

**GEORGIAN CARNIVORE CONSERVATION PROJECT COMPONENT: DEVELOPING  
HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**For the provision of animal health training with selected Tushetian livestock owners at the  
winter pastures (Vashlovani area)**



February, 2012

Report developed by VMD A. Elanidze and the acting CEO of the Association Management  
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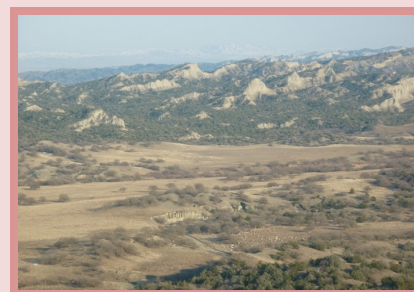




## **Background**

In order to reduce the economic impact of disease and associated livestock loss so that the perceived impact of losses to predators is also reduced, enabling farmers to feel less threatened by the presence of large carnivores and more open to supporting their conservation, a contract has been signed between the Association Management Center (AMC) and The Georgian Carnivore Conservation Project (GCCP). This contract covers work with selected group of Tushetian sheep-farmers during the winter season to provide the formal training in animal husbandry techniques based on the specific husbandry needs of the target group as identified by previous outreach activities. The current intervention was focused to raise awareness of targeted groups of farmers and shepherds on the importance of basic animal health and husbandry techniques and improve their understanding of how to correctly apply those methods.

The action plan was identified by the implementing party through the Association Management Center (AMC) - Kakheti Veterinarians' Regional Association (VRA). The VRA have undergone intensive capacity building over the past two years as part of the Georgia Animal Health Program (GAHP); a collaborative initiative of the US Department of Agriculture, the Georgian Rural Development Program of Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GRDP) and Colorado State University (CSU). Trainings given in that program included protection and treatment of key livestock diseases and were conducted by both local and international partners.



***Vashlovani Protected Area.***

## **Objectives given in the contract are:**

1. To hold the formal training for the selected groups of Tushetian sheep-farmers and shepherds.
2. To raise awareness among the target groups of the importance of basic animal health and husbandry techniques and improve their understanding of how to correctly apply those methods.

## **Preparation period**

The team of trainers was selected with active involvement of the Chairman of Kakheti Veterinarians' Regional Association (VRA) Mr. Akaki Elanidze and acting CEO of the Association Management Center Ms. Keti Jakeli. The final list of trainers was developed on February 10, 2012 and based on the contract clause the trainers were selected from the members of Kakheti Veterinarians' Regional Association (VRA). Criteria for selecting the trainers included:

- Standing out past training record in USDA's Georgia Animal Health Program (GAHP) locally supported by GRDP
- Familiarity with main problems of Tushetian sheep-farmers and shepherds and past experience in sheep-farmers outreaches activities.

- Physical ability to cover distances.
- Ability to travel to Vashlovani area for the project implementation period
- Good communication skills

As a result, three trainers were selected out of 22 Kakheti VRA members:

- Dr. Akaki Elanidze
- Dr. Mariam Matiashvili
- Dr. Elza Pitskhelauri

On February 15, 2012 the orientation meeting for the project team was held at GRDP office, where the information about the project and planned activity has been shared with the selected trainers by AMC management and conditions of cooperation agreed mutually. It was stated that the conduct of formal training program would be implemented through a number of group meetings with tentatively 3-5 farmers and shepherds in a group, identified by GCCP (See Appendix #1: Husbandry Training Logistic Plan), in 7 locations within the Vashlovani area. Through this, the participants would be provided with formal training on the most problematic diseases and key issues related to animal husbandry identified during the outreach activities, conducted by Kakheti VRA in Tusheti highlands in 2011 (See Appendix #2: Survey results:).

To ensure the successful implementation AMC has conducted the training of trainers (TOT) for the selected three trainers of Kakheti VRA on February 15. Indicated session was delivered by a GAHP veterinarian consultant Mr. Amiran Kochalidze and focused on specific training techniques to deliver the training on identification and treatment of the diseases such as Bradzot. For this training the manual, developed by Mr. Kochalidze and published by GCCP. One copy of manual was distributed for the trainers.

