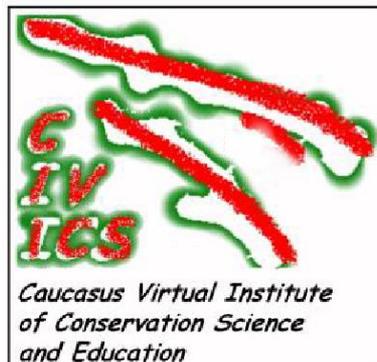


# Caucasus Virtual Institute of Conservation Science and Education (CIVICS):

**Socio-economic Tools for  
Integrated Conservation Planning  
in the Multi-Ethnic South Caucasus**

## Spring School Project Introduction & German Partners

**[09:00-10:30 hrs]**



**Dr. Johanna Schott, Dr. Jan Barkmann**

**5 March 2012, Tbilisi, Georgia**

# Part I

## Introductions



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN

Department for Agricultural Economics and Rural Development  
Environmental & Resource Economics

5 March 2012

# Project partners present

- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
  - Dr. Jan Barkmann (project leader, Env. & Res. Economics, GAUG)
  - Dr. Johanna Schott (co-ordinator, Env. & Res. Economics, GAUG)
  - Dr. Stefan Schwarze (senior scientist; Rural Development, GAUG)
  - Dr. Bernd Gehlken (senior scientist; Conservation Science, GAUG)
  - Talin Katalas (junior scientist, Env. & Res. Economics, GAUG)
- Teheran University
  - Prof. Dr. Emilia Nercissians (Social Sciences)
- Caucasian project partners introduced by Gia Abramia



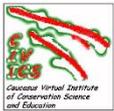
# Project Partners not present

- available for research advice
  - may participate in later meetings
- Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
  - Prof. Dr. Renate Bürger-Arndt (Conservation Science, GAUG)
  - Prof. Dr. Oliver Mußhoff (Agricultural Management, GAUG)
  - Prof. Dr. Stephan v. Cramon (Agricultural Policy, GAUG)
- Universität Kassel
  - Prof. Dr. Vogtmann (Organic Agricultural Production)
    - former president of German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz, BfN)



# Dr. Johanna Schott

- Studied Arabic, French and Economics (Diploma), University of Applied Sciences, Bremen (Germany)
- Tropical and International Agriculture (M.Sc.), University of Göttingen (Germany)
- Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, University of Göttingen
  - Farmers' Preferences for Credit Systems in Georgia
- Three years training and research in Syria, Morocco, Madagascar and Georgia
- Current position: Scientific coordinator, University of Göttingen
  - Interests: Agriculture in the Caucasus, cooperatives, development sociology, gender studies, linguistics, history
  - Project: Institutional analysis, qualitative interviews



# Dr. Jan Barkmann

- trained plant biologist, M.S. in Botany
    - Kiel University (Germany), University of Maine (USA)
  - PhD at Kiel University's Ecology Center
    - Modelling and Indication of Sustainable Landscape Development
  - since 2003 at GAUG
    - deputy research group leader Env. & Res. Economics
    - interests: biodiversity protection and land use in/around protected areas, ecological risk insurance, ecosystem services, willingness-to-pay surveys (Choice Experiments: CE),
- ➔ at spring school: conservation vs. agriculture, modelling of agricultural production/land use, CEs, integrated project assessment



# Prof. Dr. Emilia Nercessians

- Sc. Ethnolinguistics - Salford University (England)
- MS. and Ph.D. Sociology of Education - Century University (USA)
- since 1990 Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Sociology, University of Tehran
- Tenure track Assistant Professor
- Head of Department of Anthropology
- Interests
  - Rural Anthropology
  - Anthropology of Gender
  - Semiotics
  - Ethnolinguistics



# Dr. Stefan Schwarze

- MSc in International Agriculture; specialization in Agricultural Marketing
  - Humboldt University Berlin
- PhD at Georg-August University Göttingen
  - Determinants of activity choice of rural households in Indonesia
- since 2003 Assistant Professor at GAUG
  - Chair of Food Economics and Rural Development
  - interests: economic-ecological trade-offs; technology adoption of farmers; impact of technology adoption on income, poverty and food security
- → at spring school: quantitative methods for livelihood analysis



# Dr. Bernd Gehlken

• ...



