



## Eco-Towerism in Tsiskarauli: community rehabilitation of a missile- struck medieval tower in Georgia.

An international collaboration between the International National Trusts Organisation, National Trust of Georgia and REMPART funded by the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas.

Final project report 2021-2023

**IN** INTERNATIONAL  
**TO** NATIONAL TRUSTS  
ORGANISATION



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THE NATIONAL TRUST OF GEORGIA



International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
in conflict areas



**REMPART**  
TOGETHER FOR HERITAGE





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## Summary of project

At the close of this project, we can celebrate achieving all objectives set out in project design. Previously on the brink of collapse, a unique piece of medieval heritage tracing Georgia's layered history of conflict now stands firm, expertly stabilised. Pooling together international expertise and teams of dedicated volunteers, Tsiskarauli Tower is a model of revival for Georgian heritage.

Alongside capital restoration works, this project has had significant impact at a local and international level in sensitisation to the value of Georgian heritage. Multiple teams of international and Georgian volunteers have benefitted from the opportunity to closely engage with the rehabilitation of at-risk heritage through pioneering heritage working holidays. More locally in Khevsureti, the restoration of this monument has brought much-needed attention to a remote region, that had expressed cultural and political isolation from modern Georgia.

Where this project saw in real time the risk that conflict poses to our cultural identity, the newly restored tower shows the potential of collaboration to heal historic damage from conflict. This project's legacy continues through the benefit to the local community whose distinct heritage is on full display at a site that will act as a cultural tourism asset for years to come.





## 2021 preparatory works

Essential preparatory stabilisation took place in 2021 in one working-holiday, under supervision of French Stonemason Pierre Denou and Georgian conservation architects:

- The surrounding area, interior ground and first floor cleared of debris.
- Access structure to the interior erected.
- Materials testing carried out, and filling of one structural crack.
- First section of trail from site created, and foundation works for power prepared.

Left: Volunteers transport materials to site via newly created access corridors  
Below: [Left] Newly erected access structure to the interior is given a Georgian adornment by a volunteer [Right] Volunteers begin work on hiking trail

## Details of Project Achievements

- **Objective:** This project will stabilise and restore the Tsiskarauli Tower
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

The tower has been fully stabilised and is no longer at risk of collapse.

The finalised capital works are of remarkable quality - delivered in collaboration by a highly skilled core technical team and dedicated international volunteers - and we are immensely proud to share the results at the close of this project.

Traditional knowledge and materials were key for successful rehabilitation, which was delivered to deadline, restored in accordance with conservation standards expected of the Georgian sector, where its condition requires no further intervention in the short term.





## Finalised capital works

Finalised rehabilitation carried out over an eight-week period in 2023:

- Cracks compromising structural integrity filled with lime mortar.
- Damaged roof cleared of vegetation and masonry restored.
- Missing fragments meticulously rebuilt using local shale and traditional masonry led by local mason Vasiko Nakeuri.
- Interior and facades fully rehabilitated.
- Rotten floor beams replaced using local wood, in line with traditional architecture of the region.
- The most severe structural damage on the first-floor roof fully rebuilt.
- Collapsed first-floor arches and vaults reconstructed using authentic stone and lime work.

All works diligently follow the tower's original geometry ensuring accurate stabilisation.

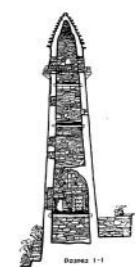


Left: [Top] Plant matter is removed and masonry is restored on the roof of Tsiskarauli Tower  
 [Bottom] Interior view of severe structural damage and its reconstruction  
 Above: Before and after view of facade of Tsiskarauli tower demonstrating restoration of stonework and repointing with breathable lime mortar

