



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JUNE 2023

Tbilisi hosted the 15th International Exhibition of Wine and Alcoholic Beverages, WINEXPO 2023



Tbilisi hosted the 15th international wine and spirits exhibition, WINEXPO 2023. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, the Director of the exhibition center “ExpoGeorgia”, Mr. Resan Kikawa, and the Chairman of the Georgian International Wine Award Jury, Master of Wine, Mr. Tim Atkin, made opening remarks at the exhibition.

“The state has made significant efforts to promote Georgian wine over the years, thus the entire world is aware that Georgia is the homeland of wine and has a history of 8,000 years of continuous grape growing and winemaking. Every year, our wine export rate increases. We exported 103 million liters of wine last year, 23 million more than the previous year. We believe these are significant numbers;

We must maintain this upward trend this year as well. All of the above results from our joint efforts with the business sector and the government, and I am confident it will be further improved. The state will allocate even more resources to display our wine at all significant events and exhibits in the following years. Our entrepreneurs can count on our support,” Mr. Otar Shamugia stated.

The international wine and alcoholic beverage exhibition WINEXPO is one of the significant winemaking events in the Caucasus region, involving various wine industry-related activities. This year, over 200 companies from seven countries (Georgia, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Ukraine, and Armenia.) showcase their products and services at WINEXPO 2023.



The exhibition features small, medium, and family wineries, wine industry technologies, packaging materials, viticulture and winemaking machinery, nurseries, fertilizers, accessories, services, etc., in addition to the products of large enterprises producing wine and alcoholic beverages.

Along with producers, WinExpo 2023 hosts exporters, sommeliers, representatives of hotels, restaurants, trade chains and international media, and wine lovers worldwide.

Within the framework of the exhibition, with the support of the National Wine Agency, about 40 small, medium, and family wineries present their products and various types of wine, including Qvevri and biodynamic wines, to the exhibition's visitors just like in previous years. International exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages is one of the crucial platforms for Georgian producers to introduce their products to consumers, find partners and increase export opportunities.

The scope of the WINEXPO exhibition and the number of participant companies and visitors grow yearly, indicating that the exhibition is prestigious and that interest in Georgian wine is growing.

WINEXPO Georgia 2023 was organized with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the National Wine Agency.

The 15th international exhibition of wine and alcoholic beverages WINEXPO Georgia 2023, was held in the 11th pavilion of the exhibition center “Expo Georgia” and its adjacent space on June 2-4, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



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Otar Shamugia attends the opening ceremony of the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, attended the opening ceremony of the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indication.

The event was organized jointly by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia – “Sakpatenti.”

“The system of Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications is one of the main determinants for ensuring the quality of agricultural products, protecting the interests of consumers, and creating fair competition conditions for businesses. In parallel with the increase in production in the country, exports are also expanding, implying that Georgian products are gaining their place in worldwide markets. Moreover, preserving and marketing products protected by geographical indication and designation of origin stimulates economic growth, and these agro-food products are in great demand on the market.

The names of 29 types of wines, 8 types of mineral waters, and 26 food are now protected by geographical indication at the National Intellectual Protection Center of Georgia.

In addition, the wine vessel “Kvevri” became the first non-food product to be included in the state register of geographical indicators in 2021.” Mr. Shamugia stated in his speech at the symposium.

In 2017, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture established a “Marketing Council to promote the development of geographical indication schemes in Georgia, including product branding, introducing international marketing practices, and improving legislative and institutional mechanisms for their protection.” The marketing council conducts activities compliant with international practice and actively collaborates with Sakpatenti, international organizations, and other stakeholders. Furthermore, the Department of Food Policy of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is actively working on developing quality schemes and improving legal protection mechanisms.

Within the framework of the symposium, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, met with Mr. Binying Wang, the Deputy Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Minister thanked the leadership of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia for organizing the World Symposium.

As mentioned, the protection and control of appellations of origin and geographical indications are one of the challenges faced by the world and Georgia. Therefore, the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications in Tbilisi plays a significant role by providing an opportunity to get familiar with the abovementioned issues and share international experiences.

Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; Mr. Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); Ms. Wang Binying, Deputy Director General of WIPO. Mr. Soso Giorgadze, Chairman of the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia – “Sakpatenti,” made opening remarks at the Worldwide Symposium on Geographical Indications.

Within the framework of the symposium, on June 14-16, sessions were held on the following topics: Branding and Marketing Strategies for Geographical Indications; selected examples of developing geographical indication schemes; Geographical indications in the tourism value chain: gastronomic tourism/wine tourism; management of geographical indications, quality of products bearing a geographical indication; geographical indications, trade names; cooperation for geographical indications.

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“Georgian Wine Evening” was held in Seoul with the support of the USAID Agriculture Programme.



Under the frames of the Memorandum of Cooperation, signed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Agriculture Programme and the National Wine Agency, the capital of the Republic of Korea, Seoul, hosted the presentation of Georgian wine. The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Yuri Nozadze, made opening remarks at the event.

The Chairman of the National Wine Agency, Mr. Levan Mekhuzla, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Korea, Mr. Tarash Papaskua, attended the “Georgian Wine Evening.”

“It is essential that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is involved in the marketing campaign of Georgian wine and will implement various targeted measures to promote Georgian wine in South Korea, the US, and Germany. The exhibition event in Seoul allowed Georgian producers to showcase their products to local wine experts, wine importers, and media representatives.

Similar initiatives are one of the crucial factors contributing to increasing Georgian wine export,” Mr. Yuri Nozadze stated.

According to the Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Korea, Mr. Tarash Papasqua, there is a real potential for active consumption of Georgian wine in Korea.

