



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

MARCH 2026



*Georgia has lost its spiritual father, the Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II.*

*His faithful ministry, spanning decades, profoundly shaped our spiritual and social life.*

*In particularly difficult times, he gave us hope and strengthened our faith. The 49 years of his service were filled with immeasurable love for the homeland and its people.*

*His role in strengthening the Georgian Orthodox Church, uniting society, and fortifying the Georgian state was monumental.*

*The love and respect we hold for him will remain eternal in the hearts of every one of us.*

*I express my deepest condolences to all of Georgia, the priests, the faithful people, every citizen, and the entire Orthodox world.*

*May his soul rest in eternal peace!*

*May the Lord grant him a place in the Kingdom of Heaven!*

*Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia  
David Songulashvili*

## Meritorious employees of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture were honored with medals in recognition of their longstanding and distinguished service



At the initiative of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, employees of the Ministry system with 50 or more years of professional service were awarded departmental medals.

Mr. David Songulashvili personally awarded the distinguished employees. He was joined by Mr Mikheil Sarjveladze, Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia; Mr Kakhaber Guledani, Minister of Regional Development; and Mrs Maia Bitadze, Chair of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee in Parliament. The honoured employees have had professional careers spanning several decades of dedicated public service.

“Today, we have had the opportunity to express our profound gratitude to those employees who have devoted 50 years or more to serving the state. These are individuals who shape the modern history of Georgia, contribute to the development of the sector and the country, and set an exemplary standard of professionalism, dedication, and patriotism for younger generations. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to each of them for their invaluable service,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

As mentioned, the professional contributions of the award recipients have played a significant role in the adoption of environmental standards and the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, which represent fundamental pillars of the country’s long-term progress.

“Representatives of the environmental and agricultural sectors are the professionals who play a crucial role in ensuring the country’s sustainable development. Their long-standing and dedicated service deserves special recognition, and it is essential that we continue to support their work in the future, enabling them to carry on serving Georgia with the highest standards of professionalism,” noted Mrs. Maia Bitadze.

The award ceremony was attended by the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili; Deputies of the Minister, Mr. Lasha Avaliani, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Mr. Zurab Ezugbaia, and Mr. Giorgi Tskrialashvili; as well as heads of agencies within the Ministry system and invited guests.

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## As part of the World Bank’s “Blueing the Black Sea” (BBSEA) program, stakeholders discuss the findings of the second phase of the study on reducing plastic pollution in Georgia



With the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), a meeting was held to review the second phase of the study “Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution in Georgia,” implemented under the World Bank’s “Blueing the Black Sea” (BBSEA) program.

During the meeting, the parties focused on the environmental challenges affecting the Black Sea and the ongoing efforts to address them, with particular emphasis on plastic pollution as one of the most pressing threats to the Black Sea ecosystem.

“The study presented today represents a continuation of the work conducted last year, which examined pollution in the Rioni River basin and its tributaries. Additional research was carried out at 13 locations across the country, and the results indicate that plastic pollution levels remain alarmingly high.

A particularly large share of the pollution consists of plastic bottles and their fragments, as well as single-use plastic bags. This study once again confirms the importance of the state policy aimed at preventing plastic waste and provides further evidence to support the next steps in this direction,” noted Mr. Lasha Inauri, Head of the Waste and Chemicals Management Policy Department at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

According to Mr. Klaus Sattler, Environmental Specialist at the World Bank, Georgia has made significant progress in developing a legislative framework to combat plastic pollution, positioning itself as a regional leader and model for others.

“In recent years, we have made substantial progress in gaining a better understanding of the scale of plastic pollution and promoting the adoption of circular approaches. The Ministry has taken important legislative steps to address identified needs and regulate the use of certain types of plastics. Global experience demonstrates that a robust legal framework is essential for fostering the active participation of the private sector. Georgia is demonstrating significant progress in this area and is emerging as a regional leader. Its experience could serve as an example for other countries as well,” Mr. Klaus Sattler stated.

According to the study “Reducing Marine Plastic Pollution in Georgia,” flooding events often carry accumulated river waste into the sea, further worsening the state of the Black Sea ecosystem and threatening biodiversity.

The study also includes recommendations focused on preventive measures and improving waste management practices in line with international standards.

The “Blueing the Black Sea” program aims to establish a common regional framework for the sustainable management of the Black Sea. The initiative focuses on reducing marine pollution, restoring ecosystems, promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, supporting the development of the blue economy and blue jobs, and strengthening regional cooperation.

