

WOW – REGIONAL CENTRE
SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT #: 1

REPORTING PERIOD: 2007 – June 2008

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Country	Netherlands
Regional Centre	Central Asia & Caucasus States
Countries Covered by this Regional Centre	Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia
Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO	Wetlands International
Total amount of funds under this Agreement	173,689 USD
Expected project duration	2007-2010
Date of signature of the agreement	21.11.2007
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1. Executive Summary

The Central Asian and Caucasus States (CACS) SRS has a unique set up compared to the rest of the SRSs because it has its staff physically at distant locations. It is coordinated by a staff of the WI-HQ in Wageningen, the Netherlands. The Region Waterbird Officer (RWO) is based at the Wetlands International Russia Office in Moscow, and a Capacity Development Officer (CDO) is hosted by the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The CACS SRS commenced its operations in 2007 with the envisaged WOW co-funding from AEWA and WI. During the reporting period the staffing of the SRS was completed with the appointment of a CDO in January 2007. The team has already completed the gap-filling and monitoring workshop under Component 1 in March 2008 in Tbilisi, Georgia and the 1st Training Board Meeting has been held in May 2008 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The centroids of the IWC sites in the region have been verified and corrected by the RWO. Another major contribution to the project is the completion of the identification and digitalization of IBAs in the CA countries coordinated by the ACBK which is being prepared for publishing and the data is scheduled for upload in the WBDB around August 2008. The first gap filling surveys were also conducted in the region in January-February 2008. The printing of a Russian version of the WOW Project Brief is being finalized so project documentation and work will be more readily accessible for experts in the region. The SRS team regularly keeps email and Skype contacts to coordinate work and activities.

1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Successful conduction of the gap-filling and monitoring workshop. The workshop helped to introduce the project and its goals to the regional experts and mobilise data gathering efforts.
2	IWC coordinates verified and corrected. This will allow the combined database analysis of IWC and WBDB and is a major data source for the CSN selection process.
3	RTB establishment. A well balanced and able TB has been set up and its members are actively contributing to the Training Modules development through comments and input. The first Training Board meeting was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April 2008.
4	The SRS has already initiated actions for mobilizing additional funds and filling in financial gaps in the project budget.
5	

1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	A total of 76.523 USD unsecured co-funding (AEWA contribution) for the project activities in the sub-region.	AEWA Secretariat is to secure the promised funding for this sub-region.	Dec. 2008	AEWA

2	Language barrier of documents circulated	Documents that are for wider consultation and discussion in the region (i.e. RTB documents) are being translated by the SRS staff.	Ongoing	SRS
3				
4				
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2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	None			
Finance & administration	A total of 76.523 USD unsecured co-funding (AEWA contribution) for the project activities in the sub-region	AEWA Secretariat is to secure the promised funding for this sub-region. WI has also contracted consultants to facilitate the development of a fundraising action plan in consultation with the other project partners to fill the gaps. However, the success of this efforts requires the collaboration of other partners.		AEWA
Logistics & operations	None			
Reporting & communication	None			
Coordination with project partners	None			
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	None			

Other				
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2.2 Regional Training Board (TB)

Date of last TB Meeting	08 th to 10 th April, 2008
Proposed Date for next TB Meeting	April 2009

Please provide updated list of TB Members (list the TB Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Rustamov Eldar A.	Chairperson (IBA Project Coordinator for Turkmenistan, Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan)	elldaru@mail.ru	00993-12-398388
Solokha Alexander	Deputy-Chairperson (Wetlands International, Moscow office)	ASolokha@wwf.ru	+7 495 7270939
Edith Mayer	Deputy Chairperson (Central Asia)	edith.mayer@gmx.at	+7 727 22038 77
Balyan Luba	Deputy Chairperson (Armenia)	armbirds@yahoo.com	+10 374(10)22 65 41
Sergey Dereliev	Technical Officer UNEP/AEWA Secretariat	sdereliev@unep.de	+49 228 815 2415
Sergey Erokhov	National Consultant, Head of Laboratory of Ornithology (Uzbekistan)	syerokhov@nursat.kz	+7 727 2694860
Anton Mezhnev	Deputy Head of the Department of Hunting Animal Resources (Russia)	amezhnev@mail.ru	+74956078171
Evgenia Lanovenko	Head of Laboratory of Ornithology, IBA project consultant	filatov@com.uz	+998712 396 07 18
Oleg Guchgeldiev	Chief Technical Advisor, GEF/UNDP Khazar project	PIPP@ONLINE.TM	+99312 391633/398357
Tobias Garstecki	Programme Coordinator IUCN Programme Office for the Southern Caucasus	tobias.garstecki@iucn.org	+995(8)32 47 30 70
Elchin Sultanov	Chairman Azerbaijan Ornithological Society (AOS)	elchin_sultanov@aos.az	+994503161651

