



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



## United Nations Development Programme

Country: Georgia

### PROJECT DOCUMENT

**Project Title:** Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia

**UNDAF Outcome(s):** *Focus area #3:* National Development Priorities: Disaster Risk Reduction.  
*Outcome #4:* Underlying disaster risk factors are reduced, focusing on sustainable environmental and natural resource management

**UNDP Strategic Plan Environment and Sustainable Development Primary Outcome:** Growth and Development are inclusive and sustainable incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded

**Expected CP Outcome(s):** Outcome 3.2 Disaster risks are identified, assessed and monitored and early warning is enhanced

**Expected CPAP Output(s):** Output 3.2.3 Environmental concerns and climate change risk considerations incorporated in national policies, strategies and programs.

**Executing Entity/ Implementing Partner:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

**Implementing Entity/ Responsible Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, UNDP Georgia

#### Brief Description

Georgia is fully committed to meet its obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the proposed project is intended to facilitate an important step towards developing the capacities in Georgia for an effective national environmental management framework. More specifically, the project, directly or indirectly addresses different articles under the UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD Conventions. The goal of the project is to make the best practices and innovative approaches, for meeting and sustaining the Rio Conventions, available and accessible for implementation through national development policies and programmes. The project's objective is to develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, and the Environmental Information and Education Centre for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management. To achieve its objective, the project will work to deliver two components: development of coordinated information management and monitoring system, and enhancing capacities for evidence-based policy making and management. Active participation of stakeholder representatives (including non-governmental organizations and academia) in the project life cycle facilitates the strategic adaptation of project activities in keeping with project objectives.

Programme Period:	2015-2018
Atlas Award ID:	00082289
Project ID:	00091279
PIMS #	4883
Start date:	May 2015
End Date:	May 2018
Management Arrangements:	NIM
PAC Meeting Date:	29 May 2015

Total resources required	US\$ 2,541,938
Total allocated resources	US\$ 2,541,938
• UNDP cash	US\$ 80,000
• UNDP in-kind	US\$ 70,000
• Other:	
o GEF	US\$ 1,200,000
o EIEC (in-kind)	US\$ 1,191,938

Agreed by (Government):

Gigla Agulashvili, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Date/Month/Year

Agreed by (UNDP):

Shombi Sharp, Deputy Resident Representative

Date/Month/Year

## Table of Contents

<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PART I: PROJECT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1. PROJECT SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 <i>Project Rationale, Objectives, Outcomes/Outputs, and Activities</i> .....	6
1.2 <i>Key Indicators, Assumptions, and Risks</i> .....	10
<b>2. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP.....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 <i>Country Eligibility</i> .....	12
2.2 <i>Country Driven-ness</i> .....	14
2.2.1 <i>National Capacity Self-Assessment</i> .....	15
2.2.2 <i>Sustainable Development Context</i> .....	16
2.2.3 <i>Policy and Legislative Context</i> .....	18
2.2.4 <i>Institutional Context</i> .....	22
2.2.5 <i>Barriers to Achieving Global Environmental Objectives</i> .....	28
<b>3. PROGRAMME AND POLICY CONFORMITY .....</b>	<b>32</b>
3.1 <i>GEF Programme Designation and Conformity</i> .....	32
3.1.1 <i>Guidance from the Rio Conventions</i> .....	34
3.2 <i>Project Design</i> .....	34
3.2.1 <i>GEF Alternative</i> .....	34
3.2.2 <i>Project Rationale</i> .....	35
3.2.3 <i>Project Goal and Objectives</i> .....	36
3.2.4 <i>Expected Outcomes and Outputs</i> .....	37
3.3 <i>Sustainability and Replicability</i> .....	44
3.3.1 <i>Sustainability and Innovativeness</i> .....	44
3.3.2 <i>Replicability and Lessons Learned</i> .....	44
3.3.3 <i>Risks and Assumptions</i> .....	45
3.4 <i>Stakeholder Involvement</i> .....	46
3.5 <i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i> .....	48
<b>4. FINANCING.....</b>	<b>64</b>
4.1 <i>Financing Plan</i> .....	64
4.2 <i>Cost Effectiveness</i> .....	70
4.3 <i>Co-financing</i> .....	70
<b>5. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>72</b>
5.1 <i>Core Commitments and Linkages</i> .....	72
5.2 <i>Linkages to other activities and programmes</i> .....	73
5.3 <i>Implementation and Execution Arrangements</i> .....	75
<b>6. LEGAL CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>PART II: ANNEXES .....</b>	<b>80</b>
Annex 1: <i>Capacity Development Scorecard</i> .....	81
Annex 2: <i>Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection Organogram</i> .....	91
Annex 3: <i>National Environmental Agency</i> .....	92
Annex 4: <i>Environmental Information and Education Center</i> .....	93
Annex 5: <i>Stakeholders and Consulted Parties</i> .....	94
Annex 6: <i>Provisional Work Plan</i> .....	96
Annex 7: <i>Environmental and Social Review Criteria</i> .....	99
Annex 8: <i>Terms of References</i> .....	108
Annex 9: <i>Standard letter of Agreement between Unpd and the government for the provision of support services</i> .....	112
<b>PART III: GEF ENDORSEMENT AND CO-FINANCING LETTERS.....</b>	<b>116</b>

**LIST OF TABLES:**

Table 1: Georgia Reports to the RIO Conventions:..... 7  
Table 2: Project's Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs ..... 10  
Table 3: Capacity Result and the Project's Outcomes Contribution..... 10  
Table 4: Georgia's Commitment to MEAs ..... 13  
Table 5: CONFORMITY with GEF Capacity Development Operational Principles..... 33  
Table 6: Project's Risks and proposed mitigation measures ..... 45  
Table 7: a preliminary description of the key stakeholders ..... 48  
Table 8: Project Logical Framework Matrix ..... 51  
Table 9: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan..... 59  
Table 10: Project Costs (US\$)..... 64  
Table 11: Estimated Project management budget/cost (estimated cost for the entire project) ..... 64  
Table 12: Consultants for technical assistance components (estimated for entire project) ..... 65  
Table 3: Total Budget and Work-plan ..... 67  
Table 14: Project Costs (Percentage)..... 70  
Table 15: Co-financing Sources ..... 71  
Table 16: Summary of Project Financing..... 71

**LIST OF FIGURES:**

Figure 1: Proposed Organizational Structure ..... 78

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AAR	Adjara Autonomous Republic
ACM	Adaptive Collaborative Management
APR/PIRs	Annual Progress Report/Project Implementation Review
a.s.l.	above sea level
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CCCD	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
CD	Capacity Development
CDA	Czech Development Agency
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CENN	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
COP	Community of Practice
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
EIEC	Environmental Information and Education Centre
ENPI	Environmental Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument
ENVSEC	The Environment and Security Initiative
ERC	Evaluation Resource Center
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF Sec	Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility
GEL	Georgian Lari
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Society for International Cooperation
HDI	Human Development Index
IA	Implementing Agency
IMC	Inter-Ministerial Committee
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IW	Inception Workshop
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LCD	Least Developed Country
LEDS	Low-Emissions Development Strategy
MA	Ministry of Agriculture
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
ME	Ministry of Energy
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MENRP	The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection

MESD	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
MLHSA	Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs
MRDI	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure
MTE	Mid-term Evaluation
NALAG	National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
NAPCD	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NEA	National Environment Agency
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEAP-2	Second- National Environmental Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFP	Operational Focal Point
PAs	Protected Areas
PB	Project Board
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PMU	Project Management Unit
Q	Quarter
QPR	Quarterly Progress Reports
RCU	Regional Coordinating Unit
REC	Regional Environmental Center
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEAP	Sustainable Energy Action Plan
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SNC	Second National Communication Reports to the UNFCCC
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/CO	UNDP Country Office
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## **PART I: PROJECT**

### **1. PROJECT SUMMARY**

#### **1.1 Project Rationale, Objectives, Outcomes/Outputs, and Activities**

1. Georgia is party to the three Rio Conventions on biodiversity conservation, climate change, and desertification, among other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Georgia's National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), developed in 2005, undertook an analysis of the thematic and cross-cutting challenges, as well as identified priority capacity development needs. The National Capacity Needs Assessment process identified areas that need to be strengthened in the system of environmental monitoring and environmental data management as a key cross-cutting problem hindering development and implementation of effective policies for the management of global environmental resources in Georgia. Three Thematic Assessments in the areas of the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification/Land Degradation, as well as Cross-cutting Assessment Report and the final NCSA Document stress the need of modernizing and developing a sustainable national system of environmental monitoring and data collection for global environmental management. Moreover, a special study was undertaken under the NCSA project to analyze in-depth the existing capacities, weaknesses and capacity building needs in this area.
2. The second National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP-2) 2012-2016 includes activities devoted to the improvement of monitoring on water, air quality, as well as specific management tools to be introduced over this period, which indicate the Government's priority in this area, as well as a good opportunity for the GEF initiative to impact and expand on the global significance of these actions.
3. Currently reporting is under preparation under all three Rio Conventions in Georgia. The Third National Communication to the UNFCCC is managed through UNDP, work on the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) has just been finalized with support from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus are managing the alignment of the National Action Programme and the reporting process under the UNCCD. The activities planned under this cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) initiative to strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP) and its subordinate institutions and agencies to steer these processes will produce added benefits during this period of the review, analysis and preparation of reports.
4. Georgia is fully committed to meet its obligations under the MEAs and the proposed project is intended to facilitate an important step towards developing the capacities in Georgia for an effective national environmental management framework. More specifically the project, directly or indirectly, addresses the following articles under the Conventions: UNFCCC (Articles 4 and 5); UNCBD (Articles 12, 14, 17 and 26) and UNCCD (9, 10 and 16).
5. The MENRP is the central executive agency in charge of environmental protection and is to support sustainable development of the country in the field of environment, mainly to organize environmental planning system; to elaborate and implement state policy, target programs, strategy of environmental protection for sustainable development, national environmental action programs in the field of environmental protection and natural resources; to protect and preserve unique landscapes and ecosystems, rare and endangered species of flora and fauna that are characteristic and endemic to the country, biodiversity, atmospheric air, water, land and mineral resources; to implement public administration (regulation, registration, supervision and control) on waste management and chemicals; to follow the Georgian legislation in the field of environmental protection and to implement the international commitments within its competence.
6. As a Party to the Rio Conventions, Georgia committed itself to monitor and collect information on the state of its ecosystems, including biodiversity components, land and water resources, as well as on those factors affecting their integrity and availability. In fact, in 1990s Georgia developed an extensive system of environmental legislation and built an institutional system of environmental management under the leadership of the MENRP.

7. Although the legislation designated particular governmental organizations (including the MENRP, Ministry of Agriculture, Agency for Protected Areas, National Forestry Agency, National Environment Agency, etc.) to monitor the state of the environment, these organizations can be improved to systematically collect data, analyze and manage data effectively in a coordinated and coherent manner.

8. The UNDP Country Office in Georgia is the GEF implementing agency for this project and the project has been developed in accordance with agreed policies and procedures between the UNDP and the Government of Georgia. In line with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) rules and procedures, UNDP will establish the necessary planning and management mechanisms and facilitate government decision-making to catalyze implementation of project activities and timely delivery of project outputs. The project was designed to be complementary to other related projects under implementation in Georgia, including those supported by the Global Environment Facility. Given the number of ongoing projects in the country, careful attention will be given to coordinating project activities in such a way that activities are mutually supportive and opportunities capitalized to realize synergies and cost-effectiveness.

9. The GEF strategy on capacity development serves to support countries' ability to meet and sustain Rio Convention objectives, i.e., to achieve global environmental sustainability. Of the five objectives under the GEF-5 Capacity Development Results Framework (GEF/C.37/3), this project sets out to meet Objective 2, "Generate, access, and use of information and knowledge" and objective number 5, "Capacities enhanced to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends". It will also meet objectives number 1 and 2 under the GEF-6 Capacity Development Results Framework (GEF/R.6/20/Rev.01). Objective 1, "Integrating global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring", and Objective 2, "Strengthening consultative and management structures and mechanisms". In order to accomplish these objectives, the project will improve and strengthen the data collection and analysis system across the three Rio Conventions in Georgia and generate stronger linkage between monitoring/data analysis and decision-making. The project will: a) increase the capacity of stakeholders to collect and access data, and transform information into knowledge; b) develop a more holistic approach to monitoring and evaluating systems; and c) raise awareness among policy makers on the linkages of environmental monitoring and evaluation systems to strategic decision-making.

10. The table below (1) provides a summary of Georgia Reports to the Rio Conventions in the last cycle(s):

**TABLE 1: GEORGIA REPORTS TO THE RIO CONVENTIONS:**

<b>Rio Convention</b>	<b>Submission dates</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>UNFCCC</b>	10 August 1999  2 October 2009  Currently under development, scheduled for submission in the first quarter of 2015  2015	Initial National Communication  Second National Communication  Third National Communication  Georgia will start early 2015 preparing its Biannual Update Report (BUR) for UNFCCC	Communications contain large amount of data on climate change and its impact on various sectors and development of different Climate Change scenarios to be used for defining climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. It also includes GHG inventory data.
<b>UNCBD</b>	13 December 2002  7 May 2010 7 May 2010 30 March 2010 currently under development, scheduled for submission within 2 years	- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan - Second National Report - Third National Report - Fourth National Report - Fifth National Report and NBSAP	Dates indicate lack of coordination in report submission. Data situation has been improved overall but method in collection and systematic monitoring mechanisms need improvement: Lack of data verification mechanisms. Data ownership/responsibilities not clear between the competent authorities.

UNCCD	April 2003	National Action Programme to Combat Desertification  Alignment of NAP and preparation of the reporting and review process currently	Action primarily focused on inventory-type activities showing a lack of accessible information at the time of development.
-------	------------	---	--

11. As reflected in the table, work is being currently conducted in Georgia under all the Rio Conventions to produce the appropriate national communications and reports to the corresponding Convention Secretariat. This project will be able to tap into these processes by providing the MENRP with additional capacities to manage and coordinate these processes. As identified by Rio Convention Focal Points, during the current report preparation processes for the Conventions, the data provided by the National Environmental Agency for the most part does not provide analysis of existing data in accordance with the requirements of the Convention Reports. The Agency's ability to provide this data in a sufficient and standardized way to improve long-term reporting, forecasting with comparable data also needs strengthening.

12. In the working processes of Global Conventions COPs, High Level Segments and Expert Meetings countries like Georgia are represented usually by one representative (mostly by focal points, as financial support for the Conventions are provided mostly for one person). Taking into account a variety of topics and parallel sessions during the important meetings, it is important that the capacities for participation are at the highest level, both technically and professionally. The strategic preparation prior to the meetings, identification of topical issues important for Georgia as a part of these conventions, detailed briefings and de-briefings of other issues from other ministries which are related to the topics of concern at the respective COP -these aspects will be analyzed during detailed assessment of capacities and specific training will be developed and systemic reporting procedures will be reviewed and put into place. This will ensure that the country is able to uphold its commitments to the best of its available financial and human resources. Output of this particular activity will be strengthened capacity of relevant staff of the MENRP in international negotiations and decision-making, which is essential for enforcement of international obligations at the national level.

13. Georgian scientific organizations that used to collect data through their observation systems, and provided information on the state of the environment and its components over the decades faced severe problem of funding, that was largely due to the economic downturn in the country and collapse of linkages with their counterparts in all over the former Soviet Union in the beginning of 1990s. Some of these institutions ceased functioning and others have been reorganized and transformed to optimize resources (financial, human and technical).

14. In 2003 an environmental statistics sub-division existed within National Statistics Office of Georgia, which was staffed by 2.5 positions (three persons, one of them was head of subdivision) plus a deputy head of division in charge of environmental statistics. Among eight observation forms prepared by the subdivision, two contained surveys on "Air Protection" and "Environmental Expenditures". After reorganization and staff reduction at the end of 2004, the environment statistics subdivision was abolished. Consequently, at the beginning of 2007, on the decree of Chairman of Department of Statistics, within the framework of revision of all statistical forms, two forms: Survey on "air protection" and Survey on "environmental expenditures" were abolished. Since 2008, environmental surveys are no longer part of State's Program of Statistical Activities. Accordingly, no environmental surveys are carried out in the National Statistics Office. The proposed project aims at strengthening data management of Rio Conventions and part of that will be a thorough review of the present system to explore institutional-level capacity strengthening.

15. The project is consistent with the programmatic objectives of the three GEF thematic focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, the achievement and sustainability of which is dependent on the critical development of capacities (individual, organizational and systemic). This project is also consistent with Georgia's current [United Nations Development Assistance Framework \(UNDAF\) 2011-2015](#), and responds directly to Outcome 4: Underlying disaster risk factors are reduced, focusing on sustainable environmental and natural resource management. The project is responding to the national development priorities: To implement sustainable measures to manage and prevent the substantial depletion of natural resources and environmental pollution, also the project is well-aligned with Georgia's programme for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDG7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability.



16. The **goal** of the project is to make the best practices and innovative approaches for meeting and sustaining the Rio Conventions are available and accessible for implementation through national development policies and programmes. The project's **objective** is to develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP), and the Environmental Information and Education Centre (EIEC) for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management.

17. To achieve its objective, the project will work to deliver **two components**:

- **Component 1: Development of coordinated information management and monitoring system.**
- **Component 2: Enhancing capacities for evidence-based policy making and management**

18. The project will address institutional constraints by establishing formal, informal and virtual collaboration mechanisms for catalyzing sustainable and coherent interactions and collaborations between relevant stakeholders. Collaboration frameworks will be established by addressing the institutional responsibilities and mandates for global environment management at line ministries, by identifying and negotiating the appropriate collaboration frameworks and data sharing and analysis at the level of the concerned institutions, and by providing the appropriate mechanisms (formal, informal and virtual) for environment related data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting.

19. The project is strategic in that it responds to a targeted set of underlying barriers to environmental management towards the goal of meeting and sustaining global environmental outcomes. Specifically, the project will:

- Catalyze cooperation and coordination that has previously been limited by narrow institutional mandates and obsolete methods of analysis and decision-making.
- Facilitate data collection, analysis, and sharing among different environmental stakeholders, and develop the needed mechanisms and capacities needed for monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- Improve environmental governance and stewardship by developing improved environmental legislative tools.
- Develop the technical capacities of government and other stakeholders to work collaboratively and in a coordinated way within the environmental context, on how to structure and implement policy interventions that better respond to Rio Convention obligations.

20. Addressing these four areas will help remove the barriers that have prevented the fulfillment of Rio Conventions objectives, and will create the needed capacity at the national level to address existing and emerging environmental issues. A transformative aspect of the project lies in strengthening the institutional linkages between the national and traditional authorities, and with non-government actors, responsible for Rio Conventions implementation, environmental management and sustainable development more generally. The nature of the project's cross-cutting approach also dictates important partnerships among several key national institutions that play a role in Rio Conventions implementation.

21. The project will take an adaptive collaborative management (ACM) approach to implementation, which calls for stakeholders to take an early and proactive role in the mainstreaming exercises, as well as to help identify and solve unexpected implementation barriers and challenges. By taking an ACM approach, project activities and outputs can be more legitimately modified and adapted to maintain timely and cost-effective project performance and delivery.

22. GEF funds will thus enable the Government of Georgia to build its capacities to manage global environmental priorities and issues based on national priorities and needs, as identified in the NCSA, while focusing on cross-cutting capacity development needs. The project will support the establishment of a new system for effective and efficient data collection, analysis and sharing, the creation of cross-institutional alliances that will strengthen the environmental management at all levels. The project is also building on ongoing initiatives and co-financing from national and international partners.

23. The project strategy will be achieved through the interventions summarized in the following table (2):

**TABLE 2: PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE, OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS**

<b>Project objective:</b> Develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, and the Environmental Information and Education Centre for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management	
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Capacities for environmental monitoring are better enabled	<p><b>Output 1.1.</b> System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Agriculture etc) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.</b> Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions.</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.</b> Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities</p>
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis, and linkage to decision-making process	<p><b>Output 2.1.</b> Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed</p> <p><b>Output 2.2.</b> Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved.</p>

### 1.2 Key Indicators, Assumptions, and Risks

24. The project will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with established UNDP/GEF procedures and will be conducted by the project team and the UNDP Country Office with support from UNDP-GEF. The project management reports will be presented to the Project Board for endorsement before they are distributed to the relevant stakeholders. The project will use a capacity development (CD) monitoring and evaluation scorecard to monitor the project capacity development progress. It will monitor the relevant seven capacity development indicators for this project, which are of direct relevance to the development of policy-relevant capacities for the implementation of the global environmental conventions (see table 3). The capacity assessment scorecard (annex 1) will be used to review/rate the relevant capacity development indicators at inception, at mid-point of project implementation and finally at the end of project implementation. This capacity development monitoring tools will be used by the project implementation team to monitor the project capacity development progress and also by the evaluators to conduct the Mid-term Review (MTR) and the final evaluation.

25. The most significant risk which could impact the implementation of this project is the institutional make-up of the government, and the resulting lack of coordination among government agencies, as well as challenging financial situations and conflicting mandates. The way to mitigate this risk is to ensure that there is good cross-collaboration and coordination from the project preparation to the implementation, and that regardless of who has the final responsibility of implementing particular actions, the project is supported cross-governmentally, so that if there are any transitions that collaborating partners can step in with the knowledge of project direction. As a result of poor coordination and shortage of technical capacity, and lack of information management, there is no tracking by the government of the previous national reports. Inter-ministerial coordination is lacking, and existing databases are often managed as personal information systems, with information to be shared on the basis of payment, even though these are government systems. Additional risks and mitigation strategies are highlighted in 3.3.3.

**TABLE 3: CAPACITY RESULT AND THE PROJECT'S OUTCOMES CONTRIBUTION**

Capacity Result / Indicator	Contribution to which Outcome
<b>CR 1: Capacities for engagement</b>	
Indicator 1 – Degree of legitimacy/mandate of lead environmental organizations	
Indicator 2 – Existence of operational co-management mechanisms	
Indicator 3 – Existence of cooperation with stakeholder groups	
<b>CR 2: Capacities to generate, access and use information and knowledge</b>	
Indicator 4 – Degree of environmental awareness of stakeholders	2

Indicator 5 – Access and sharing of environmental information by stakeholders	1
Indicator 6 – Existence of environmental education programmes	1
Indicator 7 – Extend of the linkage between environmental research/science and policy development	1
Indicator 8 – Extend of inclusion/use of traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making	2
<b>CR 3: Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development</b>	
Indicator 9 – Extend of the environmental planning and strategy development process	
Indicator 10 – Existence of an adequate environmental policy and regulatory frameworks	
Indicator 11 – Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making	
<b>CR 4: Capacities for management and implementation</b>	
Indicator 12 – Existence and mobilization of resources	
Indicator 13 – Availability of required technical skills and technology transfer	
<b>CR 5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate</b>	
Indicator 14 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring process	1,2
Indicator 15 – Adequacy of the project/programme evaluation process	1,2

26. The critical assumption in this project include the hypothesis that environmental management will continue to remain a priority for the Georgian government; that targeted cross-cutting capacity building will be sufficient to lead to measurable progress in environmental management; and that NGOs, local communities and the academic sector seek to collaborate effectively within a joint framework around environmental priorities.