**46** volunteers trained in heritage skills

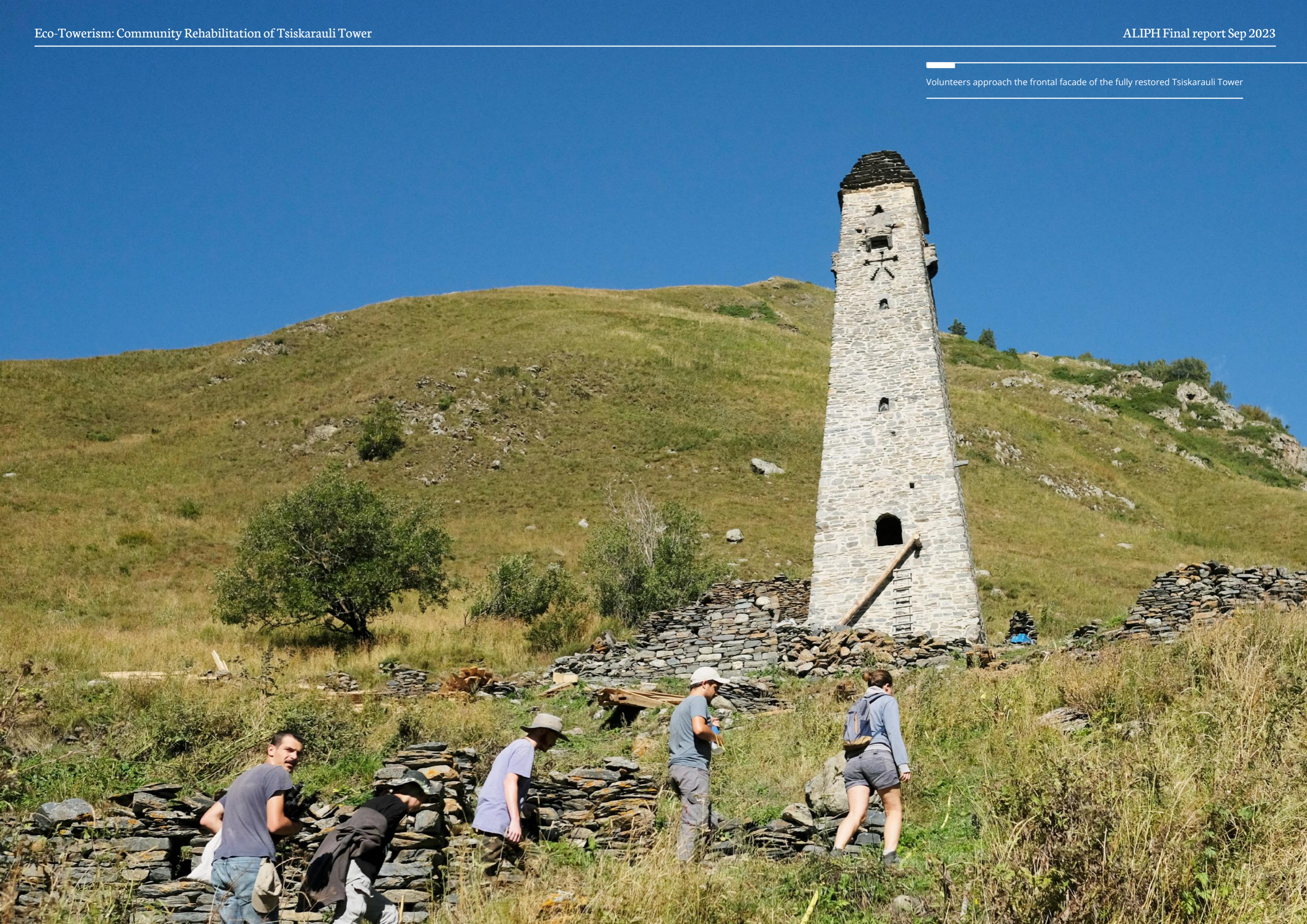
Over **10** weeks of capital works

**4** external facades **19** m in height fully rehabilitated





Volunteers approach the frontal facade of the fully restored Tsiskarauli Tower







Above: New exterior interpretation outside the Tsiskarauli Tower

## Tracing the history of Tsiskarauli Tower

- **Objective:** The tower will be turned into a space with interpretation that discusses the risk posed to heritage in conflict
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

Tsiskarauli Tower has been well-developed into a fully interpreted monument.

New signage at the site tells visitors of its restoration through international collaboration, and the damage suffered in conflict. Interior displays give a history of its unique architecture, while historic images of the Tower show its enduring cultural memory locally. Inspired by examples of interpretation of remote sites in the UK, remains of the missile which led to its destabilisation are on display in

powerful new interpretation that speaks to the risks posed to heritage in conflict.

Newly installed lighting illuminates the site at night – described locally as ‘a lighthouse of peace in a sea of dark mountains.’ The tower in its new state, is on full display, easily accessible from Akheili, open to all as a place of peace and rebuilding.

- **Objective:** Tsiskarauli Tower is fully documented with records shared with the relevant authorities within Georgia and international experts
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

The tower has been carefully documented to legitimise restoration.

An Art History study was produced to gain access to site from the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia in 2021. Subsequent assessments have been made to monitor structural integrity and damage caused by the missile.

Following delayed activity in years one and two, a group of self-funded Polish Archaeological

volunteers assessed the tower’s stability through 3D modelling in 2022. This provoked another monitoring visit by our specialist technical team to analyse its integrity and plan works for 2023.

