

# Zura Javakhishvili, PhD | Associate Professor| Conservation Biology

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## Education

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### 2018 Ph.D. Life Sciences

Ilia State University, School of Natural Sciences and Engineering.

Topic of the thesis: Seasonal Movement of Birds in Caucasus and their role in the spread of Avian Influenza Virus.

### 2003 M.Sc. Ecology

Department of Zoology, I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

Topic of the thesis: Ecology and population structure of Vultures (*Gypaetus barbatus*, *Gyps Fulvus*, *Aegypus monachus*, *Neophon percnopterus*) in east Georgia.

### 1999 B.Sc. Biology

Department of Zoology, I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi

Specialisation: Biology

## Teaching Experience

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**From 2021 Head of the MSc program in Nature Protection and Forestry, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Medicine, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia**

**From 2020 Associate Professor at Faculty of Natural Sciences and Medicine, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia**

MSc Courses:

- Wildlife Conservation and Management
- Scientific Research in Nature Conservation and Management
- Ornithology
- Field Methods for Biodiversity Assessment
- Planing and Executing MSc research project

BSc Courses

- Introduction to Conservation Biology
- Field Course in Bird identification and research methods
- BSc and MSc student supervision

## **Research Experience**

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**2007 – 2020**                      **Associated Researcher at Institute of Ecology, Ilia State University, Tbilisi, Georgia**

Recent Research projects and activities:

**Principle Investigator** – Active surveillance of AIV in Wild birds in Georgia

**Avian disease ecology study coordinator** - Avian Zoonotic Disease Network – Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea Flyway

**Head of Scientific Research** – Baseline study of fauna, flora and habitats of the emerald network site Samegrelo – 0000021.

**Principle Investigator** – Species distribution modeling and population assessment of 12 selected avian species in Georgia.

**Head of Scientific Research** – Development of theoretical and practical methods and monitoring protocols for the selected national biodiversity indicators.

**Principle Investigator** – Satellite tracking of breeding waterfowl at Javakheti National Park.

**Principle Investigator** – Development of Special protection areas for birds and preparing monitoring plans in Georgia.

**Project manager** - Ecology and evolution of avian influenza virus (AIV) in wild birds in Georgia and the establishment of the population genetics structure of a host species.

**Project coordinator** – National bird ringing scheme of Georgia.

**Principle Investigator** – Assessment of breeding and wintering populations of waterfowl in Georgia.

**Principle Investigator** – Conservation of Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) in Georgia.

**Principle Investigator** – Ecology, Population structure and Conservation of the Caucasian Grouse (*Lyrurus mlokosieviczi*) in Georgia.

**Principle Investigator** – Ecology, Population structure and Conservation of Vultures in Georgia.

## **Other working experience**

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**2022** **Regional Representative for Eastern Europe - Technical Committee (TC) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA).**

**2020** **Director of the Center for Wildlife Disease Ecology** – Leading and supervising research activities and team investigating wildlife diseases.

**2009** **Head of the Avian Research Group** – Leading and supervising research activities and team performing avian research and conservation projects.

## Awards and Trainings

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- 2018 Adaptive Conservation Management.** Training course by Conservation Coaches Network. Ikalto, Georgia.
- 2008 Georgian National Science Scholars (NNS) Program Award:** Georgian National Science Foundation & U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation.
- 2008 Conservation Leadership Program Award.** CLP/Conservation Leadership Program.
- 2008 Conservation Education & Behavior Change;** By CI, Chattanooga, TN, USA.
- 2008 PR & Media communications;** By CLP, Chattanooga, TN, USA.
- 2008 Project Planning & Management;** By RSPB/CLP, Chattanooga, TN, USA.
- 2008 Estimating animal abundance;** Training workshop by Dr. Edward O. Garton. Bishop, California
- 2006 Integrating Conservation and Development** Training Workshop, By BirdLife International, Batumi, Georgia.
- 2006 Site Management Planning** Training Workshop, By BirdLife International/RSPB, Batumi, Georgia.
- 2005 Project Writing, Management and Monitoring** Training Workshop; By BirdLife International Tbilisi, Georgia.

## Notable Publications

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### Scientific publications:

Jeanne Marie Fair, Nisreen AL-Hmoud, Mu'men Alrwashdeh, Andrew W Bartlow, Sopio Balkhamishvili, Ivane Daraselia, Annie Elshoff, Lara Fakhouri, **Zura Javakhishvili**, Fares Khoury, Denys Muzyka, Levan Ninua, Jean Tsao, Lela Urushadze and Jennifer Owen. (2024). Transboundary Determinants of Avian Zoonotic Infectious Diseases: Challenges for Strengthening Research Capacity and Connecting Surveillance Networks. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, section Virology. 2024.

Vasil Metreveli, Holger Kreft, Ilia Akobia, Zurab Janiashvili, Zaza Nonashvili, Lasha Dzadzamia, **Zurab Javakhishvili** and Alexander Gavashelishvili. (2023). Potential Distribution and Suitable Habitat for Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). *Forests* 2023, 14(10), 2076; <https://doi.org/10.3390/f14102076>.