A detailed action plan has also been developed by AMC management describing the level of efforts of each trainer (number of working days), transportation, and accommodation and compensation issues. According to this plan all three trainers agreed that the project team will have one lead trainer Mr. Elanidze, who will also be the permanent trainer in both teams of trainers. Two other trainers would share the number of days, working 5 days each. The trainers also received the instructions on registering the training participants. Two trainers – Ms. Elza Pitskhelauri and Ms. Mariam Matiashvili agreed to travel to Vashlovani for the overall training period – 7 days although they would be paid only for the number of days indicated in their agreements (5 days each) in order to gain more knowledge on problems and interests of sheep owners and shepherds.

As for the transportation, due limited funding for the activity, mileage reimbursement agreement would be made with lead trainer A. Elanidze for providing transportation services with his own vehicle from Alvani to Dedoplistskaro and back to Alvani. As for the transportation to training locations in Vashlovani area, it was agreed that the transportation service would be provided by GCCP. Indicated details have been also shared and agreed upon with GCCP management.

The anticipated start-date for the project was defined as February 13<sup>th</sup> and for the formal training activities -February 17<sup>th</sup> with duration of approximately ten days, including the transportation of consultants. Allowing for reporting, the anticipated end-date was set March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Preparation for the departure of the team of trainers to Vashlovani area took four days from February 13<sup>th</sup>: a trainer's ToR was developed by AMC management, contracts signed with the selected trainers, a list of financial documentation requested by financial regulations was explained to the selected trainers, advance payments (following the transfer from GCCP on

February 14<sup>th</sup>) was handled by the AMC finance manager. The team of trainers departed for Vashlovani on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 after having received the advance amounts in their bank account, enabling them to purchase fuel and supply for the trip.

The VRA team was accompanied by the GCCP field officer, Temur Popiashvili, whose role was to:

- monitor the delivery of training
- recruit farmers into a spring vaccination programme
- carry out further awareness raising about HCC and GCCP interventions

In addition, the VRA team daily filled the registration forms and reported progress to AMC management by February 29<sup>th</sup> on implementation. A total of 51 beneficiaries attended the training activities – 28 sheep owners and 23 shepherds (See Appendix #3: List of Training Participants).



Kakheti VRA trainers in Vashlovani area: Akaki Elanidze, Mariam Matiashvili and Elza Pitskhelauri

On February 17<sup>th</sup> the team of trainers, accompanied by the GCCP field officer, Mr. Popiashvili arrived to Vashlovani area and settled in the visitors' centre of Vashlovani National Park. The first training was conducted on February 18<sup>th</sup> in the location called "Buga Moedani". The training was attended by the following sheep-owners and shepherds:

1. Otar Phareuldze.
2. Ado Khvedegaidze.
3. Sultan Ikaidze.
4. Elguja Ikaidze.

The infectious and invasion diseases were discussed on the training with interactive format. Among the discussed diseases the following ones caused the main interest of training participants: FMD, Bradzot, Nekrobacterioz and Emkar.

Trainers also focused on economic lose caused by the infectious diseases and particularly by Bradzot. The main concerns of the sheep owners was related to the high price on medicines and the lack of automatic injections as well as the long distance from their locations to the pharmacy shops.

The training participants were provided with the manual, which would help them to get more knowledge on how to identify the diseases on the early stage and prevent it. The training was led by Mr. Akaki Elanidze with participation of Ms. Elza Pitskhelauri. Besides the issues included into the training agenda the trainers also provided the participants with the information on suppliers and advices on husbandry issues. The team of trainers was accompanied by the GCCP representatives Mr. Temur Popiashvili and Mr. ZazaBostashvili.

On February 19<sup>th</sup> the team of trainers visited the location Samukhi and held the training on the infectious and invasion diseases for the following targeted group:

1. Azikuri Leo
2. BughradzeZviad
3. KaadzeAchiko
4. Kaadze Kakha
5. GatsiridzePaata
6. Tataraidze Vakhto

The training was provided by Mr. Elanidze and facilitated by Ms Pitskhelauri. The topics of the training mostly included issues such as infectious diseases, economic lose caused by the lack of veterinary services, prevention measures for the infectious diseases such as Bradzot, FMD and Emkar.