The program is implemented in cooperation with the Governments of Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine, with the active involvement of the Black Sea Commission (BSC), the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA), and the European Commission (EC).

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## The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, participated in the “Georgia–Japan Business Forum 2026”



In her welcoming remarks, the First Deputy Minister emphasized the importance of the friendly relations between Georgia and Japan, outlining the significance of strengthening cooperation in the agricultural and environmental fields.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Japan and to the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia for

long-standing and effective cooperation. We believe that Georgia and Japan have significant potential to deepen agricultural collaboration, including developing the green economy and promoting environmental protection,” said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The First Deputy Minister also participated in the thematic session of the forum titled “Renewable Energy and the Environment,” where she emphasized the importance of solar energy projects in Georgia, the necessity of addressing climate change, and the need to adopt modern technologies in the country.

Mrs. Tandilashvili noted that the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) offers substantial opportunities to finance environmental and energy-efficiency projects while promoting the development of green initiatives.

“Georgia offers a favorable investment environment, while providing strong opportunities for increasing investments in renewable energy and environmental protection, and creating new opportunities for the private sector,” the First Deputy Minister noted.

The Georgia–Japan Business Forum 2026 was organized by the Embassy of Japan, in partnership with the Georgia–Japan Business Association and Japan External Trade Organization in Istanbul (JETRO).

The Representatives of state institutions, leading Georgian and Japanese companies, and investors attended the forum.

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## National Workshop Held on Strengthening Inclusive and Environmentally Sustainable Non-Wood Forest Product Value Chains in Georgia



A workshop “Strengthening Inclusive and Environmentally Sustainable Non-Wood Forest Product Value Chains in Georgia,” was held with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

During the meeting, the parties discussed ways to promote the full utilization of the economic, ecological, and social potential of non-wood forest products, including mushrooms, medicinal plants, and technical raw materials, herbaceous and shrub plants, as well as products derived from them. The discussions also focused on developing a shared vision for strengthening value chains for non-wood forest products and planning coordinated actions to support their sustainable development.

Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili, Head of the Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, made opening remarks.

**“Georgia is rich in non-wood forest products and home to more than 100 types of such resources. It is important that together with representatives of the UN Forest Commission, we have the opportunity to discuss the ecological, economic, and social aspects of their sustainable harvesting,”** stated Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili.

Within the workshop, the parties focused on identifying priority value chains, strengthening mechanisms related to production, processing, marketing, market access, quality improvement, certification, and traceability. Participants also discussed ways to reduce risks through the diversification of products and markets, while supporting long-term strategic planning.

“The sustainable development of non-wood forest products in Georgia offers opportunities not only for strengthening the economy, but also for ensuring ecological sustainability, creating employment for local communities, and protecting biodiversity. We aim to work together to enhance value chains and strategic planning, thereby ensuring the sustainable use of these unique resources,” stated Mrs. Liliana Annovazzi-Jakab, Chief of the joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forests, Land and Housing Division, at UNECE.

The workshop was held within the framework of the forestry sector reform, embracing technical sessions, value chain analysis of non-wood forest products, and group work.

The representatives of the state institutions, international and non-governmental organizations, academic and research circles, including technical experts, producers, and other stakeholders involved in the value chain, attended the workshop.

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## David Songulashvili Meets with Acting U.S. Ambassador to Georgia Alan Purcell and USDA Agricultural Attaché Rishan Chaudhry



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a meeting with Mr. Alan Purcell, Acting Ambassador of the United States to Georgia, and Mr. Rishan Chaudhry, Agricultural Attaché of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for future cooperation and expressed readiness to strengthen collaboration between the Ministry and the USDA to further facilitate bilateral trade.

The discussion also addressed Georgia’s strategic role as a regional transit hub. In this context, particular attention was given to enhancing food safety standards and strengthening laboratory capacities.

Minister Songulashvili expressed his gratitude to Acting Ambassador Purcell for the long-standing support provided by the United States to Georgia within the framework of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the agricultural and environmental protection sectors.

The discussion covered the planned changes within the forestry reform, including issues related to the management and development of national parks.

Both sides reaffirmed their willingness and commitment to continuing the long-standing and active cooperation between the two countries, while emphasizing the importance of sharing best practices and experience as part of the future partnership.

The Deputies of the Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze and Mr. Lasha Avaliani, along with representatives of the Embassy of the United States in Georgia, also attended the meeting.

