



THE FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION OF VASHLOVANI PROTECTED AREA

Setting up of a Nursery of Kolkhian Pheasants

Under Eco Awards 2011 Program, the Friends' Association of Vashlovani Protected Area (established under the project implemented within Eco-Awards Program 2009 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN) implemented a project aimed at ensuring the survival of the endemic Kolkhian pheasants, 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.

Historically, Kolkhetian pheasants could be found throughout the country. However, as a result of poaching and the growing pressure on the natural habitats of the mentioned species, the population of Kolkhian pheasant has dramatically decreased. Recently, a number of entrepreneurs emerged who are involved in reproduction of pheasants that are hybrids of local Kholkhetian Pheasants and non-local species. They are then purchased by farmers for further reproduction and economic activities. The combination of these factors raises the likelihood of the extinction of the endemic Kolkhian pheasant.



*Photo by: The Friends' Association of Vashlovani
Protected Area*

Project Objectives

- Set up a nursery near Eagle Gorge comprised of 18 open-air cages constructed in Kogota Gorge and 10 open-air cages constructed at the territory near village Tsiteltskaro with aim to hatch about 100 genetically pure Kolkhian pheasants necessary for further breeding and restoration of the given species.
- Contribute to improved social-economic status of the local population through involvement in pheasant farming activities and public awareness.

Implemented Activities and Outputs

- **A scientific – technical methodology was elaborated for collecting the eggs of Kholkhetian pheasants from the places of their natural habitats.**
The project team managed to collect about 153 eggs from three different populations: Vashlovani, Alazani and Iori.
- **Two contact incubators, manufactured by the English company Brinsea, featuring Contact Incubation Technology was purchased.**
By using these incubators, 74 pheasants were hatched.
- **Open-air cages were constructed in 11 households of Tetrtskaro village, which expressed willingness to participate in the project.**
The families were trained on special skills for nursing the pheasants. Through putting the acquired skills into practice, the families received not only additional revenues, but also valuable experience.



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- **A large, open-air cage was constructed in the Kogota Gorge (400 sq.m).**
Trees and bushes were left inside the cage, creating an imitation of wild nature. Pheasants from the Vashlovani population, preserving all the characteristics typical for Kolkhetian pheasants, were grouped as a pure Kolkhetian pheasants and placed in the large open-air cage. Besides this large cage, 18 small open-air cages were constructed in the Kogota Gorge
- **A dwelling house for the staff of the nursery' was constructed in Kogota Gorge.**
The dwelling is equipped with cold and hot water and light, from solar systems and with all necessary household items.
- **A special brochure, promoting pheasantry was published and a web-site - www.vashlovanifriends.ge , designed to attract new clients was created.**

- **A short documentary about the project was prepared by the studio MIDI Film Lts. and broadcast on Georgian Public Broadcaster. Apart from that, a TV report about the project was broadcast on Rustavi 2.**

Both, the documentary and tv report caused significant interest. About 20 individuals, two business groups and two foreign organizations addressed the association with the proposal for further cooperation. Hotel Chateau Mere expressed a desire to purchase 150 pheasants from the association and requested assistance in planning and developing pheasant farming. In addition, Edward Gillain, a journalist, sought the association's expertise in studying the condition of Kolkhetian Pheasant globally and identifying the opportunities of restoration of the given species in various countries. He has already established contacts with Bulgarian, Turkish, Azerbaijan, Armenian and Georgian sides on the issue and offered the association support from his group to strengthen the efforts in this direction on an international level.

- In the framework of additional award acknowledging successful completion of Eco-Awards Program 2009-2011, Association will organize final presentation of the projects results with participation all stakeholders. This presentation also aims attracting potential donors and clients willing to purchase Kolkhetian pheasants from association. The incomes generated will be used for extension of the project, as well as other directions related to environmental agenda of the organization.

Project Duration:

April, 2011-December, 2011

Donors and Partners

The following project was implemented within the framework of the Eco-Awards 2011 Program. Eco-Awards Program is initiated and financed by BP, on behalf of its oil and gas co-venturers (BTC Co. SCP Co.) and administered by Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF). The project was co-financed by HSBC bank.

Contact Information

The Friends' Association of Vashlovani
Protected Areas
Amiran Kodiashvili
18, Pirosmanni str., Dedoplistskaro
Tel: (+995 599)313957
E-mail: amir_kod@yahoo.com; vashlovani@pafriends.ge;