Elshan Majidov	Lead Advisor Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan	ali-elshan@rambler.ru	+99 412 492 73 69

3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

Provide an overview of the contribution made towards progress & achievements for each project outcome and activity during the reporting period.

Legend: abbreviations of project structures/organisations/positions

AEWA	UNEP/AEWA Secretariat
BLI	BirdLife International
CO	Communications Officer (based in AEWA)
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SRS	Sub-Regional Subcontractor
WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WI	Wetlands International

ACTIVITIES Output/Service (as listed in the approved project document)	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	STATUS NA Not scheduled for current reporting period IP In progress (% completed) C Completed	PROGRESS Description of work undertaken during the reporting period	ISSUES Description of problems encountered; Issues that need to be addressed; Decisions / Actions to be taken
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Component 1: Establishment of a fundamental tool to assist planning and management in flyway conservation

Activity 2. Collection of spatial site reference data as a basis for database linkage in the site network

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Map available data, gather new data	WI/(WCMC), BLI	C	Maps were produced by WCMC for the CA region depicting IBAs and IWC sites. These were used to identify gaps in knowledge and to correct coordinates of IWC sites during the Gap filling workshop in Tbilisi.	
Digitise information	WI/(WCMC), BLI	IP (70%)	Names and central coordinates of IWC sites are checked and corrected. Linkages with IBAs established for all countries in the Region except for some of the Caucasus countries for which IBA boundaries are in process of digitalisation. Russian IBAs digitalisation work is ongoing under a subcontract assigned to RBCU by WI. The boundaries and data from the CA IBA project has been completed but not yet been uploaded to WBDB.	IBA data from CA countries have been just recently verified by BLI and data is expected to be uploaded in WBDB by August 2008. BLI to provide information on the digitalisation process for IBAs in Caucasus countries.
Activity 4. Development of a web-based portal to integrate the data from the main data sources, to display the network of critical sites to users via the Internet and to link into data on ecological requirements of species, site use and management advice				
Programming of portal application, testing	WI/WCMC	IP	The regional IWC and IBA coordinators have been consulted on user needs for the functions of the CSN. The RWO is regularly	

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			consulted on the plans and development of the portal development through the monthly skype/phone conferences with the WO.	
Activity 5. Compile the network of critical sites using Ramsar and IBA criteria				
Consult experts in region on results	WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA	The workplan of the RWO in relation to the compilation of the network and the regional consultation has been discussed during the WO monthly conferences.	
Activity 6. Publication of the network of critical sites on CD ROM, in printed format (as a static document), and launch of the dynamic and interactive version on the internet				
Launch portal	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Activity 7. Raise awareness amongst practitioners, and train them in the use of the network of critical sites				
Disseminate concept of critical site network at appropriate occasions like conferences, meetings, workshops (active participation to raise awareness)	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSSs	IP	The leaflet for the CSN Tool has been distributed amongst experts in the region. Attendance at regional conferences is envisaged to promote the CSN Tool during the next project period when such meetings and opportunities arise.	