27. The project has identified a number of impact indicators, which will be the basis of the project's monitoring and evaluation strategy. The project has also taken into consideration the cost-effectiveness of this intervention by adopting three main core design issues, namely the multi-sectoral, institutional-organizational pluralistic and multi-level provision of services, which are at the basis of success of any capacity development intervention.

## 2. COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

### 2.1 Country Eligibility

28. The Government has maintained efforts to meet its commitments under international conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD, Montreal Protocol, UNFCCC and others) through timely reporting and implementation of specific activities to the extent possible. Due to the scarcity of resources as well as limited technical capacities, in majority of cases, the Government has benefitted from international support, including from GEF/UNDP, for reporting to and implementation of these obligations. Such support has indeed strengthened government's capacities, but still there is room for improvement. It is important to note that Environment Protection has been always a priority that is well reflected in various strategy papers, including National Environmental Action Programme 2 – 2012 - 2016<sup>1</sup>, which defines priorities and actions that are also clearly linked to all the international obligations Georgia have. The most recent development in this regards and as a result of Georgia delegation's strong interest and consultations, Georgia became a member of the Executive Board, representing group of eastern European countries, in the Green Climate Fund, established at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in Durban. Georgia also took part in the world Conference Rio + 20. Georgia is also part of the Bureau of the 19th and 20th Conference of Parties (COP) of UNFCCC and has a representative in the Adaptation Fund. Eight cities in Georgia are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. From these, governments of four cities already submitted sustainable energy action plans.

29. Since 2011, the environment sector has gone through a series of reforms and challenging periods. In 2011 the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) was restructured that resulted in transfer of some of the key functions to other ministries or departments. Later after the 2012 Parliamentary elections, the environment sector was again reorganized, returning back to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection, which has the function of the protection and management of natural resources. Despite these challenging transitional periods, the Government of Georgia still managed to engage in a number of important initiatives to make environmental policies more efficient, fulfill international obligations and to strengthen capacities for their implementation. However, the government also carried out some reforms that raised concerns amongst the international community as well as civil society, particularly amending environment legislation affecting sustainable management of natural resources or conservation of biodiversity. With the change of government in 2012, these weak practices were eliminated as a part of the reform processes. A number of enabling legislative changes were introduced in 2013 to ensure that environmental protection becomes a basis for sustainable economic development.

30. This latest reform process was based on a series of consultations with various groups of stakeholders, such as academic and research institutions, civil society and international organizations. The government's speed and effectiveness of implementation has also suggested that there is a political commitment on the part of the government for strengthening institutional systems and better functionality at the MENRP. This commitment seems to also be supported by increased resourcing of the Ministry. The number of staff has increased to 1310 positions and state financing of the Ministry has doubled. New structural units [agencies] were formed that did not exist before, such as specialized Center for Environmental Education and Training. In parallel, the central office of the Ministry is now home to Units for National Forest Policy and Disaster Risk Reduction. Overall, the civil society as well as international community welcomed this reform as it has eliminated a number of gaps in institutional development and service provision. This transition process was also generally considered to have been managed in a professional and transparent manner. A number of highlights in 2013 include the adoption of the first ever national forest policy concept by the Parliament. Environmental supervision and control regulations have also improved, revealing a number of violations of environmental law. A number of important policy papers, laws were also prepared, such as draft legislation and national strategy for waste management, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2014-2020.

---

<sup>1</sup> See more in section 2.2.1

31. As part of a number of international conventions and frameworks, the Georgian Government has continued to address its obligations, and improve its reporting systems. In addition; Georgia signed the Minamata Convention in October 2013 on mercury, once again showing its commitment to international obligations.

32. Georgian government has been receiving technical assistance from UNDP, including through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and is thus remains eligible for additional support. Georgia ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity on 2 June 1994, and the Convention entered into force for Georgia on 31 August, 1994. In 1994 Georgia signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Parliament has ratified the Convention in 1999. On 21 October 1999, Georgia became a Party to the UNCCD. Georgia signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on July 29, 1994.

33. Georgia has also demonstrated its commitment to become a full member of the world community through ratifying other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in addition to the three Rio Conventions, and amending its legislation to comply with other MEAs' obligations as summarized in table 4:

**TABLE 4: GEORGIA'S COMMITMENT TO MEAS**

<b>Name of Agreement/conventions</b>	<b>Date of entry into force for Georgia</b>
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	31 August, 1994
The Cartagena Protocol on Biological Safety	2 February, 2009
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	12 December 1996
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance	07 June 1997
The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	19 June 1996
(Montreal) Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	16 September 1996
Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	15 January 1994
The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Convention Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	24 September, 2009
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	27 October, 1994
KYOTO Protocol	16 February, 2005
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	30 October , 2001
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	2 January, 2000
Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution	12 May, 1999
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	21 October, 1999
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	28 May, 2007
Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposals	18 August, 1999
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (MARPOL)	19 April, 1994
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	1 June 2000
Agreement on the conservation of Bats in Europe	01 June 2001
African/Eurasian Migratory Water bird Agreement (AEWA)	01 August 2001
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMA)	4 August 2002
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat	1 March, 2010
Agreement between Georgia and International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguard in connection with the threat on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapon	3 June, 2003

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material	7 October, 2006
Joint Convention of the Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management	29 October, 2009
The European Landscape Convention	1 January, 2011
Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention)	10 October, 2013

34. The GEF strategy on capacity development serves to support countries' ability to meet and sustain Rio Convention objectives, i.e., to achieve global environmental sustainability. Of the five objectives under the GEF-5 Capacity Development Results Framework (GEF/C.37/3), this project sets out to meet Objective 2, "Generate, access, and use of information and knowledge" and objective 5, "Capacities enhanced to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends". It also meets objectives number 1 and 2 under the GEF-6 Capacity Development Results Framework (GEF/R.6/20/Rev.01). Objective 1, "Integrating global environmental needs into management information systems and monitoring", and Objective 2, "Strengthening consultative and management structures and mechanisms". In order to accomplish these objectives, the project will improve and strengthen the data collection and analysis system across the three Rio Conventions in Georgia and generate stronger linkage between monitoring/data analysis and decision-making. The project will: a) increase the capacity of stakeholders to collect and access data, and transform information into knowledge; b) develop a more holistic approach to monitoring and evaluating systems; and c) raise policy makers' capacities on the linkages of environmental monitoring and evaluation systems to strategic decision-making.

35. Direct attention will be paid to ensuring an appropriate gender balance in the training and capacity development activities conducted in the project. Moreover, in terms of the development of the environmental monitoring system, special attention will be given to incorporate, where feasible, indicators that would reflect issues related to gender-environment nexus.

## 2.2 Country Driven-ness

36. Interest in the project is very high. The large majority of the consulted parties have stated a strong preference to see improved environmental management practices, improved access to information and data, and enhanced capacities to monitor and report on various Rio Conventions. In recognition of this high level of interest and also based on the NCSA outcomes, the MENRP, and EIEC have played key roles in the development of the project.

37. On this basis there is a high level of 'ownership' with respect to the project goals and outcomes. The project is also consistent with a number of other international initiatives to which Georgia is a party, as discussed in the following paragraphs.

38. Environmental sustainability and natural resource management, including the conservation of Georgia's biodiversity and sustaining its land management, are gaining importance as the Georgian government strives to meet its global environmental obligations<sup>2</sup>. As response to these issues, the current UNDAF (2011-2015) under its third thematic area: *National Development Priorities: Disaster Risk Reduction*. Outcome 4: underlying disaster risk factors are reduced, focusing on sustainable environmental and natural resource management. Under this outcome, it was agreed that the UN will work in partnership with government structures at all levels to work toward comprehensive environmental management and conservation planning and practices. The project is responding to the national development priorities: To implement sustainable measures to manage and prevent the substantial depletion of natural resources and environmental pollution. The project is also well-aligned with Georgia's programme for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDG7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

39. Benefits at the national level will include enhanced technical capacities among key national authorities, as well as stakeholder groups that include decision-makers and technical advisors across sectors. Stakeholders will gain a better understanding of the analysis of trends and its contribution to the identification of gaps for strategic

<sup>2</sup>Georgia United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011-2015  
[http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN\\_in\\_Georgia/un\\_development\\_assistance\\_framework](http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/UN_in_Georgia/un_development_assistance_framework)

planning and linkage to policy making. The sectoral involvement in establishing monitoring systems to reflect the interrelation of environmental and socio-economic risks will strengthen the commitment to reaching global environmental impact. The integration of internationally accepted measurement standards and methodologies, as well as consistent reporting on the global environment will achieve improved decision-making to meet both global environmental commitments and national development priorities.

### **2.2.1 National Capacity Self-Assessment**

40. The National Capacity Needs Assessment process in Georgia (2003-2005) identified the system of environmental monitoring and environmental data management as a key cross-cutting problem hindering development and implementation of effective policies for the management of global environmental resources in Georgia. Three Thematic Assessments in the areas of the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification/Land Degradation as well as crosscutting assessment report and the final NCSA document stress the need of modernizing and developing a sustainable national system of environmental monitoring and data collection for global environmental management. Moreover, a special study was undertaken under the NCSA project to analyze in depth the existing capacities, weaknesses and capacity building needs in this area.

41. The final NCSA document devotes a separate chapter to the issues related to environmental monitoring and data management and proposes strategies and specific actions for capacity building in this area. The NCSA document recognizes the need of monitoring system and availability of reliable information for the effective environmental planning and management in the country, and for the reporting to the Rio Conventions. It lists the symptoms and underlying causes of problem areas of monitoring system in the country and proposes synergistic actions for overcoming the barriers. More specifically the document identifies the following major issues to be addressed that were related to the needs for strengthening environmental monitoring and data management at systemic, institutional, and individual levels:

- Strengthen holistic view and programming approach to building environmental monitoring system at national and local levels;
- Improved management via a strengthened regulatory system;
- Clarification of mandates and distribution of responsibilities and coordination among institutions;
- Improved allocation of financial resources and infrastructure;
- Strengthen specialists capable of designing effective environmental monitoring and information management systems;
- Improved use of available human and technical resources and existing environmental data. etc.

To address these issues, the NCSA proposes respective strategies including:

- Enhancing the MENRP's coordination role in designing and developing environmental monitoring system countrywide;
- Developing priority indicators for monitoring ;
- Developing standardized methodologies for monitoring;
- Developing regulations and assign responsibilities to different institutions based on their competitive advantage;
- Mobilizing internal and external financial resources and building sustainable financial mechanism for monitoring.

42. Currently, the Government has identified strengthening the knowledge for adequate policy-making as one out of four major environmental problems in Georgia. It has also identified monitoring and scientific knowledge as two of five cross-cutting issues under the National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia 2012-2016 (NEAP-2) which was approved on 24 January 2012. Under the NEAP-2, Georgia seeks to introduce adequate data interpretation systems in order to make use of environmental monitoring data in further environmental planning and to introduce modern methodologies of sampling and measurement. The importance of scientifically proven data and conclusions, the analysis of interrelationships between various processes in order to find the most socio-economically sound and environmentally friendly solutions and the need to connect this to decision-making in Georgia is also noted. In the framework of different projects funding by the International Organizations, the Government will be investing an estimated US\$ 1 million to manage hydro-meteorological section of data collection, analysis and management.

43. Reporting to the Rio Conventions presently takes place primarily through the use of resources that are attracted at short-term basis through international assistance. External expertise is hired to support UN focal points. Surveys are distributed and the views of different institutions are collected and integrated into reports. The coordination among the three conventions reporting processes is low and there is great interest from the MENRP to establish synergies among the convention reporting in order to facilitate a more effective and efficient process and to produce reports of better quality as well as to design new cross-cutting initiatives that link the three thematic areas.

### 2.2.2 Sustainable Development Context

44. Georgia is located in the west of the south Caucasus region with a land area of 69,494km<sup>2</sup> with territorial waters covering an additional 7,628.4 ha<sup>3</sup>; it lies between 40' and 47' latitude east, and 42' and 44' longitude north. The total area of the agriculture land is 30,200 km<sup>2</sup> of which cultivated land account for 10,700 km<sup>2</sup>, according to 2005 data<sup>4</sup>. The country is bordered to the west by the Black Sea, to the north by Russia, to the south by Armenia, and Turkey, and to the east by Azerbaijan (Figure 1).It is located on the southern slopes of Great Caucasus Mountain Range, on the isthmus between the Black and Caspian Seas. Despite its small area, Georgia enjoys one of the most varied topographies in the region. The land rises from sea level at the Black Sea, to approximately 5,069<sup>5</sup> meters above sea level (a.s.l.) at Mount Shkhara in the Caucasus. Mountains occupy about 54% of the territory located at altitudes higher than 1000 m.a.s.l.<sup>6</sup>

45. Georgia's climate is affected by subtropical influences from the west and Mediterranean influences from the east. The average annual temperature is 14-15°C, while annual average precipitation varies between 1,500 and 2,500 mm (but reaches up to 4,000 mm in Mount Mtirala<sup>7</sup>). Average annual temperatures fluctuate between 6-10°C and 2-4°C in the mountainous and high mountainous zones of western Georgia. The prevalent climate in eastern Georgia is drier ranging from arid sub-tropical in the lowlands to alpine in the mountainous regions. Annual average temperature is 11-13°C in the lowlands and 2-7°C in the mountains whilst total annual precipitations range from 400-600 mm in the lowlands and 800-1,200 mm in mountains.

46. The country has a diverse landscape. Mountains dominate the northern, central and southern parts of the country; the Great Caucasus in the north, the Likhi range in the central part and the lesser Caucasus in the south. To the west, the Kolkheti lowland plains extend to the Black Sea, and the Iberia Plains in the east open to the Caspian basin. The climate of Georgia is similarly diverse; West Georgia is characterized by a relatively humid subtropical climate, and east Georgia has a drier, moderately humid climate.

47. Up to 39.9% of Georgia is covered by forests and another 43.5% by agricultural land, about 27,950<sup>8</sup>km<sup>2</sup>. 35% of the agriculture land is arable land and perennial crops, and 65% is hay meadows and pastures. Among these 15% is covered with intensively used (arable land and perennial crops) agricultural fields and 28% with hay meadows and pastures<sup>9</sup>.

48. Georgia suffered a steep economic decline since independence in 1991. However, Georgia has achieved noticeable improvement in 2004 with GDP growth rate rose in Quarter (Q) 1 2004 to 9.6%, compared with 4.8% in Q1 2003<sup>10</sup>. According to the National Statistics Office for Statistics numbers, Georgia has noticed some improvements and regressions after 2004, during the last ten years, where Georgia's GDP in 2012 was USD

---

<sup>3</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> National Report on the State of the Environment in Georgia, 2007-2009. Ministry of Environment and Nature Resources Protection

<sup>5</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Second National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (NEAP-2): [http://moe.gov.ge/files/Saministros%20Prioritetebi/NEAP\\_eng\\_2012.pdf](http://moe.gov.ge/files/Saministros%20Prioritetebi/NEAP_eng_2012.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Georgia Country Common Assessment (CCA): [http://www.undg.org/archive\\_docs/1727-Georgia\\_CCA\\_-\\_Georgia\\_2001.pdf](http://www.undg.org/archive_docs/1727-Georgia_CCA_-_Georgia_2001.pdf)



26.63 billion<sup>11</sup> with 5.7% GDP growth (2003-2011 average). In 2007, IMF estimates place Georgia's normal GDP at USD 10.3 billion.

49. Despite its achievements, Georgia is still far from reaching the pre-independence level of economic development. Currently, Georgia's population is confronting severe hardship, with a Human Development Index of 0.744 and a ranking of 79<sup>th</sup> out of 187 countries included in the Human Development Index (HDI<sup>12</sup>). The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) considers Georgia a Least Developed Country (LCD).

50. Georgia's gross national product per person has fallen consistently during 2002-2004 from US\$ 2,664 to US\$ 2,260, with an estimated 55% of the population living below the poverty line, and 17% of the population living in extreme poverty. Furthermore, poverty rates differ significantly between urban and rural areas and across regions. Poverty manifests itself in Georgia in the form of low income and its unequal distribution, insufficient housing, migration for economic reasons and unemployment. The official unemployment rate of 15.1 % in 2011 masks the real situation considering the fact that 64% of the employed are self-employed<sup>13</sup>.

51. Georgia is a lower middle-income economy, ranking 79<sup>th</sup> on the Human Development Index. The country experienced tremendous economic growth in the period of 2004-2008 as a result of implementing wide ranging system changes in all sectors, applying strict anti-corruption measures, adopting a set of liberal economic policies and attracting increased Foreign Direct Investments. Although economy has contracted since mid-2008 due to short, armed conflict with Russia in August 2008 as well as 2009 worldwide financial-economic crisis, the country's economy recovered shortly by 2010.<sup>14</sup> According to the World Bank prognosis, Georgia is expected to have 6.3 percent economic growth in 2014. Although relative poverty rate<sup>15</sup> decreased from 24.1% in 2005 to 21.4 percent in 2013<sup>16</sup>, many Georgians remain affected by high levels of poverty. In addition, there are regional disparities in poverty levels. While the population is split evenly across rural and urban areas, rural poverty is deeper and more severe than urban poverty.<sup>17</sup>

52. Georgia is characterized by high frequency and risk levels of natural hazards that pose significant threat to different sectors of economy as well as human development. Over the last 40 years 70% of the territory of the country experienced natural hazards of hydro-meteorological and geological origin, and related economic losses exceeded USD 14 billion. Situated in one of the most seismically active regions, Georgia is still of moderate seismicity. Strong earthquakes with magnitudes up to 7 and macro-seismic intensity of 9 (MSK scale) have occurred in the region. The reoccurrence period of such events is on the order of 10<sup>3</sup>-10<sup>4</sup> years. Floods are very frequent in Georgia, with recorded high water levels during the spring and summer months, when snow starts to melt. Over 50% of the national territory is prone to avalanches, which includes over 100 settled areas. Debris flows and mudslides present a high risk to the majority of the population in mountainous areas. In addition, along with landslides, debris flows and mudslides destroy irrigation systems, agricultural facilities and road infrastructure. During the period 1968-2009, geological hazards covered about 70% of the territory of the country, affecting 65% of its population. In the recent past, drought cycle for Georgia has changed from 15-20 years to 6 years. Over the period 1995 to 2009, droughts inflicted on agriculture reported economic loss of 400 million GELs. The 2000 droughts in two Eastern regions in Georgia affected 696,000 people and caused economic loss of \$200 million. In 1995-2006, the recurrence of strong winds varied between 1 to 4 times per year. From 2007 to 2009, the frequency of strong winds increased to 6-12 times per year. The impacts of climate change can be observed in Georgia as well, including through the increased occurrence of extreme natural hazards.<sup>18</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_Georgia\\_\(country\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Georgia_(country))

<sup>12</sup>UNDP Human Development Report 2013: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

<sup>13</sup> Economic and Social vulnerability in Georgia, UNDP:

[http://www.ge.undp.org/content/dam/georgia/docs/publications/GE\\_vnerability\\_eng.pdf](http://www.ge.undp.org/content/dam/georgia/docs/publications/GE_vnerability_eng.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2011-2015

<sup>15</sup> Share of population under 60 percent of the median consumption

<sup>16</sup> National Statistics Office of Georgia, [http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p\\_id=188&lang=eng](http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=188&lang=eng)

<sup>17</sup> World Bank, Georgia Economic Report N6, 2014

<sup>18</sup> UNDP, Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity Assessment Report, 2014

53. Georgia has developed a legal-institutional framework to protect the environment and major environmental policies and programmes, nevertheless, the country still faces environmental problems due to low institutional capacity and lack of financial, technical and human resources.

54. Although the country has vast water resources, yet, there is a lack of current reliable data on surface water quality, various studies and experts' estimates indicate major rivers and tributaries, more than 26,000<sup>19</sup> rivers flow neither into the Caspian Sea via Baijan to the southeast, or into the Black Sea to the west, are polluted predominantly by municipal wastewater discharges. Georgia is rich in ground water resources<sup>20</sup>. The total volume of fresh ground water is estimated to be about 24 million cubic meters. Georgia also has more than 800 fresh water lakes.

55. The country has rich biodiversity, according to estimate; about 0.5% of global land area occupied by the Caucasus accommodates up to 40% of global landscapes<sup>21</sup>. In terms of biodiversity, the Caucasus is amongst the richest sub-regions of the same latitude and is characterized by a high number of endemic (25%<sup>22</sup> of endemic plant species) and relic species. Georgia has a network of 50 protected areas<sup>23</sup> to preserve its biodiversity that accounts for 28% of the country's land area<sup>24</sup>. Georgia has a tremendous amount of biodiversity considering its size; it represents one of 34 biodiversity "hotspots" identified by Conservation International as areas distinguished for having high levels of endemism whilst also being seriously threatened by habitat loss. There are 4,130 vascular plant species, 19 species of mammals, 3 species of birds, 15 species of reptiles, and 3 species of amphibians. 2,000 species of Georgian flora have direct economic value. Amongst the Georgian vertebrates 44 species are endangered at global scale and are included on the IUCN Red List as vulnerable species<sup>25</sup>.

56. Georgia faces serious issues regarding air pollution. There are limited data on air quality in Georgia due to limited environmental monitoring services. However, quantitative and qualitative studies on ambient air quality report that urban air pollution, especially for the city of Tbilisi, is the greatest concern. The majority of Georgia's air pollution is attributable to heavy traffic and the use of poor quality fuel for transport and domestic heating as well as the absence of pollution controls. Nevertheless, Georgia's per capita greenhouse gas emissions were only 2.77<sup>26</sup> tonesCO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2006.

57. Waste management faces many challenges in Georgia. There is no service for municipal waste collection and disposal in rural areas; no sanitary landfills for municipal waste disposal; no capacity for waste reuse or recycling; and no quantitative data on waste and contaminated sites. Additionally, there are threats of chemical, biological and radioactive hazards due to the low level of industrial safety standards and improper handling of chemical, biological and radioactive agents at present. There are already several contaminated sites from hazardous and radioactive wastes pose significant adverse effects on the population and the environment.

