



# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

APRIL 2024

## Otar Shamugia signed the Agreement for the New Project “Inclusive Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture”



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), is launching a USD 4 million project over four years titled “Inclusive Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture.” This project targets farmers, associations, cooperatives, households, educational institutions, and the private sector, aiming to stimulate entrepreneurship and increase rural incomes. Mr. Otar Shamugia expressed sincere appreciation to FAO, the Austrian government, and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) for their longstanding support. Highlighting the significance of FAO and partner organizations in Georgia’s cooperation with the European Union, he emphasized the importance of timely and effective implementation of recommendations. Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, highlighted the government’s commitment to agricultural support programs and emphasized the role of partnerships in achieving results. The project aims to empower farmers, youth, and women while enhancing

community awareness of rural development issues. Mr. Raimund Jehle of FAO stated that the project aligns with Georgia’s European integration goals, focusing on improving rural living conditions and strengthening economic opportunities, particularly for women and youth. The project presentation was attended by various stakeholders, including government officials, embassy representatives, and members of agricultural organizations, demonstrating broad support for its objectives.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21667>  
<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21668>

## Otar Shamugia delivers remarks at the Ministerial meeting commemorating the International Organization of Vine and Wine's (OIV) 100th Anniversary



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Otar Shamugia, participated in the Ministerial meeting held by the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) in Brescia, Republic of Italy. Ministers and high-ranking officials from 40 countries attended the event.

„Georgia participates in the Ministerial meeting in Italy as a candidate for EU membership. I would emphasize with pride that the candidate status is a worthy accomplishment for our country. Our primary political goal is to achieve full membership in the European Union, and I am confident that we will undoubtedly achieve this goal for the benefit of ourselves and future generations”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia in his speech.

The Minister underlined the importance of viticulture and winemaking in Georgia and spoke extensively about the winemaking development policy.

“We have 8,000 years of continuous history of viticulture and winemaking. Viti-



culture and winemaking are one of the leading branches of our economy. The right policy implemented by the state in recent years has significantly strengthened the sector: new vineyards have been planted-currently reaching 50 thousand hectares. Up to 2700 new enterprises have been established. We pay special attention to the quality of Georgian wine and consider high quality and distinctive taste qualities as the main calling card for our wine. Every year, on average, 100 million liters of quality Georgian wine is exported to 70 countries worldwide, which is becoming increasingly popular and in high demand,” said the Minister.

Italian Minister Francesco Lollobrigida thanked his Georgian counterpart for participating in the ministerial, praised Georgia’s focus on quality wine production and expressed readiness for deeper cooperation. Notably, the enduring partnership between Georgia and OIV spans decades, with Georgia hosting OIV events twice. Mr. Shamugia was accompanied by Chairman Levan Mekhuzla and Consulate General Natalia Kordzaia, demonstrating Georgia’s commitment to the viticulture sector’s advancement.

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## Otar Shamugia visited the hazelnut orchard planted with Georgian-Jewish investment



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, visited the hazelnut orchard of the company MMG Agriculture in the village of Kvemo Kvaloni, Khobi Municipality, where he met with the hazelnut farmers who own the industrial hazelnut orchards.

“We often meet with the farmers and get familiar with their current needs. The hazelnut industry has enormous potential in Georgia, and our objective is to assist farmers to the greatest extent possible, both financially and also by having access to the necessary knowledge. Farmers who grow high-quality crops will be more competitive and earn more income.

We should emphasize that 2023 was a challenging year concerning climatic conditions, which posed some quality-related challenges. Although last year’s harvest was 5,000 tonnes more than the previous year, we expect a significantly higher yield in 2024. We hope that the state programs and farmers’ activities will jointly give us a good result”, said Mr. Otar Shamugia.

Through Georgian-Jewish investment, the Company “MMG Agriculture” has planted a hazelnut orchard covering over 300 hectares.