A technical report following restoration to register works with the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia, is included with this report. All reports produced by the National Trust of Georgia are available via their website.



Left: [Top] New interior signage at Tsiskarauli Tower including boxed display of missile shell [Bottom] Detail of missile fragments set into mortar on display at Tsiskarauli tower  
Above: Signage to Tsiskarauli tower and newly linked hiking trail in Akheili village



## Sharing learning

- **Objective:** Capacity built at the National Trust for Georgia (NTG) learning from best practices in, managing remote heritage sites and volunteering as a route to restoration thanks to secondments at the National Trust and REMPART
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

In May 2022 the National Trust, hosted experts from NTG for a learning exchange. Exploiting availability of two NTG staff already in country, we maximised learning to include four experts within budget for this activity.

Visiting the Lake District in England for comparable geography to the project site, secondees visited medieval stone heritage with material similarities. Also matched on challenges of interpretation in lower-resource contexts secondees met with National Trust staff observing best practice in remote interpretation. This had a direct impact on project interpretation, which was subsequently 'measured to the context of the site, and according to the maintenance capacity of a

remote region' in feedback from Lela Ninoshvili, National Trust of Georgia Secondee.

Embedded in the National Trust's volunteer-led pathway restoration programme 'Fix the Fells', the team gained practical insight into volunteer engagement and pathway maintenance from lead facilitator Rob Clarke. Sharing best practice in transference of material knowledge secondees visited staff at heritage skills education centres Coleshill and Little Moreton Hall.

The National Trust's stewardship of volunteers, and commitment to volunteer programming offered new insight for Georgian staff who returned "full of new energy and enhanced attitudes towards preserving heritage" (Lela Ninoshvili).



Salome Tsiskarauli Co Manager at the National Trust of Georgia participates in additional co-funded ERASMUS+ training in October 2021 after a secondment with REMPART in July 2021.

**"Being closely involved with volunteers helped me understand their dedication and the vital role they play. It was enlightening to witness their enthusiasm and willingness to contribute their time and effort to a cause they believe in."** - Salome Tsiskarauli - Project Co-Manager NTG

In 2021, two community engagement managers participated in a two-week secondment with REMPART, observing the workings of a French workcamp.

This provided crucial insight into the collaborative relationship between volunteers and experts, integral health and safety measures, key infrastructure and project planning requirements, and the best utilisation of resources.

*"This secondment provided me with a well-rounded perspective on the collaborative dynamics between experts and volunteers. It underscored the importance of effective communication and coordination between them to achieve shared goals."* - Guga Klbadze Project Co-Manager NTG

Secondees commented on the reforming impact this theoretical and practical exchange had on their view of volunteerism. Hearing first-hand from REMPART volunteers, seeing their presence '[bring] the site to life', provided a case study model for volunteer-led restoration.

Using INTO's global network, the training was followed up with a digital session in 2021 exploring international approaches from France, the UK and Poland to embed learning further.

Subsequent co-funded trips for NTG staff have enhanced learning through critical leadership training in REMPART working holiday pedagogy.



National Trust of Georgia colleagues join volunteers in the Lake District foothills with the Fix The Fells programme of the National Trust



## Enhancing eco-tourism

- **Objective:** A new walking route will be created bringing much needed eco-tourism and economic opportunities
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

Volunteers have created a 700m walking path along Sairme Mountain's lower ridge, to a viewpoint overlooking Akheili village, complete with a visitor swing.

This project expanded beyond providing eco-tourism, enriching natural *and* cultural tourism in the region.

This has been welcomed by the local community, who have sought opportunities to connect with existing pathways in the area. Local revenue has been stimulated via increased visitation from project publicity, with six visitor groups citing the project as their primary reason for the journey.

Ongoing potential to grow impact exists with the Trans Caucasian Trail initiative, who have shown interest in the project.



Left: Volunteers building ecotourist trail in 2021 working holiday  
Below: Map detail of trail from site marked in yellow