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# Talin Katalas

- M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics at University of Göttingen
- Master thesis about Attitudes of Armenian citizen towards Nature and Predator
- Since 2012 PhD Student at the chair of Nature and Resource Economics of the University of Göttingen
- → In the project responsible for Choice Experiment and part of the research group



# Part II

## The Project



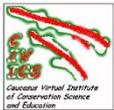
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# How it came to be...

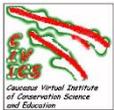
- publication of project call: 22 June 2010
- BMBF: German Ministry of Education and Reserach
- „Establishment of contacts for partnerships in science, research and education“
  - „Pilot measure with Countries of Central Asia and of South Caucasus“
  - max. 2 years
- PhD research of J. Schott in Georgia
- initial project idea J. Barkmann with J. Schott
  - *stronger socio-economics focus on conservation issues is needed*



# Supportive Initial Contacts

- Mr. Weitzel, KfW
  - German Funding Agency for new protected areas in GE, AR & AZ
  - welcomed research on socio-economic issues regarding KfW-supported projects
  - facilitated contact to Transboundary Joint Secretariat
- Johanna's contacts
  - Vakhtang Shelia, ICFER (Tbilisi/GE)
    - ➔ Gia Abramia ➔ Vugar Babayev (GABA, Ganja/AZ),  
George Zedginidze (Georgian Vice Minister for Environmental  
Protection and Natural Resources)
  - Vardan Urutyanyan, ICARE (Erevan/AR)
    - ➔ Nune Sarukhanyan (REC Armenia Office)

**➔ We handed in application at Sept. 15, 2010**



# Long time of waiting...

- no decision by BMBF from Sept. 2010 to Dec. 2010



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# Long time of waiting...

- no decision by BMBF from Sept. 2010 to Dec. 2010
- no decision by BMBF from Jan. 2011 to Mar. 2011



# Long time of waiting...

- no decision by BMBF from Sept. 2010 to Dec. 2010
- no decision by BMBF from Jan. 2011 to Mar. 2011
- no decision by BMBF from Apr. 2011 to June 2011



# Long time of waiting...

- no decision by BMBF from Sept. 2010 to Dec. 2010
- no decision by BMBF from Jan. 2011 to Mar. 2011
- no decision by BMBF from Apr. 2011 to June 2011
- ... we had nearly given up on the project...
- July 14, 2011
  - good news: project MAY be funded
  - BUT: long list of reviewer request

**➔ We handed in updated proposal in August 2011**

# Long time of waiting...

- no decision by BMBF from Aug. 2011 to Oct. 2011
- Nov. 8, 2011
  - good news: project is approved
  - bad news:
    - funding agency cut the project budget from ~150 k€ to effectively 100 k€ ☹

## ➔ Late approval in combination with most awkward cuts nearly let us reject the project.

- complete re-calculation of project incl. moving „summer school“ in Göttingen to „spring school“ in Tbilisi
- Finally, we accepted the project contract but we have to be **less ambitious** in our goals.

