



PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

As at end of project, April 2010

Establishment of a nature protection organisation and its local chapters as a contribution to the protection of biodiversity in Armenia



Bird census in the Aras basin
Picture: A. Malkhasyan, NABU

Background

The Caucasus is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Zones of Arctic tundra, deciduous forests, sub-Alpine tall herb fringe communities and Euro-Siberian steppes are all found there within a relatively small area.

Armenia is situated in the southern part of the Caucasus. Excessive agricultural use has taken its toll on the country's steppe regions, resulting in soil erosion and salination. The proportion of forested area has declined markedly as a result of clearing for industrial purposes.

Nature protection NGOs in Armenia are faced with a number of problems. Incentives for the recruitment of active and passive members are lacking in many cases, the organisations are dependent upon international project grants, and NGO volunteer work has a bad image.

Project

Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU) has worked with governmental and non-governmental actors in nature conservation projects in the Caucasus region since 1996. The aim of the present project was to provide the Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds (ASPB) with institutional and technical support to enable its members to form a national network and work for the protection of biodiversity and the environment effectively and on a long-term basis.

The following project activities were carried out over an 19-month period:

- Coordination of measures, particularly the implementation of bird censuses in important bird areas with the participation of NABU, ASPB and representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Environment;
- Setting up local ASPB chapters ;
- Networking the local chapters;
- Implementing a national „bird of the year“ action day;
- Establishing cooperation with local hunting associations.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 180
- Region: Armenia
- Duration: 10/2008 – 04/2010
- Project management: Umweltbundesamt
- Project partner in Germany: Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V. (NABU)
- Local project partner: Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds

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