### 2.2.3 Policy and Legislative Context

58. Historically, legislation in Georgia included a number of laws and regulations on nature protection and the rational use of natural resources. Below are some of the examples:

- The Soviet Georgia Law on Natural Protection (1958);
- The Resolution of the Georgian Council of Ministers on the Improvement of Nature Protection and Use of Natural Resources (1972);
- The USSR Law on the Basics of Forestry (1977);

---

<sup>19</sup>Second National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (NEAP-2):

[http://moe.gov.ge/files/Saministros%20Prioritetebi/NEAP\\_eng\\_2012.pdf](http://moe.gov.ge/files/Saministros%20Prioritetebi/NEAP_eng_2012.pdf)

<sup>20</sup>Republic of Georgia - Country Report, WATER RESOURCES OF GEORGIA AND THEIR USE: [http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CACENA\\_Files/en/pdf/georgia.pdf](http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CACENA_Files/en/pdf/georgia.pdf)

<sup>21</sup><http://biodiversity-georgia.net/index.php?pageid=905>

<sup>22</sup> The Encyclopedia of Earth: <http://www.eoearth.org/view/article/150637/>, and [http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file\\_857767.pdf](http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file_857767.pdf)

<sup>23</sup>[http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?sec\\_id=30&lang\\_id=ENG](http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?sec_id=30&lang_id=ENG)

<sup>24</sup> Council of Europe: Introductory Report on Nature Conservation in Georgia: Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural habitats, December 2010.

<https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=1674094&SecMode=1&DocId=1638644&Usage=2>

<sup>25</sup> Fourth National Report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity: Georgia. 2010 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ge/ge-nr-04-en.pdf>

<sup>26</sup>[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/air\\_greenhouse\\_emissions.htm](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/environment/air_greenhouse_emissions.htm)

- The USSR Law on the Protection and use of Wild Fauna (1977);
- The Georgian Red Data Book (1982).

59. Over the past decade, Soviet legislation has been replaced gradually by new laws that are largely based on European legislation and the principles of the Rio Conventions. During the period 1995 to 1999, the Parliament of Georgia adopted 22 acts relating to environmental protection and use of natural resources. Consequently, many changes in management systems have been modified in response to the new legislation.

60. In terms of fulfilling international commitments under the MEAs, a number of policy documents, action programmes and legislations have been developed in order to address the issues covered by the three Conventions. Several national reports and communications were prepared by the Government of Georgia. Previous activities in Georgia relevant to this proposed cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) project include the formulation and implementation of the following policies and action programs:

- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2005);
- First, Second, Third and Fourth National Reports to UNCBD;
- National Action Program to Combat Desertification, 2003;
- First, Second and Third National Reports to UNCCD;
- First and Second National Communication Reports to the UNFCCC;
- Second National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia 2012-2016;
- Agriculture Development Strategy of Georgia 2012-2020;
- State Programme on Protection and Enhancement of Fertility of Soils, 2014;
- Law on Conservation and Enhancement of Fertility of Soils, 2003.

61. In 1996, and based on these provisions, the *Law on Environment Protection* was developed and adopted, which is considered as the framework law that underlies a number of other laws in the environmental protection and management field. It provides general provisions relating to biodiversity monitoring. Chapter VII of this law defines the Environmental Information System as a combination of (a) information collection (Article 26) and (b) monitoring systems (defined as data collection, storage and analyses) (Article 27). A Law on Environmental Monitoring is yet to be developed, but this would be the instrument to define the details of monitoring<sup>27</sup>.

62. In an effort to meet Rio Convention obligations and other key international conventions and treaties, the country commit itself to international responsibilities for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. According to the Georgian Constitution obligations under international treaties and memoranda are given priority over national legislation, provided they do not contradict with the constitution. In turn, the Georgian Constitution provides the basis for environmental legislation. Article 37 (paragraphs 3 and 4) of this document states that: “*Everyone has the right to live in a healthy environment and use natural and cultural surroundings. Everyone is obliged to protect the natural and cultural environment*” also “*The state guarantees the protection and rational use of nature to ensure a healthy environment, corresponding to the ecological and economic interests of society, and taking into account the interests of current and future generations*”.

63. Furthermore, Georgia has developed a number of key strategies, laws and regulations that includes:

64. The **Second National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (NEAP) 2012-2016**<sup>28</sup> defines two major targets in relation to desertification: 1) reduction of degraded land area, improvement of soil conditions and minimization of contamination; and 2) building capacity for developing land information systems and development of land use systems by use of modern technologies and instruments. As for climate change, the 2-NEAP defines three major targets: 1) implementing adaptation measures in regions vulnerable to climate change; 2) determining impact of climate change on other regions and sectors; and 3) creating enabling environment for reduction of greenhouse gases. And for the biodiversity and protected areas, the 2-NEAP defines five major targets as follows: 1) rehabilitation, protection and conservation of selected endangered species and habitats; 2) improvement of effectiveness of fishery and hunting management to ensure sustainable use of fauna resources; 3) development of a unified and effective protected area network; 4) improvement of the effectiveness of the protected area management through capacity building of PA administrations and introduction of financial sustainability mechanisms; and 5) creations of proper information systems for

<sup>27</sup> National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (NEAP): 2005, Georgia

<sup>28</sup> Approved by the Government Ordinance N127 of 24 January 2012

biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of biological resources through developing the national bio-monitoring system.

65. According to the **2-NBSAP, 2014**, the current status of biodiversity monitoring in Georgia can be characterized as follows: (i) biodiversity data is collected and stored by various agencies among which there is little or no systematic information exchange, and thus there is no unified monitoring system; (ii) responsible agencies have limited knowledge of modern monitoring techniques (such as GIS), and lack of an integrated system means that different agencies use different methods of data collection, analysis and thus there are discrepancies in the interpretation of results; and no easily accessible or shared electronic database on the status of biodiversity has yet been established.

66. The “**Law on the Protected Areas System**” is one of the most important acts adopted by the Government in Georgia in 1996<sup>29</sup>. This law provides a number of ecological and environmental standards for flora and fauna conservation and management. It introduced international accepted categories based on IUCN recommendations, and official procedures for their establishment, into the country’s protected areas system. Nevertheless, the legislation is limited in some ways as it fails to define clear codes of management, and gives only general principle. One of the more important legal instruments in this field is the “Law on Wild Fauna, 1996”. This law governs the relationship between the authorities and key users relating to the use and protection of wild fauna, and declares all wildlife as state property. In general, according to this law, many aspects of wildlife conservation and sustainable use should be covered by regulations- and a total of 29 such regulations should be developed by the executing agency, under Article 69 of the law.

67. The **Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Georgia 2014-2020**<sup>30</sup> evaluates achievements made since adoption of the first NBSAP and provides updated assessment of biodiversity conditions including for endangered species and analyses major drivers and causes for biodiversity reduction and identifies the vision and the national goals in relation to biodiversity protection. National goals are grouped under 5 major global strategic goals: i) combat underlying root causes of biodiversity loss through integration of biodiversity issues in the agenda of the government agencies and community activities; ii) reduce direct pressure on biodiversity and promote sustainable use of biological resources; iii) improve the biodiversity status through protection of ecosystem, species and genetic diversity; iv) increase benefits received by each person from biodiversity and ecosystem services; and v) improve implementation of biodiversity strategy through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.

68. Order **N262 of Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection** of 18 December 2012 on approving indicators for unified system of biodiversity monitoring and related methodologies and procedures defines 25 biodiversity indicators, including those related to forest, corresponding methodologies for their description and related procedures. The aim is to create unified biodiversity monitoring system and to promote data exchange in order to obtain adequate information on biodiversity and trends, create response system and integrate this into national policies. Source of information for biodiversity monitoring (calculation of indicators) could be information received from state and non-governmental organizations upon written request of the MENRP; information produced within the Ministry; information produced on the basis of purchased services by the Ministry; information produced as a result of donor support by request of the Ministry and other. Service of Biodiversity Protection processes information and conducts monitoring according to approved indicators.

69. The Ministry may publish results of biodiversity monitoring on the website or produce printed publications to be distributed to stakeholders. With the aim of implementing biodiversity monitoring, analyzing monitoring results and developing recommendations, at the Ministry could be created Coordinating Council for Unified System of Biodiversity Monitoring. Based on biodiversity monitoring results and when needed also recommendations of the council, the Ministry can develop recommendations on measures to be implemented for biodiversity protection and improved management of this field, and implement these measures accordingly<sup>31</sup>.

70. Other laws related to protection and regulation of biodiversity are: Law on Red List and Red Book, 2003; Law on Wildlife, 1996; Law on Protected Areas System, 1996; Forest Code of Georgia, 1999; Law on

---

<sup>29</sup> National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (NEAP): 2005, Georgia

<sup>30</sup> Approved by Order 2-93 of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia of 5 May 2014

<sup>31</sup> Order N262 of Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 18 December 2012 on approving indicators for unified system of biodiversity monitoring and related methodologies and procedures

Managing Forest Fund, 2010; Law on Licenses and Permits, 2005; Law on Natural Resource Use Fees (2004) and other.

71. In Georgia the issues of land resources management and conservation, including protection against desertification/degradation, are regulated by a number of laws. Some of these laws are directly related to land protection issues, while others regulate the issues of land ownership and use, which are greatly affecting the nature and efficiency of their use. The first group includes legislative acts like the Law on Soil Protection (1994), Law on Conservation of Soils and Restoration-Improvement of their Fertility (2003), Law on Mineral Resources (1997) and Law on Oil and Gas (1999). The second group include: Law on the Agricultural Land Ownership (1996), Law on Public Registry (2008), Law on Compensation for Damage and Costs of Reclamation of New Lands Imposed through Transfer of the Agricultural Lands to Non-Agricultural Activities (1997), Law on Transfer of Non-Agricultural Lands Being in Disposal of Natural Persons and Subjects of Private Law into Private Ownership (1998), Law on State Registration Fees for Land Plots and Real Estate Situated there (1999), Tax Code (2010).

72. Existing legislation that regulates land degradation issues is very generic in Georgia<sup>32</sup>. Too many agencies are responsible for its enforcement and their activities are regulated very inefficiently, with frequent overlapping of functions. Moreover, legislation is not complete because Land Code, a comprehensive law regulating land use, is not developed and adopted. Old Land Code was adopted in 1971. Many provisions of this law, regardless of their relevance, are not taken into account in new legislation. Therefore, the land management specialists often are forced to go back to old Land Code.

73. The **Second National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) 2014**<sup>33</sup> identifies the priority regions under threat of desertification and major factors contributing to desertification and determines actions to combat desertification through sustainable use of natural resources and conservation activities.

74. In the agriculture sector, Georgia developed its **Agriculture Development Strategy of Georgia 2015-2020**<sup>34</sup> which aims at development of effective, competitive and sustainable agricultural sector through increasing competitiveness of agricultural production companies and farmers, establishment of research stations and extension centers in the regions, development of land market, institutional capacity building in the agricultural sector, development of the regional agricultural infrastructure etc. The Strategy underlines need in creation of the comprehensive database in the agricultural sector and enhancement of statistical data. Special attention is paid to the capacity building, specifically, development of the extension centers, where farmers can obtain information on modern methods and technologies in the agricultural sector.

75. The **State Programme on Protection and Enhancement of Fertility of Soils 2014**<sup>35</sup> suggests the following measures to address existing problems in the field: studying chemical and physical characteristics of soils; defining degree of erosion; developing recommendations for soil fertility enhancement; updating information systems on soil data; establishing modern laboratories etc.

76. **Georgia enacted a Forest Code and the Law on Wild Fauna**. The code incorporates all regulatory aspects related to the establishment of plantations, cultivation of forests and planting of new tree species on lands deforested due to illegal logging. Both provide a legal basis for biodiversity protection and include general provisions on biodiversity data collection, storage and analysis. In particular, according to these laws the responsibility for biodiversity monitoring is distributed among the following institutions; i) *The Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Protection* (Law on Environmental Protection, Article 27; Law on Protected Areas System, Article 18).ii) *Agency of Protected Areas* conducts biodiversity monitoring within protected areas (Law on Protected Areas System, Article 18). And iii) The National Forestry Agency conducts monitoring of forests (Forest Code, Article25). ,.

77. **The Law on Conservation and Enhancement of Fertility of Soils, 2003** among measures, aimed at soil conservation and fertility enhancement, identifies: investigating soils and studying their qualitative

---

<sup>32</sup> Third National Report to UNCCD: Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, 2006  
[http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file\\_133318.pdf](http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file_133318.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Approved by the Decree of Government N742 of 29 December 2014

<sup>34</sup> Approved by the Decree of Government N167 of 11 February 2015

<sup>35</sup> Approved by Order N293 of the Minister of Agriculture of Georgia of 5 May 2014

characteristics; developing and implementing technologies for soil improvement; studying causes for soil degradation and regularly developing land cadastres; identifying and applying effective methods for protection of soil from erosion; monitoring soils; protecting soils from natural hazards; protection of pastures and other measures. In addition, the law defines specific rules for conservation and enhancement of soil fertility and establishes rules for observation and monitoring of soils, specifically on following components: chemical amelioration of soils, re-cultivation, complex measures against erosion, and content of nutrients in soil, contamination, qualitative characteristics, and impacts of draughts, erosion and other extreme events.

78. The **Law on Mineral Resources, 1996** requires development of the state cadastre on mineral resources, which should include all data on mineral resources including geological, ecological, economical and other.

79. There is no specific legislation on climate change and related data and information systems in Georgia. General framework Law on Environment Protection (1997) and the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection (1999) address climate change issues in general terms; provide framework for establishment of air monitoring system, for determining maximum allowable concentrations of harmful substances in the atmosphere and for regulating emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere.

#### 2.2.4 Institutional Context

*At the National level:*

80. **The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MENRP)** is the central executive agency in charge of environmental protection and is to support sustainable development of the country in the field of environment; to organize environmental planning system; to elaborate and implement state policy, target programs, strategy of environmental protection for sustainable development, national environmental action programs and management plans in the field of environmental protection and natural resources; to protect and preserve unique landscapes and ecosystems, rare and endangered species of flora and fauna that are characteristic and endemic to the country, biodiversity, atmospheric air, water, land and mineral resources; to implement public administration (regulation, registration, supervision and control) on waste management; to follow the Georgian legislation in the field of environmental protection and to implement the international commitments within its competence.

81. The Ministry establishes and oversees emission and discharge limits for pollutant substances; defines quotas and issues; organizes the state system of hydro-meteorological and environmental pollution monitoring; issues environmental permits and oversees their implementation; manages protected areas; develops national state of environment reports, national environmental action plans, etc<sup>36</sup>.

82. The Ministry supervises several agencies and directorates. Each of the agencies is a public entity by the law. See annex2 for the detailed structure of MENRP. Below is a brief description of the main directorates and agencies:

- The **National Environmental Agency**, a legal entity of public law under MENRP responsible for monitoring of meteorological, hydrological, geodynamic processes and observes geological and environmental conditions. Department of Environmental Pollution Monitoring observes level of chemical, biological and microbiological pollution caused by natural and anthropogenic factors of different environmental media, including soil; develops databases on qualitative characteristics of the environment; etc<sup>37</sup>. For the detailed departments and sections under NEA, see annex 3.
- The official functions of the NEA<sup>38</sup> are to prepare and spread informational documents, forecasts, warnings regarding to existing and expected hydro-meteorological and geodynamic processes, also environment pollution conditions in order to provide state security, existing and expected hydro meteorological forecasting of rivers, water reserves and the Black Sea territorial waters, to asses conditions of geodynamic processes, engineering and geo-ecological conditions of environment and to prepare and spread information on environmental conditions, to create database of engineering

---

<sup>37</sup> Statute of the National Environmental Agency approved by Order N27 of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May, 2013

<sup>38</sup>[http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=31](http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=31)

infrastructure of coastal zone, to manage united state fund information on minerals, to establish and manage informational fund in geological, geodesic, cartographic and land resources state fund, to create and manage informational database on Georgian forest resources, to inventor and register industrial and scientific geological activities, to create and renew state balance and cadastre database on mineral deposits and exposures, to create environmental information database, to monitor coastal zone, and to provide civil aviation with meteorological information.

- **The Land Resources Protection and Mineral Resources Service**, a structural sub-division of MENRP participates in development of the state policy on land resources management; plans mitigation measures for desertification and land degradation processes and coordinates their implementation; develops databases of lands contaminated by hazardous substances and wastes; develops systems for evaluation of land degradation and contamination; based on observation on land fertility conditions and other research, participates in development of annual and long-term targeted state programs<sup>39</sup>.
- The **Climate Change Service** a, structural sub-division of MENRP participates in developing and implementing state's policy and the state strategy on climate change; assesses impacts and risks caused by climate change on economic sectors and ecosystems; coordinates development of the national climate change mitigation plan; adaptation plan and the Low Emissions Strategy; participates in development and implementation of the national strategy and policy on climate change; coordinates reporting to the UNFCCC in collaboration with relevant stakeholders; and conducts regular national inventory of GHG and reports to the UNFCCC and other.<sup>40</sup>
- The **Biodiversity Protection Service** a structural unit of MENRP participates in developing and implementing national policy on protection of biodiversity components and management of biological resources; develops the biodiversity strategy and action plan of Georgia and coordinates its implementation; and organizes and coordinates state system of biodiversity monitoring.<sup>41</sup>The Biodiversity Protection Service processes information received from state, non-governmental and other organizations on approved biodiversity indicators, and implements biodiversity monitoring.<sup>42</sup>
- The **Air Protection Service** under MENRP ensures implementation of the state policy in the field of atmospheric air protection; defines priority directions and measures and coordinates their implementation; participates in development of the national economic and social development concepts, indicative plans and projects and targeted programs; participates in organizing air monitoring system; collects, processes and analyses data on emissions of harmful substances; develops list of stationary facilities subject to regulations on air emissions; participates in development of indicators on air quality conditions as well as on accounting, reporting and assessment of quantitative values of harmful emissions; and participates in developing of economic mechanisms in the field of air protection.<sup>43</sup>
- The **Environmental Information and Education Centre** a legal entity of public law under the MENRP of Georgia among other is responsible for creating and administering unified data base of environmental information in collaboration with other public, academic, educational, non-governmental, private and international organizations; collecting and distribution of information and statistical data related to the environment; ensuring public access to information; organizing professional training for different target groups, and other<sup>44</sup>. The Center has already started developing a database with the technical assistance of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, as the later has developed a similar database system and currently

---

<sup>39</sup> Statute The Land Resources Protection and Mineral Resources Service, approved by Order N15 of Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May 2013.

<sup>40</sup> Statute the Climate Change Service, approved by Order N23 of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May 2013

<sup>41</sup> Statute of the Biodiversity Protection Service, approved by Order N11 of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May 2013

<sup>42</sup> Order N262 of Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 18 December 2012 on approving indicators for unified system of biodiversity monitoring and related methodologies and procedures

<sup>43</sup> Statute of the Atmospheric Air Protection Service, approved by Order N13 of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May, 2013

<sup>44</sup> Order N175 of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: On affirmation of statute of the Legal Entity of Public Law – Environmental Information and Education Center

has the most reliable server in the country. Currently, the centre has in total 16 full-time employees and working on recruiting another 5 by the end of the 2014. For the full description of the Centre Structure, see annex 4.

- According to the EIEC's statute<sup>45</sup>, the Centre was established to serve the following long list of goals:
  - 1) to organize and administer shared environmental information system in cooperation with the state organizations, academic, non-governmental, international organizations and business sector having the relevant competence;
  - 2) to collect and share the environmental information;
  - 3) to create and administer the data base of the organizations working in the field of the environment, the international organizations accredited in Georgia, scientific institutions and non-governmental sector and experts;
  - 4) to collect the information on ongoing and completed environmental projects in Georgia, to create the data base and to ensure its publicity;
  - 5) to collect statistical data related to the field of environmental protection;
  - 6) to establish and maintain environmental library;
  - 7) to facilitate the creation of Pollutant Release and Transfers Register;
  - 8) to promote access to the documents related to the environmental impact permits;
  - 9) to facilitate the access to the environmental licenses issued for extraction and use of natural resources;
  - 10) to facilitate the access to environmental information through the website and other information sources (internet-information network, media, etc);
  - 11) to organize and administer the environmental meta bases (Information on the state organizations, that produce and keep environmental information according to thematic categories);
  - 12) to study and analyze the public needs on environmental information;
  - 13) to facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making process;
  - 14) to prepare the guidelines on environmental information and public participation issues and to provide relevant consultations within the competence; and
  - 15) to prepare the analytical reports on access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice.
- The **Forest Policy Service** a structural unit of the MENRP participates in developing national policy for forest management and supports its implementation; develops forest strategy; reviews proposals on adjustment of forest borders and prepares corresponding recommendations; develops recommendations based on forest monitoring results. Forest Policy Service is eligible to request and obtain needed information and materials relevant for implementing their competences from other state structures.<sup>46</sup>
- The **National Forest Agency** a legal entity of public law under the MENRP manages forest fund; implements forest tending and recovery; manages forest use; conducts forest inventory; conducts forest monitoring and processes and analyses obtained data; carries out forest control activities, except for license conditions; ensures sustainable use of biodiversity components; observes forest fire prevention measures; and participates in emergency response among others. The Agency has nine territorial units throughout Georgia.<sup>47</sup>

83. The **Ministry of Agriculture (MA)** implements state governance in the fields of agricultural food production, soil conservation and restoration of soil fertility, plant protection, livestock rearing, agro-engineering and veterinary services. MA develops the state policy in the field of irrigation & drainage and soil improvement, as well as oversees its implementation. MA implements reforms in the agricultural sector; implements state supervision in the field of soil conservation and improvement-restoration of soil fertility; coordinates activities

---

<sup>45</sup> Order N262 of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 18 December 2012 on approving indicators for unified system of biodiversity monitoring and related methodologies and procedures

<sup>46</sup> Statute of the Forest Policy Service, approved by Order N18 of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May 2013

<sup>47</sup> Statute of the National Forest Agency, approved by Order N25 of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of 10 May 2013



for livestock production; registers and tests new pesticides, agrochemicals and new varieties of animals and plants; etc.<sup>48</sup>

- **Agriculture Scientific-Research Centre**, a legal entity of public law under MA. It aims at supporting agriculture development and food production; investigating and introducing new technologies in the agricultural sector; ensuring risk assessment in the fields of food safety, veterinary and plant protection; promoting organic farming; and supporting preservation of plant and animal agro-biodiversity. The Centre is responsible for arrangement selection farms and testing new breeds; developing genetic and information banks; supporting technologies for production of annual and perennial crops seeds and planting materials; studying qualitative characteristics of soil with the aim to determine soil fertility; undertaking research in the agricultural field.<sup>49</sup>
- **Land Management and Registration Division** under Department of Melioration Policy in MA is responsible for developing and updating soil atlases—unified information bank on soil characteristics, and developing thematic maps on its basis; developing recommendations for soil improvement; supporting development and implementation of measures against erosion; and creating database of agricultural land according to regions and other classifications.