# Main Project Idea

- The South Caucasus is an politically, ethnically, religiously, and socially highly complex area.
  - Biodiversity conservation can worsen social conflicts.
    - Strictly protected areas deprive inhabitants using local natural resources of important income sources.
    - Often the utilisation of natural resources is not uniform but certain groups are more negatively affected than others.
    - Social conflicts between these groups may worsen.
- ➔ For KfW-supported projects, we want to make sure that conservation *reduces* conflicts.
- ➔ needs early detection and quantification of socio-economic impacts of protected area management

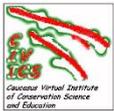
# Main Components

- spring school
- 2x2 case studies
  - Javakheti (GE)
  - Lake Arpi (AR)
  - Zaqatala (AZ)
  - Lagodheki (GE)
- CIVICS (➔ later)



# Case Study Research

1. establish contacts, literature analysis
2. prepare draft of survey instruments (spring school)
  - interview guides, household survey, preference survey
3. short field trip in March 2012
4. Field phase 1: qualitative interviews with farmers and officials, testing survey instruments, pilot studies
5. Analysis phase 1: improve instruments, first analyses, first (more general) paper
6. Field phase 2: ca. 4 x 100 interviews
7. Analysis phase 2: quantitative analyses, trade-off analysis, final paper on integrated conservation planning,
8. results prepared for CIVICS



# Overview of Work Packages

WP1: Research Infrastructure, local administrative services,  
CIVICS set up (Shelia/Abramia)

WP2: Economic analysis of agriculture, animal husbandry and  
forestry (Musshoff/Schwarze)

WP3: Sustainable Livelihood Analysis  
(Schwarze/Nercessians/Schott)

WP4: Stated Preferences for Conservation Planning Options  
(Barkmann/Katalas)

WP5: Integrated Conservation Planning (Bürger-  
Arndt/Gehlken/Barkmann)



# WP1: Research Infrastructure ...

- administrative tasks
  - spring school, kick-off, transportation ...
- acquisition of data sources
  - maps, GIS, statistics, grey literature ...
- set up CIVICS (WIKIVERSITY)
  - make front end
  - supervise input of local language materials

# WP2: Economic analysis of agriculture ...

- quantitative survey after some qualitative pre-studies
- analyse agricultural activities:
  - growing grains, vegetables, tree crops and grapes
  - dairy and other animal husbandry
  - forestry activities
  - non-farm income (→ WP3)
- resource inputs (labour, cash, land), outputs (products sold and self-consumed)
- cross-sectional recall study
- descriptive and causal analysis, production function analysis

# WP 3: Sustainable Livelihood Analysis

- complements the purely economic focus of WP2
- livelihood based on availability of „capital“
  - human capital (household members, education, skills)
  - social capital (inclusion in governmental or social society organisations, private networks)
  - financial capital (sources of cash and credit, legal entitlements)
  - physical capital (tools, equipment)
  - access to **natural capital** (location and quality of land owned or otherwise available, herd sizes)
- also includes institutional setting of household activities

# WP4: Stated Preferences

- understand stakeholder reactions to impacts of conservation options
- qualitative pre-studies:
  - short list (4-5) of restrictions and benefits from conservation options
    - availability of summer and winter pastures, permitted level of forest use, changes in non-farm income opportunities
  - may have to be differentiated for case study areas
- develop Choice Experiment „attributes“ from restrictions and benefits
  - stated preferences method
  - people *state* their willingness-to-pay or willingness-to-accept compensation
- calculate „shadow prices“ of conservation options

## Integrated Conservation Planning

- analyse present state of conservation planning in case study areas
  - KfW, WWF, National Ministries, ...
  - focus on integration of human dimension
- manage the spatial component of social science data
  - household location, areas of resource access
- synthesize overall results
  - impact of land use restrictions and of additional income options
    - for differing social groups
    - for a small set of „typical“ households
- derive alternative planning options („scenarios“)
  - compare results for current options and alternative scenarios

# CIVICS: Caucasus Virtual Institute of Conservation Science and Education

- uses the WIKIVERSITY platform (Web 2.0)
- dedicated homepage (front end)
- purpose
  - strengthen long term impact of project
  - increase the communication with project participants
  - include actors beyond current project participants
- functionality
  - present educational material
  - presents methods, data and results of the field research
  - showcase organizations, share information and provide examples of successful conservation and development work in the region



# Timeline

- Johanna, hier evtl. noch einmal den aktuellen Zeitplan.



**Thank you very much for your  
attention!**



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