



**BIO SECURITY POINTS – CRITICAL ANALYSIS REPORT**

January 2017

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## Bio Security Points – a Short Assessment Report

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### INTRODUCTION

After five years of multi-stakeholder advocacy beginning in 2011, in 2016 the country instituted the development of Biosecurity infrastructure for ensuring the systematic health control of migrating livestock. There are five Bio Security Points (6th one planned to be constructed in 2018) in operation on the Animal Movement Route (AMR) for the disinfection of migrating livestock against parasites with a safe waste management scheme and staffed by specialists hired by the NFA serving farmers free of charge.

The construction of Bio Security Points (BSP's) in Eastern Georgia under the umbrella of the National Food Agency (NFA) began with an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture and National Food Agency in March 2015 to co-finance six BSP's in Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions.

So far, the BSP's have been operational for four seasons during Spring-Autumn 2016 and 2017. With a total number of sheep and cattle dipped/showered during four transhumance seasons Spring-Fall 2016 and 2017 of **1 020 493** heads of livestock.

The ALCP programme has continued to monitor operation of the BSPs' and permanently collects qualitative and quantitative data on the services at BSP's as well as identifying infrastructural gaps for ensuring the points are successfully embed in national animal health control system as an important tool of animal disease management.

**This report provides a critical analysis of the current operation of the BSP's identifying gaps and suggesting improvements in management and the service provided and infrastructure.**

### THE LATEST SEASON OF BSP'S AND MONITORING OF THEIR OPERATION

From October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 to November 20<sup>th</sup> Bio Security Points officially opened to serve nomadic farmers of Georgia according to the order N 327-9 issued by National Food Agency (NFA). The document instructed the regional division of the NFA to be responsible for sheep and livestock health surveillance during the transhumance season 2017.

Opening of BSP's implies that the infrastructure is in working condition and has been cleaned of the waste of previous operational season. It also assumes that staff members (a vet, vet assistance and guardsmen) are assigned to the point and in place and that chemicals needed for treatment (insecticide<sup>1</sup>) are available. On October 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> visits were conducted at Marneuli, Rustavi, Signagi and Dedoplistskaro BSP's for monitoring purposes. The newly NFA built BSP in Telavi was also visited which was officially opened on October 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 by the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia.

**To summarize the monitoring results the main issues identified on all BSP's were the following:**

- Most of the BSP's did not use its maximum capacity due to the management (e.g. gaps of the infrastructure like damaged water provision system, blocked dipping baths, and insufficient number of BSP's staff members)
- The preliminary maintenance works for preparing the infrastructure for operation during a new transhumance season were not conducted on time
- Damaged infrastructure was not repaired on time (before opening season)
- Part of the infrastructure needs modification to be more convenient for sheep dipping
- The Waste management issue needed improvement as collecting of waste from septic tanks was not always done on time thus delaying the operation of the BSP's

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<sup>1</sup> insecticide - substances used to kill insects, including tick of sheep and cattle