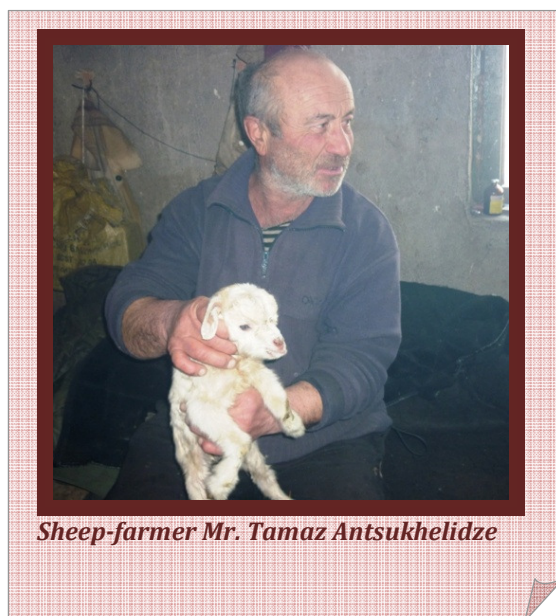
The training was conducted in the interactive manner so the participants had the opportunity not only get instructions from the qualified veterinarians, but also discuss the problems they face in their daily life in terms of animal health control and husbandry management. The sheep farmers and shepherds also expressed their concerns on availability of medicines. They stated that in some cases they even had to cross the border and purchase the medicines for their animals on the territory of Azerbaijan.

The trainers provided information for the training participants on pharmacy providers in Georgia and advised to contact them and discuss the delivery issues. The team of trainers was accompanied by the GCCP representatives Mr. Temur Popiashvili and Mr. Zaza Bostashvili.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the team of trainers conducted the training for the second group in location Samukhi. The training was attended by six participants – four shepherds and two sheep owners:

1. Bidzina Lekaidze,
2. Badri Lekaidze
3. Paata Lekaidze
4. GiaBighoidze
5. Abo (Temur) Bordzikidze
6. Dato Mchedlishvili

Infectious and invasion diseases were discussed during the training session. The attendants informed that their sheep were affected by FMD disease and complained on low rate of milking,





also there were cases of lamb death. The sheep farmer Mr. Paata Lekaidze was concerned about the economic lose caused last year by FMD. The veterinarians, addressing this issue, provided information on vaccines available on the market to prevent animals from FMD and how these vaccines strengthen the immunity of sheep and lamb and make them resistant for FMD. The target group showed the interest to learn more about sheep disease.

The training was provided by Mr. Akaki Elanidze and Ms. Elza Pitskhelauri and attended by Mr. Temur Popiashvili and Mr. Zaza Bostashvili.

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 the trainers were hosted by the third group in the same location, called Samukhi. The training was attended by the following nine participants – sheep owners and shepherds:

1. Vaso Tsomikuridze
2. Jijuri Jijuridze
3. Vakhto Otiuridze
4. Gela Khachidze
5. Badri Bukvaidze
6. OmariTsveraidze
7. Fore Tilidze
8. Kviria Idoitze
9. Rezo Nekerauli

The symptoms and treating methods of infectious and invasion diseases were discussed. The training materials caused a great interest of session participants. After presenting the main issues several questions were asked by the training participants. Majority of them stated that Bradzot caused very serious health damage of sheep in their farms which was reflected in a significant economical lose. Due to the limited access of Tushetian farmers to pharmacy providers in the country, they had to order the vaccines in Azerbaijan. The trainers provided the information on availability of vaccines in Georgia and explained in a very friendly and understandable manner on usage of those vaccines as well as conditions that support dissemination and the clinical signs of the

mentioned disease. The necessity of differential diagnosis on enterotoksemia has been emphasized by Mr. Elanidze. Accordingly the great interest of training participants was caused by introducing the vaccine Koglavaks, which is used for livestock, sheep and goats.

The lead trainer was supported by Ms. Pitskhelauri and the session was attended by the GCCP representatives Mr. Temur Popiashvili and Mr. Zaza Bostashvili.

The fifth training session was conducted on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in Shiraki and was attended by nine participants:

1. ZakroBartishvili
2. G. Bekhunaidze
3. RuslanBorchashvili
4. KakoShortishvili

5. AdamiIchirauli
6. AchikoIchirauli
7. Gio Ichirauli
8. Gure Rainauli
9. Robert Gagoidze

The attendants received very detailed information on infectious diseases considered as the priority during the outreach activities held in summer 2011 in summer pastures in Tusheti highlands. One of the priority diseases that major part of the session addressed was the Bradzot.

