



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

OCTOBER/2022

**The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia delivered a speech during the 50th session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held at the headquarter of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.**



The Ministers and high-ranking delegates from around 130 countries attended the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), where a key global policy platform addressing food security and nutrition situations around the world, including updated estimates on the cost and affordability of healthy diets.

In his speech, Otar Shamugia focused on the current situation and challenges of food security in Georgia, noting that all state agricultural projects and programs being implemented in Georgia aim to create as many quality Georgian products as possible in the country and increase the dynamics of production.

**“We are making our best efforts to sell products both on local and international markets. The state provides farmers and entrepreneurs with cheap financial resources, and enables access to agricultural equipment and new technologies; The state is diversifying markets. We support farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in all components of the agricultural value chain,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.**

In his speech, the Minister noted, that Georgia was actively involved in the National Food Systems Dialogue organized by FAO, and a corresponding report was already prepared and submitted to the United Nations.

Mr. Shamugia thanked the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for supporting the development of the agricultural sector.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/21048>

**Within the framework of the visit to Rome, Otar Shamugia met with the Associate Vice President of the Program Management Department at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Donald Brown.**



During the meeting, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia discussed current and planned projects in Georgia and noted, that the intervention of the International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD) in the livestock sector is crucial for the sustainable development of the livestock field.

**“Today, we can already boldly say that our joint project clearly showed the great interest in the livestock sector and growing demand for additional**

**financial resources, also the readiness of the sector to absorb more funds and produce milk and dairy products in compliance with the international standards and transform farms into commercial properties,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.**

As stated by the Minister, technical assistance is essential for primary milk producers, milk processors, veterinary service providers and feed manufacturers along with financial support. Although all of the abovementioned activities are carried out under the current project, therefore, the continuation of access to technical as well as financial support is particularly important. According to Mr. Shamugia, high-quality Georgian products have great opportunities to establish their place in the international markets.

As stated by Mr. Donald Brown, Georgia is a country of many interesting opportunities. Current projects contribute to the establishment of Georgian agro-food products in the European Union market. IFAD will continue to support the development of the agricultural sector in Georgia within the limits of its capacities.

“In today’s globalized world, the development of climate-smart agriculture is of particular importance, however, the integrated Ministry in Georgia has the capacity to deal with the respective issues; Therefore, solutions to environmental issues as well as achieving a balance are of the utmost importance, and your government is working in this direction,” said Mr. Donald Brown, Associate Vice President of the Program Management Department of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/21050>

## During the session, held at the headquarter of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Otar Shamugia met with the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Qu Dongyu in Rome.



“Georgia is the homeland of wine and has a high potential for developing and cultivating various agricultural crop cultures, which can take a worthy place in the global markets”, said the Director General of FAO, Mr. Qu Dongyu during the meeting with the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia at the headquarter of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Rome.

**“We appreciate the successful cooperation between FAO and the Government of Georgia, on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, we once again express our gratitude to FAO, for its continuous support to the Government of Georgia in the process of achieving sustainable development goals. The Food and Agriculture**

**Organization of the United Nations is one of the remarkable partners of our Ministry. We are implementing a number of important projects with the support of FAO. I believe, that we will have effective cooperation in the future as well”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.**

Mr. Shamugia spoke extensively about the ongoing and planned agricultural projects in Georgia. The Minister briefed the General Director on the main goals of the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy of Georgia 2021 – 2027 and stated that the development of the agricultural sector is a priority for Georgia, for which important steps have already been taken. As a result, local production, as well as export of Georgian products have been increased, and the diversification of markets is continued. However, access to modern knowledge and new technologies remains a challenge for the country.

The importance of introducing European standards and regulations in the agricultural sector of Georgia as well as submitting an application for EU membership was emphasized by the Minister, who also mentioned, that the programs and technical support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization help the country in achieving the respective goal.

Director General of FAO, Mr. Qu Dongyu thanked the Minister for the successful cooperation and noted that submitting an application for EU membership is an opportunity for Georgia to strengthen and transform the agro-food sector across the country.

