



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JULY/2021

Minister Davitashvili: “I would like to congratulate for each and every citizen of Georgia for recognizing four more protected territories by the UNESCO”

“Moreover, the Prime Minister has accurately stressed out that Georgia’s unique wildlife has been enlisted under the UNESCO’s World Heritage list; the respective development is not a victory only for Georgia but for the whole region and the Black Sea area. This is an international recognition, which will ensure that Georgia appears on the global map as a country with an outstanding biodiversity and that is a pride for the world and not only Georgia. We are thrilled to have Georgia being recognized by the UNESCO yet again.

We have launched working on the nomination in 2019 and I shall stress out contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, apart from our Ministry, which resulted into today’s decision” – Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili stated.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/News/Details/20457/>



Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramírez, the Assistant Director - General for Culture of UNESCO Congratulated Georgia for the inscription of the Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands on the UNESCO World Heritage list



“On behalf of UNESCO, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Georgia for the inscription of the Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands of Georgia is a unique and ancient landscape; it represents one of the last remains of the tropical and subtropical habitats that once stretched across the Eurasian continent millions of years ago. I would like to thank Georgia for its commitment to the protection of the World’s natural heritage by nominating the Colchic Rainforests and Wetlands of Georgia to the UNESCO World Heritage list. You are working to ensure that people everywhere can continue to enjoy the richness of this property for the generations to come”, Mr Ernesto Ottone Ramirez stated.

The Prime Minister of Georgia appoints two Vice - Prime Ministers



Today, at the session of the Government of Georgia, Prime Minister of Georgia, Mr Irakli Gharibashvili appointed Mr Levan Davitashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Ms Tea Tsulukiani, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport as the Vice-Prime Ministers of Georgia. There are three Vice-Prime Ministers in the cabinet of Ministers; the respective position is also held by Mr Davit Zalkaliani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20451/>

The Government of Georgia adopts a decree on the extensive aqua - culture regulatory rules and terms



The decree on the extensive aqua-culture regulatory rules and terms has been elaborated upon the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and aims at ensuring legislative regulation of the respective matter.

“Today, within the session of the Government of Georgia, we have adopted two regulations of high importance, which will complement enhancement of aqua-culture in Georgia. It is a rule for issuing permission on extensive aqua-culture rules and a technical regulation in general. The latter initiative

and action will enable investors and incumbent industries to enjoy sustainable enhancement of the respective area. We have stressed out in our 10-year plan that Georgia will triple operation and will harvest more than 20 000 tonnes of aqua-culture. It is a detailed assessment, which will be possible through effective arrangements in ponds, as well as mariculture locations” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

Extensive aqua-culture aims at ensuring fish populations at natural ponds (lake, river, swamp water) and artificial reservoirs (reservoirs, several streams and other ponds, except for aqua-culture constructions) through spawn, larva and upon providing natural food. Fish at the respective pond will be comprehensively depicted for complementing further increase in the future.

The decree on the extensive aqua-culture regulatory rules and terms aims at determining participation rules among the administrative bodies, which shall be part to the process of issuing permits. The decree also sets permission terms for the latter bodies. An extensive permission will be issued for not more than 20 years. As set forth by the Law of Georgia on Licenses and Permits, the respective permission will be issued by the National Environmental Agency and upon inter-agency council’s recommendation.

The decree will also determine rules for issuing permission for extensive aqua-culture, which will further facilitate the respective field.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20448/>

Announcing the winners of the first National Agrarian Olympic Tournament

Georgia has commented the first Olympic tournament and the winners have been awarded by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili and Mr Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in Georgia.

“The National Agrarian Olympic Tournament has embraced attendance of specialists, farmers, students and pupils. In frames of the Tournament, highly competent tests have been drafted. Frankly speaking, we have successfully organized the first Tournament, that has cultivated a beautiful tradition and has fulfilled the expectations, which has also resulted into number of applicants. The Tournament has a capacity to boost interest on the rural-agrarian field, as well as agricultural development, in the future. I am convinced that we will have more applicants interested in the tournament; more winners will ensure an increased visibility of environmental education and agricultural development” – Minister Davitashvili stated.



The Agrarian Olympic Tournament entails four categories – specialist, student, farmer and pupil. The competition thematic spans across 7 areas – agronomy, veterinary, wine technology, food technology, mechanization, forestry and combined matters for pupils (agriculture, biodiversity, environmental protection and ecology). The national platform has embraced 755 applications; the two-stage selection process has identified 37 winners of the first National Agrarian Olympic Tournament.

“We have awarded the winners of the first National Olympic Competition;

I would like to extend my special appreciation toward the school pupils, who are our future. The pupils have not yet chosen their career paths and are already interested into agriculture and are applying for the contest. I do regard the latter aspect of the Competition as an immense achievement” - Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia.

