**1.The Project Special Protected Areas (SPAs) for birds in Georgia was implemented in Georgia by the Ilia State University with support of GIZ.**

The association agreement between Georgia and the European Union, signed on 27 June 2014, includes obligations regarding the implementation of the following two EU directives relevant for the conservation of biological diversity:

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds

According to the association agreement Georgia is obliged to establish a network of Emerald and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and to initiate priority management measures within four years after signing of the association agreement.

The objective of the Ilia State University is to support the Biodiversity Protection Service of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in the selection of candidates to be nominated as **Special Protected Areas for Birds (SPAs).** In particular, Ilia State University implemented following project activities:

Identified candidate Special Protected Areas for Birds (as future Emerald sites)

Performed baseline study for each individual candidate SPA (biodiversity-georgia.net/SPA)

Prepared of maps of each SPA (biodiversity-georgia.net/SPAmaps)

Developed a monitoring scheme of the SPAs

Produced SPA monitoring manual

Prepared database for monitoring data

Trained stakeholders in monitoring methods

Performed monitoring of 3 selected pilot SPAs

Updated checklist of Bird species of Georgia (biodiversity-georgia.net/aves )

Produced web page for the SPAs for birds

There were identified 24 SPA and for each site there are identified species which use these sites during their migrations and the different stages of life. There are many AEWA species among them.

**2.The Rufford Foundation supported the project on Study of Velvet Scoter population in Georgia**.

The project was implemented by the Ilia State University scientists. After obtaining the initial basic data, the project is planned to be continued by monitoring of Velvet Scoter and cooperation with stakeholders to reduce the identified threats.