



Further Animal Movement Route Development & Water Provision for Migrating Animals

A REPORT ON THE INSTALLATION OF WATER POINTS
AND DEVELOPMENT OF A 7TH BIOSECURITY POINT ON
THE ANIMAL MOVEMENT ROUTE IN GEORGIA

2020

Access to water for seasonally migrating livestock has been a critical issue related to transhumance for decades. Without sufficient water, the animals are placed under stress and their condition declines during transit.. In addition to the water points created at existing Biosecurity points (BSP's) several critical stretches of the routes were in urgent need of water points for the provision of water to migrating animals.

A major challenge however to the creation of water points was land ownership and the difficulty of obtaining water at critical sites, hence the reason why the issue had not been solved before. For addressing the above mentioned issue, a multi stakeholder initiative was developed. With the involvement of shepherds, seven locations for installing water points on the AMR were marked in 2019. Due to severe challenges related to land transfer and water supply detailed overleaf, it was decided to proceed with the installation of four water points, which were feasible. The ALCP, the Ministry of Environmental Protection & Agriculture and the National Food Agency (NFA) developed a project for building four water points at critical locations on the route. The process also included cooperation with the National Agency of State Property (NASP), Georgian Melioration, the United Water Supply Company of Georgia and the Georgian Shepherds Association.

Four water points for migrating animals have now been finalized on the AMR in Kakheti - Udabno village, Dedoplistskaro, Patara Shiraki and Patardzeuli village. Up to 500,000 heads of sheep and cattle will benefit from a new water point during the transhumance season¹. The total cost of the project was 23,175 USD. In addition to the four water points, further development of the AMR has included the registration of a 22 km, unofficial route in Dedoplistskaro municipality, used for livestock seasonal migration for decades, as the part of the official AMR protecting 297 ha land from sales and the building of a seventh BSP in Mskheta Tianeti.

The ALCP and the NFA signed a co-financing agreement where the ALCP financed the four water points and the engineering plans for 7th BSP (61,104 GEL/ 24%), while the NFA invested in the construction cost of the 7th BSP and maintenance cost of the water points (188 620 GEL/ 76%). The 7th BSP will be open for the spring 2021 movement.

CONDUCTED WORKS AND BUDGET OF EACH WATER POINT

Water Point	Water Source Infrastructure Before	What was done	Cost (USD)
Udabno village	NO	The land ownership passed to the NFA Water supply arranged, a new trough and water storage installed, the area was graveled	7,875
Dedoplistskaro BSP	NO	Water supply arranged, new trough installed, the area was graveled	9,350
Patara Shiraki	Yes	The land parcel registered as AMR, The land ownership passed to the NFA New water trough installed, the area was graveled	4,870
Patardzeuli village	Yes	Access to water trough arranged, graveled	1,080
			23,175 USD

NOTE: One of the points out of four, in Dedoplistskaro², is next to the exiting Biosecurity Point (BSP), which had no water point before. In 2016, when the BSP was constructed by the government, the NFA could not obtain permission from the United Water Supply Company for water provision at the site. Therefore, the BSP was constructed without a water point. The NFA had to truck in water. In summer 2020, the ALCP successfully facilitated the relevant entities to obtain water provision to site. The new water point as well as the BSP now has permanent water supply.

¹ Water points location and approximate number of animals going through the points during transhumance

- Udabno village, Sagarejo – 500 000;
- Patardzeuli village, Sagarejo - 500000
- Dedoplistskaro municipality - 100, 000
- Patara Shiraki, Dedoplistskaro municipality - 150, 000

² Financed in totality by the Government.

FACILITATION TIMELINE

March 2019 – The issue of access to water on the AMR & animal welfare was discussed at the ALCP Advisory Committee meeting. The programme expressed its readiness to invest in the development of the water points where accessibility of water was essential during livestock transhumance. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture approved the initiative and further partnership. The need for a 7th BSP in Mskheta Tianeti was also brought up by shepherds at the meetings.