The state initiative “Plant the Future” provided GEL 50,000 for planting a hazelnut orchard on 50 hectares of agricultural land. Paata Siradze, the company’s owner, claims that he took advantage of the preferential agro-credit for the same reason, with the funding exceeding GEL 1.5 million.

It is worth mentioning that, under the “Plant the Future” initiative, the planting of new perennial gardens on 3,291 hectares is co-financed with GEL 43 million in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region, including the planting of new hazelnut gardens on 505 hectares with GEL 1.2 million.

More than GEL 123 million in preferential agro-credit have been allocated in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region for horticulture development, including GEL 9.1 million for hazelnut growing.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21663>

## A new project aiming to improve air quality will be launched with the assistance of the European Union, the United Nations, the Government of Austria, with the involvement of the Government of Georgia



The project aims to strengthen the air quality monitoring network and increase the national capacity in modeling and forecasting. The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, attended the first working meeting held within the framework of the project.

“Our achievements in environmental protection, specifically air quality management, resulted from the effective collaboration of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture with international partners. We have taken significant measures to bring national legislation in line with EU legislation.

Moreover, we made appropriate amendments to fully comply with EU air quality management practices and standards. As we are aware, our country’s top objective is to enhance its air quality monitoring network and ensure complete compliance with the European Union framework criteria and standards. In cooperation with

the UNDP, Georgia will have an air quality monitoring network and system completely complying with the EU requirements by the end of 2025. It is vital to obtain information on the air quality to properly plan the policy and take appropriate steps towards improving the ambient air quality”, said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The new project will last four years. The total budget of the project is EUR four million. International and national partners are involved in the implementation of the project, including the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia together with the National Environmental Agency, as well as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Environment Agency Austria (UBA). Representatives of academic circles and the private sector will also be involved in the implementation of the project.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21655>

## The European Union officially recognized the fishing certificates issued by the relevant state Agencies of Georgia



Another significant step was taken on the path of European integration. According to the decision released by the European Commission on April 2, 2024, the European Union has officially recognized the fishing certificates issued by the relevant state Agencies of Georgia.

Recognition of fishing certificates will help Georgia to approximate its fishing industry to EU standards, increase competitiveness, boost export potential, and adopt high-standard fishing methods in the country.

The recognition will enable Georgian entrepreneurs to export sea fish and other fish products to the EU market, which, in turn, will significantly contribute to the development of Georgia’s economy.

Over the past few years, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia implemented several reforms in the relevant areas, which led to this recognition. The Ministry implemented legislative amendments to prevent, detect, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by considering EU legislation and following best practices.

It should be mentioned that authorization and control mechanisms operate in the country. The Ministry approved the fishing certificate and established accountability measures for violations

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## The American Wildfire Prevention Campaign “Smokey Bear” will be implemented in Georgia



The US Forest Service is running the Smokey Bear Wildfire Prevention program, which seeks to raise awareness among preschool and school-age youngsters while also preserving biodiversity. “Smokey Bear” has been running in the USA since the 40s with the slogan “Only you can prevent forest fires”.

The representatives from the US Forestry Service briefed Georgian specialists on the “Smokey Bear” program.

According to Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili, Head of the Department of Biodiversity and Forestry of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, raising awareness among youth is an essential component in fire prevention.

“I would like to thank the United States Forest Service for providing an opportunity to run the Smokey Bear campaign in Georgia. It is crucial to properly take preventive measures for forest fires in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Our rangers and foresters are required to participate in relevant operations at the wildfire locations, therefore, we have a huge responsibility, including fire prevention. The better educated we and our younger generation are, the more we will be able to take steps that will help us to preserve our biodiversity,” said Mr. Carl Amirgulashvili.

