

Dr. Natia Kopaliani

Position: Full professor

Head of the Program for the Ecology and Conservation of Large Mammals

(Institute of Ecology, Ilia State University)

Publications since 2014

Kopaliani N, Shakarashvili M, Gurielidze Z, Qurkhuli T (2014). Gene flow between wolf and shepherd dog populations in Georgia (Caucasus) V.105. Issue 3. Pp 345-353

Kopaliani N, Gurielidze Z, Ninuna L. (2017). Records of anomalously white harbour porpoises and atypical pigmented short-beaked common dolphin in the Georgian Black Sea waters. Black Sea/Mediterranean Environment. V. 23., pp. 66-74

Pilot M, Moura A., Okhlopkov I, Mamaev N, Alagaili A., Mohammed O., Eduard Yavruyan E., Hayrapetyan V., Kopaliani N, Tsingarska E., Krofel M, Skoglund P. & Bogdanowicz W. (2019). Global Phylogeographic and Admixture Patterns in Grey Wolves and Genetic Legacy of An Ancient Siberian Lineage. Scientific Reports. Sci Rep 9, 17328 (2019) 9: 17328 (impact factor : 5.516)

Shakarashvili M., N. Kopaliani Gurielidze Z., Dekanoidze D., Ninua L., Tarkhnishvil D. (2020). Population genetic structure and dispersal patterns of grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) in Georgia, the Caucasus. Journal of Zoology (Impact factor: 2.322)

Pilot M, Moura AE, Okhlopkov IM, Mamaev NV, Manaseryan NH, Hayrapetyan V, Kopaliani N, Tsingarska E, Alagaili AN, Mohammed OB, Ostrander EA, Bogdanowicz W.(2021). Human-modified canids in human-modified landscapes: The evolutionary consequences of hybridization for grey wolves and free-ranging domestic dogs. *Evol Appl.* 2021 Jun 21;14(10):2433-2456. doi: 10.1111/eva.13257. PMID: 34745336; PMCID: PMC 8549620 (impact factor: 4.929)

Šnjegota D. , Niedziałkowska M. , Stronen A.V. , Borowik T., Plis K., Arakelyan M., Ćirović D , Gabriel Danila G. , Djan M, Ghazaryan A., Gurielidze Z. , Hayrapetyan T., Hegyeli Z., Karamanlidis A.A. , Kopaliani N., Kusak L ., Politov D. , Talala M., Tsingarska E , Jędrzejewska B. (2023) The role of the Caucasus,

Carpathian, and Dinaric-Balkan regions in preserving wolf genetic diversity. *Mammalian Biology*. Volume 103, pages 303–315 (impact factor: 1.863)

Stefanović M., Bogdanowicz W, Adavoudi R. , Martínez-Sosa F., Doan K., Flores-Manzanero A., Srinivas Y., Banea O. C., Ćirović D., Amico G., Djan Mihajla., Giannatos G. , Hatlauf J. , Hayrapetyan V., Heltai M., Homel K., Hulva P., Ionică A.M. ,Vikramsinh Jhala Y.V., Juránková J, Kaboli M. , Khosravi R. , Kopaliani N. , Kowalczyk R. , Krofel M, Lanszki J., Luca Lapini, Lymberakis P., Männil P. , Markov G., Mihalca A.D. , Miliou A., Modrý D., Molchan V., 11 , Ostrowski S., Pakeltyté G., D, Ruņģis D.E. , Šnjegota D., , Szabó L., George A. Tryfonopoulos G.A., Tsingarska E., Volokh A., Wójcik J.M., Pilot M. (2024). Range-wide phylogeography of the golden jackals (*Canis aureus*) reveals multiple sources of recent spatial expansion and admixture with dogs at the expansion front. *Biological Conservation* 290 (2024) 110448 (impact factor: 7.499)

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z. (2021) Colchis IMMA Factsheet. IUCN-Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force, 2021. Important Areas Identification for the Black Sea Marine Mammals / justification of Georgian territorial waters importance for marine mammals (Colchis IMMA). (<https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/portfolio-item/colchis-imma/>)

Ivanchikova J., Tregenza N., Popov D., Meshkova G., Paiu M., Timofte C., Amaha Öztürk A., Tonay A., Dede A., Özsandıkçı U., Kopalini N., Dekanoidze D., Gurielidze Z., Vishnyakova K., Hammond P., Gol'din P. Seasonal and diel patterns in Black Sea harbour porpoise acoustic activity in 2020-2022 (In press)

Wildlife Conservation:

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z., Devidze N, Chitanava S., Javakhishvili Z., Ninua L., Dekanoidze D., Shvelidze T. (2019). Monitoring cetaceans in Georgian territorial waters (Methods). Supported by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z., Dekanoidze D., Devidze N., Daraselia I. (2020). **Management plan for the Svaneti 1 – GE0000012 Emerald site.** Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z., Dekanoidze D., Devidze N., Daraselia I. (2020). **Management plan for the Svaneti 2 – GE0000045 Emerald site.** Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z., Daraselia I., Dekanoidze D., Devidze N., Shakarashvili M. (2021). **Management plan for the Borjomi-Kharagauli 2 – GE0000056 Emerald Site (2022-2027)**. Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Kopaliani Natia. 2021. **Conservation assessment of large mammals in Georgia**. National Red List Update. Supported by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

Gurielidze Z., Kopaliani N., Devidze N., Shakarashvili M., Dekanoidze D., Ninua L., Javakhishvili Z., Akobia I., Paposhvili N. Epitashvili G., Japhoshvili B., Iankoshvili G., Tarkhnishvili D. (2023). **National Plan for the Recovery of Endangered Species**. For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

