sustain the organization's activities.

Abkhazian Blinds and Dumb Union Hera 12,378 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 11/25/2011 – 06/24/2012
The grantee which staff is comprised mostly from IDPs from Abkhazia will implement a twelve-month long project, which aims at fostering social integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through introduction of social enterprise (SE) as a viable model for community mobilization and sustainable income generation. The project envisages recording and distributing of audio-books. The products will range from poetry and prose to fairytales. The books will be recorded by famous Georgian actors and their voices will be accompanied with music and other special effects. They will be displayed in different book-shops around the country and will be accessible in souvenir shops, as well as in airports and railway shops. Braille font will be used on the CD covering that would enable blind people to use independently.

Therefore, within the project grantee will continue implementing its main mission to provide help to blind people and improve their access to information and education. The income generated from the sales will be used to remunerate the employees and sustain the organization's activities. A strong marketing campaign and supply of meat at a reasonable price will insure sufficient number of sales to enable the recording studio to become profitable and reinvest the profits back into the social objectives of the business.

Ternali + 10,990 Gel
Georgia (Kutaisi) 12/10/2011 – 02/09/2012
The grantee, Ternali+ will implement a project that aims at improving the lives of IDPs living in Kutaisi (Imereti region) through creating new employment opportunities in the newly established social enterprise. Ternali+ was established by several Kutaisi-based non-governmental organizations that support the socio-economic integration of the IDPs residing in the region through providing them with educational and employment opportunities. As part of the project, the grantee plans to develop a fully functional tea distribution social enterprise, which will pack and sell Georgian tea. Initially, the enterprise will employ ten to fifteen IDPs, who will not need specific skills for packing tea. As the enterprise progresses, the number of employees will rise proportionally to the rate of annual growth from sales. To ensure good sales, the grantee will design and implement an informational campaign to popularize traditional products in general and Georgian tea in particular among the residents of the region. The income generated from tea sales will be used sustain the organization's activities, which includes the provision of adequate remuneration to the employed IDPs. In addition, Ternali+ is expected to contribute to the creation a business incubator, which in turn will support Kutaisi Education, Development and Employment Center (KEDEC) and Peaceful and Business Caucasus in supporting further socio-economic integration of IDPs.

Library - Cultural Center for Disabled *Tanadgoma* $5,984
Georgia (Tbilisi) 05/18/2010 – 03/31/2010
The project aims to support inclusive education in Georgia as a method for broader integration of disabled youth in civic processes, thus, contributing to the ongoing reform of educational system. The Library-Cultural Center for Disabled *Tanadgoma* will create an efficient, well-equipped and easily accessible training and resource center for disabled children, their parents and educational professionals association. The grantee will create a model of inclusive education adapted to Georgian reality, conduct four training courses in Batumi and Tbilisi for 200 educational professionals from 20 school, including 10 schools in Ajara Autonomous Republic and launch large-scale public awareness campaign. During the project the admittance of 130 children with disabilities is expected in the mainstream schools of Tbilisi and Ajara. The project will promote inclusive education as a part of democratic management in Georgian schools and will help to end with the existing segregation of disabled children from schools and civic life. The intense public information campaign will increase public awareness of inclusive education and enable disabled children and their parents to become more involved in civic activities. The development of curriculum of inclusive education, training of teachers and creation of resource center within the project will increase professionalism of teachers and ultimately contribute to the reform of education system.

Healthy Environment Ltd., established by NGO Child and Environment $5,781
Georgia (Tbilisi) 07/01/2010 – 06/30/2011
Ltd. Healthy Environment, a newly established enterprise building off of the experience of the NGO Child and Environment, will implement a project aimed at improving the socio-economic status of street children. The project entails establishing a car wash as a social enterprise that will employ six at-risk youth and three adult family members of at-risk youth. Ltd Healthy Environment will emphasize marketing and public relations to attract and retain customers, ranging from placing a small billboard near the car wash, through distributing flyers, to offering discounts and other promotional activities. The income generated by the car wash will be used to provide remuneration to car wash employees and sustain the enterprise's activities. Once the operation is profitable, Ltd Healthy Environment will contribute to sustaining and expanding the activities of the NGO Child and Environment.