April-May 2019 – The programme conducted field visits and consultations with the shepherds to agree the locations of the points. As a result, **seven locations** were identified in Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions: Udabno village, Dedoplistskaro, Patara Shiraki and Patardzeuli village, Iagluja mountain, Tsintskaro village and Kasristskali village

May 2019 - An engineer was contracted by the programme to prepare plans for the water points with budgeting for each location

June-July 2019 – Meetings were conducted with MEPA, the NFA, the Georgian Shepherds Association (GSA), the National Agency of State Property (NASP), the Georgian Melioration company and the United Water Supply Company (UWSC) of Georgia to agree details including the water provision for each point

September 2019 – The procedures for transferring ownership of six land parcels marked for allocation of the water points from the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MOE) to the NFA was started³. Dedoplistskaro BSP land parcel was already owned by the NFA.

In October 2019 –The ownership of three land parcels was transferred from the MOE to the NFA. While, the remaining three parcels was delayed for an unknown time. Hence, not to deter the entire ongoing processes, it was decided, to sign a grant agreement for developing those water points that were feasible to be done – in total four: Udabno village, Dedoplistskaro, Patara Shiraki and Patardzeuli village water points

November 2020 – A 22 km, unofficial route in Patara Shiraki (Shiraki pastures), Dedoplistskaro municipality, used for livestock seasonal migration for decades, was registered as the part of the official the AMR and therefore 297 ha land is now protected from sale according to the current regulations.

January 19 2020 – A quadrilateral MOU was signed between the ALCP, MEPA, the NFA and the GSA defining the basics of cooperation, between the parties on improving the AMR and supporting seasonal livestock migration. A Grant Agreement was signed with the NFA, according to which the ALCP is financing four water points in Udabno village, Dedoplistskaro, Patara Shiraki and Patardzeuli village and the engineering plans for 7th BSP (61,104 GEL), and the NFA is investing in construction cost of the 7th BSP and maintenance of the water points (188 620 GEL)

February 2020 - A construction company was contracted by the programme to develop the water points for the spring transhumance season, however COVID19 outbreak and the State of Emergency situation delayed the planned works until June 2020

June 2020 – The ALCP facilitated the NFA to obtain permission from the United Water Supply Company for the Dedoplistskaro BSP water point and BSP. Permission was granted.

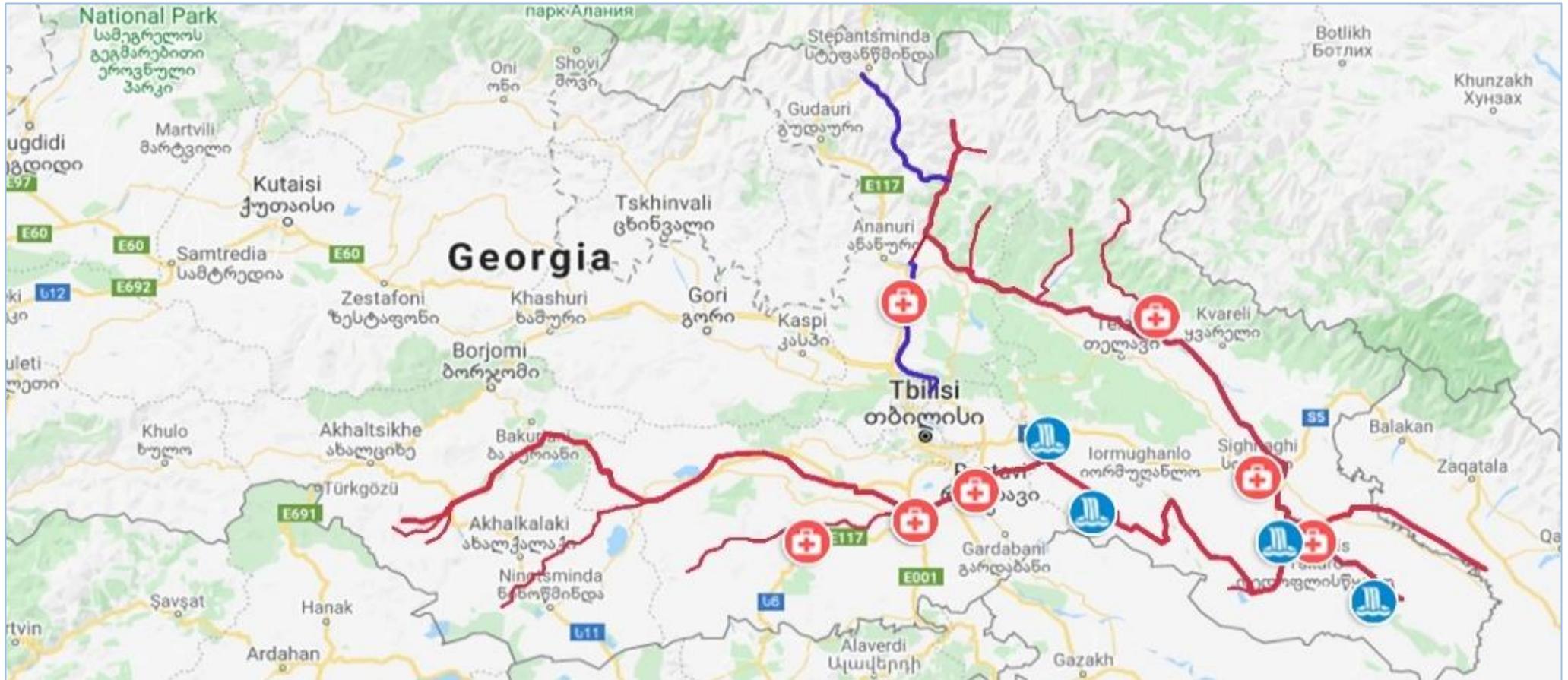
July 2020 – The water points in Patara Shiraki, Dedoplistskaro and Patardzeuli village were completed

