

Ministerial Conference: Nature Protection in the Caucasus
Promoting Transboundary Cooperation for CBD Implementation
9-11 March 2006, Berlin – Germany



**A proposal for a potential institutional structure for a regional monitoring
system in the Caucasus**

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1. PERSPECTIVES OF REGIONAL MONITORING NETWORK IN THE CAUCASUS

Nugzar Zazanashvili, WWF Caucasus Programme Office, 09. 03. 2006

2. CAUCASUS ECOREGION

The Caucasus Ecoregion covers a total area of 580,000 km² and consists of three Caucasian countries, Northern Caucasus part of Russia, north-eastern Turkey, and part of northwestern Iran. The Caucasus is one of WWF's Global 200 vulnerable Ecoregions, identified as globally outstanding for biodiversity and is ranked among the planet's 25 most diverse and endangered hotspots by CI.

3. PHASES OF ECOREGIONAL CONSERVATION PROCESS

2001: Ecoregional conservation process initiated

2002: Biodiversity and socio-economic assessments completed, Biodiversity Vision prepared

2003-2004: Ecoregional Conservation Plan (ECP) developed

2005: ECP finalized and coordinated

Since 2006: ECP implemented and biodiversity monitoring started

4. WHY DO THE MONITORING IS ESSENTIAL?

- **Conservation Community and Researchers:**
- **Better understand systems we work in**
- **Assessment of trends**
- **Provide data to different audiences and at different scales**
- **Donor Community:**
- **Better assess whether investments are contributing to conservation success**
- **Understand the biodiversity of the areas investing in**
- **Identify new areas or species to invest in**
- **Governments:**
- **Identify the need for additional policies or other response mechanisms**
- **Identify the need for additional conservation actions to address threats**
- **Reporting at the national scale to the CBD**

5. CI APPROACH TO MONITORING

Three purposes of monitoring in the brief formulation of CI sound so:

- **Species Extinction avoided,**
- **Areas Protected - the habitats of species are safe, and**
- **Corridors Consolidated – the capacity for animals to move between key habitats is saved**

6. CBD/CI/ECP Indicator O verlap

- ✓ **Change in status of threatened species**
- ✓ **Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats**
- ✓ **Connectivity / Fragmentation of ecosystems**
- ✓ **Coverage of protected areas**

7. SELECTING INDICATORS BASE DIRECT INDICATORS

<u>Outcome Category</u>	<u>Indicator Description</u>	<u>Outcome Target</u>
Extinctions Avoided	1 Percent change in number of threatened species in each IUCN Red List category, number of species downlisted, and number of species that have gone extinct.	No species on the Red List.
Sites Protected	2 Percentage and total number of all Key Biodiversity Areas that are protected with (a) legal recognition and (b) biodiversity conservation as an official goal.	All Key Biodiversity Areas have legal protection status, with biodiversity conservation as an official goal.
	3 Percent change in baseline habitat cover at Key Biodiversity Areas.	All Key Biodiversity Areas retain or increase baseline habitat coverage.
Corridors Created	4 Change in fragmentation statistics.	Baseline corridor connectivity is retained or increased.

8. WORKSHOP (TBILISI, DEC 05)

More than 40 experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and Turkey have taken part in a workshop with the purpose of definition of priorities of Biodiversity Monitoring for Caucasus Ecoregion

9. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Introduce global biodiversity monitoring initiatives: description of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) indicators and how local monitoring activities can provide data for reporting on these indicators at a regional scale;
- Review the needs for biodiversity monitoring
- Identify a representative team to move forward the development of monitoring long-term strategies, workplans and budgets
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10. FIRST WORKING GROUP SESSION

Group A

Select monitoring indicators for species level

Group B

Select monitoring indicators for site level

Group C

Select monitoring indicators for landscape level

11. SECOND WORKING GROUP SESSION

Group A - Data collection

Group B - Data sharing and dissemination

Group C - Structure of the Regional Monitoring Network

Third Working Group Session – Design model action plans for the indicators at species, site and landscape levels

Group A (species), B (sites) and C (landscapes)

12. THE WORKSHOP – RESULTS SUBJECT SELECTION - SPECIES LEVEL

From the list of 77 species (65 animals, 12 plants) 26 animal and 12 plant species were removed from the list due to different reasons.

