



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

JULY 2025

A historic restoration effort is underway in Georgia, where a new initiative seeks to revive endangered Red List species, specifically the iconic noble deer



As part of the National Species Recovery Plan, initiated by the National Wildlife Agency under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, a breeding facility for the noble deer (*Cervus elaphus maral*) has been established in Algeti National Park. The opening ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr. Shalva Papuashvili, and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili.

“This is truly a historic step toward the protection of Georgia’s biodiversity. The long-term goal of the noble deer restoration program is to establish viable and sustainable populations nationwide. It is our responsibility to preserve the natural wealth that has shaped Georgia’s unique ecosystem for centuries, and to pass it on to future generations,” said Mr. David Songulashvili.

The breeding facility, the largest facility in the Caucasus region, spans 60 hectares. The entire area is securely fenced and equipped with modern monitoring systems, including camera traps and satellite collars. “For the first time since Georgia’s independence, we are undertaking the restoration of the Caucasian red deer, a species listed in the national Red List. This is part of a broader species recovery initiative that has been gaining momentum in Georgia in recent years,” said Mr. Shalva Papuashvili.

According to Mr. Revaz Bezhashvili, head of the National Wildlife Agency, the facility provides optimal conditions for the deer to breed and gradually adapt to their natural environment.

“In this specially designed environment, we can closely study the behaviour, social dynamics, and stages of adaptation of the deer. This information will enable us to effectively manage the process of reintroducing the species into the wild,” said Mr. Bezhashvili.

As part of the event, seven noble deer—five females and two males—bred at Tbilisi Zoo were released into a protected forest area within Algeti National Park. During the first phase of the program, the number of deer will increase to 15. Once a stable and growing population is established, the gradual release of individuals into the wild will begin.

Algeti National Park was specifically chosen for this program—it is located in the heart of the Caucasus, where natural habitats, ecological corridors, and a high level of protection provide optimal conditions both for population recovery and long-term conservation.



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David Songulashvili Meets with Representatives of Spanish Gastronomic Company Vocento Gastronomía



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a meeting with Mr. Benjamin Lana, General Director of the Spanish gastronomic company Vocento Gastronomía, and Mr. Luis Martí, the Director of Marketing and Business Development of the company.

Mrs. Maia Omiadze, Head of the Georgian National Tourism Administration, also attended the meeting.

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, emphasised the importance of supporting the development of the gastronomic sector, noting its direct connec-

tion to promoting Georgian products, stimulating local production, and advancing both the agricultural and, most importantly, the wine sectors.

According to the Minister, a Gastronomic Academy is planned to open in the Gurjaani Municipality, Kakheti Region, with the support of the Basque Culinary Centre. The sharing of experience and support from Vocento Gastronomía will play a crucial role in this initiative.

Mrs. Maia Omiadze, Head of the Georgian National Tourism Administration, noted that work is actively underway on a strategic document in this direction, which will significantly contribute to the development of gastronomic tourism in the country.

The discussion also touched on opportunities for collaboration in international gastronomic events.

“Georgia’s gastronomic sector holds great potential for development. Georgian cuisine has its unique characteristics that are not found in any other country,” stated Benjamin Lana.

It is worth noting that Benjamin Lana is one of the most influential professionals in contemporary Spanish gastronomy. His company, Vocento Gastronomía, organises some of the world’s most prominent international gastronomic events, including Madrid Fusión, San Sebastián Gastronomika, Encuentro de los Mares, and Worldcanic.

The meeting was also attended by Mrs. Nino Kiltava, founder of the Georgian restaurant “Nunuka” in Spain.

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David Songulashvili met with Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



As part of his working visit to Rome, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili positively assessed the growing partnership with FAO, noting that cooperation between Georgia and the Organization has significantly expanded in recent years.