84. The **Ministry of Energy (ME)** implements the state policy and coordinates and monitors implementation of the state policy, the state strategy and the state programs in the energy field; ME analyzes the existing situation in the energy sector and develops recommendations, including on energy production, distribution, consumption, import and export; develops energy balances and coordinates their implementation; develops energy sector long, mid and short term programs and coordinates their implementation; monitors the volume of export and import of energy carriers; prepares recommendations for the effective functioning of the energy sector; supports development of renewable and alternative energy sources and energy efficiency measures; supports Clean Development Mechanism projects; and participates in development of the main directions of the state policy in the energy sector.<sup>50</sup>

85. The **Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MESD)** implements its competences in the fields of economic policy, trade and investments, tourism, state property management, urban development and spatial planning, construction, transport and other. The Ministry analyses the economic state of the country and elaborates its economic policy to ensure a sustainable economic development; reviews programs to be financed from the state budget and by international donor organizations and coordinates the monitoring of their implementation together with the Ministry of Finances of Georgia.<sup>51</sup> The **Department of Sustainable Development** at the MESD is responsible for the development of the strategy on green growth and the supporting national program; develops and analysis innovative projects in support to green growth and develops recommendations regarding necessity and reasonability of their implementation; supports identifying investment potential and resources in support to green growth; identifies capacities of the business sector; collects, reviews and analyses information on green projects; defines investment projects and supports their implementation etc.<sup>52</sup>

86. The **Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs (MLHSA)** develops and implements the state governance and state policies in the fields of labor, health and social affairs. The Ministry ensures public health protection; develops environmental quality standards including for ambient air, surface and groundwater, drinking water, soil, noise, vibration and electromagnetic radiation, including establishing maximum allowable concentrations of chemical and microbiological parameters and norms of harmful impact; develops and implements national programs and regulations on health protection; coordinates organizations regulations the health protection

---

<sup>48</sup> Statute of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, approved by Government Resolution N485 of 28 December 2012

<sup>49</sup> Statute of the Agriculture Scientific Research Centre, approved by Order N2-51 of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia of 25 February, 2014

<sup>50</sup> Statute of the Ministry of Energy of Georgia, approved by Government Resolution N97 of 26 April 2013

<sup>51</sup> Statute of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, approved by Government Resolution N77 of 10 September 2004

<sup>52</sup> Statute of the Department of Sustainable Development, approved by Order N1-1/124 of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia of 22 May 2013

sector; prepares national reports on social and health conditions of the population; organizes defining sanitary hygienic and occupational safety norms, etc.<sup>53</sup>

87. The **Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI)** is responsible for implementing the regional development policy. The Ministry develops and implements the state policy on waste management; coordinates the development of water supply and sanitation systems; elaborates the state policy for the development of the motorway networks, etc.<sup>54</sup>. The **Solid Waste Management Company** of Georgia, a stated owned Ltd managed by MRDI is responsible for managing municipal solid waste landfills throughout Georgia except Tbilisi and Adjara Autonomous Republic (AAR).

88. The **National Agency of Public Registry** registers ownership rights and develops and updates real estate cadastre database and maps including for land resources.<sup>55</sup>

#### *Regional level*

89. **Adjara Autonomous Republic Government** represented by the following sector Ministries and Departments:

- *Adjara Autonomous Republic Ministry of Agriculture* implements its competences in the fields of agricultural food production, soil fertility improvement, plant protection from pests and diseases, livestock rearing, veterinary and other. The Ministry conducts qualitative assessment of soils and organizes rational use, maintenance and restoration of fertility and other activities.<sup>56</sup>
- *Adjara AR Ministry of Health and Social Affairs* among other competences implements state policy in the fields of health and social protection; studies human health conditions in Adjara AR and implements preventive measures; produces and analyses statistical data etc.<sup>57</sup>
- *Adjara AR Department of Motorways and Melioration Systems Management* among other competences the Department develops and implements strategy, policy and programs on development of melioration systems; participates in development of melioration policy and oversees its implementation; manages melioration and hydro- technological facilities.<sup>58</sup>
- *Adjara AR Ministry of Finances and Economy* among other competences conducts economic analysis of the region; coordinates development/update of the strategic document of economic development; develops and implements support mechanisms for economic development and attracting investments and international aid etc.<sup>59</sup>.
- *Adjara AR Division of Environment Protection and Natural Resources* implements its competences in the fields of environment protection and maintenance of safe environment for human health, including protection of different environmental media, forests and biodiversity; develops targeted programs and recommendations for improvement of different components of the environment etc.<sup>60</sup>

#### *Local level*

- Eight cities in Georgia are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories. Tbilisi municipal government signed the Covenant of Mayors in March 2010 and made a commitment to reduce emission of greenhouse gases by 24% in

---

<sup>53</sup> Statute of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, approved by Government Resolution N249 of 31 December 2005

<sup>54</sup> Statute of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, approved by Government Resolution N10 of 30 January 2009

<sup>55</sup> Statute of the National Agency of Public Registry approved by Resolution N835 of Ministry of Justice of Georgia of 19 July 2004

<sup>56</sup> Statute of Adjara Autonomous Republic Ministry of Agriculture, approved by Adjara AR Government Resolution N32 of 3 April 2007

<sup>57</sup> Statute of Adjara AR Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, approved by Adjara AR Government Resolution N4 of 8 May 2013

<sup>58</sup> Statute of Adjara AR Department of Motorways and Melioration Systems Management, approved by Adjara AR Government Resolution N 59 of 26 December 2008

<sup>59</sup> Statute of Adjara Ar Ministry of Finances and Economy, Approved by Adjara AR Government Resolution N44 of 1 May 2007

<sup>60</sup> Statute of Adjara AR Division of Environment Protection, approved by Adjara AR Government Resolution N53 of 7 December 2010

relation to the projected CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates by 2020.<sup>61</sup> The Tbilisi City Hall has developed a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for meeting this objective. The SEAP addresses three main energy sectors – transport, buildings, and infrastructure.

- Following to Tbilisi, other 7 cities in Georgia Batumi, Gori, Kutaisi, Poti, Rustavi, Telavi and Zugdidi signed the Covenant of Mayors. From these Batumi, Gori, Rustavi and Tbilisi city governments already submitted sustainable energy action plans.
- **Local Self-Governance Authorities** are responsible to manage natural resources of local importance including water, forest and land.<sup>62</sup>

#### *Scientific-research institutions*

- The **Georgian National Academy of Sciences** is a publicly funded, membership based, self-governing, legal entity of public law, an association of persons who have achieved international excellence in science and scholarship. The Academia coordinates scientific research in Georgia and develops relationship with the Academies of foreign countries and other scientific centers. The Academia is a scientific adviser to the Government of Georgia.<sup>63</sup>
- The **Academy of Agricultural Sciences**, a publicly funded, self-governing legal entity of public law, is responsible for defining priority directions in agricultural sciences, coordinates scientific-research activities and advises the government on the issues related to agriculture. The Academy reviews and assesses annual reports of agriculture related scientific-research institutions and develops the corresponding recommendations for the government agencies.<sup>64</sup>
- Following to the recent reform in the scientific-educational system, scientific-research institutions in Georgia have been consolidated and integrated into different universities and institutions of higher education. Research institutions related to agricultural sector has been integrated into the **Agricultural University of Georgia**, including: Institute of Soil Science, Agro-chemistry and Melioration, Agricultural Biotechnology Center, Institute of Agriculture, Institute of Plant Protection and others. In February 2011 Agreement was signed between the Agricultural University and the Ministry of Agriculture, which aims for tight collaboration in the fields of higher education and research.<sup>65</sup>

#### *Non-governmental organizations and international projects*

- **Energy Efficiency Center (EEC)** implements activities to support renewable energy and energy efficiency utilization for sustainable development and to improve national energy security level and minimize negative impact on the environment. In addition, the Center aims to increase awareness of the civil society and the decision makers on the environmentally friendly and economically sound ways of energy production and consumption as well as on the potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- **WWF Caucasus** and the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**: developed a partnership for biodiversity conservation in the Caucasus Eco-region focuses on the conservation of globally threatened species, priority sites and conservation corridors by providing funding and technical assistance for the scientific community and civil society groups.
- **WWF-Germany** and its partner organizations in the South Caucasus-WWF Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-Caucasus), WWF-Armenia and WWF-Azerbaijan are implementing an EU funded project “increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries through forest transformation”.

---

<sup>61</sup> Tbilisi Sustainable Energy Action Plan

<sup>62</sup> Organic Law of Georgia Code of Local Self-Governance, 5 February 2014

<sup>63</sup> Law on the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, 2007

<sup>64</sup> Law on the Georgian National Academy of Sciences, 2007, Article 16<sup>1</sup>

<sup>65</sup> Agriculture Development Strategy of Georgia 2015-2020, Approved by the Government Ordinance N167 of 11 February 2015

- **Association Green Alternative** implements projects in the following thematic areas: energy-extractive industry-climate change, transport and environment, privatization and environment, biodiversity conservation, waste management, water management; and in the cross-cutting priority areas: environmental governance, public access to information, decision-making and justice; instruments for environmental management and sustainable development and other.
- **Green's Movement of Georgia** implements activities in the following thematic areas and directions: bio safety and food safety, biodiversity and forest protection, sustainable development, education for sustainable development, waste, sustainable tourism, organic agriculture, sustainable energy and landscape architecture.
- **Biological Farming Association Elkana** is a union of farmers aimed at improvement of socio-economic conditions of the Georgian population and environmental protection through the fostering the development of sustainable organic farming and increasing self-reliance of rural population. Elkana implements activities in support to development of organic farming, including consultations on organic farming, supporting development of an organic product market in Georgia, conservation and sustainable use of local, traditional and endangered Georgian crop varieties, promotion of rural tourism and production of local traditions products, promotion of organic farmer's associations and cooperation, raising public awareness on the importance of organic farming and other.
- **Trans-boundary Joint Secretariat** provides support to the Ministries of Environment of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to increase regional harmonization, sector development in natural conservation and related socio-economic development as well as promote the development of state of the art operational instruments for sector policies and develop strategies and instruments for sustainable financing of protected areas.
- **Centre for Biodiversity Conservation and Research-NACRES** implements projects in the following priority directions: restoration and conservation of endangered species; ecosystem conservation through improving management of protected areas and habitats affected by human activity, desertification and climate change processes; public awareness and environmental education and other.
- **Association Green Alternative** implements projects in the following thematic areas: energy-extractive industry-climate change, transport and environment, privatization and environment, biodiversity conservation, waste management, water management; and in the cross-cutting priority areas: environmental governance, public access to information, decision-making and justice; instruments for environmental management and sustainable development and other.

### 2.2.5 Barriers to Achieving Global Environmental Objectives

90. The policy, legal and institutional framework for environmental management and protection are still overrun by development decisions in Georgia. The barriers to achieving global environmental objectives are in large part a reflection of the challenge Georgia faces in pursuing environmentally sound and sustainable development. However, Georgia has been putting a lot of emphasis on implementing and monitoring of the Rio Conventions since the independence. Nevertheless, the frequent changes of the government, along with further structural changes among other unforeseen events, have all had a negative impact on the quality of development and implementation of the environmental protection policy.

91. On a general basis, the possible barriers that may inhibit the implementation of the proposed project and effective coordination, management and implementation of the Rio Conventions in Georgia are as follows:

- i. Institutional Barriers;
- ii. Inter-agency Cooperation Barriers;
- iii. Legal and Regulatory Barriers;
- iv. Technical Implementation Barriers
- v. Awareness and Information Barriers

92. All of these barriers are discussed below, taking Georgia's economic and social contexts into consideration.

*Institutional capacity and governance structure in key important ministries/agencies are weak or underdeveloped*

93. Institutional capacity in Georgia is stated as the main barrier to actual implementation and policy enforcement. Often, fully transposed national laws and policies are missing operational hands through the sub-laws and subsidiary legislations which are to be elaborated by responsible ministries. In some cases, the governance structures are not well established and undergo frequent transformations that also preclude progress in implementation. For example, water management is highly important area for climate change policy. However, in Georgia there is no dedicated ministry to take care of water resources management. By the Law, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure is mandated to manage drinking water sector, the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible to manage water for irrigation, and municipalities are responsible for distribution; nevertheless, and due to this fragmented system, it is very difficult to get the needed data related to water sector, as it is not clear who is responsible.

94. The EIEC at the MENRP, the main responsible institution for collecting, analyzing and sharing environmental data, as well as for developing and implementing policies and projects in the field of environment, remains understaffed; moreover, the resources to implement national policies are inadequate. Inefficient and incomplete administrative procedures preclude more robust monitoring and protection of environment and natural resources in Georgia.

*Interagency coordination for the implementation and reporting on the Rio Conventions is weak or do not exist*

95. Reporting on Rio Conventions need intensive and well coordinated cooperation among different stakeholders. For example, climate change is a crosscutting issue affecting economic, development, social and environmental sectors. However, currently there is no mechanism for interagency coordination related to climate change issues between these sectors. An Interagency Commission on Climate Change created in 1996<sup>66</sup> was abolished later in 2005. A national committee called "[Low Emissions Development Strategy \(LEDS\) Coordination Committee of Georgia](#) is established in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Georgia and United States of America on collaboration with the aim to develop and implement the LEDS strategy. The main goal of the Committee is to develop and implement the LEDS. The Committee consists of the managing council - a decision making body governed by MENRP; and the working group - advisory body, which includes civil servants and experts. MENRP provides organizational and technical support to the Committee. The Committee meets at least once in 4 month, and the working group meets at least once in 2 month.

96. Coordination between the relevant state agencies occurs at a project level in the process of development of the national communications to the UNFCCC. In addition, there is no platform to integrate and share climate change related data and information generated by different programs and projects. Limitations on internal and external communications between agencies and stakeholders are a critical barrier to the success of this project. Therefore, a critical requirement for success of this project is the establishment of a working group or inter-ministerial committee within the MENRP which is empowered and is publically managed to drive the project forward from an official level.

97. The Second NBSAP identifies inadequate integration of biodiversity values in the strategies, policies and programmes and inadequate legislation, regulating use of biological resources, among causes of biodiversity reduction. In addition, it is stressed that, there is need in gradual harmonization of the Georgian legislation to the relevant EU directives.

98. Legislation on protected areas also needs improvement. Most of the protected areas are managed without management plans, based on temporary regulations. Even though certain steps have been undertaken towards developing the protected area system, still there is not enough political will to establish a unified protected area network, absence of which is the biggest challenge in the protected area management presently. Other identified constraints are: lack of planning capacities in the protected area agency as well as the local administrations. In

---

<sup>66</sup> Ordinance #630 of the President of Georgia of 23 September 1996 on approval of the National Programme on Climate Change, State Commission on Climate Change Issues, its statute and work plan

addition, lack of finances, personnel, and infrastructure create obstacles for effective functioning of protected area administrations.

99. Due to lack of data it is not possible to accurately assess biodiversity conditions. Lack of updated forest data prevents planning of sustainable, multifunctional forest use. Lack of capacities and lack of financial resources are obstacles for implementing comprehensive biodiversity monitoring, improving forest information systems, implementing conservation measures, undertaking research, implementing education activities etc. Forest related measures outlined in the First NBSAP have been implemented to a least extent due to lack of funding and lack of capacities, as well as frequent changes in the forest sector priorities. Lack of administrative and human resources, including lack of sufficient number of qualified staff are among the biggest constraints for improvement of the forest information systems. In addition, interagency coordination for strengthening the biodiversity information systems needs improvement.

100. In relation to desertification and the UNCCD. Land management related responsibilities are redistributed between the different state agencies. However, coordination between the agencies responsible for different categories of land has been a challenge. In 2001 was established a permanent state commission, the National Coordinating Body for UNCCD<sup>67</sup>, consisting of representatives from the relevant governmental agencies and academic institutions. However the Commission was abolished in 2005. Currently there is no intergovernmental body coordinating processes related to UNCCD.

101. As mentioned, different state agencies produce different data in relation to land management. Additionally, international, non-governmental and scientific-research organizations also produce data and information. However, there is no platform for consolidating data from different sources, which would facilitate communication and better use of the available data and information.

#### Legal and Regulatory Barriers:

102. A more rigorous application of existing environmental regulations surrounding the environmental protection and management is required. The regulatory environment is itself theoretically robust. Additional emphasis may, however, be required on the implementation of the regulations (e.g. notification of the public incorporating stakeholders' submissions), and improving regulation of required monitoring.

103. Guidelines covering allowable or restricted activities such as coastal armoring, dredging, habitat removal, use of water and similar intrusive activities would assist in the effective planning and regulation of environmental and natural resources management. For example, strategic documents related to desertification still fail to be grounded on a knowledge-based identification and analysis of drivers and causes of land desertification and degradation. Neither is considered links/interactions between land degradation and climate change and biodiversity.<sup>68</sup>

104. The NAP particularly, does not address clear barriers to sustainable land management. The measures presented in the NAP are general and presented at a conceptual level. Due to limited resources, problem identification and planning of the measures was based on experts' judgments and not detailed study. The Plan does not offer specific project proposals and does not offer the criteria and methodology for evaluation of given measures.

#### Technical Implementation Barriers

105. Lack of capacities, identified in relation to effective planning and implementation of the Rio Conventions in Georgia relate to: lack of financial resources; lack of experienced personnel familiar with sustainable environmental management practices; lack of guidelines or manuals for planning, implementing and monitoring the measures on combating land degradation, climate change and effective biodiversity managements; lack of adequate involvement of environmental authorities, scientific and non-governmental organizations in sectoral planning process and ineffective communication between them.

106. In addition, lack of capacities at local level including lack of financial, administrative, human and technical resources as well as low political demand of planning and management at local levels have been a barrier for

---

<sup>67</sup>Established by the Presidential Decree N 282 of 15 July 2001

<sup>68</sup> Fifth National Report of Georgia to the UNCCD, July 2014

development and implementing local integral or sectoral environmental programs as required by the legislation. Also monitoring and control of small, independent farms that have emerged after breakup of the Soviet system has been a challenge due to inexistence of specific mechanisms for this.

107. Lack of reliable data and statistics for assessment of GHG emissions as well as for estimation of economic development scenarios and development of adaptation strategies; non-existence of relevant scientific assessment and research on assessing the negative economic impact of climate change on the economic sectors and ecosystems necessary for development of the adequate adaptation strategies and measures; lack of national experts with trans-disciplinary knowledge and vision on environmental, social and economic development issues; and additionally, inadequate political will at national as well as local levels to address climate change have been identified in the Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC as major barriers to the process of national communications to UNFCCC preparation.

108. The SNC also highlights the barriers to the technology transfer and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) development. Among the barriers to the technology transfer: low awareness on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies; non-existence of energy audit practice in the industry sector; non-existence of incentives for acceleration of the transfer of modern technologies; insufficient management skills of the private sector operating in the renewable energy sector and other. Major constraints for the CDM development are identified as: unavailability of data to construct the baseline scenario, specifically, monitoring data on GHG emissions; and lack of statistics and methodologies to include the transport sector, the largest emitter of GHG, in the CDM.

109. The Major structural unit, responsible for consolidating biodiversity related data is the Biodiversity Protection Service under the MENRP. While the Biodiversity Monitoring Service does not have human resources capacity to undertake the monitoring activities, the key agencies providing the biodiversity data are the Protected Areas Agency and the National Forestry Agency, along with NGOs, internationally funded projects and scientific-research institutions.

110. Recently established national system for biodiversity monitoring is supposed to support and promote data exchange on biodiversity conditions and trends between the stakeholders. With the aim to strengthen this collaboration, the MENRP have signed memorandums of understanding with some of the relevant organizations, and signing of more MoUs is expected. It has been also planned to establish an interagency commission to monitor implementation of the NBSAP 2014-2020.

111. Some obvious capacity gaps identified (above) to this point include:

- Lack of appropriately trained personnel at the MENRP with capacity in environmental data collection, analysis and spatial information management.
- Lack of an appropriate management information system for Rio Convention information.
- Enforcement of Environmental regulations and monitoring systems.
- Information gap which impedes integrated management of the Rio Conventions data.

Financial instruments for data management do not exist

112. Financial instruments could have promoted some of the obvious measures of environmental management, currently so many financial constraints face the environmental sector. For example, data related to soil classification are still on hard-copy forms as Ministry of Agriculture (MA) suffers from financial deficits, and lack of funds, which limit developing the needed data collection and management that is very crucial for land degradation and climate change studies. In addition to the financial limitations, MA suffers from: (i) limited human capacity, and (ii) limited technical capacity to digitize the data and store in an appropriate format that is accessible and reliable.

113. Under land degradation focal area, the NAP envisages limited financial resources for funding only small-scale pilot projects, limited scientific research and development of program/plans and measures for carrying out pre-implementation activity. It does not identify possible financial sources and does not offer institutional mechanisms for its implementation. At the same time, the Plan does not consider at a sufficient extent investment and institutional measures, which would be focused on reduction or resolution of desertification and

land degradation problems.<sup>69</sup> In addition, no target is established to measure progress in achieving the priorities defined in the NAP<sup>70</sup>.

114. Most of the activities outlined in the strategic plans and programs could not have been implemented due to lack of financial and other resources. Actual funds allocated for implementation of different state programmes related to protection and improvement of soils have been significantly less than planned initially, and thus their outcomes were minimal.<sup>71</sup> However, for the year 2013 financial allocations to the sector have increased significantly<sup>72</sup>.

*Local knowledge and skill-sets to identify and implement cross-cutting initiatives are missing*

115. Local knowledge, skills, and public awareness concerning the Rio Conventions are main challenges. Issues related to the Conventions are poorly covered despite a considerable number of registered print editions. This limits the opportunity for public awareness and therefore public involvement in the implementation of the Conventions. From a systemic perspective, global environmental priorities are inadequately reflected in the country's national and sectoral policies and strategies. This is due in part to insufficient knowledge of these linkages among key government and civil society stakeholders at national and community levels. The NCSA was firmly rooted in the country's development priorities. Although it identified many linkages between the Rio Conventions and the country's development priorities, this process was relatively narrative and was the beginning of a long-term need to institutionalize these linkages.

### **3. PROGRAMME AND POLICY CONFORMITY**

#### **3.1 GEF Programme Designation and Conformity**

116. This project conforms to the GEF-5 CCCD Strategy, Programme Framework 5, which calls for the strengthening of capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends. The GEF strategy for Cross-Cutting Capacity Development projects serve to provide resources for reduction and/or eliminating, the institutional bottlenecks and barriers to the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions. This project is in line with CCCD Programme Framework objectives B, and E. Specifically, in line with CD objective B, activities of this project will improve Georgia's decision-making by harmonizing existing information system related to the Rio Conventions, integrating internationally accepted measurement standards and methodologies, as well as consistent reporting on the global international best practices. The development of the needed system will be fostered through activities under Component 1, one of the activities will be towards the development of the needed system to collect, analyze and share data pertaining to the Rio Conventions, while other activities will support the Government by developing the needed legal framework for data monitoring and reporting.