“Our embassy makes every effort to promote Georgian wine on the Korean market. The “Georgian wine evening” in Seoul embraced representatives from 20 Korean companies interested in exporting Georgian wine to the Korean market and utilizing the existing potential,” Mr. Tarash Papasqua stated.

16 Georgian wine companies showcased various types and denominations of wines to wine specialists at the “Georgian Wine Evening.” Mr. Chan Jun Park, director of the Eastern and Central European Wine Institute, along with the members of the Georgian delegation, addressed the visitors.

“The wine market of the Republic of Korea has expanded significantly. Local importers and consumers became more interested in Western European and Georgian wines. They are convinced of how attractive Georgian wine is.

Young people show more and more interest in Georgian wine, which is the result of marketing campaigns carried out by the National Wine Agency. Georgian wine has vast potential in the Korean market,” Mr. Chan Jun Park stated.

Mrs. Tata Jaiani, Business Development and Communication Manager at Georgian Wine Association delivered a presentation on Georgian wine culture and modern industry.

Within the USAID Agriculture Program, the US, Germany, and South Korea were identified as priority markets for the diversification of Georgian wine exports based on discussions held with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the National Wine Agency, private sector representatives, and the analysis of Georgian wine export statistics and trends. The first presentation event of Georgian wine was held in Seoul, within the Memorandum of Cooperation signed in May 2023.

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With the support of the National Wine Agency of Georgia, 14 companies showcase Georgian wine at the “Seoul Wine and Spirits Expo 2023” exhibition in South Korea.



On June 22, the international wine and spirits exhibition "Seoul Wine and Spirits Expo 2023" was opened in Seoul, the capital of South Korea. With the support of the National Wine Agency, 14 Georgian wine-producing companies participated in the exhibition.

"Even though Georgian wine export has been increasing dramatically in dozens of countries around the world over the last decade, we are looking forward to finding new stable and promising markets and we believe the South Korean market is one of them," stated Mr. Yuri Nozadze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, who attended the exhibition "Seoul Wine and Spirits Expo 2023" jointly with the Chairman of the National Wine Agency Mr. Levan Mekhuzla and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia in the Republic of Korea, Mr. Tarash Papasqua.

According to the Chairman of the National Wine Agency, presenting Georgian wine in large-scale exhibitions contributes to diversifying Georgian wine export markets.

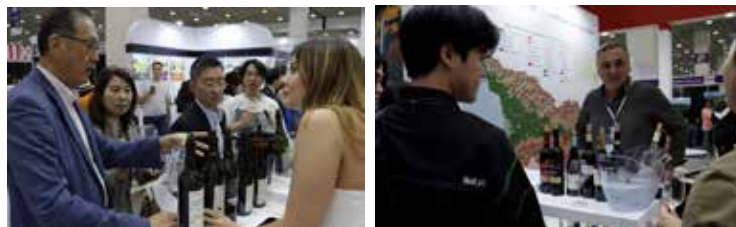
"South Korea is one of the interesting and promising markets for Georgian wine, where tangible success will be achieved with the right marketing strategy and targeted work. During the exhibition, it became obvious that there is great interest in Georgian wine, including its history and culture. It should be mentioned that currently, the export of Georgian wine to South Korea is increasing, although the resource is huge and as a result of the joint efforts of the state and the private sector, we have a real perspective of increasing these indicators", said Mr. Levan Mekhuzla.

The "Seoul International Wine & Spirits Expo" is one of the most extensive annual wine and spirits events in the Asian region. This year, the exhibition is held from June 22 to 24.

Georgian wine producers will be able to showcase their products to local wine professionals during the three-day expo, which is one of the prerequisites for increasing interest in Georgian wine and following the growth in sales.

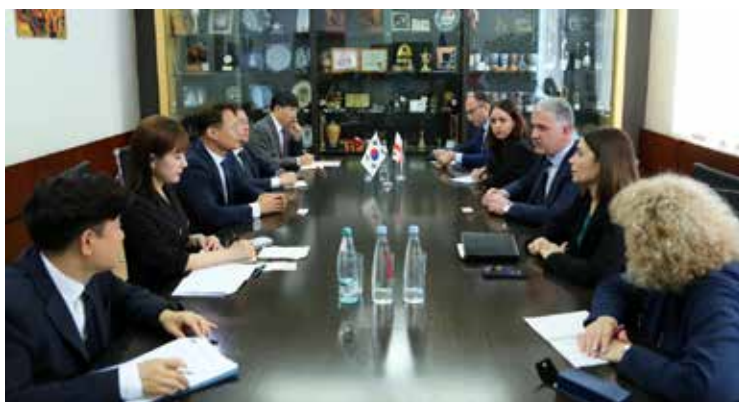
According to Georgian wine producers, South Korea, along with China and Japan, is a potential/promising market for Georgian wine, particularly interested in Georgian red and Kvevri wines.

Georgian wine was first presented at the "Seoul International Wines and Spirits Expo" in 2015. Georgian winemakers participated in the previous expo in 2019 and 2022 with the support of the National Wine Agency. Initially, there were seven participant companies in the exhibition; this year, this number has doubled.



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Otar Shamugia hosted the delegation of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia, hosted the delegation of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Shin Jin-soo, Deputy Minister for Water Management Policy of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, headed the delegation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the current and future opportunities for Georgia-Korea cooperation.

The Minister thanked the government of the Republic of Korea for supporting agricultural development and environmental protection fields in the country, emphasizing the importance of sharing Korea's experience with the Georgian side in the sustainable management of water resources.

The conversation touched upon the issues of deepening cooperation towards adopting modern technologies in the protected areas, increasing Georgian wine export, and sustainable management of water resources.

