



Emerald Network Development in Georgia

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Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture

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Funded
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION



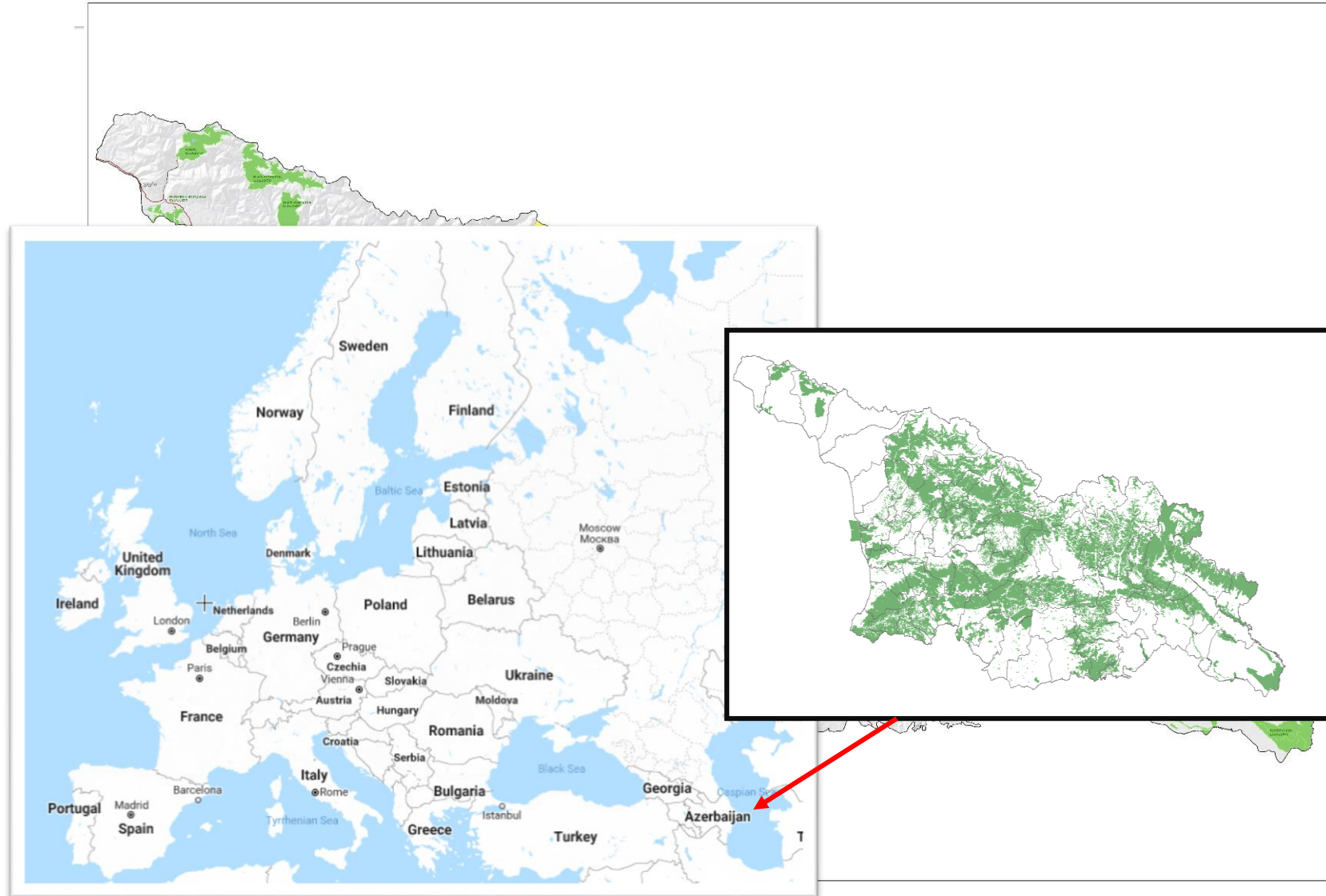
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by the Council of Europe



