

Current EPF Grants

LTD P.S. newspaper

\$10,287

Georgia (Kutaisi)

3/24/2010 - 07/31/2010

The goal of the project is twofold: 1) to increase the capacity of P.S. journalists in investigative journalism by undertaking regular consultations with experienced investigative journalists and 2) increase the access of the local population to investigative reporting, contributing to increased accountability of local self-governmental bodies. The project provides for four investigations in the Imereti region on issues of local concern (state aid to the regions, school management, local social assistance programs, and soft drink quality). The improved quality of investigative stories in P.S. will promote the newspaper's credibility among the general population and ultimately increase its readership and financial stability.

Daily Newspaper Rezonance

\$7,118

Georgia (Tbilisi)

3/29/2010 - 09/30/2010

The goal of the project is to investigate the forest industry in Georgia, focusing on the mechanisms, scale, and nature of illegal logging. The grantee will also analyze the current and potential negative impact of illegal logging in Georgia on a country-wide scale. The results of the comprehensive and in-depth investigation will be disseminated to the Georgian population as a series of printed newspaper publications and electronically on Rezonansi's web-site.

LTD Centre Imedi

\$7,970

Georgia (Gurjaani)

3/29/2010 - 12/31/2010

The project aims at investigating cases of human rights violation, corruption, and abuse of public office in the Kakheti Region. The grantee will disseminate investigative reports online through Information Center Kakheti and in print through the newspaper Rezonansi and magazine Liberali to ensure that the results of the investigations reach as many readers as possible. By increasing public access to investigative reporting, the project will contribute to the increased accountability of governmental bodies and will mobilize the population to actively participate in civic life.

Violence protection and civil education regional center

\$8,807

Georgia (Gurjaani)

3/29/2010 - 10/31/2010

Through the project, the grantee will prepare investigative journalism TV stories covering the state program Support the Countryside, which entails financial support to municipalities for infrastructure development. The grantee will focus on four municipalities in the region of Kakheti: Gurjaani, Kvareli, Lagodekhi, and Signaghi. Through freedom of information requests and further onsite investigation, the grantee will prepare investigative journalism stories for broadcast on Gurjaani TV. The project will result in greater efficiency of the state program through increased public access to information about the municipalities' activities and improved public oversight.

Association Flora and Fauna

\$76,102

Georgia (Batumi)

3/23/2010 - 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.

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Current EPF Grants

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.

Georgian Tourism Association GTA

\$47,789

Georgia (Tbilisi)

3/29/2010 - 05/31/2011

To facilitate market-oriented, participatory sustainable tourism for Protected Areas (PA) of Georgia in Lagodekhi, Algeti and Kintrishi the Georgian Tourism Association (GTA) offers a seven-month project through the Eco Awards Program 2009. Through this project, GTA will provide workshops for local community representatives on product development and services including accommodation, catering, etc. for both international and Georgian visitors. The association also works to raise the profile of the Protected Areas, including information about accommodations, activities and attractiveness. The project will work with the Algeti PA, which is considered the least developed PA in Georgia. Creation of guesthouse data bank and booking facilities will increase access to information for potential visitors. The project is carried out in partnership with the Agency of Protected Areas (APA).

Association "Zekari"

\$21,371

Georgia (Ambrolauri)

3/29/2010 - 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.

Human Rights Protection and Social Equity Research Center

\$8,326

Georgia (Poti)

3/29/2010 - 09/30/2010

The goal of the project is to prepare investigative newspaper stories and inform the public about the activities of governmental bodies in the region of Samegrelo. The grantee will ensure that stories written as part of the project are widely disseminated and reach as large an audience as possible. By investigating violations, the project will contribute to the increased accountability of governmental bodies and the prevention of corruption cases. A better informed population will be able to make informed choices and participate more actively in civic life.

Human rights center (HRIDC)

\$9,500

Georgia (Tbilisi)

3/29/2010 - 12/31/2010

To promote citizen oversight of the court system in Georgia through monitoring and improved journalistic coverage. The combination of court monitoring by a watchdog CSO and journalistic investigation of 50 politically sensitive criminal and administrative court cases will contribute to the strengthening of the weakened public oversight on judiciary, more transparency of sensitive court cases and increased accountability of the law-enforcement authorities before the public. The project will be jointly implemented by an experienced human rights NGO and an experienced media outlet involved in investigative journalism. The project addresses one of the most sensitive areas of Georgia's domestic reform agenda and will further reforms of Georgian judiciary system and development of court journalism.