During the meeting, the American side got acquainted with the fire prevention works in the wild nature of Georgia, the emergency management plan for forest fires, and forest fire management practices. US Department of Agriculture (US DA) Agricultural Attaché, Mr. Rishan Chaudhry, the representatives of the US Forest Service, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Emergency Management Service, the Agency of Protected Areas, the National Forestry Agency, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), CENN and NACRES and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

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## Tengiz Nasaridze meets the representatives of the National Payment Agency of the Republic of Lithuania



During the meeting with Mr. Fortunatas Dirginčius, the Head of the National Payment Agency (NMA), and the representatives of the Agency, Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, reviewed the issues of institutional enhancement in the rural and agricultural development areas, including the convergence of Georgia’s legislation with the EU law.

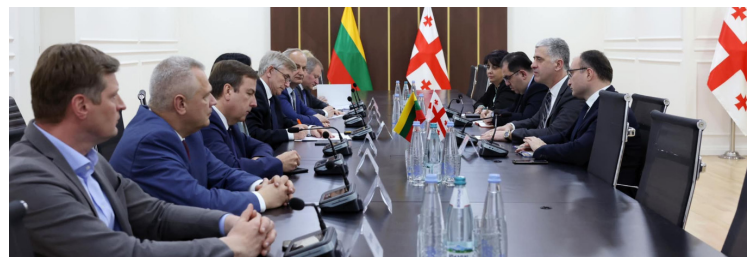
At the meeting, the parties focused on the importance of fulfilling the obligations taken under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, harmonizing the legal framework, and sharing Lithuania’s experience in the mentioned process.

“The Republic of Lithuania is launching a new project in Georgia, with the goal to share the challenges and experiences with the Georgian side on the path to European integration. Within the project, the visits of specialists have been planned, who will share their expertise and knowledge in the priority areas of the agricultural sector”, said Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze.

The representatives of the relevant departments of the Ministry, the Rural Development Agency, and the Scientific -Research Center of Agriculture attended the meeting.

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## Otar Shamugia meets Viktoras Pranckietis, the Chairman of the Committee on Rural Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania



During the meeting with the Delegation of the Committee on Rural Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Otar Shamugia, discussed issues regarding deepening agricultural cooperation between Georgia and Lithuania.

The Minister thanked the representatives of the legislative body of Lithuania for supporting Georgia on the path to European integration, emphasizing the importance of close partnership and cooperation between the two nations.

“By the end of last year, our country received the EU candidate status, which was preceded by several reforms. We are pursuing this process even more vigorously to become a fully-fledged member of the European Union. The support of our friends is crucial on this path,” Mr. Otar Shamugia said.

According to Mr. Viktoras Pranckietis, Georgia and Lithuania have a similar historical background, and the experience of Lithuania is particularly interesting for Georgia on its road to joining the European Union.

“Becoming a member of the European Union is an ongoing process rather than a one-time achievement. I believe we’ll all be part of the large EU family very soon. We are here to support you on your journey to the European Union, listen to you, and share our experience,” said Mr. Viktoras Pranckietis.

It is worth mentioning that Lithuania is one of the strategic partners for Georgia in the export of agro-food products.

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## Solomon Pavliashvili participates in the Ministerial Meeting on Plastic Prevention



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, attended the Ministerial meeting organized by the Canadian government and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Ottawa. The Ministerial held within the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) aimed to develop an international legally binding agreement on plastic pollution (UNEP/PP/INC.4/3), including in the marine environment.

Ministers and other high-level representatives of countries such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, France, and South Korea participated in the Ministerial meeting.

The Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal and Vice-President of the European Commission for Interinstitutional Relations, Mr. Maroš Šefčovič also attended the Ministerial meeting.

According to the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Georgia, as a candidate member state of the European Union, is actively working towards sustainable waste management and the prevention of plastic pollution.

“Effective negotiations are required to timely complete work on the final draft text of the legal instrument and deal with one of the most acute environmental crises, such as plastic pollution. Moreover, it will be significant to prioritize the reduction of plastic waste through measures such as extended producer responsibility, product design, and the promotion of sustainable alternatives to plastic to ensure the successful implementation of the agreement,

At the same time, it will be necessary to mobilize appropriate resources and provide timely, accessible, and appropriate mechanisms for access to adequate finances, including for countries with developing and transition economies”, said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.

