



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

NOVEMBER/2021

## Levan Davitashvili: “ Participation of the Prime Minister of Georgia in the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow is crucial for Georgia’s integration into International relations”



“The Prime Minister of Georgia participating in the World Leaders Summit at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow is of utmost importance for Georgia’s integration into International relations”

stated Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

November 2, 2021 , at the World Leaders Summit , 26th Conference of Parties (COP-26), a Declaration on Forests and Land Use is being initiated by the British Government, upon which Georgia has confirmed its readiness to join the participant countries by submitting a notification.

At the plenary session, among other important issues, the importance of protecting forests in Georgia and increasing absorption of greenhouse gas emissions was stressed out by the Prime Minister of Georgia.

It is worth mentioning, that in the framework of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow , Georgia has already joined the US initiative to reduce methane emissions; as well as the initiative “Innovations to tackle climate change in agriculture.”

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## Georgia joins another important initiative “High - Ambition Coalition” at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow



Georgia has joined another important initiative the “High Ambition Coalition” at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) hosted by the UK, Glasgow.

Within the framework of the World Leaders Summit, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Nino Tandilashvili

took part in the first meeting of the “High Ambition Coalition” on November 2, 2021.

While addressing the audience, the Deputy Minister noted, that countries to increase their ambitions to tackle climate crisis is of utmost importance. Mrs. Tandilashvili expressed her gratitude towards the United States’ First Special Presidential Envoy for Climate Change , John Kerry for supporting the respective initiative and stated, that Georgia is ready to take specific steps towards above mentioned direction.



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## On November 26, under the auspices of UNESCO, World Olive Day celebrated in Georgia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Levan Davitashvili congratulated the members of the International Olive Council (IOC) on World Olive Day.

According to the Minister, Georgia has a great potential for olive production. Cultivation of olive groves will play a crucial role in the economic development of the country and will increase employment among local population.

*“Georgia has immense potential in cultivation of olive trees. We are taking active measures to promote the development of the fruit industry. We have already planted intensive orchards on more than 15,000 ha of area , including*

*olive plantations, as part of the program “Plant the Future” .*

*We plan to set up an olive nursery in Georgia and speed up the cultivation of olive groves by using locally produced olive seedlings. Meanwhile, the state laboratory will undertake the quality control on produced products. The state is ready to ensure co-financing to create additional enterprises in the country”said Mr. Levan Davitashvili.*

In the course of the event, participants discussed challenges and opportunities of the olive sector, they also emphasized financial, economic, technological and environmental issues.

The World Olive Day was held in Georgia within the framework of the 114th session of the International Olive Council and 57th session of the Advisory Committee. The events were organized through joint efforts of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the International Olive Council, under the auspices of UNESCO. Georgia joined the International Olive Council in 2019, since 2020 Georgia has been a chair country of the council.



## The 114th session of the International Olive Council and 57th session of the Advisory Committee held in Georgia



With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Olive Council, the 114th session of the International Olive Council and the 57th session of the Advisory Committee were held in Georgia.

In the course of the sessions, the participants discussed challenges and opportunities of the olive sector.

In his speech, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Levan Davitashvili noted, that encouraging cultivation of olive plantations in Georgia is a part of the agricultural development strategy. He also underlined, that olive crop culture has a great potential, which is resulted from Georgia's favorable climatic conditions.

*“Through state support and co-financing programs, olive plantations have already been planted on up to 1000 hectares of area in Georgia. We plan to plant olive groves on several tens of thousands of hectares in the near future, which will enable us to boost our export opportunities. I believe, that active cooperation between the state and the private sector will facilitate to make the respective field more competitive in the country “ Mr. Levan Davitashvili said. Giorgi Svanidze, President of the International Olive Council, Founder and President of the Olive Association in Georgia, noted that Georgia is ready to further develop olive oil production.*

*“We appreciate, that Georgia is a family member of the IOC. The International Oil Council is an organization that controls 90% of income derived from world olive production and 74% from trade of olive products. Therefore, being a member of this organization means to take a step forward for Georgia. Through joint efforts with the World Olive Council and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, we have developed a strategy embracing objectives and measures on how to develop an olive sector in Georgia and enter into the global market ”said Giorgi Svanidze.*

Georgia has been a family member of the IOC since 2019, in 2020 Georgia became the Chair country of the council. The International Olive Council plays an important role in the development of the olive culture. The IOC organizes International forums and holds discussions to resolve any issues related to the olive sector.

