

Voluntary commitment 2 to the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy (Nicosia call)

1. **Country or organization:** Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA)
2. **Title of the action (referencing in parenthesis the number of the related focus area(s) that the initiative will contribute to):** **Strengthen environmental legal frameworks that govern infrastructure development** ((3) Enhance ecosystems and ecosystem services as part of ecological infrastructure; (4) Shift consumer behaviours towards sustainable consumption patterns)
3. **Description of action:** Elaboration of the draft law of Georgia on Biological Diversity is in the process, which will create a legal basis for the fulfilment of the obligations under the EU/Georgia Association Agreement to harmonise Georgian legislation of nature conservation with European. It should be also noted that as some issues connected to fisheries are still regulated by sub-laws, it is planned to develop a comprehensive legislative basis to ensure sustainable use of fish resources. As a first step, it is planned to develop a National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries. The above mentioned laws and the concept will facilitate the effective governance of infrastructure development.
4. **Timeframe/milestones for the action, as appropriate:** It is planned to: start drafting of the National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries in 2023 within the frame of the project “Save the Nature - Georgia” with financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); finalise draft law of Georgia on Biological Diversity in 2030.
5. **Type of action:** (a) legal, regulatory and policy instruments;
6. **Economic sectors:** (c) sectors, including: agriculture, forestry and fishing; energy; mining; manufacturing; transport; water; waste; tourism; and housing, buildings and construction.
7. **Reference instruments and sources, as appropriate:**
8. **Expected co-benefits and impact of the outcome:** Law of Georgia on Biological Diversity will enhance efficient protection of Georgia's biodiversity and make valuable changes in the direction of sustainable development. The National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries will serve as a ground for the development of relevant strategy and further development/optimization of respective legislation.
9. **SDGs target(s) that the action may contribute to implement:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (goal 15); Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (goal 14)
10. **Implementation of Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Recommendations, as appropriate:**
11. **Objectively verifiable indicators, as appropriate:** Elaborated law of Georgia on Biological Diversity; developed National Concept on Sustainable Fisheries; adopted law on hunting.
12. **Partners:** SIDA, GIZ
13. **Contact point:** Sustainable Development Division, Environment and Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (Lali Titilokashvili; E.mail: Lali.titilokashvili@mepa.gov.ge; Mob.: +995574605454).

Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme I: “Greening the economy in the pan-European region: working towards sustainable infrastructure”? (**YES/ NO**)

If yes, please indicate below to which “International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure” does the action contribute: (4) Avoiding environmental impacts and investing in nature

Is the action related to the Nicosia environmental theme II: “Applying principles of circular economy to sustainable tourism”? (YES / NO)