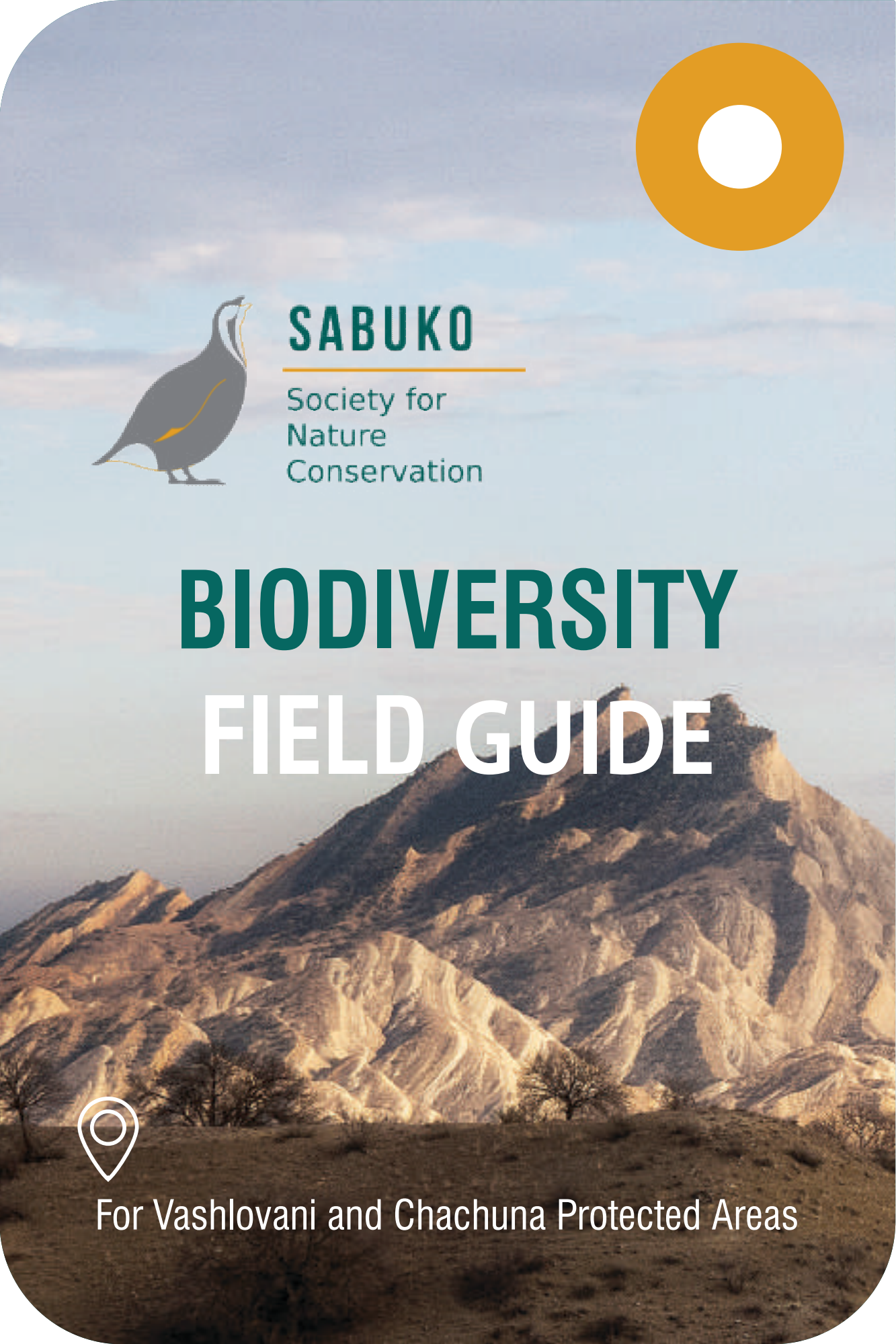

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD GUIDE

For Vashlovani and Chachuna Protected Areas

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

National Red List: categories are listed with the following abbreviations (the abbreviation is the same according to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN):**

EX = Extinct

EW = Extinct in the Wild

CR = Critically Endangered

EN = Endangered

VU = Vulnerable

NT = Near Threatened

LC = Least Concern

DD = Data Deficient

NE = Not Evaluated

RE = Regionally Extinct

The national statuses of the species in the field hornet are determined by the 2014 resolution of the Government of Georgia - on the approval of the "RED LIST OF GEORGIA".