Biodiversity of Georgia

- ❖ For its unique biodiversity Georgia is comprised of two "hot spots" - Caucasus and Iran-Anatolia "34 Biodiversity Hotspots" defined by Conservation International
- ❖ 24 SPAs & 32 IBAs – Protection of bird habitats
- ❖ 86 Classical Protected Areas – 595 962 ha – 8,6% of total country area. Approximately 51% of PA is covered by forest
- ❖ 40 % of Georgia is covered by forest



First phases of Emerald Network Development

- ❖ Phase I – 2009-2011 involved identification of habitats, species, ASCIs
- ❖ Phase II - 2013-2016 – clarifying collected data
- ❖ Distribution maps for > 100 species in GIS
- ❖ Mapping of existing habitats from Resolutions No. 4 (1996) started
- ❖ Creating the sites data base (SDF)

http://www.nacres.org/emeraldqist.php

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Project Report

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Project Report ([Narrative Report 200911 GE.pdf](#))

Sites Data Base ([cntryge.mdb](#))

Reference Tables for Species and Habitats ([Reference200911-GE.mdb](#))

GIS MAPS/DATA FOR EMERALD SITES, HABITATS AND SPECIES IN GEORGIA (COMPRESSED DOWNLOADABLE FOLDERS)

[All GIS files \(Sites, Species, Habitats\) compressed in one folder](#) (Note: these folders do not have date and country reference titles)

Emerald Sites (with date and country reference titles)

Site Map Data Folder # 1 ([All Emerald Sites of Georgia](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 2 (Code: GE0000001; Site Name: [Lagodekhi](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 3 (Code: GE 0000002; Site Name: [Arkhoti](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 4 (Code: GE 0000003; Site Name: [Chachuna](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 5 (Code: GE 0000004; Site Name: [Madatapha](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 6 (Code: GE 0000005; Site Name: [Bugdasheni](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 7 (Code: GE 0000006; Site Name: [Kolkheti](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 8 (Code: GE 0000007; Site Name: [Vashlovani](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 9 (Code: GE 0000008; Site Name: [Tusheti](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 10 (Code: GE 0000009; Site Name: [Kazbegi](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 11 (Code: GE 0000010; Site Name: [Borjomi-Kharagauli](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 12 (Code: GE 0000011; Site Name: [Ratcha](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 13 (Code: GE 0000012; Site Name: [Svaneti](#))

Site Map Data Folder # 14 (Code: GE 0000013; Site Name: [Algeti](#))

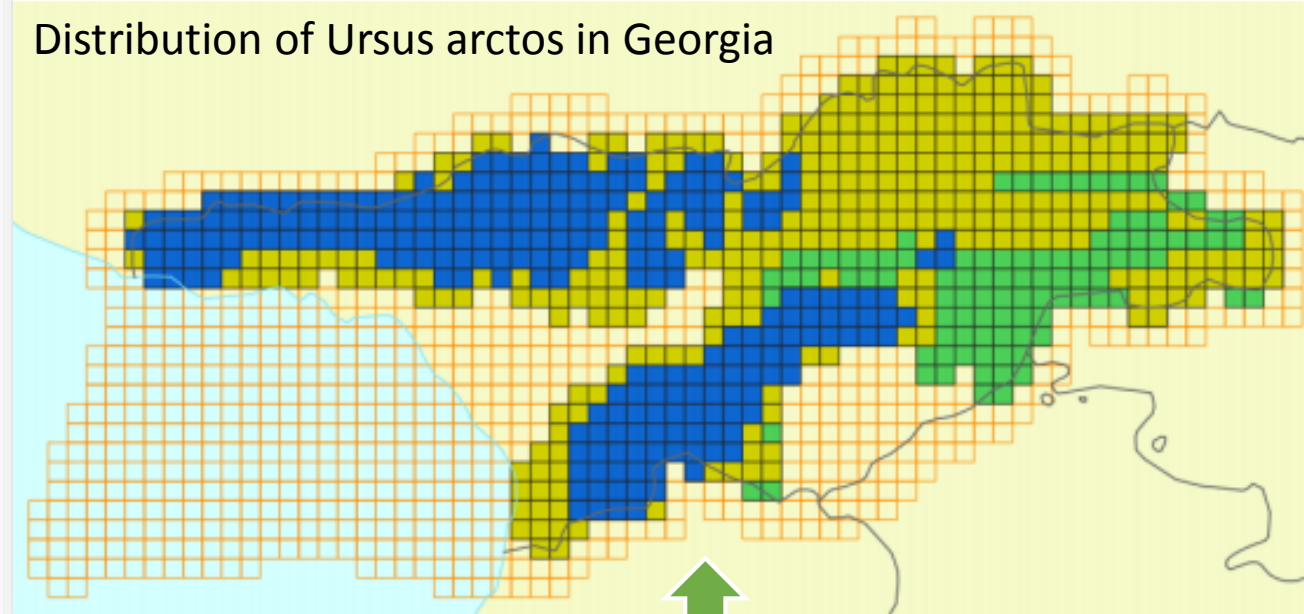
Map of Georgia showing the distribution of 1087 Emerald sites. The map includes labels for the Black Sea, Russian Federation, Georgia, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. A legend indicates the 1087 Emerald sites, Emerald Reserves, Rivers, Major Roads, Districts, and Cities. An inset map shows the location of Georgia in Europe.