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Current EPF Grants

LTD Liberali

\$7,215

Georgia (Tbilisi)

3/29/2010 - 08/31/2010

The goal of the project is to investigate sensitive issues related to the central government's management of reforms in various spheres of social and economic life. The grantee will investigate such topics as management of the Presidential Reserve Fund, implementation of the 100 New Hospitals for Georgia project, and the activities of Georgian National Communications Commission. Investigations undertaken in terms of the project will be published in the magazine Liberali and uploaded on the website www.liberali.ge, as well as the website of investigative reporting www.ijp.ge in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. As a result of the project, the population will be better informed about the activities of the government and will be able to make better informed decisions.

N(N)LE Adjara Sustainable Development Association 'ASDA'

\$31,084

Georgia (Batumi)

3/23/2010 - 06/30/2010

To support further sustainable development of Protected Territories, Ajara Sustainable Development Association (ASDA) is undertaking a three-month project in Ajara region, namely within the Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi Protected Area to improve infrastructure, provide knowledge to local residents on possible income-generation activities connected to eco-tourism. Project envisages installment of solar-power electricity and water-heating systems and increase public awareness on the benefits of usage of environmentally safe alternative energy sources. The practical knowledge of local residents and other interested parties about approaches to offering tourism services as a means of boosting economic sustainability will be improved through cooperation and involvement of another winner of the Eco-Awards Program 2010 Georgian Tourism Association (GTA) that is committed to provide the relevant training free of charge. The project will also contribute to improved cooperation among projects supported within Eco-Awards Program, as well as between residents and administrations of the Mtirala National Park and Tusheti PA through planned information-sharing activities, e.g. study tour.

Institute of democracy

\$9,000

Georgia (Batumi)

3/29/2010 - 11/30/2010

The goal of the project is to support investigative journalism in the Adjara Region by disseminating TV, radio, and internet media. The grantee will develop and launch a new website, www.adjaranews.ge, which will serve as a regularly updated platform for dissemination of investigative journalism materials. Through the project, the grantee will shoot four investigative TV stories, which will be broadcast by Channel 25 in Batumi and uploaded on the website. In the mountainous areas of Keda, Shuakhevi, and Khulo, where there is no reception for Channel 25, the grantee will organize public showings. In order to increase interest in investigative journalism in the region, the grantee will hold a competition for the best materials in investigative journalism produced in Adjara. As a result of the project, the population of Adjara will become better informed of the situation in the region. Investigative journalism materials, distributed widely and used during meetings among governmental, non-governmental, and media organizations, will serve as topics for discussion and encourage the further investigation of cases of corruption, violations, and deficiencies.

Media Development Foundation

\$24,183.27

Georgia (Tbilisi)

12/01/2009 - 05/31/2010

To promote equality and national unity by eliminating ethnically, religiously and cultural offensive content in the media in line with the UNA/USAID-funded Tolerance and National Integration program's goal of promoting a tolerant multi-faith and multicultural society. In several high profile instances, the Georgian press has published opinion columns and used abusive words and expressions that were highly offensive to the country's ethnic, religious and cultural minorities. Print media's representations of ethnic, religious and cultural minorities as a threat often fuel religious and ethnic tensions and confrontations in Georgian society.

The project is designed to identify potentially offensive media stereotyping, stigmatizing content, insults, ethnic and religious jokes, and individual expressions of intolerance towards ethnic, religious and cultural minorities.