It is worth mentioning that the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution stems from the historic resolution of the UN Environment Assembly regarding the elimination of environmental pollution caused by plastic (UNEA 5.2), one of the supporters and co-sponsors of which is Georgia. Georgia has also joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) to end plastic pollution, initiated by Norway and Rwanda.

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## Tengiz Nasaridze: “The state plans to make active efforts to increase wheat yield per hectare”



Mr. Tengiz Nasaridze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, met with Mr. Rishan Chaudhry, Agricultural Attaché of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The parties discussed the development of the wheat sector, farmers' support, and certified seed material production-related issues.

The Deputy Minister thanked the American side for its assistance in strengthening the wheat sector, noting that expanding local wheat production is one of the top priorities of the Ministry.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the wheat and wheat flour import, emphasizing the significance of market diversification.

According to USDA's agricultural attaché, the USA will continue to support Georgia in all directions.

"Everything we do is aimed at the development of Georgia. America has always been and will remain Georgia's partner, and we will continue to assist you in the future. It is in the interest of both nations that Georgia becomes stronger and more developed", Mr. Rishan Chaudhry said.

Representatives of the USDA-Georgia office and Heads of relevant departments of the Ministry attended the working meeting at the Ministry.

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## Nino Tandilashvili: “The Government of Georgia is increasing funding to reduce the risk of disasters caused by climate change”

The Steering Committee of the Program “Reducing the Risk of Disasters Caused by Climate Change in Georgia” reviewed a wide range of topics, including the expansion of the early warning system, possibilities of adaptation to climate change, and issues of strengthening community resilience to reduce risk and disaster impact.

The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, Regional Director of Cooperation in South Caucasus, Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia, Mrs. Barbara Böni, Head of the Environmental Program of the Swedish Embassy in Georgia, Mrs. Khatuna Zaldastanishvili, and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Georgia, Mr. Douglas Webb attended the meeting.

The First Deputy Minister emphasized the progress achieved within the program, including the contribution from the state and the deepening of cooperation between the parties.

“The program takes on even greater significance in light of the dramatic changes in the climate. The contribution from the state is impressive. This year, the funding increased to GEL 30 million. New activities were planned, including procuring additional hydro meteorological stations. The state budget will be mainly used for developing infrastructure projects. Moreover, the regional office has already been constructed in Poti, and works are underway to build a new office in Kutaisi. Several natural disasters have occurred in Western Georgia in recent years thus, establishing regional offices is our top priority. The state budget includes other activities as well, such as improving the monitoring system on geological hazards”, - said Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

It is worth noting that under the program “Reducing the Risk of Disasters Caused by Climate Change in Georgia”, 79 new hydro meteorological stations and posts were installed and added to the existing hydro meteorological monitoring network in Georgia, 15 agrometeorological stations were purchased, geological monitoring stations were installed at 11 locations, hazard maps were created, and emergency management plans were developed for the assessment and modeling of natural hazards. The development of a disaster risk information system is currently underway. Moreover, flood protective infrastructure is being built in 15 locations throughout the country, and information campaigns and educational activities are being carried out in 11 local municipalities to raise public awareness.



According to the Regional Director of Cooperation in South Caucasus, Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia, Mrs. Barbara Böni, the Swiss government is happy to see the progress of the ongoing program in Georgia.

“Cooperation is the key to the successful implementation of the project. We hope that the state will continue to improve infrastructure and train employees to reduce the risk of disasters, and from our side, the Swiss government will increase funding,” said Mrs. Barbara Böni.

The program “Reducing the Risk of Disasters Caused by Climate Change in Georgia”, with a total budget of 74 million US dollars, has been implemented since 2020 with the financial support of the Government of Georgia, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The seven-year program aims to reduce the direct impact of disasters caused by climate change on the population, environment, and infrastructure of Georgia.