The sheep farmers stated that they had the cases of Bradzot in their farms in previous years and due to lack of knowledge on clinical signs of this disease and limited access to vaccines they suffered from the significant lose. All the training participants were informed about the vaccines available on Georgian market. The special focus was done on positive results of using Koglavaks which belongs to the group of complex vaccines and prevents from 6 different diseases, including Bradzot. The trainers explained the structure of using this vaccine and also provided the information on suppliers. As the results of observation the trainers stated that the participants were motivated to get additional information on other sheep diseases.



*The team of trainers during the practical training in Vashlovani area. February, 2012*

The training was provided by Mr. Akaki Elanidze and Ms. Mariam Matiashvili. The session was attended by the GCCP representatives Mr. Temur Popiashvili and Mr. Zaza Bostashvili.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> the team of trainers visited two locations in MlasheTskelbi and provided training sessions for two groups of sheep farmers and shepherds. The sessions were attended by the following participants:

1. BaghakashviliOsma
2. SabashviliAlika
3. BurtikashviliElguja
4. Ilia Jagodanidze
5. RobizonKarsamauli
6. Davit Metreveli

The training topics were infectious and invasion diseases. The farmer Ilia Jagodanidze mentioned that they had significant losses due to the diseases caused by the limited availability of grass on the pastures. The trainers provided guidance for farmers how to treat sheep in the similar situations. The following invasion diseases were discussed at the training: Diktiokauloz, Ekhonokokoz, Monaziozis, Pastsilliozi and prevention measures.

Several farmers were interested to get more information on parasites and the conditions supporting them. Training participants got the complete information on these issues as well.

Like the previous sessions Bradzot was the main issue of the training agenda. The training attendants mentioned that they had cases of economic lose caused by this disease. Due to lack of knowledge on prevention measures and clinical signs the farmers couldn't save the animals from death.



Mr. Akaki Elanidze, together with Ms. Mariam Matiashvili provided very detailed information on clinical signs of Brudzot. Knowing this, the farmers would get signal if their sheep is infected.

The training participants also were informed about the pharmacy providers as well as the possible vaccination campaign in their region under the current project.

The training was attended by the GCCP representatives Mr. TemurPopiashvili and Mr. ZazaBostashvili. On February 23<sup>rd</sup> GRDP intern veterinarian Ms. Keti Rukhadze joined the group and attended both training sessions.

On February 24<sup>th</sup> the team of Kakheti VRA trainers conducted training session on MlasheTskali. There were only one sheep owner (BesoGatsiridze) who had arrived to his farm on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and he was not trained.

After completing the training session it was found out that the puppy that was presented from the project to the farmer had the inflamed spot on the face from the bite. KetiRukhadze provided the medical assistance to the animal and gave the recommendations for further treatment.

The training was provided by Mr. Akaki Elanidze and Ms. Mariam Matiashvili. Both sessions were also attended by the GCCP representatives Mr. TemurPopiashvili and Mr. ZazaBostashvili and GRDP intern veterinarian Ms. Keti Rukhadze.

The team of trainers left Vashlovani area on February 24, 2012. Since several farmers and shepherds couldn't attend the training, the duration of the trip was decreased by one day. As for the deliverables, they were provided by Kakheti VRA trainers by March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Due to limited financial resources under the current contract, AMC management didn't travel to the region for monitoring purposes and collecting the reporting information. The current report is developed by AMC based on information provided by Kakheti VRA.