Ongoing Network Development

- ❖ Phase III – 2017-ongoing
- ❖ 36 candidate and proposed sites are submitted for designation
- ❖ 1st reporting exercise under Resolution #8 (2012) due to December, 2019

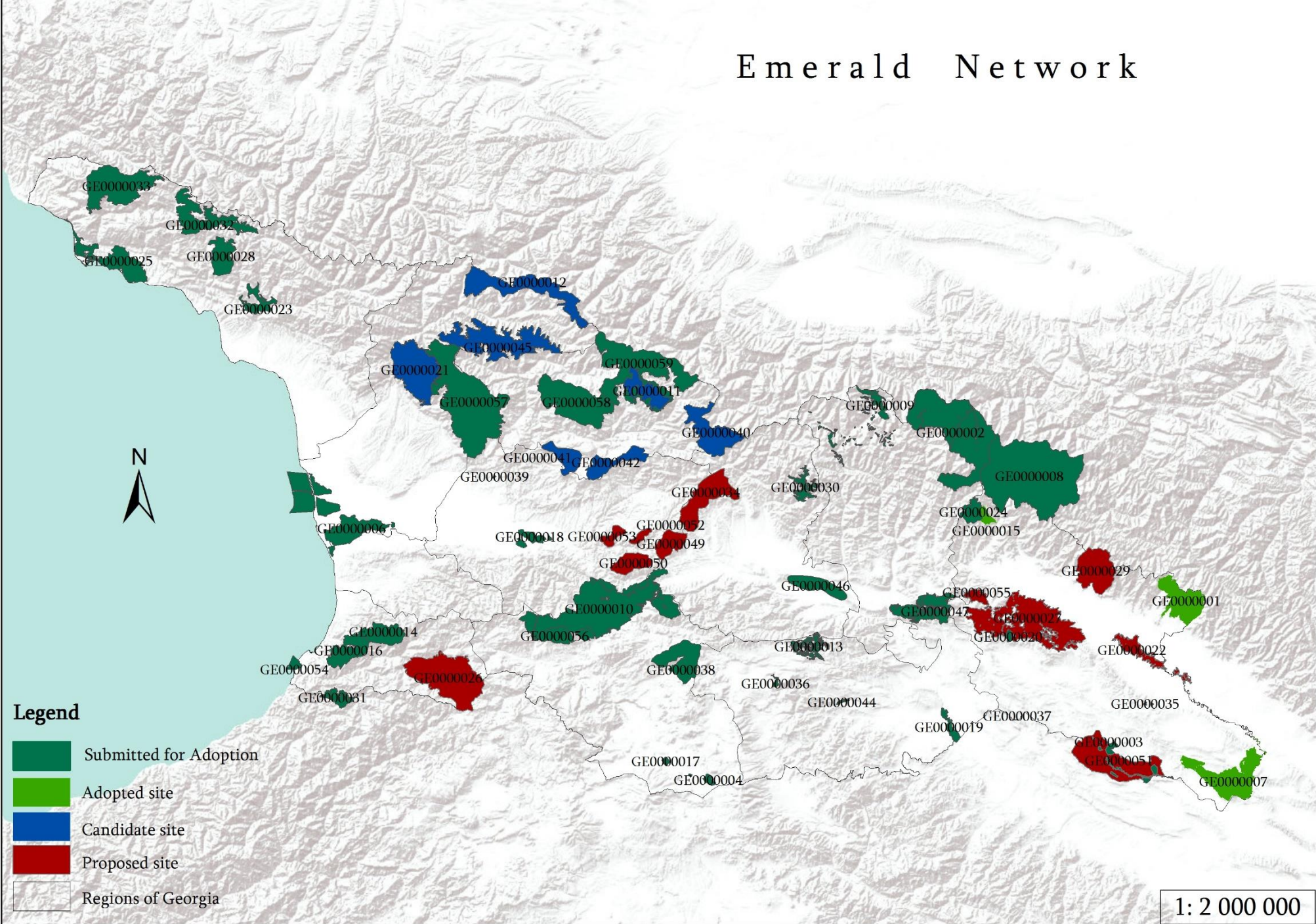
Annex F - Reporting format on bird species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998)