The representatives of the Ministries of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and Internal Affairs and the agencies under their management, the National Security Council, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, local municipalities, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) attended the meeting.

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## Nino Tandilashvili meets Adam Cwetsch, Head of the European Green Deal Unit



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, met with Mr. Adam Cwetsch, Head of the European Green Deal Unit at the Energy Community.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the climate change-related issues and the implementation of environmental obligations taken under the Energy Community Treaty. The First Deputy Minister emphasized the significant progress of Georgia in the legislative area, including the improvement of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) system.

The conversation touched upon the importance of the adoption of the Law of Georgia on “Industrial Emissions”, Georgia’s Updated Nationally Determined Contribution Document (NDC), and the 2030 Climate Change Strategy.

According to Mr. Adam Cwetsch, Georgia has made visible progress in fulfilling its environmental obligations. Accordingly, the Energy Community is ready to support Georgia in bringing its climate change and environmental protection regulations closer to EU standards.

The Energy Community is an international organization with the key objectives of promoting the use of renewable energy sources, adopting energy-efficient practices, and improving the environmental conditions of its member nations.

Georgia joined the Energy Community on July 1, 2017.

The representatives of the Energy Community and the Heads of relevant departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21648>

## Transitioning from single-use plastics to eco-friendly alternatives was discussed at the working meeting



Transitioning from single-use plastics to eco-friendly alternatives was discussed at the working meeting.

During the workshop, representatives of state, non-governmental, and donor organizations discussed the eco-friendly and economically acceptable alternatives to single-use plastics.

Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Rebecca Lie, Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy in Tbilisi, and Mr. Douglas Webb, Resident Representative at the UNDP in Georgia, attended the meeting.

Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili thanked the Norwegian government for its support in waste management, noting that the involvement of donor organizations in implementing the national waste management plan is crucial.

"The Ministry has taken significant steps towards reducing plastic waste and joined the High-Ambition Coalition, which envisages the end of plastic waste pollution by 2040. The biggest challenge in waste management is reducing plastic

waste, since it comprises 15-16% of all waste. We must continue implementing the green economic growth and go through adopting the European Green Deal to help our country become a full-fledged member of the European Union," said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.

Within the framework of the meeting, the parties presented the results of the "Policy Summary: Single Use Plastics Market, Examples and Recommendations". The mentioned document includes successful examples of the implementation of European directives, including existing challenges and general recommendations for policy-makers.

"Plastic pollution is a global problem, which is acute in both Georgia and Norway. We see that Georgia has taken numerous steps in this area- joined the High Ambition Coalition and developed a national program to eliminate plastic use. Time, resources, and energy are required to achieve sustainable development and green growth in Georgia. Therefore, the more stakeholders we involve in this process, the more long-term and sustainable results we will achieve. We will continue supporting Georgia in reducing plastic pollution, which will contribute to environmental protection, public health, and economic well-being," said Mrs. Rebecca Lie.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Regional Environmental Center of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) organized the working meeting with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Embassy of Norway.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21643>

## Tusheti Protected Landscape will increase by 2245 hectares

At today's session, the Government of Georgia reviewed and approved the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture to expand Tusheti's protected landscape by 2245 hectares.

Following the adoption of the draft law, Tusheti's protected landscape will cover 34,280 hectares.

Under the respective draft law, Tusheti's protected landscape will include the village of Tbatana and its surrounding area, which is crucial, as Tbatana and its surrounding area serve as a connecting corridor between the Batsara Strict Nature Reserve, Ilto Managed Reserve, and Tusheti Protected Areas, ensuring continuity of ecological processes in this vast area. Moreover, granting the status of a protected landscape to the village of Tbatana and its surrounding area is based on the proposal of the "Tushebi Community Council" and has been agreed upon with the local community and self-government.

The regulations on the management of the protected landscape will include the expanded area, which will assist in restoring the historical appearance of the settlement that has existed there for two centuries, encourage sustainable use of natural resources, and improve the ecotourism potential.

