



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 2024

On February 8, 2024, Parliament appointed a New Prime Minister, Irakli Kobakhidze and approved the composition of the new government



On February 6, the candidate for the position of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, provided a brief overview of the outcomes of the measures implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and submitted future visions at the joint session of the Agrarian Issues, Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Sectoral Economy and Economic Policy, Regional Policy and Self-Government and Finance-Budget Committees.

Mr. Shamugia highlighted Georgia's attainment of candidate status and its commitment to aligning with European standards, especially in agriculture. Legislative advancements, such as the draft law on Agriculture and Rural Development, underscore the nation's dedication to environmental protection, with notable progress in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism infrastructure development.

Efforts to improve air quality include enforcing the Euro 5 emission standard and implementing self-mon-

itoring systems in companies to reduce pollutant release. Forest management reforms and increased forest restoration efforts further demonstrate Georgia's commitment to sustainable practices.

Mr. Shamugia emphasized the importance of early warning systems in combating climate change-induced disasters and announced increased funding for environmental monitoring. He also stressed the need for stringent environmental supervision, with measures in place to address illegal activities.

Regarding agriculture, Mr. Shamugia highlighted record-high outputs and exports, particularly in wine and alcoholic drinks. The government plans to implement programs supporting agricultural development, including the co-financing of machinery purchases and cattle breeding sector development.

Significant support has been provided to hazelnut orchard owners, with ongoing initiatives in bio-production promotion and agro-insurance. Market diversification is prioritized, with substantial funding allocated to promote Georgian products.

Progress in irrigation and drainage infrastructure is notable, with significant financial assistance secured for modernization projects. The proposed Ito reservoir in Kakheti aims to enhance the water supply for agricultural lands, benefiting thousands of families.



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture addresses the conclusions on the natural disasters in the Shovi resort and Nergeti village.



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture reviews conclusions and reports made by National Environmental Agency specialists on hazardous events that occurred in the Racha region, Shovi resort, on August 3, 2023, and in the village of Nergeti, Baghdati Municipality on February 6, 2024.

The presented reports include information on the primary causes of the disaster, results, and recommendations.

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, emphasized the frequency of natural disasters caused by climate change and the importance of determining the causes of natural disasters, analyzing the possibility or impossibility of prevention, and developing reliable, scientifically based, and objective conclusions.

"I would briefly discuss the presented documents and our plans. Firstly, I go over the Shovi resort tragedy and the related events. As you are aware shortly after the disaster, the National Environmental Agency prepared an initial report, which we delivered to specialists and the public, outlining the procedures we were dealing with.

We assumed it appropriate to involve international experts in the mentioned process. The National Environmental Agency signed a contract with a highly qualified Swiss company.

"It is essential to mention that what was reflected in the initial report by the National Environmental Agency complies with the report prepared by the Swiss company – it involves the development of the natural event, the cause, why the process started, the time and period when it all happened, and that water logging did not occur, both before and after the disaster. We came to a consensus on all of these components. This conclusion also addresses the critical issue, specifically, in such rapidly developing processes, infrastructure or even early warning systems unfortunately cannot mitigate the threats, and in such cases, the only solution is spatial planning. The consistency of the conclusions once again confirms the very high qualification of our specialists, for which I would like to thank them", said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The Minister emphasized the importance of developing civil security and effective disaster risk management systems and focused on the joint efforts of Georgian and foreign specialists, educational institutions, and independent experts.

"Strengthening the capacities of the National Environmental Agency is the primary task. Last year, we allocated additional funds to purchase monitoring systems, and it is also crucial to strengthen the agency with appropriate staff resources.

Compared to last year, GEL 13 million has been allocated this year to support the expansion of monitoring systems to the greatest extent possible. Moreover, we plan to assess glacial valleys and landslide areas across the country. We intend to collaborate with the Finnish Meteorological Institute-one of the most advanced institutes in the world, to maintain information systems," said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

Mr. Vasil Gedevanishvili, Head of the National Environmental Agency, presented the conclusion and report at the meeting.

Field experts stressed the significance of the offered findings, conclusion, and report. As mentioned, the Nation-



al Environmental Agency has completed and continues work that is crucial in the evaluation/management of the mentioned processes. Field specialists, experts, and scientists expressed their readiness to actively cooperate with the Ministry and the National Environmental Agency in dealing with existing challenges.

The mentioned reports and conclusions have been prepared with the involvement of local and international experts, including the observation of geological, meteorological, and hydrological parameters, historical and current data, information obtained from satellite, radar, aerial photos, field surveys, and geological and hydro-meteorological events, based on office studies.

The First Deputy Minister, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, employees of the National Environmental Agency, representatives of educational institutions, specialists, and experts attended the meeting at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

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Nino Tandilashvili submitted the amendments to tighten environmental legislation at the Committees on European Integration and Regional Policy and Self-Government, and Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, of the Parliament of Georgia.