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Activity 8. Promote the network of critical sites as a conservation tool				
Develop communication plan for publicising the network of critical sites as a tool for conservation	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Implement communication of network tool	WI/(WCMC), BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Activity 9. Production of a publication to raise awareness of key issues in the flyway using the network as the basis				
Produce and distribute publication	WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Outcome 1.2. Primary data resources that underpin flyway conservation, planning and management activities enhanced to include all critically important sites in the AEWA region				
Activity 1. Identify gaps in spatial coverage and mobilise existing information				
Sub-regional check of coverage	WI, BLI, SRSSs	IP (60%)	Gaps in IWC and IBA coverage were identified at Tbilisi workshop.	Gaps in Northern Russia has proven to be difficult to assess. Additional experts working specifically in this region shall be consulted in Moscow. RWO is to

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				establish contact with respective experts to try and fill gaps with existing available data from expeditions in recent years.
Compile existing information through sub-regions	WI, BLI, SRSs	IP (50%)	This was performed as part of the preparation for the regional gap-filling workshop. Further search and compiling of unpublished data is ongoing.	There is dispersed information on ornithological surveys in different institutions and data ownership is an issue for unpublished data
Organise regional workshops	WI, BLI, SRSs	C (100%)	Gap-filling and monitoring workshop for Central Asia and Caucasus was held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 13 until 16 March 2008. It gathered IWC and IBA coordinators from 6 countries, as well as international experts, in total 18 participants (see list of participants in Annex 1). The WOW CSN Technical team will prepare consolidated reports on the Monitoring and Gap Filling workshops, and this is expected to be completed by August/September 2008.	

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Activity 2. Fill the information gaps in the data sources				
Increase and focus sub-regional coordination of IWC and IBA to fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSS	IP (50%)	BLI through ACBK has completed the compilation of IBA inventory in CA states. The work has been done in close cooperation with the RWO and WI-Russia Office. There is great overlap of the IWC and IBA network and data collected is feeding both data gathering processed. Data has already been used to identify IBAs in the CA region.	In many of the region's countries there are too few experts and volunteers for surveys work. In many countries attempts are being made to combine work of different projects and experts and to enhance capacity in their country.
Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps	WI, BLI, SRSS	IP(10%)	Gap filling surveys have been already implemented in January-February 2008 based on current understanding of the situation. Surveys have been implemented on the west Caspian coast by local experts from Russia and Azerbaijan.	
Organise sub-regional workshops (same workshops as under act 1 of outcome1.2, above)	WI, BLI, SRSS	C (100%)	Gap-filling and monitoring workshop was held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 13 until 16 March 2008. It gathered IWC and IBA coordinators from 6 countries and international experts, in total 18	

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			participants.	

Outcome 1.3. Flyway data gathering and monitoring capacity strengthened to support the updating and maintenance of primary data resources that underpin conservation of the network of critical sites

Activity 1. Harmonizing and strengthening data gathering capacity, thus ensuring better compatibility between and sustainability of monitoring networks

Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities	WI, BLI, SRSS	C (50%)	Possible ways of harmonizing of the IWC and IBA monitoring schemes were discussed at Tbilisi workshop and participants drawn up national action plans for further development and harmonisation of the monitoring schemes in their respective countries.	
Sub-regional Workshops to implement integrated monitoring	WI, BLI, SRSS	IP (70%)	Gap-filling and monitoring workshop was held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 13 until 16 March 2008. It gathered IWC and IBA coordinators from 6 countries and international experts, in total 18 participants.	

Activity 2. Strengthening capacity for data gathering and monitoring

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Experts to lead surveys to train on (integration of) monitoring activities	WI / (consultants), BLI, SRSSs	IP (20%)	Training needs were identified at Tbilisi workshop.	These activity is largely dependent on the success of securing missing funds. Organisations with interest in the region and running programmes in the CA region have been approached and options for cooperation have been discussed (WWF-Finland, NOF/BirdLife Norway).
Sub-regional training censuses	WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Activity 3. Provide materials and equipment to facilitate and assist the training and data collection				
Develop, print and provide field guide in Russian	WI/(consultants), BLI, SRS Central Asia	NA		Co-funding is not yet available. WI has already incorporated this task into a BBI application in 2007, but it was rejected.
Provide optical and other equipment	WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA		Co-funding is not yet available

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Outcome 1.4 Species and critical site knowledge base supports management and planning decision-making in flyway conservation

Activity 1. Compile existing ecological knowledge on species' migratory characteristics, site function and population delimitation

Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge	WI / (consultant), BLI, SRSS	C (100%)	RWO provided input into the ecological information collected for the portal and the maps.	
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Activity 2. Facilitate research to cover the gaps in knowledge of the use of sites by migratory waterbirds and of population limitation