Mr. Dongyu emphasized the important steps taken toward the development of the agriculture sector in Georgia, also the country’s significant potential that needs to be used rationally. He stated, that FAO will actively continue cooperation with the Georgian side in the future as well.

The meeting with the Director General of the Agricultural Development Organization was held during the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), which was attended by Ministers and high-ranking delegates from 130 countries.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/21049>

## During his official visit to Italy, Otar Shamugia held a meeting with Mark Simakovsky, Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E) at USAID.



During the meeting, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia focused on the current state of food security in Georgia, noting that the Government of Georgia is implementing a number of important projects and programs to promote the development of the agricultural sector.

Support is provided to farmers and entrepreneurs to ensure the production of high-quality Georgian products to the greatest extent possible, and the dynamics of production to grow steadily in the country. At the same time, work is underway toward market diversification.

Mr. Shamugia spoke about the impact of the current situation in the region on food security. The Minister thanked the representative of the International Development Agency of the United States of America for active cooperation and for all the projects implemented in Georgia to create competitive Georgian products.

**“We will actively continue to cooperate with the partners to introduce new technologies and deepen knowledge in the agricultural sector, which will contribute to the establishment of competitive Georgian agro-food products in the European market. The choice of our Government, our Georgian people – is to successfully pass the road to European integration”, said Mr. Shamugia.**

The political representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Europe and Asia, Mr. Mark Simakovsky mentioned, that the current projects that serve the development of rural areas in Georgia and strengthen the capabilities of farmers are crucial for USAID.

And, at the same time, the challenges faced by Georgia, including the situation in the region and the need to diversify markets are evident. Mr. Simakowski emphasized the importance of coordinated cooperation to overcome the global food security crisis, he also noted that USAID will continue to support the development of the agricultural sector in Georgia, which is critically important, and will support Georgia in its European integration path.

Meetings held within the framework of the visit to Rome was attended by The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Italy and Permanent Representative of Georgia to UN International Organizations in Rome Mr. Konstantine Surguladze.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/21051>



## The Project for restoring and spreading unique Meskhetian vine and endemic species and varieties of Georgian wheat will be launched in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region



The Director of the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (REC), Mrs. Sofiko Akhobadze presented the project “Sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems and villages of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region” (2022-2026) at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. As stated by the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, the aforementioned project aims to promote the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity, he also noted, that the active involvement of international partners and donor organizations will play a crucial role in the implementation of the project.

**“Our country has gained international recognition, as a region peculiar by its high biodiversity. Moreover, agrobiodiversity occupies a prominent place in this unique biodiversity. We should mention, that one of the main tasks of the Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy is the conservation and maintenance of biodiversity, and the implementation of the respective project serves this purpose.**

**The Samtskhe-Javakheti region is rich in rare, local varieties of grapes and wheat. The aforementioned project will contribute to the restoration and spread of these varieties among farmers.**

**The project enables small and medium-scale farmers to use these varieties in production, which in itself will contribute to the diversification of vines and wheat production. At the same time, farmers’ incomes will increase and more people will be employed in the rural areas”, Mr. Otar Shamugia said.**

According to the Minister, a collection of unique and rare varieties of Georgian vines has been created in the Jighaura Research Base, and the search and restoration of the aforementioned species have carried on for a long time.

Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili has given the Jighaura Nursery to the scientific-research center for free.

“The project involves the restoration of at least 26 types of Meskhetian grape varieties as well as the establishment of a nursery, which will promote the spread of these varieties and the promotion of wine production. Within the project, 2 “Châteaux” will be established, which will be based on the concept of gastronomic products produced from Meskhetian vines and endemic varieties of Georgian wheat.



**5000 farmers have been identified, out of which 2400 are female farmers. We hope that the economic and environmental benefits are related to the restoration of wine produced from Georgian and Meskhetian vines in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region”, said Mrs. Sofiko Akhobadze.**

The project aims to promote the sustainable use and protection of agrobiodiversity in the agricultural sector of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, to improve the state policy and the existing legal framework, and promote the introduction of the local vine and wheat varieties in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and to increase incomes at the local level.

