### 1. Administrative Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1 - Name of National Committee</th>
<th>Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 - Date Report Completed</td>
<td>03.04.2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 - Reporting period covered</td>
<td>January 2022- December 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1.4 - Names, positions and emails| Manana Tevzadze - Chairperson,  
Rusudan Asatiani - President of the Georgian Library Association (member of IFLA) - (founding member)  
Nato Tsintsabadze – President of ICOMOS Georgia (founding member)  
Lana Karaia - President of ICOM Georgia (founding member)  
Michael Davitashvili, Financial Manager, GNCBS secretariat  
Tamar Sopromadze, Project Coordinator, GNCBS secretariat |
| 1.5 - Address of the main office  | Mepe Solomon Brdzeni #33, Tbilisi, Georgia    |
| 1.6 - Website and social media   | [http://blueshield.ge](http://blueshield.ge)  
[https://www.facebook.com/blueshieldgeorgia](https://www.facebook.com/blueshieldgeorgia)  
[https://twitter.com/blueshieldgeo](https://twitter.com/blueshieldgeo)  
[https://www.instagram.com/blueshieldgeorgia/](https://www.instagram.com/blueshieldgeorgia/)  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtP2IqhywOKDrO5l53BxmA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtP2IqhywOKDrO5l53BxmA) |
| 1.7 – Email the Blue Shield email should forward to: |
2. Income:

What is the total income of your committee? What are the primary sources? (Donations, grants, etc?) The total income for the year 2022 was **33,454 USD**

Our committee’s only source of income is grant funding.


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:

3.1.1 Finalizing the Report “Implementation of International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Occupied Tskhinvali Region” and the launch of the online database of the immovable cultural heritage sites of the Tskhinvali region

The report and the online database with a map-based visualization platform are the results of a joint project by the members of the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace, Newcastle University (UK), Blue Shield Georgia, and its local partner, Didi Liakhvi Valley Museum-Reserve implemented during 2018-2022.

The project was funded by the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) Impact Acceleration Account (IAA) Fund (reference ES/M500513/1) through Newcastle University.

The report and its annexes provide detailed information on the damages and threats to each site and the sources of information, further describing the actions undertaken by the national and international actors, followed by the recommendations for the implementation of international instruments to protect the cultural heritage of the Tskhinvali Region.

The presentation of the report was held in Tbilisi in November 2022. It was attended by representatives of higher educational institutions, ministries, the local government, NGOs, embassies and other interested public (About 60 persons in total). At the event, the public got presented with the findings of the research, as well as the instructions for operating the online map.
At the end of the event, guests had the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences on relevant topics.

The event was televised, three tv channels and one radio station made short news stories about the presentation, that included interviews with the chairperson of GNCBS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3.2.1. Civil Military Training</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Within the project funded by Aliph “Planning for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage of Gori” the four-day theoretical and practical training “Protection of Cultural Heritage during the Armed Conflict” was held on May 17-18 at the National Guard HQ in Tbilisi, and on May 19-20, at the Sergi Makalatia Historical-Ethnographic Museum in Gori. The training was led by International Blue Shield experts – Michael Delacruz and Emma Cunliffe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The training was attended by the representatives of the following local and national agencies: The National Guard; Gori Municipality; Administration of State Representative – Governor of Shida Kartli; Defense Police; Staff of six Shida Kartli museums; General Mazniashvili Youth Legion and Georgia Red Cross Society. Representatives of the EUMM, the ALIPH foundation, and national agencies attended the training as observers, 43 persons in total.</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the last day of the training a practical simulation took place. During the simulation exercise, the scenario of the impending armed conflict was played out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The training was televised by the local and national tv channels.</td>
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| **3.2.2. Publication of FAC Handbook and Toolkit** |
| GNCBS published the translation of the ICCROM FIRST AID TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS Handbook and Toolkit into Georgian, funded through a grant from the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia. The presentation of the publication was held in Tbilisi. It is available for download from GNCBS and ICCROM websites |
| [https://blueshield.ge/?page_id=5418&lang=en](https://blueshield.ge/?page_id=5418&lang=en) |

| **3.2.3. Video about the occupied heritage** |
| Blue Shield took part in the ninth episode of "Facebook VS Fakebook" series on "Myth Detector" Facebook page and palitravideo.ge. Video explained the threats to cultural heritage in the occupied regions, with example of Kulbiti Church in Disevi village, where a military base was built following the war. The video was aired in connection with the anniversary of the August 2008 Russian-Georgian war and stressed about the ongoing damage of the cultural heritage in the occupied... |
3.2.4 Geolocation seminar

At the invitation of the Media Development Fund, an NGO working on media literacy and against false news, GNCBS participated in the geolocation seminar. The participants of the seminar received information about the importance of using satellite footage for monitoring and protecting cultural heritage in the occupied territories.