Eastern Imperial Eagle

© Nika Budagashvili

Aquila heliaca

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: A large bird of prey with a hooked beak. Adults have white shoulders/backs. Young people have a golden color, which changes with age.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Eastern Georgia, Iori and Mtkvari floodplains, as well as surrounding agricultural areas. During the migration period, it can be found in the regions of Georgia as well.

THREATS:

Power line collisions, poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

White-tailed Eagle

Haliaeetus albicilla

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Endangered (EN)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Adult birds have massive yellow hooked beaks and white tails. Young individuals are darker and less distinct in coloration. White and brown coloration prevails, which changes depending on the years.They feed on fish and waterfowl. They live in forests near water bodies, they make nests on large trees.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It can be found both in eastern and western Georgia, in the floodplain forests of Iori and Mtkvari, as well as in Kolkheti National Park.

THREATS:

Power line collisions, poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

European Black Vulture

Aegypius monachus

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Endangered (EN)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: The vulture is the largest of the birds of prey common in Eurasia. In Georgia, the kochora is the largest bird after the vulture. The brownish-black coloring of the young bird becomes dark brown with age.
Unlike the eurasian griffon vulture which has a bare eye and throat, the swave's head and neck are almost entirely covered in light-colored fur. The exception is the neck and the area around the eye, which is black.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: In Georgia, it nests in the extreme east of the country, in the Chachuna forest and in the Vashlovani National Park. It can be found in other regions of Georgia as well.

THREATS:

Power line collisions, poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

Egyptian Vulture

© Nika Budagashvili

Neophron percnopterus

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: An adult individual is black and white in color, with a wedge-shaped, pointed tail. In the air, it is perceived as a white-colored, large bird of prey. It feeds on carrion, rarely turtles and vipers.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Nests in eastern Georgia. Found in other regions during migration. It prefers a dry, semi-desert habitat. Favorable nesting places for the species are caves and canyons.

THREATS:

Power line collisions, poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

Eurasian Griffon Vulture

Gyps fulvus

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: In the Eurasian griffon vulture , a brown color prevails. They have a black, gnarled head to easily penetrate the body of dead animals. The orb is a colonial bird, with some colonies comprising more than 150 pairs. They feed on the carcasses of large and medium-sized animals and never eat live prey. They play an important "cleaning" role in the ecosystem, reducing the spread of infectious diseases like other vultures.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is found in both eastern and western Georgia. They live both in the high mountains and in the plains. In rocks and rocky canyons, rarely found on dry slopes.

THREATS:

Power line collisions, poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

Little Bustard

Tetrax tetrax

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

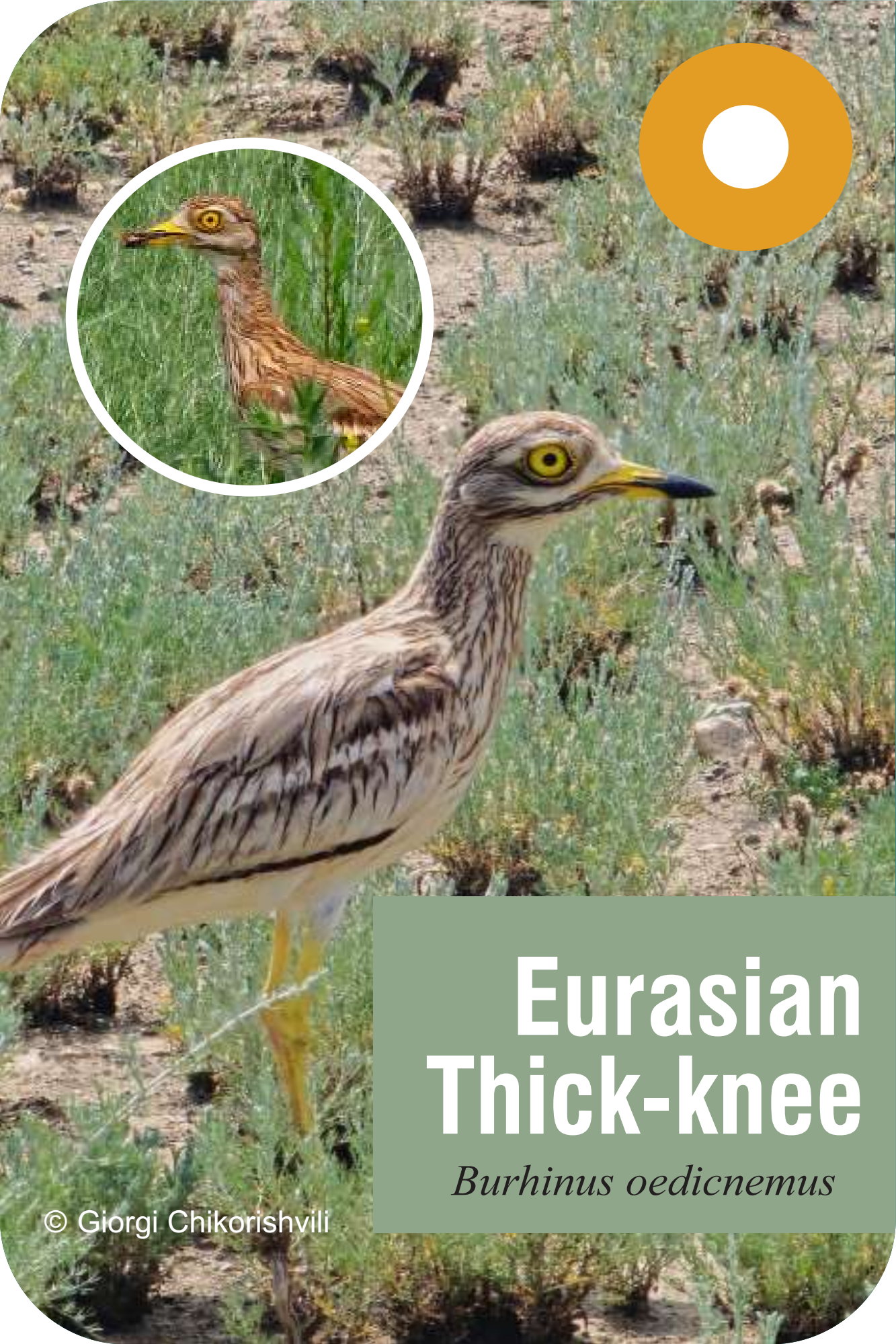
STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Little bustard is a wintering bird in Georgia. They are mostly found in open fields, forming groups of 100-500-1000 individuals and larger. White and golden coloring prevails in individuals.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Wintering herds can be seen in eastern Georgia, in Chachuna Managed reserve and in the fields of Vashlovani National Park.

THREATS:

Poaching, pesticide misuse, climate change, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.