## **APPENDIX #1: Husbandry Training Logistic Plan**

### **I day**

**The distance to be covered – 35 km;**

**Travel time – 2.10 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
40	Gela Khachidze		
NF1	VakhoGogotidze	593161564	
36			
28	MuradGoderdzishvili	598894606	

### **II day**

**The distance to be covered – 43 km;**

**Travel time – 2.30 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
17	OtarPhareulidze	551648647	
21	Bato Ikaidze		
23	Beka Ikaidze	555127011	
24	Elguja Ikaidze	599350510	

### **III day**

**The distance to be covered – 49 km;**

**Travel time – 2.45 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
72	ShotaKaadze		
NF10			
68	ZviadBughrdze	599750618	
69	MirzaKizilashvili	598519468	
70	AleksiGatsiridze	595345667	
71	Leo Azikuri	595564074	

### **IV day**

**The distance to be covered – 30 km;**

**Travel time – 1.30 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
26	BesikGatsiridze		
27	Giorgi Ghubakelidze	598681466	
29	RasimOrujov	599952766	
31	MevludTsatiashvili	598566204	

### **V day**

**The distance to be covered – 49 km;**

**Travel time – 1.30 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
31	IloGrishkashvili	599115988	

32	RostomGagoidze	595376238	
74	Irakli Ichirauli	591675622	
75	DatoGagoidze	555499142	

**VI day**

**The distance to be covered – 82 km;**

**Travel time – 3.00 h.**

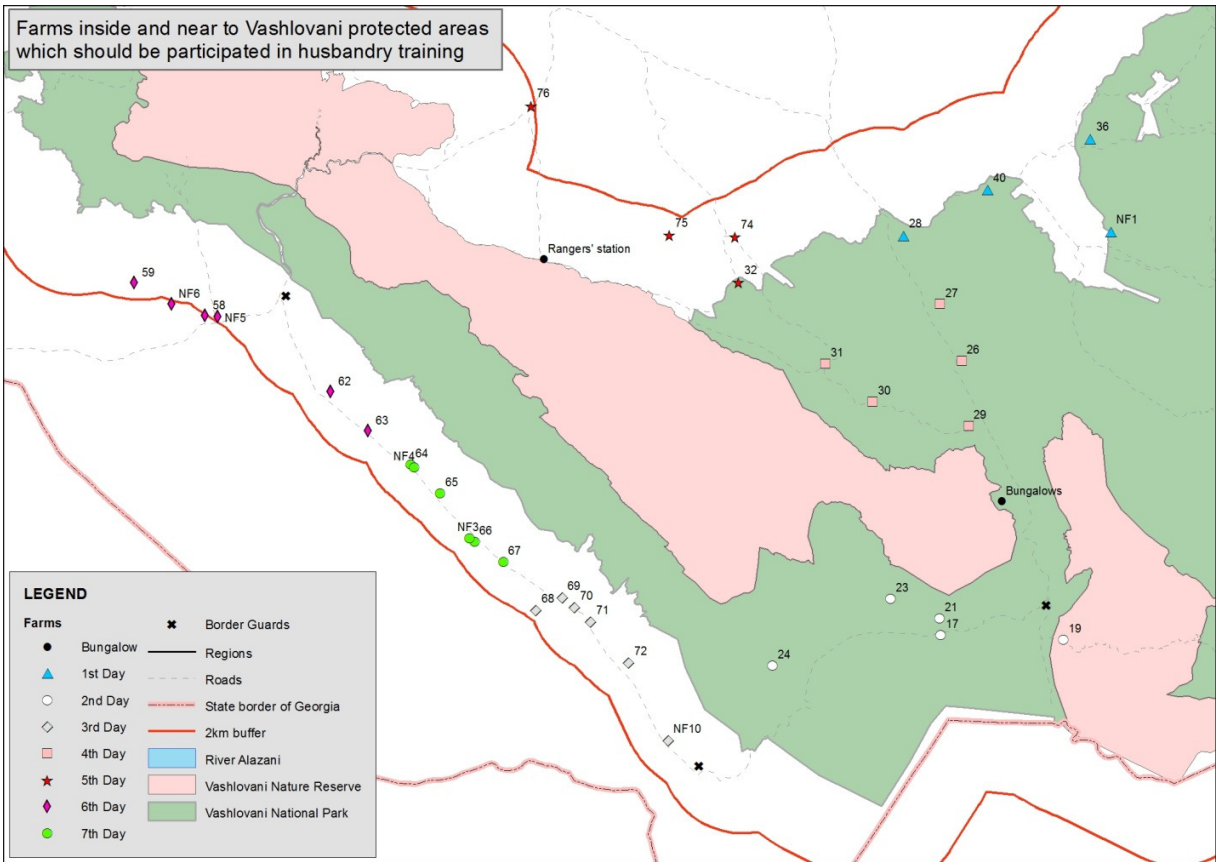
Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
58	BadriBukvaidze	558116618	
59	TamazTilidze	551167890	
62	BadriOtiuridze	555739761	
63	EldarGhubakelidze		
NF5	Koba Osorauli	555587178	