Hosting the International Forum is of utmost importance for Georgia, as it is the most important global event in the olive sector.

## Levan Davitashvili greets participants of Georgia - China Economic, Trade and Cultural Forum virtually



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Levan Davitashvili attended Georgia-China Economic, Trade and Cultural Forum virtually, where he addressed the participants.

The forum was organized by Georgia's Foreign Trade Association within the framework of China International Import Expo in Shanghai, China.

In his welcome speech, Levan Davitashvili spoke about the importance of Georgian-Chinese relations, cross-cultural similarities and prospects for developing trade relations within the Silk Road.

The Minister stressed out the importance of viticulture and winemaking as an integral part of Georgia's history, agriculture and economy. Mr. Davitashvili stated, that Georgian wine culture is unique, and has an ancient history in the world, moreover, Georgia's unique grape varieties, as well as method of making Qvevri wine have been awarded the status of a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Site.

The Minister mentioned joint products produced by "Dugladze Wine Company" and "Fengju Group" and noted, that implementation of similar projects will boost the export of Georgian high quality wine into the People's Republic of China and will have a positive impact on Georgia's plans to deepen bilateral cooperation and friendship.

At the end of his speech, the Minister expressed gratitude to the Georgian Foreign Trade Association and the Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce .

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the People's Republic of China Archil Kalandia and Ambassador Davit Pipinashvili attended the Forum.

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## Nino Tandilashvili met with the Plenipotentiary for International Climate and Energy Cooperation of Polish Ministry, Sebastian Barkowski

Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili met with Mr. Sebastian Barkowski, Plenipotentiary for International Climate and Energy Cooperation of Polish Ministry.

The meeting was held in the framework of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Mrs. Tandilashvili briefed Sebastian Barkowski about ongoing projects implementing in Georgia to reduce greenhouse gases emissions and drew her attention to the international agreements signed under the Paris Agreement.

In the course of the meeting, the Polish side spoke about a new initiative related to the Polish Climate Support Project, with a budget amounting to 11.25 million Euros. Respective project provides support to following areas, encompassing, development of climate policy, increasing air quality, creation of energy efficient buildings, transformation of coal-producing regions, transition to zero or low emission transport.

As part of the initiative, the Polish side will scrutinize investment, consulting, as well as different types of mixed-use projects.

At the bilateral meeting, Polish side has proposed making financial assistance for Georgian partners, if the latter agrees to cooperate with their Polish counterparts and submits climate-friendly projects.

The Deputy Minister invited representatives of the Polish Ministry to Georgia to share their experiences and deepen cooperation.

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## Agency of Protected Areas and Korea National Park Service (KNPS) sign a Memorandum of Understanding The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosted the delegation of Korea National Park Service (KNPS)



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Yuri Nozadze, Chairman of the Agency for Protected Areas, Mr. Davit Iosebashvili, Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Protected Areas, Mrs. Tamar Khakhishvili, Deputy Chairman of Korea National Park Service (KNPS), Mr. Song Hyung-Kun and Charge D'affaires of the Republic of Korea to Georgia, Mr. Daesoo Chang, discussed prospects for future cooperation between National Parks of Georgia and Korea.

At the end of the meeting, Chairman of the Agency for Protected Areas, Mr. Davit Iosebashvili, and Deputy Chairman of Korea National Park Service (KNPS), Mr. Song Hyung-Kun signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which envisages provision of International best practices in the management of protected areas, including protection and conservation of natural heritage.

*“The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture takes efforts to integrate national parks of Georgia into the global space. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Korea National Park Service (KNPS). During the visit, the members of Korean delegation will visit unique places and see the unique nature of Georgia, they will get familiar with the biodiversity of our country, ultimately, within the future bilateral cooperation, we plan to implement joint activities, regarding National Parks of Georgia and Korea”* said Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Yuri Nozadze.

*“We are happy to be in Georgia and get familiar with its beautiful nature. Georgia and Korea have a similar history, culture, a unique language, a unique cultural or natural heritage that humanity must preserve.*

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at fostering close cooperation through implementing joint projects. The MoU also entails provision of hands on training courses and capacity building programs for the staff of the protected areas.

*The Memorandum of Understanding we sign today serves to explore opportunities for development by sharing management techniques or other experiences. I hope, that representatives of Georgian National Parks Administration will pay a visit to Korea and get acquainted with the beauty of our nature”* said Deputy Chairman of Korea National Park Service (KNPS), Mr. Song Hyung-Kun.