The implementation of the project will contribute to the diversification of grape, wine, and wheat production in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, including the increase of incomes of small and medium-sized farmers and entrepreneurs, and the creation of new jobs in the region.

Furthermore, the guidance documents on sustainable management of agrobiodiversity will be elaborated, the planting/seed material of local vine and wheat varieties will be delivered to farms, appropriate agricultural and technical assistance will be provided to farmers under the framework of the project also, training and field training programs will be offered to farmers to strengthening their skills and capabilities.

The project will be jointly implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) - by the Regional Environmental Center of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) - with the regional administration of Samtskhe-Javakheti, municipal bodies, in close cooperation with the National Wine Agency, the Agricultural Scientific Research Center and the Rural Development Agency.

The Deputies of the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Yuri Nozadze and Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Mr. Imamura Akira, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia, representatives of the relevant agencies within the system of the Ministry and local farmers attended the meeting.



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## Otar Shamugia meets the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia Imamura Akira and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia Anna Chernyshova



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia held a meeting with the Ambassador of Japan to Georgia Mr. Imamura Akira and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia Ms. Anna Chernyshova.

During the meeting, the parties highlighted issues regarding the sharing best practices for sustainable forest management and ecotourism development in Georgia.

Mr. Otar Shamugia expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the Japanese government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for their financial support and active cooperation in implementing National forestry reform.

“Climate change mitigation is a huge challenge for us, as well as for the whole world. Therefore, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should be taken in all sectors in response to the existing challenges. It should be mentioned, that the adoption of a sustainable forest management system is a part of the aforementioned measures. Moreover, sharing the experience of our international partners, as well as their support, is of the utmost importance in fulfilling our commitments. Within the framework of large-scale forestry reform, the new project will help us to establish sustainable forest farms in Mtskheta municipality and manage forests according to their functional purpose”, said the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia.

“Japan’s forest resources triple over the past 50 years and covered an area of two-thirds of the country’s territory. The forest makes an important contribution to the implementation of our national plan, whereupon, Japan should reach carbon neutrality

by 2050. We are happy to share our experience and relevant best practices with the Georgian side and promote the preservation and maintenance of the forest ecosystem to get environmental, economic and social benefits”, stated Mr. Imamura Akira Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia.

“43,000 people will receive sustainably produced timber resources for their daily use under the framework of our project, which we are jointly implementing with the Japanese government and the National Forestry Agency. The model of sustainable forest management will be introduced in Mtskheta municipality, and it will be extended to all regions of Georgia in the future “, said UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia Ms. Anna Chernyshova.

At the invitation of UNDP and the National Forestry Agency, the Japanese experts visited Georgia this week, they paid a visit to the log sort yard in Bodorna and forest areas in Mtskheta municipality, aiming to study the opportunities for sustainable forest management and ecotourism development. The Japanese experts developed relevant recommendations and presented them during the meeting.

It was mentioned, that USD 920,000 received from the Japanese government will be used for the creation and arrangement of log sort yards with the assistance of UNDP.

It should be mentioned, that the current forestry reform in Georgia serves to introduce sustainable forest management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and introduce an environmentally friendly lifestyle across the country.

The forestry reform is in full compliance with the national goals and international commitments for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for combating the effects of climate change.

The Deputy Ministers Mr. Kakha Kakabadze and Mr. Yuri Nozadze, as well as the Heads of relevant departments of the Ministry and other stakeholders, attended the meeting at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21037/>

## Nino Tandilashvili participates in the 9th Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) ‘Environment for Europe’



During the 9th Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) ‘Environment for Europe’ in Nicosia, the capital of the Republic of Cyprus, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili headed the session dedicated to the green economy development related issues.

In her speech, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili underlined the importance of environmental protection, green economy development and air quality improvement in the country, moreover, the Deputy briefed the participants about the achievements made by Georgia in the environmental protection field.

It should be mentioned, that the environmental ministerial “Environment for Europe” is held once in 5 years.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21046/>



## George Khanishvili hosted the representatives of the World Bank Mission



Mr. George Khanishvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture held a meeting with the representatives of the World Bank Mission.