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Current EPF Grants

The grantee will train media representatives in ethics and media standards in order to prevent potentially offensive content. Identification of offensive content will occur with the participation of ethnic and religious minorities. The project will take place in three phases: (1) media monitoring, (2) development of recommendations to prevent such practice in the future and (3) awareness raising of the media representatives

Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) \$35,149.16
Georgia (Tbilisi) 12/02/2009 - 05/31/2010

To contribute to creation of favorable conditions for effective participation of minority groups in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the country, GFSIS will implement an integrated project composed of capacity building activities, policy development, and public debate and TOT components for the representatives of ethnic minority community of Samtskhe-Javakheti. The project team will organize skills oriented and awareness raising training to enhance skills and participation of ethnic minority community representatives in public policy decision-making. As a result 28 representatives of civil society, media, and local government leaders of ethnic minority population of Samtskhe-Javakheti will have improved public policy and advocacy skills. The project will support establishment of informal networks of regional civic society groups and regional civil society groups with Tbilisi based civil society organizations.

The Georgian Union of Mountain Activists \$17.868
Georgia (Tbilisi) 08/25/2009 - 01/10/2010

To attract tourists to Upper and Lower Svaneti by establishing four new tourist routes of different length and difficulty that meet international standards and requirements. The project envisages covering those areas of Svaneti that have not been involved in tourism development activities. The Georgian Union of Mountain Activists (GUMA) will implement a three-month long project to map and mark four tourist routes and conduct a promotional campaign. With this aim, GUMA will prepare and print special booklets on new routes that will be disseminated among all stakeholders. In addition, the relevant information will be placed on www.svanetitrekking.ge. In the long run, the project will contribute to improving the socio-economic situation of the local population through their involvement in income generating activities.

Human Rights Priority \$19.995
Georgia (Tbilisi) 09/05/2009 - 09/04/2010

To develop and strengthen a method of strategic litigation as an effective mean for protection of human rights by using the method for protection of rights of the citizens affected by 2008 August war.

The project is the first in Georgia attempt to apply method of strategic litigation to the national courts with respect to victims of war. The project will use the method of exhaustion of domestic remedies in protection of rights of the civilians -IDPs affected by the Russo-Georgian war in August 2008 and then file their cases to the European Court for Human Rights. Thereby the project will establish precedent of strategic litigation in the local legal practice and will provide vitally important legal assistant to the IDPs- victims of the war to reinstate them in their rights. The lawsuits won in ECfHR will force the Georgian state to fulfill its obligations regarding the IDPs, which includes compensation, psychological aid and social rehabilitation.

Thereby the project will create good practice of giving efficient legal aid to the war-affected civilians by civic organization, strengthen capacity of civic sector in protection of human rights, assist IDPs to protect their legitimate rights. Additionally, the project creates a resource of lawyers and human rights defenders - skilled in strategic litigation method by the targeted training seminars, links them with international legal experts and involves public groups and media in this process to increase public information and awareness.

The project is funded within the grant competition of a small grants program run by Norwegian Embassy in Georgia and managed within the memorandum of understanding between the Embassy and Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF).

Association "Mkurnali" \$16.200

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Current EPF Grants

Georgia (Tbilisi)

09/10/2009 - 06/09/2010

The project aims at reintegration of the street children in the society. The project is designed to improve legal representation of vulnerable children living in the street. By providing juridical/legal services to the "street children", when they are in contact with the criminal justice, the project will protect the target youth from discrimination and violation of their rights; the project team will analyze the current Georgian legislation on juvenile justice and search the best international practices to advocate improvements in the Georgian juvenile justice among the policy-makers in relevant government departments. The sustainable project interventions include vocational training of the street children to expand their limited choices currently available to them and to make them more self sustainable.

Young Pedagogues Union

\$24,381

Georgia (Ozurgeti)

09/20/2009 - 08/19/2010

To create a sustainable mechanism for participatory civic monitoring of public school issues in Guria by engaging local communities, the media, and civil society organizations (CSOs). The project, which targets 15 public schools in three municipalities of Guria, will contribute to the full-scale implementation of the Georgian Law on General Education and related regulations in public schools. The grantee will conduct comprehensive training of the school-based beneficiaries, lead systematic civic monitoring of public schools, and produce and lobby for evidence-based recommendations for improvements in the respective legislation. These efforts, combined with close cooperation with the media, will contribute to improved access to high quality secondary education in the region and increase citizen activism in this field.

