

## Annual Report: YEAR

### 1. Administrative Details

1.1 - Name of National Committee: Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield

1.2 - Date Report Completed: 30.03.2021

1.3 - Reporting period covered: January 2020-January 2021

1.4 - Names, positions and emails of all those who were the governing body/ trustees / principal officers on the date the report was approved or who served during in the reporting period:

Teona Iashvili – Director General of the National Archive of Georgia - [tiashvili@archives.gov.ge](mailto:tiashvili@archives.gov.ge)

Irakli Gharibashvili – Director of the National Scientific Library of Georgia - [igar@hotmail.com](mailto:igar@hotmail.com)

Inga Karaia – President of ICOM Georgia [ingakaraia@gmail.com](mailto:ingakaraia@gmail.com)

Nato Tsintsabadze – President of ICOMOS Georgia [tsintsabadze@icomos.org.ge](mailto:tsintsabadze@icomos.org.ge)

Merab Bochoidze – Chair of Institute for Preservation of Cultural Heritage Monuments and Sites (NGO) [merab.bochoidze@gmail.com](mailto:merab.bochoidze@gmail.com)

Maryam Kalkhitashvili, Fina Art Conservation Specialist, GNCBS secretariat – [Maryam.blueshield@gmail.com](mailto:Maryam.blueshield@gmail.com)

Michael Davitashvili, Financial Manager, GNCBS secretariat – [mishodav@gmail.com](mailto:mishodav@gmail.com)

Lasha Shartava, Conservation Architect, [lasharva@gmail.com](mailto:lasharva@gmail.com)

Irakli Kobulia - Geographer / DRM Consultant - [irakli.kobulia@gmail.com](mailto:irakli.kobulia@gmail.com)

Lela Ninoshvili - Stone and wall painting conservator, [leloninoshvili@gmail.com](mailto:leloninoshvili@gmail.com)

1.5 - Address of the main office:

Akaki Tsereteli Ave. 72, Tbilisi, Georgia

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1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

<http://blueshield.ge>

<https://www.facebook.com/blueshieldgeorgia>

<https://twitter.com/blueshieldgeo>

<https://www.instagram.com/blueshieldgeorgia/>

1.7 – Email the Blue Shield email should forward to: [info@blueshield.ge](mailto:info@blueshield.ge) or [manana@blueshield.ge](mailto:manana@blueshield.ge)

## 2. Income:

What is the total income of your committee? What are the primary sources? (Donations, grants, etc?)

The total income for the year 2020 was 90.000 USD (grant from Aliph Foundation)

## 3. Report of Activities: Achievements & Performance

Explain the activities & projects carried out over the year under the Areas of Activity

The annual report should tell the story of the organisation and put into context what was achieved in the reporting year against the achievement of its longer-term strategy. The annual report under this section should Provide a clear review of the organisation’s performance for the relevant year as well showing how the current year’s strategic performance links to the achievement of the longer-term strategy of the organisation.

These could include: grants applied for; talks given; conferences held; training courses run; work to support new legislation; working groups attended, etc.

Please provide as much detail as possible – for example, length of event, audience, and so on.

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

In conjunction with the project “Planning for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Gori” funded by the Aliph Foundation (Duration: 23 months – March 2020 to February 2022, Total budget: \$156,675 ) an interagency roundtable meeting was held, which amongst other issues, discussed about the needs for developing detailed policies and guidelines for the emergency services on how to deal with CP during disasters.

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### 3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

#### 3.2.1. Preventive Conservation Training

Within the Aliph funded project “Planning for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Gori” a 2-day training was held in Gori during June 29th - July 1st. The training targeted museum professionals from all regional museums from the Shida Karti region (12 museums) and included 20 participants.

It was conducted by the invited consultant from the Georgian National Museum, Ms. Nino Kitovani in close collaboration with the project coordinator, Ms. Maryam Kalkhitashvili. The main topics included: What is preventive conservation? Types of museum artifacts, Aging and behaviour characteristics of various organic and inorganic materials, damaging agents in museum environment; Setting up storage and exposition spaces; Adequate display and storage conditions for museum collections; Health and safety (of collections and employees); Hazards and risks and preventive measures for protecting the collections from them. Handling the collections (display, wrapping and moving); Ms. Kalkhitashvili also gave a presentation on preservation materials (for storage, wrapping, moving, emergency preparedness), how and where to buy, practical tips, contacts of international and local suppliers. The training included practical sessions: the participants undertook evaluation of storage conditions of the artifacts at Gori museum (they were divided in three groups, to evaluate different components such as building, environmental conditions and state of preservation of one selected artifact); Participants also undertook practical exercise in handling, wrapping and moving of the collections.

#### 3.2.2. Translation of FAC Handbook and Toolkit

GNCBS applied to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia for a translation grant and translated the ICCROM FIRST AID TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS Handbook and Toolkit into Georgia. The editing of the material is underway and GNCBS will apply for another grant to print it.

#### 3.1.3. Public Lectures in Berlin

The Chair of GNCBS, Manana Tevzadze held two public lectures in Berlin during March 2-3<sup>rd</sup> on the invitation of World Heritage Watch. The topics discussed were Conservation and Management Challenges of World Heritage Sites of Georgia and the Threats from Tourism.