*A Table with the details on identified gaps at BSP's*

The necessary stuff for proper operation of BSP's		Fulfilled	Failure	Note
<b>BSP preparation for operation season</b>				
1	Preliminary visits of the NFA representatives at all BSP's & making infrastructure assessment report	√		Done by the NFA Vet Department
2	Discussing the assessment report at the NFA and planning maintenance works	√		
3	Execution of the planned works by Administration Department of the NFA		<b>X</b>	Delay
4	Ensuring all maintenance works of infrastructure are completed before opening BSP's		<b>X</b>	e.g: In the latest season, Autumn 2017 only after opening of BSP they started to conduct maintenance works at Marneuli BSP
5	Announcing BSP's opening dates and contracting BSP staff members	√		
<b>Operation of BSPs</b>				
6	The staff members a vet, vet assistant assigned to the point are at place (7 am to 5 pm)	√		At some BSPs' there were cases observed when the vet and his assistant is not at the place together
7	The number of staff is adequate for providing proper operation of the point		<b>X</b>	More staff needed at BSP to provide help in dipping process
8	The BSP staff members are aware of their responsibilities		<b>X</b>	some cases observed when the BSP vet allowed shepherds to mix chemicals in sheep bath
9	Supply of insecticide is available at BSP's	√		On time
10	Water supply system provides sufficient water to BSP's		<b>X</b>	Malfunctioning of water supply delays operation of BSPs in Marneuli, Signagi and in Rustavi BSPs
11	Water points are full of clean water	√		Repair works are necessary at Signagi and Marneuli water Points
12	The waste from septic tanks are collected& disposed on time		<b>X</b>	The waste disposal truck sometime comes 1-2 days later at the points
13	The Sheep dipping bathes are cleaned out from dirty water after dipping of each herd		<b>X</b>	Cleaning out the sheep baths is time consuming and BSP staff as well as shepherds try to avoid it
14	The area of BSP's is cleaned minimum once per month		<b>X</b>	Only after the operation season is completed and not at every point
15	Cattle shower is spraying sufficient chemical to threat cattle		<b>X</b>	Cattle shower is malfunctioning at all BSP except Signagi, where it was modified by the NFA local office
16	The number of animals served (dipped/showered) at BSP's is recorded	√		a registry is maintained at all BSPs, a certificate is also issued proving the livestock was treated against parasites. However shepherd tend to hide the actual number of sheep they have in herd and declare less
17	The farmers are given instruction on livestock dipping/showering process, on safety measures and their role in the process	√		
18	Safety measures are followed at BSP's		<b>X</b>	Sometimes farmers have access to chemicals and their request to put more chemicals into the bath is fulfilled
19	The health of the livestock is inspected by the vet before dipping	√		superficial inspection
20	Giving a veterinary help first aid to sick/injured livestock		<b>X</b>	Non-fatal Injuries are ignored. E.g. bleeding sheep that broke horn during dipping is not a subject of any reaction
21	Placing sick/injured animal in quarantine zone		<b>X</b>	Livestock with health issues like mastitis, broken leg are being left outside BSP area during the dipping of a herd rather than in the quarantine zone. In Signagi BSP the quarantine zone is not isolated
22	The BSP's guard is at place from 7:00pm to 10:00am	√		
23	The BSP's are cleaned and disinfected from the waste of previous operational season		<b>X</b>	

## MANAGEMENT SCHEME AND GAPS OF THE BSP'S

Since spring 2016 the Veterinary Department of the NFA has been responsible for the management of BSP's. A team of Vet department in the central office of the NFA was assigned to control and manage the BSP's: 30 employees for 5 BSP's are hired during 4 Months to provide operation of Marneuli, Rustavi, Dedoplistskaro, Signagi BSP and now Telavi BSP as well: 2 Vets (Salary: 670 GEL), 2 Vet Assistants (500 Gel) and 2 guards (400 Gel).

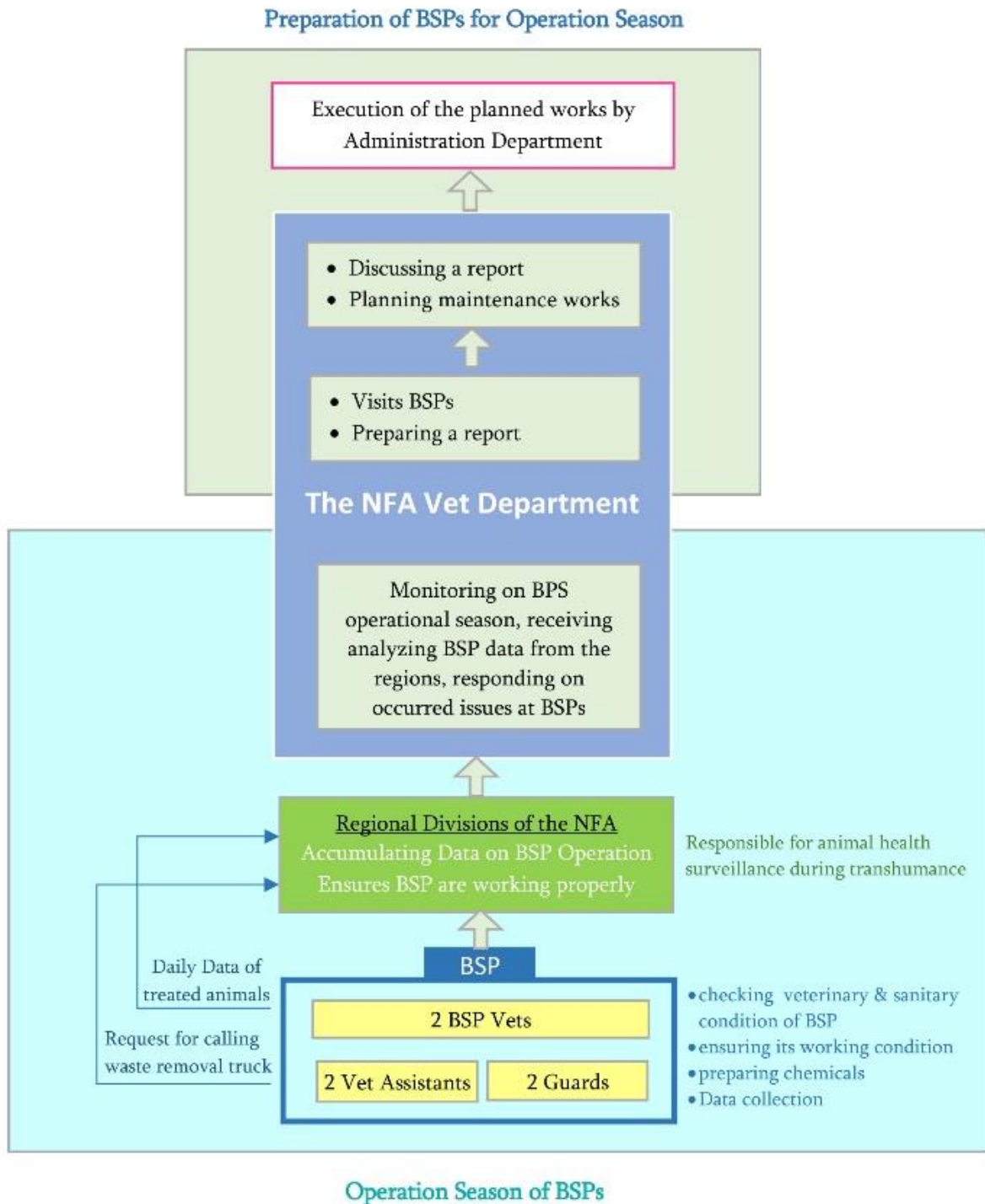
A document about the BSP's which is not finalized yet, including a management scheme and action plan for the provision of effective functioning of BSP's has been developed by the head of the Vet Department of the NFA. The document includes the information on why we need BSP's, how it is operated, what is the agency's strategy for BSP's, how monitoring & data collection should be made, information campaign, safety measure on BSP's. The feedback had been already provided on the document by the ALCP, however further facilitation is needed to finalize and declare it as an official document on BSP's to refer to.