According to Mr. Shin Jin-soo, Georgia is a reliable and interesting partner country for the Republic of Korea, which is an important prerequisite for further deepening cooperation.

Within the framework of the meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, aiming to ensure the sustainable management of water resources in the country.

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, and Deputy Minister, Mr. Shin Jin-soo signed the Memorandum.

The Heads of the relevant Departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

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Otar Shamugia meets the representatives of the business sector of the Swiss Confederation



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia met with the representatives of the business sector of the Swiss Confederation.

The Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Mrs. Helene Budliger, led the delegation. During the meeting, the parties discussed Georgia's investment opportunities and prospects for deepening cooperation in the environmental protection area.

Mr. Otar Shamugia emphasized the importance of diplomatic and partnership relationships with Switzerland and underlined the country's favorable investments and business climate.

The Minister emphasized the importance of the implemented and ongoing projects in collaboration with the Swiss Development Agency in the agricultural and environmental protection fields and expressed gratitude to Mrs. Budliger for effective and fruitful cooperation.

According to the Secretary of State of Switzerland, the existing friendly relations between the two countries are a solid foundation for deepening trade and economic relations.

The parties also discussed the importance of timely and effective fulfillment of obligations under the Paris Agreement.

The First Deputy Minister, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili; Deputy Minister, Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze; Ambassador of Georgia to the Swiss Confederation, Mr. Revaz Lominadze; and Heads of relevant departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

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A new platform "Forest Friend" was created at the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture



The presentation of the new platform was held in the botanical garden. The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia, the business sector, and environmental non-governmental organizations attended the event.

Minister Otar Shamugia, Chairperson of the Committee of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia, Mrs. Maia Bitadze, and the Resident Representative of UNDP Georgia, Mr. Nick Beresford, emphasized the importance of raising awareness on the role of forests and underlined the public participation in forest preservation/protection efforts.

"The forest is our treasure and a unique natural wealth that requires care, maintenance, and protection. Our current event serves the same objective. Through this platform, we hope to allow our citizens to participate in forest maintenance and protection activities alongside professionals in the field. Teaming up to protect our unique natural resources and take care of our forests with joint efforts is crucial. Recently, we have carried out several essential activities to ensure sustainable forest management.

The first issue I would like to emphasize is the new Forest Code, which fully complies with European requirements, although there are still challenges related to illegal forest use. We have taken many steps in the mentioned area, with unique initiatives to enhance the Environmental Supervision Department. Society should participate in the mentioned process, and this platform will provide us with this opportunity," said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

In his remarks, the Minister thanked the donor organizations for the financial support for effectively implementing regulations stipulated by the new Forest Code and for sharing knowledge and competencies with the Georgian side.

"This initiative, headed by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and personally by Minister, Otar Shamugia, is crucial. We are pleased to be funded by the UNDP's Biodiversity Financing Initiative (BIOFIN). They are implementing very important initiatives around the world, and we are confident that this will be one of their successful projects in Georgia", said Mr. Nick Beresford.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia, Mrs. Maia Bitadze, emphasized the importance of increasing community engagement in the forestry sector.

"On behalf of the Parliament of Georgia, I express my full support for the platform, which was created today as a result of the Ministry's efforts. I believe this will be another crucial platform," said Mrs. Maia Bitadze.

The volunteer platform "Forest Friend" was created with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture's National Forestry Agency in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Project.

The "Forest Friend" platform encourages everyone to contribute and directly engage in establishing new forests, including private enterprises, volunteers, and individuals united around the idea.

Participants who register on the platform will track their selected projects' progress online and receive exciting and valuable thematic information from industry specialists and environmentalists.

By 2023, the target regions for reforestation will be Kakheti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Guria, and Racha-Lechkhumi-Kvemo Svaneti, based on updated forest management plans. The platform will cover all nine regions by 2024.



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A New project will be launched to tackle the effects of climate change on the agro-food system in Georgia.



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and with the help of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is launching a new initiative. Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and FAO Representative in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle, attended the project presentation.

“The world evidently sees that climate change significantly affects various sectors of the economy of countries, including agriculture. Georgia is not an exception in this regard. Therefore, it is crucial to develop concrete visions to support the agricultural sector in becoming more climate-smart and plan and implement climate adaptation measures in compliance with European Union practices accepted internationally.

We are ready to make specific changes in the current state programs, to introduce additional mechanisms that will increase the adaptability of the agricultural sector and minimize the harmful emissions from the said sector into the air, which is crucial, especially when Georgia is taking an essential step on the road to European integration”, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili noted. As stated, over the next two years, FAO will conduct an in-depth and detailed assessment within the framework of the program, allowing Georgia to define a clear vision and prepare an accurate action plan to plan specific measures in the agricultural sector, which will be directed on the one hand towards adaptation to climate change processes, and on the other hand it will contribute to the reduction of emissions from the agricultural sector.

“Considering almost 20 years of experience in implementing programs in Georgia, we believe that Georgia’s agro-food system has great potential for climate change resilience and achieving sustainable development through reducing emissions. By joining forces and combining the best experiences of FAO and partners, we can transform agro-food systems to help Georgia in fulfilling its international obligations to combat climate change and develop the country’s sustainable future,” said FAO representative in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will implement the project “Strategic Readiness to Support the Updated NDC and its Climate Action for Georgia: Transforming Agriculture Sector through Low-Emissions and Climate-Resilient Pathways”, which will be funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program.

Representatives of state and international organizations, professionals, and experts from the agro-food industry attended the project presentation.

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EU Supports the Assessment of the National Food Control System in Georgia.



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture hosted the meeting to discuss the details of the ongoing project “Assessment of National Food Control System in Georgia” launched under the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD-IV).

The parties presented food control assessment tools developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Kakha Kakabadze, made opening remarks at the meeting.