It should be mentioned, that close cooperation has been established between the Agency for Protected Areas and Korea National Park Service (KNPS) over the last few years. The respective cooperation has led to the important events, namely, a joint photo-exhibition organized in national parks in Korea and Georgia, Algeti National Park.

The respective measures have laid the foundation for the two countries to promote the cooperation in the environmental protection field and take effective steps for future cooperation.

During the visit to Georgia, the members of the delegation of the Republic of Korea will pay a visit to the national parks of Kazbegi and Kolkheti, Martvili Canyon and Imereti Caves Protected Areas as well.



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## Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia hosted Christine Mumma, Agricultural Attaché at the USDA

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Levan Davitashvili met with the Agricultural Attaché at the USDA, Christine Mumma .

In the course of the meeting, the sides discussed projects supported by the USDA in Georgia and addressed issues for future cooperation.

“The United States of America is a strategic partner of Georgia. I would like to express my gratitude to the US Government, especially to the USDA, and I would like to stress out the support and contribution made by the USDA to the agricultural sector of Georgia over the years.

*We will be delighted, if USDA continues to support Georgia’s agricultural sector, furthermore, because of the damage caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, Georgia’s agricultural sector is even more focused on agricultural grant programs. We believe, that our cooperation will be even more fruitful and successful in the future”*-stated Mr. Levan Davitashvili.

Christine Mumma got familiar with the ongoing projects implemented by the USDA and thus related performance results and achievements. It was noted, that main support should be provided in those directions, which will foster sustainable agricultural development.

In the course of the meeting, the sides addressed issues of fu-

ture cooperation and support from the USDA, the main focus was set on the impact of climate change on agriculture and food security. The participants touched upon various issues regarding, development of technical capabilities in the country, approximation to international standards, coordination with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and agricultural trade relations between the countries.

The representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and USDA attended the meeting.

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## Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Levan Davitashvili met with the Representative of the World Bank in the South Caucasus, Mr. Sebastian Molineus



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20551/>

In the course of the meeting, the sides discussed a wide range of issues, including provision of irrigation systems, land market development, global challenges posed by climate change, as well as ways to reduce the effects of climate change.

The Minister spoke about current, as well as already implemented agricultural development projects, he also stressed the importance of the support of the World Bank in the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure. Mr. Davitashvili set focus on the results achieved in the field of agricultural land registration as well.

Mr. Molineus promised to provide a support in the agricultural, as well as environmental protection fields.

Abdulaziz Faghi, Program Leader for the Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Practice Groups in the South Caucasus, Jan Nijhoff, Senior Economist at the World Bank and representatives of the relevant departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

## Levan Davitashvili hosted the Country Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB), Georgia Resident Mission

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Levan Davitashvili met with Mr. Shane Rosenthal, Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission at Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In the course of the meeting, the sides discussed various areas of cooperation, they touched upon issues related to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) strategy in Georgia as well.

Levan Davitashvili briefed the representatives of the Asian Development Bank on the priorities of the Ministry and stressed the importance of attracting investments and introducing new technologies in the agricultural development. The participants brought forward challenges posed by climate change and discussed ways on how to deal with it.

*“Our Ministry aims to develop agricultural sector to the greatest degree possible, entailing to increase production and income of population. The potential in the respective area really exists in the country. Ultimately, making big investments in the agrarian sector and accessing new markets will enable to harness this potential rapidly and even more efficiently”* Levan Davitashvili said.

Mr. Rosenthal shared goals set by the Asian Development Bank to promote agricultural sector and set focus on the water resources management related issues.



The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture Otar Shamugia and representatives of relevant agencies within the Ministry.

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## Georgia and Korea discuss plans for multilateral cooperation



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## Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia met with the US Public Health Service’s Regional Director

Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia met with the US Public Health Service’s Regional Director for Central Asia, Charles Vitek

In the course of the meeting, the parties evaluated the five-year successful partnership between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and expressed readiness to deepen existing cooperation in the future as well.

Mr. Khanishvili thanked the representatives of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for implementing the Draft Cooperation Agreement in Georgia “ Global Protection and Improvement of Public Health ”, which translated into a number of successful programs, encompassing food safety, plant protection and veterinary fields, being implemented in the country.

“ We have built a successful relationship with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which fostered the development of the State Laboratory of Agriculture of Georgia and National Food Agency. As part of the project, the re-equipment, provision of agricultural machinery and equipment for both agencies was undertaken. The respective cooperation has led to the increase of export of various products from Georgia exceeding 1,100,000 US dollars in the incumbent year. I believe, that continuation of existing project will further facilitate the enhancement of the National Food Agency, Agricultural Scientific Research Center and State Laboratory of Agriculture -stated Mr. Khanishvili.



