



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JULY 2026

David Songulashvili: “The Strategic Cooperation Agreement Signed During the Official Visit to Kazakhstan Marks a New Milestone in the Economic Partnership Between Georgia and Kazakhstan”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited the Republic of Kazakhstan as a member of the official delegation accompanying the Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr. Irakli Kobakhidze, on his official visit to the country.

As part of the visit, Minister Songulashvili met with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Aidarbek Saparov.

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

in the agricultural sector, emphasizing the positive momentum in trade and economic relations between Georgia and Kazakhstan.

According to Minister Songulashvili, Kazakhstan is one of Georgia's key strategic partners, and the Strategic Cooperation Agreement signed during the Prime Minister's official visit will elevate bilateral relations to a qualitatively new stage.

“Kazakhstan is one of Georgia's important partners. During the visit, a Strategic Cooperation Agreement was signed, identifying agriculture as one of its priority areas. This creates new opportunities for the export of agricultural products, which will, in turn, support domestic production, strengthen the agricultural sector, and contribute to the country's overall economic development,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

According to the Minister, the cooperation and bilateral relations between Georgia and Kazakhstan have developed dynamically in recent years, and the current official visit will further strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

“Economic cooperation will intensify, and the economic ties between Georgia and Kazakhstan will further deepen. This will have a positive impact across a range of sectors, including agriculture, transport, and investment. Overall, this process will promote the economic development of both countries. At the same time, the continued strengthening of bilateral relations will also have a positive impact on the broader region,” Mr David Songulashvili emphasized.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26513/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26514/>

Lasha Dolidze Meets with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan



Mr Lasha Dolidze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, met with Mr Kahramon Yuldashev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in aquaculture, viticulture and winemaking, scientific research, education, and the adoption of digital technologies in agriculture. The parties also underscored the importance of sharing expertise, knowledge, and best practices across various areas of the agricultural sector.

“The exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices, the adoption of modern technologies, and joint projects will deepen cooperation between our two countries and support the sustainable development of the agricultural sector,” stated Mr Lasha Dolidze.

According to Mr Yuldashev, Uzbekistan attaches great importance to strengthening cooperation with Georgia in the agricultural sector and stands ready to implement mutually beneficial projects of shared interest.

The senior officials from the relevant Departments of both sides attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26515/>

Two New Legal Entities under Public Law Established within the System of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

Under the resolutions of the Government of Georgia, two new Legal Entities of Public Law — the National Gastronomy Agency and the Agency for Information Technologies, Environmental and Agricultural Services commenced operations within the system of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia on July 20, 2026.

The National Gastronomy Agency was established to protect, develop, and promote Georgia's gastronomic heritage, enhance its international recognition, and formulate and implement a unified state policy for gastronomy.

During the initial phase of its operation, the duties of the Agency's Head will be temporarily performed by Mr Lasha Avaliani, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The Agency will ensure the research, protection, and promotion of Georgia's gastronomic heritage, the improvement of relevant legal mechanisms, effective coordination between state institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholders, as well as support for increasing the competitiveness of local products in both domestic and international markets.

The Agency's activities will contribute to regional development, diversification of agriculture, and the commercialization of traditional local products.

This will contribute to increasing the income of rural communities, strengthening local production, and fostering sustainable economic development in rural areas. The Agency will also play a significant role in enhancing Georgia's tourism potential, particularly by promoting the development of agri-tourism and gastronomic tourism. Furthermore, it will support the strengthening of practices for the protection and effective use of geographical indications and designations of origin, thereby safeguarding the quality, authenticity, and reputation of Georgian products.

On the same date, the Agency for Information Technologies, Environmental and Agricultural Services was established within the Ministry system. The Agency was created by integrating the Ministry's centralized information technology management, call centre operations, and service development functions.

The Agency's scope of activities includes the management of information technologies, digital transformation, data center operations, and network infrastructure for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, its subordinate agencies, and private legal entities under the Ministry's administration. In addition, the Agency will also be responsible for software development and administration, the management of geographic information systems and spatial data, aerial surveys and monitoring, the development of public services and standardization of service delivery processes, customer telephone and technical support, as well as the creation and development of a unified digital and technological ecosystem across the Ministry's system.

The establishment of the new Agency will significantly reduce duplication of functions, accelerate decision-making processes, promote the efficient and rational use of budgetary resources, optimize costs, and further develop customer-oriented services. Consolidating these functions within a single structure will create a central information hub, ensuring an integrated system for managing data, digital services, technological infrastructure, and user needs, while supporting the development of modern, efficient, and unified digital governance within the Ministry system.