Guria Youth Resource Center

\$22,942

Georgia (Ozurgeti)

09/20/2009 - 06/19/2010

To increase the engagement of community groups in Guria in local decision making through improved participatory civic monitoring of the local budget, municipal services, and policy reforms. The project will engage various age groups, especially youth, from the local communities in Ozurgeti and four biggest villages in the district (Natanebi, Nasakirali, Laituri and Shroma) in participatory activities. The grantee will develop participants into Agents of Change who will increase civic activism among the targeted communities, reveal local problems, and inform the government about them through media outlets, thematic performance shows, and direct dialogue. The grantee will train communities in increasing citizen participation, conduct an awareness-raising campaign, and involve a wide array of stakeholders (about 600 participants), promoting increased civic activism and results-oriented dialogue between the authorities and the civic sector. Models of participation developed by participants will increase the engagement of heretofore disengaged communities in decision-making on those issues that affect their lives.

Institute of Social Studies and Analysis – ISSA

\$38,000

Georgia (Tbilisi)

06/05/2009 - 01/04/2010

To conduct a nationwide survey among university students to assess the knowledge, attitude and behavior of youth toward drug abuse, sexual and reproductive health and the risks of HIV/AIDS. Based on the survey findings, the grantee-the Institute of Social Studies and Analysis-will develop and implement informational, educational and communication activities to provide adolescents with age-appropriate information about reproductive and sexual health, including the prevention of early pregnancies, safe sex education and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Education of youth about reproductive and sexual health will help them develop life skills that will be especially effective strategy for safeguarding their sexual health and well-being. Knowledge about family planning and information about sexually transmitted diseases including HIV will adequately equip youth to make choices for their own futures.

Union "Georgian-Abkhazian mixed families"

\$43,671

Georgia (Zugdidi)

06/01/2009 - 07/27/2010

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Current EPF Grants

To contribute to the rebuilding of confidence and tolerance between the Georgians and Abkhazians after the 2008 August war through the restoration of relations between the mixed Georgian-Abkhaz families separated by the conflict.

The project activities are built on the results achieved during the previous project that led to reconnection of 200 mixed Georgian-Abkhaz families and identification of 12 ethnic Abkhazs with skills of leadership and willing to participate in the reconciliation efforts.

The project will allow maintaining the Georgian-Abkhaz human that have been remaining after the war that has changed a political reality in the region. The project will assist both Georgian and Abkhaz nationalities living on the temporarily separated territories to identify the problems jointly and find joint solutions to them through the meetings, discussions and training. The project's target beneficiaries are 204 identified representatives of Georgian-Abkhaz mixed families. The project will reveal new civic leaders among the mixed families through the tailored training on the issues, which are in demand among the beneficiaries. The software and hardware installed in the offices of partner organizations in Georgia and breakaway Abkhazia will facilitate online contacts between the separated mixed families

Through these measures, the project can enhance links between Georgian and Abkhaz societies and civic organizations, increase awareness of the role of public diplomacy and create better conditions for continued dialogue between private citizens from the mixed families by creating good practice for the other divided families. The project contributes to Georgia's state policy for peaceful settlement of the conflicts.

Foundation for Development of Human Resources

\$34,890

Georgia (Tbilisi)

06/01/2009 - 05/31/2010

To facilitate and expedite the civil re-integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the former South Ossetia by equipping them with knowledge and skills for self-employment and job placement. The project targets 165 IDPs from the collective center in Tserovani. The participants will receive training in various efficient methods of integration, including job placement in a complex and competitive labor market. Twelve IDPs with strong leadership and communication skills will deliver the training after being trained themselves through the project. The grantee-the Foundation for Development of Human Resources-will use German and Swiss methodology (Competency based Economies through Formation of Enterprise (CEFE) and Job Seeking and Good Cooperation respectively), which has been successfully tested and institutionalized in more than 60 developing countries. The project will create opportunities for IDPs to overcome isolation, poverty and social indifference, with 10,000 IDPs indirectly benefiting from the training. The project will create a resource for information about civic integration and job seeking methods for IDPs which can be replicated in other regions of Georgia. In addition, the project will contribute to the institutionalization of the CEFE training program in Georgia.