Eurasian Thick-knee

Burhinus oedicnemus

© Giorgi Chikorishvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: The Eurasian Thick-knee has long legs and an elongated beak. It feeds mainly on invertebrates as well as small reptiles, amphibians, rarely rodents. It is quite difficult to notice the species, because it matches the environment as much as possible with a color similar to the soil. The danger is complicated by the fact that when danger approaches, it stops moving and sits motionless on the ground

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: The Eurasian Thick-knee lives in the extreme east of Georgia, in the semi-desert habitat of the protected areasof Chachuna and Vashlovani.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

Black Francolin

Francolinus francolinus

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Male black francolin are black in color, have white cheeks and white patches on the body. Females are less colorful but can be easily identified. Compared to the pheasant, it has a short tail, and it differs from the cockatoo in coloration. The person is not shy either. They are often seen perched on high ground performing a territorial song. They spend most of their lives in the bush at the edge of the floodplain.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: A large part of the local population of Georgia lives in the Iori floodplain, a small number can also be found in the Alazani floodplain.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat degradation or destruction, food shortages.

Levantine Viper

Macrovipera lebetinus

© Armen Seropian

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Levantine Viper is a representative of the viper family. It is the most poisonous and large snake of the Caucasus. Feeds on small mammals and birds. It has a wide body, a large triangular head, which is covered with thin scales. The ghua has uneven, dark colored markings on its gray body.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Levantine Viper is widespread in the southeast of Tbilisi, in dry and dry places. Recently, the species has expanded its range from Sighnaghi to the north.

THREATS:

Low environmental awareness, habitat degradation caused by overgrazing, burning of pastures and fields or planting of artificial forests.

Red-Bellied Racer

Dolichophis schmidti

© Armen Seropian

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: It is a large brick-colored, non-venomous and fast snake. Feeds on rodents, lizards and small birds. A young individual is light gray in color, and the body is covered with dark scales. As soon as he sees a person, he tries to hide quickly. When in danger, it hisses and actively bites the attacker, its bite does not pose a threat to humans.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is a widespread species in the entire territory of Georgia. Lives in meadows and forest edges, as well as in steppes and semi-deserts.

THREATS:

Low level of awareness, habitat degradation (artificial burning of pastures and fields), reduction of food base.

Urartian rat snake

Elaphe urartica

© Armen Seropian

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Large colorful and non-venomous snake. Its diet consists of small mammals, birds and sometimes their eggs.
It is quite a quiet species of snake, whose yellowish body is divided by pear-sized black spots, and a black stripe runs diagonally behind the completely black eye.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: In Georgia, it is widespread in the central, southern and eastern parts, where it can be found in fields, fields and semi-deserts from low to medium altitudes.

THREATS:

Low level of awareness, habitat degradation (artificial burning of pastures and fields), reduction of food base.

Eastern Montpellier snake

Malpolon insignitus

© Giorgi Iankoshvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** vulnerable (VU);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: It is a large, weakly venomous, very cautious and fast snake. Males are yellowish-green in color, and the gray body of the female is abundantly covered with dark moles arranged in a checkerboard pattern. The indentation between the eyes is considered a characteristic sign. It stands out for its well-developed vision - it can spot a victim from a distance of 10 meters. The poison does not pose a danger to human life. In some countries it is called "European cobra". If he is in danger, he raises his body and snaps his neck.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: In the south and southeast of Georgia, it lives in the steppes and semi-deserts.

THREATS:

Low level of awareness, habitat degradation, reduction of food base.

© Armen Seropian

Eurasian common camel spider

Galeodes araneoides

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Large size very mobile and fast like a spider. The ordinary Eurasian Common Camel spider is completely harmless and does not pose a threat to humans. During the day, it hides under cracks and stones, and comes out to hunt at night. It can be seen coming to the light of a campfire or a lamp, where it hunts insects with its forelimbs. In case of danger, adults make a crunching sound by rubbing their huge jaws against each other. Due to the strong jaws, the bite of the Eurasian Common Camel spider is quite uncomfortable.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is spread over almost the entire territory of Georgia. It is found mainly in open, dry and dry places.

THREATS:

Low level of awareness.