1. Species information	
1.1 Country	GE
1.2 Species code and name	
1.2.1 Species code	A030
1.2.2. EURING code	1310
1.2.3 Species scientific name	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
1.2.4 Subspecific population	
1.3 Alternative species scientific name	



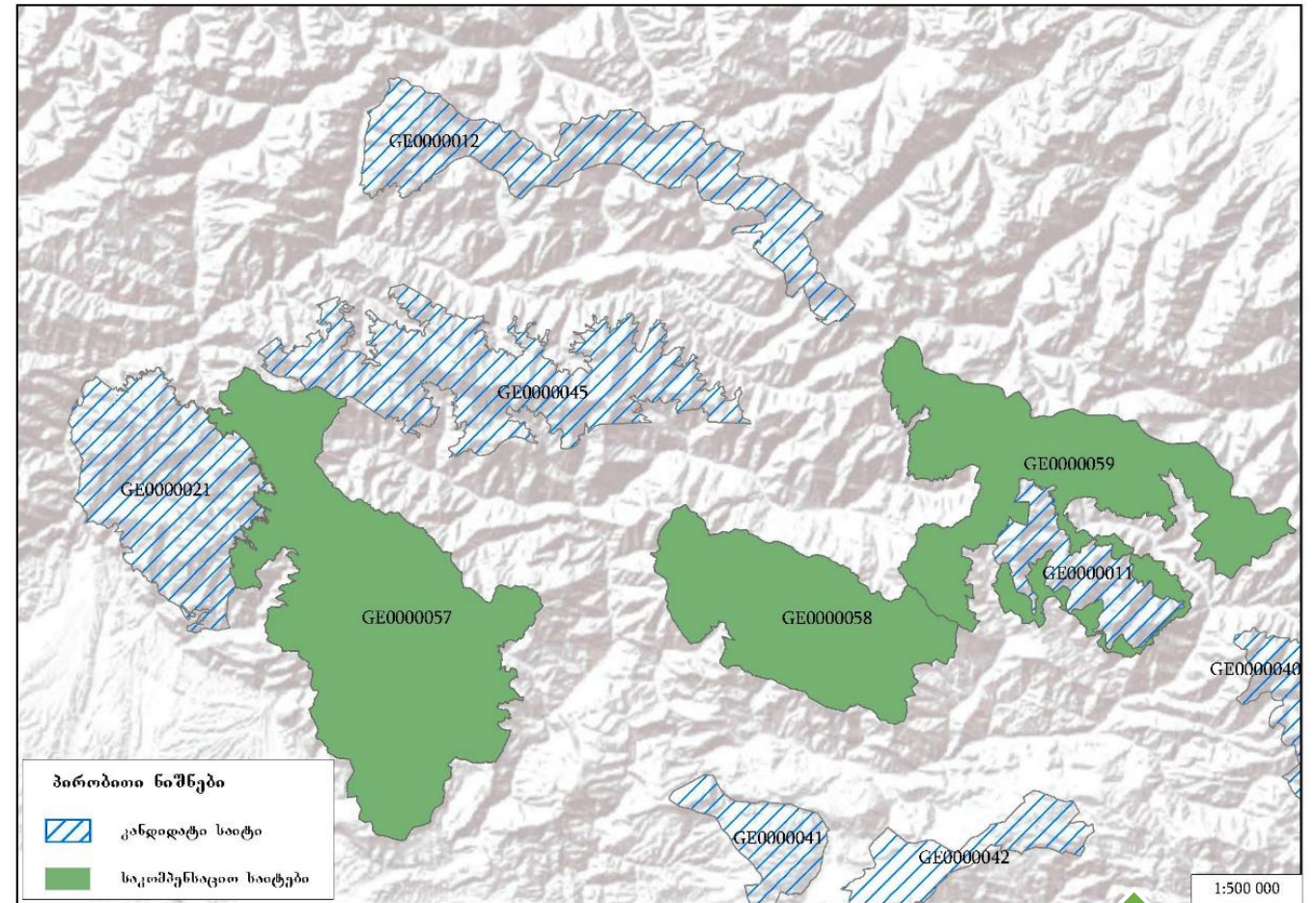
Examples of reports completed

Emerald Network



Ongoing Research in Georgia

- ❖ Field research is funded by GIZ