Selected species

Mammals – 19

Birds – 9

Amphibians – 3

Fish – 9

In addition recommended Reptiles as an one group of rock lizards

13. THE WORKSHOP – RESULTS SUBJECT SELECTION - SPECIES LEVEL

Some of selected species:

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

West Caucasian tur (*Capra caucasica*)

Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

Imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Caucasian salamander (*Mertensiella caucasica*)

14. THE WORKSHOP – RESULTS SUBJECT SELECTION - LANDSCAPE LEVEL

10 large conservation landscapes have been identified in the Caucasus Ecoregion. 3 biomes are prioritized: Forests, Mountain and plain dry grasslands, Freshwater ecosystems.

15. THE WORKSHOP RESULTS

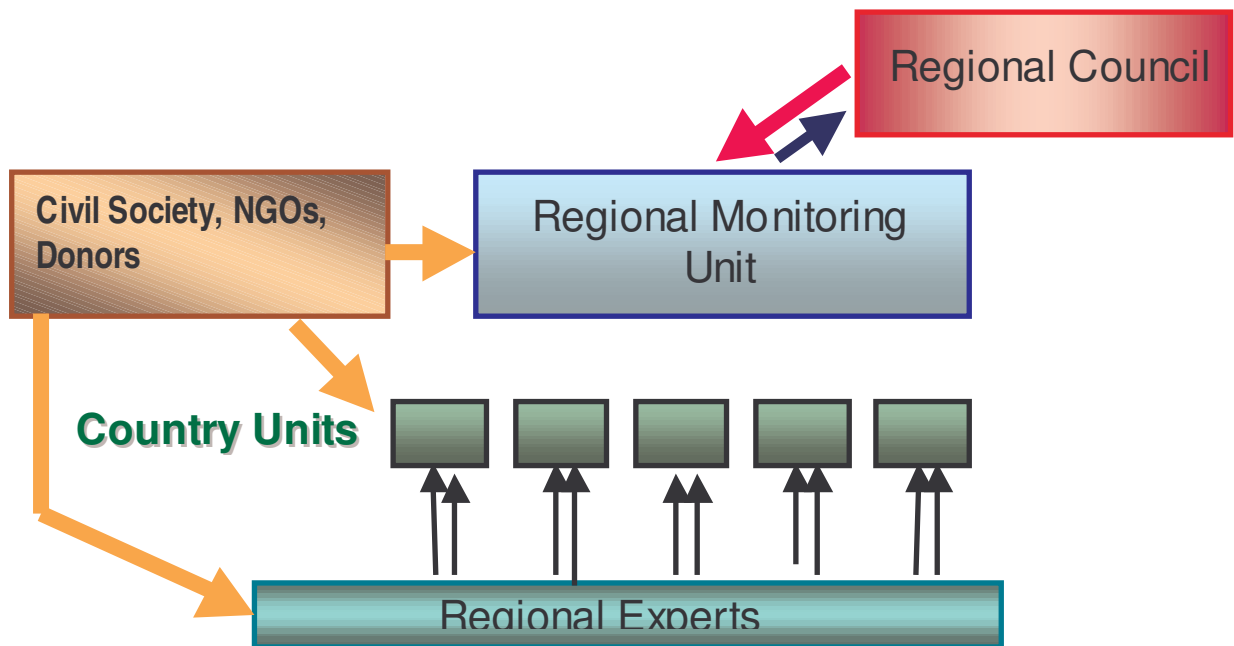
- **8 Indicators for species level was selected (Working group 1)**
- **10 Indicators for KBA (Working group 2)**
- **8 Indicators for Landscape/ Corridor level (Working group 3)**

16. THE WORKSHOP RESULTS Cont'd

- **List of organizations responsible for data collection by countries**
- **List of potential users**
- **Data sharing principles was discussed and coordinated**
- **Organizational structure for Regional Monitoring Network was agreed**
- **Model action plans by selected indicators was developed**

17. THE WORKSHOP RESULTS Cont'd

Organization structure proposed by participants



18. NEXT STEPS FOR WWF

- **Engagement of donors, local communities and private sector (data collection and financing)**
- **Establishing the Database**
- **Information exchange**
 - **Close and early involvement of CBD focal points, government, donors**
 - **Establish a taskforce at the Regional Council**

19. THANKS A LOT FOR ATTENTION!



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Caucasus Conference, Berlin

Nugzar Zazanashvili
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PURPOSES OF MONITORING



- **Species extinction avoided**
- **Areas protected**
- **Corridors consolidated**



CBD/ECP/CI INDICATORS OVERLAP

- ✓ **Change in status of threatened species**
- ✓ **Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats**
- ✓ **Connectivity / Fragmentation of ecosystems**
- ✓ **Coverage of protected areas**





WORKSHOP (Tbilisi, Dec 05)