3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

3.3.3. Finalizing a DRM plan for Gori Museum

In 2022 GNCBS together with the museum team finalized a DRM plan for the museum in Gori. This is the first DRM plan for a Cultural institution in Georgia. Results of the various studies (structural engineering and geological study of the building, assessment of the climate in the building, assessment of the collections of the museum, risk assessment, stakeholder questionnaire, etc.) were gathered and analyzed together with the outcomes of the workshops and meetings held with local and national stakeholders. The plan was approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs Department for Emergency Services.

3.3.4 Improving the storage conditions for up to 5,000 artifacts in Gori museum

Special, archival-quality storage boxes were made for 120 exhibits from the Collection of Manuscripts and Rare Editions and for up to 200 exhibits of special value. The museum was provided with essential materials and equipment for monitoring the museum environment, handling the exhibits, relocation, first aid and stabilization. The main storage room, which houses more than 4000 exhibits, was equipped with new shelving, hangers and wrapping and storing material.

3.3.5. Door-to-door interviews with 40 IDPs from the occupied Village Kekhvi in the Tskhinvali Region

In the framework of a Project “Protection of Intangible Heritage of Occupied Regions” implemented since March 2022, door-to-door interviews with 40 IDPs from the occupied Village Kekhvi were conducted. The goal of the interviews was to document the intangible heritage of this village community.

The project was made possible by Cultural Emergency Response Program grant (CER). The partners of the project are: Historical-Cultural Heritage Protection Center – a local NGO and the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Cultural Heritage Center (PennCHC).

3.3.6. Focus group meeting with the IDPs

In the framework of projects financed by the CER a focus group meeting with the IDPs was held at the Didi Liakhvi River Valley Museum-Reserve. Attendees were invited to share personal stories and
experiences about cultural heritage, family, traditions, celebrations, folk stories, toponyms, traditional crafts and other tangible and intangible heritage.

### 3.3.7. Seminar "The role of communities in the cultural heritage field"

In the framework of the project Preserving the Cultural Heritage of the Occupied Regions (Tskhinvali Region- PCHOR) Project funded by the US embassy in Georgia, Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield, together with the Penn Cultural Heritage Center (PennCHC), conducted a seminar - "The role of communities in the cultural heritage field".

The workshop was led by cultural anthropologists from the United States of America - Dr. Brian Daniels from Penn CHC and Grace Golden from the Artistic Freedom Initiative. Their presentation touched on the topic of community-based heritage protection in terms of cultural rights, the importance of working with local communities, and listening to and understanding their interests.

Members of the Blue Shield team shared their experience with the audience as well, they discussed the organization's past projects, that involved working with different heritage communities. Also, they talked about the current projects and the experience of working with the IDP community from the Tskhinvali region. The seminar was also attended online by interested citizens and professionals. They were given the opportunity to share their experiences and attitudes regarding the discussed topics.

### 3.3.8. Statement and appeal about the decision to demolish the Tskhinvali bridge

Blue Shield published the statement about the decision to demolish the historic bridge in occupied Tskhinvali. According to Russian and Ossetian media, the condition of the old bridge of Tskhinvali has been steadily deteriorating in recent years. Since 2019, the movement of freight transport on the bridge has been restricted. According to the de facto government, there was not enough money in the budget to restore the historic bridge, and there was no plan to build a new bridge in another place. An October 2022 article by the publication Эхо Кавказа stated that concrete barriers have been placed at the entrances to the bridge and preparations for dismantling the bridge were underway.

### 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. Coordination with international organizations

#### 3.6.1.1. Participation in ICOM General Conference

The Chair of Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield, and member of ICOM Georgia board and ICOM DRMC – Disaster Resilient Museums, Manana Tevzadze participated in the 26th ICOM GC in Prague. Within the #DRMC and #icomam joint session she presented a case from Gori, Georgia where with the help of Aliph Foundation Blue Shield Georgia implemented a project with the aim...
of enhancing disaster risk preparedness of the Sergi Makalatia Historic and Ethnographic Museum of Gori.