Union "Svaneti tourism center"

\$20,963

Georgia (Mestia)

05/15/2009 - 02/14/2010

To attract tourists to selected villages of Upper Svaneti region by facilitating sustainable and safe tourism development. The grantee - the Svaneti Tourism Center - will implement a nine-month project to develop tourism infrastructure and services by providing seminars and trainings for local guesthouse owners and preparing guides and rescuers. In addition, a special guide-book for rescuers will be prepared and published in the Georgian language. Information about involved guesthouse owners, guides and rescuers will be placed on the Center's website and disseminated among tour operators. In the long run, the project will contribute to improving the socio-economic situation of the local population through their involvement in income generating activities.

Taso Foundation

\$30.860

Georgia (Tbilisi)

05/10/2009 - 05/09/2010

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Current EPF Grants

To contribute to the empowerment of the women victims of war in the battle-front community Karaleti with population of 4 118 to overcome post-war problems, assist peer communities by developing their capacity of leadership, advocacy of citizens' interests, rights and gender equality.

The project plans to establish the women's center for social responsibility within the Karaleti Village Administration's Office building, which apart from its direct workframe, will serve as a meeting place for discussion on acute problems of community, hosting meetings with civic groups governmental agencies and donors for planning community development issues, educational sessions and other issues of the communities' concern. The women, gathered by the center, educated and consolidated around it, will grow socially to establish a community organization on the basis of the center to pass their knowledge and experience to their sisters in need. Equipping the center with telecommunication means, including internet that will take the communities out of the existing informational vacuum and contribute to their better integration into the society. The project will serve the overall goal of the quick civic integration of IDPs and the war-affected groups.

M Publishing

\$28,249

Georgia (Tbilisi)

05/01/2009 - 04/30/2010

To contribute to the development of the Georgian online media resources by creating the web-portal of the popular independent social-political magazine "Hot Chocolate." The portal must increase the number of users of Georgian online editions nationwide and abroad, especially those who do not have access to printed edition of the magazine and other press.

Since Georgian online Media-market remains underdeveloped and the few existing online editions do not provide their audience with professionally written materials about diverse problems of the country, including such marginalized topics as freedom of religion, gender equality, domestic violence and ethnic and sexual tolerance. The project aims to address this problem by giving wide coverage to these issues and create an authentic informational-discussion online space for Georgian society. Thereby the project will contribute to the establishing and development of skills and knowledge of the Georgian audience to master culture of using online media outlets. The new portal will also address deficiency of coverage and analysis of the tabooed topics in the Georgian online editions and engage citizens in discussions.

source, express its own opinion online and be more informed and educated about the issues they are unaware.

The full-scale web-portal of "Hot Chocolate" will contribute to the development of the underdeveloped internet media and online marketing in Georgia, develop culture of online reading among the audience and will help the magazine and the portal to expand their readership.

Association of Georgian women journalists – 1991

\$24,060

Georgia (Tbilisi)

05/01/2009 - 04/30/2010

To promote the independence and professionalism of Georgian media outlets to serve as proactive civic actors by developing modern theory and practice of journalistic investigation. The project will develop and publish a comprehensive, up to date manual on the modern theory and practice of journalistic investigation for the Georgian media community with updated learning material about investigative journalism techniques adjusted to the local realities. At the second stage, the project will train 70 journalists from Tbilisi and six regions of Georgia about the theory and practice of journalistic investigation. The grantee will follow-up with the trainees in conducting minor investigations of various cases, continuing even after the lifetime of the project.

As a result, the Georgian media, especially journalists interested in conducting investigations, will receive new learning material in the Georgian language. Project participants trained in investigative journalism will enhance the capacity of their media outlets to serve as proactive civil watchdogs and contribute to the strengthening of civil society.

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Current EPF Grants

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).

International center for social research and policy analysis \$27,408
Georgia (Tbilisi) 02/10/2009 - 12/10/2009

The goal of the project is to promote the principles of a knowledge-based economy at higher education centers of Georgia. The grantee-the International Center for Social Research and Policy Analysis (ICSRPA) -will conduct a SWOT analysis to assess the Georgian education sector in terms of its status as a knowledge-based economy and advocate best practices from other countries that have successfully converted to a knowledge-based economic framework. The grantee will work specifically with two Georgian universities in its assessment and awareness raising activities and create a space for networking and sharing best practices to facilitate the establishment of a knowledge-based economy in Georgia.