As observed since Spring 2016, during 4 operation seasons, there have been significant gaps in the management of the BSP's. Usually the NFA Vet Department receives information directly from visiting BSP's as well as through the regional representatives of the agency. The Vet Department define necessary activities for proper functioning of the points and has appropriate funds from the state budget for provision of excellent operation of the BSP's.

**However, when it comes to the execution of planned works, which appeared to be a responsibility of the administration department of the NFA - there is a delay.** As explained by the representatives of the Agency, the Law on State Procurement limits their flexibility in purchasing services or assets in time due to strictly defined procedures. In the latest season, the works that should had been done before starting the operation of BSP - were conducted only after their opening. Consequently, the infrastructure was not in a proper condition. Repairing and maintenance works were conducted in parallel to dipping process or after completion of operation season. **There are also issues locally at BSP's that need improvement in supervision from the central office as well as more timely response on existing issues.** In addition to this, more human resources are needed at place to be included in sheep dipping process. This will make process more **time effective**. As observed the shepherds do not always have enough people to handle sheep dipping process at two sheep baths simultaneously and therefore they use only one bath were two bathes are available.

*See Diagram 1 below showing the process related to BSP's preparation for operation as well as who does what during its operation.*

Diagram 1

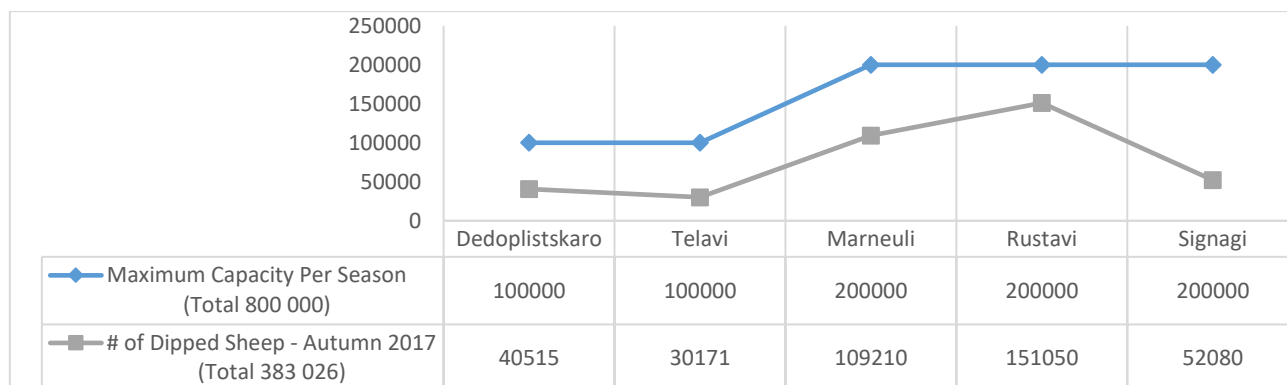


## UNDERUSED CAPACITY OF BSPS'

The maximum capacity of Dedoplistskaro and Telavi BSP's is **5 000** heads of sheep per day, 100 000 per season and the maximum capacity of Marneuli, Rustavi and Signagi BSP's is - **10 000** per day, 200 000 per season.