Association Woman and Development $6,005
Georgia (Gori) 06/26/2010 – 06/30/2011
To contribute to the social integration of IDP women by establishing a social enterprise bakery, the Association Woman and Development will establish a bakery in Gori that will employ eight IDP women as bakers and distributors. Initially, the grantee will provide job training to the employees. Baked goods will be made using a technique that does not require the use of oil and fat, thus improving the quality of the product. Woman and Development has outlined a comprehensive

marketing plan, which includes establishing contacts with corporate customers. The income generated by the bakery will be used to pay remuneration to employees and sustain and expand its activities.

MEDIA INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

Gazeti Batumelebi LTD 39,824 Gel
Georgia (Batumi) 12/01/2011 – 08/31/2012
The goal of the project is to provide comprehensive coverage of day-to-day lives of Georgian citizens residing outside the capital city, including ethnic and religious minorities. To do so, the grantee will create a network of contributors (stringers) from various regions of the country, so that they regularly contribute to the project with print and multimedia materials about their communities. These stories will be published in the newspaper Batumelebi, posted on www.netgazeti.ge, and publicized through the Frontline Club (Tbilisi) and Press Café (Batumi). By the end of the project, the grantee will produce at least 72 in-depth reports from the regions (all posted on www.netgazeti.ge) and publish at least 36 newspaper articles in the newspaper Batumelebi, thus, contributing to improved coverage of regional issues in Georgia. At the same time, the grantee will aggregate media coverage of various communities produced be various media outlets and make this content available to the public through www.netgazeti.ge. Thus, the grantee will address the gap currently existing in the Georgian media, which mainly focuses on covering the news from Tbilisi, neglecting to report on regional issues that directly affect the daily lives of around 2/3 of the population living outside the capital. At the same time, the grantee will ensure that Georgian citizens from various cities and regions of the country are informed about each other's lives and concerns, which in turn will foster better connectedness among the various groups residing in Georgia.

The Center of Democratic and Civil Integration 42,550 Gel
Georgia (Tbilisi) 12/01/2011 – 10/31/2012
The goal of the project is to produce and broadcast a weekly radio program covering the day-to-day lives of the Georgian regions, as well as lives of ethnic and religious minorities residing in the country. The program will focus on giving voice to the people residing outside the capital city and highlighting the various social and economic problems they face in their daily lives. When possible, the grantee will also try to identify ways to resolve these problems. To achieve the project's objectives and ensure wider citizen participation, the grantee will conduct site visits to the regions, prepare radio programs on various issues of regional importance, and operate a Facebook page, where local residents will be able to post about their pressing needs and provide the grantee with ideas for future programming. Throughout the project, the grantee will produce 36 radio shows, which will be aired on Radio 1 of the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB), as well as uploaded on the Radio's website and the program's Facebook page. As a result, the grantee will improve the Georgian population's understanding of the lives of their compatriots of various ethnic and religious backgrounds residing in different parts of the country.

CIVIC INITIATIVE FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY

American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia $75,000
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/29/2011 – 10/20/2012
The grantee seeks to ensure that tax disputes between the government and businesses are resolved in the most transparent, predictable and equitable fashion possible. To this end the tax and law committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia will seek to identify the channels through which, up until now, uncertainty has allowed to persist in the operation of the tax system, particularly in relation to the procedures for resolving tax disputes. By mobilizing a committee of experts and engaging with the Government, parliament, the judiciary, civil society, and the business community, the grantee will seek to productively engage with public authorities to improve the tax dispute resolution mechanisms and, in so doing, foster judicial independence and transparency

Article 42 of the Constitution $74,762
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/01/2011 – 10/23/2012
The grantee will partner with Young Economists' Association of Georgia to advocate for the improved commercial law framework and practice in the country. To do so, the grantee will first conduct an extensive legislative assessment of