“The partnership between Georgia and FAO is fully aligned with our national priorities in modernizing the food sector,

supporting rural communities, and promoting innovation. FAO’s technical assistance has played a crucial role in advancing key areas such as food safety, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land management, and the empowerment of rural communities,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The Minister noted that Georgia’s agricultural policy aims to promote high-quality production, shaped by the country’s diverse soil and climatic conditions and driven by the application of modern knowledge and technologies. He also emphasized that Georgia plans to expand its cooperation with FAO in key sectors such as forestry, aquaculture, and the production of specialized products.

“Georgia expresses its readiness to strengthen cooperation with FAO to develop inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agricultural and food systems. We welcome the development of the FAO-Georgia Framework of Programmatic Cooperation for 2026–2030. This document will play a key role in planning our future collaboration,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

During the meeting, the FAO Director-General emphasized the fruitful cooperation with Georgia and expressed readiness for future collaboration aimed at enhancing competitiveness, food safety, and security within Georgia’s agricultural sector.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Songulashvili invited FAO Director-General Mr. Qu Dongyu to Georgia.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, also attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili: “The partnership between Georgia and FAO has been successfully ongoing for years, encompassing numerous significant projects

The main theme of the 44th Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), held in Rome, was the current state of agri-food systems and the prospects for international cooperation. High-ranking Officials from all 194 FAO member countries, including 50 Ministers from various countries, attended the conference. “I am pleased that we participated in such an important forum, where we discussed global visions and strategic directions for the development of agri-food systems. As a partner country, Georgia is ready to continue active cooperation with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its member states,” stated Mr. Songulashvili.

The Minister highlighted the enduring partnership between Georgia and FAO, which has led to the successful implementation of numerous projects. Through collaborative efforts, substantial progress has been achieved in key areas, including food safety, climate-smart agriculture, and the advancement of inclusive development.

“In the process of transforming agri-food systems, our priority is knowledge-based development, the adoption of modern technologies, and the sharing of the best international practices,” the Minister stated.

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David Songulashvili Held a Farewell Meeting with the Ambassador of Hungary



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. David Songulashvili, held a farewell meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary to Georgia, Mrs. Anna Mária Sikó, in connection with the completion of her diplomatic mission.

During the meeting, Minister Songulashvili emphasized the importance of the close partnership between Georgia and Hungary in the fields of agriculture and environmental protection. He thanked the Ambassador for her significant contribution to strengthening bilateral cooperation and wished her success in her future endeavors.

Ambassador Sikó stated that Georgia is a reliable partner and a friendly nation to Hungary, which forms a solid foundation for further deepening relations between the two countries.

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The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Lasha Dolidze, met with the Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Gerardine Mukeshimana, during his visit to Rome



During the meeting, Mr. Dolidze emphasized the significance of the longstanding partnership between Georgia and IFAD, highlighting the key achievements made through the bilateral collaboration.

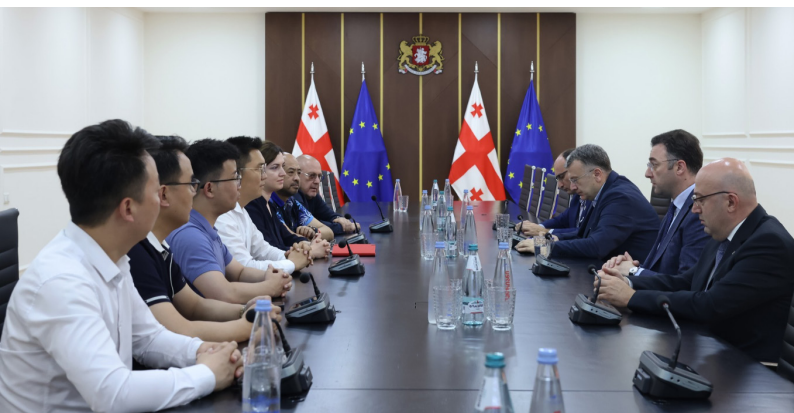
“IFAD is an important partner for Georgia, making a substantial contribution to rural development and the advancement of sustainable agriculture. Within the framework of our cooperation, numerous successful projects have been implemented, including the ‘Diverse and Inclusive Market Development in Rural Areas’ project. This initiative has played a crucial role in supporting small-scale farmers by improving market access, strengthening value chains, and adopting climate-smart agricultural practices,” stated Mr. Dolidze.

