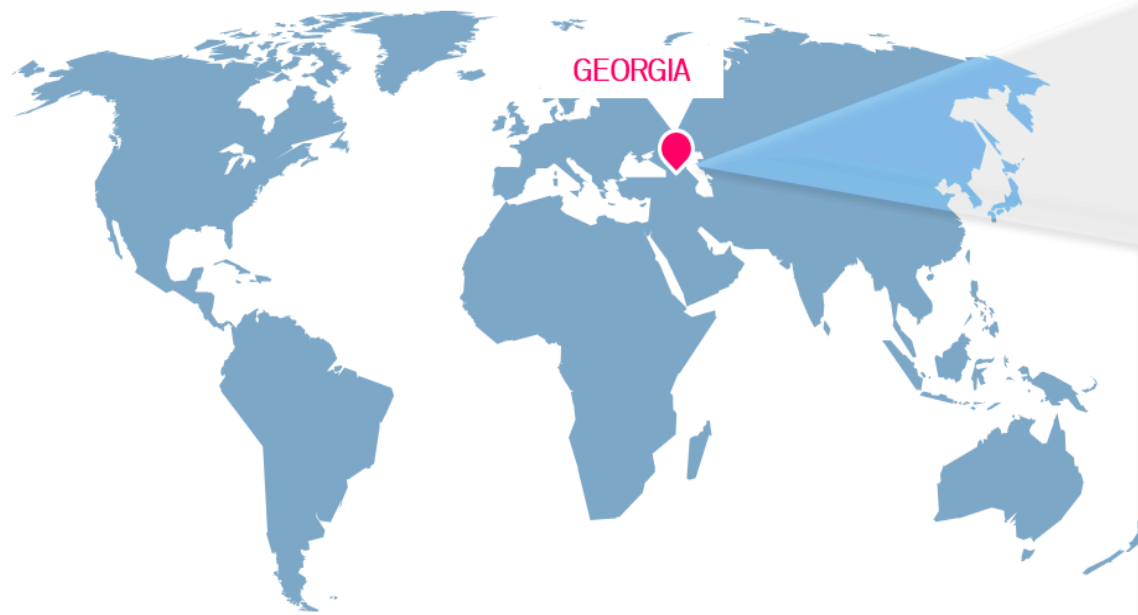




European Landscape Award

Reintroduction of the Goitered Gazelle in Vashlovani Landscape
Georgia

Georgia



- ❑ *Georgia - a country in the Caucasus region; Eastern Europe*
- ❑ *The capital - Tbilisi*
- ❑ *A territory of 69,700 sq. km*
- ❑ *Population – approx. 3,7 million*
- ❑ *Official Language – Georgia*
- ❑ *Alphabet - Georgian*

The brief history of Gazelle

Historically, the Goitered Gazelle grazed the plains of Azerbaijan and Georgia in abundance, with populations in the Kura-Ara (k)s river lowlands reaching almost to Tbilisi in the early 1900s.

Due to agricultural expansion and intense hunting, the species became extinct in Georgia in the 1990s and the total number of animals in Azerbaijan dramatically decreased as well. Today, the Goitered Gazelle is categorized in the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable (VU) and in the Red List of Georgia as well.

Georgia started the project "Improvement of ecosystem biodiversity in a transboundary Priority Conservation Area through the reintroduction of extinct Gazelle" with the financial support of BMZ and WWF;



The project aimed

- ❑ **The establishment of a healthy, genetically diverse, self-sustaining population in an area where it has been extinct**
- ❑ **Environment protection and conservation;**
- ❑ **The rehabilitation of the floodplain forest**
- ❑ **Improvement of the ecological environment in the area**
- ❑ **The Enhancement of Awareness among the local population and improvement of their social-economic conditions.**

Activities of the project

The Gazelle program was based on the reintroduction of individuals taken from healthy populations in Azerbaijan and released in Georgia. Since the start of the Gazelle Reintroduction Programme, individuals have been translocated to Samukhi Steppe in Vashlovani Protected Areas.

The Agency carried out a large-scale awareness-raising campaign on the importance of the Gazelles pursuant to which the consciousness of local populations has sharply enhanced;

24-hour monitoring



Outcome of the Project

- ▼ **Project implementation contributed to the reintroduction of a species that became extinct many years ago in Georgia. Successful implementation of the project certifies that the landscape of Vashlovani Protected Areas has a high biological value and the area is Gazelles' vital historical habitat since their population size increased significantly.**
- ▼ **New jobs were created, which lead to the improvement of the socio-economic condition of the local population.**
- ▼ **Eco-friendly guest houses, local products, and local cafes have been developed there harmonized with the environment and nature. Consequently, visitors began to actively visit Vashlovani National Park and its surroundings, and tourists' motivation to stay in the areas increased as it is possible to monitor the Gazelles with binoculars at any time. Visiting the natural monument and its surrounding areas became more accessible and comfortable.**
- ▼ **Nowadays Vashlovani National Park is considered to be one of the top 5 tourist destinations in Georgia.**



Thank you