“It should be mentioned that we have this unique opportunity to start an in-depth assessment of the food control system with the support of FAO, which entails analyzing the current situation, legislative space, human resources, and infrastructure and properly identifying the needs to improve our activities even more,” said Mr. Kakha Kakabadze.

“Within the EU ENPARD IV program, FAO promotes food safety and develops Georgia’s sanitary and phytosanitary systems. This allows us to work closely with the relevant agencies of the Government of Georgia to study the existing food control system and determine the areas that need improvement. On behalf of FAO, we would like to thank the Government of Georgia and all those agencies that have expressed their willingness to participate in the process and closely cooperate with the FAO assessment team,” said FAO representative in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle.

During the meeting, the Head of the National Food Agency, Mr. Zurab Chekurashvili, provided information about the main directions of the Agency. The representative of FAO in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle, emphasized the importance of the national food control system and its role in protecting consumers’ health and ensuring competitive food production.

Within the framework of ENPARD-IV, the ongoing project will provide training sessions on assessing the food control system at the National Food Agency. The representatives of various agencies within the system of the Ministry will be involved in the sessions. The evaluations will be made and reflected in the food safety strategy and action plan.

The officials of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Agencies included within the system of the Ministry, the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance, and representatives of international organizations attended the meeting.



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Otar Shamugia meets Mrs. Dina Karic, the Chief of the Party at the “USAID Resilient Communities Program”



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, met with Mrs. Dina Karic, the Chief of the Party at the “USAID Resilient Communities Program.” During the meeting, the Deputy Chief of the Party, Mr. Shalva Pipia, delivered the mid-term evaluation report, assessing the progress and performance of the program. Minister Shamugia thanked the United States Government and the United States Agency for

International Development for long-standing, close cooperation and emphasized the importance of the program.

According to the Minister, thorough dissemination of each project’s goals and progress is essential for effective and productive work, which ensures that the programs developed by the state and donor organizations to support the development of a specific sector are complementary and focused on the target segment’s needs.

The conversation touched upon the significance of the research findings conducted in 11 municipalities and 94 communities living along the administrative boundary as part of the program.

The five-year project aims at improving the economic well-being of the population living along the occupation line by promoting agricultural development and supporting tourism sectors.

In addition to strengthening micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, the program envisages attracting investments by enterprises operating in target communities to exploit local and international markets and economic diversification.

As mentioned, more than 150 grant applications have been submitted and are being reviewed to assist target communities with market access and tourism development.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Mrs. Mzia Giorgobiani, the Director of Rural Development Agency, Mr. Davit Tshitlidze, representatives of USAID Economic Growth Office, and relevant services of the Ministry attended the meeting.

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The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture officials addressed programs to be launched as part of ENPARD IV



Mr. Shamugia held a virtual meeting with the representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle, to discuss the details of the ENPARD programs. The mentioned programs will be implemented during the fourth phase

of the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD).

The ENPARD IV programs include four support packages addressing food safety, aquaculture, and the development of the hazelnut sector. Support programs for small and medium business operators are already defined, comprising grant and training components.

“The programs that will be launched under ENPARD IV will be an important support and incentive for our farmers to obtain more results and gain more knowledge. Our entrepreneurs have significant support from the Government, although grant programs tailored to their needs are essential. I want to thank you for your constructive cooperation, which we have had over the years and will continue in the future”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

The First Deputy Minister of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputies Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze and Mr. Kakha Kakabadze, Chairman of the National Food Agency, Mr. Zurab Chekurashvili, Head of the Rural Development Agency, Mr. Davit Tshitlidze, representatives of relevant Departments of the Ministry, representatives of ENPARD Mr. Javier Sanz Alvarez, Mr. Matthieu Rouviere, and Mr. Juba Maruashvili attended the meeting.

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Otar Shamugia meets the FAO representative in Georgia, Raimund Jehle



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, met with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative in Georgia, Mr. Raimund Jehle. During the meeting, the parties discussed current projects and issues of future cooperation.

Mr. Shamugia thanked the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for its long-standing and close cooperation. According to the Minister, FAO is an important partner of the Ministry, assisting the Ministry in implementing many projects for promoting rural and agricultural development in the country.

“A substantial amount of funds are spent from the state budget for agricultural development in the country; Donor funding is also significant in the mentioned area. Particular importance is attached to the coordinated work of the parties involved in developing and implementing the projects/programs to achieve more results. We appreciate that all FAO projects are tailored to

the interests and needs of the Ministry, which determines their effectiveness. Thereupon, we believe that new projects we will launch soon with the support of FAO will be effective and successful,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the priorities for future cooperation, Emphasizing the support for production, development of aquaculture, hazelnut, and livestock sectors, food safety field, and promotion of rural development and youth involvement in the mentioned processes.

According to Mr. Raimund Jehle, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO) representative in Georgia, FAO will continue to promote rural and agricultural development in the country. The grant program, which will be implemented within the scope of the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development IV (ENPARD IV), will be another essential source of assistance and incentive for farmers, resulting in tangible outcomes. Mr. Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia, and representatives of relevant services of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and FAO attended the meeting.

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The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Nino Tandilashvili holds bilateral meetings in the Federal Republic of Germany



As part of the government negotiations in Berlin, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, held a bilateral meeting with the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mrs. Ophelia Nick.

During the meeting, the parties addressed issues related to deepening the existing and future cooperation between the two countries.

Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili emphasized the importance of improving trade relations and stressed measures to promote wine and hazelnut exports.

The First Deputy Minister briefed the German colleague on the important steps taken by Georgia towards European integration and expressed hope for the support of the German side in the future.