August 2020 – The works of preventing mud aggregation around the water points were planned including placing a geotextile membrane layer and gravel.

September 2020 – all four water points are finalized and ready for the new transhumance season, which is officially starting from October 1, 2020. *Please see Annex 1: photos of the water points.* Construction of the 7th BSP is ongoing and will be ready for the 2021 seasonal spring movement.

³ The NFA was identified as the relevant stakeholder being responsible for the maintenance of points. Therefore, for investing and signing the grant agreement with the agency, the land parcels marked for allocation of the water points had to become the property of the MEPA/ the NFA

MAP OF THE BSP S AND WATER POINTS OF THE AMR



The map is available online at the following link: [Water Points & BSPs](#)

As mentioned above, transferring the ownership of three land parcels out of seven locations marked for allocation of the water points was delayed. Water on these three locations Iagluja mountain, Tsintskaro village and Kasristskali village, also remains a critical challenge:

WATER POINT ON IAGLUJA MOUNTAIN: PROHIBITIVE COST OF WATER PROVISION

During transhumance, when passing through the Iagluja mountain, the migrating animals have no access to water for 20 km distance. With the involvement of shepherds an optimal location for developing a water point was marked in spring 2019. The nearest water source was identified –irrigation canal Khrami, that was 6 km from the marked point. The ALCP applied to the Georgian Melioration, the state LTD, which is the owner of the irrigation canal, to calculate the approximate cost of water provision project to Iagluja mountain. According to the outline provided by the company, the cost of water provision to Iagluja mountain will be **823,470 GEL**.



WATER POINT IN TETRITSKARO VILLAGE, TETRITSKARO MUNICIPALITY: DIFFICULTY IN TRANSFERRING LAND PARCEL

The location for developing a water point was marked in Tsintskaro village as well in spring 2019 and the ALCP was ready to invest, however the National Agency of State Property did not satisfy the request of transferring ownership of land parcels marked for allocation of the water point from the MOE to the NFA. As the programme was informed, there is natural recourse of basalt at the marked location and therefore additional permissions, discussion and long-term procedures are necessary to transfer this particular location. However, finding an alternative place near the marked place as well as continuing facilitation of the NASP will make development of the water point in Tsintskaro village feasible.

WATER POINT IN KASRISTSKALI VILLAGE, AKHMETA MUNICIPALITY: DIFFICULTY IN TRANSFERRING LAND PARCEL

The land parcel marked for allocation of the water point in Kasristskali village in spring 2019, appeared to be the property of Akhmeta self-government, leased to Tushuli Sheep Breeding LTD for several years. As the land is not the property of the MOE, the NASP could not transfer the land ownership to the NFA. Separation of a small part of the land from the leased parcel and negotiation with Akhmeta self-government may be an option for developing the water point in Kasristskali village

**Udabno Village Water Point.
Budget: 7,875 USD**



Dedoplistskaro Village Water Point
Budget: 9,350 USD



Patara Shiraki Water Point

Budget: 4,870 USD



Patardzeuli Village Water Point

Budget: 1,080 USD