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## Giorgi Tskrialashvili Meets with TİKA Tbilisi Office Coordinator



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Giorgi Tskrialashvili, held a meeting with the Coordinator of the Turkish Cooperation and Co-ordination Agency (TIKA) Tbilisi Office, Mr. Salih Özer.

During the meeting, the parties focused on current projects and prospects for bilateral agricultural cooperation between Georgia and Türkiye. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of exchanging knowledge, experience, and technologies, which will contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture in the region and further strengthen the bilateral partnership.

**“Our cooperation with TİKA has been fruitful for years. As neighbors, Georgia and Türkiye share common interests in agriculture. We are open to new initiatives that will enhance our collaboration,” Mr. Giorgi Tskrialashvili said.**

The parties discussed how to enhance cooperation in the mineral resources sector. Mr. Ozer noted that Georgia and Türkiye have close economic ties, making this cooperation significant.

Mr. Abel Abesadze, Head of the National Agency of Mineral Resources, along with other representatives from relevant departments of the Ministry, also attended the meeting.

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## Governments of Georgia and the Republic of Korea sign a Framework Agreement on Climate Change Cooperation



A Framework Agreement on cooperation in the field of climate change was signed between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Korea at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Georgia, Mr. Hyondu Kim, signed the Agreement to deepen bilateral cooperation in reducing greenhouse gas

emissions, strengthening climate change adaptation efforts, and facilitating the transition toward a low-carbon economy.

“The signing of the Framework Agreement on Climate Change Cooperation represents an important step in strengthening environmental ties between our two countries. Notably, the mentioned Agreement will move our cooperation into a practical phase and support the implementation of joint projects and initiatives aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing climate change adaptation capacities,” said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

Ambassador Hyondu Kim highlighted that Georgia is the first country in the Caucasus region to sign an Agreement with the Republic of Korea, creating new opportunities for bilateral cooperation on climate change.

Notably, the cooperation will cover several key areas, including agriculture and forestry, as well as climate-related scientific and technological fields.

The Heads of relevant Departments and other representatives of the Ministry attended the meeting.

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## David Songulashvili Meets with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus



Mr. David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, held a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Yuri Shuleiko, and the Belarusian Government Delegation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for further enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. Particular attention was given to strengthening collaboration in agriculture and environmental protection, including food safety, livestock and aquaculture development, the advancement of hunting farms, and agricultural mechanization.

The parties highlighted the significance of exchanging knowledge and practical experience, emphasizing that such cooperation will help advance joint initiatives between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors, and Senior Officials from the relevant Agencies of both countries, including, the Deputies of the Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze and Mr. Lasha Avaliani; Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, Mr. Igor Dorofeychik; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Mr. Pavel Utyupin; Georgia’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belarus, Mr. Giorgi Saganelidze; Ambassador of Belarus to Georgia, Mr. Nikolai Rogashchuk; as well as senior officials from the relevant departments of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, also attended the meeting.

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## David Songulashvili: “ The Agro-Index trends indicate that the agricultural sector has been progressing steadily on an annual basis”



In active collaboration with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the Investment Bank Galt & Taggart presented a study on the agricultural sector and the Agricultural Development Index of Georgia.

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, and the CEO of Bank of Georgia, Archil Mr. Gachechiladze, made opening remarks.

“The dynamics of the index indicate that the agricultural sector is steadily developing year by year. This outcome is not coincidental, and it reflects the result of a consistent policy aimed at developing agriculture, strengthening the rural economy, and supporting domestic production,” emphasized Mr. David Songulashvili.

According to the Minister, agribusiness is a key driver of economic development, contributing to employment, rural development, and food security; therefore, supporting this sector remains a top priority for the state.

“In recent years, state support programs have expanded significantly, processing and cold storage infrastructure has developed, and investments in the sector have increased, contributing to the economic stabilization of the country. It is also worth noting that since the launch of state support programs, the annual production of agribusiness has increased by an average of 8% each year. In 2025, this figure reached GEL 18 billion,” the Minister stated.

According to the Minister, the export of agro-food products is increasing significantly, also adding that last year Georgia exported a record USD 1.8 billion worth of agro-food products to 110 countries worldwide.

“The future of the sector largely depends on partnerships that unite the state, businesses, scientists, and farmers. Therefore, we are launching a crucial reform by fundamentally transforming the activities of the Agricultural Development Agency. From April, qualitatively new directions of agricultural programs will be announced for our farmers and interested beneficiaries. Our goal is to make Georgian products competitive in both local and international markets, which will ensure faster development of Georgia’s agriculture and transform it into a modern, innovative, and highly productive sector,” emphasized Mr. Songulashvili.