The conversation touched upon challenges caused by climate change, issues related to food losses, regional challenges, and possibilities of promoting the production of organic products.

Mrs. Tandilashvili expressed her gratitude to the German side for supporting crucial areas such as biodiversity protection, protected areas, and forest management.

Mrs. Tandilashvili invited her German colleague to Georgia. Mrs. Ophelia Nick, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Federal Republic of Germany expressed her readiness and desire to strengthen cooperation and visit Georgia to learn about the current situation in the field and plan future steps.

The Minister of Finance of Georgia, Mr. Lasha Khutsishvili, led the Georgian Delegation, consisting of Deputy Ministers, the Deputy Head of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, the Minister of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, and the Mayor of Batumi, to Berlin.

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With the support of the Global Environment Facility, a New Project, “Reduction of Industrial Persistent Organic Pollutants Chemicals in Manufacturing and Recycling Sectors through Circular Economy and Lifecycle Approaches in Georgia” will be launched in the country

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, attended the presentation of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded project “Reduction of Industrial Persistent Organic Pollutants Chemicals in Manufacturing and Recycling Sectors through Circular Economy and Lifecycle Approaches in Georgia.”

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) will implement the project in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

“The mentioned project is particularly interesting and important as on the one hand, it will reduce sustainable organic pollutants in the industrial sector based on circular economy principles, and on the other hand, it will assist us in fulfilling our obligations under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. Moreover, within the framework of the project, approaches will be developed on how to reduce the import, disposal, and storage of organic pollutants to maximize their life cycle. All of the above is crucial as long as the emission of hazardous chemical pollutants harms human health and the environment. The project is complex, has several directions, and we believe it will bring very positive results for the country,” Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili stated.

The project aims to strengthen the policy and existing legal framework for preventing persistent organic pollutants in the manufacturing and recycling sectors.

The project will assist the manufacturing/recycling sector in reducing persistent organic pollutants by implementing the best environmental practices, adopting available technology, strengthening capacity, and increasing knowledge. The project monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in the country.

“We believe that through this project, we will be able to assist the industrial sector in introducing eco-friendly technologies that are important for human health and the environment,” said Mrs. Lamia Benabbas, project manager for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Implementation of the project will strengthen the capacities of state agencies involved in environmental protection areas and the production and recycling sectors, which will contribute to the gradual reduction of industrial persistent organic pollutants.

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Solomon Pavliashvili participates in the Paris International Forum to End Plastic Pollution in Cities.



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, attended the Paris International Forum to End Plastic Pollution in Cities.

Within the framework of the Forum, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili participated in two thematic discussions: sustainable production/use of plastic and prevention of plastic pollution.

The Deputy Minister discussed in depth the continuous efforts taken by Georgia to minimize and prevent plastic pollution and emphasized the country's willingness to adopt circular management approaches.

“Government of Georgia has taken significant steps to bring Georgia’s legislation closer to the relevant European Union directives on plastic waste prevention. Georgia was one of the first countries in the Caucasus region to prohibit the use of plastic bags. We are working hard to assess plastic flows, identify alternative sources, and ban single-use plastics,” said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted the “End Plastic Pollution” resolution to develop an international agreement to combat plastic pollution.

The high-ranking officials involved in the environmental protection field and United Nations Environmental Protection Programme members attended the forum.

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Within the framework of the “Save Nature - Georgia” project, the parties discuss the Endangered Species Recovery Plan

Within the framework of the “Save Nature - Georgia” project, the representatives and experts from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, relevant agencies included in the system of the Ministry, and international and non-governmental organizations met to discuss the issues of the endangered species restoration plan.

The endangered species recovery plan will be a guiding document for planning and implementing recovery measures, which includes the selection of relevant species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and higher plants in compliance with the principles of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The participants expressed their opinions and gave recommendations regarding the methodology and criteria for selecting and prioritizing species to prepare the species recovery plan.

The project “Save Nature - Georgia” has been implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture with the financial support of the International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden since 2021.

The project aims to improve the sustainable management of natural resources in Georgia, promote the protection and restoration of biodiversity, improve air quality, and strengthen the Ministry’s and its agencies’ institutional capacity.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21277>

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia:

“For more than five decades, the United Nations General Assembly has been reminding us, reminding every citizen of the globe, that there is a huge responsibility on each of us in safeguarding and preserving the environment; by realizing this responsibility, it is possible to promote sustainable development, protect and preserve nature, and natural resources, ensuring that we and future generations live in a safe and healthy environment. The policy, action plan, and all projects, programs, and activities of the Government of Georgia, including the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, aim to develop our country.

We actively continue fulfilling obligations under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, most of which are dedicated to environmental protection. We work towards legislative convergence, institutional strengthening, and awareness raising; We are gradually adopting the principles of sustainable development and preparing to become a fully-fledged and honorable member of the European family.”

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21281>

Otar Shamugia attended the ceremony commemorating World Environment Day and the 25th Anniversary of CENN



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia attended the event commemorating World Environment Day and the 25th anniversary of CENN.

In his remarks, Mr. Otar Shamugia emphasized the reforms implemented by the Government with the support of the European Union, partner countries, and non-governmental organizations and underlined the importance of public involvement.

“The state is mandated for taking care and protecting the environment. We have recently enacted several significant reforms, including legislative initiatives; some we have already approved, and others remain under consideration in the Parliament. The approval of the draft laws will be a further step toward environmental protection and integration with Europe.

Public participation is essential in the mentioned process. We cooperate well with our host – CENN, our long-term partner- and celebrate its 25th anniversary today.