The conversation also touched upon a new irrigation development project, which is a strategic priority for Georgia, especially in the context of climate change. The development of modern, efficient irrigation systems is crucial for strengthening food security and increasing climate resilience.

“We aim to identify and implement effective, demand-driven initiatives in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that address the growing needs of Georgia’s rural population,” stated Mr. Lasha Dolidze at the end of the meeting. IFAD’s Vice President, Mrs. Gerardine Mukeshimana, positively assessed the cooperation with the Georgian side and expressed a desire to deepen future collaboration.

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Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, David Songulashvili, met with Members of a Chinese Business Delegation



The delegation, embracing representatives of Liquan Wine, one of China's major wine distribution companies, was led by Mr. Sandro Beridze (also known as Yi Xiaojun), a Georgian citizen and businessman residing in China.

Minister Songulashvili thanked the business representatives for their interest in Georgian wine and highlighted the state support programs aimed at developing the viticulture and winemaking sectors.

“Supporting and developing the wine sector is one of the key priorities of the Georgian Government. As you know, wine is an integral part of Georgian identity, and the growing interest in Georgian wine holds particular significance for us. We are ready to offer our full support,” stated David Songulashvili.

During the meeting, Mr. Sandro Beridze noted that Liquan Wine is one of the largest importers of wine from European countries to the Chinese market. Today, Georgian wine enjoys growing popularity in China, which has led to increased demand for its supply. Liquan Wine is interested in making Georgian wine a significant part of its product portfolio.

It is worth noting that Liquan Wine is a highly reputable company, employing over 600 people, including 128 certified wine tasters, and selling more than 12 million bottles of wine annually.

Liquan Wine is recognised as a highly reputable company, employing over 600 staff members, including 128 certified wine tasters, and selling more than 12 million bottles of wine annually.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, Chairman of the National Wine Agency, Mr. Levan Mekhuzla, and the Heads of relevant Departments within the Ministry, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili: “It is crucial for us to fully utilize the potential in wheat production and gradually increase the level of self-sufficiency



The wheat harvesting process has entered an active phase. An organizational center has been established to coordinate the smooth operation of the harvesting and storage logistics chain. Our relevant services ensure effective communication with farmers, flour mill companies, and purchasing enterprises.

Regarding the provision of equipment - approximately 300 combines are involved in the harvesting process. To date, wheat has already been harvested on more than 15,000 hectares.

It is essential to ensure that grain farmers do not experience any disruptions during the harvesting and storage process. The state has co-financed the establishment of 23 grain storage facilities with GEL 9.6 million, which represents significant infrastructure for the sector. “A necessary condition for obtaining high-quality products is harvesting the crop within the optimal agricultural timeframes, including favorable weather conditions and proper placement and storage.

I would also like to note that in recent years, the average yield per hectare has increased, ranging between 2.5 and 3 tonnes, while in some cases reaching up to 5 tonnes. Production remains stable, and we believe that with state support, which

includes access to both agricultural machinery and financial resources - we will continue to see an upward trend,” said Mr. David Songulashvili.

Today, the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, Mr. Shalva Papuashvili, and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, met with grain farmers at the wheat and barley storage facility in the Dedoplistskaro municipality to discuss the progress of harvesting. The state officials also visited the Shiraki Plain, where they observed the ongoing wheat harvesting process. The Members of Parliament, Mr. Giorgi Aladashvili, the State Representative of the Kakheti region, Mr. Giorgi Darchia, Director of the Agricultural Development Agency, representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, and members of the local self-government accompanied Mr. Papuashvili and Mr. Songulashvili in the Dedoplistskaro municipality.



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David Songulashvili: “Every working meeting held with farmers and entrepreneurs in the regions is of utmost importance for understanding their needs-needs that require a timely and effective response from our side.”