Medical Workers Initiative \$21,400
Georgia (Kutaisi) 03/10/2009 - 05/09/2010

To improve IDPs' access to quality medical services in the Imereti region. The grantee will monitor the implementation of the state's medical programs designed to improve medical services provided to patients from the IDP collection center in Kutaisi (310 IDPs) The project will be implemented in cooperation with local CSOs and will enhance the capacity of the target IDP community to advocate for their healthcare needs and improve the quality and increase the breadth of services provided by the municipal medical service. The project will create a local Coordination Consultative Center for Protection of Patients' Rights, which will become a public resource for advocacy and monitoring and will coordinate the activities of the public control commissions trained in monitoring. Through these activities the project will improve the degree of citizen participation in the region, increase the accountability of local authorities and enhance IDPs' accessibility to more quality medical service.

Regional educational fund of Gori \$7,550
Georgia (Gori) 03/10/2009 - 09/09/2009

To transform the young people of Gori into active community members and enable them to represent their communities and play an active role in solving their community's problems. The grantee will provide intense training and education to the students of Gori University about the fundamental issues of civil society, community mobilization, leadership and civic advocacy. The project will enable and encourage the participants to create new community based organizations with the skills to raise funds for implementing small community projects, share best practices and experiences with coevals and enhance their civil integration. The project will primarily help victims of the war to cope with the post-conflict problems.

The project is financed within the EPF Open Door Grant program, aimed at assisting the civil sector in and around the conflict zones in overcoming post-conflict problems.

Biological Farming Association Elkana \$54,855
Georgia (Tbilisi) 06/01/2009 - 02/04/2011

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Current EPF Grants

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.

Dairy information and Promotion Association

\$86,021

Georgia (Tbilisi)

03/23/2009 - 05/31/2010

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 producers 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.

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.

Wild Plant Conservation Association (WPCA)

\$29,477

Georgia (Tbilisi)

3/25/2009 - 09/24/2010

As part of the Eco Awards Program 2009, the Wild Plant Conservation Association (WPCA) proposes an 18-month project to develop ways to protect two economically important plant species - Cyclamen vernal Sweet and Galanthus woronowii Losinsk. WPCA will work to conserve the two species ex-situ [off site] by creating natural collections and a seed bank. Ex-situ conservation is the most important and affordable method of maintaining biodiversity, which can be implemented by the botanic institutions on their territory by creating "reserve supplies" of the natural collection. It is also important to provide the population with science-based research and assist them in creation of the natural collections ex-situ. In addition, population will have opportunity to get seedlings or seeds from WPCA for further re-production of the above-mentioned species with aim to use them for commercial purposes - either sell locally or export to international market.

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Current EPF Grants

Union "SIQA - Georgian Association of Educational Initiatives"

\$30,319

Georgia (Rustavi)

01/15/2009 - 07/14/2009

To help children and adolescents overcome psychological pressure as a result of the recent Russia-Georgia conflict and promote an educational philosophy and practice that inspires and develops positive values in the secondary schools of the conflict affected areas. Values against Violence (VAV) is based on the Living Values Education module that has been implemented in more than 80 countries of the world and is designed to promote the development of values-based learning in conflict affected communities, overall development of the individual and a culture of positive values, such as peace, tolerance, respect, responsibility and unity.

The project will encourage educators to look at education as an opportunity to provide students with a philosophy of living, thereby facilitating overall growth and development of children and youth. The project also targets teachers from secondary schools in Gori to improve the quality of learning and turn the education process into a purposeful activity to facilitate children and adolescents overall growth, development, and choices so that they may integrate themselves into the community with respect, confidence, and purpose. The grantee will train a select group of teachers on the concept of VAV and then support participants in developing educational plans that incorporate the acquired theoretical material into their teaching methodology. In addition, the grantee will train the teachers in colorful silhouette theatre techniques, one of the effective teaching methods of positive living values. The learning of VAV will be enhanced by community-wide events, such as an exhibition of values-based drawings by children and adolescents and theatre performances on VAV. The project team will develop and distribute posters that describe the core principles of basic positive values in a user-friendly way.

