



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

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David Songulashvili Meets with the Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Georgia, Carlos Ricardo Martins Célio.

During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities to deepen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Mr. Songulashvili emphasized the importance of the bilateral partnership, which provides a solid foundation for further development of cooperation. He also briefed the Ambassador on Georgian export products, including wine, mineral / drinking waters, etc.

As part of the meeting, the Minister focused on the potential of Georgia as a regional trade hub for Brazilian companies.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary stated that Georgia represents an attractive partner country for Brazil, with clear prospects for mutually beneficial and economically efficient cooperation.

Mr. David Chitaishvili, Head of the International Relations and European Integration Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, also attended the meeting.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24283>

David Songulashvili Meets with UNDP Head of Environment and Energy and International Expert Kwang-Hyung Kim



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with the Head of the Environment and Energy Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mrs. Nino Antadze, and international expert Mr. Kwang-Hyung Kim.

In partnership with the Georgian side, a Korean international expert, Mr. Kwang-Hyung Kim, together with representatives of Seoul National University, developed the application Georgia Climate Services for Agriculture (GECSA). The GECSA application enables farmers and stakeholders in the agricultural sector to receive timely and

reliable information on climate-related risks, including pests and diseases. Currently, the application is in the pilot phase, covering the Kakheti, Shida Kartli, and partially Kvemo Kartli regions.

During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude to UNDP and the international expert for their support, while emphasizing the importance of adopting and developing digital services in the agrarian sector and focusing on the agricultural challenges in the context of climate change.

Mrs. Nino Antadze thanked the Ministry for its long-standing, productive cooperation, noting that expanding the geographical coverage of the application in Georgia would be essential for supporting agricultural development in the country.

As part of the UNDP project “Scaling-up Multi-Hazard Early Warning System and the Use of Climate Information in Georgia,” Mr. Kwang-Hyung Kim developed the GECSA application in partnership with the Rural Development Agency, the Scientific-Research Center of Agriculture, the National Environmental Agency, and representatives of Seoul National University.

The meeting was attended by the Minister’s Deputies, UNDP representatives, and Heads of relevant Ministry departments and agencies.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24287>

Solomon Pavliashvili: “Participation in the Global Forum to Prevent Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Contributes to Strengthening the Country’s National Capabilities”



At the invitation of the U.S. Department of State, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, and the Head of the LEPL Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency, Mrs. Nino Utiashvili, are participating in a Global Forum on the Prevention of Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The forum is organized with the support of the U.S. Department of State and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, bringing together experts and representatives from numerous countries.

“Georgia’s participation in the Global Forum, and in similar high-level events, strengthens the country’s national capacity to ensure nuclear and radiological safety while promoting the exchange of best practices and international experience,” stated Mr. Pavliashvili.

The Global Forum aims to enhance international cooperation in radiological and nuclear security, improve national preparedness, strengthen interagency coordination, and promote effective information exchange. Moreover, the forum embraces thematic discussions on nuclear forensics and response mechanisms, legal frameworks, modern technologies, and strategic communications.

The forum opened on February 3 and will end on February 5. Approximately 200 representatives from 57 countries are taking part in the event.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24290>

David Songulashvili Meets UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia, Douglas Webb



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, hosted the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Georgia, Mr. Douglas Webb. The parties focused on ongoing programmes, priorities for future cooperation, and joint initiatives in the environmental protection and agricultural areas.

Discussions centered on the expansion of protected areas and support for their development. The parties reviewed funding opportunities from the Global Environment Facility, which will be directed toward biodiversity conservation and the establishment of new protected areas.

“This year, two new protected areas will be established in Georgia, which will require the strengthening of relevant infrastructure and administrative capacities. International support will be essential for the development of these new protected areas. It is noteworthy that the legislative framework is already in place, and we will soon submit a comprehensive proposal to the Government,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The parties addressed cooperation toward sustainable rural development, including programmes related to agriculture, irrigation, and land use. Particular attention was



given to the potential integration of innovative technologies and information systems. Participants brought forward ongoing and planned initiatives in forest fire management, which are linked to measures aimed at combating climate change.

During the meeting, parties also focused on waste management issues, including the reduction and recycling of plastic, electronic, and tourism-related waste. According to the Minister, reducing plastic consumption remains one of the Ministry’s key priorities.

Mr. Webb underscored the importance of close cooperation, noting that coordinated efforts enable the parties to mobilize resources effectively and support priority areas.

“We have a shared and clear vision, which provides a solid foundation for working on issues like mobilizing funds and resources and supporting your priorities,” stated the UNDP Resident Representative.