Make available 'seed money' to help develop proposals to obtain funding for research to fill the gaps in knowledge	WI, BLI, SRSS	NA		
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Component 2: Establishing a basis for strengthening decision-making and technical capacity for wetland and migratory waterbird conservation

Outcome 2.1 Transferable model Training and Awareness Raising Programme framework produced for developing wetland and

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waterbird conservation capacity				
Activity 1 Develop a working draft of the model Training and Awareness Raising Programme				
Series of meetings with key training institutes	WI, SRSs	C	To establish the Regional Training Board experts in the region were contacted who are already involved in the region and working for delivering trainings to the target groups within the currently running large scale projects in the CACS region. The main initiatives are Turkmenistan GEF/UNDP Khazar Wetland Project (trainings for wetland managers, inspectors, etc), UNDP/GEF Wetland Project in Kazakhstan (trainings for researches, nature reserve inspectors, local communities), ACBK (training for students), Armenian Society for Protection of Birds (IBA caretaker programme), Institutes of Zoology (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan), the IUCN Caucasus Programme. All communications were made via email and phone calls.	
Translate, print & distribute first draft model	WI, SRSs	IP (80%)	First draft modules were available in April/May 2008 from the central WOW CD	

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Activity 2 Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop				
Hold Development Workshop	WI, PCU, SRSSs	C	The Training and Awareness Raising Programme Development Workshop was held from 24 th to 28 th September 2007 in Almen, NL, and attended by three participants representing the region	
Activity 4 Review of the programme model draft				
Perform external review of training and awareness model	WI, PCU, SRSSs	NA	The WOW Modules Revision and Adaptation Workshop is scheduled for 08 th to 16 th June in Amman/Jordan to review module and start regional adaptation process	
Conduct a full review of the model programme	PSC (sub-group), WI, PCU, SRSSs	N/A		
Activity 5 Finalise the programme model				

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Translate & print final model, and distribute to contributing partners / networks and to project sub-regional centres for wide dissemination	WI, PCU, SRSs	NA		
Outcome 2.2: Wetland and waterbird conservation Training and Awareness Raising Programmes produced ready for implementation in four sub-regions				
Activity 1 Establish 4 Sub-regional Training Boards				
Informal meetings in sub-region to establish board	SRSs, WI, BLI	C	A preliminary meeting of the SRS Coordinator and ACBK staff was conducted in September 2007 in Almaty; Candidate list was prepared in January 2008 and the meeting held from 8 th to 10 th May 2008 in Almaty/Kazakhstan	Budget limitation of the budget available for travel Bureaucratic way of invitation and response with some state agencies (i.e. Ministry of Nature Protection in Armenia)
Organise & hold training boards meetings	SRSs, WI, BLI	IP (50%)	The first Training Board Meeting for the Sub-region meeting was held from 8 th to 10 th May 2008 in Almaty/Kazakhstan. Members who could not attend the meeting or were regarded as useful will be invited still to join.	Funding for the second TB meeting is not yet secured

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Meeting reports	SRSs, WI, BLI	IP (50%)	The report on the First Regional Training Board Meeting is attached in Annex 2.	
Activity 2 Design and establish 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Produce draft Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation	WI, SRS, BLI	IP	The CACS SRS personnel has contributed to the training modules and training and awareness component development of the WOPW Project by taking part in the discussions and plannings in the Almen workshop, the meeting in Wageningen in February 2008. The CDO and the RWO have provided comments for the draft of the TAP modules and have participated in the meeting in Amman for modules review and adaptation. In addition, the first drafts of the modules were distributed to the TB members to provide the module developers with first comments and additional information.	
Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritisation of courses	WI, SRS, BLI	NA	After the Amman Workshop Final Draft Modules will be send to the regions for further regional adaptation and translation into Russian.	