As observed, the points did not use their maximum capacity as the sheep dipping process takes more time that it would be if the infrastructure was functioning properly and adequate human resources were provided at place (e.g. both sheep dips are not used simultaneously, water provision system is malfunctioning). To treat the maximum number of sheep per day BSP's staff need to work overtime and they sometimes do.

**Assigning additional staff members at BSPs' could also solve the issue.**



**Note:** Total number of sheep and cattle dipped/showered during 2017 is **643 281** heads of livestock

Total number of sheep and cattle dipped/showered during four transhumance seasons in Spring-Fall 2016 and 2017 is **1 020 493** heads of livestock.

## EXPENSES RELATED TO BSPS FROM THE GOVERNMENT SIDE

Construction of 3 BSP's by the NFA in Kakheti Region in GEL	2016	2017	Total
	316,000	207,150	523,150

Expenses for BSP's Operation in GEL	Spent in 2016	Spent in 2017	Estimated expenses in 2018
Insecticide	30,000	76,000	82,600
Waste Disposal Service	16,000	130,000	135,000
Salaries and fuel	50,000	87,000	96,000
Equipment and maintenance works	16,000	8,200	16,500
Other expenses	0	24,000	14,000
Total	112,000	325,200	344,100
<i>Total expenses in 2016 -2017 in GEL 437,200</i>			

## INFRASTRUCTURAL GAPS IDENTIFIED AT BSP'S DURING THE MONITORING VISIT

**Note:** After the monitoring visit in October 201, some infrastructural works were carried out by the NFA to solve existing infrastructural gaps.

### Marneuli BSP

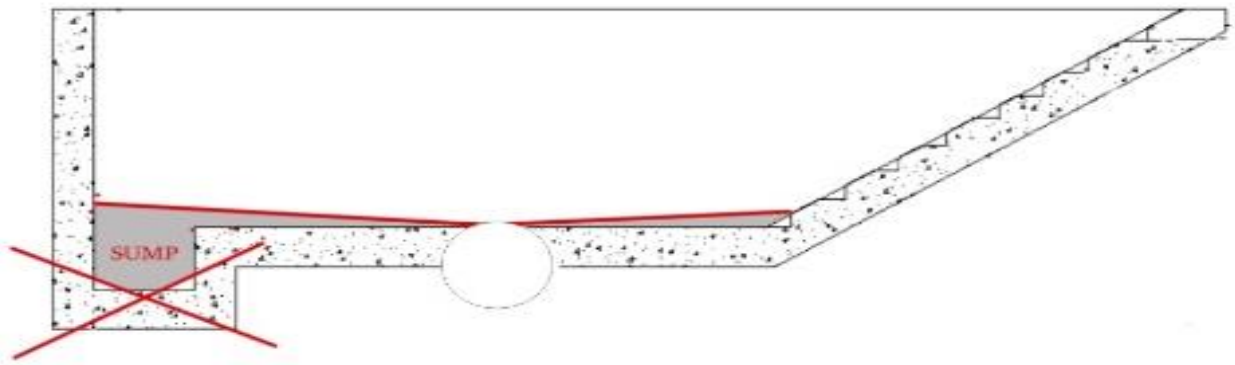
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The infrastructure of Marneuli BSP was not ready to serve shepherds during the new transhumance season 2017: the waste from the last operation season had not been cleaned away, the sheep baths and septic tanks were full of dirty waste, water provision system was broken. Technical infrastructural gaps that needs to be fixed are the following:

- **Water points:** one of the water points is damaged and is injurious to animal safety
- **Sheep dipping baths:** only one of the baths is functional, another one is jammed with waste. Local staff are unable to solve the issue
- **Water provision system is malfunctioning.** 2-3 hours are needed for filling the sheep bath which slowing the process. Therefore it is possible to dip maximum 3000 sheep per day (8 hours) when the proposed capacity of the facility is about 10000 sheep per day. The Proposed reason of the issue is a low pressure of the water when filing in the sheep dip from 50 tones water tank. One of the options to improve the system is to install high powered pump or to leave existing pump switched on during night hours that will let 50 tons of water tank to be supplied by the next working day.
- Toilet is not functioning on the BSP as it is not connected to water supply system – *Solved by now*
- **Cleaning out sheep baths** from mud and removal of spent chemical mix is too difficult facility had been designed for vacuum cleaning option. Therefore current layout should be modified and existing piped replaced with wider ones (200 mm diameter). See the illustrations below – *Sheep Dip Drawing*