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister, Mr. Zurab Ezugbaia, and Head of UNDP’s Environment and Energy Team, Mrs. Nino Antadze, also attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24292>

David Songulashvili hosted the Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Georgia, Teodorico Nanni



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with the Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Georgia, Mr. Teodorico Nanni.

During the meeting, the primary focus was on strengthening cooperation between Georgia and the Sovereign Order of Malta, with both sides identifying potential areas



for collaboration and preparing for the Minister's upcoming visit to Italy.

According to Minister Songulashvili, the implementation of joint initiatives will contribute to the development of the agricultural sector, the adoption of modern practices, and the sharing of international practices.

Mr. David Mekvabishvili, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta; Mr. David Chitaishvili, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; and other officials of the Sovereign Order of Malta, attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24289>

Nino Tandilashvili Meets with the Chinese Ambassador



Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, met with the Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Zhou Qian.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for deepening bilateral cooperation.

According to Mrs. Tandilashvili, the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries provides a significant foundation for strengthening trade and economic relations. The First Deputy Minister highlighted exportable products, with a particular focus on opportunities for exporting poultry and honey products. The discussion also addressed the development of the tea sector and the importance of enhancing cooperation in this field.



The parties also focused on environmental cooperation, including the exchange of experience in the management and maintenance of protected areas.

Additionally, the meeting discussed simplifying procedures for importing vehicles from China, as well as measures to enhance the efficiency of existing mechanisms.

Mrs. Nino Tkhilava, Head of the Department of Environment and Climate Change; Mr. Davit Chitaishvili, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration; Mrs. Elene Ghubiani, Head of the National Environmental Agency; and Mr. Archil Adamia, Deputy Head of the Agency, attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24291>

David Songulashvili: “Our primary objective is to protect water quality and prevent pollution “



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, attended the “International Water Futures Forum” and participated in a panel discussion as part of the event.

The forum is being hosted in Tbilisi by the Spanish water management company “Aqualia” and the Georgian water utility company “Georgian Water and Power”. The Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze, along with other government representatives, attended the forum.

During the forum, the Minister underscored the main objective: protecting water quality through ongoing reforms and the Law of Georgia on Water Resources Management. Mr. Songulashvili highlighted the transition to river basin management, equitable water allocation, and enhanced resource efficiency as pivotal strategies supporting this goal.

“In 2023, Parliament adopted the Law on Water Resources Management, which will enter into force on September 1-st of this year. This represents a fundamentally important change in this field. Strategic decisions have been adopted to support the transition to a river basin management principle. This approach entails the integrated management of both surface and groundwater resources, as well as the balanced allocation of these resources.

I would also note that water resources are, in practice, replenished by inflowing waters, and we are actively strengthening the monitoring system to ensure the most



accurate assessment possible of the resources available to our country across basin systems. Their proper distribution is of critical importance.

Another key component of the law is the protection of water quality and the prevention of pollution. In close coordination with the Ministry of Infrastructure, we are working to ensure that wastewater treatment facilities are established in virtually all municipalities. In addition, this year our Ministry will establish a dedicated structural unit responsible for compiling the water balance and allocating water resources accordingly,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The Minister also highlighted the issue of plastic pollution and the findings of recent studies.

“One of the major challenges is plastic pollution. According to World Bank studies, 88% of pollution in the Rioni River basin is attributed to plastic. In this regard, we are implementing a highly significant reform aimed at restricting the use of plastic, which effectively serves as a preventive measure for improving water quality.

I would also emphasize that the law clearly establishes drinking water as the top priority, followed by irrigation and other economic activities. With respect to irrigation, we are implementing a major project in partnership with the World Bank, focused on upgrading irrigation systems to ensure more efficient use of water resources,” Mr. David Songulashvili stated.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24293>

David Songulashvili Meets with Representatives of Spanish Water Management Company Aqualia and Georgian Water and Power (GWP)



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a meeting with representatives of the Spanish water management company Aqualia and the Georgian water supply company Georgian Water and Power (GWP). During the meeting, the parties discussed sustainable water resource management, the development of irrigation infrastructure, and investment opportunities in the sector.

Minister Songulashvili emphasized that the sustainable management and rational use of water resources are among the Ministry's top priorities, underscoring the importance of investing in the sector, while further noting that collaboration with interna-

tional partners offers an opportunity to introduce modern practices in Georgia and enhance water resources management.

The discussion also focused on the importance of modern technologies and sharing international best practices, which will strengthen the sector and enable more effective management of the challenges facing water resource management.