Grey Wolf

Canis lupus

© Sandro Chitanava, Tbilisi Zoo

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: The wolf is a smart and easily adaptable animal. It is one of the most common carnivores and the largest representative of the canine family. The length of an adult mdli is 1-5-160 cm, and the height at the shoulder is 80-85 cm. It weighs an average of 38,5 kg. A wolf can feed on anything the pack manages to hunt, mainly preying on old, weak or sick individuals. Less suitable for a healthy individual.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is widespread in the entire territory of Georgia, lives in a semi-desert type habitat, plains and highlands, in all areas of forest distribution, in subalpine and alpine belts.

THREATS:

Poaching, reducing of habitat.

Golden Jackal

Canis aureus

© Nika Melikishvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: In terms of size and shape of the body, it occupies an intermediate position between the wolf and the fox. The average body length is 71-82 cm. Height to shoulders 45-50 cm. The weight ranges from 7-15 kg. Compatibility varies with eason and environmental conditions. It is relatively light in color in sandy semi-deserts, relatively dark in other areas. It takes a reddish color in summer. The tour is active both at night and during the day.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is a widely distributed species throughout the territory of Georgia. Lives in warm plains and river valleys. It can also be found near populated areas.

THREATS:

Poaching, reducing of habitat, human wildlife conflict.

Red Fox

Vulpes vulpes

© Nika Melikishvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: A carnivorous mammal from the canine family. Average weight 6-7 kg, length 39-57 cm. The coloration on the upper part of the body ranges from light yellowish-red to deep reddish-brown, and is whitish and grayish on the underside. The lower part of the legs is black, the tail has a white or black tip. It is distinguished by caution and convenience. His vision is relatively weak, hearing and smell are good. Omnivore - feeds on animal and plant food, mainly rodents, and accordingly controls the number of rodents.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is spread over the entire territory of Georgia, vertically - from the plains to the alpine meadows. Often found in urban landscapes.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat fragmentation and degradation, human wildlife conflict.

Brown Bear

Ursus arctos

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

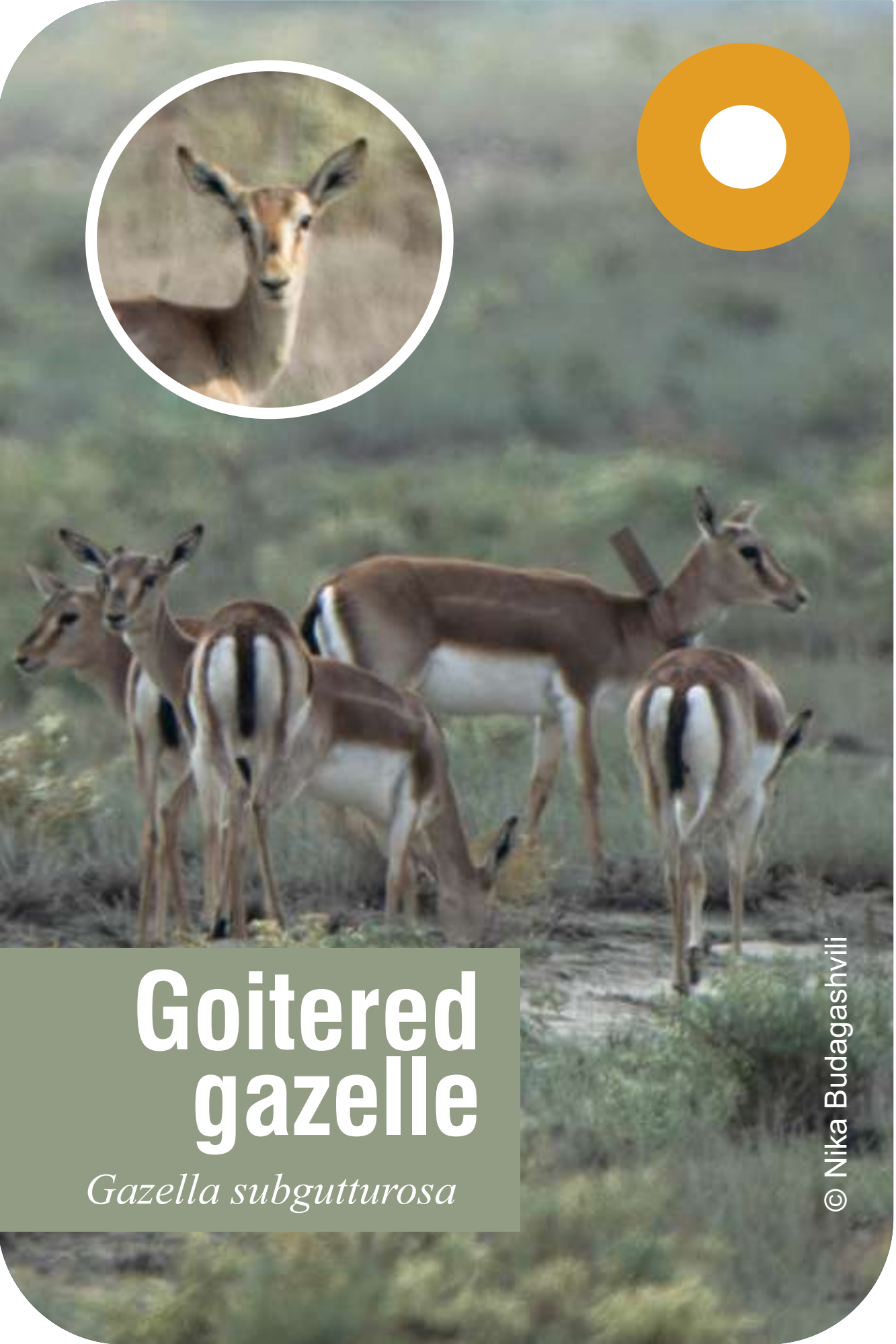
STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC);