Mr. Tsotne Buchukuri has been appointed as the Head of the Agency for Information Technologies, Environmental and Agricultural Services. Before the establishment of the Agency, he served as the Head of the Information Technologies Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26524/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26525/>

Solomon Pavliashvili Participates in UNEP Heads of Delegation Meetings



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili, participated in the Heads of Delegation meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meetings aimed to facilitate an exchange of views among participating countries on the development of an international legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including pollution of the marine environment.

In his remarks, Mr Pavliashvili underscored the importance of adopting a global, legally binding international instrument to combat plastic pollution and emphasized the need for the successful conclusion of the negotiating process. He also highlighted the reforms implemented in Georgia to reduce plastic waste and reaffirmed Georgia's commitment to actively contributing to the adoption of an international agreement on plastic pollution.

The meetings included discussions and thematic working sessions, where participating countries examined key issues related to the draft international agreement and explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation.

Mr Gia Macharashvili, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, also attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26519/>

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Signs Cooperation Memoranda with Uzbekistan



During the official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Georgia, three Memoranda of Understanding were signed between Georgia and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the Government Administration of Georgia.

The Memoranda were signed by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr Bakhtiyor Saidov.

“Uzbekistan is one of the key countries in Central Asia. Under our Strategic Partnership Agreement, we signed three Memoranda of Understanding covering agriculture, environmental protection, and radioactive waste management. Each Memorandum defines priority areas for cooperation that will undoubtedly contribute to even closer relations with Uzbekistan. New opportunities are also opening up for the export of Georgian agri-food products, which will support increased incomes for our farmers and contribute to the country’s economic development,” said Mr David Songulashvili.

The signed Memoranda of Understanding establish cooperation in environmental protection, radiation protection and nuclear safety, and agriculture.

Notably, the agricultural cooperation will focus on agricultural policy, plant health, veterinary services, food safety, livestock development, and the promotion of modern agricultural technologies. Environmental cooperation will encompass biodiversity conservation, water and air quality management, waste management, collaboration



on climate change-related issues, and the development of environmental policy. Cooperation in radiation protection and nuclear safety will focus on strengthening collaboration between the respective regulatory authorities, facilitating the exchange of technical information and expertise, enhancing the professional capacity of specialists through training, and promoting the implementation of international standards.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26517/>

Amendments to the Timelines for Implementing Single-Use Plastic Restrictions

Amendments have been introduced to the resolutions of the Government of Georgia, revising the timelines for the implementation of restrictions on the use of certain single-use plastic products by food service establishments.

The amendments concern Government Resolution No. 106 of 12 March 2026 - “On the Prohibition of the Production, Import and Placing on the Market of Certain Plastic Products Intended for Food Contact.” According to the revised regulation, the ban on supplying beverages to consumers in plastic bottles at food service establishments, which was initially scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 2026, has been postponed until 1 February 2031.

The decision was made following additional consultations with representatives of the private sector, business associations, and other relevant stakeholders.

The amendments also apply to Government Resolution No. 304 of 8 June 2022 - “On the Technical Regulation on Plastic Materials and Articles (Items) Intended for Food Contact.”

Under the updated provisions, the timelines for introducing restrictions on the supply of ready-to-eat food in single-use plastic containers and cups by food service establishments have also been revised. The ban on single-use plastic food containers will enter into force on 1 January 2027, while the restriction on single-use plastic cups will take effect on 1 July 2027.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26516/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26518/>

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Hosts Working Group Meeting to Advance the Implementation of Legislation Regulating Living Genetically Modified Organisms



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture convened a meeting of the Working Group established to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation governing living genetically modified organisms (LMGOs).

During the meeting, the parties focused on the practical implementation of the amendments introduced by the Law of Georgia on Living Genetically Modified Organisms, the development of the relevant secondary normative acts and the measures required to ensure the Ministry's institutional readiness.

“The Parliament of Georgia has adopted amendments to the Law of Georgia on Living Genetically Modified Organisms, establishing the legal framework for the import and processing of living genetically modified organisms (excluding maize, wheat, and grapevine) authorized for use within the territory of Georgia solely for the production of animal feed. Effective enforcement of this legislation requires the development of comprehensive secondary legal acts, alongside ensuring the systemic and institutional readiness of the Ministry and its relevant agencies. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture has established a dedicated Working Group, which is actively engaged in drafting the required secondary legislation while

also identifying the key institutional needs and priority areas that must be addressed to ensure the Ministry is fully prepared to implement the new legal framework,” stated First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs Nino Tandilashvili.