Notably, Aqualia ranks as the fourth-largest water management company in Europe and, according to Global Water Intelligence, is ninth worldwide in terms of the population it serves.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24304/>

David Songulashvili: "One of the major challenges in the agricultural sector is, on the one hand, the volume of pesticide use and, on the other, their cost"



Today, at the Government session, the Cabinet reviewed the importance of introducing regulatory measures for pesticide and agrochemical pricing.

As mentioned, it is essential, on the one hand, to conduct a thorough analysis of the factors contributing to price increases and, on the other, to develop an effective, long-term mechanism that will safeguard citizens' socio-economic interests to the greatest extent possible.

In consultation with farmers and industry experts, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is actively working on this issue.

"As you are aware, one of the significant challenges in agriculture concerns both the volume of pesticide consumption and their price. Accordingly, at the initiative of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia has been tasked with examining this issue and ensuring an appropriate response."

This factor has a substantial impact on the pricing of agricultural products. Therefore, it is particularly important to thoroughly study and assess the matter while considering all components that could contribute to reducing the cost of agricultural produce," Mr. David Songulashvili stated.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24299/>

Nino Tandilashvili: “The new regulation will rejuvenate the vehicle fleet, bring in higher-quality motor vehicles with lower emissions, and reduce air pollution”



At the Government session, a resolution was adopted stipulating that, from April 1, 2026, the import, primary, and temporary registration of M1 category vehicles older than six years will be prohibited in Georgia.

Motor vehicles represent a significant source of atmospheric pollution, specifically in terms of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. In Georgia, the persistently high levels of transport-related air pollution are largely the result of an aging vehicle fleet and the associated technical shortcomings of a substantial share of vehicles.

According to the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), 1.814 million motor vehicles were registered in the country in 2024, of which the overwhelming majority (85.7%) are passenger cars. Notably, 80.6% of registered vehicles are over 10 years old. The new regulation introduces a ban on the import, primary registration, and temporary registration of M1 category vehicles older than six years. The measures will be implemented in conjunction with the applicable emission standards (Euro 5/V) established under the relevant governmental decree.

The restriction is intended to ensure the renewal and improvement of the national vehicle fleet, particularly passenger cars, thereby contributing to improved air quality and representing another significant step toward safeguarding public health.

“Although the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture has implement-

ed a number of significant measures in recent years to improve air quality, it is essential that we take additional steps to further enhance air quality and environmental conditions, which ultimately is crucial for the health of each of us, our children, and future generations. The objective is to gradually rejuvenate the vehicle fleet by introducing higher-quality motor vehicles with lower emissions, thereby reducing air pollution,” stated Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The regulation takes effect on April 1, 2026. Exceptions will apply to M1 category vehicles whose transportation commenced prior to April 1 or which have already entered the customs territory of Georgia. The primary registration of such vehicles will be carried out in accordance with the regulations in force prior to April 1.

The M1 category covers motor vehicles with a maximum gross weight of up to 5 tonnes. These vehicles are designed to transport passengers and their luggage and have no more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat. To check if a vehicle is in the M1 category, you may consult the LEPL Service Agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

The restriction does not apply to electric vehicles, regardless of their year of manufacture. Vehicles imported into Georgia are also exempt, as long as the importer does not register them. The prohibition also does not apply to vehicles meant for re-export, transit, or export.

The restriction does not apply to vehicles already registered in Georgia or those imported before April 1, 2026.

An exception also applies to vehicles whose transportation to Georgia commenced before April 1, 2026.

In the case of maritime transportation, the bill of lading or other relevant document issued by the carrier must indicate that the vehicle was received at the port of departure, loaded onto the vessel, or placed in a container before 1 April 2026.

For vehicles transported by road, rail, or self-propelled means, the exception will apply only if the vehicle crosses the state border of Georgia by July 1, 2026, and the importer provides documentation confirming that transportation commenced before April 1, 2026.

Furthermore, the requirement that vehicles comply with the Euro 5b emissions standard remains in force, and no additional exemptions apply with respect to this requirement.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24298/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24306/>

Lasha Dolidze meets with the Head of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Tbilisi Office, Salih Ozer



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, met with Mr. Salih Ozer, Head of the Tbilisi Office of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).

During the meeting, the parties discussed the avenues for agricultural cooperation.

“TIKA is an important partner for advancing the sector and adopting modern approaches. Our cooperation will promote the exchange of experience and the implementation of joint projects,” stated Mr. Lasha Dolidze.