- ❖ Field research by “NACRES” on 3 new compensatory sites (Samegrelo2; Racha-Lechkhumi; Svaneti-Racha)
- ❖ As a result of field research, compensatory sites have been recognized as one of the highest conservation priority areas with its unique biodiversity value

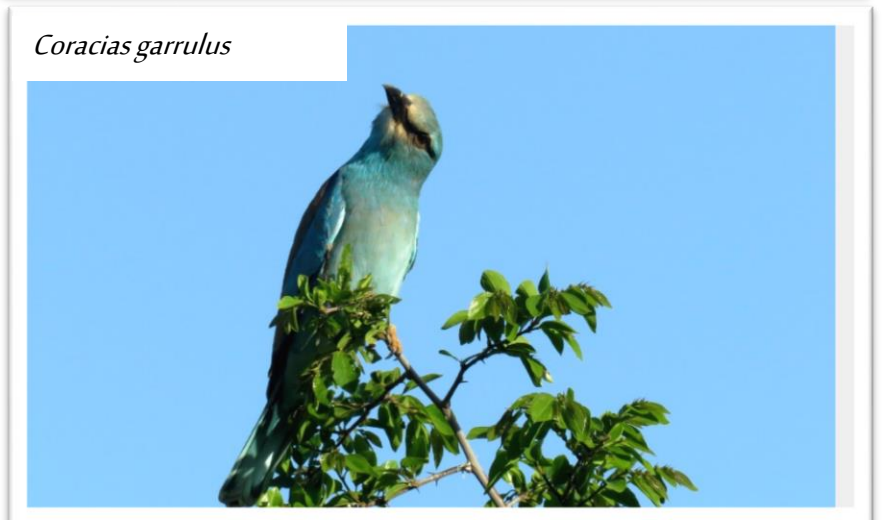


3 Compensatory sites in Racha - Svaneti



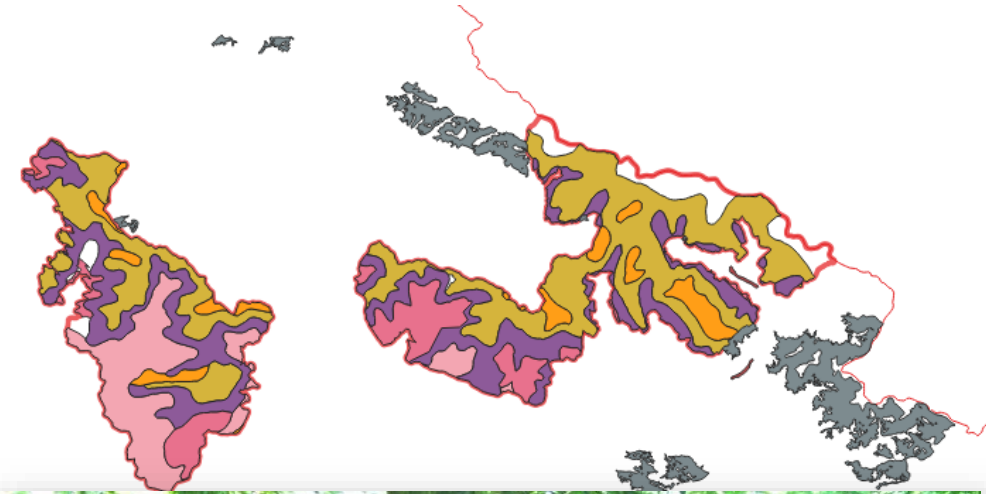
Ongoing reporting activities on 12 bird species