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Activity 3 Finalise 4 Sub-regional Training & Awareness Programmes				
Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards	WI, SRS, BLI	NA		
Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicise & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme	SRS, WI, BLI	NA		
Activity 4 Mobilise resources for the implementation of the sub-regional training and awareness raising programmes				
Mobilise resources from within the sub-regions	SRSs, WI, BLI	IP (ongoing)	A first funding application has been developed and submitted by the Board Member IUCN Regional Office for Southern Caucasus to fund the implementation of the Training and Awareness Raising Programme for Georgia and Armenia	
Component 3: Enhanced availability and exchange of information through improved communications capacity and resource provision				
Outcome 3.2. Strengthened mechanisms for governments and NGOs to communicate and work together on wise use of wetlands and migratory waterbirds				
Activity 1 Increase capacity for electronic exchange of information				

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Promotion of the new electronic communication facility	PCU, AEWA CO, SRSSs, WI, BLI, Ramsar	NA		

Activity 2 Augmentation of and increased access to flyway contact information

Plan and implement data collection activities	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSSs	NA		
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Activity 3 Provide project information (updates, progress reports, publicity materials) in four languages for stakeholders

Disseminate newsletters	AEWA CO, PCU, WI, BLI, SRSSs	NA		
Disseminate other project information	AEWA CO, PCU, SRSSs, Demonstration Projects	ongoing	The WOW Newsletter (in English) was distributed through regional networks and additional information was sent via email. The WOW project brief is being summarized and translated into Russian and may be ready by September 2008.	Most information needs to be translated into Russian to make it accessible for recipients

Outcome 3.3. Mechanisms of exchange between and within sub-regions for improved flyway-level migratory waterbird and wetland management established

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Activity 4 Implement Exchange Programme activities				
Exchanges of key sites personnel within their sub-region	WI, SRSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar	NA		Dependent on co-funding that is currently not available
Exchanges of demonstration site personnel	WI, SRSs, demo projects, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar	NA		Dependent on co-funding that is currently not available
Activity 5 Develop strategic partnerships and mobilise co-financing				
Promote partnerships through communication & liaison	WI, SRSs	IP (ongoing effort)	A very successful and efficient partnership with the IUCN Regional Office for the Southern Caucasus has been established. The Office acts as a hub for the Caucasus and also as a funding and fundraising partner for the Sub-region. Close contacts exist between the WI and BLI networks in the region. Ongoing efforts to establish link with all relevant projects and stakeholders in the region.	

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Develop strategic partnership proposals	PCU, WI, SRSSs	NA		

Outcome 3.4 The wise-use of migratory waterbirds and wetlands is better understood and implemented by governments in focal sub-regions

Activity 1 Development of sub-regional mentoring capacity

Development of shadowing timetable for each staff member to coincide with appropriate MEA (Multilateral Environmental Agreements: i.e. AEWA, RAMSAR) activities	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSSs	NA		Funding for the implementation of this component is not available within the project budget. The implementation of this activity is therefore completely dependent on the mobilization of sufficient funding.
Shadow activities in MEA offices	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSSs	NA		
Shadow activities in the field	WI, BLI, AEWA, Ramsar, PCU, SRSSs	NA		

Activity 2 Production of key MEA texts and information in the predominant languages of the focal sub-regions

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Translation of key MEA texts	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	NA		Inadequate funding to complete this activity.
Printing and dissemination of translated documents	PCU, AEWA, Ramsar, SRSs, WI, BLI	Na		Inadequate funding to complete this activity.

4. Funds Disbursement

4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved for the provision of technical services:	173,689 USD
Funds advanced by UNOPS to date:	24,000 USD
Opening balance this reporting period:	24,000 USD
Total expenditure this reporting period:	67,994 USD
Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule):	67,845 USD
Balance (if applicable):	- 43,994 USD

Certified by (Project Manager: _____)

Table 1. Financial Report until 31/05/2008

1.45363 average exch rate
USD EUR july- may

General Category of Expenditure		total budget	total expenditure to date	total budget balance	Opening balance this reporting period	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
	1,100 Project Personnel	14,000	14,000	0	3000	3,000	14,000	-11,000
	1,199 Sub-total	14,000	14,000	0	3000	3,000	14,000	-11,000
	1,600 Travel	6,000	2,758	3,242	1000	1,000	2,758	-1758
	1,699 Sub-total	6,000	2,758	3,242	1000	1,000	2,758	-1758
1999	Component total	20,000	16,758	3,242	4000	4,000	16,758	-12758
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT							
	2,101 WI Moscow	41,000	16,000	25,000	6000	6,000	16,000	-10,000
	2,103 ACBK(capacity development)	31,000	17,261	13,739	4000	4,000	17,261	-13261