The mentioned amendments include stricter fines for polluting the Black Sea and banning the use of electric shock devices in fishing. The proposals, aimed at aligning with EU standards, were approved in the first reading. Additionally, the Committees supported the Draft Law on "Biological Diversity" to harmonize Georgian legislation with EU standards, ensuring the protection of biodiversity and habitats. Amendments to the Environmental Assessment Code were also approved to align with the mentioned law.

Furthermore, Mrs. Tandilashvili submitted the Draft Law on the "Creation and Management of the Guria National Park" to establish a park covering 15,300 hectares in the Guria region. This initiative, aiming to enhance ecotourism and preserve biodiversity, was approved by the Regional Policy and Self-Government Committee in the first reading.

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosts the third Steering Committee meeting of the Project "Save Nature-Georgia".



The parties presented the analysis of the activities and results of the seven main components of the project - biodiversity policy and legal framework, restoration and development of the floodplain forest, area-based conservation, biodiversity mainstreaming, biodiversity monitoring, expansion of the national ambient air quality monitoring system, institutional capacity building, including the activities planned for 2024 within the project.

The Chair of the Committee, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, led the third steering committee session of the project "Save Nature - Georgia". The Head of Development Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia, Mr. Erik Illes, and the Head of the Environmental Program of the Swedish Embassy in Georgia, Mrs. Khatuna Zaldanishvili, attended the session.

It is worth mentioning that since 2021, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia has successfully implemented the "Save Nature Georgia" project with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The project aims to improve the sustainable management of natural resources in Georgia, promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity, and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry, and its Agencies for which several crucial activities are being carried out.

The project steering committee embracing representatives of relevant services of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Protected Areas, National Environmental and Wildlife Agencies, Georgian Society of Nature Explorers "Orchis" and the members of the central implementing unit of the project "Save Nature - Georgia" participated in the working meeting.

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Georgia joins the International Radiation Monitoring Information System

Georgia has joined the International Radiation Monitoring Information System of the International Atomic Energy Agency thus, the radiation indicators received from the Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety will be automatically supplied to the IRMIS system and reflected on the international map.

The IRMIS system, created under Georgia's international obligations, is an essential mechanism in the early warning /notification and response management process of nuclear or radiological emergencies.

In the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency, the IRMIS system supports the assessment of the radiological situation and provides critical data to inform emergency response decision-makers immediately.

"Inclusion in the IRMIS system confirms Georgia's commitment to the international legal framework for nuclear and radiation safety and international cooperation," said Mrs. Khatia Jikuridze, Head of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency.

According to Mr. Carlos Torres Vidal, Director of the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre, such participation promotes international collaboration for people and environmental protection.

Georgia became the 50th contributing state to the IRMIS system due to the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency's technical measures and software implemented/installed at radiation background monitori

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Nino Tandilashvili meets the Japanese Ambassador to Georgia Ishizuka Hideki



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, met with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia, Mr. Ishizuka Hideki.

During the meeting, the parties addressed issues regarding deepening bilateral cooperation in the fight against climate change and the implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Georgia and Japan.

Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili thanked the Japanese Ambassador for supporting Georgia towards environmental protection and agricultural development.

“Cooperation with Japan will assist Georgia in transitioning to a green economy, developing climate-smart agriculture, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which will support both countries in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Further support from the Japanese side will be crucial for the effective implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), the development of eco-friendly agriculture and alternative energy opportunities, and will help us in taking important steps towards fulfilling our commitments on the road to European integration,” said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The Ambassador emphasized the importance of the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM) for both sides, noting that Japan and Georgia have already made crucial efforts towards this direction. According to Mr. Hideki, Georgia has the potential to develop climate-smart agriculture and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Japanese side is ready to cooperate with Georgia at both the governmental and private sector levels, aiming to deepen relations and implement projects beneficial for both sides.

As mentioned, bilateral cooperation in the agricultural and environmental protection areas will be actively continued.

The representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Embassy of Japan attended the meeting.

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Tbilisi hosted the International Scientific Conference aimed at protecting and popularizing Georgian Wheat



On February 5-6, Tbilisi hosted the international scientific conference “Georgian Wheat Culture - Continuous Tradition of Use and Rituals”.

The Georgian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, and the Agricultural Scientific Research Centre organized the conference, which embraced up to 80 experts from six countries (Georgia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Turkey, and Bulgaria).

The Chair of the Agrarian Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Mrs. Nino Tsilosani, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Yuri Nozadze, and the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle made opening remarks at the conference.