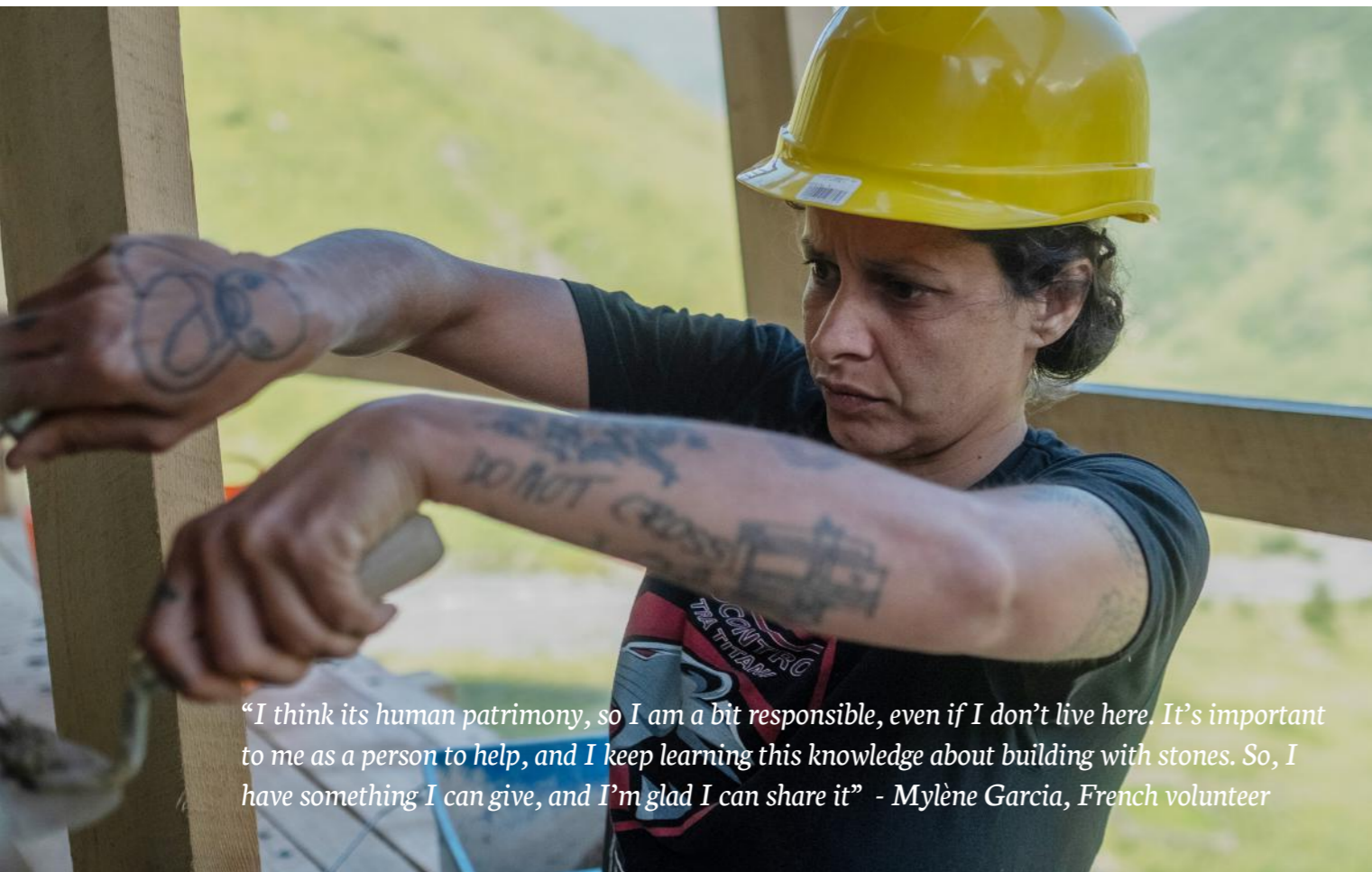
**700** m of eco-tourist trail created  
Climbing **200** m of Mt. Sairme



Above: New signage in Akheili shows route to Tsiskarauli Tower and hiking trail  
Below: The swing at the resting point of a new hiking trail







*“I think its human patrimony, so I am a bit responsible, even if I don’t live here. It’s important to me as a person to help, and I keep learning this knowledge about building with stones. So, I have something I can give, and I’m glad I can share it” - Mylène Garcia, French volunteer*

Above: Mylène Garcia French volunteer applies lime mortar to stones on the Tsiskarauli tower

## Pioneering working holidays

- **Objective:** Complete a programme of working holidays utilising volunteers from France and the UK demonstrating common work as a tool of mutual understanding. 56 international people learn about Georgian heritage over four working holidays delivering conservation outcomes
- **Status:** Objective completed with modifications

This project delivered 5 working holidays, pioneering this model in Georgia.

46 international volunteers restored the Tsiskarauli monument. Of those there were 13 French, one British, one Ukrainian, 6 Polish and 25 Georgian volunteers.

Under supervision of Georgian experts and French expertise via REMPART, they contributed to the skilful rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower, learning heritage skills in stonemasonry, lime pointing, and carpentry. Two volunteers have subsequently chosen to pursue higher education in restoration after participating.