Under the amendments adopted by the Parliament of Georgia, the Law on Living Genetically Modified Organisms establishes a legal framework permitting the import and processing of certain living genetically modified organisms solely for the production of animal feed, excluding maize, wheat, and grapevine.

Pursuant to the law, the principle prohibiting the environmental release, placing on the market, and import of living genetically modified organisms remains unchanged in Georgia.

A limited exception applies only to those living genetically modified organisms included in a list approved by the Government of Georgia, and solely where they are used for the production of animal feed.

The amendments also introduce mandatory licensing for relevant activities, require strict compliance with biosafety standards, ensure traceability of genetically modified organisms, and establish effective mechanisms to prevent unintended release into the environment.

Licenses will be issued only for living genetically modified organisms that are registered in the European Union Register of Genetically Modified Food and Feed and included in the list approved by the Government of Georgia. The import of genetically modified maize, wheat, and grapevine for human consumption into Georgia remains strictly prohibited.

The Deputies of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Lasha Avaliani, Mr Lasha Dolidze, and Mr Zurab Ezugbaia; Director of the State Laboratory of Agriculture, Mr Irakli Guledani; the Head of the National Environment Agency, Mrs Elene Ghubianuri; the Deputy Head of the Department of Environmental Supervision, Mrs Neli Korkotadze; the Deputy Head of the National Food Agency, Mr Zurab Lipartia; and the Heads of the relevant departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26523/>

Nino Tandilashvili Elected Chair of the Green Climate Fund's Ethics and Audit Committee



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, has been elected Chair of the Ethics and Audit Committee of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Notably, Mrs. Tandilashvili assumes this position, succeeding the representative of France.

Following her election, the First Deputy Minister expressed her appreciation to her predecessor for their dedicated service and thanked the Committee members for their confidence in and support of her candidacy.

The Ethics and Audit Committee is a standing body of the Green Climate Fund responsible for overseeing compliance with the Fund's ethics and conflict-of-interest policies, enhancing financial oversight, monitoring internal audit processes, and providing recommendations to support the Fund's governance and accountability framework.

The Committee comprises representatives of both developed and developing countries, who also serve as members of the Green Climate Fund Board; thus, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili represents the countries of Eastern Europe on the GCF Board.

The election of Georgia's representative to chair one of the Green Climate Fund's principal committees marks another important milestone in strengthening the country's international standing and role in advancing the global climate agenda.

Established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is one of the world's largest international climate finance mechanisms, supporting projects that promote climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26528>

David Songulashvili: “Products Made in Georgia Should Be Associated with Quality and Reliability”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, accompanied by the State Representative in the Shida Kartli Region, Mr. Simon Guledani, visited several agricultural enterprises in the Shida Kartli region that were established with the support of the Rural Development Agency.

During the visit, Minister Songulashvili toured enterprises specializing in fruit and vegetable processing and storage, perennial orchards, cold storage facilities, compound feed production, and winemaking. Together with company representatives, he reviewed production and processing operations, modern technologies, infrastructure, and the companies' future development plans.

“Today, we visited several enterprises operating across different segments of the agricultural sector in the Shida Kartli region. Businesses like these play a crucial role in strengthening Georgia's agricultural value chain. Our goal is to ensure that products made in Georgia not only meet domestic market demand but also have strong export potential.

I am pleased to note that all the enterprises we visited today were established with the support of the Rural Development Agency and are equipped in full compliance with high-quality standards. This enables them to remain com-

petitive while further enhancing the international reputation of Georgian products as a symbol of quality,” said Minister David Songulashvili.

The Minister visited “TMT” LTD, a fruit and vegetable processing and storage enterprise; “FM Group” LTD, a fruit processing company; “Agrokartli” LTD, which operates perennial orchards and cold storage facilities; “Agroclub Georgia”, a cold storage enterprise; “Agro Universal Georgia” LTD, a producer of compound animal feed; and “Uplistsikhe Mamuli” LTD, a winery.

These enterprises have benefited from the Rural Development Agency's state support programs at various stages of their development. The assistance has facilitated the establishment of modern infrastructure, the expansion of production capacity, and the adoption of internationally recognized standards.

Currently, the mentioned companies process locally produced raw materials, manufacture competitive products using advanced technologies, create employment opportunities in the region, and successfully market their products both domestically and internationally.