Georgian commercial legislation, which will look into both the laws on the books and their actual implementation. The results of the assessment will then be used to design and implement an active advocacy and public awareness campaign, during which the grantee will reach out to the various stakeholders (the judiciary, legal professionals, businesses, local civil society, and the public) to inform them about the findings of the research and to advocate for improvements. As a result of the project, the grantee will identify the various gaps, shortcomings, and deficiencies in the commercial law framework and practice and devise recommendations to foster improved environment for doing business in Georgia. Throughout the project, the grantee will develop broad-based partnerships involving policy makers, entrepreneurs, business associations, business ombudsman, and others. This broad-based cooperation will go a long way to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes.

Association Sachino for the Struggle against Corruption and for the Protection of Consumers' Rights in Imereti $51,756
Georgia (Kutaisi) 09/29/2011 – 10/20/2012
The grantee aims at waging targeted advocacy campaign to foster court transparency in Imereti region and surrounding areas. To do so, the grantee will start to operate a freedom of information (FOI) hotline, so that the local journalists and residents can report problems related to obtaining public information from first and second instance courts located in the region. At the same time, the grantee will conduct training workshops, during which local media representatives, as well as future journalists and their professors, will be trained on various legal means of accessing court information. For sustainable results, the training participants will also receive a practical guide to accessing court information, which will be developed and published by the grantee during the project. To stimulate wider public discussions throughout the region, the grantee will conduct multiple roundtables (namely, in Kutaisi, Samtredia, Zestaponi, Vani, Tskaltubo, Sachkere, and Khoni) on the issues of court transparency and access to information, highlighting area-specific issues that came through the hotline. For broader public outreach, the grantee will work with local radio and TV outlets to broadcast talk shows on the topic at hand.

Civil Development Agency $75,000
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/29/2011 – 10/20/2012
The grantee aims at consolidating the civil society's monitoring efforts of the state Legal Aid Service (LAS), in order to improve the LAS activities and promote better protection of human rights for Georgia's indigent population. To do so, the grantee will first conduct a thorough research and analysis of the public's knowledge and perception of the activities of the Legal Aid Bureaus and Consultation Centers in four regions of Georgia (namely, Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, and Kakheti). The findings of the research will be communicated to the LAS Monitoring Council, which includes the members of the Parliament, Supreme Court, and local NGOs, to improve the LAS service delivery. Apart from feeding into the LAS action plan, the findings will be used to spur open discussions about the LAS and provision of legal aid to the country's most vulnerable population. At the same time, the grantee will spearhead the effort of creating a regional network of civil society organizations and legal practitioners, dedicated to monitoring this area of criminal justice reform. Lastly, the grantee will implement a public awareness campaign to inform the region's residents about free legal aid services available through LAS. As a result of the project, the grantee will galvanize the civil society organizations in the country's relatively underserved regions and foster better protection of human rights for Georgia's indigent population.

Georgian Lawyers for Independent Profession $75,000
Georgia (Tbilisi) 01/09/2011 – 10/23/2012
The project seeks to foster the effectiveness of arbitration as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism in the area of private law. To achieve this goal, the grantee first will analyze the existing legislation and practice to determine the extent to which the current arbitration system fulfills the minimum neutrality and qualification standards, ensuring high levels of public trust in this dispute resolution mechanism. Based on the results of the study, the grantee will develop recommendations on how to improve the existing situation. At the same time, the grantee will conduct an active advocacy and public outreach campaign, to lobby the authorities and enhance the public's awareness about pros and cons of arbitration. By advocating for improvements in the legislative framework regulating arbitration, the grantee will contribute to enhanced reliability of this quasi-judicial mechanism, which, in turn, will lead to (1) lower rates of non-recognition of arbitral decisions by Georgian courts, (2) improved commercial law practice in the country, and (3) increased public trust in this alternative dispute resolution mechanism.

Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association $75,000

Current EPF Grants

Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/27/2011 – 09/20/2012

The project seeks to advocate for the development of business friendly legal framework and improving administration of justice in the area of tax law in Georgia. To do so, the grantee will create an Advocacy Group to serve as the project's steering committee and to engage in advocacy efforts with the Georgian authorities. During the project, the grantee will prepare two comparative legislative assessments, one on the feasibility of creating a tax tribunal or a separate tax law chamber at the courts of first instance, and another on the legislation and practice regarding criminal sanctions for tax evasion. The findings of these reports will serve as the basis for various roundtable discussions, as well as the draft changes and amendments to the existing tax legislation, which will be proposed by the grantee with aim to improve the administration of justice. Throughout the term of the project, the grantee will also engage in a public advocacy and outreach campaign, to enhance the awareness of and encourage wider public discourse on the issue areas covered by the grant. As a result of project related activities, the grantee will unite civil society efforts in monitoring the administration of justice in the area of tax law, public awareness of Georgia's judicial independence, and stimulate government action to address the identified problem areas.

The Human Rights House Tbilisi (HRHT) $95,968

Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/23/2011 – 05/24/2013

The grantee aims at protecting human rights and freedoms in Georgia, through providing pro bono legal assistance to the most vulnerable segments of the Georgian society (e.g. the IDPs, the elderly, the disabled, etc.) in civil, administrative, and criminal law matters. To do so, the grantee will establish the Legal Advocacy Center, where qualified lawyers from Article 42 and Human Rights Center (both members for the grantee organization) will assist the clients. To ensure the maximum results, the grantee will design and wage a public information campaign to educate the Georgian population about their rights and obligations, so that they are able to detect when their rights are violated and seek remedies. The grantee will also reach out to the target population, through various means of communication, to ensure that those who need but cannot afford legal assistance will seek help within the project. By the end of the grantee's intervention, approximately 2,740 indigent citizens of Georgia will receive qualified pro bono legal help and improve their access to justice.

Institute for Development of Freedom of Information $49,720

Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/29/2011 – 10/20/2012

The grantee aims at promoting the transparency and accountability of the Georgian judicial system by assessing and advocating for the comprehensiveness, coherence, and accessibility of websites of Georgian courts. Specifically, the grantee will monitor 16 existing websites for the courts of all levels to identify areas that need improvement and to advocate for more transparency. The results of the assessment will be compiled into a report with specific recommendations to improve the contents and technical parameters of the websites. In addition, the project will develop and advocate for an adoption of a standard web-site template, so that each comparable court web-site discloses information under same or similar categories. At the same time, the grantee will analyze the already posted court statistics and transfer the information into a user-friendly template and publish it on its website. Throughout the project, the project team will work closely with the representatives of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court and the High Council of Justice (HCOJ) to advocate for modifications of the existing web-resources that will transform them into useful tools for practitioners and ordinary citizens, thus, enhancing court transparency and accountability.

Institute of Democracy $98,577

Georgia (Batumi) 09/23/2011 – 05/24/2013

The project aims at providing free legal aid to the most vulnerable segments of the population residing in five municipalities of Adjara: Keda, Shuakhevi, Khulo, Khelvachauri, and Kobuleti. Through public outreach efforts, the grantee will increase the local population's awareness of their legal rights and responsibilities, so that they are better able to detect when their rights are being violated and subsequently, seek help. To provide the needed assistance, the grantee will establish a Legal Aid Centre in Keda, which will serve the residents of Shuakhevi and Khulo municipalities as well. The residents of Khelvachauri and Kobuleti municipalities will receive free legal aid through the grantee's Batumi office. While the grantee will provide pro bono legal assistance in all fields of law, particular attention will be given to defending the property rights of Kobuleti-Khelvachauri area residents, as they face the government in the latter's bid to construct a new Choloki-Sarpi Highway. As the previous experience has shown, the population residing en route or in close proximity of public works projects (such as the highway) will inevitably face displacement from their property. Such prospects, coupled with extremely limited information about the highway, have created legitimate fears in the area's residents that their property rights may be violated. The grantee will prepare the local population for the upcoming

public works project, by raising their awareness about their property rights and the government's plans in the area, as well as providing information about the free legal services available through the project. By the end of the project, the grantee will provide around 2,900 legal consultations and 320 legal representations to the targeted population.

