

Caucasus Protected Areas Fund (CPAF) Announces Signature of Framework Agreement with Armenia.

May 26, 2008

On May 22, 2009, the CPAF signed its so-called "Framework Agreement" with the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Nature Protection. Mr. Samvel Amirkhanyan, Head of Administration for the Ministry, and Mr. Simon Papyan, Deputy Minister, represented the Armenian side.

The Framework Agreement sets forth the basis on which the CPAF will conduct its grant-making activity in Armenia, partnering with the MONP to increase funding for the operating costs of Armenia's national parks and other protected areas, helping to close an acute gap in the funding necessary to conserve of the country's outstanding biodiversity.

David Morrison, Executive Director of the CPAF, said:

"I am pleased that we have been able to take this first step for the CPAF in Armenia. The Armenian Ministry is now working hard to prepare the first grant proposal. I am confident that we can reach our goal to sign our pilot project in 2009 so that CPAF support for one of Armenia's magnificent protected areas can begin early in 2010."

Contact Information

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Background on the Caucasus Protected Areas Fund:

The CPAF commenced operations in 2008 with initial sponsorship from the German government (through BMZ and KfW), WWF Germany, Conservation International and Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund. The Caucasus is recognized by the WWF and Conservation International as the most biologically diverse region in a temperate zone in the world. The CPAF focuses on the core Caucasus countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, each of which obtained independence from the former Soviet Union in the early 1990s. In all three countries there is an abundance of pristine nature, and a developing system of national parks and reserves, but a severe shortage of funds for the day-to-day work of preserving it. Our mission is to meet this critical but unaddressed need: the funding of operating and maintenance costs for protected areas, such as salaries for rangers, park scientists and information officers, and costs for equipment, supplies and training.

In a region where political strife continues, this initiative represents a rare display of cooperation and dialogue among the three focus countries. In endorsing the establishment of the CPAF, each has agreed to submit proposals to increase funding for the preservation of their natural treasure . Critically, they have also agreed to provide at least 50% of the funding—assuring local “ownership”—of the programs. The CPAF will supply on an ongoing basis the balance. As a by-product, we hope to promote this nascent regional dialogue. Indeed the German government's contribution to the CPAF was made in the context of its Caucasus Initiative which encourages cross-border cooperation and contributes to conflict prevention.

The CPAF is actively seeking to broaden its donor base to enable to fulfill its promise in this vital region.

For more, visit our web-site at: www.caucasus-naturefund.org