

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF)  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA  
Medium-Size Project Brief**



<b>Title:</b>	Recovery, Conservation, and Sustainable Use of Georgia's Agrobiodiversity
<b>Country:</b>	Georgia
<b>Duration:</b>	5 years (2004-2008)
<b>UNDP (Sub) Sector:</b>	Environment
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Management arrangement:</b>	NGO execution
<b>GEF Implementing Agency:</b>	UNDP
<b>Project Implementing partner:</b>	ELKANA
<b>Starting Date:</b>	May 2004

<b>UNDP and Cost Sharing (in US\$)</b>	
UNDP Managed Funds UNDP/GEF	<b>962,408</b>
Parallel financing: Elkana	<b>1,716,800</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT:</b>	<b>2,679,208</b>

**Summary:**

The project's long-term goal is the conservation and sustainable utilization of globally threatened varieties important to food and agriculture. The project will be executed by the Association ELKANA, an established NGO that provides technical, distribution and marketing support to organic farmers. ELKANA provides its own distribution network (Georgia and abroad) and marketing unit and provides credit lines to its member farmers. The UNDP/GEF project finances the extension of ELKANA's technical, distribution, marketing and financial services to farmers that use the threatened and globally important varieties targeted by this project. The Project Steering Committee, composed of representatives from UNDP, Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, local government, academic and NGO sectors will oversee project activities and filter all the deliverables produced by ELKANA.

The project has two immediate objectives. The first is the on-farm conservation of selected local crop and fruit varieties in Samtskhe-Javakheti, historically the main granary of Georgia. The second is to develop and implement a strategy for replication of best practices and lessons learned in conservation and utilization of local agricultural biodiversity to other Georgian regions.

The project will: (i) establish sources of primary seed and planting material for the threatened local crops and fruit varieties; (ii) strengthen farmers' own organizational structures (Farmers Associations) as main vehicles for production and distribution of seed and planting material and experience sharing; (iii) assist farmers in accessing traditional and organic markets in Georgia and abroad; (iv) enhance access to information on local agricultural biodiversity to farmers, authorities, research stations, donors and other stakeholders and promote information sharing among them. Finally, the project will ensure that best practices from project activities in Samtskhe-Javakheti are replicated to other regions of Georgia.