Working holidays also facilitated the exchange of intangible heritage between volunteers, and the host community. Georgian volunteer Irina Lomadze, reported when sharing Georgian Supra toasting culture with French colleagues a recurrent toast materialised – “To the mortar that unites us!”.

Modelled on international voluntary service for peacebuilding, as demonstrated by European partners, the cultural understanding and community building impact of this project is profound.

*“According to the locals, their core values revolve around freedom and equality. Working on the tower brought together people with diverse values, all converging around these fundamental principles.”*

*- Salome Dumbadze, Georgian volunteer.*

Below: Volunteers observe mixing of lime before applying to Tsiskarauli tower whilst rehabilitating a facade.



This is the first project of its kind in Georgia, where the concept of heritage volunteerism is much less established. For a nation that has endured conflict-induced instability – integrating Georgian volunteers, inviting investment in their national identity, was a great merit of this project.

Anchored at a point that has suffered in conflict, these moments of cultural exchange displayed the peacebuilding power of collaborative restoration.





A volunteer uses lime mortar to restore original stonework on the Tsiskarauli Tower.



## Valorising community heritage

- **Objective:** The local community are sensitised to the value of the tower wishing to protect it within their own communities
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

The restoration of Tsiskarauli Tower has symbolically and tangibly valorised the regional heritage of the Arkhoti Valley community.

Promotional efforts have provided much-needed attention to this previously neglected region. Immersed in the daily life of the community, the work of volunteers was incredibly well received locally. In a stakeholder meeting, community member Pikria Chincharauli, expressed her gratitude -

*“The work of this multicultural group is so admirable that it would be a shame for us to not transmit it to future generations. We must tell future generations who carried out this good deed”*

Below: Pikria Chincharauli and community members at a community meeting in Akheili



Above: A guesthouse in Akheili puts up a new sign for visitors  
Below: Project Co-Manager Salome Tsiskarauli speaks to community at a stakeholder meeting in Tbilisi

Lela Ninoshvili (NTG), technical staff member, reported increased interest over the project lifetime in conservation techniques being used, with several families pursuing rehabilitation of houses and improving living conditions, stating - “They are looking at the site with different eyes. Locals really understand what their heritage means.” The tower’s restoration serves as an anchor for ongoing village maintenance, as a site of Georgian mountain heritage.

More tangibly, revenue has been generated in Akheili through hosting volunteers, and increased visitation catalysed by the project. The project has triggered new initiatives among the local community including new guesthouses to meet demand. The site has gained recognition on tourist trails through project-driven promotion and received 20 visitors during the work season who had learned about the project, as well as local descendant families.







Above: Project Co Manager Guga Klibadze presents at a community meeting in Tbilisi

## Sustainability and visibility

- **Objective:** NTG take a long-term commitment to the site, and area continuing to run working holidays and advertising the region for eco-tourism
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

This project significantly bolstered the National Trust of Georgia's capacity to co-steward the site with the community.

Six colleagues benefitted from valuable insights gained through secondments learning from two successful heritage management and community engagement models.

Moreover, the project successfully established the concept of heritage working holidays in Georgia. The remote nature of this site has

shown the challenging capacity to support fully funded working holidays here without external funding. As a result, the restoration work has reached a level that doesn't require immediate ongoing volunteer intervention but can accommodate future low-maintenance opportunities of this kind.

With enhanced capacity and knowledge sharing, the National Trust is now well-equipped to replicate this model in other contexts.

- **Objective:** National and International heritage community is aware of project activity
- **Status:** Objective completed in full

Concluding this project, we can celebrate key achievements in sector sensitisation.

In Georgia, NTG amplified the project's profile through participation in **seven events and lectures**, making use of collaborations with **Tbilisi Technical University, ICOMOS Georgia and Blue Shield Georgia**.

Internationally, the project gained exposure at **two INTO conferences** in 2021 and 2022, reaching 600 global heritage sector delegates. Collaborations with the **Polish Chudow Castle**

**Foundation and Jagelloian University**, promise ongoing regional research, demonstrating the reach and value of the project beyond our partnership. Through INTO's global network further learning was fostered by connecting to organisations working in volunteer restoration in Greece and the Netherlands.

The partnership remains committed to exploring post-project opportunities, including entry into the European Heritage Awards by **Europa Nostra**.



Above: Marie-Georges Pagel-Brousse delivers a workshop at INTO Dundee with the Gelderland Trust of the Netherlands  
Left: Manana Tevadze of Blue Shield Georgia delivers a lecture as part of project sensitisation activity





## Risk Management

Our project has been overseen by a risk management committee, meeting regularly to mitigate and respond to risk rapidly.