- ❖ Requested by MEPA and financed by GIZ
- ❖ Field research by Ilia State University Ornithologists on 12 Bird species of Bern Convention according to Annex F - Reporting format on bird species listed in Resolution No. 6 (1998).
- ❖ Positive feedback from the secretariat is accepted on example of Lanius minor draft report



Field research by “Nacres” on 8 habitats from resolution No. 4 (1996) and other non-avian species according to the document T-PVS/PA (2017)11

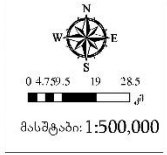
- ❖ Research funded by GIZ
- ❖ Identification of habitat types is completed based on EUNIS habitat classification
- ❖ All forest and wetland ecosystem habitat types are mapped based on EUNIS classification
- ❖ Relevant scientists are analyzing data on completed species research work



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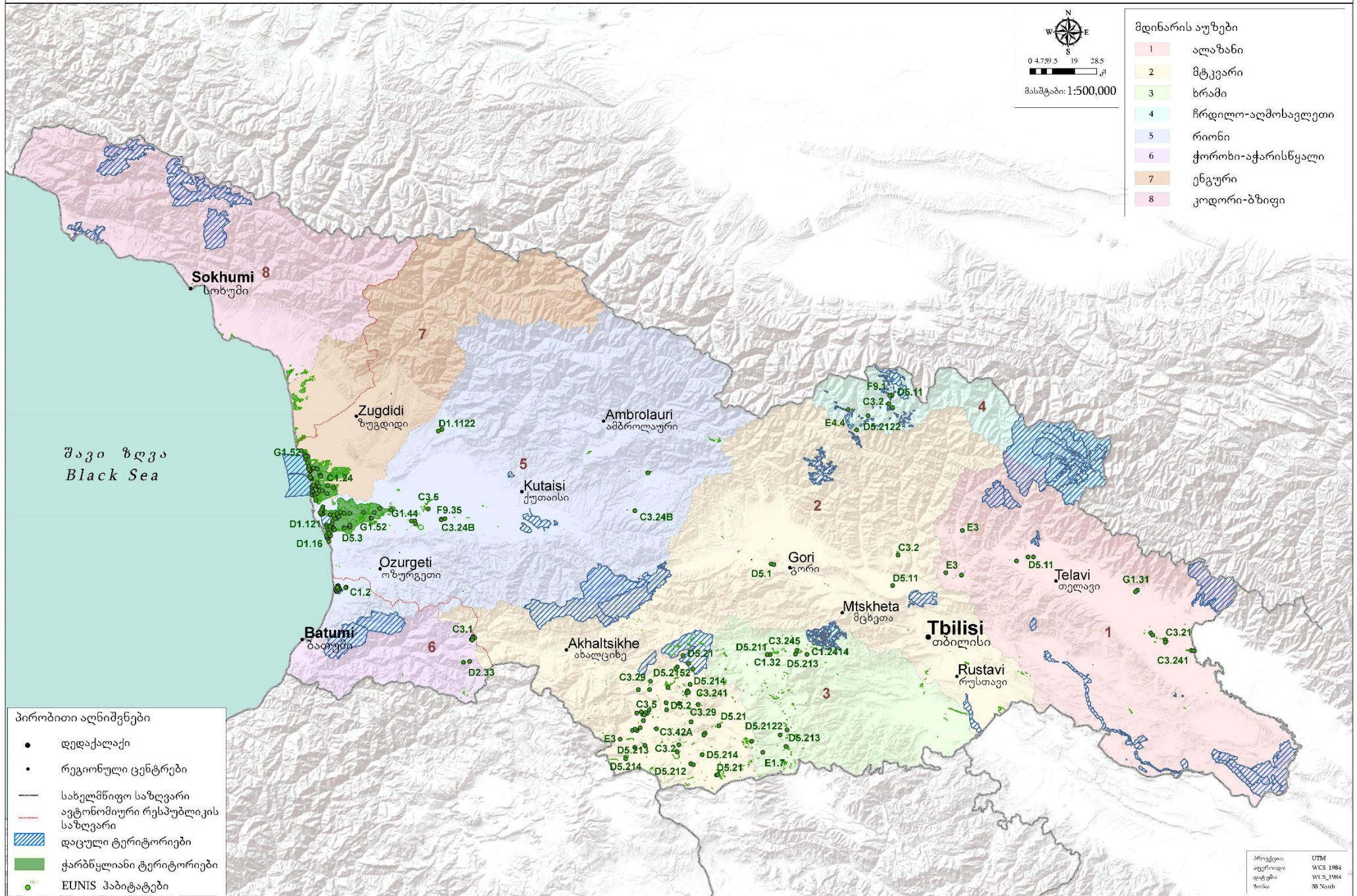