**VII day**

**The distance to be covered – 52 km;**

**Travel time – 3.00 h.**

Farmer	Owner	Telephone	Host
64	Zura (Giorgi)Tilidze	599635549	
65	ZazaIdoidze	598707537	
NF3	VazhaAzikuri	595736343	
NF4			
67	QishoSisauri		



**APPENDIX #2: Survey results:****2. The common diseases that bother sheep – according to flock owner’s understanding**

#	Disease	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5
1	FMD	16	4			
2	Bradzott	4	16			
3	Pastsilliozi			8	3	1
4	Monezioz	1		5	1	6
5	Diktiokauloz			1	9	3
6	Necrobacillosis (causing lameness)	1		2		
7	Helminths			1		
8	Ekhinokokoz			1		
9	shedding mangy					1

**3. Veterinary problems, which respondents faced on summer pastures during last one year**

#	Disease	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5
1	FMD	6	1			
2	Necrobacillosis (causing lameness)	6		1		
3	Monezioz	2	5	2		
4	Diktiokauloz	1	3		1	
5	Pastsilliozi	1		2		
6	Bradzott	1	1			
7	Lameness	1				
8	Ekhinokokoz			1		

**4. Veterinary problems, which respondents faced on winter pastures during last one year**

#	Disease	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5
1	FMD	11	8			
2	Bradzott	8	6			
3	Pastsilliozi		2	3		
4	Monezioz			1	1	
5	Diktiokauloz			1		1
6	Ekhinokokoz				1	

**5. Was the provided information useful for you?**

All 21 participants indicate that the information was useful.
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### 6. Which topic was the most interesting?

#	disease	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5
1	Bradzott	8	9			
2	FMD	7	6	1		
3	selection of rams	2				
4	Ekhinokokoz	1		1	1	
5	Monezioz	1		1		1
6	Pox	1			1	1
7	Necrobacillosis (causing lameness)	1				
8	getting vaccine	1				
9	Pastsilliozi			5		
10	Diktiokauloz				3	2

### 7. Which topic was new for you?

#	disease	priority #1	priority #2	priority #3	priority #4	priority #5
1	selection of rams	10		1		
2	Bradzott	3	4			
3	Pox	3				1
4	FMD	2	3	1		
5	Veterinary medicines	1				
6	Ekhinokokoz	1				
7	Lameness		1	1		
8	Pastsilliozi			2		
9	Diktiokauloz			1	1	
10	Monezioz				1	1

**APPENDIX #3: Training Participants' List**

<b>Shepherd</b>	<b>Sheep Owner</b>
Davit Mchedlishvili	VaktoOtiuridze
TemurBordzikidze	Gela Khachidze
Guram Rainauli	JijuriJijuridze
Kakha Qaadze	BadriBuqvaidze
Vakhto TaTaraidze	Omar Tsveradze
Neslan Borchashvili	Pore Tilidze
Adamo Ichirauli	Rezo Nekerauli
Ado Khvedegaidze	Gocha Getsunaidze
Sultan Iqaidze	Jemal Gagoidze
Nugzar Zaridze	Irakli Ichirauli
Vasil Jidarishvili	Leo Azikuri
Dato Jagodanidze	Oto Bequraidze
Jemal Alkhanishvili	Anzor Jikhoshvili
Beqa Chuxanashvili	Ilia Jagodanidze
Niko Khizilashvili	Beso Gatsiridze
Gabriel Niniashvili	Davit Metreveli
Gocha Markhvaidze	Robizon Qarsamauli
Alika Sabashvili	Tamaz Antsukhelidze
Elguja Butikashvili	Zviad Bugridze
Osmal Barakashvili	Paata Gatsiridze
Paata Lekaidze	Archil Kaadze
GiaBigoidze	Otar Fareulidze
	Kviria Idoidze
	Achiko Ichirauli
	Kako Shortishvili
	VasoTsomikuridze
	Badri Lekaidze
	Bidzina Lekaidze

