Building the Transcaucasian Trail
And the role of NGOs in mountain tourism
• Video 1
What is the Transcaucasian Trail?

• A trail network that will connect the national parks of the Caucasus
  • Eventually stretching from Black Sea to Caspian Sea
  • Provides economic opportunity to rural and remote areas
  • Increases access to the national parks for locals and tourists alike

• A way to foster connections between the people, communities, and countries of the region

• A community of people who will make the trail a reality and feel the positive impact of their engagement and contribution
Transcaucasian Expedition
More than 20 protected areas will eventually be connected by the Transcaucasian Trail system, including:
- Algeti National Park
- Anelpi National Park
- Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park
- Dilijan National Park
- Javakheti Protected Areas
- Kazbegi National Park
- Khosrov Reserve
- Kintishv Protected Area
- Ktsia-Tabatskuri Managed Reserve
- Lagodekh National Park
- Lake Arpi National Park
- Matchakhela National Park
- Mtskheta National Park
- Racha-Lechkhumi-Khevi Svaneti National Park (Planned)
- Samgorio National Park (Planned)
- Shuamta National Park
- Tbilisi National Park
- Trialeti National Park
- Tusheti Protected Areas
- Zemo Svaneti National Park (Planned)

Note: the Transcaucasian Trail is currently being scouted and planned. This map is only intended to give an overview of the possible future trail network. It is not intended to be used for navigation even as an approximate guide to trails in the region.
Our activities

• Volunteer trail crews doing construction and maintenance
• Scouting and mapping existing trails
• Promoting the region and the trail internationally
• Community engagement
Volunteer trail crews 2016

- Eight weeks of volunteer trail building involving more than 20 volunteers from eight different countries (Georgia, US, UK, Germany, Italy, Armenia, Ireland, South Africa).

- Improved a 60 km section of trail in western Svaneti, making it possible to hike for 3-4 days from Chuberi to Mestia. Continuing on established trails adds an additional 3-4 days to Ushguli.

- An additional 4-day crossing to Racha is possible by experienced hikers.
Svaneti
What is involved in building a sustainable trail?

• Hard work 😊
Trail scouting and planning
Design
Brushing
Building new tread and erosion prevention
Bridges/river crossings
Marking
Having a good time...
This summer

• Over 120 local and international volunteers from 17+ countries including 50 Georgian and Armenian volunteers

• Volunteer trail crews in Svaneti and Dilijan National Park Armenia improving more than 200 km of trail

• Scouting in Azerbaijan
Why volunteers?

• Building a community of people invested in the trail
• Creating a larger base of expertise and interest to maintain the trail, making it more sustainable
• Cultivating youth leadership through work in the outdoors
• Building connections between communities
• Introducing people to the wonders of the Caucasus
Funding

Crowdfunding

Grants

Corporate donations

Voluntourism

INDIEGOGO

Gebrüder Weiss

CNF

LAND ROVER
Thank you!!!