“Today in Samegrelo, we met with beekeeping farmers and visited the ongoing works at the beekeeping breeding base in Mukhuri. Beekeeping is a long-standing tradition in Georgia. Our goal is to support the development of every branch in the agricultural sector that holds real potential and can generate economic value.

The Georgian honeybee is unique and internationally recognized, and its preservation and reproduction is vital. That is precisely why the Mukhuri breeding base holds such special significance. We held meetings with both blueberry producers and hazelnut farmers. Hazelnuts are one of the most economically significant crops in Georgia, and the country ranks among the world's top seven hazelnut exporters.

A high-quality, abundant harvest is essential for our farmers to achieve high incomes. The government supports them in virtually every aspect through numerous programs-ranging from assistance with orchard establishment, ensuring proper storage conditions for the harvest, to combating diseases, including large-scale efforts against the brown marmorated stink bug.

In the ongoing fight against the Asian stink bug, 250 units of specialized equipment are actively involved. Currently, one of the main challenges in the hazelnut sector is orchard dieback. The Agricultural Scientific-Research Center is actively working to identify the causes and provide farmers with appropriate recommendations and support. Regarding blueberries, they have become an essential source of income, with increasing export volumes and growing demand. The expanding scale of blueberry production is a direct result of the support provided through state programs.

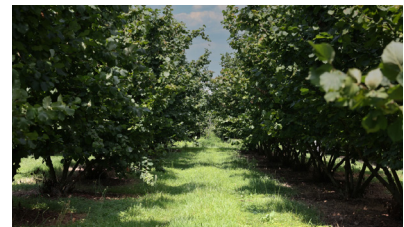
Although spring frosts damaged part of this year's harvest, export volumes still increased by 36% compared to the same period last year. The value of exported blueberries reached USD 40.5 million. The state's support continues to focus on the development of the agricultural sector; improving the well-being of our farmers and entrepreneurs, and ultimately strengthening the country's economy,” said Mr. David Songulashvili.



Today, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited the Samegrelo region. The Minister met with laboratory staff at the Scientific Research Center's beekeeping breeding base in Mukhuri, and local beekeeping farmers.

Minister Songulashvili also toured the LTD “Gentry Investment” facility established through state support in the village of Zeda Etseri, Zugdidi Municipality, where he observed the process of preparing blueberries for sale.

The Minister met with hazelnut farmers in the village of Rike. The meeting took place at the hazelnut plantation of Giorgi Zakaraia, a beneficiary of the Rural Development Agency. Mr. Songulashvili received updates on the challenges, needs, and ongoing work in the hazelnut sector.



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Tandilashvili held a farewell meeting with the Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to Georgia



Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, the First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia held a farewell meeting with Mr. Miles Armitage, the Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to Georgia (residing in Ankara), on the occasion of the completion of his diplomatic mission.

During the meeting, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili emphasized the importance of sharing Australia's experience in environmental protection, particularly in the context of global climate change, including the potential for cooperation on irrigation issues.

As mentioned, it is crucial to continue working intensively to harness the potential of cooperation between Georgia and the Commonwealth of Australia.

The parties underscored the importance of further intensifying efforts to fully leverage the cooperation potential between Georgia and the Commonwealth of Australia.

At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Minister wished Mr. Armitage success in his future endeavors.

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

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Nino Tandilashvili: "Incorporating Environmental Protection and Climate Change Issues into Georgia's Economic Development Agenda is a Key Priority for the Georgian Government."



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, and Deputy Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze met with Mr. Dražen Kucan, Head of the Urban and Water Sector at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

During the meeting, the parties focused on Georgia's priorities in climate policy and the country's commitment to an environmentally sustainable development path.

"Georgia is actively advancing reforms in environmental protection and climate change, in line with the Association Agreement. In the mentioned process, mobilizing investments, strengthening institutional coordination, and adopting international approaches are of vital importance. For the country's sustainable development, it is essential to plan and implement long-term and effective policies in the areas of environment and climate. The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture is ready to actively cooperate with AIIB experts to develop a policy document that will serve as a practical roadmap for the country's green transformation," stated Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili.

