



SABUKO

Society for
Nature
Conservation

Printing of posters for distributing to schools and environmental youth groups of Georgia as awards

SABUKO – Society for Nature Conservation Birdlife partner in Georgia

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Proposed grant amount: 1000\$

Project manager: Gvantsa Bragvadze, Education program officer at Sabuko; since 2018

Experience:

Running different education activities and implementation of projects with Sabuko's education team;
Communication with schools, stakeholders, target audience.

Urban Birding – GIZ German Corporation for International Cooperation – 2018 -2020

HeidelbergCement Georgia – Quarry life – 2019

SpringAlive – 2019 – present

Other regular education activities under Sabuko.

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Tbilisi, Georgia

Project purpose: Support environmental education activities about birds with materials

Education team

2 permanent employees: Susanne Schwartz, environmental education program manager;

Gvantsa Bragvadze, environmental education program officer.

1 employee by contract: Alexander Kitiashvili, birdwatching tour guide (every year from March to June);

Volunteers.

Overview

SABUKO's education department is working with public awareness raising about birds since 2017. Resources come through Birdlife International and Sabuko.

Our Mission is to protect, conserve and restore wildlife and their habitats in Georgia, increase the valuation of nature by the public and encourage the sustainable use of natural resources.

There are few environmental organizations, as well as the The Environmental Information and Education Center under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), working on environmental education in Georgia.

Before planning our activities, we had a survey, which showed that even though schools were actively participating in activities, it was mostly through competitions. The topic of birds rarely comes up.

The eco-clubs are established in schools, but many of them aren't active. The reason is the lack of materials and topics for teachers.

There is no organization that focuses on environmental education out of schools, where families can participate together, except the Tbilisi zoo, with limited number of students.

We started to develop programs in both directions. We chose activities where anyone can join, find us easily and all the locations to be accessible by anyone.

We also developed programs to support eco-club teachers, so they can plan and carry out activities independently.

Education team mainly works in Tbilisi. Seasonally in Dedoplistskaro, where SABUKO is working on conservation of Imperial Eagles, and Batumi, which is one of the most important sites for bird migration.

We carry out awareness raising campaigns regularly and develop environmental education programs for families, youth, schools and local communities.

With the partnership of GIZ (2018-2020):

- We created first Bird ID mobile application in Georgian.
- Installed interactive banners around Tbilisi on topic of birds (bird song clock, game: who lives at the lake?) and marked birdwatching trails in Tbilisi.
- Developed online map for the best spots for birdwatching.
- Created 3 booklets – Short description of Birds of Tbilisi, Bird-friendly gardens, Bird ringing.
- Established regular walking tours with trained bird guide around Tbilisi. It gained popularity and is continuously running every year from March to June, now Supported by SpringAlive and Sabuko.

Other Activities include:

- Handbook for teachers on topic of Imperial Eagles and had 2 training sessions with local teachers in Dedoplistskaro;
- 5 short movies about different bird species.
- Bird ringing camp and Bird festival for schools in Tbilisi Botanical garden
- Monthly events in the Museum of Georgia
- Regular program for young children *Young Naturalists*
- We regularly work on materials we can offer to teachers and school eco-clubs.

For the students that are involved, it is important to give out resources.

As we observed, our posters on topic of *Vultures of Georgia* and *Owls of Georgia* are extremely popular among school classes and teachers.

Each poster contains illustrations of: 4 species of vultures in Georgia and their habitat; 6 species of owls in Georgia; Wetland birds; Material for eco-clubs: Imperial Eagle – teacher’s handbook.

2020 and 2021 were hard years for us, as we were extremely limited in carrying out environmental education events and campaigns due to pandemic restrictions.

We developed few online competitions to encourage birdwatching and other activities independently by children and eco-clubs.

This year we plan to continue: Regular birdwatching walking tours; Birdwatching and activities at lakes near Tbilisi (Kumisi, Krtsanisi, Lisi); Public screening of the movie (Chachuna – Facing the Desert); Monthly museum meetings about different topics in Caucasus biodiversity exhibition (wetlands day, bird beaks adaptation, migration, nesting...); Visits in schools with games, presentations and hands on activities; Wild challenge competition; Weekly meetings for Young Naturalists.

Therefore we’re in need for the resources we can send as small gratitude gifts. At the same time they will have educational purpose.

The posters will be printed and distributed to all schools, clubs and individuals participating in our events throughout the year.

Timetable

	December 2021 – January 2022	February 2022	April 2022	May – June 2022	September 2022	December 2022
New year competition (Wild challenge)						
Presentations in schools / meetings with eco-clubs						
World wetlands day in National Museum of Georgia / Birdwatching at Kumisi lake						
Carrying out Imperial eagle awareness raising activities (Project from Sabuko)						
Reporting to CCBC				Half year progress report, June 30		Final report and resources, December 20

Budget

	Unit	Price per poster	Total	
Creating of layout	3	\$65	\$195	Contract
Printing of Imperial eagle handbook	50	\$7	\$350	Contract
Printing of posters	91	\$5	\$455	Contract
Total			\$1,000	

Matching funds

Implementation of awareness raising programs are Supported by SABUKO and SpringAlive.

Our partners in education activities:

Adjara tourism department; Dedoplistskaro municipality; Vashlovani National park; Tbilisi Zoo, Kaikona, Tbilisi botanical garden; National museum of Georgia

Continuity

The projects will keep running through SABUKO. Modifications due to pandemic regulations is possible.