117. In line with CD objective E, activities in the present CCCD project will focus on enhancing capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions by improving inter-agency/ministry coordination and strengthening capacities to employ an integrated approach to implementing shared provisions of the UN CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD Conventions. Inter-agency/ministry collaboration and coordination will be fostered through activities under Component 2.

118. GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development projects are measured by output, process, and performance indicators that are proxies to the framework indicators of improved capacities for the global environment. To this end, CCCD projects look to strengthen cross-cutting capacities in the five major areas of stakeholder engagement, information and knowledge, policy and legislation development, management and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

119. The project is also consistent with the programmatic objectives of the three GEF thematic focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, the achievement and sustainability of which is dependent on

---

<sup>69</sup> Third National Report to UNCCD: Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, 2006  
[http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file\\_133318.pdf](http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file_133318.pdf)

<sup>70</sup> Fifth National Report of Georgia to the UNCCD, July 2014

<sup>71</sup> Third National Report to UNCCD: Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, 2006  
[http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file\\_133318.pdf](http://momxmarebeli.ge/images/file_133318.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> Fifth National Report of Georgia to the UNCCD, July 2014



the critical development of capacities (individual, organizational and systemic). Through the successful implementation of this project, the project will support the shared objectives under the Rio Conventions, as presented by the following table (5):

**TABLE 5: CONFORMITY WITH GEF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

<b>Capacity Development Operational Principle</b>	<b>Project Conformity by Output</b>
Ensure national ownership and leadership	Output 1.1. System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Agriculture etc) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved Output 1.2. Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions of an information and advocacy initiative involving diverse stakeholders. Output 1.3. Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities Output 2.1. Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed. Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved
Ensure multi-stakeholder consultations and decision-making	Output 2.1. Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed. Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved
Base capacity building efforts in self-needs assessment	Output 1.1. System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment, Economy and Regional Development, Agriculture etc.) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved Output 1.3. Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities Output 2.1. Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed. Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved
Adopt a holistic approach to capacity building	Output 2.1. Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed. Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved
Integrate capacity building in wider sustainable development efforts	Output 1.2. Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions of an information and advocacy initiative involving diverse stakeholders.
Promote partnerships	Output 1.1. System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Agriculture etc.) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved Output 1.2. Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions of an information and advocacy initiative involving diverse stakeholders. Output 1.3. Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making

	among policy makers achieved
Accommodate the dynamic nature of capacity building	Output 1.2. Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions of an information and advocacy initiative involving diverse stakeholders.
Adopt a learning-by-doing approach	Output 2.1. Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed. Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved
Promote regional approaches	Output 2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved

### 3.1.1 Guidance from the Rio Conventions

120. The Government of Georgia continued its efforts to meet its commitments under international environmental conventions through timely reporting and implementation of specific projects and activities under the three Rio Conventions. The proposed project will further advance Georgia's capacity in meeting these environmental commitments and obligations. More specifically, the project will improve Georgia's monitoring and reporting systems for the three Rio Conventions, building new system to collect, analyze and share environmental information among different stakeholders, and develop a clear legal framework for the development and improvement of the information management systems. These systems will require strengthening institutional capacities (the building of the two needed systems, the processes and the operation); the individual capacities (how to collect data, analyze, share and store, in addition to how to monitor the implementation and report on the Rio Conventions) and the stakeholders' capacity (how to access, use and share data). Therefore, the proposed project will further advance Georgia's efforts in developing the needed environmental information management and knowledge systems within the EIEC; and developing the needed monitoring and reporting capacity and inter-agency/ministry cooperation to meet the international commitments and obligations.

## 3.2 Project Design

### 3.2.1 GEF Alternative

121. The project takes a GEF incremental approach to sustainable development, where the co-financed baseline in Georgia's work to pursue socio-economic and sustainable development in the country's national interest, and the GEF adds or modifies these baselines, as appropriate, to create synergies in development actions that provide global environmental benefit. This project builds upon commitment to sustainable development as manifested through the various institutional activities and policies. It will build upon the baseline initiatives that have been initiated as a follow up to the NCSA process (section 2.1).

122. Georgia is and will continue to undertake targeted monitoring, analyses, and reporting on each of the Rio Conventions, among other MEAs, this project will look at the underlying deficiencies in key sets of information and knowledge that limit a more comprehensive analysis of environmental and development policies, plans and programmes. To that end, this project will strengthen the underlying (information and knowledge management) foundations by which Georgia can undertake a more holistic and comprehensive approach to analyzing policy interventions from a Rio Convention perspective.

123. This project will take a different approach by focusing on a bottom-up approach to mainstreaming Rio Conventions provisions through consultations with local level stakeholders, input from stakeholders into environmental framework legislation and through the collection of environment related information which will in turn inform a more robust and integrated global environmental policy context. Engaging females and males stakeholder representatives in modifying policy interventions will complement this capacity and testing targeted components for improved action to satisfying Rio Convention obligations. Capacity development activities

under this project will serve to catalyze a long-term approach to identifying key information and knowledge gaps that cut across the three Rio Conventions.

124. The MENRP and EIEC are the main partners in the implementation of the project. The Ministry will provide significant in-kind co-financing to this project through the EIEC. As institutions that house the majority of environmental data and the capacities to collect, interpret and analyze such information, these institutions will be crucial partners in the implementation of the project.

125. The UNDP Country Office and the GEF will provide cash co-financing, and building linkages with the other projects that are funded and/or implemented by both agencies.

### **3.2.2 Project Rationale**

126. This project responds to the specific cross-cutting capacity development priorities identified in the NCSA, and to the gaps identified in the follow-up actions to the NCSA. The project was derived by analyzing the cross-cutting capacity development priorities identified in the NCSA, and then examining them in light of the recent progress that has been made by the Government of Georgia in attempts to meet their international objectives.

127. The observation objects, environmental indicators, frequency of observations, observation methodology, procedures and methods of data collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination are not fully defined currently in Georgia. Environmental monitoring issues are limited only by general provisions and are dispersed among various environmental laws. To improve the global environmental impact, there is a necessity to: Identify priority monitoring indicators and develop a standardized monitoring methodology harmonized with UN requirements focusing on indicators that are crosscutting to the Rio Conventions; develop information flow mechanisms; Elaborate an improved legal framework for monitoring through the development of the legal acts to clarify roles and responsibilities of the institutions responsible for the monitoring of the specific environmental elements.

128. This project has already benefited from national consultations conducted previously under the NCSA on the strategic priorities for the project's objectives and their inter-linkage with other GEF-funded initiatives. The implementation of this project will take place in coordination with other projects which are relevant to Rio Conventions, this will maximize the potential of this project to impact policy making and national strategies under development. The coherence of the project implementation with other initiatives will be secured through the MENRP which will ensure on-going coordination and adaptive collaborative management towards meeting national development priorities. This includes:

- The implementation of Georgia's Second National Environmental Action Programme (NEAP-2), which includes actions to be implemented on the improvement and coordination of different monitoring systems and the development of specific strategies within the NEAP-2 period 2012-2016;
- Development of the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC, the elaboration of a Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) and an action plan for adaptation which are all taking place in the period from 2012-2015, provide an opportunity for timely input on capacity raising and development for coordination in delivering climate resilient development strategies; and
- Participation in global negotiations under the Rio Conventions through the MENRP's involvement in defining Georgia's position and implementation of international commitments under these conventions.

129. Consultations were held with government and non-governmental stakeholders to identify what key barriers still remain and how they can be managed. In formulating the outcomes and outputs, the most far-reaching impacts were considered. The activities have been designed to meet the maximum number of environmental priorities and have been discussed with the project's stakeholders during the consultation period.

130. The project is strategic in that it responds to a targeted set of underlying barriers to environmental management towards the goal of meeting and sustaining global environmental objectives. Specifically, the project will address the capacity and resource barriers which have prevented Georgia from meeting international and national sustainable development goals. By addressing these capacity barriers, the project will address issues related to policy incoherence, stakeholder participation, gaps in environmental governance, lack of public awareness and limited access to financial resources.

### 3.2.3 Project Goal and Objectives

131. The **goal** of the project is to make the best practices and innovative approaches for meeting and sustaining the Rio Conventions are available and accessible for implementation through national development policies and programmes. The project's **objective** is to develop individual and organizational capacities in the MENRP and EIEC for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management.

132. The project is strategic in that it responds to a targeted set of underlying barriers to environmental management towards the goal of meeting and sustaining global environmental outcomes. Specifically, the project will:

- Catalyze cooperation and coordination that has previously been limited by narrow institutional mandates and obsolete methods of analysis and decision-making.
- Facilitate new partnerships between policy and decision-makers across environmental focal areas and socio-economic sectors while actively engaging other key non-governmental stakeholders.
- Improve environmental governance and stewardship by developing improved environmental legislative tools.
- Develop the technical capacities of government and other stakeholders to work collaboratively and in a coordinated way within the environmental context, on how to structure and implement policy interventions that better respond to Rio Convention obligations.

Accordingly, the project's objectives will be achieved through the following TWO main components:

- **Component 1: Development of coordinated information management and monitoring system.** The access and use of information and knowledge through improved decision-support mechanisms and the development of an environmental information and knowledge system. Interventions under this component will address the following NCSA cross-cutting needs:

Cross-cutting requirements	Needed Capacities at the:		
	System level	Institutional level	Individual level
<b>Awareness raising of decision makers</b>		Establish a system for the provision with information, including information about legislative documents, to the decision-makers.	Ensure the delivery of critical information to policy makers.
<b>Data collection and information management</b>	Develop legislative base for proper functioning of monitoring institutions (including identification of relevant institutions and assigning specific functions), in order to avoid duplication and ensure exchange of information, as well as rules for access to this information.		
	Develop coordinated and compatible systems for data gathering, validation, analysis and dissemination.		
	Develop mechanisms for data exchange.		
	Identify institutions for gathering information data providers.		
<b>Development of action plans, programs and strategies</b>	Develop a culture of information sharing and communication.		

- **Component 2: Enhancing Capacities for evidence-based policy making and management.** Under this component, the project will help by creating and enhancing capacities for management and

implementation of convention guidelines. The interventions under this Component will address the following NCSA cross-cutting needs:

Cross-cutting requirements	Needed Capacities at the:		
	System level	Institutional level	Individual level
Awareness raising of decision makers			Increase the knowledge and understanding of decision makers about the commitments made by the country as a signatory of the conventions, and the implications on national development policies and programs.
			Increase the skills of policy analysts on economic and environmental valuation techniques, and on conducting comprehensive policy analysis for environmental issues.
			Continuous awareness raising of environmental and sustainable development issues among political representatives, decision makers and general public.
Data collection and information management		Develop capacity to provide online access to data.	Develop capacity of individuals in: the design of monitoring system, data processing and information management, and data organization.

### 3.2.4 Expected Outcomes and Outputs

133. At the end of the project, activities will have resulted in a set of improved capacities to meet and sustain Rio Conventions objectives. Specifically, the project will have developed an integrated coordinated information management system and help institutionalize commitments under the Rio Conventions by ensuring an improved flow of knowledge and information and enhanced participation by various stakeholders in data collection, analysis and sharing. The project will also strengthen Georgia’s efforts to mainstream global environmental priorities by engaging larger numbers of existing and potential stakeholders and strengthen their capacities in environmental management and monitoring.

134. This project is based on two main components which will support the cross-capacity development for improved Rio Conventions implementation:

- I. Development of coordinated information management and monitoring system.
- II. Enhancing capacities for evidence-based policy making and management

## **COMPONENT 1: DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATED INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING SYSTEM**

135. A coordinated information management and monitoring system will be enhanced, through the review of the existing legal and technical framework that supports environmental monitoring and through an extensive assessment of the current system. The global environmental impacts via the Rio Conventions will be included in the coordinated system. The agreed approaches will apply international measurement standards and methodologies. An optimization of the hydro-meteorological stations was conducted with currently 40 stations location throughout Georgia, 11 out of them take measures 8 times per day. A review of this system is currently underway with investments to be made through other bi-lateral initiatives. The project and the GEF increment seeks to support the process of developing the newly established EIEC at the MENRP, and ensure that the review and subsequent changes in the National Environmental Agency includes the strengthening of monitoring and management systems that support the Rio Conventions. Among these will be aspects related to strengthening the country’s capacities to measure and analyze trends on semi-arid areas, the flow rates of water in critical rivers, conditions of glaciers, coastal zone, etc. As a result of this review, a coordinated information management system will be developed with agreed approaches and methodologies introduced and capacities strengthened at the EIEC.

### **Outcome 1: Capacities for environmental monitoring are better enabled**

136. This first outcome focuses on assessing and structuring an improved consultative and decision-making process that effectively integrates global environmental objectives into existing national environmental information management and decision support system. This will be achieved by strengthening the decision-

making process to meet global and national environmental reporting systems and development priorities, establishing a clear legal framework to facilitate monitoring the Rio Conventions implementation, and supporting the MENRP in further developing the proposed data collection, analysis and monitoring system at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities.

137. This will be achieved through the following OUTPUTS:

**Output 1.1: System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Agriculture etc) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved**

**Output 1.2: Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions**

**Output 1.3: Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities**

**Output 1.1: System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Economy and Sustainable Development, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Agriculture etc) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved.**

138. This output will assess the data, information, knowledge generation's gaps and weaknesses affecting global environmental impacts and trends, and how best to address the associated challenges and barriers. This includes an assessment of the institutional structures and mechanisms to manage data, information and knowledge as well as it will make recommendations on priority capacity development activities at the systemic, institutional, and technical levels. The focus under this output is to carry out activities to ensure that data relevant for environmental management be collected, managed, and shared effectively; and to engage relevant stakeholders to achieve consensus and trust around a mechanism for data and information sharing on environment.

139. A key aspect of the selected mechanism will be its usability and accessibility. The articulation of the mechanism's governance structure will clarify the scope, role and uses of the selected mechanism thereby benefitting a greater number of stakeholders, optimizing the data collected and generated, and specifying its applications. The proposed environment information and data in the system will be accessible to any interested parties including other public entities, private agencies, non-governmental organizations, business sector and general public in easily understandable format of on-line databases.

140. Understanding sub-sidiarity in the context of knowledge exchange is crucial. Knowledge exchange will be most effective at the level where the knowledge is to be directly used. Therefore, considerable effort should be made to work with the local actors to determine what they already know, what their information needs are and what their capacity is for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange. Understanding local needs, context and application is an essential starting point to develop online platforms that support local knowledge exchange.

141. The EIEC is mandated to facilitate exchange of environmental information and data among experts. On the other hand it will facilitate the coordination of activities between different agencies of the MENRP. However, the EIEC is at its earlier establishment stage, and thus, investments from GEF financing will allow the establishment of a system of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries. Mechanisms will be further developed which allow for managing information flows from various stakeholders, namely: governments, academic sector, multilateral agents, NGOs, community level associations, and the private sector. The specific arrangements of the selected mechanisms will be subject to discussions during project implementation.

142. Information management teams within the MENRP assume that their target actors know instinctively how to share their information, if the right forum and tools are provided, those stakeholders may know what to do. But this is not always the case. Therefore, under this output, capacity building activities on information-sharing approaches and tools for the target actor group will be undertaken.

143. The specific activities that will be carried out under Output 1.1 are:

**Activities:**

- 1.1.1 Conduct a comprehensive assessment within relevant Ministries and agencies on their needs for environmental data; type, format and frequency, and data flow;
- 1.1.2 Carry out an assessment of the relevant national agencies, with special focus on the EIEC, on their roles on environmental information management and monitoring;
- 1.1.3 Reconcile and harmonize the various mandates and operational plans of the relevant national agencies to integrate Rio Convention obligations and determine roles and responsibilities pertaining to information sharing;
- 1.1.4 Forge strategic partnerships to enhance the flow of information between different agencies and the MENRP;
- 1.1.5 Develop a plan for addressing content gaps according to national needs and global commitments;
- 1.1.6 Organize national stakeholders meetings to discuss and recommend best practices for sharing environmental data, information and knowledge;
- 1.1.7 Establish a system of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions; and
- 1.1.8 Conduct a series of trainings for expert institutions identified as entry points for the system on data collection, databases operation, equipment handling, and data quality validation.

**Output 1.2: Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions**

144. The analyses undertaken in this output will identify the synergies, mutual exclusions, contradictions and gaps within Georgia's policy and regulatory framework that impact the achievement of Rio Conventions obligations. This output will facilitate the development of a clear legal framework that is necessary to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions.

145. Currently, there is slight overlapping in NEA and EIEC responsibilities pertaining to data collection, analysis and sharing, in addition to the un-clarity in terms of horizontal cooperation between the two Agencies (the NEA and the EIEC) under the MENRP. According to the Centre's statute, the sphere of activity of the EIEC is to facilitate access to the environmental information; public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice, as well as to promote environmental awareness raising of general public and provide trainings and refresher courses for the improvement of skills of the appropriate professionals. While the main official functions of the NEA<sup>73</sup> are, among others: data collection and analysis, creating data bases, preparing and spreading information on environmental conditions, creating data bases of engineering infrastructure.

146. The specific activities that will be carried out under Output 1.2 are:

**Activities:**

- 1.2.1 Undertake an analysis of Georgia's environmental legislation and compliance, using the Rio Convention legal analytical framework; the three conventions and the cross-cutting area.
- 1.2.2 Undertake an analysis of the MENRP, EIEC and NEA's statute and the legislations pertaining to monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions;

---

<sup>73</sup>[http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang\\_id=ENG&sec\\_id=31](http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=31)

1.2.3 Establish a clear legal framework to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions. This framework would be used to cross-reference and assess the coverage of Rio Convention obligations through Georgia's national environment-related legal instruments; and

1.2.4 Organize and convene a series of stakeholders meetings for discussing the proposed legal framework. Collect and incorporate all related recommendations and suggestions.

**Output 1.3: Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities**

147. The focus under this output is to strengthen the mandates and job descriptions of relevant agencies and staff to ensure efficient and cost-effective operations of the environmental data. This will be accomplished through this output by carrying out activities to ensure that data relevant for environmental management is collected, analyzed, and managed effectively; and to engage relevant stakeholders to achieve consensus and trust around a mechanism for data and information sharing on environment. The newly established EIEC is mandated to coordinate the development of the *Environmental Information Management System*. This is a unified electronic system for environmental data, information and services. The system will ensure the access to environment information and data at different level of uses the MENRP of Georgia, including its legal entities of public law (NEA, National Forestry Agency, etc).

148. As the MENRP officials understand the value of open-access and open-learning policies and practices within the Governmental organizations, which provide the enabling environment for the successful development and implementation of data sharing system, the new Environmental Information Management System will ensure electronic application service for environmental permit and license seekers as well as it will provide electronic reporting service for those responsible to report to the Ministry under different thematic fields.

149. According to a newly prepared memorandum of understanding, that is expected to be signed by the end of the first quarter of 2015, between the MENRP and the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, the later is going to provide technical assistance in designing and setting up the needed system for the MENRP. However, due to financial and technical limitations, it was agreed that this process will be implemented in phases, and will start with the most critical aspects in relation to environmental monitoring. The EIEC team is working closely with the Ministry of Finance team to define the structure of the system, its modules/sections, priorities the development of different sections. The teams are also working on setting up a plan for implementation that is linked to funds availability and the urgency of data/information use. It is expected that the plan to be ready by the end of the first quarter of 2015.

150. The specific activities that will be carried out under Output 1.3 are:

**Activities:**

1.3.1 Undertake institutional mapping of existing stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, and analyze their respective roles and responsibilities, including legal mandates as well as institutional overlaps and/or gaps.

1.3.2 Identify key databases that need to be linked to the environmental information management system;

1.3.3 Prepare detailed data collection, sharing and reporting mechanism scheme, in line with the Rio Convention Reporting, to be adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection for an improved Rio Conventions reporting system;

1.3.4 Develop mechanisms for managing information flows from identified sources (government, multilateral, NGOs, indigenous organizations, academic, corporate and other) accessing data online, through a communication and training strategy.

1.3.5 Develop quality control/validation procedures and identify responsible scientific and institutional correspondents;



- 1.3.6 Support EIEC’s team in the development and building of the environmental information management system and submit for consideration by respective responsible state committee and Parliament;
- 1.3.7 Organize an official testing event followed by a demonstration session to stakeholders in order to build awareness; and
- 1.3.8 Create an outreach plan (communication plan) that includes selecting and accruing strategic partners, and defining the levels and types of contribution from each partner (i.e. funding or in kind support such as content creation).

**COMPONENT 2: ENHANCING CAPACITIES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING AND MANAGEMENT**

151. The improvement of individual capacities to use results of monitoring and data analysis and link these to decisions made in the development of strategic planning documents and policies will contribute to global environmental priorities and benefits. The linkage of data analysis to decision making will be strengthened on two main levels. First, the linkage of analysis to strategic planning documents will be facilitated through raising individual capacities and organization practices that apply the need to research and assessments to the constraints identified through the consultative processes of the Rio Conventions. Such linkages will be achieved through strengthening systematic interaction between the government authorities and key research institutions, as well as by advancing the government authority’s ability to manage global conventions guidelines. Secondly, the project will improve individual capacities on the regional and local level to establish management responses to trends and forecasts from the NEA and EIEC. Activities on this level will benefit from UNDP initiatives on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in Rioni river basin in w. Georgia and seek to replicate positive lessons on translating forecasts from the national authorities to actual responses.

152. This second component of the project focuses on strengthening the technical capacities of key stakeholder, technical staff, and decision-makers that directly and indirectly affect obligations under the Rio Conventions. Best practices and innovations from this component’s activities, along with those from Component 1, will form the basis of trainings activities related to environmental monitoring and reporting with particular focus on meeting global environment priorities.

**Outcome 2: Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis, and linkage to decision-making process**

153. The environmental legislation is seen as non-comprehensive and the Environment Framework Act is in draft form. Civil society does not have an organized mechanism by which to provide input into environmental issues, though they may in many cases be the stewards of environmental goods and services. Consultations for various projects occur on an ad-hoc basis without coordination, and there is a lack of clarity among roles, responsibilities and mandates within government. A sustainable financing plan is currently lacking for environmental governance, which limits enforcement in the long run. Under this outcome, the project will help in improving environmental governance to meet national and international commitments.