The parties devoted significant attention to exploring opportunities for increasing investments in the environmental protection sector, including the development of projects focused on the sustainable management of soil and water resources.

"At this stage, we are focusing on key areas such as energy efficiency programs, coastal zone resilience, smart agriculture, and sustainable irrigation, including the land and forest resource management. These areas are critical for the effective implementation of climate change policy. It is important that we jointly assess how well these priorities align with our shared agenda," stated Mr. Dražen Kucan.

Mrs. Elene Ghubianuri, Head of the National Environmental Agency, along with Heads of the relevant departments of the Ministry, attended the meeting.



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Solomon Pavliashvili Inspects Ongoing Construction of Arsenic Waste-Containing Sarcophagus in Tsana Village



Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, along with Deputy State Representative of the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Region, Mr. Berdia Chankseliani, visited the construction site of the arsenic waste-containing sarcophagus in the village of Tsana, Lentekhi Municipality. The construction of a 50,500 cubic meter capacity sarcophagus in the village of Tsana is expected to be completed by 2026, marking a crucial step toward resolving a long-standing environmental hazard in the region.

“This is a vital project, being implemented in phases with full consideration of the area’s climatic conditions,” stated Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. Last year, we completed riverbank reinforcement works and installed a drainage system. This year, the construction of the sarcophagus is underway.

At this stage, arsenic-contaminated waste from the Tsana-3 site is being transferred into the containment facility. Transfers from Tsana-1 and Tsana-2 are planned for next year,” stated Mr. Solomon Pavliashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture. To enable the safe construction of the arsenic waste repository in Tsana, a series of comprehensive environmental studies were conducted and detailed reports prepared. The process included multiple public consultations involving experts and local residents, during which safety priorities and risk mitigation measures were thoroughly discussed and defined.

“In the past, an arsenic processing plant operated in this area, leaving behind hazardous arsenic-containing waste that posed a serious risk to both local residents and visiting tourists,” said Mr. Berdia Chankseliani, Deputy State Representative of Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti.

“The construction of the sarcophagus will ensure the safe isolation of this waste. The project’s implementation will lead to a significant improvement in the region’s environmental condition,” he added.



Significant progress has already been made on critical protective infrastructure surrounding the arsenic waste sarcophagus site in Tsana village. On the eastern side, construction of a monolithic reinforced concrete retaining wall along the Korludashi River has been completed, along with a drainage channel and sedimentation basin.

Additionally, a 224-meter-long protective barrier has been built, while on the western side, a 350-meter-long channel was constructed to safeguard the sarcophagus area from flooding and waterlogging.

The environmental threat posed by arsenic-contaminated waste in Lentekhi Municipality has persisted since the 1990s, following the closure of former mining and chemical plants. Since then, hazardous waste has remained exposed to the elements, left under open skies, without oversight or containment.

As part of the ongoing efforts to resolve this decades-old issue, a high-level site visit and stakeholder meeting was recently held in the village of Tsana. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Nino Utiashvili, Head of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency; Mr. Gia Oniani, Mayor of Lentekhi Municipality; and Mr. Giorgi Gazdeliani, Chair of the Municipal Council.



Lasha Dolidze Visits Pilot Pasture Restoration Site in Ganakhleba, Dmanisi Municipality



Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, along with Mrs. Sofiko Akhobadze, Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), visited the village of Ganakhleba in Dmanisi Municipality. The visit focused on the pilot pasture areas established under the project “Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands.” The Deputy Minister inspected the rehabilitated pasturelands and met with local farmers to discuss the benefits and implementation of sustainable land management practices.

“The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture will continue to support local farmers-both at the legislative and practical levels-to promote sustainable grazing practices and implement effective pasture management models across different regions of the country,” stated Deputy Minister, Mr. Lasha Dolidze, during his visit to the village of Ganakhleba.