According to the research conducted by Galt & Taggart, the Agricultural Development Index in Georgia, which combines productivity, price stability, and investments, showed an overall positive trend from 2017 to 2024. The study also indicates that the food market is growing rapidly, projected to reach approximately GEL 21.5 billion in 2025, and, if the current trend continues, could reach GEL 30 billion by 2030.

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## Solomon Pavliashvili Participated in the Georgia Rubberized Asphalt Summit 2026 (GRAS 2026)



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, participated in an international summit dedicated to rubberized asphalt technologies. During the summit, the parties focused on modern approaches to road construction and innovative technologies ensuring long-term infrastructure durability, economic efficiency, and environmental sustainability. Representatives of the internationally recognized organization, the Rubberized Asphalt Foundation, including its Chair and board members, shared their extensive experience in the research, development, and practical implementation of rubberized asphalt technologies.

In his remarks, Mr. Pavliashvili emphasized that the adoption of similar technologies in

Georgia is crucial for promoting a circular economy, which remains a key priority in the country’s environmental policy.

“We adopted the ‘Extended Producer Responsibility’ system several years ago, including regulations specifically addressing waste tire management. This is a significant challenge that can be addressed through the production of rubberized asphalt. Moreover, Georgia has adopted a consistent waste management policy framework, including a Waste Management Code, a national strategy, and an action plan. Within this value chain, strengthening the recycling cycle is currently of utmost importance, and this project will undoubtedly contribute to that goal,” stated Mr. Pavliashvili, adding that any green initiative that also supports economic growth will always receive strong support from the government.

Conference organizers emphasized the importance of participation by representatives of the Government of Georgia, noting that the discussions are designed to advance knowledge sharing and drive the development of sustainable, resilient, and environmentally responsible infrastructure solutions for the country.”

The Georgia Rubberized Asphalt Summit 2026 (GRAS 2026) was organized by the non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities “Tegeta Green Planet” and the “Georgian Extended Producer Responsibility Association,” with the support of the international technical partner, the Rubberized Asphalt Foundation (RAF). The event was also attended by the Minister of Infrastructure, Mr. Revaz Sokhadze, Chairperson of the Parliament’s Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, Mrs. Maia Bitadze, as well as representatives of various Government Agencies, international experts, and specialists.

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## Lasha Dolidze: “The Country Programme Framework is fully aligned with the Ministry’s priorities and establishes a solid foundation for effective, forward-looking cooperation”



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, attended a consultative meeting organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with various state Agencies of Georgia. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held a series of consultative meetings with representatives of Georgian Government Agencies and international development partners to discuss the Country Programme Framework (CPF) for 2026–2030.

“I would express my gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations for its longstanding contribution to the development of Georgia’s agricultural sector. FAO’s support plays a crucial role in enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-sector and in adopting modern, sustainable approaches. Notably, the Country Programme Framework is fully aligned with the Ministry’s priorities and creates a solid basis for effective cooperation in the future,” stated Mr. Lasha Dolidze.

According to Mr. Raimund Jehle, FAO Representative in Georgia, the active engagement and support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture are crucial for the successful implementation of the Country Programme Framework. He noted that co-ordinated cooperation among partners will facilitate sectoral development and ensure the effective implementation of priorities.

The Country Programme Framework (CPF) sets FAO’s priority areas for 2026–2030, guiding the implementation of activities in close cooperation with the Government of Georgia. These initiatives aim to promote the sustainable transformation of Georgia’s agricultural and food systems, strengthen rural development, and support climate-resilient, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable agriculture.

The results of the CPF are derived entirely from the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2026–2030, which is based on a comprehensive country analysis, multi-stakeholder consultations, and experience from previous CPF cycles (2016–2020 and 2021–2025).

The consultation was attended by Mr. Mamuka Meskh, Deputy FAO Representative in Georgia, along with representatives from various Ministries and state Agencies.

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## David Songulashvili: “Forest protection is our top priority; accordingly, we are actively implementing a comprehensive reform in this field”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, attended the ceremony marking the delivery of high-mobility vehicles and specialized equipment to regional National Forestry Agency offices.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Giorgi Tskrialashvili, and the Head of the National Forestry Agency, Mr. Besik Amiranashvili, also attended the event.