154. The NCSA of Georgia defined three major immediate causes for the problem of *underdeveloped system for data collection and information management* as follows; 1) lack of vision for the development of functioning monitoring systems, 2) poor capacity to coordinate data collection activities. The NCSA report indicated that various institutions may operate monitoring systems; but they are tailored to their own specific needs and are not consistent, harmonized, effectively shared with, or integrated into broader systems. Institutions decide themselves without any coordination with other agencies what information to collect, which is why duplication of activities frequently takes place, and 3) inability of institutions to collect and process information. This outcome will help the Government of Georgia to address the second and third immediate causes, while outcome number one will focus on addressing the first and third immediate causes.

155. This will be achieved through the following OUTPUTS:

**Output 2.1: Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed.**

**Output 2.2: Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved**

**Output 2.1: Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed**

156. National reporting is a key commitment for Parties on the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements. The aim of national reporting is to inform an improved implementation of the conventions in question. However, governments' officials feel that the reporting burden has significantly increase for the last few years and get more complicated, as each conventions provide guidance on content and format of its national reports. Therefore, developing the capacity of Government officials, Conventions' focal points and concerned stakeholders on how to monitor and report on Rio Conventions is a key to ensure proper reporting and the ability to meet the international commitments and obligations.

157. The NCSA of Georgia has identified several constraints and capacity gaps to meet the international obligations, among these; i) the limited capacity of the Georgian Government to meet its obligations, this limited capacity results in uninformed constituency, and ii) the poor knowledge of existing problems and their extent by the decision makers which in turn results in poor planning practices.

158. This output focuses on identifying areas where capacity to monitor and report on Rio Conventions can be further developed at the national level. Under this output, the project will work on strengthening individual and technical capacities through training workshops and the development of a training programme on methodologies and skills to monitor, analyze, and report on global environmental conventions, with focus on the Rio Conventions.

159. In the working processes of Global Conventions COPs, High Level Segments and Expert Meetings countries like Georgia are represented usually by one representative (mostly by focal points, as financial support for the Conventions are provided mostly for one person). Taking into account a variety of topics and parallel sessions during the important meetings, it is important that the capacities for participation are at the highest level, both technically and professionally. The strategic preparation prior to the meetings, identification of topical issues important for Georgia as a part of these conventions, detailed briefings and de-briefings of other issues from other ministries which are related to the topics of concern at the respective COP -these aspects will be analyzed during detailed assessment of capacities and specific training will be developed and systemic reporting procedures will be reviewed and put into place. This will ensure that the country is able to uphold its commitments to the best of its available financial and human resources. Output of this particular activity will be strengthened capacity of relevant staff of the MENRP in international negotiations and decision-making, which is essential for enforcement of international obligations at the national level.

160. The specific activities that will be carried out under Output 2.1 are:

**Activities:**

- 2.1.1 Undertake in-depth capacity needs assessment among officers in charge, respective committee members and convention focal points on the Rio Conventions reporting and monitoring in Georgia;
- 2.1.2 Develop a capacity development plan based on the assessment, and present to relevant authorities for validation through peer review of experts and stakeholders;
- 2.1.3 Design a targeted capacity development programs and modules to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders. The capacity development program will be carried out within the structure of the national, regional and local environmental data collection, processing and delivery in the context of the Rio Convention;
- 2.1.4 Provide the proposed capacity development plan and document the capacity development progress through the capacity scorecards and events' evaluation; and
- 2.1.5 Organize cross-cutting awareness raising meetings with stakeholders on the importance of integrating environmental management into planning and monitoring processes.

**Output 2.2: Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved**

161. Poor capacity to coordinate data collection activities was identified as a weakness in the NCSA of Georgia. In order to address some of the issues related to data collection and management, which have remained, it is necessary to capture more information on the status of current data gathering, analysis and management in

Georgia. For that reason and under component 1 of this project, the investments from GEF financing will make possible a study on the flow of environmental data; structures and processes, and on reporting related specifically to the Rio Conventions in Georgia. Following such a study, activities under this output will also include the development and agreement of a roadmap for improved environmental governance in collaboration with government and civil society partnerships.

162. Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers is lacking in Georgia. The MENRP has recently established a *Commission for Biodiversity* to oversee the implementation of the Second-NBSAP. The mandate and structure of the commission as well as the national legislation to establish the commission are still under development, yet, it is expected that the first meeting of the commission will take place in November. While Biodiversity related work will be monitored by the newly established committee, work under the land degradations area will remain monitored only by the focal points and the responsible departments without a proper in place mechanisms at the national level to monitor and follow up on the implementation and decision making process pertaining to the UNCCD.

163. Therefore, a national mechanism for cooperation can facilitate collaboration between ministries of Environment and Natural Resources Protections, Agriculture, Energy, Regional Development and Infrastructure, Economy and Sustainable Development (and any other environmental institutions), and other agencies and bodies working on the issue who may not regularly exchange information and implement activities jointly. Representatives of national civil society organization or non-governmental organization working on environmental projects and services should also participate in the national-level coordination. An inter-ministerial coordination is essential to ensure a clear division of roles and responsibilities and identify areas of collaboration in the implementation of national strategies and plans pertaining to Rio Conventions implementation.

164. An example of the needed national mechanism to enhance the inter-ministerial cooperation is the establishment of an inter-ministerial/multi-sectoral committee(s) which meet(s) regularly can contribute to: developing a clear national, regional and local level environmental monitoring process; ensuring that all stakeholders at local and national levels understand the different forms of international environmental commitments; their responsibilities in addressing environmental issues; and how to work with others to achieve the global environmental benefits; identifying clear roles and responsibilities for relevant ministries; coordinating with international actors and partners in a better way; and improving government-civil society collaboration.

165. A national committee to monitor the implementation of the UNCCD should be established under this output. This output will also strengthen the existed UNCBD committee and further develop and expand the Low Emissions Development Strategy to include other duties related to the UNFCCC.

166. The specific activities that will be carried out under Output 2.1 are:

**Activities:**

- 2.2.1 Conduct a comprehensive assessment within concerned stakeholders (decision-makers) and institutions on their roles pertaining to the implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- 2.2.2 Conduct an institutional analysis of the challenges and barriers for inter-ministerial cooperation in relation to managing environmental data and monitoring of Rio Conventions implementation and reporting.
- 2.2.3 Propose and recommend appropriate inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms, and define the structure, mandate, and governance structure of the proposed mechanisms to make informed decisions on the global environmental conventions.
- 2.2.4 Organize and convene stakeholder dialogues to present the proposed mechanisms and to exchange experiences on strengthening available practice for monitoring and reporting on the Rio Conventions.
- 2.2.5 Develop the selected inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms in close cooperation with all stakeholders.

### 3.3 Sustainability and Replicability

#### 3.3.1 Sustainability and Innovativeness

167. Sustainability of the project's impacts will be promoted in a number of ways:

- *Environmental Sustainability* will be promoted through the multi-level capacity approach whereby not only the system-level but also organizational and individual level capacities will be developed and systematized in order to see that they continue beyond the project lifetime. Direct involvement of state authorities and the EIEC will facilitate the development of a system which is economically viable for upkeep and training elements will be integrated in the key institutions of the MENRP, and EIEC to provide the potential for scaling up. All levels of government are responsible for taking on the challenges of global environment to increase the use of the coordinated mechanism to make more informed decisions. As a result of the project, coordination mechanism for collecting data from the relevant sectors and authorities will be established, which will be sustainable and innovative in the context of Georgia.
- *Social sustainability* will be promoted through maximizing local participation in the development and application of the needed systems, through strengthening the capacities of stakeholders, and through the establishment of the inter-ministerial and national UNCCD Committee as well as their empowerment through access to open source and transparent information for UNCBD and UNFCCC.
- *Institutional sustainability* will be ensured through strengthening the capacities of existing institutions such as the EIEC and the MENRP, but also through the multi-stakeholder approach proposed by the project which will introduce stronger ownership and endorsement of the project's intervention. The training, communication and dissemination conducted will utilize modern, cost-effective methodologies and instruments.
- Another feature of the project's sustainability is the *inter-ministerial committee and the Rio Conventions committees* that will serve as a clearinghouse on up-to-date information about Georgia's national environmental information and monitoring as well as implementation of the Rio Conventions. These committees will be complemented by a communication strategy targeted to diverse audiences on the most important issues of the conventions.

168. Finally, the project proposed implementation arrangement is one of its strategies for sustainability. The direct implementation of the project by the government will also build their capacities for the long-term implementation of appropriate project activities, and indeed will contribute to their institutionalization.

169. The project's innovativeness lies in introducing locally adopted environmental data management and environmental monitoring systems, utilizing the best international practices, for the integration of data in the local and global environmental management systems, based on the country's traditional knowledge and experiences. The project will carry out activities that build the needed capacities for harmonizing information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia, while producing global environmental benefits; this include a wide variety of activities such as drafting the needed legal framework for information management, establishing the data collection system as well as data morning and reporting system, and building the needed capacity.

170. The project's strategy of establishing two information management and synchronized data entry and management systems within the newly established Environmental Information and Education Centre of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, is an innovative approach that can be applied to other field where other governance systems or decentralization processes create tensions over sovereignty and the rights or needs of information sharing. Many lessons in this regards will be drawn from the project that can be utilized for improved implementation in other fields.

#### 3.3.2 Replicability and Lessons Learned

171. The project will generate practices for replication at various levels and through various mechanisms:

172. It is the assumption of the project that the investments made for knowledge generation and harmonization will create an appetite with stakeholders for greater consolidated data sets in the long run. Trainings in the data and knowledge management systems will establish a new threshold of skills, while disseminating this data will create new demand by end-users and stakeholders.

173. In general, the project’s components could be replicated to support other focal areas within the environmental sectors or any other developmental areas. For examples, similar systems could be put in place for the water or energy sectors in order to: 1) build the capacity of all stakeholders to effectively collect, analyze and share data and information pertaining to the targeted sector, 2) develop a system for data collection, analysis and sharing as well as for monitoring and reporting activities. Similar, enhancing inter-ministerial cooperation and building the needed capacity and national coordination mechanisms to foster gaps in inter and intra agencies collaboration can be also replicated by other projects if proved successful.

174. The replication of project activities is further strengthened by the project implementation arrangements, which will involve numerous stakeholder representatives. This includes working with international, regional and local NGOs that have a strong presence in the communities and/or are actively supporting related capacity development work. Many such organizations operate in Georgia, for example, raising awareness of existing legislation to protect endangered species, manage forest, and implement sustainable land management practices. Research and academic institutions also play an important role in identifying new and innovative interpretations and policy responses to improve environmental management.

175. Replication will also be supported by raising awareness of the project throughout Georgia. This project will facilitate this through awareness-raising workshops with key stakeholders from the local and regional government, academia, and civil society.

### 3.3.3 Risks and Assumptions

176. A major assumption in this project is that institutional change and targeted capacity building will increase the level of progress in environmental management. It is also assumed that national and global objectives are operationally compatible with the implementation of this project.

177. At the national level, one of the assumption that government, NGOs, private sector and academia will collaborate effectively within a joint framework with the desire to fulfill global environmental conventions commitments, once effective coordination mechanisms are established.

178. The main risks to the project lie in the poor coordination and shortage of technical capacity. As a result of the lack of information management, there is no tracking by the government of the previous national reports. Inter-ministerial coordination is not unified, and existing databases are often managed as personal information systems, with information to be shared on the basis of payment, even though these are government systems.

Table (6) below presents the main risks, their categories, level of impact and the proposed risks mitigation measures:

**TABLE 6: PROJECT'S RISKS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES**

<b>Risk/External Factor</b>	<b>Risk Category</b>	<b>Level of Impact</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation Measures</b>
Insurance of long-term sustainability (financial and technical) of the established monitoring system	Financial, Operational	Moderate	Cross-sectoral consultations among ministries, with engagement of key researchers and scientists to ensure the development of a streamlined monitoring system that meets the needs of the Government to fulfill its commitments under the Rio Conventions. The integration of existing data collection systems will maximize the rational use of financial and technical resources. Broad stakeholder involvement will secure ownership of monitoring systems at different levels (researchers, government agencies, civil society) to establish long-term commitment. Moreover, the scientific inputs will be calibrated to incorporate projections of longer-term data and information needs in order to ensure technical relevance of the monitoring system in the years to come.

Sectoral agencies show lack of cooperation and initiative	Organizational, political, regulatory	Moderate	Working groups and consultations conducted within the project will be conducted to strengthen the understanding of the socio-economic and other benefits to be gained from policy and environmental data harmonization.
Possible difficulties to technically harmonize existing information systems and align them to the requirements of Rio Conventions.	Operational, political	Moderate	Ensure the synthesis of appropriate technical expertise throughout project implementation- database experts, statisticians, programmers, environmental indicator experts, etc. The first step will be a comprehensive identification of these experts and their capacities (and technologies, methodologies currently in use), based upon this inventory, maintain high ownership of project results through their involvement at critical stages

### 3.4 Stakeholder Involvement

179. As a medium-size GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development intervention, this project is specifically targeted and structured to build and enhance institutional and technical capacities of stakeholder organizations. The preparatory phase of the project places a strong emphasis on stakeholder participation, because most of the stakeholders will benefit directly from this project. Discussions in the consultations also reiterated the need for active stakeholder involvement. In particular, discussions highlighted the need for including non-governmental stakeholders from the very beginning of the project, rather than having add-on consultations near the end of the process.

1. This project was developed on the basis of consultations with a number of stakeholder representatives, beginning with the preparation of the project concept through the Project Identification Form (PIF). Subsequent to the approval of the PIF and provision of a project preparation grant (PPG), further consultations were undertaken with key stakeholder representatives to develop the project documents in October and November 2014. The draft project document was also presented and shared with stakeholders for review and comments. The Project components have been widely discussed during the participatory process implemented during the project preparation phase. The consulted stakeholders and project partners are provided in Annex 5.

180. The main focus of the project will be on the main government institutions involved in environmental monitoring and reporting – the MENRP and its subordinate; EIEC, NEA, Agency of Protected Areas, National Forestry Agency; however to strengthen the socio-economic value of monitoring and to strengthen linkages to other sectors, representatives from other relevant government institutions, such as Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure and their subordinate agencies with special focus on female will be included in working groups, to facilitate the improvements to the environmental data management system.

181. In addition to these government stakeholders, there are non-governmental stakeholders from research and academic institutions involved as it will be crucial to ensure quality assurance of data analysis, processing and monitoring systems and thus will be consulted and invited to share their comparative expertise, but also to undertake selected project's activities.

182. The project will benefit the concerned staff at the MENRP which will include the upper management of the MENRP, the Biodiversity Division, the Climate Change Division, the Sustainable Land Management Division, the EIEC and the NEA, special attention will be given to female participants to ensure their full participation in the capacity development components. This project will be crucial in providing support to the newly formulated division which was created within the MENRP on land degradation and land management issues. This division will be the focus for further reporting to the UNCCD and thus the capacity building of its staff members is of utmost importance. Similarly, the project will provide great support to the newly established Environmental Education and Information Centre as the national agency responsible for collecting and analyzing environmental management and monitoring data.

183. Important socio-economic benefits are expected to be delivered through this project. In particular, this project is focused heavily on engaging effectively with civil society and academic sectors. The project will foster a strengthened civil society sector, which will in the long-term lead to a sharpening of skills on environmental management of the sector.

184. The project would also create employment opportunities at various levels (national and local) for people involved in creation and implementation of the two data management systems. The project would also help reduce brain-drain that is caused by under-employment in Georgia, creating an opportunity for trained nationals to use their recently acquired skills in information technology and natural resource management.

185. The gender dimension may be addressed through this ancillary project benefit. Notwithstanding, the project will endeavor to ensure a gender balance in the various trainings. In addition to high level of migration, unemployment, and poverty, the deeply rooted stereotypes that favor men over women is a common problem affecting the status and condition of many women in Georgia. One of the greatest challenges to formulating an effective gender policy in Georgia has been the lack of reliable information, data and statistics. While there seems to be an improvement in quantitative data collection that provide gender breakdowns, in general, national statistics are still not gender-specific, and gender analyses are either lacking or very weak in policies and plans developed by the different government and non-government players, as a result of which it is difficult to track gender equality in the different sectors. National Statistics Office has also disclosed that there is virtually no gender-disaggregated environmental data.

186. Low representation of women in decision-making positions is directly connected with the severity of the problem of gender inequality in the country. In 1994, a dialogue and work on the resolution of this problem started, as a result of which Georgia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

187. Poverty weighs heavily on rural women in Georgia. They bear a large share of farm work, cultivating crops and tending livestock. Traditionally they contribute to household income by processing agricultural and dairy products. Breakdowns in social services and the unreliable nature of public utilities make women's burden even heavier. As male family members migrate in search of work, the number of households headed by women is increasing. In certain districts, such as Mtskheta-Mtianeti in the central part of the country and Kakheti in the south-east, women are four times as likely to be poor than elsewhere.

188. This project will target the inclusion and participation of women in the following ways:

189. Output 1.1: Improved ability of institutions and stakeholders to monitor and report on the implementation of the Rio Conventions. Gender-disaggregated indicators and data are sorely missing relative to natural resource and environmental management. As the data management system is developed, gender information will be incorporated as an important piece of this knowledge system so as to improve generation of the needed national reports and national communications to Rio Conventions, and availability of gender indicators across the country. Project partners will be asked to ensure that a mechanism to input and collect gender data is part of the eventual structure of the data base. This Output is being led by MENRP which has the experience of collecting data, and which has noted the shortage of environmental data and can steer cross-sectoral partners in focusing on this area.

190. Output 1.2 A clear legal framework is developed to facilitate data sharing, analyzing and collection. It is important for environmental policy and legislation to include gender. Floods and other climate-induced natural disasters affect women's role and livelihoods primarily through their impacts on agricultural production and water safety. The project will promote the inclusion of gender considerations in environmental legislation and the participation of women in the information management.

191. Output 1.3. Existence of national system to collect, access, manages and analyzes information for better environmental planning and processes. As the data management system is developed, gender information will be incorporated as an important piece of this knowledge system so as to improve generation, collection, analysis, sharing across sectors, and availability of gender indicators across the country.

192. Output 2.1 Developed capacity of government and other stakeholders to monitor and report on the Rio Conventions. As the main activity under this output is to develop and deliver a training program aimed for government, civil society, and academia on working effectively on the implementation of the Rio Conventions, the project will ensure that women are particularly addressed. As mentioned above, women are disproportionately impacted by degradation of the natural environment and as such, the trainings will include gender considerations so as to ensure those women's views and participation is included. The trainings will support government, civil society and academia in working effectively with women, taking stock of their gendered issues vis-a-vis the environment.

193. Output 2.2 achieved an inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers. As the main activity under this output is to develop a national cooperation mechanism and the needed governance structure, mandate, aim, and objectives of the national mechanisms to enhance the inter-ministerial cooperation, the project will ensure that women are particularly engaged. The project will make sure to include women representatives in the proposed inter-ministerial committee as well as on the national committees to monitor and supervise the implementation of the three Rio Conventions.

194. The following table (7) provides a description of the key stakeholders and will be updated and improved during the project implementation.

**TABLE 7: A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

Stakeholder	Relevant Roles
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection	Responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, including those protected areas, forest, watershed areas and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources utilization  The MENRP will be the project responsible party
Ministry of Agriculture	Responsible for revitalizing agriculture, animal, and responsible for sector policies on agricultural biodiversity and natural resource management  Will provide the needed environmental data. Participate in the working groups and project's committee
Ministry of Finance of Georgia	An important implementing partner and responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designing and building the environmental data collection and management systems for the EIEC</li> <li>- Training EIEC's concerned team on the use of the systems</li> <li>- Performing a periodically maintenance as needed</li> </ul>
Environmental Information and Education and Centre	One of the main beneficiaries and a key partner. Will be hosting the systems and providing all the human resources needed to ensure the success of the project
National Environment Agency	One of the main beneficiaries and a key partner. It will coordinate with EIEC on the establishment of the two information systems within MENRP and provide the needed logistical support.
Information and Analysis Units at different ministries (To be identified)	Main beneficiaries and key partners to ensure proper data is collected and shared. Within all concerned stakeholders, a unit or a division for data collection, or analysis or management is there. The project needs to work with all of them, based on the results of the institutional assessment, and help them improving their data collection, analysis and sharing with the EIEC.
NGOs and academic sectors	Representatives of the two sectors will be involved in the project's implementation as part of the project's committee, national UNFCCC and/or UNCCD committees

### 3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

195. Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established UNDP and GEF rules and procedures. The UNDP Country Office (UNDP/CO) in close collaboration with the MENRP will undertake monitoring and evaluation activities, including by independent evaluators in the case of the mid-term review and final evaluation. The logical framework matrix table 8 below provides a logical structure for monitoring project performance and delivery using SMART indicators during project implementation. Annex 6 provides a breakdown of the total GEF budget by outcome, project management costs, and allocated disbursements on a per year basis.



196. The following sections outline the principle components of monitoring and evaluation. The project's monitoring and evaluation approach will be discussed during the project's inception phase so as to fine-tune indicators and means of verification, as well as an explanation and full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities. The monitoring and evaluation plan is brought in the Table 9.

## **1. Monitoring and Reporting:**

197. The Project strategy and objectives, intended outcomes and outputs, implementation structure, work plans and emerging issues will be regularly reviewed and evaluated annually by the Project Board. Periodic Status Reports will be prepared at the request of the Board for presentation at key meetings associated with the project.

### **1.1 Project Inception Phase**

198. A project inception workshop (IW) will be conducted within the first 2 months of project start with the full UNDP project team, relevant government counterparts, co-financing partners with representation from the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit as appropriate. Non-governmental stakeholders should be represented at this workshop.

199. The IW is crucial to building ownership for the project results and to plan the first year annual work plan. Specifically, the project inception workshop should address a number of key issues including:

- a) Introduce stakeholders to the UNDP/CO and project staff;
- b) Detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of UNDP/CO with respect to the project team;
- c) Provide a detailed overview of UNDP/GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the combined Annual Project Reports - Project Implementation Reviews (APR/PIRs), Project Board meetings, as well as final evaluation. The inception workshop will also provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNDP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews, and mandatory budget re-phasing.

200. A fundamental objective of this inception workshop will be to further instill and understanding and ownership of the project's goals and objectives among the project team, government and other stakeholder groups. The workshop also serves to finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project's log-frame matrix. This will include reviewing the log frame (indicators, means of verification, assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalize the Annual Work Plan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance (process and output) indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project.

201. The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for the project staff and associated decision-making structures will be discussed again as needed in order to clarify for all, each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase.