NIKA PAPOSHVILI, JULIUS MORKUNAS, LEVAN NINUA, TAMAR BERIDZE, NIKO KERDIKOSHVILI, DAVIT DEKANOIDZE, MARINE MURTSKHVALADZE, **ZURAB JAVAKHISHVILI** & ALEXANDER GAVASHELISHVILI. (2023). Genetic connectivity between Caucasian and Northern Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca* populations and its importance for the long-term survival of the species in the Caucasus. *Wildfowl* (2023) 73: 250–261.

Waldenström J, van Toor M, Lewis N, Lopes S, **Javakhishvili Z**, Muzika D, Fouchier RAM and Brouwer A, **2022**. Active wild bird surveillance of avian influenza viruses, a report. EFSA supporting publication 2022:EN-7791. 51 pp. doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2022.EN-7791

**Javakhishvili Z.**, Aghababayan K., Sultanov E., Tohidifare M., Mnatsekanov, R. & Isfendiyaroglu, S. (2020). Status of birds in the Caucasus. Pp. 72 - 82 in Zazanashvili, N., Garforth, M. and Bitsadze, M., eds. Ecoregional Conservation Plan for the Caucasus, **2020** Edition

Nicola S. Lewis, Josanne H Verhagen, **Zurab Javakhishvili**, Colin A Russell, Pascal Lexmond, Kim B. Westgeest, Theo M. Bestebroer, Rebecca A Halpin, Xudong Lin, Amy Ransier, Nadia B Fedorova, Timothy B Stockwell, Neus Latorre-Margalef, Björn Olsen, Gavin Smith, Justin Bahl, David E Wentworth, Jonas Waldenström, Ron A.M. Fouchier, Ph.D. Miranda de Graaf; **2015**. Influenza A virus evolution and spatio-temporal dynamics in Eurasian Wild Birds: A phylogenetic and phylogeographic study of whole-genome sequence data. Journal of General Virology, August 2015 96: 2050-2060.

Nicola S. Lewis, **Zurab Javakhishvili**, Colin A. Russell, Ann Machablashvili, Pascal Lexmond, Josanne H. Verhagen, Oanh Vuong, Tinatin Onashvili, Marina Donduashvili, Derek J. Smith, Ron A. M. Fouchier; **2013**. Avian Influenza Virus Surveillance in Wild Birds in Georgia: 2009–2011 March 2013 | Volume 8 | Issue 3 | e58534

**Zura Javakhishvili**, Giorgi Rajebashvili, Giorgi Darchiashvili; **2013**. Breeding of the Transcaucasian Eurasian Crane (*Grus grus archibaldi*) in Georgia. Newsletter of Crane Working Group of Eurasia, Vol. 1, Issue 12, Pages 47-49.

Alexander Gavashelishvili, **Zura Javakhishvili**; **2010**. Combining radio-telemetry and random observations to model the habitat of Near Threatened Caucasian grouse *Tetrao mlokosiewiczzi*. Oryx., Vol. 44., No 4., page 491

Gavashelishvili, A.; McGready, M.; **Javakhishvili, Z.** **2006**. *Planning the conservation of the breeding population of cinereous vultures (Aegypius monachus) in the Republic of Georgia*. Oryx., Vol. 40., No 1., Jan. 2006, pp76 – 83.

**Javakhishvili, Z.** & Gokhelashvili, R. **2005**. *Caucasian Black Grouse Conservation in Georgia*. 3rd International Black Grouse Conference Liya Fasti Agricultural College, 20 – 25 March, pp97 – 99

Gokhelashvili, R.; Gavashelishvili, A.; **Javakhishvili, Z.**; Azniashvili, L.. *Tourism Infrastructure Planning in Tusheti National Park of Georgia 2002. Monitoring and Management of Visitor Flows in Recreational and Protected Areas*, Conference Proceedings ed. by Arnberger, A. & Brandenburg, C. & Muhar, A. pp74 – 77

**Javakhishvili, Z.** **1999**. *The Corncrake (Crex crex) in Georgia*, In SCHÄFFER, N. & MAMMEN, U. (eds.) : Proceedings International Corncrake Workshop 1998, Hilpoltstein/Germany pp39 – 40

## **Books:**

**Javakhishvili, Z.** & Gavashelili, A. & Darchiashvili, G. 2006. *Birds of Samtskhe-Javakheti*. 74p

Darchiashvili, G.; **Javakhishvili, Z.**; Gavashelishvili, A.; Gokhelashvili, R. 2005 *Birds of Georgia. Field guide for Hunters and Natural Resources Managers*. 66p

Galvez, R.A.; Gavashelishvili, A.; **Javakhishvili, Z.** 2005. *Raptors and Owls of Georgia. Field*

guide. 130p

Gokhelašvili, R.; **Javakhishvili, Z.**; Gavashelišvili, A., Azniashvili, L. 2001. *Caucasian Black Grouse*. 66p

Gavashelišvili, A.; **Javakhishvili, Z.** 1999. *Raptors of Georgia*. 86p

## **Skills**

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**Languages:** English – Fluent, Russian – Fluent, Georgian – Native.

**Computer skills:** Statistical packages such as R and SPSS, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) – QGIS and ArcGIS 9.2 package, Distance 7.0, Adobe Photoshop.

**Driving license:** Category B.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Z. Javakhishvili', written in a cursive style.