“I am pleased that agriculture has been identified as one of the priority areas in Georgia, as it creates a solid foundation for enhancing effective cooperation between our two sides in this area,” said Mr. Salih Ozer.

The discussion also covered the sharing of experiences and the deepening of cooperation in areas such as phytosanitary policy, aquaculture, scientific research, and climate-smart agriculture.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/25308/>

The Administration of the Government of Georgia held the third meeting of the Climate Change Council



During the session, the Members of the Government of Georgia discussed the third cycle of Georgia’s Nationally Determined Contribution document (NDC 3.0). The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, chaired the meeting.

The Climate Change Council was established in accordance with a decree of the Government of Georgia, aiming to facilitate the effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

The Council plays a crucial role in ensuring that Georgia’s climate change policy is ambitious, realistic, and aligned with the country’s broader development objectives.

“Climate change mitigation policy must effectively address the pressing challenges faced at both the global and national levels. Today, climate change is no longer regarded worldwide as a standalone issue, as it has a negative impact on virtually all sectors. At the same time, key sectors, including energy, agriculture, and waste management, make a significant adverse contribution to the climate change process. It is also essential to note that, in addition to addressing national challenges, Georgia has undertaken specific international commitments.

As a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, countries, including Georgia, are required to prepare a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) document every five years, through which we assume obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is also important to mention that each new NDC must be more ambitious than its predecessor in terms of greenhouse gas emission reductions,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

According to the Minister, the third-cycle Nationally Determined Contribution document (NDC 3.0) was prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, with the involvement of relevant state institutions, and is fully aligned with the commitments undertaken under the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC.

The third-cycle NDC (NDC 3.0) sets two medium-term targets: by 2030, Georgia aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—taking into account removals by the forest sector—by 47 percent compared to the 1990 level; and by 2035, to achieve a 50 percent reduction compared to the same 1990 baseline.

The Climate Change Council functions as an advisory body. The document discussed at the Council meeting will be submitted to a Government session for approval.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/24301/>

Working meetings are currently taking place at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria



Ms. Nino Utiashvili, Head of the LEPL Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, and Mr. Vladimer Tvaliashvili, National Project (GEO9020) Coordinator, are attending the meetings.

As part of the meetings, parallel consultative sessions are scheduled with Project Management Officers of the International Atomic Energy Agency to review issues related to the implementation of the national project.

As of 2026, Georgia has been granted approval for three new national projects supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The approved projects are as follows:

- GEO9020 – A four-year project aimed at strengthening the safety of radioactive waste management and enhancing national capacities.
- GEO5002 – A three-year project focused on strengthening laboratory analytical capabilities for monitoring contaminants in food.
- GEO9021 – A four-year project dedicated to reinforcing the national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety.

The total budget allocated to these national projects amounts to EUR 1.5 million.

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, David Songulashvili, met with the Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to Georgia, Heidi Grau



During the meeting, the parties discussed ongoing agricultural and environmental projects, as well as prospects for bilateral cooperation.

Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude to the Government of Switzerland and Ambassador Grau for their long-standing support and fruitful collaboration, noting that projects implemented in climate change adaptation, sustainable forest resource management, enhancement of the vocational education system, and animal identification and traceability have significantly contributed to improving sectoral efficiency and aligning national practices with international standards.

According to the Minister, to deepen the progress achieved and ensure sustainable



outcomes, it is essential to continue cooperation, particularly in the areas of artificial afforestation of forest areas and sharing Switzerland's experience in agricultural insurance systems.

Ambassador Heidi Grau reaffirmed that Switzerland will continue to support Georgia in the relevant fields.

The First Deputy Minister, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Julia Jacoby, and Ms. Barbara Böni, Regional Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus at the Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia, attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26309>

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia held a working meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan



During the meeting, the Internal Audit Department shared with the Azerbaijani delegation the existing practices and experience of internal audit activities within the Ministry system. Moreover, the Georgian side presented the organizational structure, functions, and main areas of activity of the Internal Audit Department, including risk-based audit planning principles, audit methodologies, and the standards applied.

The Azerbaijani delegation received information on the institutional development of the internal audit system, including ensuring organizational independence, developing internal audit regulations and strategic development documents, implementing quality assurance and improvement programs, fulfilling requirements related to external assessments, and approaches to effective internal audit management.

The parties also discussed the role of internal audit in improving the Ministry's management processes and the practice of monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations.

As mentioned, the current meeting will contribute to further strengthening professional cooperation between the two countries and facilitate the exchange of experience in the development of internal audit and internal control systems.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26310>