Association "Youth Development Center"

\$11,746

Georgia (Gori)

01/15/2009 - 07/14/2009

To improve access of youth IDPs, from the Russian- Georgian war affected territories of Gori District, to income generating resources by means of skill- and capacity-building program. The project will provide 40 youth IDPs both with an opportunity of generating instant cash income and will prepare them for longer term opportunities for sustaining themselves. Through the series of handicraft trainings, the target group of young people will acquire skills that will enable them to produce handicraft production for selling. The project will connect the target group with local relevant businesses to sustain their sources of income in the future. Overall, the project will improve the living conditions of the young displaced persons and their families and will support their reintegration in the society.

The project is financed within the EPF Open Door grant program aimed at assisting the war affected population in conflict zones in overcoming the post-conflict problems.

Association Studio Re

\$44,374

Georgia (Tbilisi)

12/15/08 – 06/15/2009

In support of open discussion on Georgia's integration into European structures and raise awareness about the European Neighborhood Policy.

The project envisages communicating information about the EU and its relations with its neighbours through TV discussions. The project will prepare 10 TV programs communicating to the wider Georgian public about EU structures, policies, countries, cultures, economic development and challenges. Journalists will work in different regions to highlight general or specific problems and obligations Georgia has to fulfill as part of its commitment to the European Neighborhood Policy. The grantee, "Studio RE" will conduct a two-day training for regional journalists to present the project and discuss the issues that are to be highlighted in the TV programs. The project will involve 19 regional channels and their journalists to achieve better access to information for remote communities, activate regional journalist to work on European issues, increase their capacity-building via TV programs.

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Current EPF Grants

Center for civil integration and inter-ethnic relations

\$36,641.14

Georgia (Tbilisi)

12/15/2008 - 06/15/2009

To create a sustainable civic resource of proactive citizens in Marneuli (Kvemo Kartli) and Telavi (Kakheti) by establishing civil education resource centers. Center staff will be trained in fundraising, policy dialogue and civic monitoring by EPF partners the Association of Young Economists of Georgia and Center for Training and Consultancy. Once running, the centers will arrange meetings for NGO leaders, interest groups and stakeholders with government officials on issues of local concern, e.g. education, local budget, public services, etc. The centers will also provide trainings to community leaders and engaged citizens to increase civic and political participation. The centers will closely cooperate with the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia, which will provide technical and logistics support during and after the project. As a result of the project, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti civic and minority groups will have consistent access to a source of information about raising funds for their projects and proactively engaging in the local decision-making and socio-economic and political processes.

International Center for Civic Culture

\$23,086

Georgia (Tbilisi)

12/15/08 – 06/15/2009

To enhance the effectiveness of civic monitoring carried out by grassroots civil society organizations in Batumi, Samegrelo and Shida Kartli regions by creating sustainable mechanisms of participatory monitoring. Representatives of approximately 60 grassroots CSOs from various fields will be trained in participatory monitoring using the Guidebook on Civic Monitoring (prepared with EPF funding) and other learning tools. Under the guidance of the trainers, the grassroots CSOs will develop monitoring action plans (covering issues appropriate to their organizations and communities), which will then be implemented in cooperation with the local government. The increased number of CSOs capable of conducting professional and high-profile civic monitoring will promote increased transparency and accountability of local government activities and allow for CSOs to exert greater influence on the local decision-making process.

Centre for training and consultancy

\$29,617

Georgia (Tbilisi)

12/01/2008 - 01/15/2010

To increase participatory civic monitoring and the accountability of the local governance in Rustavi and Telavi municipalities. The grantee will provide trainings for representatives from the municipalities, CSOs, the mass media, academic institutions and business in public policy planning and analysis in order to promote professional, results-oriented cooperation between local civil society and local authorities. Under the guidance of the grantee, project participants will elaborate policy papers-in Rustavi about addressing the problem of unemployment and in Telavi about fixing local infrastructure problems. The projects in Rustavi and Telavi will build capacity, facilitate policy dialogue and create a framework for cooperation between different local stakeholders. Project implementation and outputs will be available on websites that will be taken over by the municipalities after the project.

