



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

FEBRUARY/2023

Otar Shamugia meets the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia hosted the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China, Mr. Chou Tsien. During the meeting, the parties emphasized the importance of close cooperation between the two countries. Minister spoke about the opportunities offered under the free trade agreement between Georgia and China.

“It is worth mentioning that the free trade agreement is an important opportunity for Georgia to strengthen trade relations with China. With the involvement of the National Food Agency, we are striving to exploit export opportunities for various products. Moreover, we appreciate the support of the Government of the People’s Republic of China in the mentioned process. The Chinese market is one of the most attractive markets for Georgian wine exports. Even though the wine exports declined during the Covid-19 pandemic, we still have vast export potential and the best intention to get into it,” stated Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Minister stressed the importance of the development of viticulture and wine-making field, and the production of high-quality wine, noting that numerous international organizations are participating in the respective process. Mr. Shamugia emphasized that the state provides substantial funding for Georgian companies, thus enabling them to participate in international exhibitions.

Subsequently, to popularize Georgian wine, the Minister expressed his willingness to personally participate in opening international exhibitions in Guangzhou and Shanghai in 2023.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21172>

Current activities and progress of the program “Save the Nature – Georgia” to discuss at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture



The program “Save the Nature - Georgia 2021-2024” has been developed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture on the basis of policy dialogue on thematic areas with the Embassy of Sweden.

The respective program is closely linked with the strategies and action plans developed by the Government of Georgia in the biodiversity and air quality monitoring fields. Currently, the project budget is up to 6 million euros.

During the meeting, Mr. Otar Shamugia, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture was briefed on the plan for restoring the floodplain forest in the Krtsanisi Forest Park. The conversation touched upon the issues of improving the management system of protected areas, also the planned and currently implemented initiatives for biodiversity protection and monitoring.

The Heads of relevant departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21178/>

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosts the second session of the Climate Change Council



The members of the Government of Georgia attended the session chaired by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Climate Change Council approved the concept document for long-term low-emission development of Georgia, which was prepared by the Government of Georgia in compliance with the Paris Agreement as a framework document for long-term vision of low-emission development. The mentioned concept document sets the vision and principles for low-emission development in the country by 2050.

“Climate change and its harmful consequences pose a significant challenge to the world. Therefore, planning and implementing consistent actions in this direction are crucial. By adopting the long-term low-emission development concept document, we are fulfilling one of the important commitments under the Association agenda,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

It is worth mentioning that the Paris Agreement (December 2015) marked a watershed moment in taking action on climate change, which implies the fulfillment of obligations undertaken by member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions.

The concept document is fully compatible with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, the Georgia-EU Association Agreement in the

climate section, the European Energy Union, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The document embraces the vision of the Government on reducing or absorbing national greenhouse gas emissions to alleviate climate change.

During the session, the parties discussed the mandate of the Climate Change Council, the draft terms of reference for the Climate Finance Working Group, the draft terms of reference for the Climate Technology Coordinating Group & the creation of climate finance and technology coordinating groups.

It should be mentioned that under the resolution of the Government of Georgia, the Climate Change Council was established on January 23, 2020, which consists of the Council, coordination, and working groups.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21170>

Nino Tandilashvili was elected as a Member of the Governing Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Eastern European Partner countries nominated Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia as a member of the Governing Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In 2014, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was set up by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as part of the Convention's financial mechanism to support the efforts of developing countries and respond to the challenge of climate change. It is worth mentioning that Green Climate Fund is accumulating funds

on an unprecedented scale. Georgia cooperates closely and fruitfully with GCF. Currently, several large projects are launched in our country with the support of the mentioned organization.

The appointment of the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia to the GCF Management Board will allow the countries of the Eastern European region, including Georgia to further deepen their relationship with the organization, make available climate-smart technologies and increase green financing.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21153>

During the “Green Week 2023”, the Georgian exhibition stand called attention from the international press



With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, 16 Georgian companies showcased their products at the exhibition stand at one of the largest international exhibitions of food, agriculture, and horticulture, “Green Week 2023” (Grüne Woche 2023) in Berlin.

It should be mentioned that the majority of Georgian companies participating in the exhibition are beneficiaries of state programs, and the products presented at the Georgian exhibition stand received special attention and approval from high-ranking guests and visitors of the “Green Week 2023”.

The German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture Mr. Cem Özdemir, Mayor of Berlin Mrs. Franziska Giffey, European Commissioner for Agriculture Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski, Mrs. Franziska Giffey German politician of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) visited the Georgian exhibition stand during “Green Week 2023”.

Mr. Shamugia was hosting the guests, providing information, and offering them to taste Georgian products, traditional dishes, and Georgian wine.

Mr. Ozdemir and Mrs. Francisca Giffey unanimously agreed that among the dishes presented at the exhibition, Georgian “Khachapuri” was particularly delicious, and the wine bottled in Georgia, the homeland of wine, has a unique aroma, scent, and taste.

During his visit to the Georgian exhibition stand, the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of Germany, Mr. Cem Ozdemir emphasized that Germany supports the integration of Georgia into the European Union.

The international press responded favorably to the success of Georgian agri-food products at the exhibition; Several media publications: Allgemeine Zeitung, Mercury, Bietigheimerzeitung, Stuttgarter-Zeitung, Badische-Zeitung, Morgenpost, Tageszeitung published articles about Georgian products.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21166>

Solomon Pavliashvili pays a working visit to Japan, Tokyo



Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture paid a working visit to Japan, Tokyo, aiming to get closely acquainted with the Japanese experience in the field of waste management.

Within the framework of the visit, the Deputy Minister held a high-level meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Japan, where the parties discussed future cooperation-related issues between Georgia and Japan in the environmental protection field. The Ambassador of Georgia to Japan, Mr. Teimuraz Lezhava attended the meeting.