W e t l a n d s



მდინარის აუზები

1	ალაზანი
2	მტკვარი
3	ხრამი
4	ჩრდილო-აღმოსავლეთი
5	რიონი
6	ჭოროხი-აჭარისწყალი
7	ენგური
8	კოდორი-ბზიფი



პირობითი აღნიშვნები

- დედაქალაქი
- რეგიონული ცენტრები
- სახელმწიფო საზღვარი
- ავტონომიური რესპუბლიკის საზღვარი
- ▨ დაცული ტერიტორიები
- ქარბნყლიანი ტერიტორიები
- EUNIS პაბიტატები

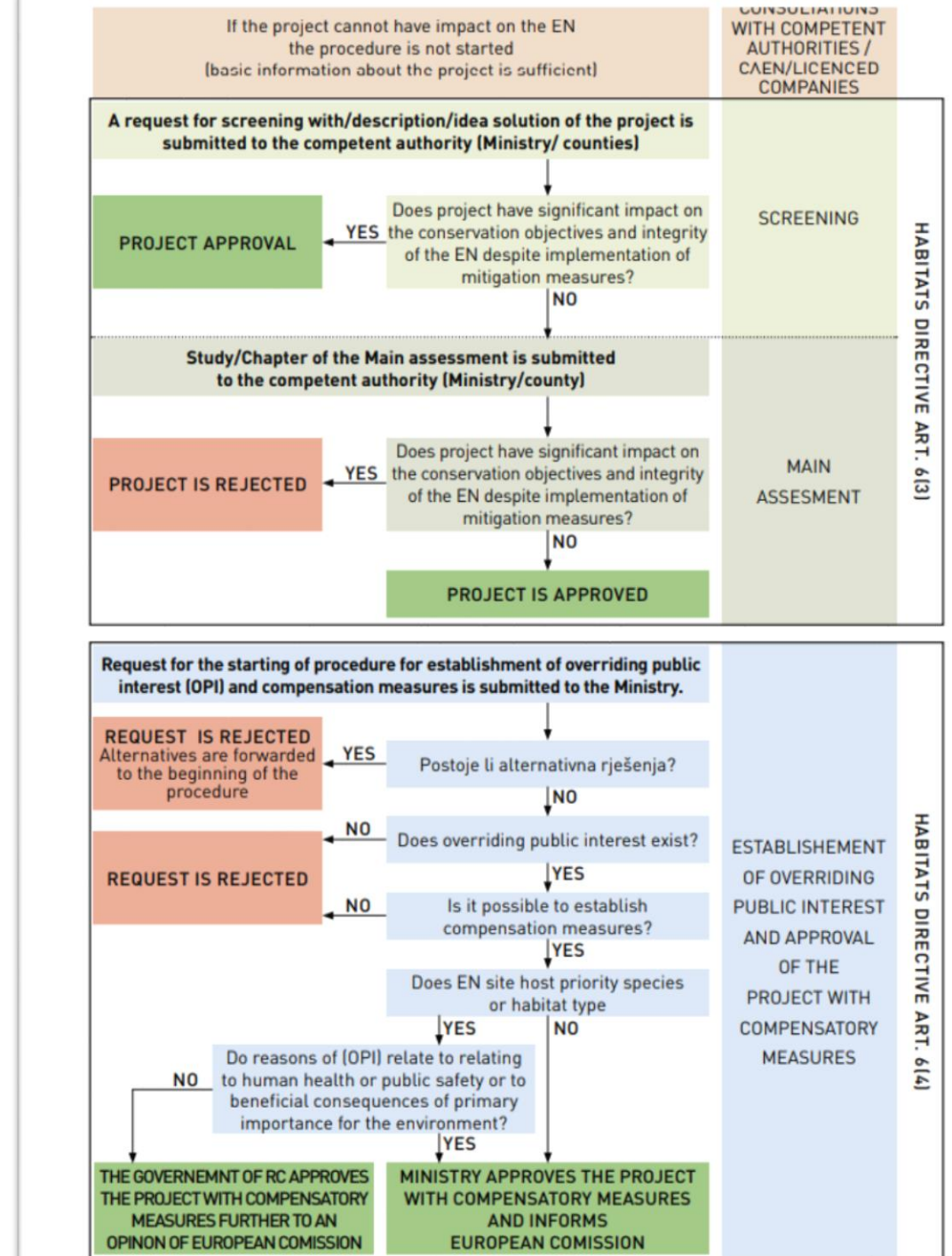
პროექტი: UTM
 სფეროიდე: WGS 1984
 დატუსი: WGS 1984
 ზონა: 38 North