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Brown bear is the biggest predator living in Georgia. Its height is 2,5 m, weight varies from 80 to 600 kg. The color varies from light straw to dark chestnut. Brown bear is omnivorous, feeds on animal and plant food. Its diet consists of plant food: pomegranate, juniper, wild berries, cereals and others.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is spread almost throughout Georgia, in mountainous and forested areas. It can be found in arid and semi-arid ecosystems in eastern Georgia.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat fragmentation and degradation, human wildlife conflict.



Goitered gazelle

Gazella subgutturosa

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Critically Endangered (CR)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: A Goitered Gazelle is a small, two-toed ungulate with a white belly and a straw-colored back. It weighs 18-33 kg, body length is 94-126 cm, height is 58-79 cm. It is easily recognized by the black tail and horns, which each male individual has. Usually, females do not have horns at all or have very small ones. Currently, the popu-lation of turkeys in the multi-use area of Samukhi is the result of reintroduction.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is widespread in the extreme south-eastern part of Georgia - in the Samukhi Valley. Lives in deserts and semi-deserts.

THREATS:

It is widespread in the extreme south-eastern part of Georgia - in the Samukhi Valley. Lives in deserts and semi-deserts

Eurasian lynx

Lynx lynx

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Critically Endangered (CR)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: A mammal from the cat family. Its body length is 82-109 cm, mass reaches 8-19 kg. It has strong, relatively long legs, wide paws, a short tail and long brushes on the ends of the ears. The coloring is different: monochromatic and mottled. It preys mainly on hares, although it also likes roe deer, especially their young.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: According to literary data, the distribution of lynx covered the whole of Georgia, currently viable populations are preserved on the Iori plateau. Lives in the forest belt, subalpine and alpine meadows, arid and semi-arid biotopes.

THREATS:

Habitat fragmentation, human wildlife conflict, reduction of food base, habitat degradation.

Jungle cat

Felis chaus

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Vulnerable (VU).