The establishment of ecotourism infrastructure in the mentioned area will increase the number of tourists, which will have a favorable impact on the socioeconomic status of the local community.

One hundred protected areas of different categories have been established in Georgia to promote the protection of biodiversity. Currently, protected areas include more than 912 thousand hectares, covering around 13.1% of the total territory in the country.

We actively continue to work in this direction. The draft law on "Creation and Management of Guria National Park" has been submitted to the Parliament of Georgia. This year, studies will be conducted to establish protected areas in Samegrelo and Zemo Svaneti regions and expand the existing protected area in the Racha region.

We continue to work on developing the ecotourism infrastructure. This year, we will complete the construction of 1,200 km of hiking trails and accompanying tourist-recreational infrastructure in 15 protected areas, for which more than GEL 30 million has already been allocated. Furthermore, in 2024, new ecotourism infrastructure will be created in at least 10 locations, for which GEL 10 million will be spent.

1,070,000 visitors were recorded in Georgia's protected areas in 2023, representing a 19% increase compared to the data in 2022 due to implementing the appropriate policy for developing the protected areas in the country.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21657>



GREEN CLIMATE FUND



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development

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



ISSUE#10 / April 2024

**“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



### The progress of the National Forestry Programme of Georgia was discussed at the meeting



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Kakha Kakabadze, attended the meeting, where parties discussed the progress of the National Forestry Program.

The discussion included Georgia’s efforts to encourage the production and use of alternative fuels, legislative amendments, and the potential of ensuring an alternative solid fuel supply in the country.

“The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, in close partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and with the support of the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the “Green Climate Fund” (GCF), is implementing the ECO. Georgia project, with the main goal of adopting sustainable forest management principles. In addition, the project aims to develop an alternative fuel market, which should contribute to the effective use of forest wood resources and the formation of a reasonable firewood consumption system in Georgia. This approach should reduce the pressure and degradation of the forest.

It is worth mentioning that the National Forestry Agency has developed a flexible mechanism for classifying/sorting the manufactured timber resources and prepared a draft of legislative amendments, which we discussed during the meeting.

The new mechanism, in turn, will help the sustainable use of lumber while also developing the production of alternative fuel resources”, said Mr. Kakha Kakabadze.

The representatives of the Agencies of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, the scientific circles, non-governmental organizations, and other

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21659>

### A New Project aimed at Waste Management, the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and the Adoption of Reusable Packaging Systems, will be launched in Georgia



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, attended the presentation of the new project: “Circular City Lab” in Georgia, which will be launched by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).

The Deputy Minister thanked the GIZ representatives for their assistance, emphasizing the importance of the involvement of donor organizations in Georgia’s transition to a green economy.

Notably, the local businesses are the target group of the project, especially female entrepreneurs. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development will provide financial support for the implementation of the project.

“Waste management is a priority direction for the Government of Georgia. Moreover, Georgia has adopted a waste management strategy and a national plan focusing on waste prevention/ reuse and recycling. Packaging waste remains one of the main challenges today. About 200-250 thousand tonnes of packaging waste is collected in Georgia annually, making up 16-17% of total waste. Our goal is to establish an economy focused on environmental protection”, said Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili.



According to Mrs. Lydia Christman, the Head of the Cooperation Development Department of the Embassy of Germany in the South Caucasus, Georgia has already made significant efforts in creating legal frameworks and policy documents, and today, the focus should be primarily on putting these laws into practice.

“ We appreciate Georgia’s aspiration to adopt international waste management practices. The adoption of reusable packaging systems is an essential step towards the transition to a circular economy. The less packaging used, the less waste is produced- this is the key to solving the problem. In addition, it is the best way to save financial resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, “ said Mrs. Lydia Christman.

The event also included a panel discussion: “Circular economy, waste prevention and reuse in Georgia”, where the parties discussed the development of the circular economy in Georgia and the implementation of waste management systems.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/21654>