During the working meeting, the parties summed up the results of the “Georgia- Irrigation and Land Market Development Project” (GILMDP) and highlighted issues related to the implementation of the “Georgia’s Rural Agricultural Irrigation and Land Project” (GRAIL).

With the support of the World Bank, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia is working on a new project (GRAIL), which envisages investments in the irrigation, land and agriculture sectors.

According to the First Deputy Minister, “Georgia’s Rural Agricultural Irrigation and Land Project” (GRAIL) will be launched in the near future, which will contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture in Georgia.

During the meeting, the representatives of the World Bank mission emphasized the importance of the progress made in the development of irrigation infrastructure in the country, also outcomes achieved within the framework of the “Georgia - Irrigation and Land Market Development (GILMDP) project.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21047/>

## Otar Shamugia held a virtual meeting with the representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD)

The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia held a virtual meeting with the representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

During the meeting, the parties discussed the activities planned within the framework of the project “Rehabilitation and Modernization of Zemo Samgori Irrigation System”. The respective project will last for six years and the overall budget amounts to Euro 90 million.

The Minister underlined the importance of the support provided by donor organizations and stated that, the improvement of infrastructure is a priority direction for the state, as it plays a crucial role in the agricultural development of the country.

Mr. Shamugia expressed his gratitude to the representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency for supporting the implementation of the project. He also underlined the importance of the efficient operation of the irrigation systems to improve farming practices and increase production in the light of climate change.



As mentioned at the meeting, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD) support the development of the irrigation infrastructure in Georgia and are ready to build a long-term and effective cooperation with the Georgian side.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21054/>

## Otar Shamugia meets the Ambassador of Turkey to Georgia, Ali Kaan Orbay



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia together with the First Deputy Minister Mr. George Khanishvili held a meeting with the newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Turkey to Georgia, Mr. Ali Kaan Orbay.

During the meeting, the parties discussed a wide range of issues, including current and future cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister thanked the Turkish Government for supporting localizing the large-scale fire that broke out in the Borjomi forest.

Mr. Shamugia focused on the bilateral cooperation in the forestry sector, emphasizing, that the Memorandum of Cooperation is ready to be signed, and the works are underway to establish a partnership agreement in the fields of aquaculture and fisheries.

The conversation touched upon the issues regarding the export potential of Georgian honey to the Turkish market, as well as the cooperation in the fields of irrigation, production of plastic bags and bio-production.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21045/>

## Georgia initiates the development of the Climate Change Framework Law



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. Otar Shamugia attended the event together with the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr. Shalva Papuashvili.

Under the support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), the Parliament and Government of Georgia will jointly develop the Climate Change Framework Law to regulate the challenges in the field of climate change. The representatives of the non-governmental organizations working on environmental issues, as well as Georgian and foreign experts and other stakeholders will be involved in the aforementioned process.

“Currently, climate change is a huge challenge for us and for the whole world. Therefore, through joint efforts, we should fight against the negative effects of climate

change. International support is of the utmost importance in the respective process, thereupon, I would like to thank all partner organizations for their assistance.

In recent years, we have taken a number of steps to deal with the consequences of climate change. In 2021, we developed a Nationally determined contribution document (NDC), followed by the 2030 strategy and the 2021-2023 action plan.

The respective policy documents clearly outline climate change mitigation policies for different sectors of the economy, including the vision of the Government and specific measures. We still do not have a legal document dealing with climate change-related legal issues, which are reflected in various laws, and by-laws. Therefore, it is important to create a legal framework, a law that will regulate the aforementioned issues and distribute responsibilities.

**We are starting to work on the Climate Change Law together with the Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia taking into consideration our international commitments and goals. Ultimately, we will adopt a law that serves the interests of our country and our citizens,” said Mr. Otar Shamugia.**

Within the framework of the event, the participants presented a plan for the development of a climate change framework law.