### COVID-19

The pandemic posed substantial risk to the completion of this project, but mitigation steps taken saw us able to achieve our objectives despite this. Early contingency models were produced for volunteering that omitted international travel. We delayed booking travel ahead of time where possible to avoid financial losses. Agreed postponements with ALIPH allowed ease of delivery of activities when the global situation had subsided. Delivering our pilot working holiday in 2021, appropriate testing and hygiene measures were taken to ensure safety of volunteers and the host community – the success of this was evident in the lack on contract or further disruption on site from COVID.

### Inflation

Compounded crises over the project lifetime saw unpredicted levels of inflation affect project spend. This was particularly challenging in Georgia, where material costs rose significantly – particularly in the case of lime of which was required in high volumes. This had a similar impact across costs associated with transportation of materials and hosting of volunteers. Working predominantly over an 8-week period focussed on achieving rehabilitation objectives, the costs associated with this were higher than expected. Where possible, we mitigated against this through careful financial planning to accommodate fluctuations in price, redirecting underspend towards capital works where possible to ensure the safe stabilisation of the monument. For the final overspend outside of the project budget (approximately \$2k), co-funding was secured to meet these elevated costs to prioritise the restoration objectives set out in this project.

### Safety on site

Working on an active restoration site, safety of volunteers and staff was of the utmost importance. Special attention was paid to this element in secondments, in particular in

France, where NTG secondees observed from REMPART, the operational requirements and safety measures necessary to ensure safe conditions for work. NTG staff completed additional training in 2022 in Georgia to refresh learning and adhere to high standards of health and safety.

### Extreme weather events

An acute landslide in our project region delayed integral infrastructure days before working holidays began in 2022. Working in a remote location in a region prone to extreme weather, this was always a risk area for consideration, though tangible mitigation against this was out of our control. We worked quickly to assess the situation on the ground, communicating with ALIPH immediately. We diminished knock-on risk by collating an extension proposal that prioritised the completion of works at site and mitigated against future risk of this type by reducing international participation. Partners worked quickly to maintain engagement with the community, volunteers and contractors so as to reduce reputational and financial risk to the best of our ability.

### Internal and external unrest

Working in a border region with the Russian Federation, the war in Ukraine posed a meaningful security risk to this project. Our project team met on a bi-weekly basis to assess risk, drawing up security and evacuation costings for the working season as a mitigation measure. Assessing risk as low-level for our project site, working holidays were agreed to go ahead. To mitigate against loss of engagement from international volunteers due to security concerns, REMPART stewarded volunteers through recruitment to placate security fears transparently. Remodelling of activity in 2022 reduced international participation to further mitigate against this risk.

Internal unrest triggered by the Foreign Agents Bill in Georgia in 2022 was closely monitored by project staff, well-positioned to access up to date information as the situation developed. This posed minimal risk to project activity upon review, but contingency plans were regularly reviewed through the process.

## Modifications to project

All major modifications to project activity have been discussed and agreed with ALIPH ahead of time for the duration of this project.

In 2021, with the rise of the DELTA variant of COVID-19, we introduced a contingency model integrating Georgian volunteers to the programme, and omitting UK volunteer participation on the ground of mitigation against travel restrictions. The participation of Georgian volunteers has seen been one of the project's greatest successes. This was agreed with ALIPH in March 2021.

The collaboration with Chudow Castle Foundation of Poland was agreed with ALIPH in the summer of 2022, on the agreement that volunteers would support the costs of their participation which was met. Their integration has since provided invaluable pro bono archaeological surveying expertise from the team from Jagiellonian University.

Our working holiday schedule was also remodelled in agreement with ALIPH in response to postponements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the landslide in June 2022, which restricted access to the site for the working season. As agreed four working holidays took place in 2023 over challenging eight-week period, to meet the conservation objectives set out by this project.

Within this, a project extension of nine months was agreed with ALIPH in August 2022, after a catastrophic landslide caused the last-minute cancellation of holidays in 2022. This proposal was a hybrid model that prioritised the rehabilitation works, and scaled back the international partnership by removing return trips for UK experts and integrating international volunteers on a cost-neutral basis to the project. The proposal also included the move to a freelance project manager role to reduce staff costs in the UK. This proposal was submitted to ALIPH in August 2022, with all budgetary extensions confirmed in February 2022.

A communication campaign was also integrated into our budget extension. To prioritise rehabilitation works which presented higher costs than anticipated in our intense working period this summer, this cost was removed from the project budget in the final weeks of activity. An essential tool for profile raising of this project's achievements, and gathering stakeholder testimonials, we were still able to produce a short documentary, securing external funding outside of the project.