The tournament was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)’s South Caucasus Office and the Association for the Agriculture Development. The partners of the Tournament are the USAID Agriculture Program, GRETA / Green Economy project: sustainable mountain tourism and organic agriculture, the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN), Environmental

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20455/>



Deputy Minister Solomon Pavliashvili attends the meeting on “EU4Environment”



Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili attended a working meeting in frames of the EU4Environment project, which enjoyed presence of 25 attendees from various state

institutions. In the course of the sessions, the national strategy and national plan for waste management (2016 – 2020) and an entailing priorities and needs have been identified; moreover, attendees scrutinized new action plan (2016 – 2020).

“Elaboration of the new national action plan for waste management will be of highest priority upon deployment of the circular economy” – Deputy Minister stated.

At the working meeting, Bruno Pozzi, the Director of the Europe Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) briefed about the efforts from the Georgian counterparts for harmonizing the EU Directives to local system of waste management. *“The UNEP will proceed working with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, to ensure deployment of the successful practice, as well as elaborating the national action plan for the period of 2022 – 2026”- Mr Pozzi stated.*

The project EU4Environment is a regional initiative, which is implemented by the Europe Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus).

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20454/>

Minister Davitashvili attend the first plenary of the circular economy assessment

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), Mr Levan Davitashvili and Deputy Minister, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili attended the first plenary session of the circular economy assessment. In the course of the meeting, Inter-Agency Task Force under the Government of Georgia and the Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” scrutinized aspects and challenges with regard to circular economy assessment in Georgia.

“Georgia has already set a very ambitious plan – develop the circular economy development strategy and action plan. We are currently developing target indicators. Throughout elaboration of the economic development policies, the new code of the waste management implies the first steps of the circularity. In parallel with the code, we have also cultivated an extended consumer responsibility and an entailing principles, which will boost several regulations, that will foster circular approach to waste; to ensure accrual of materials and processing of these” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

The respective assessment program has designed tough financial support of the Swedish Government and aims to raise awareness among the interested parties with regard to circular economy. The program anticipates to issue recommendations to various groups, such as – financial institutions and business circles with regard to accelerating cultivation of circular economy principles at various arenas of the country.



The plenary was organized by the Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis” within the campaign “Keep Georgia Tidy”, in frames of the project “Circular economy assessment in Georgia”, which is implemented through support of the MEPA together with local stakeholders, the Georgian Society of Nature Explorers “Orchis”; and Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth-Georgia, in cooperation with LEPL Environmental information and Education Centre, Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Georgia, Waste Management Company and though the financial assistance of the Government of Sweden.

The meeting was attended by the Eric Iles, Head of the Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation in Georgia, Mr Dariusz Edward Prasek, an independent expert and member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, as well as Chairman of the “Orchis” and Project Manager of the “Keep the Georgia Tidy” project, Ms Mariam Kimeridze. The meeting also enjoyed presence of various staffers representing the MEPA’s agencies and private sector.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20428/>



Environmental campaign targeting on the youth

Do you care about environmental issues? Would you like to spread awareness for the value of forests and energy efficiency?

The programme “Management of natural resources and safeguarding of ecosystem services for sustainable rural development in the South Caucasus” (ECOserve) is announcing a call for proposals for NGOs to raise awareness on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) incl. Energy Efficiency/Alternative Energy (EE/AE) in particular engage the youth in different activities on national level and locally in Akhmeta municipality through their awareness raising and education

The objective of the call is to support the identification and implementation of gender-specific awareness raising measures on SFM incl. EE/AE with the special focus on youth (Age group: 14 to 29).

We are interested in innovative, creative ideas. The proposals from NGOs should be submitted in English language on E-mail: ECOserve@giz.de describing how to inform and educate young people about:

- The value of forests (in terms of ecosystem services, climate change mitigation and adaptation).
 - Energy Efficiency - related to the use of firewood and insulation.
- Proposal should include:
- Introduction/description of the NGO (half page)
 - Content of the campaign, including key messages and how they will be communicated (2 pages)
 - Timetable of the planned campaign (1 page)
 - Detailed budget (max. 1 page)
 - Answers to the given questions (see questions attached)



NGOs will be provided with: Environmental KAP survey – knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) related to the management of natural resources and safeguarding of ecosystem services for sustainable rural development in Georgia (1) and Forest Sector Communication Strategy and action plan (2). These documents may serve as a guide and inspiration for your proposals.

Who can participate? - Any NGO can apply for the call, no matter how big their experience is. Allocated budget: up to GEL 100,000.

Deadline for the submission: 9th of August.

A jury consisting of GIZ, MEPA, NFA and RDA representatives will evaluate the proposals. Feedback will be provided by 16th of August.