**Water Point at Marneuli BSP**



Sheep Dip Drawing

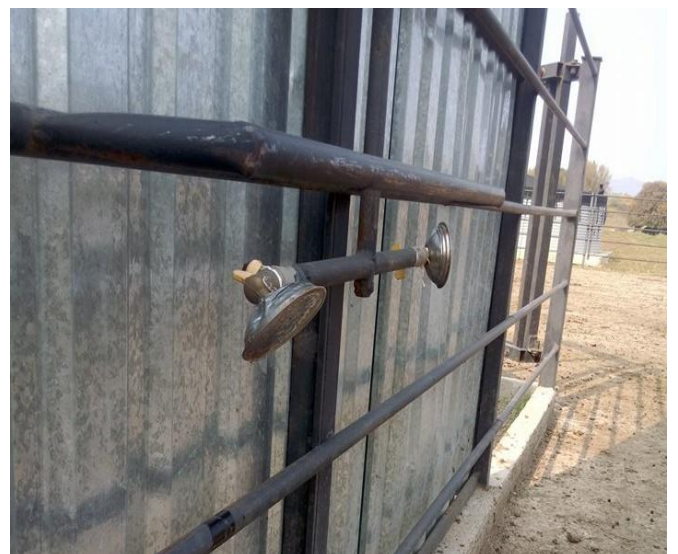
Photos from Marneuli BSP



only one bath is used for dipping at Marneuli BSP



Water Point on Marneuli BSP



Cattle Shower nozzles



## Rustavi BSP

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- Water tank on the point is damaged and not connected the water provision system. The facility is supplied with water directly through the tap, where sometimes water is interrupted. For this reason there are cases when BSP stops operation due to the absence of water supply
- The tap of the water point is broken and the water permanently flow down from it - *Solved by now*
- Spray nozzles needs to be replaced and additional ones added at cattle shower
- Circular pen and cattle entry door need repairing
- Toilet is not functioning, as it is not connected to the existing water provision system. A few meters of pipe and minimum expense is enough to solve the issue.
- Provision of electivity would improve working conditions of the BSP staff members



Water Point at Rustavi BSP

**Photos from Rustavi BSP**



**Water Point at Rustavi BSP**



**Circular pen at Rustavi BSP**

## Signagi BSP

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- The BSP Water supply system is malfunctioning, the pump is not working properly - *Solved by now*
- The water tank that had been built at the point is damaged due to the low quality of provided construction works. The contracted company that is responsible to re-build the tank in warranty period is not fulfilling contract terms.
- Water points are also damaged also due to poor quality construction



Ruins of Water Tank at Signagi BSP

**Photos from Signagi BSP**



**Cattle Shower nozzles at Signagi BSP**



**Water Point at Signagi BSP**

## Dedoplistskaro BSP

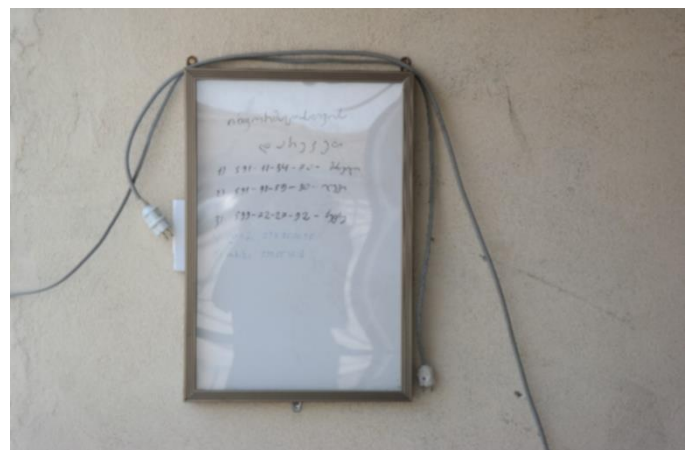
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- The BSP were not fully prepared properly to start working: the point were not clean, the sheep dip bath was full of dirty water as well as the septic tanks
- The entry door of circular pen is narrow that will make hard to herding in sheep

### Photos from Dedoplistskaro BSP



Sheep bath at Dedoplistskaro BSP



Contact information of BSP Staff

## Kvareli BSP

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Water point location is not good, better to be located separately not on the fence of the Bio Security Point

### Photos from Telavi BSP

