

## PROJECT REPORT

### *“CONSERVATION OF THREATENED BIRDS IN AZERBAIJAN”*



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## **Project Summary**

Reach diversity of landscape types on the territory of Azerbaijan creates comfortable conditions for high numbers of Globally Threatened Species. 6 species were selected for the project by the reason of data insufficiency especially for migration seasons. 9 identified sites covering most important or most probable areas of species distribution are selected.

Both fast industry development and intensive agricultural land use create strong negative impact on sustainable existing of birds in ecosystems. Areas of important habitats is decreased, birds number is reduced from year to year. In the current situation correct ecological education of future environmentalist is one of the key problems of the society.

With help of this project more than 20 students were trained and they were prepared for ornithological research and nature conservation activities.

During the implementation of project with in 55 field days 18 different sites were visited and 168 species and 830284 individuals were registered. 7 excursion with locals to the closest sites 2 excursion with mass media representatives were done and 1 article were prepared and sent to Russia for publication.

## **Objectives**

- To collect, analysis and present data on distribution of Globally Threatened Species (GTS) occurring on some key sites (which are existing or potential Important Bird Areas (IBA)) of Azerbaijan
- To establish regular monitoring of GTS on these sites for conservation and ecological status specification
- To identify the main threats for these species in Azerbaijan
- To obtain including of all GTS in National Red Data Book
- To develop knowledge of young biologist of field studies and to involve them in public work on nature conservation
- To raise public awareness on nature conservation questions in Azerbaijan by the way of local public meetings on the key sites and involving of urban population to field excursions
- To attract attention of the mass media to questions of birds conservation problems in Azerbaijan
- To update information on IBA in Azerbaijan part of World Bird Data Base

## Outputs of the project

- *Preliminary student's training with small field practice*



Two days initial training was conducted between 30 September- 1<sup>st</sup> October. Experts from Azerbaijan Ornithological Society, ornithologists from Institute of Zoology of Academy of Science and team members from previous BP Conservation Project were participated at the training. Training was aimed to teach students general nature conservation principles, prepare them for future nature conservation activities and study of project species.

Training programme included the topics:

General topics:

- General information about nature conservation in the world and in Azerbaijan
- Birds: Bird identification, bird counting methods, bird songs, Azerbaijan Birds
- Field work techniques: Field studies, security in field, collection of data in the field
- IBA programme: IBA's of the World, IBA's of Azerbaijan, IBA caretaker's network in Azerbaijan

- Public awareness, working media
- Ecological games

Specific topics:

- General information about "project species" (literature information, biology, ecology, distribution)
- Methods of scientific research and monitoring of "project species"



- Results of studies of “project species” carried out by AOS for last years
- Discussion of implementation plan of project

Field training on bird identification and bird counting



- *4 summer expeditions to the breeding sites*



All together 23 days summer expeditions were done with participation team members and AOS staff to the breeding sites during project implementation. Field training was also continued there to train how to study the mountain areas and also how to study the breeding of different species (mainly the project species)

- For studying the potential habitats of Caucasian Black Grouse 18 days field research at Zagatala and Guba mountain sites were conducted with participation of 6 team members.

As a result new places for Caucasian Black grouse at Zagatala site were recorded. And coordinates were taken with GPS. As well information collected during the face to face talks with locals (shepherds and hunters) was added to the data base for analyze. At Guba mountain site birds were not recorded because of the disturbance (intensive grazing) but the area was very suitable for the Caucasian Black grouse. Locals confirmed the regular record of birds during the year.

- For studying the breeding of Black-winged pratincole 5 days field expedition to Ag-gel and Sarysu sites were conducted.

During the expeditions team members were trained how to do field research at mountain sites and how to use the field techniques in the field for taking the coordinates for data base. Training was conducted with help of experienced field researches from AOS.



- *12-pages informational calendar covering 6 key species and their habitats*

12 pages, 500 calendar of 2007 year was prepared and distributed among the people at all project sites and as well between universities, hunting associations, schools in Baku and in other districts.



- 2-3 field excursion for representatives of mass media

2 one-day excursion were organized with participation of representatives of mass media (Pirallahi Island and to the Shirvan National Park).

1 article was published at newsletter "Zerkalo" on 9 February 2007 (see attachment)

2 articles were published at quarterly produced "Gushchu" newsletter on October 2006 and April 2007 (see attachment)



- 6 excursion (1 each month) with participations of urban population

4 of the project sites were visited with urban population. All together 7 excursions were done with locals

- *9 meeting with local people (at least 1 at each site)*



During the project implementation for the more effective conservation of Globally Threatened Species and nature meetings with local authorities and with local people were held and informational materials supporting the nature conservation were distributed among locals at sites. Different drawing competitions were organized between the schoolchildren.

- *2-4 expeditions to selected sites each month (from September till February)*

26 one day excursions were done to selected sites during the project implementation. Team has visited the project sites during the given period for monitoring of sites, study of wintering and migration as well for public awareness activities. Collected materials were added to data base of AOS and sent to all relevant national and international agencies(Wetlands

International, WBDB, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan Hunting Association, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences)



- *Identification of GPS coordinate for breeding sites and places of important concentration during wintering and migration*



All GPS coordinates of important places for the project species were identified and added to the data base

- 1 presentation of project results in Baku State University

Project results were presented at Baku State University and sent to all other relevant agencies

- Financial report is attached to the file