



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**January 29, 2010, 4 p.m.  
Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel**

### **Eco-Awards Program Presents Five Winners and Two New Partners**

Today BP, on behalf of its oil and gas co-venturers, hosted a ceremony to award the five winners of the second competition under the Eco-Awards Program, which was initiated in 2009. At the awards ceremony, the winners of the 2009 Eco-Awards Program presented to the public the activities implemented as part of the previous year's program and their achievements.

The three-year Eco-Awards was developed to promote and reward the active involvement of local non-governmental organizations in addressing local environmental issues in a practical way. The program is administered by Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), a local non-governmental organization dedicated to strengthening civil society in Georgia.

"We are delighted with the response this initiative has received. The interest shown by organizations in this year's competition is quite encouraging. Indeed, last year's projects have shown great outcomes," said Neil Dunn, BP General Manager in Georgia.

"I would also like to welcome the new partners who have contributed to the initiative. I appreciate the decisions of the management of HSBC Bank and Radisson Blu Iveria and look forward to see more supporters of the program in the future. One of our main goals is to stimulate interest in preserving Georgia's environment and attract more funds either through the Eco-Awards Program or other environmental projects," he added.

This year the environmental initiative was joined by HSBC Bank. Guy Lewis, CEO of HSBC Bank Georgia, said, "HSBC has operated in Georgia since 2008. As everywhere in the world, sustainability is at the heart of our long-term strategy in Georgia. As a bank, we are focused on achieving long-term profit growth, building enduring customer relationships, and making a positive contribution to the environment and the communities in which we operate. This Eco-Awards Project initiated by BP proved to be successful last year. We would like to join this initiative with a financial contribution of US\$15,000. Beyond this we will also be inviting HSBC's employees to physically participate in some of these projects."

As part of their commitment to the environmental initiatives, the management of Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel provided the venue for today's ceremony free of charge.

Mr. Goga Khachidze, Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, expressed his support for the program: "We support BP's new environmental initiative in Georgia and look forward to cooperating with the winners of the Eco-Awards Program. I hope the projects implemented under the program will bring long-term sustainable benefits to Georgia".

Five winners of the 2010 Eco-Awards Program were announced at the ceremony.

**Georgian Tourism Association (GTA)** *Sustainable Tourism Development within the Protected Areas of Georgia (Tusheti Protected Area)*

**Ajara Sustainable Development Association**

*Installation of Solar Systems in the Territories of the Mtirala and Kintrishi Protected Areas*

**Association Flora and Fauna**

*Mitigation of Adverse Impacts of Predator Mollusk Rapan and “Ghost Fishing” on the Black Sea Ecosystem and the Associated Fishing Industry – Preservation of the Marine Environment and Increase of Income from Fishing for Local Communities*

**Rural Advisory Service**

*Ecologically Safe Pastures*

**Association "Zekari"**

*Development of a Model of Reinstatement of Eroded Slopes in the Racha Upland Region*

For further information please contact:

**Tamila Chantladze, BP**

Telephone: (+995 32) 59 34 00

Telefax: (+995 32) 59 34 80

E-mail: [chantlat@bp.com](mailto:chantlat@bp.com)

[www.bpgeorgia.ge](http://www.bpgeorgia.ge)

**Maka Gvritishvili, HSBC**

Telephone: (+995 32) 17 77 48

E-mail:

[makagvritishvili@hsbc.com](mailto:makagvritishvili@hsbc.com)

[www.hsbc.ge](http://www.hsbc.ge)

**Viktor Baramia, EPF**

Telephone: (+995 32) 25 27 78

Telefax: (+995 32) 25 39 42

E-mail: [vbaramia@epfound.ge](mailto:vbaramia@epfound.ge)

[www.epfound.ge](http://www.epfound.ge)