Implementation period is 10 weeks and should take place from 6th of September to 15th of November 2021.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20453>

Deputy Minister Shamugia observes implementation of the “Reaping economic and environmental benefits from sustainable land management” project

environmental benefits from sustainable land management” project Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Otar Shamugia attend implementation process of the “Reaping economic and environmental benefits from sustainable land management” project, which spans across Gori, Kareli, Kvareli and Sagarejo as pilot locations.

“The goal of the pilot project is to strengthen economic and environmental benefits from sustainable land management, which shall tackle degradation problem of the soil, as well as share the best practices in this regard. Georgia shall also share the best practices, that aims at safeguarding protection of the country’s economic and natural capital. More than 100 farmers have joined the project. Through the funding from the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and assistance of the Regional Environmental Center (REC) for the Caucasus, the farmers have been provided with seeds for cultivating the wind break belts free of charge. We will care for cultivating such practice at other regions, in order to boost interest among the farmers?” – Deputy Minister Shamugia stated.

In frames of the project, 2935 meters of windbreak belts have been planted during December 2020; six farmers have been provided with seedlings and fencing materials free of charge. In October 2020, 75 hectares of agricultural-rural land has been ploughed; the respective costs have been fully covered by the project.



The pilot project was launched on March 18, 2018 and will commence on March 18, 2023. The project has been initiated by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and has been funded by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF); and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Regional Environmental Center (REC) for the Caucasus.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20430/>

The State supports new freezer enterprises in the Shida Kartli region



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Levan Davitashvili visited the new freezer enterprises in the village of Kvarkhiti of the Gori municipality. *“Our policies are not fragmental but quite consistent and systemic. On the third year of the “Plant the Future” program, we have launched co-funding of the storage and freezer enterprises. Throughout these years, several enterprises have been launched through co-funding; in 2021, we have accepted more applications and statements of interest, than before. It will be an increasing progress; the Ministry-supported intensive gardens make up nearly 14-15 thousand hectares and require an adequate storage-processing infrastructure. The latter inquires that there is a need for hundreds of freezer*

enterprises, similar to the “Tiriphomi Fruit”. A ten-year plan of the Government deploys actions, which will complement actions in a systematic manner and result into co-funding of supply chain at large; as a result, Georgian production will be of high quality and competitive” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

Freezer enterprise of the company “Tiriphomi Fruit” has been equipped with Italian and German modern technologies and through the state funding. The freezer can accommodate 1000 tonnes of fruit and has been awarded with 600, 000 GEL via storage enterprise co-funding program, while the preferential credit amounts into 1,5 million GEL. Moreover, in frames of the technical assistance program, food safety management system in freezer enterprises ISO 22 000 will be adopted.

In frames of the Rural Development Agency, 50 freezer and storage enterprises will be supported, nationwide; A total funding has exceeded 23, 8 million GEL.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20449/>

Minister Davitashvili: “2021 is a successful year for harvest, both, qualitative and quantitative perspectives”



Harvesting the yield is in an active mode in Shida Kartli region. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia has visited the village of Shindisi, Gori municipality together with the State Trustee of the Shida Kartli region, Mr. Valerian Mchedlidze. The Minister and the State Trustee observed yield harvest (also known as “Alooba” in Georgia) by the company “Silk Water Group”.

“Alooba is in an active mode. Harvesting actions simultaneously span across Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions, which does cause certain challenges in terms of collection and storage efforts. Frankly speaking, the most challenging period has already been passed and the vast majority of the harvest has been accommodated. This year, yield is of an outstanding quality, in terms of qualitative as well as quantitative terms. The respective outcome has resulted from numerous systemic changes and decisions. We shall also stress out capacity building of our farmers and shaping their experience, which assist them in deploying modern approaches, that boost fertility and protection of the soil; we can produce high-quality wheat and barley. Therefore, we will intensify

our efforts targeting enhancement of crop industry, which will be translated into a simplified access to seeds and mechanization, as well as certification, knowledge among the farmers, modern technologies and the best practices; we will proceed with making efforts toward quality control, which will be an important step toward protection of farmers’ interests and fair competitiveness” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

The Black Water Group is a producer of more than 120 hectares of Georgian variety of “Lomtagora” wheat, as well as 50 hectares of barley and 100 hectares of burclover; the company also ensures crop rotation as an effective effort for soil fertility.

Nowadays, crop cultures are being collected without an impediments and through agricultural schedule; nationwide, LTD „Agricultural Logistics and Services Company” has mobilized around 95 combines, which have made it possible to already collect/accommodate around 14, 000 hectares of space in Shida Kartli, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions.

In the village of Shindisi, harvest collection efforts were attended by the first Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Giorgi Khanishvili and Director of the Agricultural Development Agency, Mr. Ilia Tamarashvili.

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