As part of the project implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), several important activities have been carried out:

A controlled grazing system was introduced on 268 hectares of pastureland to support the preservation of natural resources and restore grass cover.

Forty hectares of pasture were divided into eight plots,

A rotational grazing calendar was developed jointly with beneficiary farmers, and rotational grazing has been ongoing for three consecutive years.

The water supply infrastructure was installed.

Shaded resting areas were created.

40 native trees (including ash and maple) were planted;

16 hectares of degraded land were cleared and rehabilitated.



“The pilot pastures established in the village of Ganakhleba demonstrate that through integrated agricultural practices, it is possible to simultaneously restore natural resources and economically empower local farmers. Moreover, one of the first local pasture user associations was established. Members of this group received essential equipment for hygienic milk production and animal care. Additionally, training sessions were conducted on livestock management, animal health, and dairy production techniques,” stated Mrs. Sofiko Akhobadze, Director of REC Caucasus.

According to local farmer Shio Zviadauri, the pastures developed under the project have significantly improved livestock management efficiency.

“Due to the project, we can save both time and resources. The cattle spend the entire day on the pasture, with constant access to water and shade. As a result, both meat yield and herd size have increased,” stated the farmer Zviadauri.

The project “Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets in Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pastures” is implemented with the initiative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus), with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).



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Nino Tandilashvili Participates in Energy Community Ministerial



Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, took part in the Energy Community Ministerial held in Athens, Greece. The informal meeting of the Ministerial Council marked the 20th anniversary of the Energy Community.

This year, Georgia participated in the Ministerial in its capacity as the incoming Chair of the Energy Community. The country will assume the chairmanship for a one-year term starting in early 2025.

At this year's Energy Community Ministerial, Georgia participated as the incoming Chair of the organisation—a role the country will officially assume for a one-year term beginning in early 2025.

During the event, Mrs. Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, delivered a keynote address. In her remarks, she outlined the steps taken by the Ministry to combat climate change, highlighted progress made in fulfilling the commitments under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, and empha-

sised Georgia's alignment with the obligations of the Energy Community Treaty.

"Georgia is in the process of developing a national emissions trading system. Given the country's status as an EU candidate, it is advisable to pursue gradual integration into the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). Before launching this process, Georgia expresses its readiness to cooperate with the European Commission and the Energy Community Secretariat to jointly assess the feasibility and relevance of introducing a national system during the transition period," stated Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mrs. Tandilashvili, emphasised the importance of addressing issues related to the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which is set to enter into force in early 2026.

She underscored the need for the European Union to provide detailed information and guidance to ensure that Georgian companies exporting to the EU market are adequately prepared for the upcoming regulatory changes.

The Energy Community Ministerial brought together high-ranking officials, including the Director of the Energy Community, the EU Commissioner for Energy, representatives of the European Commission's Directorates-General, and energy and environment ministers from the Western Balkan countries, among others.

Representing Georgia, alongside First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, was Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development.

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Tandilashvili and Genadi Arveladze Meet with Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Harris Theoharis



Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, along with Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, met with Mr.

Harris Theoharis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece.

During the meeting, the parties discussed priority areas of economic cooperation between Georgia and Greece, focusing on increasing bilateral trade and encouraging investment in the green energy sector. Mrs. Tandilashvili highlighted Georgia's green energy potential and the growing interest from the Greek side in this direction.

Special attention was given to the Black Sea underwater cable project, which aims to connect the energy systems of Georgia and the European Union. It was noted that the next session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation will be held later this year, where both countries will further explore key areas of economic partnership.

The meeting took place in Athens, where the Georgian delegation is participating in an event marking the 20th anniversary of the Energy Community.

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David Songulashvili: “Supporting the Production of High-Quality Georgian Agricultural Products Is Our Top Priority, and All State Programs Are Designed to Meet This Goal”



“Meeting with farmers and entrepreneurs in the regions is an integral and regular part of our Ministry’s work. Today, we visited several enterprises in the Shida Kartli region, including greenhouse and fish farming facilities. All of them receive substantial support from the state.