Public Movement Multinational Georgia $61,377
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/29/2011 – 10/20/2012
To ensure the right to fair trial for the representatives of ethnic minorities residing in Georgia, by reducing language barriers they face in judicial administration. To do so, the project will develop Armenian-Georgian and Azerbaijani-Georgian legal dictionaries, which will be printed and distributed among interpreters, courts, translation agencies, libraries, professional associations, and CSOs. The project will also deliver two 4-day trainings for at least 14 interpreters, which will focus on the legal terminology, as well as duties and rights of interpreters in the process of administration of justice, with particular attention given to their role at the court hearings. In addition, the grantee will wage a targeted advocacy campaign to ensure that the trained interpreters are utilized by the courts of first instance located in Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions, so as to reduce language barriers in the system of administration of justice will be carried out. This will include a day-long forum with participation from representatives of the judiciary, the Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Public Defender's Office, the members of the Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary. The forum will be preceded by a media campaign to raise awareness of the importance of language rights. At least 1 radio show will be broadcast through the Radio Green Wave Network and 4 television shows will be prepared and broadcast in the regions of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti. By the end of the project, the grantee will create a much needed cadre of qualified court translators who can be called on by the courts to provide translation services to those who need it and spur an advocacy campaign to eliminate language barriers for the representatives of national minorities dealing with the administration of justice.

Racha-Lechkhumi and Lower Svaneti Self-Governance Resource Center $88,884
Georgia (Ambrolauri) 09/23/2011 – 05/24/2013
The project aims at protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms of Georgian citizens, through providing pro bono legal assistance to the population of one of the most underserved regions of Georgia – Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti. To do so, the grantee will establish Legal Services Centers in Ambrolauri (Racha) and Tsageri (Lechkhumi), which will be staffed with professional lawyers capable of providing qualified advice and representation. To ensure the maximum results, the grantee will design and wage public information campaign to educate the region's population about their rights and obligations, so that they are better able to detect violations and seek remedies.

Establishing Legal Service Centers in Ambrolauri and Tsageri is of utmost importance, as the population of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region lacks access to qualified free legal services. While the state Legal Aid Service (LAS) has a representative office in Ambrolauri, it is not enough to address the regional need. As a result of the project, the grantee will fulfil one of the most pressing needs of the local community. By the end of the grantee's intervention, around 3,000 residents of the region will receive qualified pro bono legal help and improve their access to justice

Non-Commercial Legal Entity Tbilisians' Lawyer $83,267
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/23/2011 – 05/24/2013
The goal of the project is to provide free legal assistance to and ensure equal access to justice for the most vulnerable residents of Tbilisi, as well as for individual entrepreneurs and limited liability companies that are carrying out business activities at Tbilisi flea markets. As the capital city and the largest market in Georgia, Tbilisi attracts many residents from other regions of the country, who migrated to the capital in hopes of securing their livelihood. Tbilisi also accommodates many internally displaced persons (IDPs), who have been forced to leave their homes in the conflict zones. These individuals, together with many native Tbilisians who have not been able to obtain stable employment, have started small entrepreneurial activities at local flea markets (bazroba), which has provided for them sustenance. The vast majority of such socially vulnerable groups are not familiar with their rights and obligation under the current laws. Those engaged in small business are particularly disadvantaged, given the new tax legislation and myriad of changes in the sphere of commercial law. In light of the above-mentioned, the project acquires a special significance, as it will enable the grantee actively to reach out and provide pro bono legal assistance to those segments of the population that need its services the most. Apart from fostering equal access to justice, the grantee's actions will also improve the socio-economic wellbeing of the targeted population and the overall economic climate in the country.