Gurielidze Z., Kopaliani N., Akobia I., Ninua L., Iankoshvili G.; Devidze N., Dekanoidze D., Kerdikoshvili N. (2023). **Management plan for the Alazani- GE0000022 Emerald Site (2024-2031)**. For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

Kopaliani N., Gurielidze Z., Akobia I., Melikishvili N., Kerdikoshvili N. (2023). **Management plan for the Tbilisi Otter Island Emerald Site (2024-2034)**. For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

Master Thesis Supervision (since 2018)

1. Alexander Kochiashvili (2018). Interspecific aggression among sympatric carnivores, grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) and brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in captivity.
2. Merab Mosidze. (2019). Influence of environmental factors on the spatial distribution of the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) in Georgian territorial waters
3. Sandro Chitanava. (2020). Behavioral responses of the Black Sea cetaceans to different type of vessels.
4. Tamar Uguzashvili (2021). Territory use by sympatric canids, wolf and Jackal.
5. George Dekanoidze (2022). Space use by sympatric canids in Chachuna managed reserve
6. Ketevan Orvelashvili (2022). Environmental enrichment impact on lynx (*Lynx lynx*) behavior in captivity.
7. Sofio Kiknavelidze (2022). Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) nesting behavior in Tabatskuri lake.
8. Nina Kobakhidze (2022). Identification of ecologically significant areas in Georgian territorial waters.

9. Mariam Likokeli (2023). Black jackals - hybrids or ecotypes?

International workshops (since 2018)

- ✓ Cetaceans Database creation and management. Byblos, Lebanon. 2018. ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area)
- ✓ Black Sea Cetaceans Monitoring. 2020. Mare Nostrum (Romania) and Tethys Research Institute (Italy) (online)

Presentation: "Status of the Black Sea cetaceans in Georgian territorial waters".

- ✓ Identification of important areas for marine mammals (IMMAs) in the Black and Caspian Seas. Organized by ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area) and IUCN (The International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2021 (online)
- ✓ Presentation: Justification of Georgian Black Sea importance for the Black Sea cetaceans.
- ✓ BlackCeTrends- Acoustic monitoring of the Black Sea cetaceans. 2022 . Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia, UK (online)
- ✓ Black Sea Cetacean strandings monitoring. 2022. Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia, UK (online)

Projects (since 2018)

Indicators for biodiversity monitoring in Georgia. Supported by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). 2019

Officially nominated candidate Emerald sites research for the final adoption (Svaneti 1 – GE0000012 and Svaneti 2 – GE0000045). Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. 2019

Elaboration of the management plan for the Svaneti 2 – GE0000045 Emerald site. Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. 2020

Elaboration of the management plan for the Borjomi-Kharagauli 2 – GE0000056 Emerald Site (2022-2027). Supported by the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. 2021

National Red List Update. Supported by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).
2021

National Plan for the Recovery of Endangered Species. For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).
2023

Elaboration of management plan for the Alazani- GE0000022 Emerald Site (2024-2031). For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency). 2023

Elaboration of the management plan for the Tbilisi Otter Island Emerald Site (2024-2034). For the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Supported by Sida (The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

Passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in Poti New Sea Port. Supported by Poti New Sea Port.

Jackal (*Canis aureus*) in human-modified landscapes: can we coexist? Fundamental Research State Grant. Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia. 2024.

The international cooperation

✓ ***Black Sea Cetaceans Ecology and Conservation***

Julia Ivanchikova. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Dr. Karina Vishnyakova. Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea, Ukraine. Department of Biology, Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University, Türkiye

Dr. Pavel Gol'din. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine. Ukrainian Scientific Centre of Ecology of the Sea.

Dr. Nick Tregenza. Sea Mammal Research Unit, Scottish Oceans Institute, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK

Dimitar Popov. Department of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Marian Paiu. Mare Nostrum NGO, Constanta, Romania. Faculty of Biology, Bucharest University, Bucharest, Romania

Dr. Ayaka Amaha Öztürk. Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Istanbul University, Türkiye

Dr. Arda M Tonay. Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Istanbul University, Türkiye

✓ ***Canids population genetic structure***

Prof. dr hab. Wieslaw Bogdanowicz. Museum & Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Dr. Astrid Vik Stronen. Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Fredrik Bajers Vej 7H, 9220 Aalborg, Denmark

Dr. Dragana Šnjegota. Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Banja Luka, Mladena Stojanovića 2, 78000 Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Malgorzata Pilot. Museum & Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences

✓ ***Ungulate Ecology, Population Dynamics, and Conservation***

Dr. Luka Rossi. University of Turin

Dr. Sandro Lovari, member of IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups

Assoc. Prof. Francisco Ceacero Herrador. Czech University of Life Sciences. Prague

Courses

Zoology (bachelor course)

Cooperation and conflict in animal society (bachelor course)

Behavioral ecology ქვევის ეკოლოგია (MSc course)

Theriology (Mammals diversity and research) (MSc course)

Advanced research in ecology and biodiversity (MSc course)

Public lectures

How did wolves change into dogs? History of domestication and connection between populations. 2019.

Black Sea cetaceans research in Georgian territorial waters. Short documentary by National Geographic Georgia 2019 ↗. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXScYBV1W3w>

Threats, and Conservation Status of Cetaceans in the Black Sea. 2019

Hybridization in Canids. 2023.

<https://www.facebook.com/ajaratvbunebiskanoni/videos/885977362627803>