“The conference is crucial since it concerns the history and traditions of use of Georgian wheat. Georgia is unique in the world with its variety of wheat species. Wheat domestication and cultivation in Georgia dates back thousands of years, as documented historically and scientifically. In recent years, much has been done to restore endemic wheat species. The demand for wheat varieties- restored by the Agricultural Research Center, is annually increasing. Currently, the distribution of restored varieties is underway in farms,” said Mr. Yuri Nozadze.

According to the Chair of the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament, Mrs. Nino Tsilosani, Georgian wheat has an honorable place in the world, and the mentioned conference is another step towards its popularization.

“Georgian wheat is proven to be unique with its history, diversity of endemic varieties, and continuation of usage in our culture and traditions. I believe Georgian wheat deserves proper recognition due to its distinctiveness, and we will spare no effort to achieve this purpose,” said Mrs. Nino Tsilosani.

In his remarks, the representative of FAO in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle, emphasized the role of wheat as an important element in food security.

“Due to the growing population, the world population will reach 9 billion by 2050. Accordingly, the consumption of wheat crops will increase. We must not reduce our efforts to expand the cultivation of wheat crops. Wheat provides 20% of all energy. Wheat is a crucial component of food security. Out of 27 varieties of wheat, 14 are Georgian, which indicates that Georgia has a great tradition in this direction,” said Mr. Raimund Jehle.

During the conference, the parties discussed the history and traditions of wheat production in Georgia. As mentioned, wheat is the oldest culture of Georgia, which has a special place in the history of the country. Wheat was sown in Georgia even before Christ BC, both on the territory of western and eastern Georgia. The earliest wheat samples were found in the territory of Georgia BC, dating back to the V-IV century.

Today, 27 “cultural”, endemic, and wild species of wheat have been described worldwide, of which 14 species are found in Georgia, including 5 endemic species (Makha, Kolkhuri Asli, Chelta Zanduri, Hexaploid Zanduri, Dika).

Protection and restoration of Georgian endemic species of wheat is of particular importance. In 2018, “Georgian wheat culture” was defined as a category of National Importance and granted the status of an intangible cultural heritage monument.

In addition, work is underway to include “Georgian wheat culture” in the list of UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent safeguarding.

The international conference was conducted through the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the Agrarian Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Georgia, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia.

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Otar Shamugia meets the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden



Acting Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, met with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia, Mrs. Anna Lyberg.

During the introductory meeting, the parties discussed current joint projects and prospects for future cooperation. Mr. Otar Shamugia congratulated the Swedish Ambassador on her appointment to a new position and wished her success in her future endeavors, noting that Georgia and Sweden have been actively and fruitfully collaborating on environmental issues for many years.

The conversation covered the ongoing "Save Nature-Georgia" project, which is being implemented with the Swedish government's support. The parties also highlighted issues concerning the development of protected areas, the draft law on "Biodiversity", Georgia's efforts towards waste management, and ways to transition to a circular economy.

"We are jointly implementing the project "Save Nature - Georgia", which has included several important activities, among them the expansion of air quality monitoring stations. It is essential to mention that our activities will expand in this direction, with the support of the Europe-

an Union, and will gradually cover the whole country. We are actively working on developing the protected areas and planning to set up a new space near Tbilisi that will have a recreational, educational, and tourism purpose.

We are also working on creating new protected areas in Samegrelo, Svaneti, Guria, and Racha regions. With the support of Sweden, we could elaborate a draft law on "Biodiversity", which we will discuss in the Parliament shortly. In addition, we are working on the draft law on hunting. Overall, last year was incredibly active and positive", said Mr. Shamugia.

The Minister emphasized the importance of granting Georgia the status of a candidate member of the European Union last year and the progress achieved by our country in implementing the recommendations.

According to Mr. Shamugia, after receiving the status, more active steps should be taken, in which the support of the European Union and partner countries is crucial.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia, Mrs. Anna Lyberg, noted that Sweden is a strong supporter of Georgia, and it is significant to strengthen the cooperation between the parties in the future.

The Head of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency/ Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Erik Iles, the Head of the Environmental Program of the Swedish Embassy in Georgia, Mrs. Khatuna Zaldastanishvili, and representatives of the relevant services of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture attended the meeting.



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Otar Shamugia participates in the ENPARD Steering Committee meeting



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, attended the 33rd meeting of the European Union's "European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development" (ENPARD) Steering Committee.

The Minister commended the European Union for its assistance, stating that the "European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development" played an important role in Georgia's acceptance as an EU candidate member state.

"ENPARD plays a significant role in aligning Georgia's agriculture policy with the EU policy. Under the program, more than 230 million euros were allocated, including budget support. We had specific indicators, the vast majority of which we fulfilled.

"During the Steering Committee's 33rd meeting, we addressed the steps for the future. We have developed a specific plan for implementing the recommendations published in the framework of the European Commission's report, which we have shared with our partners, the readiness of their support has been recorded, which is crucial", said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

Mr. Nicholas Cendrowicz, the Head of Cooperation at the EU delegation to Georgia, focused on the progress achieved by Georgia.