I want to congratulate all employees of the organization. Our common goal is the European integration of our country and the unification of our country in the European family. To that end, we are consistently performing all the obligations outlined in the Association Agreement and making progress in this area. I am confident that with our joint efforts, we will achieve a common goal, and our country will become a member of the European family”, said Minister Shamugia.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, Mr. Pavel Herchinsky, and representatives of the Embassies and organizations actively involved in the environmental protection area of Georgia made remarks during the event, emphasizing their contribution and support to Georgia in achieving environmental protection and sustainable development goals. On World Environment Day, the CENN celebrated its 25th anniversary and presented its strategy, approaches, and achievements over the last 25 years.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21284>

Solomon Pavliashvili meets the Members of the EU Delegation

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, met with the Members of the EU Delegation.

Ms. Lieze Vanwymelbeke, new Attachée and Team Leader in Green Deal, Connectivity, Economic and Investment Plan at the European Union Delegation to Georgia, led the Delegation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed current projects and issues of future cooperation.

Mr. Pavliashvili congratulated the Attaché of the European Union representation on the beginning of her diplomatic mission in Georgia and emphasized the importance of EU-Georgia cooperation.

The Deputy also underlined the progress made by Georgia toward convergence with the EU legislation.

The conversation touched upon waste management issues and the significance of strengthening collaboration to promote adopting the Extended Producer Responsibility approach in the country.

According to Ms. Lieze Vanwymelbeke, as part of fulfilling the requirements of the European Union, Georgia has made visible progress in the environmental area, which is crucial for granting Georgia the EU candidate status.

The Attaché noted that the EU will further continue to assist Georgia and expressed her willingness to achieve significant results through coordinated efforts.

The Heads of relevant Departments and services of the Ministry attended the meeting.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21286>

Solomon Pavliashvili: “We must create a financial platform to encourage recycling companies to move toward a circular economy”



The seminar “Circular Economy in Georgia” aimed at introducing principles and perspectives of circular economy to entrepreneurs in Georgia.

Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, attended the seminar.

“We need to create a financial platform for encouraging recycling companies to move to a circular economy and effectively implement an extended producer responsibility scheme in the country. When we speak about transitioning to a circular economy model, it needs support, a proper financial platform, which is the most important”, stated Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.

Dr. Dariusz Edward Prasek, a Member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Circular Economy, International Expert in Environmental, Social, and Governance Areas, presented key principles, opportunities, international experience, and practices of the circular economy.

According to Mr. Prasek, small and medium-sized businesses can play a decisive role in implementing the circular economy principles in Georgia.

Ms. Lieze Vanwymelbeke, the new Attachée and Team Leader in Green Deal, Connectivity, Economic and Investment Plan at the European Union Delegation to Georgia, emphasized the contribution of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture in making progress towards developing the circular economy system in Georgia.

“There is undeniable progress in Georgia toward a circular economy. Circularity has already been assessed, which is crucial on a macroeconomic level. Sectors with a high degree of circu-

larity, with more potential for waste recycling, were identified.

The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture is doing everything possible to bring Georgia closer to European standards in this area. It is also vital to assist recycling businesses in their efforts to reuse and recycle waste. A new platform is required for this purpose. I address financial institutions to support this process,” said Ms. Lieze Vanwymelbeke.

The seminar “Circular Economy in Georgia” was organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and supported by the European Union.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21295>

Nino Tandilashvili meets the members of the ENPARD Monitoring Mission



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, met with the monitoring mission members of the third tranche of the fourth phase of the European Neighborhood Program for Rural and Agricultural Development (ENPARD, Phase IV, tranche III).

During the meeting, the parties discussed the state of fulfilling obligations taken under the program.

Mr. Nino Tandilashvili thanked the European Union for its continuous support for rural and agricultural development and the environmental protection field in Georgia and emphasized the importance of the Neighborhood Program (ENPARD) in the country’s European integration process.

The conversation touched upon the wide range of issues regarding food safety/security, ensuring the sustainability of local action groups (LAGs) operating within the European LEADER approach, sustainable waste management, development of laboratory capacities, improvement of irrigation systems, and the importance of women’s involvement in agriculture.

It is worth mentioning that the monitoring mission will hold meetings with the agencies responsible for the commitments of the fourth tranche and get detailed information on fulfilling obligations.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21298>

Nino Tandilashvili hosts the USDA Regional Director Michael Francom



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, met with the Regional Director of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Mr. Michael Francom.

During the meeting, the parties discussed current and future cooperation issues.

Mrs. Tandilashvili thanked the US government and the United States Department of Agriculture for long-standing support in agricultural and environmental areas and emphasized the importance of climate-smart agricultural development.

The participants addressed the need to improve the irrigation system, promote the development of organic products, adopt modern technology, and raise public awareness; the sector’s demand to ensure the grain production increase was also discussed during the meeting.

According to Mr. Francom, the projects implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture in Georgia are effective, and their support will be continued.

The USDA Representative in Georgia, Mr. Demna Dzirkvadze, and representatives of relevant Agencies within the Ministry system attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21300>

Solomon Pavliashvili and USAID representatives discuss cooperation in the solid waste management sector.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, met with the representatives of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The parties addressed the Solid Waste Management component and future collaboration issues in the specified direction within the USAID Economic Security Program.

Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili thanked the USAID representatives for their numerous contributions to Georgia, noting that activating the waste management component in the US International Development Agency’s initiatives will yield significant results.

“We already have tangible progress toward establishing a waste management system in the country. We have adopted technical regulations for waste management of oils, lubricants, tires, electrical and electronic equipment, and accumulators. Active work is underway to develop technical packaging and vehicle waste management regulations. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system was launched through our proper policy and active communication with businesses, where around 11,000 organizations have already been engaged.

The main goal of our policy is to remove waste from the environment. However, developing a waste processing/recycling industry in the country is necessary to ensure sustainable waste management. We need real support in this direction.