	2,104	Gap filling surveys	11,689	1,327	10,362	0	0	1,327	-1327
	2,199	Sub-total	83,689	34,587	49,102	10,000	10,000	34,587	-24,588
2999	Component total		83,689	34,587	49,102	10,000	10,000	34,587	24,588
30	TRAINING COMPONENT								
	3,301	Sub-regional Site Network Workshop	20,000	11,331	8,669	0	0	11,331	-11,331
	3,302	Sub-regional Monitoring Workshop	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
	3,303	1st Subregional Training Board Meeting	10,000	5,318	4,682	0	10,000	5,318	4,682
	3,304	Sub-regional Training Programme Review Meeting	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
	3,399	Sub-total	70,000	16,649	53,351	10,000	10,000	16,649	-6649
3999	Component total		70,000	16,649	53,351	10,000	10,000	16,649	-6649
99	GRAND TOTAL		173,689	67,994	105,695	24,000	24,000	67,994	-43994

4.2 Status of co-financing

Please report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project using the following table.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
BUWAL	44,623	0	44,623	44,623	0
AEWA	80,749	0	80,749	4,226	76,523
French ME	6,743	0	6,743	0	6,743
WI	11,065	0	11,065	11,065	0
totals				59,914	83,266
List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation					
WI*	6,935	0	6,935	6,935	
totals				6,935	

*Additional support provided by WI to cover the salary of the RWO

5. Performance Evaluation

5.1 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
STAKEHOLDERS	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	SRTB: (6) UNDP Khazar project , Azerbaijan Ornithological Society (AOS), Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds(ASPB), GEF/UNDP project Kazakhstan, Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan (ACBK), Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds; IUCN – Caucasus Programme Office; WI-Russia Office
# of Government Staff involved in this project	SRTB: (3) Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Agriculture of Russia, Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan; Kazakhstan Institute of Zoology;
# of Volunteers involved in this project	Currently over 80 volunteers are participating in the monitoring activities of IWC and IBA. Developing of Caretaker program in Kazakhstan will start in 2009.
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	Within the sub-region 2 governments have joined AEWA (Uzbekistan and Georgia). Kazakhstan is about to join. State institutions and governmental structures are involved in the experts and conservation network for conservation of the flyways of two globally threatened species – the Red-breasted Goose and the Lesser White-fronted Goose. Some of these activities are based on bilateral governmental agreements and programmes.
TARGET BENEFICIARIES	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	Training programme only started, not yet determined
# of people involved in project workshops	SRTB+GIMW: 31
# of people trained under this project	Training programme only started, not yet determined
COMMUNICATION ISSUES	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	One
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	not yet

# of publications produced under this project	not yet
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	Only started, several hundreds

6. Key Lessons Learned

Please report on any lessons learned during project preparation and implementation. Please focus on issues that may (a) help in the design of future projects, and/or (b) help in improving performance of the WOW project, and (c) contribute to best practice in wetlands management and conservation of migratory waterbirds.

The Subregional Centre works well in spite of its dispersed staffing. It delivers the expected closer collaboration between the regional programmes of Wetlands International and BirdLife International. The staff is well positioned with good professional relations in the region which is of additional asset to the work of the SRS.

7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	2007		2008		2009		2010
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7
Set up a regional Training Board;			x				
Produce draft Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation;					x		
Organise Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritisation of courses;					x		
Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards					x	x	
Publish & print the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;						x	
Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicise & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme;					x	x	x
Provide input into mobilising resources outside the sub-regions for the implementation of the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;				X	x	x	x
Mobilise resources from within the sub-regions for the implementation of the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;				X	x	X	X
Promote the Intranet communication facility in the Sub-region;					x	x	X
Plan and implement data collection activities for contact database within the Sub-region;			x	X	x	x	X
Disseminate project information in the Sub-region;				X	x	x	X
Assist exchanges of key sites personnel within the sub-region in collaboration with WI and its Russia Office;						x	X
Promote strategic partnership with other organisations within the sub-region;					x	X	
Develop strategic partnership proposals					x	X	
Continued input into design/ functionality of web-portal				X	x	x	x
Consult experts in region on results							X
Disseminate concept of critical site network at appropriate occasions like conferences, meetings, workshops (active participation to raise awareness)			X	X	X	X	X
Implement communication of network tool					X	X	X
Sub-regional check of coverage					X	X	X
Compile existing information through sub-regions		X	X	X	x	x	
Increase and focus sub-regional coordination of IWC and IBA to fill gaps				X	X	X	X
Perform additional targeted censuses to cover and fill gaps				X	X	X	X
Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities	x	x	x	X	X	x	