3.6.1.2. Cooperation with the ICRC

At the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Chair of Georgian National Committee of the Blue Shield participated in a military course on international humanitarian law held for senior officers of the Defense Forces of Georgia and gave a presentation on the Hague Convention and the BS movement.

3.6.3.1 Cooperation with European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)

GNCBS has had several meetings with the monitors of EUMM field offices in Mtskheta and Gori in charge of the human security issues regarding the heritage in the Tbilisi controlled as well as the occupied territories and about the possibilities for future collaboration.

3.6.2. Coordination with state authorities

3.6.2.1. Working meetings with state authorities in preparation for Civil-Military training

In March and April, two inter-agency planning meetings were held in preparation for the training. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following agencies: Gori Municipality city hall; Emergency Management Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Central and Regional); Ministry of Defense of Georgia; National Guard of the Defense Forces; Shida Kartli Regional Security Police Division and invited experts from Blue Shield International.

3.6.2.1. Blue Shield participated in field training “Racha-2022”

GNCBS participated in a joint field exercise by the Georgian National Guard and the Emergency Management Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. As part of the exercise, the team coordinated the emergency protection and evacuation of the imaginary cultural heritage (archaeological) site and moving the museum artifacts by the participants during the simulated forest fire.

3.6.3. Cooperation with NGOs based in Georgia

3.6.3.1. Joint statement of ICOMOS Georgia, ICOM Georgia and Blue Shield

Following the change of the statutes of the Georgian National Museum by the newly appointed Minister of Culture and the subsequent radical changes in the plans for rehousing of the collections and conservation of the building of Shalva Amiranashvili Museum of Fine Arts in Tbilisi, in collaboration with its founding organizations ICOMOS and ICOM Georgia, GNCBS prepared a joint open letter regarding the building of the Museum and its collections.

3.6.3.2. Information campaign against the start of planned construction in the immediate vicinity of Alaverdi Monastery
In early 2022 it became known through the media about the start of construction planned in the immediate vicinity of Alaverdi Monastery, a listed site of national importance. Blue Shield participated in drafting a joint statement concerning the news and participated in the information campaign against the construction by meeting relevant stakeholders and disseminating the news.

3.6.3.3. Partnership with ICOM Georgia on a grant proposal to support museum professionals in Ukraine

GNCBS jointly with ICOM Georgia prepared and submitted a project proposal under ICOM International special grants program for the support of Ukrainian museum workers and collections.

3.6.3.4. Heritage Platform

Together with ICOMOS Georgia and the National Trust of Georgia GNCBS started working on the Heritage Platform project.

The purpose of the Heritage Platform is to bring together non-governmental organizations operating in the cultural heritage field to promote heritage protection for the common good. The platform will be used by various civil organizations or initiative groups working in the field, whose voices are not clearly heard when it comes to the pressing issues of heritage. It will also be a space for sharing challenges and successful experiences. The Platform will become active in 2023.

4. Main issues faced:

What are the main issues faced by your committee?

In the reporting year, GNCBS faced difficulties communicating with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Georgia and the National Agency for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage of Georgia. As key partners and stakeholders in the project dealing with DRM in Gori Museum, these agencies were planned to participate in the interagency civil-military training on cultural heritage protection in times of armed conflict. Despite numerous communication efforts, the agencies did not respond and the training was planned and implemented without their involvement.

Due to the lack of structural funding, GNCBS is not able to maintain regular staff that can engage in its activities, undertake fundraising, research, training and voluntary activities.

In the reporting year, one of the main issues has been the lack of communication with the Ministry of Culture, which has not been answering any of our correspondence.
### 5. Future goals

Describe future plans to achieve strategic goals

- Continue fundraising for future activities in the six areas of activity;
- Collaborate with existing partners and donors and seek further partnership for developing a curriculum for cultural heritage management study course

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.*

- George Chabinashvili National Research Centre for Georgian Art History and Heritage Preservation, Dr. Tsitsino Chachkhunashvili, Senior Researcher
- 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 liaise with the respective centre or faculty and provide more detailed contacts.)