Supporting the production of high-quality Georgian agricultural products is our top priority, and every state program is developed with that priority at its core,” stated Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili.

I would emphasise the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Georgia has strong potential for the growth and development of this field. We have outlined specific activities aimed at unlocking this potential. A Sustainable Aquaculture Development Strategy for 2024–2028 has already been developed. Now, what we need is the emergence of initiatives and investments from the private sector. I believe gradually, interest will grow and become more active.

I would also like to highlight the importance of greenhouse farming. The government has been actively working to develop this sector for several years, and the results are already tangible. Since 2024, a new program - “Georgian Vegetables from Greenhouses” - has been in effect, and it already has 113 beneficiaries. Loans exceeding GEL 20 mil-

lion have been issued for the establishment of greenhouse farms on a total of 23 hectares. For 24 months, the state fully covers the interest on these loans.

“We held meetings with staff from our key agencies - the National Food Agency, the Forestry Agency, and the Environmental Supervision Department. They provided updates on ongoing activities and the challenges they face. We are continuously working to strengthen these institutions to achieve our strategic goals,” stated Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili.

The Minister visited Georgia’s Shida Kartli region, where he reviewed the operations of enterprises supported by state programs and met with local farmers on-site.

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture Davit Songhulashvili visited the Shida Kartli region, where he observed the ongoing operations of enterprises supported by state programs and met with local farmers.

As part of the visit, Minister Songhulashvili also met with employees of the Shida Kartli regional divisions of the Environmental Supervision Department and the National Food Agency, familiarising himself with their working conditions on site. He also visited the newly renovated office of the Shida Kartli Forestry Service.



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David Songulashvili Observes Peach Harvest Storage Process in Gurjaani Municipality



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr. David Songulashvili, visited Gurjaani Municipality, where he observed the peach and nectarine harvesting and storage process.

“Peaches and nectarines are among Georgia’s key export products. To-day, we visited Gurjaani Municipality to observe the harvest process firsthand, which is progressing successfully. As you know, over USD 16 million worth of the mentioned fruits have already been exported.



This year, the harvest figures are quite strong. The average price must remain stable. The average export price is also notably high, which once again highlights the value chain in agriculture - supported by the Agricultural Agency - that ensures a continuous supply cycle. This, in turn, helps maintain relatively high average prices and allows everyone involved in the process to benefit, from cultivation to sales. This point was once again emphasized during the meeting with farmers,” stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

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World Ranger Day Marked Across Four Locations in Georgia



World Ranger Day is celebrated globally on July 31. This year, the occasion was marked on a large scale across Georgia, with events held in four different locations: Lagodekhi Protected Areas, Kolkheti and Algeti National Parks, and the Sataplia Managed Reserve, organized by the Agency of Protected Areas.

Mr. David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, attended the event held in the Lagodekhi Protected Areas.

“Today is World Ranger Day. Georgia’s unique nature is protected by nearly 500 rangers across 21 administrative units within our protected areas. These areas cover more than 13% of the country’s territory, and the responsibilities entrusted to rangers are diverse, complex, and often risky. I congratulate all rangers once again — together, we will continue working to protect Georgia’s natural heritage. Our extraordinary nature belongs to

future generations as well, and that’s why it deserves our utmost care,” said Mr. Songulashvili.

Currently, Georgia has 100 protected areas, including 14 strict nature reserves, 15 national parks, 40 natural monuments, 26 managed reserves, 5 protected landscapes, and one multiple-use area. Collectively, they cover more than 920,000 hectares — over 13% of the country’s total land area. As part of the event, the “Ranger of the Year” was named across all 25 protected area administrations, with winners receiving certificates and symbolic gifts.

Participants also honored the memory of rangers who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

Alongside Mr. Songulashvili, the event was attended by First Deputy Minister Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Chairman of the Agency of Protected Areas Mr. Besik Amiranashvili, and representatives of local government.

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