During the meeting, the parties evaluated the steps taken by Georgia towards food safety and rural/ agricultural development and discussed further plans.

"We are actively working. We discussed how we can use ENPARD's experience and support Georgia to move to the opening stage of negotiations with the European Union. I have a great desire to see more Georgian products on the EU market and I am confident that the "European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development" will play a significant role in this direction," said Mr. Nicholas Cendrowicz.

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister, Mr. Kakha Kakabadze, representatives of the Ministry and relevant agencies included in its system, the European Union Representation, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Czech Development Agency (CzDA), the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA) attended the meeting which was organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Following the session, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, the First Deputy Minister, presided over a meeting of ENPARD implementing organizations and stakeholders.



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GREEN CLIMATE FUND



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development

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



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"What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another." – Mahatma

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

Finalization of the EEPP guidelines for Georgia

On February 8, the German energy agency, “dena,” in collaboration with the State Procurement Agency (SPA) and representatives from GIZ organized a final workshop, to complete the Energy-Efficient Public Procurement guidelines (EEPP). During the workshop, the parties validated the developed paper and agreed on the next steps, which will be implemented with the support of GIZ. These steps include but are not limited to translating the paper to make it bilingual for all interested parties and conducting awareness-raising and capacity-building activities for the respective authorities.

The EEPP guidelines for Georgia aim to provide step-by-step advice on integrating energy-efficiency aspects into the procurement process. While it specifically targets public authorities and institutions

such as ministries and municipalities, it can also be beneficial for companies and other organizations in Georgia and abroad. This guideline complements and is compatible with national and international standards, such as the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Manual of Georgia, elaborated in 2023, and the EU Green Public Procurement (GPP) approach.

The document has been developed gradually, encapsulating various activities and incorporating different international practices while analyzing the local context and policy in public procurement. As a result, the EEPP guidelines are tailored to national conditions.

The maps and the trainings on the management of Green Spaces were delivered to the municipalities

To enhance the strength of municipalities and increase their participation in forest management processes, a toolbox concept for Municipal Forest Management (MFM) has been developed. One component of this concept involves the establishment of guidelines for the management of green spaces within municipal boundaries that are populated by timber species. These guidelines were created through collaboration between the consultancy company Green Steps, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and GIZ.



©Green Steps: During the training sessions in Kakheti and in Guria

In February, experts from “Green Steps” conducted training sessions based on the recently developed guidelines for the “Management of Green Spaces Covered by Timber Species.” During the sessions, municipal representatives were acquainted with the handbook, exploring both the legal requirements for forest management and international best practices. Simultaneously, participants engaged in discussions about the significance of green spaces and their ecological value, particularly in the context of biodiversity and climate change. The training course concluded with a field trip, allowing participants to examine instances of proper management of green spaces covered by timber species.

In total, 16 representatives from the target municipalities of ECO.Georgia underwent the training. These participants actively contributed to each session, emphasizing the importance of the discussed topic for municipalities and expressing their interest in it.

Another aspect of the aforementioned toolbox concept involves the creation of maps for the municipality’s green spaces, contributing to the municipalities being more involved and prepared in the forest management process and/or in the management of green spaces within their boundaries. The need for creating maps for green spaces was identified during various intense meetings and discussions with the municipalities within the ECO.Georgia project. One of the challenges faced by municipalities was the lack of accurate information about the area of green spaces within their boundaries. Therefore, from August to January 2023, the experts at LTD Geographic have been diligently developing accurate maps for eight target municipalities.

The essay contest for the school students was concluded with the award ceremony

The Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) organized an inspiring essay contest for school students under the theme ‘Protect the Forest for Our Green Future.’ The response was overwhelming, with over a hundred applications pouring in out of which 20 participants were shortlisted.

These eloquent essays underwent rigorous evaluation by jury members from the Biodiversity and Forestry Department of the Ministry, the National Forestry Agency, GIZ, and EIEC.

The contest culminated in an award ceremony on February 26th, attended by the top 20 participants, their parents, and teachers. The winners of the first three places were revealed, and all 20 participants were bestowed with well-deserved prizes and certificates.



© EIEC: Award ceremony of the essay contest participants

Elene Samsiani from Newton Free School in Tbilisi clinched the first spot, followed by Badri Petruzashvili from Shilda village in Kvareli municipality at second place, and Salome Dzaganian from Bandza village school in Martvili municipality secured the third position.



© EIEC: Elene Samsiani - the first-place winner of the contest

Beyond the awards, the event conveyed a more important message to the youth. Everyone was passionately encouraged to stay involved in environmental discourse and consider careers in environmental jobs, especially those related to forests. The event aimed not only to praise good writing but also to inspire young people to remain engaged in environmental activities and make a positive impact on the environment.