The Chairman of the Environment Protection and Natural Resources Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, Mrs. Maia Bitadze, Ambassador of the UK to Georgia, Mr. Mark Clayton and the Chairman of the WFD Board of Governors, Mr. Richard Graham emphasized the importance of the respective law.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21039/>

## Georgia participates in the International Agricultural Exhibition in Saudi Arabia for the first time



For the first time this year, Georgia participated in the Saudi Agriculture Exhibition 2022 (<https://saudi-agriculture.com>) through the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the Rural Development Agency and the Embassy of Georgia in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center hosted the large-scale exhibition event.

The Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Vakhtang Jaoshvili, and representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia attended the opening of the large-scale exhibition in Riyadh.

“Saudi Arabia is one of the fastest growing economies with a population of around 36 million. Considering natural, and environmental factors, Saudi Arabia is increasingly dependent on imports of agricultural products. Currently, Georgian products are already presented in the local trade network, however, considering the current market

demand, I believe, that the participation of Georgian companies in such a large-scale exhibition will contribute to the promotion of Georgian products, and the growth of exports not only in Saudi Arabia, but in the Middle East region as well”, Mr. Vakhtang Jaoshvili stated.

The Ambassador of Georgia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Vakhtang Jaoshvili hosted the Minister of Environmental Protection, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Fadli at the National exhibition stand of Georgia, where The Ambassador presented Georgian products to the Minister.

The guests had an opportunity to visit the Georgian exhibition stand and get familiar with the products showcased by 10 Georgian agricultural companies: “NUTS.GE” LLC, “Cooperative Racha Natural Product”, “Georgia Naturals” LLC, “Royal Berry” LTD, “Tskali Margebeli (Healthy Water)” LTD, “Domain Svanidze” LTD, “Herbia” LTD, “Khoni Plantations” LLC, “Kula” LLC, “Agroqiziki” LTD products. The exhibition stand presented Georgian walnuts, hazelnuts, honey, blueberries, raspberries, tkemali, sauce, water, mineral water, natural fruit juice, spices, lamb, and olive oil.

According to the representatives of the companies, the state support enabling Georgian companies to participate in international exhibitions is crucial for the diversification of export markets and promotion of Georgian agri-food products in the global markets.

Saudi Agriculture International Trade Exhibition 2022 was the largest exhibition in Saudi Arabia, which was carried out under the patronage of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This year, around 40 countries and 400 local and international companies participated in the respective exhibition. Every year, the number of visitors to the exhibition reaches 25,000. The participants and visitors have the opportunity to get acquainted with the innovations in the agriculture and food industry, modern technologies introduced by leading companies, and their manufactured equipment.

The exhibition is the best platform for entrepreneurs to establish business contacts, expand their businesses and promote the development of the agri-food sector.

Saudi Agriculture International Trade Exhibition was held from October 17 - 20, 2022.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21055/>



## George Khanishvili meets the representatives of the German Business Association (GBA)



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Mr. George Khanishvili hosted the representatives of the German Business Association (GBA) .

The investment opportunities for the development of the agricultural sector of Georgia have been discussed by parties during the meeting.

The First Deputy Minister briefed the representatives of the business sector about state projects supporting agricultural development across the country, he also emphasized the importance of attracting foreign investments.

Mr. Khanishvili spoke about the progress achieved in the National legislation in the process of fulfilling obligations under the EU -Georgia Association Agreement and opportunities provided under the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Trade Area Agreement (DCFTA).

The parties addressed a wide range of issues, regarding the bio-fertilizers, that are widely used in farming, European agricultural machinery, and vehicle transport services and expressed willingness to cooperate in the aforementioned area.

During the meeting, the Director of “Imereti Agro Zone” LLC, Mr. Archil Bukia spoke extensively about the development potential of the greenhouse cluster - “Imereti Agro Zone” and asked the members of the association to get interested in the project.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21043/>

## Solomon Pavliashvili participates in the meeting for Agriculture Ministers of EaP and EU countries in Tartu, Republic of Estonia



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili participated in the High-level meeting for Agriculture Ministers of EaP and EU countries in Tartu, Republic of Estonia.

The event was held in Tartu in conjunction with the scientific conference “Circular Bioeconomy - a shift towards sustainable food production” and the Estonian Annual Agricultural EXPO 2022.

