

## **The Eco-Culture of the Inhabitants of Mountainous Areas (Pshav-Khevsureti)**

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### **Annotation**

Ecological culture is a modern method for conceptualizing humanity's relation to the environment. The variety in the Earth's surface topography and climate has led to a similar variety in methods for adapting to it, which is, in itself, connected to the proliferation of different ethnic groups.

The Pshav-Khevsureti region stands out for the complexity of its topography and the severity of its climatic conditions. In addition, the inhabitants of the mountains are surrounded by that selfsame natural barrier – the mountains. As such, there is little evidence of much cultural assimilation there. It is notable that the inhabitants of Pshav-Khevsureti, especially those of Khevsureti, have been in only limited contact with the valleys over the course of the preceding centuries, leading to an independent development in their customs and traditions, agriculture, architecture, and folk medicine.

The purpose of the present work is to lay a foundation for scientific research on what effect the climate, topography, soil, and water of Pshav-Khevsureti had on the development of the local eco-culture, as well as how these regions adapted to and transformed their environment.

This master work may be considered the first step toward studying and raising awareness of the rich ecological culture of the mountainous regions of Georgia. A plan may be developed for determining what actions should be taken by the government to preserve the impressive eco-culture of the mountain inhabitants and to learn from their experiences.