Experts to lead surveys to train on (integration of) monitoring activities				X	X	X	X
Sub-regional training censuses					X	X	X
Compile overview existing ecological knowledge and identify gaps in knowledge		X	X	X	X		
Make available 'seed money' to help develop proposals to obtain funding for research to fill the gaps in knowledge				X	X		

7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	June-November 2007					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Participate in the Modules Review and Adaptation Workshop in Amman	x					
Produce draft Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme models for consultation;	x	X				
Organize Training and Awareness Raising Programme Review Workshops & prioritization of courses	x	X	x			
Translate and publish a Russian version of WOW Newsletter booklet	x	X	x			
Prepare final draft for approval by Training Boards		X	x			
Publish & print the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;				x	x	
Hold awareness-raising meetings to publicize & introduce the Training and Awareness Raising Programme;					x	x
Provide input into mobilizing resources outside the sub-regions for the implementation of the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;			x	x	x	x
Mobilize resources from within the sub-regions for the implementation of the Sub-regional Training and Awareness Raising Programme;						x
Promote the Intranet communication facility in the Sub-region						
Plan and implement data collection activities for contact database within the Sub-region					x	
Disseminate project information in the Sub-region;	x	X	x	x	x	X
Assist exchanges of key sites personnel within the sub-region in collaboration with WI and its				x	X	

Russia Office;						
Promote strategic partnership with other organizations within the sub-region	x	X	x	X		
Develop strategic partnership proposals				x	x	
Assist the preparation and implementation of additional targeted gap filling surveys		X	x	x	x	x
Develop input for manuals on streamlining and integrating monitoring activities	x	X	x	x	X	x
Compile and mobilize existing information and data through the subregion about important wetlands and gaps in the knowledge	x	X	x	x	x	x
Sustain and develop the network of IWC coordinators and direct focus to filling gaps	x	X	x	x	x	x
Provide technical contribution to Training Modules development and Monitoring Manual development	x	X	x	x	x	x
Assist and support the CSN Team with regional data input for the portal development	x	X	x	x	x	x
Promote strategic partnership with other organizations within the sub-region	x	X	x	X		
Develop strategic partnership proposals				x	x	x

ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and then “save” the file)



inventory

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager (if not already submitted)
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type ⁴	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Technical Component 1 meeting on the CSN aspects	Gap Filling and Monitoring Workshop for CA&CS	Tbilisi, Georgia	11-16 March 2008	CACS SRS Team and WI	CACS SRS Team, BirdLife partner in Georgia and IUCN-Caucuses Programme and WI	18 (list of participants – Annex 1)	(Consolidated overall report for all Gap Filling and Monitoring workshops will be prepared)		
2.	Training Board Meeting	1 st Training Board Meeting	Almaty, Kazakhstan	8-10 April 2008	ACBK	CDO (SRS)/ACBK	22	Report on 1st Regional Training Board Meeting (Annex 2)	English	Annex 2
3.										

b) Printed Materials

No	Type ⁵	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.							
2.							
3.							

⁴ Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

⁵ Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)

c) Media coverage

No	Description	Date
1.		
2.		
3.		

d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives

No	Type ⁶	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.							
2.							

e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)

No	Description	Date
1.	Participation in the Black Sea Wet Initiative meeting organized by WI-Ukraine Office in Odessa, Ukraine. WOW Project and AEWA activities presented and suggested synergies between the initiatives in the region discussed	28-31 October 2007
2.	Participation of the CACS SRS Coordinator in the Lesser White-fronted Goose Meeting in Moscow Russia under the Norway-Russia Governmental cooperation programme. WOW Project presented and option for cooperation discussed	9-12 December 2007
3.	Participation of the CACS SRS Coordinator in the Red-breasted Goose Conservation Team in Constance, Romania. WOW Project presented and option for cooperation discussed as part of the SG activities.	25-29 February 2008

⁶ Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)