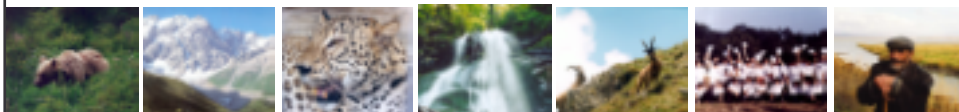


More than 40 experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and Turkey participated in the workshop to define priorities of Biodiversity Monitoring for the Caucasus Ecoregion



WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Introduce global biodiversity monitoring initiatives
- Review the existing capacity and needs for biodiversity monitoring
- Identify coordination mechanism for development and implementation of Regional Biodiversity Network





WORKSHOP RESULTS: SPECIES

From the 77 species were selected 40 species

Mammals – 19

Birds – 9

Amphibians – 3

Fish – 9

SPECIES	CEFF SPECIES OUTCOMES	ECP FOCAL SPECIES	SELECTED SPECIES	COMMENTS
Mammals				
1 Western barbastelle (<i>Blythia stelleri</i>)	✓	✓	✓	
7 Mehely's horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus mehelyi</i>)	✓	✓	✓	
8 Common otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	✓	✓	✓	
9 European mink (<i>Mustela lutreola</i>)	✓	✓	✓	
12 West Caucasian tur (<i>Capra caucasica</i>) *	✓	✓	✓	Indicator of mountain ecosystems
13 East Caucasian tur (<i>Capra cylindricornis</i>) *	✓	✓	✓	Indicator of mountain ecosystems
15 Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga tatarica</i>) *	✓	✓	✓	
18 Dahurian leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) *	✓	✓	✓	Narrow range endemic
19 Stippled hyena (<i>Hyena hyena</i>)	✓	✓	✓	Need additional study
20 Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	✓	✓	✓	

In addition monitoring of reptiles as one indicator group of rock lizards was recommended



WORKSHOP RESULTS: SPECIES



West Caucasian tur
(*Capra caucasica*)

Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)



Red deer
(*Cervus elaphus*)



Imperial eagle
(*Aquila heliaca*)



Caucasian salamander (*Mertensiella caucasica*)



WORKSHOP RESULTS: LANDSCAPES

10 large conservation landscapes are identified in the Caucasus Ecoregion.

3 biomes are prioritized: Forests, Mountain and plain dry grasslands, Freshwater.



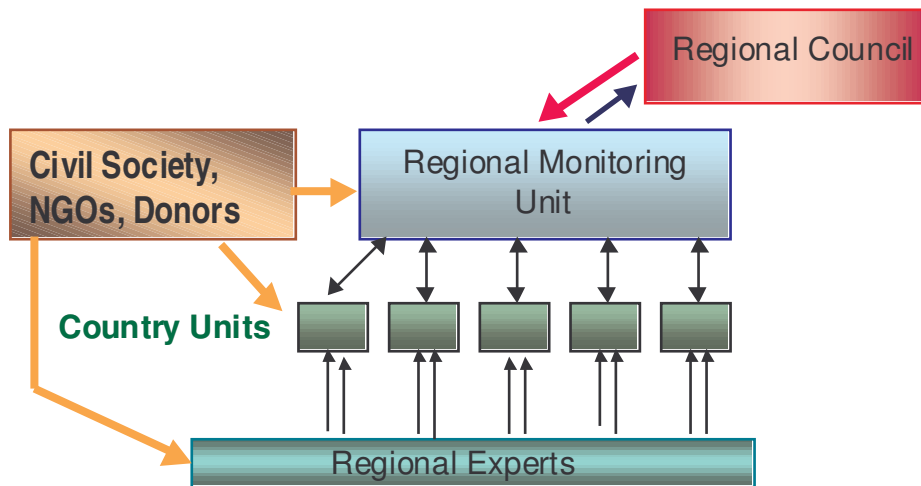
WORKSHOP RESULTS: INDICATORS

- **Species level - 8 Indicators** (e.g. *percentage of threatened species with ongoing conservation actions*)
- **Priority Conservation Areas - 10 Indicators** (e.g. *deforestation rate*)
- **Landscape level - 8 Indicators** (e.g. *change in habitat cover statistics*)





WORKSHOP RESULTS: proposed organizational structure of RMN



NEXT STEPS FOR RMN DEVELOPMENT

- Further engagement of donors and other stakeholders
- Development of Database
- Information sharing
 - Close and early involvement of CBD focal points, governments, donors; development of MoUs if needed
 - Ensure active involvement of the Regional Council





**THANKS A LOT FOR
ATTANTION!**

