

## Project Update: June 2012

A field survey team including volunteers has finished the nationwide otter survey for this season. In total, 387 sites were checked for otter presence. Also more than 200 potential sites were evaluated. During the fieldwork, fish ponds were mapped in our GIS database. Fish pond owners and guards were interviewed in order to estimate level of conflict.

This month was mainly used to check otter presence in high mountains, where road access will be closed during the autumn and winter. These regions mainly include Svaneti, Khevsureti and Tusheti.

A package of recommendations and mitigation measures to reduce human-predator conflict elaborated during the previous project were shared with fish farm owners. A leaflet on otter ecology and conservation, prepared during the previous project, were reprinted and disseminated among the stakeholders as well as local school children. T-shirts with otter drawings were prepared and shared during the presentations in Tbilisi and regional public and private schools.