#### 3.1.4. Conference Paper about CPP in Georgia’s occupied territories

Together with Dr. Emma Cunliffe from the University of Newcastle and UKBS, the chair of GNCBS, Manana Tevzadze submitted a conference paper to an international conference – *Cultural Heritage Preservation on Occupied Territories: Georgia and an International Experience* to be held in Georgia during 24-15th of June, 2021 instead of 2020.

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### 3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

#### 3.3.1. Training in handling and packing of the collections of Gori Museum of History and Ethnography

The GNCBS team held a voluntary 1-day training for the staff of Gori Museum of History and Ethnography in handling and packing of the collections. As a result of the renovation works starting at the museum, the need for packing and moving parts of the museum exhibition became imminent. The project team saw the need and offered the museum management a training in handling and packing of the collections. The training was planned and carried out with the help of the preventive conservation expert from Georgian National Museum. It targeted Gori museum staff (8 persons) responsible for the collections. GNCBS team helped with the selection of suitable and affordable material that was available for direct purchase on the local market, bought and delivered it to the museum. The actual packing and moving, as well as protecting large display cases and storage cabinets was undertaken by the museum team alone following the above training. Following the training, in total, the staff packed and stored away 420 artifacts.

#### 3.3.2. Building Survey of Gori Museum of History and Ethnography

Geophysical survey and structural and geological study of the Gori Museum building's foundation were undertaken. The geophysical survey was undertaken by visual inspection of the building's interior and exterior perimeter, onsite study and analysis of the load-bearing structural elements.

#### 3.3.3. Documentation of Collections of the Gori Museum of History and Ethnography

As part of the Disaster Risk Preparedness component of the GNCBS implemented project "Planning for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Gori", about 3700 photo prints and negatives were scanned and 2000 inventory cards were completed and entered in the online programme. The team organized a one-day training in using the cultural heritage database management system and GIS portal led by National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (NACHPG) staff.

#### 3.3.4. Publication of INSIGHT – Participatory Game Manual

As part of the the project undertaken in 2019 in partnership with ICCROM "Development of Community Centred Tools for Sustaining Cultural Heritage and Building Disaster Resilience" GNCBS members participated in the creation of a participatory game manual "Capturing Community Held Knowledge for Disaster Resilience and Sustaining Heritage" available in English under this link: [https://www.iccrom.org/sites/default/files/Insights\\_FINAL-LAYOUT\\_131020.pdf](https://www.iccrom.org/sites/default/files/Insights_FINAL-LAYOUT_131020.pdf) The GNCBS team also edited and coordinated the translation and printing of the Insight Game in the Georgian language, available both on ICCROM and GNCBS websites: <https://blueshield.ge/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/InSight%20%20GEO%20Online%20Version.pdf>

One other outcome of this cooperation was the work on the joint publication – an article *Connecting heritage, vulnerabilities and capacities through a participatory game* which was published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction.

### 3.3.5. Temperature and Humidity survey in Gori Museum

Along with the other activities of the Aliph funded project in Gori, the GNCBS team is conducting a temperature and relative humidity survey in the exhibition halls and storages of the Gori Museum to inform the risk analysis as part of the DRM planning.

### 3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict:

### 3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

### 3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations):

#### 3.6.1. Cooperation with Georgia Red Cross Society

GNCBS cooperated with Georgia Red Cross Society withing the project “Bringing Cultural heritage into Humanitarian Agenda of Georgia” and held 2 voluntary trainings for a mixed group of Red Cross volunteers and cultural actors in two high risk zone towns of Georgia – Ambrolauri and Lentekhi in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region. The trainings were based on ICCROM’s FAC methodology and were conducted by FAC and ITC course alumni and GNCBS members – Manana Tevzadze, Maryam Kalkhitashvili and Irakli Kobulia.

#### 3.6.2. Coordination with state authorities and founding organisations

In the context of the ongoing project in Gori, the GNCBS has been in close coordination with the relevant organisations directly or indirectly responsible for policy making and implementation of CPP during disasters and crises.

#### 3.6.3. Cooperation with Research Institutions

GNCBS is serving as a partner and co-organizer of an international conference – *Cultural Heritage Preservation on Occupied Territories: Georgia and an International Experience* to be held in Georgia in June 2021 and organized by the The George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation.

## 4. **Main issues faced:**

What are the main issues faced by your committee?

GNCBS is facing lack of qualified and motivated specialists to engage in its activities, help with the fundraising, research, training and voluntary activities.

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## 5. Future goals

Describe future plans to achieve strategic goals

The short-term objectives are:

- Raise funds for a 5-year activity report that will be a public facing document and help with the evaluation of past activities and planning the future objectives and activities.;
- Continue fundraising for future activities.

In the longer term, GNCBS plans to continue existing as well as build new partnerships both locally and internationally in order to cooperate on topics of relevance for the organization:

- Improving Disaster Risk Management System for cultural heritage in Georgia;
- Support implementation of the Hague Convention and its protocols in Georgia;

## 6. Other

*Through its connection to Newcastle University, BSI is sometimes able to access funding that can be shared with research institutions to further the work of Blue Shield. Does your national committee have any connections with research institutions interested in its work (e.g. in risk management, heritage protection, etc.). If yes, please supply the names and contact details here.*

- 6.1. George Chubinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation, Dr. Tamar Belashvili, Director - tamarbelashvili@gmail.com
- 6.2. Ilia State University (there are many different research centres within the university that we cooperate with, so depending on the topic of research, we can liaison with the respective centre or faculty and provide more detailed contacts.)