Developing guidelines for Appropriate Impact Assessment

❖ Ministry approached GIZ with the request to elaborate guideline for the “Assessment of impact on Emerald Network”. The guidelines are in the process of development

❖ “NACRES” will be implementing body

❖ Results will be communicated in December



Publishing the handbook on Emerald network FAQ

- ❖ Goal: Raise awareness of different stakeholders (Ministries, academia, NGOs, so on) related to the Emerald Network about it's purpose and regulations
- ❖ Financed by GIZ
- ❖ Implemented by NACRES
- ❖ Based on interviews with ministers, decision makers and other stakeholders

PROTECTED AREAS AND EMERALD SITES

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EMERALD NETWORK SITES AND PROTECTED AREAS IN THEIR CLASSICAL DEFINITION (NATIONAL PARK, STRICT PROTECTED AREA, MANAGED NATURE RESERVE)?

The Emerald Network, unlike classical protected areas, does not impose standard limitations on human activities. Each category of protected areas establishes a set of restrictions, which are uniform across the same categories of protected areas. Unlike protected areas, restrictions on Emerald sites may vary. Practically, all types of activities are permitted, provided that they do not cause adverse impact on the species and habitats for which the given site was created.

A definition of goals and objectives, as well as the development of management and monitoring plans, is necessary once a site is designated. The Management plan must list the species and habitats, which are to be protected within the site. Subsequently, the document must also define activities and forms of modification that will adversely impact the site's integrity and that are to be prohibited.

CAN EMERALD SITES BE MANAGED BY PROTECTED AREA ADMINISTRATIONS?

If an Emerald Network site coincides with a protected area, the latter's administration will be responsible for the site's management based on the protected area management plan. The management plan must include the goals and objectives of the Emerald site and subsequent activities (a separate management plan will not be necessary).



Future objectives

- ❖ Finalizing the research and designation of other sites.
- ❖ Successfully finalize field researches on 3 new compensatory candidate sites
- ❖ Finalize reporting exercise by the end of 2019
- ❖ **Start exercise on management plans for pilot sites**
- ❖ **Generate management plans and monitoring for each site**
- ❖ Georgia expresses initiative to organize Biogeographical seminar, 2019 - for bird species, as well as Bilateral seminar for species with decreased sufficiency from Svaneti site reduction





Thank you for your attention!

