

Brief Description of the Projects awarded through Eco-Awards Program 2010

- **Association Flora and Fauna**
Reducing the Negative Impact of Ghost Fishing and the Predator Mollusk Rapana Venosa on the Black-Sea Eco-system

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, and 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/trainings 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. creating souvenirs. All the materials and information prepared will be uploaded on the organization's web-page: www.florafaua.org.

Grant Amount: **\$76,102**

Grant Period: **12 months (March 24, 2010 – March 31, 2011)**

- **Association Zekari**
Development of Demonstrative Model for Recovery of Erosive Slopes and Prevent Landslides in the High Mountainous Region of Racha

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.

Grant Amount: **\$21,371**

Grant Period: **10 months (April 1, 2010-January 31, 2011)**

- **Adjara Sustainable Development Association**
Support to Further Sustainable Development of Protected Territories of Georgia through Introduction of Alternative Energy Sources and Tourism Development

To support further sustainable development of Protected Territories, Ajara Sustainable Development Association (ASDA) is undertaking a three-month project in Ajara region (the Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi Protected Area) to improve infrastructure and provide knowledge to local residents on possible income-generation activities connected to eco-tourism. The grantee will install solar-power electricity and water-heating systems and increase public awareness on the benefits of using 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). GTA is committed to providing 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 information-sharing activities, e.g. study tour.

Grant Amount: **\$31,084**

Grant Period: **3 months (March 24 – June 30, 2010)**

- **Georgian Tourism Association**
Enhancing Sustainability of Tourism Development in Protected Areas of Georgia

To enhance sustainable, nature-based tourism, the Georgian Tourism Association (GTA) is undertaking a seven-month project in three different Protected Areas across the country (namely Tusheti, Borjomi-Kharagauli, and Algeti) to improve infrastructure, boost knowledge, and involve young people in conservation. GTA will work with local people in each protected area to develop sustainable products and services for both international and domestic visitors, and to make all of Georgia's Protected Areas more widely known. Through the project, solar-powered electricity and water heating systems will be installed in five guesthouses within the Tusheti PA. The practical knowledge of local producers and other potential tourism partners about approaches to offering tourism services as a means of boosting economic sustainability will be improved in Tusheti PA and Borjomi-Kharagauli PA. The project will also contribute to initiating a cooperative program between the rangers in two protected areas and regional youth as a means of fostering environmental awareness and practical stewardship. The project is carried out in partnership with the Agency of Protected Areas (APA). At the same time, GTA will cooperate closely with another winner of Eco-Awards 2010, Ajara Sustainable Development Association (ASDA) that will implement project envisaging the similar components within the Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi Protected Area. Thus, the project will also contribute to improved cooperation among projects supported within the 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. In addition to this, HSBC Bank, which joined BP and its co-ventures initiative Eco-Awards Program in 2010 with its financial contribution of \$15,000, will also support the project with its human resources, including helping project implementers install informational displays, mark paths, and/or participate in the Young Rangers Camps to clean certain surrounding areas.

Grant Amount: **\$60,131**

Grant Period: **7 months (April 1, 2010 –December 18, 2010)**

- **Rural Advisory Service**
Ecologically Safe Pastures

To improve the management of local pastures in selected municipalities in the region of Samtskhe-Javakheti. The Rural Advisory Service will implement a 16-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 “overseeding” 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.

Grant Amount: **\$46,278**

Grant Period: **16 Months (June 1, 2010-September 30, 2011)**