“Japan has long-standing experience and the highest waste management index in the world. Accordingly, the Japanese experience in the field of waste collection, separation, and recycling is crucial for us. It is also encouraging that the “polluter pays” principle that we introduced in the country corresponds to approaches adopted in Japan, and certain regulations adopted in the direction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Georgia are almost identical to regulations enforced in Japan,” said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.



During the visit, Mr. Hideki Minamikawa, the President of the Environmental Sanitation Center of Japan, briefed the Georgian side on the waste management policy of Japan and provided information about the existing infrastructure for waste collection and processing in the country.

Mr. Pavliashvili inspected the Municipal Waste Incineration and Energy Recovery in the city of Tokyo, Nerima ward. Moreover, the Deputy visited the Kawasaki Environment Research Institute, also Municipal Waste Incineration and Waste Separation, Construction and Demolition Waste plants and Pretreatment Facilities in the town of Ukishima and the municipal waste landfill site in Tokyo.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21156>

Solomon Pavliashvili meets Anna Chernyshova, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Georgia.



Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Anna Chernyshova for effective cooperation in the environmental protection field and briefed the UNDP Representative on priority issues and measures that will be taken in the waste management sector.

During the meeting, the sides discussed plastic waste prevention-related issues. The conversation also touched upon the deepening cooperation toward raising awareness in the environmental protection area.

According to Mrs. Anna Chernyshova, the United Nations Development Program is ready to fully support the development of the waste management sector in Georgia.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21175>



GREEN CLIMATE FUND



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development

ENABLING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GEORGIA'S FOREST SECTOR REFORM - ECO.Georgia



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“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.” —Thomas Fuller

PROJECT BRIEF

The project “Enabling the implementation of Georgia’s forest sector reform - ECO.Georgia” is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture together with the National Forestry Agency, Rural Development Agency, Environmental Information and Education Centre, Department of Environmental Supervision; by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project aims to mitigate GHG emissions through the nature-based management of the country’s forests and the improvement of energy efficiency to reduce the demand for fuelwood. It also envisages the strengthening of local self-governance and diversifying livelihood opportunities in the forest adjoining rural communities to benefit from diversified income opportunities through improved forestry value chains and better access to forestry knowledge and skills. The project focuses on three target regions (Guria, Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti) and eight municipalities: Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Telavi, Kvareli, Akhmeta, Dedoplistskaro and Tianeti. The Project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Georgia (GoG) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Component 1: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Activity 1.1:
Development and implementation of SFM plans

Activity 1.2:
Strengthening of forest supervision

Activity 1.3:
Provision of sustainably produced fuelwood by NFA

Activity 1.4: Enhancement of enabling environment for the nation-wide implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM)

Activity 1.5: Improvement of monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems for the forest sector



Component 2: Market Development for Energy Efficiency (EE) and Alternative Fuels (AF)

Activity 2.1: EE-AF supply chain development

Activity 2.2: Implementing consumer financing instruments for EE-AF solutions

Activity 2.3: Creating consumer awareness and provision of technical advisory services for fuelwood users

Activity 2.4: Enabling policies and regulations



Component 3: Livelihood opportunities and local self-governance in forest management

Activity 3.1:
Development and introduction of municipal-level tools, practices, plans and necessary capacities for participatory SFM and conservation

Activity 3.2:
Development, testing and promotion of mechanisms at the local level to better protect interests of adversely affected stakeholders

Activity 3.3:
Development of professional skills and knowledge relevant to SFM and conservation through vocational education and international partnerships with centers of knowledge

Activity 3.4:
Strengthening of selected value chains (e.g., timber, NTFP, parts of eco-tourism)

■ Activity in 3 target regions only

■ Nation-wide activity

□ Nation-wide activity with focus on 3 target regions

MoU was signed between the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich - ETH Zurich, Ilia State University (ISU) and GIZ



Within the frames of the ECO.Georgia project, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich - ETH Zurich, Ilia State University (ISU) and GIZ signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The new cooperation will lay the groundwork for scientific exchange and collaboration between the two partnering institutions.

With this MoU the Ilia State University, ETH and ECO.Georgia aim to advance the quality of forestry education at both partnering institutes and develop a basis for scientific exchange and collaboration.

With the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under ECO.Georgia project the MoU foresees the exchange of information on science and technology, the exchange of undergraduate (Bachelor) and graduate (Master, doctoral) students and scientific staff, organising joint summer schools, seminars, symposia, workshops, or conferences, carry out joint research projects and/or field studies by tandems of Swiss and Georgian students and develop joint collaborative scientific and non-scientific publications.

MoU was signed at Ilia State University, on 17th of February.

Capacity assessment for the ECO.Georgia target municipalities and concept development for improved public participation in the forestry sector



Within the frames of the ECO.Georgia project, a contract was concluded with consultancy company “Georgia’s Environmental Outlook – GEO” to assess the capacity of 8 target municipalities and develop a concept for improved public participation in the forestry sector.

For the study, the company formed focus groups in 8 municipalities, consisting of the representatives of the NGOs, women’s organizations, civil activists, young initiatives, and the business sector.

The consultants and the project representatives interviewed the focus groups, met the representatives of the Mayors, Deputy Mayors, and the heads of the relevant services to hear their views and recommendations about the possible ways to improve public participation in forest management.

Based on the study, the consultants will prepare a concept to improve public participation in the Forest Sector Reform.

The ECO.Georgia project is being implemented in 8 target municipalities: Telavi, Dedoplistskaro, Kvareli, Akhmeta, Tianeti, Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, and Lanchkhuti.