



Summary of activities since the 32nd session of MAB ICC, October 2020 – August 2021

National activities

In 2015, with the initiative and efforts of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in Georgia with the support of the German government, the study of the potential for the development of the biosphere reserve began.

As a result of the process, two separate areas in the Kakheti region were selected for establishing the biosphere reserves: One in Akmeta and Telavi municipalities “Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere reserve” and the second one in Dedoplistskaro - “Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve

During 2021, , with Financial support of European Union, German Government, Succow Foundation, International Climate Initiative (IKI) and The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (RECC) the process continued and in spite of Covid 19, as a result of the 3rd successful phase, Country is ready to submit the dossier required for the establishment of the “Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve” and the “Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve” to the UNESCO “Man and Biophere” program and continue hard work with local communities and all other stakeholders involvement and participation to implement the objectives of Biosphere reserves.

We hope first biosphere reserves in Georgia will establish a good practice of harmonious coexistence of man and nature, especially in the field of climate-friendly agriculture, sustainable forest management and nature conservation.

Main achievements until August, 2021):

Completed and agreed zonation (incl. maps) and demarcation of planned BR, in consultation among key stakeholders, including suggestions and assessments of potential additional protected areas for core or buffer zones

- Conducted 6 workshops for consultation with relevant stakeholders, especially local communities and national stakeholders (5 local workshops, 1 national workshop)
- Compiled the outline for BR management plan

Developed a web site and corporate identity for the BR, including a name and logo

- Information of different target groups via different channels (such as print and TV media, website, newsletter, printed materials, informational meetings and presentations)
- Construction of five recreational places in the area of planned Dedoplistskaro BR is ongoing;
- Restoration of the Iori Flood forest in Chachuna Managed Reserve is ongoing;
- Restoration of Pastures in Eagle canyon through installation of the Electric fence for 12 ha area is ongoing;

Conducted awareness raising events and/or small-scale demonstration measures

- o Together with the Telavi University an Open-Air festival/fair was organized with awareness raising activities and informational events related to the BR (e.g. BR governance, transhumance/sheep farming, local products etc.), involving as many stakeholders as possible (from tourism, livestock and agricultural sector)
- o Supported the Tush “Guda” cheese producers association (purchase mobile milking machine or other relevant equipment, to be decided in course of the project implementation)
- Organized trainings for guesthouse owners and other tourism service providers in eco-tourism, hospitality management, hotel administration etc. and raise their awareness regarding the planned BR
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Telavi University (TESAU) for collaboration within the project and support to the proposed BR. Different activities such as Festival, lectures and workshops, exchange between the students of TESAU and Eberswalde University were undertaken to promote the idea of the BR establishment in Georgia.
- In summer 2021 the The Right Livelihood College (RLC) at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn in close collaboration with the Michael Succow Foundation launched a DAAD-funded PhD research scholarship on “Sustainable development for improved livelihoods in Biosphere Reserves in Georgia”.
- A marketplace organized during the event offered local producers the opportunity to showcase their products produced within the planned BR territory.
- More than 300 persons attended various events within the project. 70 persons participated in the Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve Festival organized in Babaneuri on May 28, 2021.



- Logo for the planned BR in Dedoplistskaro was designed and applied for the design and publication of communication products (t-shirts, cloth-bags, cups, pencils, notebooks and other communication products)
- Birdwatching site, in habitat of the Red Listed and endangered bird species, was arranged in area of the planned Dedoplistskaro BR.
- Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve Tourism Information Centre was established at the Dedoplistskaro municipality administration building
- Documentation for designation and submission of nomination of planned BR to UNESCO was prepared
- Article's on BR for the Magazines "Forbs Women" and "National Geographic" are under the preparation and will be published in November and October respectively;
- Article on the two articles on BR were published in the newspaper "Shiraki" and two more will be published in September and October, 2021;
- Guide book on the Planned Dedoplistskaro BR is under the preparation;
- Labels for Wine, oil and wheat producers from the planned DBR, to support green agricultural development in the region are under the development