Below: Ukrainian volunteer David Grigorian works on site during a working holiday in 2023





“This project has breathed life into the community in Akheili village, and has shown the importance of valorisation of heritage for local communities. It’s legacy will remain in the continued visitation and interaction with the local community and their cultural heritage and the promotion of this region’s immense cultural value by the National Trust of Georgia”

- Marine Mizandari Co-chair of the National Trust of Georgia

## Lessons learned

### Evaluation methodology

This project has exceeded expectations of success at a local level, and as an international partnership. Evaluation and assessment against our objectives has been regularly reviewed using a number of methodologies.

Our full project partnership has met on a monthly basis, with bi-weekly evaluations and reviews being conducted for financial, risk and progress monitoring between partners or more frequently as needed. This has allowed us to monitor progress against our aims to deliver successfully and to deadline.

A coordination and mid-project review meeting was conducted in Athens in 2021, where financial monitoring and narrative reporting processes between partners were overhauled for greater accuracy and streamlining of working processes. A budgetary evaluation was also completed to ensure we were well resourced for the following year.

The closing visit to Georgia represented an opportunity for a comprehensive project evaluation, which was led by Emma Taylor assessing achievement against our objectives and discussing lessons learned in the partnership.

### Local impact

The impact for the local community from project activity is perhaps the greatest success of this restoration. On the ground, the National Trust of Georgia has ensured ongoing evaluation of project impact and proper consultation with the local community through regular stakeholder meetings and events.

The recruitment of Salome Tsiskarauli as project Co-Manager in Georgia, meant we benefitted from close ties to the local community, where their concerns and perspectives could be communicated easily. The National Trust of Georgia learned the value of strategic recruitment of this kind, whilst maintaining a diverse team of representatives that could act as a flexible mediator to serve community needs. Constant stewardship and consultation with the local community at every stage was essential to this project in forging the strong partnership it has with Akheili village.

Community impact has been measurable in other ways too. The project has triggered a revival in village life – locals have demonstrated a shift in valuation of their heritage – where several families are now pursuing traditional restoration of their own homes using stonework rather than contemporary modifications.

Evaluation sessions with delivery teams in Georgia revealed that this project has shone a light on a lack of regional support for the local community, and has revealed the importance of national visibility of this region. The project was visited over the work season by 20 visitors who had heard of project work, as well as descendent families and has become known on tourist trails increasing visitation.



Above: [Top] Typical stone housing of the Arkhoti Valley [Bottom] Volunteers visit local families in the local region to Tsiskarauli Tower



## Lessons learned

### Feasibility of working holidays in the Georgian context

A major lesson learned through this project is the feasibility for heritage working holidays in Georgia. Gathering testimonials from volunteers has shown that opportunities of this type are valued and sought after in Georgia, as well as for international visitors.

*“This endeavour has become something both tangible and symbolic, and it is a tremendous honour, both as a representative of our country and as a somebody working in the field of art”*

- Ana Saralidze, Georgian volunteer.

For both parties the collaborative element of this has been truly significant and built cross-cultural understanding between nations. This is summarised in this testimonial to from French volunteer Billie Bazin -

*“This project is not a simple workshop, it is a whole experience, disrupting both professional and personal habits. In addition, the breath-taking landscapes, the turbulent history of the tower, as well as powerful encounters, implies a strong emotional involvement: this project is unlike any other! There, our action takes on its full meaning as it goes beyond history, to be deeply rooted in the future of the region. It has been an honour to help restore the greatness of this place, steeped in history, in the cheerful atmosphere of an international project.”*

Operationally this project has equipped NTG with the institutional knowledge to replicate working holidays in the future through this pilot delivery and international learning. This project acts as a model case study in heritage working holidays which could be adapted to different sites.

### Capacity building and organisational sustainability

Insight into the REMPART model of community-valued and managed heritage, the National Trust of Georgia has built a lasting partnership with this community to oversee its ongoing maintenance.

Their partnership with REMPART has also been hugely successful in fostering opportunities to collaborate in the future thanks to successful co-delivery of international working holidays through this project. The secondment at the National Trust, as well as an ongoing membership of INTO, ensures that National Trust of Georgia has ongoing support with business stability and management of this site.

New tourism enterprises in the community catalysed by this project means that continued promotion and celebration of this project's achievements will see the successful resilience of this community and site into the future.

### Rehabilitation

The accessibility, short time frame and scale of restoration were all major challenges to restoration work.

However, the National Trust of Georgia through considered recruitment of appropriate and dedicated expertise - particularly in the case of local Stonemason Vasiko Nakeuri - enabled such high-quality works to be completed.