The project will be implemented in cooperation with EPF's grantee Center for Civic Integration & Interethnic Relations. It will train the staff of Civil Education Resource Centers, which CCIIR together with the Public Defender's Office will create in Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti.

Human rights center (HRIDC)

\$33,130.00

Georgia (Tbilisi City)

10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009

To promote citizen oversight of the court system in Georgia through monitoring and improved journalistic coverage. The combination of court monitoring by a watchdog CSO and journalistic investigation of 50 politically sensitive criminal and administrative court cases will contribute to the strengthening of the weakened public oversight on judiciary, more transparency of sensitive court cases and increased accountability of the law-enforcement authorities before the public. The project will be jointly implemented by an experienced human rights NGO and an experienced media outlet involved in investigative journalism. The project addresses one of the most sensitive areas of Georgia's domestic reform agenda and will further reforms of Georgian judiciary system and development of court journalism.

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Current EPF Grants

Democratic development union of Georgia

\$21,362.00

Georgia (Ozurgeti)

10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009

To increase participation of six territorial communities of Ozurgeti municipality in the local government's decision-making process by strengthening public discussion and civil control over spending part of the Ozurgeti municipal budget and proactive involvement of the local media in this process. The participatory monitoring with the trained civic initiative groups in six municipal areas, regular community meetings and community-driven budget initiatives shall reinforce latent civic resources in the region, provide grassroots civic groups with skills and knowledge of participatory monitoring and decision making contribute to better transparency and accountability of local government and facilitate dialogue between government and communities. The involvement of the local independent newspaper in the monitoring through the cooperation with the Civil Society Organization will contribute to their lasting cooperation, which improve quality and impact of the monitoring process, increase public understanding and awareness of civil control over the local budget and contribute to the budget spending in accordance with the community needs.

Civil Society Institute

\$45,661.00

Georgia (Tbilisi City)

07/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

To facilitate establishing of effective and flexible system of citizens' services in Batumi City Hall and Kobuleti administration and create a model for other self-governance units in Georgia. At the request and according to MOU of Batumi City Hall and Kobuleti administration the project will provide the cities with a concept of "One Stop Shop" system and deliver a relevant training for the local staff to establish the system. Representatives of other cities of Georgia will receive an opportunity to familiarize with the model of "One Stop Shop". The project is a continuation of the previous project which assisted Batumi City Hall in improvement of management of its services.

The establishing of "One Stop Shop" in Batumi and Kobuleti city administrations will unify and ease procedures of service delivery to the population from local self-governance bodies, citizens will become better informed about types of services of local self-governance and about procedures of reception of these services, which will contribute to the rationale use of time by the municipality workers, reduce probability of unfair decisions by city officials and reduce citizens' complaints. The project will increase citizens' trust to the local authorities, contribute to the improvement of overall management of Batumi and Kobuleti cities and might serve as a model for the replication in other cities.

Association "Sachino" against corruption and defense of consumer rights in Imereti

\$ 24, 764.00

Georgia (Kutaisi)

10/01/2008 - 09/30/2009

Enhance capacity of the condominiums in the 12 territorial units of the city of Kutaisi in participatory civic monitoring and advocacy. Promote efficient dialogue between citizens and the city governance for local problem settlement.

The project will assist about 300 condominiums of multi-apartment houses of Kutaisi to increase their capabilities in identifying and solving the local problems by preparation of micro projects and lobbying them in the local governance bodies. The project will help condominiums to increase their legal awareness and knowledge of their legitimate rights that shall contribute to more results-oriented dialogue between condominiums and local authorities during the solution of the concrete problems on improvement of public services. The condominiums will be formed as sustainable civic groups capable to advocate citizens' interests and ensure participatory decision-making process. The local media will be actively involved in the public information campaign to reinforce citizens' interests advocacy campaign and the project's impact. The project will be implemented in partnership with the CSO "Women and Choice." Within the MOU the grantee will cooperate with another EPF grantee Kutaisi Information Center.

The grant was awarded within the EPF second grant competition in support of participatory civic monitoring initiatives conducted in June 2008.

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