

Proposals awarded through Eco-Awards 2011

Vashlovani Protected Area Friends' Association

Set up nursery for Kolkhian Pheasants.

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 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.

Amount Recommended: **GEL 109,784.00**

Grant Period: **04/01/2011 – 30/11/2011**

Civil Society Institute

Ecologically safe agriculture

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.

Amount Recommended: **\$35,447.00**

Grant Period: **04/01/20011 – 11/30/2011**

Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA)

Support to sustainable development of poor communities in Chokhatauri and Khobi districts through capacity building on environmental protection and utilization of renewable energy resources.

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 equipment. In addition, the grantee is planning to conduct active outreach campaign, which envisages the preparation, publication, and dissemination of various booklets and informational papers.

Amount Recommended: **\$ 39,680**

Grant Period: **04/05/2011 – 12/05/2011**

Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (Rec Caucasus)

Introduce practice of sustainable use of natural resources in local communities and increase their preparedness against catastrophes.

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.

Amount Recommended: **\$ 59,520**

Grant Period: **04/12/2011 – 12/12/2011**

Guram Tikanadze Svaneti Youth

project: *Support bio-farming and eco-tourism in Upper Svaneti as one of the prospective to secure eco-stability and cultural traditions in the area.*

Guram Tikanadze Svaneti Youth Center will implement an 8-months-long project aimed at developing the Upper Svaneti region in an ecologically viable manner through promotion of eco-farming and eco-tourism in the area. The grantee will create small experimental, demonstrative eco-farm and eco-guesthouse, where the local population will be shown how these new technologies work in practice. Apart from this, the interested persons will be provided a series of trainings to gain the needed theoretical knowledge. With this aim, a guesthouse in Latali (one of the villages of Upper Svaneti) will be organized and equipped by using environmentally safe utilities, such as a bio-toilet and a special energy saving heating system. At the same time, the guesthouse will be renovated with local resources available in the region, which will further contribute to preservation and revival of old local traditions. In addition, with the aim to promote environmentally safe farming and eco-tourism, the grantee will develop and maintain a special website, which will popularize the project's goals and objectives and attract tourists through promoting new services rendered in the area. All the eco-friendly technologies and useful information will be processed and published in the form of special booklets, which will then be distributed among the local population. This information will also be uploaded on the website.

Amount Recommended: **26,830\$**

Grant Period: **03/28/2011 – 11/28/2011**

Association Caucasus Genetics

project: *Minimizing environmental degradation caused by overgrazing in Tetrtskaro region*

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 Tetrtskaro 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, herdsman, 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.

Amount Recommended: **40,305.00 \$**

Grant Period: **04/01/2011 – 11/30/2011**