Mr. Pavliashvili made remarks during the conference, emphasizing the achievements and challenges in building the circular economy in Georgia, he also expressed his desire to deepen cooperation with the countries of the European Union and the Eastern Partnership regarding the development of the Circular Bioeconomy.

The Deputy Minister underlined the importance of promoting the green economy in the country through the development of the bio-economy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve sustainable development goals.

Within the framework of the Ministerial meeting, the participants visited the demo plant for processing the wood-based bio-material, which operates under the principles of the green economy.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21053/>

## The Presentation of the EU technical assistance project “Support to Waste Management and Development of Circular Economy in Georgia” was held at the Ministry



The Presentation of the EU technical assistance project “Support to Waste Management and Development of Circular Economy in Georgia” was held at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

The two-year project will be implemented in Georgia by the consortium - COWI and the Regional Environmental Center of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus). The overall goal of the project is to develop a waste management policy, introduce technologies for solid waste management and support the development of a circular economy in the country.

As stated by the Thematic Sector Coordinator, Connectivity, Energy, Environment and Climate Change of the Delegation of the European Union, Mr. Alexander Daras, within the framework of the two-year project, waste management practices will be significantly improved in Georgia. The expected outcomes of the project include waste sorting/recycling/reuse and promoting the concept of the green economy in society.

The signing of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement has sped up the harmonization of the national waste policy and legislative framework in the country.

It should be mentioned, that significant steps have already been taken in the waste management sector through joint efforts of the Government of Georgia, international partners and the non-governmental sector.

The Heads of the relevant Departments of the Ministry, representatives of international organizations and stakeholders attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21042/>



GREEN CLIMATE FUND



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Swiss Agency for Development

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



ISSUE# 1 / September 2022

*"Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people." - Franklin D. Roosevelt*

### 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 nationwide 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



## ECO.Georgia meetings in target municipalities



The ECO.Georgia project team - represented by its Executive Entities and donor organization - the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), conducted the regional meetings with the target municipality representatives. The goals of the sessions were to present the status of project activities, introduce the ongoing processes in the Forestry Sector to the municipalities, as well as to share the lessons learnt and progress in the direction of Municipal Forest Management in the project target municipalities, on the example of Tusheti Protected Landscape.

The participants discussed the existing or potential challenges and opportunities for the municipalities concerning the reform and project activities in an interactive format.

## Awareness-raising campaigns started

The Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) has started awareness-raising campaigns within the frame of „ECO.Georgia“.

The Centre conducted three regional meetings with private sector representatives, local CBOs, youth organizations and primary school teachers in the Guria region. The interactive meetings focused on Sustainable Forest Management and energy efficiency challenges and opportunities. In total 40 participants (men and women) attended the meetings.



## ECO.Georgia project supports modern standards for planning, construction and maintenance of forest roads and skidding trails



The presence of a well-maintained system of forest roads and skidding trails is a significant precondition for the introduction of Sustainable Forest Management in the country. Considering this, the ECO.Georgia project supports the LEPL National Forestry Agency (NFA) of the Ministry of Environmen-

tal Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) to introduce the modern standards for planning, construction and maintenance of forest roads and skidding trails based on the best international practices. To achieve this, the international expert on forest road planning, construction and maintenance visited Georgia from September 19-30.

During the visit, several working meetings took place with the NFA central office, the Department of Forest Use and the Department of Forest Inventory. Apart from the meetings, the mission carried out field trips in all three target regions of the project to study existing practices and forest road conditions.

As agreed, at the first stage, the NFA and international consultancy will jointly rehabilitate two forest roads in two target municipalities with the existing Forest Management Plans (Guria region: Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti municipalities). This step will serve as a Training of Trainers for NFA staff to disseminate the knowledge across the country at a later stage.

## Development of consumer financing instruments for EE-AF solutions

To support the market development for energyefficient stoves, consumer financing instruments will be implemented. The key mechanism is a subsidy scheme to support the purchase of efficient stoves by households.

Stoves will be subsidized by up to 30% of the retail price. The mechanism is set up and ready for launching for the upcoming heating season. GCF approved the Operations Manual for the scheme, and the implementation structure with Liberty Bank is agreed upon.