202. The IW will present a schedule of M&E-related meetings and reports. The Project Manager in consultation with UNDP will develop this schedule, and will include: (i) tentative time frames for Project Board meetings, and the timing of near-term project activities, such as the in-depth review of literature on natural resource valuation; and (ii) project-related monitoring and evaluation activities. The provisional work plan will be approved in the first meeting of the Project Board.

203. A project Inception Report will be prepared immediately following the inception workshop. This report will include a detailed First Year Work Plan divided in quarterly time-frames as well as detailed activities and performance indicators that will guide project implementation (over the course of the first year). This Work Plan will include the proposed dates for any visits and/or support missions from the UNDP/CO, the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit, or consultants, as well as time-frames for meetings of the project decision-making structures (e.g., Project Board). The report will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the Annual Work Plan, and including any monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months' time-frame. It will also

include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms of project related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation, including any unforeseen or newly arisen constraints. When finalized, the report will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in that to respond with comments or queries.

**TABLE 8: PROJECT LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX**

<b>This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPAP or CPD:</b> Disaster risks are identified, assessed and monitored and early warnings enhanced					
<b>Country Programme Outcome Indicators:</b> Enabling environment and status of implementation of national and international environmental commitments					
<b>Primary applicable Key Environment and Sustainable Development Key Result Area (same as that on the cover page, circle one):</b> Mainstreaming environment and energy					
<b>Applicable GEF Strategic Objective and Program:</b> Strategic Objective 2: Generating, accessing and using information and knowledge, and Strategic objective 5: enhancing capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.					
<b>Applicable GEF Expected Outcomes:</b> 2.1 Institutions and stakeholders have skills and knowledge to research, acquire and apply information collective actions, 2.2 Increased capacity of stakeholders to diagnose, understand and transform complex dynamic nature of global environmental problems and develop local solutions, 2.3 Public awareness raised and information management improved, 5.1 Enhanced skills of national institutions to monitor environmental changes, 5.2 Monitoring and reporting capacities strengthened and improved, and 5.3Increased capacity for evaluation					
<b>Applicable GEF Outcome Indicators:</b> 1. Institutions and stakeholders trained how to use different tools available to manage information. 2. Stakeholders are better informed via workshops and trainings about global challenges and local actions required. 3. Public awareness raised through workshops and other activities. 1. Capacities for monitoring of projects and programs developed 2. Learning and knowledge management platform established to share lessons					
NO.	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS			SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS
	INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET VALUE AND DATE		
<b>LONG-TERM GOAL:</b> To make the best practices and innovative approaches for meeting and sustaining the Rio Conventions are available and accessible for implementing through national development policies and programmes					
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES:</b> To develop individual and organizational capacities in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, and the Environmental Information and Education Centre for improved monitoring of environmental impacts and trends for elaboration of collaborative environmental management					
<b>OUTCOME 1: CAPACITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ARE BETTER ENABLED</b>					
	Strengthened environmental information management and decisions support system for improved implementation and monitoring of the Rio Conventions.	The majority of the environmental data are available separately but not accessible to end-users in a comprehensive way.	A unified system for monitoring the implementation of Rio Conventions and reporting on them is established by the end of the second year of the project	The new system is designed, established, up and running.  Rio Convention national reports and communications  Working Group meetings reports	The right representation from the various government ministries, departments, and agencies participate in project activities  Cooperation from different agencies to share data with the EIEC.

	Development of a legislative and institutional framework for environmental management at national level	There is a newly issued legislative and institutional framework for environmental data management and sharing at the national level	There is a minimum of 50% increase in acceptance by government representatives and other stakeholder representatives of the legitimacy of the new information management system at EIEC by the end of the 2 year of the project  Managers will document references to environmental legislation show an improvement in institutional responses to monitoring and enforcing environmental legislation for the Rio Conventions	A legal framework for the newly established environmental data management systems  UNDP quarterly progress reports	The project will be executed in a transparent, holistic, adaptive, and collaborative manner.  The legal framework will be approved by the Parliament
	Existence of an agreed environmental information collection, analysis and sharing system for improved implementation of the Rio Conventions	There are several systems for environmental data collection, analysis and sharing pertaining, but are not all unified and data are not easily accessible	A unified system for data collection, analysis and sharing established at EIEC by the end of the 2 year of the project.  Sectoral environmental data is accessible to end users in a comprehensive and policy-relevant way by the end of the project.	Management information system is established and running  Public has access to environmental data	Decision-makers are resistant to adopt new attitudes towards the global environment  Institutions and individuals willingness to cooperate
<b>OUTPUT 1.1 : SYSTEM OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS IN KEY MINISTRIES (ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION, ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURE, ETC) AND THE EIEC TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING IN IMPLEMENTING RIO CONVENTIONS IMPROVED</b>					
	Mapping of relevant national stakeholders	Key partner agencies have no obligation to report to each other as well as to share data and information	Mapping exercise drafted by month 6.	Mapping Report Progress Report. Minutes of meeting	Stakeholders are fully involved in the mapping exercise
	Draft design of the system of information exchange among different stakeholders.	No clear unified mechanisms for data sharing among stakeholders	Draft design of the system ready by month 12.	Draft design	The information System designed by the project is technically, and financially feasible and sustainable
	Stakeholder consultations and validation workshop	Main stakeholders are well known, yet no clear roles and responsibilities are defined pertaining to data	Draft design is peer reviewed by at least 20 national experts by month 14.	Consultation notes. Peer reviewers' consent forms and design	Expert peer reviewers follow through with quality reviews

		collection, analysis and sharing	At least 40 representatives from key stakeholder are consulted on the draft design of the system, with validation workshop held by month 12.	Validation workshop list of attendees	
	Approval of the design of the system of information exchange	No clear unified mechanisms for data sharing among stakeholders	Final design is nationally approved and endorsed by month 16. Mapping exercise and System's design submitted for approval by responsible authorities by month 16.	Official letter of endorsement	National stakeholders are fully committed to provide the needed support to design the new system of information exchange and approve the design
	System of information exchange	No unified system for data collection and sharing	Proposed system is built and operational by month 24.	Final design and mapping exercise report. A database is readily accessible to the public.	Internet-based access to the database is inferred Information is routinely updated as it comes available
<b>OUTPUT 1.2: CLEAR LEGAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE MONITORING IN IMPLEMENTING RIO CONVENTIONS</b>					
	Analysis of environmental legislation and compliance from Rio Conventions perspective	Georgia has several laws and bylaws related to environmental protection, but does not effectively cover the collection, analysis and sharing of environmental data or specific Rio Conventions' obligations into unified legislation.	In-depth analyses of Rio Conventions and environmental governance (BD, CC, and CD) completed by month 12, endorsed by MENRP by month 14.	Analysis study. Recommendations report. Peer review notes. Institutional revision.	Analyses are deemed legitimate, relevant, and valid among all key stakeholder representatives and project champions
	A clear legal framework of Rio Conventions monitoring and implementation	There are no specific stakeholder consultations, targeted to cross-cutting objectives of the Rio Conventions	Legal framework completed by month 10. Framework is approved by at least 5 independent peer reviewers	Draft Legal framework Tracking and progress reports	Government's representatives interest in attending to the workshops and providing inputs on the newly drafted legal framework.
	Distribution of new legal frame work pertaining to environmental data collection, analysis and sharing	relevant agencies responsible for implementing the Rio Conventions have no	A new legal framework is developed and nationally approved	Policy recommendations. Legal framework.	The acceptance and enforcement of the new legal framework

		obligation to monitor and report on Rio Conventions implementation			
<b>OUTPUT 1.3: DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPED AT THE EIEC WITH OPTIMAL LINKAGES TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>					
	Draft design of a system of data collection, analysis and monitoring at the EIEC and linked to local authorities	Key partner agencies have different ways for data collection, analysis and monitoring.	Draft design of the system ready by month 12.	Work plans/timetables independently verified. New system's design.	Adequate resourcing of the internet host by the sponsoring agency
	Stakeholder consultations and validation workshop for the design and governance structure of the System	Main stakeholders are well known, yet no clear roles and responsibilities are defined pertaining to data collection, analysis and sharing	Draft design is peer reviewed by at least 20 national experts by month 13.  At least 40 females and males representatives from key stakeholder constituencies are consulted on the draft design of the system, with validation workshop held by month 13.	Minutes of meeting. Peer reviewers' consent forms and design. Draft design. Consultation notes. Validation workshop list of attendees.	Stakeholders review follow through with quality reviews
	Approved design of the new system of data collection and management	No clear unified mechanisms for data sharing among stakeholders	Final design is nationally approved and endorsed month 15	Official letter of endorsement	Stakeholders interest and full participation
	Established system of information collection and monitoring	Stakeholders have no obligation to share data or report on data gathered.	System's design submitted for approval by responsible authorities by month 16.  Proposed system is built and operational by month 24	Final design report	The newly designed system by the project is politically, and operationally sustainable.
<b>OUTCOME 2: TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT STAFF SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED IN MONITORING AND DATA ANALYSIS, AND LINKAGE TO DECISION-MAKING PROCESS</b>					
	Strengthened institutional and technical capacities to create knowledge and monitor the implementation of Rio Conventions	Institutional capacities for managing the Rio Conventions are piecemeal and takes place through Rio Convention-specific projects	Annual dialogues held by quarters 4,6,8,12  Capacities of at least 4 institutions and 100 females and males are enhanced by the end of month 33.	GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Scorecard.  There is a minimum of 20% increase in the understanding of the Rio Conventions among government staff	Government staff and non-governmental stakeholder representatives are actively engaged in the project

	Enhanced inter-ministerial cooperation on the implementation of Rio Conventions	There is little inter-ministerial/agencies coordination on the implementation of Rio Conventions.	# Of training workshops per year, for technical staff, decision-makers and key stakeholders.	Inter-Ministerial committee decisions  The 3 national committees (UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCBD) decisions and minutes of meetings	Policy and institutional reforms and modifications recommended by the project are politically, technically and financially feasible and approved by the Inter-Ministerial Committee
<b>OUTPUT 2.1: CONVENTION MONITORING AND REPORTING CAPACITIES DEVELOPED</b>					
	Capacity assessment conducted for concerned technical and management staff.	Capacity to report and monitor Rio Conventions implementation is limited.	Training needs assessment is conducted by month 10	Capacity assessment report. Capacity needs development strategy	Expert peer reviewers follow through with quality reviews
	Targeted training programme for data collection, processing and delivery from Rio Conventions lens	Capacity to deal with environmental data is limited	Capacity development plan is drafted and shared with all responsible decision makers by month 14. Capacity development programme is designed and approved by month 16.	Capacity development plan  Capacity development training materials	
	Training and workshops for staff and key stakeholders on monitoring and measuring	Existing environmental data are not managed in a proper way to allow easy and smooth reports and fragmented manner with little awareness of Rio Convention obligations	Capacity development programme implemented by month 26 and involved at least 20 agencies in each. Capacity development programmes rated as high quality by participants at the end of each training programme. At least 100 female and males participated in the capacity development programmes	Participants feedback and training programmes evaluations Training workshops and study tours materials and resources	Stakeholders interest in participating in capacity building programmes
<b>OUTPUT 2.2: INTER-MINISTERIAL COOPERATION FOR COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING AMONG POLICY MAKERS ACHIEVED</b>					
	Institutional analysis of challenges and best practices for inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among	Government does not track previous national reports. No existence mechanism for data sharing and monitoring.	Organization analysis completed by month 6. Proposed cooperation mechanisms are developed by month 8.	Baseline survey's results	Institutions and workings groups are open to proposed coordination agreements and there is no active institutional

	policy makers				resistance
	Analysis and recommendations for strengthening of inter-ministerial cooperation.	Institutional structures are in need of clearly defined mandates and operational plans. There is little data or information sharing between government agencies and ministries. Data are kept internally and public have no or limited access when needed.	Mechanisms are discussed, approved by stakeholders by month 10. Mechanisms are established and fully operational by month 14.	Inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms are established and in place- minutes of meetings, agenda, and programmes.	Survey results will show an increased awareness and understanding of the Rio Conventions' implementation over time. Agreement to cooperate on modifying existing mandates and authorities on legislative oversight is realistic.
	Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) to collaborate and share data and information among key stakeholder institutions.	Limited data and information sharing relevant to the Rio Conventions exists.	Memoranda of Agreement signed by key stakeholder institutions by month 18	Memoranda of Agreement. Minutes of meetings.	Enabling policy and legislation in place to support the signing of any MOA.
	Frequency of Inter-ministerial committee and the 3 Rio Conventions Committees meetings.	Absence of a national mechanism to govern the work related to UNCCD. Weak and unclear structure of the existed national committee responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the UNCBD and UNFCCC. No inter-ministerial/agency committee to supervise and coordinate the work on the Rio Conventions at the national level	Three (3) Rio Conventions technical committees (CBD, CCD, and FCC) are created by month 6 with a membership of expert stakeholder representation of at least 12 different stakeholders (government, NGOs, academia, private sector, and civil society). Rio Conventions committees meet at least three (3) times per year. Rio Conventions Committees submit policy and technical recommendations to relevant ministries and agencies twice (2) a year, the first by month 9.	Technical and progress reports. Meeting minutes. Committees' mandates, governance structures, roles and responsibilities	Stakeholders interest in attending and participating in meetings.
	Policy and technical recommendations submitted by the Inter-ministerial committee	Monitoring reports are internal documents that have unclear value to planners and decision-	Recommendations for institutional revisions by month 20.	Policy and technical recommendations	Stakeholders interest in attending and participating in committees.



		makers			
--	--	--------	--	--	--



**TABLE 9: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

<b>Type of M&amp;E activity</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Budget US\$ Excluding project team staff time</b>	<b>Time frame</b>
Inception Workshop and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project Manager</li> <li>▪ UNDP/CO, UNDPGEF</li> <li>▪ International Technical Support/Safeguards Expert</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: 10,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of Means of Verification of project results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDPGEF /Project Manager will oversee the hiring of specific studies and institutions, and delegate responsibilities to relevant team members.</li> </ul>	None	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Progress on output and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Oversight by Project Manager</li> <li>▪ Project team</li> </ul>	None	Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
ARR/PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ UNDPGEF</li> </ul>	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> </ul>	None	Quarterly
Mid-term Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP/GEF</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e., evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: 9,000	At the mid-point of project implementation. Not mandatory for MSPs but may be undertaken if deemed necessary.
Final Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team,</li> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP/GEF</li> <li>▪ External Consultants (i.e., evaluation team)</li> </ul>	Indicative cost: 12,000	Six to three months before the end of project implementation
Project Terminal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ local consultant</li> <li>▪ International Technical Support/Safeguards Expert</li> </ul>	Staff time	At least three months before the end of the project
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ Project manager and team</li> </ul>	Indicative cost per year: 3,000	Yearly
Visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNDP/CO</li> <li>▪ UNDP/RCU (as appropriate)</li> <li>▪ Government representatives</li> </ul>	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly

<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b> Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses	US\$ 40,000	
--	-------------	--

### **1.2 Within the annual cycle on a Quarterly basis:**

204. Progress made shall be monitored in the UNDP New Enhanced Results Based Management Platform.

205. Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in ATLAS. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for UNDP GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of ESCOs are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).

206. Based on the information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) can be generated in the Executive Snapshot. Other ATLAS logs can be used to monitor issues, lessons learned etc... The use of these functions is a key indicator in the UNDP Executive Balanced Scorecard.

207. Quarterly Progress Reports (QPR) are short reports outlining the main updates in project performance, and are to be provided quarterly to the UNDP Country Office. UNDP/CO will provide guidelines for the preparation of these reports, which will be shared with the UNDP/GEF. The QPR should contain the following:

- **Quality assessment:** on a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below that should be prepared by the project team.
- **Issue Mitigation Log:** an Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the project team to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- **Risk Mitigation Report:** based on the initial risk analysis submitted, a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- **Lessons-Learned Report:** A project lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the Programme
- **Monitoring Schedule Plan:** A Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events.

208. Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Project Manager based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Manager will inform the UNDP/CO of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion.

### **1.3 Annually:**

209. Annual Monitoring will occur through the Annual Project Board meeting. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Project Board meetings at least twice per year. The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve months following the inception workshop. For each year-end meeting of the Project Board, the Project Manager will prepare harmonized Annual Project Report / Project Implementation Reviews

(APR/PIR) and submit it to UNDP/CO, the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordination Unit, and all Project Board members at least two weeks prior to the meeting for review and comments.

210. The Annual Project Report/Project Implementation Review (APR/PIR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start and in particular for the previous reporting period (30 June to 1 July). The APR/PIR combines both UNDP and GEF reporting requirements. A standard format/template for the APR/PIR is provided by UNDP/GEF. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes - each with indicators, baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- AWP and other expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- ATLAS QPR
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

211. UNDP will analyze the individual APR/PIRs by focal area, theme and region for common issues/results and lessons. The APR/PIRs are also valuable for the independent evaluators who can utilize them to identify any changes in the project's structure, indicators, work plan, among others, and view a past history of delivery and assessment.

212. The Project Manager will present the APR/PIR to the Project Board members, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the Committee participants. The Project Manager will also inform the participants of any agreement(s) reached by stakeholders during the APR/PIR preparation, on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project output may also be conducted, as necessary. Details regarding the requirements and conduct of the APR and Project Board meetings are contained with the M&E Information Kit available through UNDP/GEF.

#### **1.4 Periodic Monitoring through site visits:**

213. Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNDP/CO through the provision of quarterly reports from the Project Manager. Furthermore, specific meetings may be scheduled between the project team, the UNDP/CO and other pertinent stakeholders as deemed appropriate and relevant (particularly the Project Board members). Such meetings will allow parties to take stock and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure smooth implementation of project activities. Project Board members will conduct yearly visits to projects that have field sites using in-kind government contributions.

214. An environmental and social screening was conducted, as per UNDP established procedure, during the project preparation phase, see annex 7. This sheet will be reviewed and updated during project implementation.

## **2. Independent Project Evaluation and Audit:**

215. The project will be subjected to at least two independent external evaluations as follows:

- **Mid-term Review:** An independent mid-term review will be undertaken at the mid of the second year of implementation. The mid-term review will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document. The Terms of Reference for this mid-

term review will be prepared by the UNDP/CO based on guidance from the UNDP/GEF Regional Office. The management response and the evaluation will be uploaded to UNDP corporate systems, in particular the UNDP Evaluation Office Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

- **Final Evaluation:** An independent final evaluation will take place three months prior to the terminal review meeting, and will focus on: a) the cost-effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation and performance; b) highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and c) present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this evaluation will be incorporated as lessons learned, and recommendations for improvement addressed to ensure the institutional sustainability of project outputs, particular for the replication of project activities. The final evaluation will also look at project outcomes and their sustainability. The final evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities, as appropriate. The terms of reference for the final evaluation will be prepared by the UNDP/CO based on guidance from the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit.
- **Terminal Review Meeting:** The terminal review meeting is held by the Project Board, with invitation to other relevant Government and municipal stakeholders as necessary, in the last month of project operations. The Project Manager is responsible for preparing the terminal review report and submitting it to UNDP/COs, the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinating Unit, and all participants of the terminal review meeting. The terminal review report will be drafted at least one month in advance of the terminal review meeting, in order to allow for timely review and to serve as the basis for discussion. The terminal review report considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. The report also decides whether any actions remain necessary, particularly in relation to the sustainability of project outputs and outcomes, and acts as a vehicle through that lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects under implementation or formulation. The terminal review meeting should refer to the independent final evaluation report, conclusions and recommendations as appropriate.
- The UNDP/CO, in consultation with the UNDP/GEF Regional Coordinator and members of the Project Board, has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met as per delivery rates, and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.
- **Financial Audit according to UNDP Rules and Regulations:** the Project Manager will provide the UNDP Country Office with certified periodic financial statements and an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNDP (including GEF) funds according to the established procedures set out in UNDP's Programming and Finance manuals. The audit will be conducted by the legally recognized auditor of UNDP Georgia. Audit on project will follow UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and applicable Audit policies.

### 3. Learning and Knowledge Sharing:

216. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through existing information sharing networks and forums.

217. In addition:

- The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.
- Project Publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the Project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the Project, in the form of journal articles, multimedia publications, etc. These publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon inter

alia the relevance and scientific worth of these Reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The UNDP/CO will determine if any of the Technical Reports merit formal publication, and will also (in consultation with the government and other relevant stakeholder groups) plan and produce these publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources will need to be defined and allocated for these activities as appropriate and in a manner commensurate with the project's budget.

#### **4. Communications and Visibility Requirements:**

218. Full compliance is required with UNDP's Branding Guidelines. These can be accessed at <http://intra.undp.org/coa/branding.shtml>, and specific guidelines on UNDP logo use can be accessed at: <http://intra.undp.org/branding/useOfLogo.html>. Amongst other things, these guidelines describe when and how the UNDP logo needs to be used, as well as how the logos of donors to UNDP projects needs to be used. For the avoidance of any doubt, when logo use is required, the UNDP logo needs to be used alongside the GEF logo. The GEF logo can be accessed at: [http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF\\_logo](http://www.thegef.org/gef/GEF_logo). Full compliance is also required with the GEF's Communication and Visibility Guidelines (the "GEF Guidelines"). The GEF Guidelines can be accessed at:

[http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08\\_Branding\\_the\\_GEF%20final\\_0.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.08_Branding_the_GEF%20final_0.pdf).

Amongst other things, the GEF Guidelines describe when and how the GEF logo needs to be used in project publications, vehicles, supplies and other project equipment. The GEF Guidelines also describe other GEF promotional requirements regarding press releases, press conferences, press visits, visits by Government officials, productions and other promotional items. Where other agencies and project partners have provided support through co-financing, their branding policies and requirements should be similarly applied.

## 4. FINANCING

### 4.1 Financing Plan

219. The financing of this project will be provided by the GEF (US\$ 1,200,000), and combined cash/in-kind contribution from UNDP Country Office in Georgia (US\$ 80,000 cash and US\$ 70,000 in-kind), with in kind co-financing from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection/ the Environment Information and Education Centre (US\$ 1,191,938). This financing is allocated across the two main project components, as described in section 3.2.2 above. Table 10 below provides the allocation amounts per component, while table 11 provides the estimated project management budget/cost.