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: A predatory mammal from the cat family. Its body length is 80 cm, weight reaches 16 kg. It has long legs, short bristles on the end of the ears. It does not rise above 800m above sea level. It feeds on birds, small mammals.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: In Georgia, it is widespread in the valleys of the Alazni, Iori, Khrami and Mtkvari rivers and the Jandari lake. It lives in reedy places along the banks of rivers and waterways and in riverside swamps.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat fragmentation, human wildlife conflict, habitat degradation.

Wild boar

Sus scrofa

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Data Deficient (DD)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Wild boar - a mammal from the order of small ungulates. It weighs on average 60-100 kg, its height is 70-80 cm, and its body length is 140-150 cm. The species is omnivorous, the food base is mainly fruits, seeds, roots. Wild boars usually live in herds, being most active in the early morning and late afternoon.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Wild boar is spread throughout the territory of Georgia. It lives in plains, floodplain forests, along rivers, near lakes, in low and high-water mountains, although it can also be found in beech forests.

THREATS:

Poaching, diseases (African fever), habitat degradation.

Eurasian badger

Meles meles

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:**: Data Deficient (DD)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: The ground hare is a small rodent characteristic of the desert, with large ears, a long tail, long hind legs and short front legs. Two species are common in Georgia and both are found in the southern part of Eastern Georgia - the mountain hare and the small hare. They are quite difficult to tell apart, although there are some distinguishing features; In particular, the coloration of the inner surface of the ear. Small ground hare has light, and mountain ground hare - dark.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Adapted to desert environmental conditions. On hot days, it spends most of its time under the sand, avoiding the sun's rays and reducing water loss. It is common in the eastern part of the country.

THREATS:

Habitat degradation and loss.

Indian Crested Porcupine

Hystrix indica

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: Indian Crested Porcupine is a family of mammals from the order of rodents. Body length 70-90 cm. Weight 15 kg. Its short tail is hidden under the "needles". The lower part of the body, head, neck and shoulders are covered with cool bristles, and the sides are covered with long (3-30 cm) "needles". Has been living in a sorority for years. It is active at night, its activity decreases in the cold. It feeds on plant roots, leaves, seeds, tree bark, and feeds crops and gardens. In order to find food, it goes 10-16 km from the den.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: It is mainly found in the semi-desert type habitat of Eastern Georgia, but it has been recorded in other areas of the country as well.

THREATS:

Poaching.

Lepus europaeus

European Brown Hare

© Nika Budagashvili

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Least Concern (LC)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: European hares are mostly solitary animals except during mating season. It is active throughout the year. Has excellent sight, smell and hearing. It is a very fast animal. He saves himself from the predator by running away. If necessary, can bypass obstacles and change direction quickly.it goes 10-16 km from the den.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Wild hare is spread throughout the territory of Georgia. Lives in open fields with bushes, in small valleys, which is favorable for the species as a shelter from predators.

THREATS:

Poaching, habitat loss.

Small Five-toed Jerboa

Allactaga elater

©Bogdan Eriashvili

William's Jerboa

Allactaga williamsi

©Mohammad Amin Ghaffari

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BIODIVERSITY FIELD CARDS

STATUS - According to **National Red List:** Data Deficient (DD)

PHYSYCAL CHARACTERISTIC AND BEHAVIOR: The ground rabbit is a small desert rodent with large ears, a long tail, long hind legs and short front legs. There are two species common in Georgia, and both are found in the southern part of Eastern Georgia - mountain hare and small hare. Their survival is quite difficult, although there are several distinguishing features: in particular, the inner surface of the ear is scarred. A small ground rabbit has a light one, and a mountain hare has a dark one.

DESTRIBUTION AND HABITAT: Adapted to desert environmental conditions. On hot days, it spends most of its time under the sand, avoiding the sun's rays and reducing water loss. It is common in the eastern part of the country.

THREATS:

Poaching, diseases (African fever), habitat degradation, reduction of food base.

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