The coordinated efforts of the state and international donor organizations, including USAID, will be effective and fruitful. It should be mentioned that a proper waste collection and processing system will facilitate the adoption of a circular economy”, said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.

According to USAID representatives, the economic security program focuses on private-sector development.

Technical support has already been provided for various organizations in the solid waste management component in recycling tires, glass, and plastic. The parties agreed to hold an extended working meeting with the participation of the Ministry, USAID projects, representatives of private companies, and EPR member organizations to define priority areas in waste recycling and discuss issues of future cooperation.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21302>



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



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“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.” - Mahatma Gandhi

PROJECT BRIEF

The project “Enabling the implementation of Georgia’s forest sector reform - ECO.Georgia” is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture together with the National Forestry Agency, Rural Development Agency, Environmental Information and Education Centre, Department of Environmental Supervision; by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The project aims to mitigate GHG emissions through the nature-based management of the country’s forests and the improvement of energy efficiency to reduce the demand for fuelwood. It also envisages the strengthening of local self-governance and diversifying livelihood opportunities in the forest adjoining rural communities to benefit from diversified income opportunities through improved forestry value chains and better access to forestry knowledge and skills. The project focuses on three target regions (Guria, Kakheti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti) and eight municipalities: Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, Telavi, Kvareli, Akhmeta, Dedoplistskaro and Tianeti. The Project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Georgia (GoG) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Component 1: Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Activity 1.1:
Development and implementation of SFM plans

Activity 1.2:
Strengthening of forest supervision

Activity 1.3:
Provision of sustainably produced fuelwood by NFA

Activity 1.4: Enhancement of enabling environment for the nation-wide implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM)

Activity 1.5: Improvement of monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems for the forest sector



Component 2: Market Development for Energy Efficiency (EE) and Alternative Fuels (AF)

Activity 2.1: EE-AF supply chain development

Activity 2.2: Implementing consumer financing instruments for EE-AF solutions

Activity 2.3: Creating consumer awareness and provision of technical advisory services for fuelwood users

Activity 2.4: Enabling policies and regulations



Component 3: Livelihood opportunities and local self-governance in forest management

Activity 3.1:
Development and introduction of municipal-level tools, practices, plans and necessary capacities for participatory SFM and conservation

Activity 3.2:
Development, testing and promotion of mechanisms at the local level to better protect interests of adversely affected stakeholders

Activity 3.3:
Development of professional skills and knowledge relevant to SFM and conservation through vocational education and international partnerships with centers of knowledge

Activity 3.4:
Strengthening of selected value chains (e.g., timber, NTFP, parts of eco-tourism)

■ Activity in 3 target regions only

■ Nation-wide activity

□ Nation-wide activity with focus on 3 target regions

Testing the Improved Public Participation Approach in Forest Management Planning and Implementation

“Enabling the Implementation of Georgia’s Forest Sector Reform – ECO.Georgia” is a comprehensive project – safeguarding the FSR implementation from different angles. One of the measures contributing to the reform execution is to strengthen municipalities and improve public participation in the forest management processes. In the light of this, ECO.Georgia project conducted a study to evaluate the existing practices and needs for public participation in the process of development and implementation of Forest Management Plans (FMPs).

Considering the findings of the consultancy and following the 4 phases of the FMP process, the respective team of ECO.Georgia/GIZ developed a concept of the Improved Public Participation Approach (IPPA) in the Georgian Forest Management Planning and Implementation Approach. The IPPA concept was discussed together with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the National Forestry Agency, and the Department of Environmental Supervision at the central level and the agreement was reached to start the testing phase.

In June, two formats suggested in the IPPA concept have been applied in practice: 1. Participatory Mapping of Ecosystem Services – the workshop took place on the 5th of June, in Kakheti, for Akhmeta municipality together with the representatives of local administrations (municipality, NFA, RDA, PLA). It was conducted by Robert Hostnik, an expert from Slovenia. This was piloting the method of mapping Ecosystem Services to be scaled up in other target municipalities, too. The method was well perceived and assessed as a valuable tool to use in the FMP development process.

Another format that was applied on June 8, is an introductory meeting on FMPs - as a part of the FMP preparation phase. The introductory meeting was organized by the NFA for the municipalities of Telavi and Kvareli. The representatives of the central office of NFA, MEPA and ECO.Georgia/GIZ team presented the schedules and status of FMP development and introduced the concept for improved public participation. Participants from the municipalities discussed the existing challenges and future steps for Forest management planning and discussed how to put into practice the suggested approaches for improved public participation.



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Workshop in Akhmeta: Mapping Ecosystem Services



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An example of a map of one of the working groups of participants



© National Forestry Agency

Introductory meeting with Telavi and Kvareli municipalities on FMPs

Workshop on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Forest Management



A two-day intensive practical workshop on ecosystem-based sustainable forest management (SFM) was conducted in Akhmeta according to the draft Akhmeta Forest Management plan at the beginning of June.

At the workshop, the international expert - Dr Lutz Fähser- who has been working on the recommendations for ecosystem-based sustainable forest management in Georgia -summarized his ten years of work and discussed his recommendations in terms of different planned forestry operations like forest rehabilitation, forest tending, forest regeneration cut, etc together with the respective partners from the National Forestry Agency (NFA) Inventory Department, Forest Use Department, Forest Maintenance and Rehabilitation Department, NFA Kakheti Regional Service, Akhmeta and Tianeti forest units, as well as Biodiversity and Forestry Department of MEPA, GIZ and partners from Akhmeta municipality.