The National Forestry Agency acquired 45 high-mobility vehicles, 14 drones, 300 camera traps, and body cameras to enhance the prevention of illegal logging and timber transport, as well as to improve operational efficiency.

According to Minister Songulashvili, enhancing the Agency’s operational capacity represents one of the key areas of the ongoing forestry reform, adding that plans envisage the comprehensive re-equipment of forest rangers and the optimization of their areas of responsibility to further improve the effectiveness of their operations.

“Forest protection is our priority. Accordingly, a significant reform is being implemented in the forest management area. Moreover, one of the key components of the reform is crime

prevention, which requires the technical strengthening and proper equipping of the Forestry Agency. I am confident that the steps we have taken will fully ensure the achievement of our core objectives - forest protection and the prevention of illegal activities,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

According to Mr. Besik Amiranashvili, the 2026 budget for the ongoing forestry reform envisages additional measures to further enhance the Agency’s efficiency. Furthermore, the Agency plans to purchase 54 additional high-mobility vehicles and equip forest rangers with radio transmitters and electronic tablets.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is implementing a major reform in the forestry sector. Within the reform, responsibility for the physical protection of forests is being returned to the National Forestry Agency. Notably, the forestry reform considers the addition of 401 forest rangers, which will reduce the area of responsibility per ranger from 10,000–15,000 hectares to approximately 2,000 hectares. Ultimately, salaries for forest rangers have been doubled as part of the reform.

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## Minister David Songulashvili Meets with the Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Georgia



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic to Georgia (with residence in Ankara), Mr. Elvis Antonio Alam Lora. During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for deepening bilateral trade and economic relations, while also addressing the need for enhancing cooperation in tourism. The discussion focused on exploring prospects for partnership in the wine, tropical fruit, and tobacco sectors, including the exchange of experience in the environmental area.

Minister Songulashvili emphasized the current reforms implemented by the Ministry to reduce plastic use, advance the forestry sector, and expand protected areas.

**“Waste management is a pressing global challenge, and international cooperation in this area is of paramount importance. In Georgia, we are actively working to reduce plastic use, and we are implementing a comprehensive forestry reform on forest restoration, sustainable management, and multifunctional utilization of forest resources. In this process, sharing the experience of our partner countries is crucial for us,”** stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The parties underscored Georgia’s role as a regional trade hub, highlighting its liberal trade policy and extensive network of free trade agreements with the European Union, China, Turkey, and CIS countries, creating additional opportunities for international partners.

Ambassador Elvis Antonio Alam Lora expressed his readiness to deepen cooperation with the Georgian side.

“We are interested in exploring existing opportunities and enhancing cooperation across various areas, including environmental protection, where the exchange of experience is particularly valuable,” the Ambassador noted.

Mr. Remy McLough Malek, Envoy of the Dominican Republic to Georgia, Mr. Levan Choladze, Honorary Consul of the Dominican Republic, and Mr. David Chitashvili, Head of the International Relations and European Integration Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, also attended the meeting.

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## Solomon Pavliashvili Meets the Representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, held a meeting with representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), including Mr. Anders Petersen, Deputy Head of Mission, Country Operations Head, Georgia Resident Mission at the Asian Development Bank, and Ms. Jingmin Huang, Director of the Water and Urban Development Division.

During the meeting, the parties reviewed ongoing projects and identified priority areas for future cooperation, while emphasizing current challenges in waste management and planned initiatives.

Mr. Pavliashvili expressed his gratitude to the Asian Development Bank for its longstanding and significant support and expressed his hope for continued effective collaboration.

The Deputy Pavliashvili noted that, with ADB’s support, several significant projects are underway in Georgia, including initiatives in irrigation and sludge management.

**“Waste management is one of the top priorities for the state. Georgia has adopted a Waste Management Code, along with a relevant strategy and national action plan. The country has joined the High Ambition Coalition and the ‘Zero Waste’ initiative, and its legislative framework is largely aligned with European Union standards. At this stage, one of our key challenges is the development of new landfill sites, where your support is critically important,”** Mr. Pavliashvili stated.

According to Mr. Anders Petersen, the Asian Development Bank stands ready to support the development of modern infrastructure in Georgia.

“Georgia is a really important country for us, and it should have the highest quality services,” noted Ms. Jingmin Huang.

Mrs. Sophio Akhobadze, Head of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), along with representatives of relevant agencies of the Ministry, also attended the meeting.

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