.....  <https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26529>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26530>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26531>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26532>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26533>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26534>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26535>

David Songulashvili Visits Farmers' Exhibition at the "Alooba 2026" Festival



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, along with the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr. Shalva Papuashvili, participated in the "Alooba 2026" Festival in the Dedoplistskaro Municipality.

Notably, the festival is dedicated to celebrating Georgian wheat, the country's traditional bread-making culture, and its centuries-old agricultural heritage.

"Georgian wheat is an integral part of our country's history, culture, and national identity. Significantly, Georgia's wheat heritage has gained international recognition, while the latest scientific research has once again confirmed Georgia as one of the world's oldest centres of bread wheat origin. Our goal is to preserve and further develop this unique genetic resource, which

represents one of Georgia's key competitive advantages on the global stage," said Mr. David Songulashvili.

During the festival, the Minister toured the farmers' exhibition and thematic displays showcasing endemic Georgian wheat varieties, agricultural biodiversity, ethnographic and scientific exhibits, traditional bread-baking methods, and products made by local producers.

The LEPL Scientific-Research Centre organised the festival to promote Georgian wheat, its associated traditions, and the country's rich agricultural heritage.

The event brought together representatives of government institutions, scientific and educational organisations, the cultural sector, and farming communities.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26539/>

David Songulashvili: “Today, products made in Georgia’s regions are successfully establishing their presence in international markets”



As part of his visit to the Imereti region, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, toured several agribusiness enterprises established with the support of the Rural Development Agency.

The Minister visited agricultural enterprises operating in the municipalities of Baghdati, Khoni, Samtredia, and Kutaisi, where he observed the production processes across a range of sectors, including winemaking, fruit and bay leaf processing, honey production, aquaculture, traditional Georgian snacks and sweets, ready-made meals, and pastry and confectionery production.

During the visits, Minister Songulashvili also inspected the enterprises’ infrastructure and got familiar with the company’s state-of -the-art technologies and production capacities.

“Today, products made in Georgia’s regions are successfully establishing their presence in international markets. Our goal is to create even greater opportunities for Georgian enterprises to expand their production and increase exports, ensuring that the quality of Georgian products is represented even more widely across global markets,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The Minister continues his regional visits, meeting with local entrepreneurs to gain first-hand insight into their businesses and production processes. The meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss existing and planned state support programs.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26545/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26544/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26543/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26542/>
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26541/>

Georgia hosted the Regional Consultative Forum for the Caucasus Eco-Corridors Fund (ECF) program



The Head of the Forest Policy Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili, participated in the Annual Meeting of the Regional Consultative Forum held under Phase II of the Caucasus Eco-Corridors Fund (ECF). The forum was held in Tbilisi and was attended by representatives of government institutions, international organizations, and environmental stakeholders from Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

In his remarks, Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili emphasized the country's recent progress in expanding its network of protected areas.

"In recent months, Georgia's protected areas have expanded to 14.6% of the country's total territory, exceeding one million hectares. Under the project, ecological connecting landscapes linking the Lesser Caucasus were successfully established across the municipalities of Adigeni, Khulo, and Shuakhevi. The initiative has actively engaged 23 local community organizations, supporting their efforts to conserve individual components of biodiversity within protected areas and surrounding landscapes. The Eco-Corridors Programme is fully aligned with Georgia's national and international environmental commitments and will contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation measures", stated Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili.

Participants reviewed the results achieved under the second phase of the Eco-Regional Corridors Programme and discussed its contribution to biodiversity conservation and the benefits delivered to local communities across Georgia, Armenia, and Azer-

baijan. They also examined the principal areas of activity of the Caucasus Eco-Corridors Fund and its strategic priorities for the coming years.

During the Forum, the parties focused on the experience and prospects for implementing Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) across the South Caucasus, including the findings of recent studies and recommendations presented by international experts.

Moreover, the discussions also embraced the eco-regional corridors identified for Phase III of the ECF, mechanisms to strengthen the sustainability of existing and future community conservation areas, approaches to supporting their institutional recognition, and the monitoring of ECF activities and their impact as a key instrument for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the programme.

The Eco-Corridors Programme aims to promote sustainable land use within selected ecological corridors in Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, strengthen ecological connectivity between protected areas, and conserve biodiversity. The programme also provides long-term support for community-based natural resource management, contributing to improved socio-economic conditions for local communities.

The Caucasus Eco-Corridors Programme is implemented by the WWF Caucasus Programme Office and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through KfW Development Bank, while GOPA Worldwide Consultants provides technical and advisory support for the project.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/26527/>