The workshop included a field trip as well. During the field visit, NFA presented the taxation data for three different litters/ stands and the proposed planned measures (amount and type of possible cut/harvesting) for the next ten years. The forest experts discussed the proposed measures on the spot, suggesting different approaches and finding other possibilities for management decisions - always in line with Georgian laws and regulations.

Summary Workshop on Akhmeta Forest Management Inventory



© Hannes Schmitt

Summary Workshop on Akhmeta Forest Management Inventory was conducted on June 20-21 in Kakheti. During the workshop, different FMI and FMP topics were presented and discussed together with the representatives of Akhmeta municipality, the National Forestry Agency (NFA), and the Biodiversity and Forestry Department of MEPA and GIZ. At the same time, Dragan Matijašić summarized his four years of work as Integrated Expert in NFA.

Workshop participants presented a summary description of the results of the inventory of permanent sample plots (FMI), a description of the most important Natural Forest Types (using the methodology of the studies of Prof. G. Nakhutsrishvili), Ecosystem Services analysis and Business Plan of Forest Management Plan.

Another topic that was presented at the workshop was the analysis of the first data of the FMI Tianeti. After the input of the bore core data into the database, the analysis will be adjusted and completed.

The training course for the entrepreneurs in the municipalities



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To enable the implementation of Georgia's Forest Sector Reform, one of the important components among others is to strengthen the municipalities and forest adjoining communities, providing diversified income sources and improved livelihood opportunities through the development of forest-related value chains, and increased entrepreneurial skills and knowledge of the local population.

Considering this, to support new entrepreneurs in the development of their business plans and products, within the frames of the ECO.Georgia project German Sparkasse Stiftung designed and launched the training course for existing or potential entrepreneurs operating and interested in the forest-related field – be it non-timber forest products or eco-tourism.

In total up to 75 candidates were selected from the project target municipalities of Telavi, Kvareli, Dedoplistskaro, Akhmeta, Tianeti, Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti – based on the results of the pre-defined questionnaire.

The training consists of three modules and covers theoretical and practical exercises to let participants exchange experience and acquire new knowledge through the business simulation games and active discussions in the field of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, business registration and tax regime and regulations, e-commerce, and business planning.

The third module will provide business coaching sessions for the selected 24 candidates to support them in the further development of their products or business plan.



© GIZ – Training session with entrepreneurs

Study Tour in Germany to Exchange on Sustainable Public Procurement

Within the framework of the ECO.Georgia project, the national guidelines for energy-efficient public procurement are being developed in close cooperation with the State Procurement Agency (SPA) of Georgia. The cooperation in the direction of energy-efficient public procurement (EEPP) is part of the long-term strategy of Georgia to introduce sustainable public procurement in the country and execute an energy efficiency policy initiated by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development.

To support the country in the introduction of sustainable public procurement practises, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) contracted the German Energy Agency,

dena (GmbH), <https://www.dena.de/startseite/>. The agency contributes to the process by sharing expertise and best international practices, including those based on Germany's example. The EEPP guideline development process includes workshops and a study tour for the respective partners engaged in the EEPP guideline development process. On June 19–23, a study tour took place in Germany to introduce the energy transition examples and get the respective explanations of the processes and procedures that sustainable public procurement requires.

The delegation of the study tour was composed of representatives of the public sector: the State Procurement Agency, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Environ-



© GIZ Study tour in Germany about energy-efficient procurement



© GIZ Study tour in Germany about energy-efficient procurement

mental Protection and Agriculture, the Environmental Information and Education Centre the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure.

The participants of the study tour had the opportunity to see examples of sustainable projects: a heating system using pellets, which are produced as a side product in timber production for a church in Leipzig, and the Energy Bunker in Hamburg, a power plant with an innovative and sustainable energy concept of heating using renewable forms of energy, supplying the district with climate-friendly heat.

The delegation was hosted by dena's office and welcomed by the Managing Director, Ms Kristina Haverkamp, as well as by the representatives of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, – Ms Heike Backofen-Warnecke, the Head of the Division for

Southeastern and Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Ms Verena Zell, the Senior Policy Officer for development cooperation with Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, as well as by GIZ Georgia's Country Director, Sandra Schenke.

Within the study tour, participants from the German state and private companies, as well as the representatives of the Environmental Agency of Germany and the representatives of municipalities' self-governments, shared their experiences on the state funding policy for green procurement and the procedures for the establishment and development of tools for sustainable public procurement.

EEPP guidelines for Georgia are planned to be prepared by the end of 2023. By 2024–2025, awareness-raising campaigns and training courses are planned to be conducted for public procurement practitioners to execute the EEPP policy.

Public presentation on Urban Forestry at Ilia State University



On the 9th of June, Ilia State University hosted a public presentation in the field of Urban Forestry. The invited experts from Slovenia and Germany delivered the presentations.

Robert Hostnik - Master of Natural Heritage Conservation, Specialist in Urban Forestry and Ecosystem Services Assessment - presented “Urban Forests as a Challenge for Modern Forest Management: A case study from the city forest of Celje/Slovenia” The presentation covered the development of the policy, perception, and management of the urban forests in Slovenia. It is worth noting that Slovenia is a country with a high share of forests (58%), with the urban forests being the most visited and with the most emphasized social functions.

Dr Lutz Fähser – an expert from Germany presented “Urban Forestry as Ordinary Part of Forest Management: A case study from the city forest of Luebeck/Germany” – demonstrating how to translate the ecological, social, and economic aspects of forest management into practice on the example of the city forest of Luebeck/Germany.

The event was hybrid and participants attending in the auditorium or online had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the cases of their interest together with the international experts.

The event was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, National Forestry Agency, Tbilisi City Hall, NGOs and Initiative Groups active in urban forestry, as well as professors and students of Ilia State University.



© Ilia State University
A public presentation on Urban Forestry