*“Having regained its initial splendour and stability, the elegant silhouette of the Tsiskarauli Tower dominates the valley during the day; at night, the illuminated tower turns into a Lighthouse of peace and hope in the sea of dark blue mountains.”* – Marine Mizandari (NTG)

“Our action takes on its full meaning as it goes beyond history, to be deeply rooted in the future of the region. It has been an honour to help restore the greatness of this place, steeped in history, in the cheerful atmosphere of an international project.”

- Billie Bazin, French volunteer

Below: Volunteers explore the local community and interact with regional heritage of the area







Internationally we have exploited our networks to raise the profile of this project and its approach on a number of global platforms in the heritage sector. Project work was highlighted in sessions at INTO Online 2021 and INTO Dundee 2022 – an international conference bringing together over **600 global delegates** from seven continents working in the field of heritage. At INTO online 2021 the project was spotlighted by Alex Lamont Bishop of INTO and ALIPH’s Scientific Director in a masterclass in collaboration with ALIPH. At INTO Dundee 2022, Marie-Georges Pagel-Brousse, President of REMPART facilitated a workshop on the potential of volunteering, and the social impact of collective restoration. The project is also featured on the Culture in Crisis portal by the V&A – showcasing project working with at-risk heritage.

The project results will be presented by Peter Nasmyth Co-Chair of NTG at two upcoming UK/Georgia connection events on November 2 and November 7. The first on 2 November with the University of Westminster for Georgia Studies day, to be attended by Salome Zourabichvili and Mark Clayton, British Ambassador to Georgia, and the second on Nov 7 at an event celebrating the twinning arrangement between Tbilisi and Bristol in the UK.

Engagement of both the British and French embassies in Georgia has also built key support and visibility for project work, with a project feature on the French embassy’s news updates, and visibility on social media from both the British and French Ambassadors attendance of our final event in Tbilisi.

All partners have also successfully promoted this project via their own digital platforms, through social media, blog updates, newsletters and annual reports. Collectively project content **reached over 75,000 people**, with almost **8.7k engagements**.

**Full details and links to all promotional and communications work is linked here**

**High resolution images of project activity can be found here**

Above: NTG, REMPART & INTO with the French and British Ambassadors at the final project event

## Media and communications

We have benefitted from a number of features in the press. This is particularly true in the Georgian context – where our project has been covered on national broadcast channels in Georgia **nine** times, including Imedi TV and Rustavi 2 – the **top two ranking** channels in Georgia. The project has also been covered in Georgian digital press seven times in articles, as well as a promotion via the Georgian Technical University. The German-French media outlet ARTE TV, whose viewership for their online video content tops **7.6 million views** per month, also visited the site in 2022 to interview our project manager Salome Tsiskarauli alongside Polish volunteers.

The project gained key coverage from national press in Georgia at our final event where results of project achievements were shared at an evening bringing together partners, project volunteers, local community, key stakeholders from the Georgian heritage sector and the French and British embassies. The event included a project presentation showcasing restoration successes led by Marine Mizandari, a screening of a 16-minute documentary following the towers restoration, and an exhibition of photography of the project in collaboration with a Ukrainian volunteer.



Above: National Trust of Georgia speak to press at publicity events as part of this project



“Community Rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower” was a three-year partnership project between the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO), the National Trust of Georgia and REMPART, supported by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) that followed a model of community restoration to rehabilitate the Tsiskarauli Tower.

Suffering significant structural damage in 2001 during the Russian-Chechen conflict, the monument was left at risk of collapse and in urgent need of stabilisation. Learning from examples in France and the UK facilitated via secondments for National Trust staff in Georgia, restoration was delivered through a series of volunteer working holidays.

Georgian and international volunteers collaborated under supervision of conservation architects and heritage experts, to rehabilitate this unique example of Khevsuretian defensive architecture. Bringing together skilled and previously unskilled hands, these camps allowed for the transference of traditional heritage skills, and a common ground of cultural understanding across borders, which holds a profound legacy.

Previously an emblem of conflict and aggression, the monument now exemplifies the reparative potential of international peacebuilding through heritage restoration.

## Project team

### International National Trusts Organisation

**Project Manager**  
Emma Taylor  
**Project Oversight**  
Alexander Lamont Bishop

### National Trust of Georgia

**Project Oversight**  
Marine Mizandari  
**Project Oversight**  
Peter Nasmyth  
**Project Co Manager National Trust of Georgia**  
Salome Tsiskarauli  
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### REMPART

**Project Oversight**  
Marie-Georges Pagel-Brousse  
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