Under the existing cooperation agreement, Charles Vitek got familiar with the experience gained by the Ministry in the relevant fields, he also received information about challenges facing the country in the laboratory re-equipment, veterinary and food safety fields.

The representatives of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and relevant agencies within the Ministry system attended the meeting.

## First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Giorgi Khanishvili hosted Fidy Rajaonson, newly appointed Director of the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) Programs in Georgia

In the course of the meeting, the sides assessed the performance of the program “Dairy Modernization and Market Access” (DiMMA) and addressed issues for future cooperation.

“Our main objective is to develop business-oriented agriculture in the country. The Dairy Modernization and Market Access (DiMMA) Programme supports the respective area. Actually, the program includes the entire dairy value chain. The success of similar programs has a significant impact on the development of the economic system in the country “- said Mr. Khanishvili.

As was noted by the Director of IFAD Programs, the Foundation positively assesses the current stage of the program.

“The state deployed agricultural development policy of Georgia is in full compliance with the priorities of IFAD. Thereupon, we are ready to further support the development of the dairy sector in Georgia and provide an assistance in completing the existing tasks. Furthermore, successful implementation of the project DIMMA will be a prerequisite for IFAD to support even larger projects in Georgia ”said Fidy Rajaonson.



The Dairy Modernization and Market Access (DIMMA) program, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has been implemented in Georgia since 2020. The goal of the program is to reduce rural poverty and support economic development through creation of a flexible and sustainable dairy sector and development of a value chain in the dairy sector. The program provides grants to farmers employed in the dairy sector, arranges demonstration farms, ensures training courses in various areas, including pasture management, etc. It should be noted, that international organization “Adaptation Fund” also provides financing through grants to the respective program.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20559/>

## Nino Tandilashvili participated in the Georgia Austria Business Forum

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili took part in the Georgia Austria Business Forum, where economic sustainability and green building concept, as well as Georgia's strategies for economic recovery after COVID 19 and other related issues were discussed by participants.

The Austrian Embassy in Georgia, the

Trade Promotion Organization of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Advantage Austria) and Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCC) jointly organized a business forum “Economic Sustainability and Green building - Georgia's Strategies for Economic Recovery after COVID 19”.

The Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Ms. Natia Turnava, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Ambassador of Austria to Georgia Mr. Thomas Mulmann, Austrian Consul for Trade in Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Mr. Georg Karabaczek, Vice President of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mrs. Nino Suknidze and representatives of the Austrian and Georgian business sectors attended the forum.

In the course of the forum, participants discussed ways of strengthening their bilateral ties and enhancing relations between Austrian and Georgian business sectors, they touched upon issues related to business innovation and addressed opportunities for green economy transition as well. Within the framework of the Business Forum, the “Energy Globe Award” and the Symposium “What does Sustainability mean in Practice? - Austrian and Georgian Experiences” were held.



The Deputy Minister, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili made a presentation on climate change at the Symposium.

“I would like to point out, that bilateral Intergovernmental Agreement signed between Georgia and Switzerland in the field of climate change will allow us to mobilize specific financial resources. The respective Agreement will support Georgia in implementing climate-friendly projects and encourage adoption of green building principles in the country. We are actively cooperating with the international partners to embrace similar approaches and tools, which will enable to use climate-friendly technologies in the development of both public and private infrastructure, which will meet high environmental standards “- said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20583/>

## Levan Davitashvili met with the GEO of “Egis Group” and the Chairman of the International France-Georgia Business Council



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Levan Davitashvili hosted the GEO of “Egis Group”, French multinational company and the Chairman of the International France-Georgia Business Council, Laurent Germain.

In the course of the meeting, the sides discussed a wide range of issues, including the support of French companies in introducing digital technologies in the agricultural sector of Georgia.

The participants also stressed the importance of sharing experience of French side with regard to environmental matters.

“Georgia and France have a lot in common in the agricultural field, including traditions of winemaking. I believe, that long-standing successful cooperation with France will be further developed through active engagement of French investors, and if more interest and willingness will be expressed from the private sector “- said Mr. Davitashvili.

As mentioned by Mr. Germain, the French side supports Georgia in fulfilling obligations undertaken under the EU Association Agreement and promotes partnership between the business sectors of the respective countries.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, representatives of relevant agencies within the Ministry and members of the French delegation.

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