**TABLE 10: PROJECT COSTS (US\$)**

Total Project Budget by Component	GEF (US\$)	Co-Financing (US\$)	Project Total (US\$)
Component 1: Development of coordinated information management and monitoring system	732,000	1,091,938	1,823,938
Component 2: Enhancing capacities for evidence-based policy making and management	366,000	100,000	466,000
Project Management	102,000	150,000	252,000
Total project costs	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>1,341,938</b>	<b>2,541,938</b>

**TABLE 11: ESTIMATED PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST (ESTIMATED COST FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT)**

Budget Line	Estimated Staff weeks	GEF (US\$)	Co-Financing (US\$)	Project Total (US\$)
Locally recruited personnel: Project Manager	144	0	99,000	99,000
Locally recruited personnel: Project Assistant	144	40,000	0	40,000
Internationally recruited consultants (1) (2)	7	12,000	0	12,000
Office supplies (3)		13,800	5,040	18,840
Travel		4,640	39,018	43,658
Training workshops and conferences (3)		10,000	3,500	13,500
Communication and printing		0	2,700	2,700
Miscellaneous		240	742	982
Direct Project Services Cost		21,320		21,320
Total project management cost		<b>102,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>
(1) The International Consultant will conduct an independent final evaluation of the project (2) Local and international consultants in this table are those who are hired for functions related to the management of project. Please see Table 12 below for consultants providing technical assistance for special services. (3) This will cover office space for the project team, the cost of Project Board meetings, project's committees' meetings, communications with stakeholders and site visits.				

220. An internationally recruited consultant will be contracted to undertake the independent mid-term and final evaluation towards the end of the project. The travel budget includes the costs of daily subsistence allowance, terminal expenses, and return airfare for the international consultant.



**TABLE 12: CONSULTANTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS (ESTIMATED FOR ENTIRE PROJECT)**

<b>Local Technical Assistance Consultants</b>	<b>Estimated Staff weeks</b>	<b>GEF (US\$)</b>	<b>Co-Financing (US\$)</b>	<b>Project Total (US\$)</b>	<b>Role</b>
<b>National Consultants</b>					
CBD, CCD and FCCC, and cross-cutting Specialists	23	34,500	36,000	70,500	Conducting data collection, validate data, comparing data sets, and conducting analyses of environmental data so as to help developing Georgia's data collection, analysis and reporting systems
Environmental Governance Expert	50	75,000	12,000	87,000	This Consultant will lead the process in developing an agreed roadmap for improved environmental governance in collaboration with government and civil society partnerships. He/she will also conduct a study on the status of the environmental governance structure and processes, including stewardship and management of the Rio Conventions in Georgia, with special focus on EIEC.
Policy/Legal Expert	25	37,500	12,000	49,500	Review environmental framework legislation. He/she will provide guidance on legal text, on data sharing and environmental monitoring.
Knowledge Management Expert	20	30,000	50,000	80,000	This person will help manage information and data flows so as to ensure that the new systems are effective, user-friendly and channels appropriate data and information from all sectors, ministries and agencies of the country.
Information Systems Specialist - Programmers	113	169,500	169,500	339,000	Consultants will support the design and architecture of the system. These consultants will help determine which technology/ies is/are best suited for Government of Georgia cross-cutting capacity development needs, and for providing access to environmental information.
Environmental Sociologist	15	22,500	10,000	32,500	This consultant will assist the EIEC in collaborating effectively with all concerned stakeholders.
Human Resources	15	22,500	12,000	34,500	This consultant will help develop a short-term plan to meet the shortage

Strategic Planner					of skills and qualifications in environmental data management; and a long-term integration plan for the EIEC.
Communications Specialist	10	15,000	12,000	27,000	This consultant will be involved with increasing public awareness of environmental legislation/ policies; and drafting the needed communication plan
Economist	8	12,000	10,000	22,000	This Consultant will enhance the existing financial plan of the government for environmental governance through cross-cutting capacity development, including exploration and building on innovative sources of financing.
<b>International Consultants</b>					
Environmental monitoring and Reporting Expert	70	210,000	24,000	234,000	This Consultant will lead the efforts on defining the needed capacity at the institutional and individual levels to monitor the implementation of the Rio Conventions, and report on its implementation and will apply experience to effective environmental monitoring and reporting.  This Consultant will provide guidance on assessing current capacity and defining gaps for capacity development
Environmental Governance Expert	66	198,000	12,000	210,000	This Consultant will lead the process in developing an agreed design for improved environmental data base collection, analysis and sharing in collaboration with government and civil society partnerships.  He/she will also lead the efforts on studying the status of the environmental data flow, structure and processes, including management of the Rio Conventions in Georgia, and apply international experience to support the Georgian context.
Mid and Terminal Evaluation Experts	7	21,000	0	0	Conduct the midterm and final evaluations as per the UNDP/GEF established procedures
<b>Total</b>		<b>847,500</b>	<b>359,500</b>	<b>1,186,000</b>	

**TABLE 133: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORK-PLAN**

<b>Award ID:</b>	00082289	<b>Project ID(s):</b>	00091279							
<b>Award Title:</b>	Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia									
<b>Business Unit:</b>	GEO10									
<b>Project Title:</b>	Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia									
<b>PIMS no.</b>	4883									
<b>Implementing Partner (Executing Agency)</b>	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia									
<b>GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party/Implementing Agent</b>	<b>Fund ID</b>	<b>Donor Name</b>	<b>Atlas Budgetary Account Code</b>	<b>ATLAS Budget Description</b>	<b>Amount Year 1 (USD)</b>	<b>Amount Year 2 (USD)</b>	<b>Amount Year 3 (USD)</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>	<b>See Budget Note:</b>
<b>OUTCOME 1: Capacities for environmental monitoring are better enabled</b>	<b>MENRP</b>	<b>62000</b>	<b>GEF</b>	71200	International Consultants	90,000	90,000	30,000	21,0000	1
				71300	Local Consultants	41,500	34,500	16,500	92,500	2
				74200	Audio-visual & print production costs	4,000	4,500	5,000	13,500	3
				75700	Training workshop & conferences	49,500	36,000	24,000	109,500	4
				72100	Contractual services-companies	109,500	90,000	105,000	304,500	5
				74500	Miscellaneous	800	600	600	2,000	
					<b>Total Outcome 1</b>	<b>295,300</b>	<b>255,600</b>	<b>181,100</b>	<b>732,000</b>	
<b>OUTCOME 2: Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis, and linkage to decision-making process</b>	<b>MENRP</b>	<b>62000</b>	<b>GEF</b>	71200	International Consultants	72,000	66,000	60,000	198,000	6
				71300	Local Consultants	15,000	13,500	9,000	37,500	7
				75700	Training workshop & conferences	37,000	27,000	22,000	86,000	8
				74200	Audio-visual & print production costs	17,000	10,000	7,000	34,000	9
				74100	Professional Services	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000	19
				72500	Office Supplies	500	500	500	1,500	10
					<b>Total Outcome 2</b>	<b>144,500</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>101,500</b>	<b>366,000</b>	
<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>MENRP/UN DP</b>	<b>62000</b>	<b>GEF</b>	71200	International Consultants	-	-	12,000	12,000	11
				71300	Local consultants	14,000	14,000	12,000	40,000	12
				71600	Travel	-	-	4,640	4,640	13
				75700	Training workshop & conferences	10,000	-	-	10,000	14

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity	Responsible Party/Implementing Agent	Fund ID	Donor Name	Atlas Budgetary Account Code	ATLAS Budget Description	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Total (USD)	See Budget Note:
MANAGEMENT UNIT				72800	IT Equipment	6,600	3,600	3,600	13,800	15
				74500	Miscellaneous	100	100	40	240	
				74598	Direct Project Cost	10,320	5,500	5,500	21,320	18
					<b>sub-total GEF</b>	<b>41,020</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>37,780</b>	<b>102,000</b>	
		UNDP	71300	Local Consultants	13,000	15,000	12,982	40,982	16	
			71600	Travel	13,956	14,856	10,206	39,018	17	
				<b>sub-total UNDP</b>	<b>55,806</b>	<b>49,546</b>	<b>44,648</b>	<b>150,000</b>		
					<b>Total Management</b>	<b>67,976</b>	<b>53,056</b>	<b>60,968</b>	<b>182,000</b>	
				<b>GEF TOTAL</b>	<b>480,820</b>	<b>398,800</b>	<b>320,380</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>		
				<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>507,776</b>	<b>428,656</b>	<b>343,568</b>	<b>1,280,000</b>		

Summary of Funds:<sup>74</sup>

	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2	Amount Year 3	Total
<b>GEF</b>	480,820	398,800	320,380	1,200,000
<b>UNDP Cash/In-kind</b>	55,806	49,546	44,648	150,000
<b>EIEC In-kind</b>	392,795	424,572	374,571	1,191,938
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>929,421</b>	<b>872,918</b>	<b>739,599</b>	<b>2,541,938</b>

**Budget Notes:**

	<p><b>Component 1</b> Component 1 of the project receives the highest level of budget, as it entails significant partnerships and investment in time and effort to be able to support such partnership development.</p> <p>Financial allocations for the achievement of component 1 are distributed as follows and will primarily aim at developing the necessary systems, capacities and structures to undertake proper monitoring of Rio Conventions implementation. In line with the UN programming principles and with the Paris Declaration, monitoring and evaluation for the project is embedded within broader capacity development of the national institution in undertaking such action. The following budget lines are foreseen with adjustments and fine-tuning to be done on a regular basis:</p>
1	<b>International expertise</b> will be recruited by the project over its lifetime to undertake different assignments as per table 12. The proposed daily rate is 600 USD.
2	<b>Local expertise</b> will be recruited by the project over its lifetime to undertake different assignments as per table 12. The proposed daily rate is 300 USD.

<sup>74</sup>Summary table include all financing of all kinds: GEF financing, co-financing, cash, in-kind, etc...

3	<b>Audio-visual &amp; print production costs</b> will be used for workshops and to cover the expenses of the meetings as well as the project publications
4	<b>Training workshop &amp; conferences</b> for (i) MENRP; (ii) the EIEC; (iii) the NEA; and (iv) NGOs and academia representatives will be essential to ensure a full understanding and establishment of technical capacity in the country for the deployment and long term monitoring and reporting system.
5	<b>Contractual services- company</b> be competitively recruited notably to deliver a comprehensive review of the existed systems, gaps, recommendations to foster the gap, also specialized company will be recruited to assess in the implementation of output #2 concerning the development of a clear legal framework
6	<b>International consultants</b> will be recruited in year 1 and 2 of the project to provide support as per table 12 and undertake Mid-term Evaluation.
7	<b>Local consultants and experts</b> will be recruited and will provide support as per table 12.
8	<b>Training workshop &amp; conferences</b> for (i) MENRP; (ii) the EIEC; (iii) the NEA; and (iv) NGOs and academia representatives will be essential to ensure a full understanding and establishment of technical capacity in the country for the deployment and long term monitoring and reporting system.
9	<b>Audio-visual &amp; print production costs</b> will be used for workshops and to cover the expenses of the meetings as well as the project publications
10	<b>Office Supplies</b> to cover the project's operational costs
11	<b>International expertise</b> will be recruited to undertake Final Evaluation. The proposed daily rate is 600 USD.
12	<b>Local expertise</b> will be recruited by the project over its lifetime to undertake different assignments as per table 12. The proposed daily rate is 300 USD.
13	<b>Travel costs</b> under this component include international travel cost for international experts, and the cost of study tour to locations with similar dynamics. Such study tours will only be undertaken in case local expertise is not available and in case of a best practice which would significantly benefit the MENRP, and EIEC and enable them to leap frog.
14	<b>Training workshop &amp; conferences</b> for (i) MENRP; (ii) the EIEC; (iii) the NEA; and (iv) NGOs and academia representatives will be essential to ensure a full understanding and establishment of technical capacity in the country for the deployment and long term monitoring and reporting system.
15	<b>IT Equipment</b> to enable the development and deployment of the two systems for data collection, analysis and sharing, and for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Rio Conventions. These software and IT equipment will be purchased, however costs will be greatly shared by Government of Georgia and the maintenance and running costs provided by Government of Georgia.
16	<b>Local expertise</b> will be recruited by the project over its lifetime to undertake different assignments as per table 12. The proposed daily rate is 300 USD.
17	<b>Travel costs</b> under this component include international travel cost for international experts, and the cost of study tour to locations with similar dynamics. Such study tours will only be undertaken in case local expertise is not available and in case of a best practice which would significantly benefit the MENRP, and EIEC and enable them to leap frog.
18	<b>Direct Project Services</b> according to Letter of Agreement (Annex 9)
19	<b>Audit cost</b>

## 4.2 Cost Effectiveness

221. The project is designed to make the most strategic use of GEF grant and ensure cost-effectiveness. The cost-effectiveness of this project lies largely in the project strategy. The activities of the project focus on areas which will have the most lasting and significant impact in the long-run, which is why particular actions identified in the NCSA were not selected as activities. Through consultations, it was determined that the greatest impact on national undertakings to meet international commitments.
222. Another important indicator of cost-effectiveness is the very low percentage of the GEF grant being used for project management 3%. See Table 14.

**TABLE 14: PROJECT COSTS (PERCENTAGE)**

Project Budget Component by Contribution type	Contribution (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Component 1: GEF	732,000	0.29
Component 1: Co-Financing	1,091,938	0.43
Component 2: GEF	366,000	0.14
Component 2: Co-Financing	100,000	0.04
Project Management: GEF	102,000	0.04
Project Management: Co-Financing	150,000	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,541,938</b>	<b>1.00</b>

## 4.3 Co-financing

223. This cost-effectiveness is indicated by the government's significant co-financing to project activities up to US\$1,191,938 of in-kind co-financing. This co-financing is significant and represents the commitment of the Government to assign staff (decision-makers and planners) time away from their regular work to actively participate in project activities. About US\$1,191,938 of this estimated in-kind contribution is in fact real cash since it translates to US\$442,795 for setting up the needed systems for data collection, analysis and sharing, and US\$749,143 operational and capital costs. An additional contribution accounts for the real cost of convening workshops and dialogues, printing of materials, and other project activities. See table 15 and 16 for the detailed analysis.
224. Co-financing will be used to improve the application analytical tools and methodologies, with the GEF increment used to catalyze the integration of monitoring global environmental impacts and ensuring global benefits through the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptive collaborative management. Project activities will build upon the on-going parallel government initiatives and other donor-funded initiatives, adding to the project's cost-effectiveness.
225. Co-financing will be also used to develop the capacity of Government authorities in integration of global environmental benefit targets in policy development and implementation. It is essential, that Ministry officials, EIEC and NEA practitioners are trained on the use of data for improved decision-making to meet global environmental objectives.

**TABLE 15: CO-FINANCING SOURCES**

Name of Co-financier	Classification	Type	Amount(US\$)	
			Confirmed	Unconfirmed
UNDP	GEF Implementing Agency	Grant	80,000	0
UNDP	GEF Implementing Agency	In-kind	70,000	0
EECI	Public Agency	In-kind	1,191,938	0
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>1,341,938</b>	<b>0</b>

**TABLE 16: SUMMARY OF PROJECT FINANCING**

Source of funds	Amount Year 1 (USD)	Amount Year 2 (USD)	Amount Year 3 (USD)	Total (USD)
GEF	480,820	398,800	320,380	1,200,000
UNDP	55,806	49,546	44,648	150,000
EIEC	392,795	424,572	374,571	1,191,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>929,421</b>	<b>872,918</b>	<b>739,599</b>	<b>2,541,938</b>

## 5. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

### 5.1 Core Commitments and Linkages

226. Although Georgia has established monitoring systems in certain environmental issues, there needs to be a strengthening of a coordinated system integrating issues related to the Rio Conventions, especially in respect to improving coordinated reporting to the Conventions. Global environmental benefits can be delivered through providing a holistic approach to environmental data analysis, monitoring and reporting and ensuring the link to policy development.

227. Four flagship areas- democratic governance, economic development, crisis prevention and recovery and environment and energy – represent the core of UNDP activities in Georgia. In the recent years, UNDP deployed its assistance capacity in the area of environment and climate change through a complex array of interventions, studies and reports addressing several dimensions of the environmental management and natural resources protection processes, which among others include:

228. [“Developing Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities of Georgia, 2012-2016”](#) project, that is funded by the Adaptation Fund and aims at improvement of resilience of highly exposed regions of Georgia to hydro-meteorological threats. The project will help the governments and the population of the target region of Rioni Basin to develop adaptive capacity and embark on climate resilient economic development. One of the components of the project is to establish early warning system to improve preparedness and adaptive capacity of population, which implies the digitalization and systematization of historical hydro-meteorological observations, measurements and other data and their linkage to GIS systems that are essential for prospective planning and are currently missing in the Early Warning System. Historical data records exist in many formats including paper and a major task will be the digitization of this historical data. The NEA has secured funding for a state-of-the-art database from the Czech Government and under this project, funding of 115,000 USD will be provided to assist in the cost of entering their extensive datasets into this database.

229. With funds from the EU, UNDP works with the MENRP to implement the Clima East Project: [Sustainable Management of Pastures in Georgia](#) aims to rehabilitate 8,700 ha of degraded pastures, introduce and implement sustainable pasture management practices among farmers and sheep-breeders in the Vashlovani Protected Areas.

230. The Government is currently preparing its Third National Communication Report to the UNFCCC through a [UNDP-GEF Project on Georgia’s Third National Communication to the UNFCCC](#). The project assists Georgian Government to comply with the UNFCCC obligations by preparing the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC according to the international criteria.

231. With the financial support from the GEF, UNDP supported the implementation of a project on [financial sustainability of Georgia’s Protected Areas](#). The project was designed to enhance management effectiveness, bio-geographic coverage and connectivity of Protected Areas in Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park, Lagodekhi, Tusheti and Vashlovani Protected Areas.

232. The project will also build and make linkages to the ongoing project on [Eliminating Persistent Organic Pollutants \(POPs\) from the Environment](#). An initiative funded from the GEF and UNDP. It aims at assisting the government in meeting the obligations under the Stockholm Convention. The project seeks to minimize the release of POPs from the pesticide stockpiles; improve the legislation; and build national capacities in the POPs disposal management.

233. The finding of the GEF supported project "[Biomass Production and Utilization in Georgia](#)" will be collected by the project and shared with other stakeholders and beneficiaries. The project strategy encourages the demand for and supply of the upgraded biomass fuels. Production and utilization will be supported using investment grant mechanism to stimulate market. Plus, the project envisages the raise of public awareness on production and use of biomass fuels. The new environmental information



management systems will help the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection to share lesson learned and the project's finding with all concerned stakeholders.

234. With the GEF support, the Government of Georgia is implementing a project on [Reducing Trans-Boundary Degradation in the Kura-Aras Basin](#). The initiative assists the Kura-Aras riparian states to 1) identify the principal threats and root causes of the trans-boundary water resources of the Kura Aras-River Transboundary Basin and 2) develop and implement a sustainable programme of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments to address these threats. The long-term development/environmental goal of the project is sustainable development of the Kura-Aras River Basin enhanced through ecosystem-based Integrated Water Resource Management approaches. The project objective is to improve the management of the Kura-Aras River Transboundary Basin through the implementation of a sustainable programme of policy, legal and institutional reforms and investment options using the Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and Strategic Action Programme (SAP) process.

## 5.2 Linkages to other activities and programmes

235. There are also a number of other development projects underway in Georgia that help raise awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting the global environment, albeit from a lens of national priority. Through these projects, a number of activities are involving national stakeholders on the development of new approaches and skills. At the beginning of CCCD project implementation, the Project Manager will review the status of programmes and projects currently underway and map out a plan to coordinate project activities to develop synergies and avoid duplication:

236. The project will complement the work done by the Czech funded Project on: “***Strengthening of Capacity of National Environmental Agency toward Hydro-meteorological Hazards in Georgia (SECED), 2011-2013***”. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to mitigation of negative impacts of extreme weather events on population, public and private property in Georgia is an essential overall objective of the intended project. The Project enhanced and developed Georgia’s preparedness for extreme weather events through extension of existing meteorological and hydrological monitoring network of NEA and its’ modernization. An output of the project was the improvement of observational and processing capacities of the NEA (monitoring networks), as well as the creation of relevant database on meteorology and hydrology.

237. **The Czech development Agency** in Georgia is currently in the final phase to launch three new projects in relation to disaster risk reduction and climate change. The first project “***Enhanced preparedness of Georgia against extreme weather events***”, aims to enhance meteorological and hydrological monitoring network of the NEA and increase capacity of the NEA in the area of the forecasting meteorological and hydrological threats in Georgia in order to reduce or mitigate the negative impacts of such threats. The project activities include installation of meteorological stations, which will result in continuous flow of updated and reliable data. The project will support as well data storage and analysis, which will lead to accurate forecasts and early warnings. The second project “***Risk of hazardous geological processes in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region and prevention measures***” is focused on geological hazards in Mtskheta-Mtianeti region in Georgia as a response to the recent mudslide event in Stepantsminda. Geologists are working in the field to investigate the causes of the event and assess probability of recurrence of such event. The third project “***Capacity building for major accident prevention policy***” provides capacity building to MENRP and NEA in major accident prevention policy and supports the Ministry in drafting the new law.

238. The **USAID** funded the “***support for national parks reform***” project to assist Georgia through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior, to enhance the institutional capacity of the MENRP to manage and commercialize national parks and promote tourism opportunities. Technical assistance and training is provided to Ministry officials, employees of protected areas throughout Georgia, and local stakeholders in the National Protected Area System.

239. The project will benefit from and complement the work done by the ongoing project “***Environmental Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)-Shared Environmental***

**Information System (SEIS)**” (2010-2014). The overall objective of the ENPI-SEIS project is to promote the protection of the environment in the ENPI countries. Specific objectives include identification and further development of environmental indicators; improvement of capacities in the field of monitoring, collection, storage, assessment and reporting of environmental data; promoting setting up national and regional environmental information systems in line with the SEIS principles; and tracking progress of the regional initiatives.

240. The project will build on the work of “**The Establishment of the National Biodiversity Monitoring System (NBMS) project**”, being implemented with the support of German Government. NBMS is initiative of Georgian Government under the guidance of the MENRP. The process started in 2009 and has been supported by the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ) within the regional programme: “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus”. The NBMS is based on 26 biodiversity indicators elaborated according to the internationally adopted pressure-state-response model. Currently data collection and analysis is ongoing for 21 indicators and the results for 10 indicators will be available by the end of 2012.

241. The project is also going to cooperate with a USAID-funded project on municipal energy efficiency “**enhancing capacity-low emissions development strategy (EC-LEDS)**”. The project aims to target sectors for reducing the rate of emission growth; support the implementation of incentives, financing, and technical assistance to implement alternative economic development practices; support this growth through expertise in modeling energy efficiency, green production marketing and other widely accepted practices. Mayors who are signatories to the EU Covenant of Mayors commitments will receive preference for assistance to implement lower emission development. Furthermore, this project will use the data generated by the USAID program “**institutionalization of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Georgian regions**” which is being implemented by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), the program aims at integrating environmental and climate change considerations into policy priorities of local authorities through the establishment of special units on climate change, environment and sustainable agriculture. The goal is to foster institutionalization of climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level by building capacities of local authorities.

242. Data generated from the “**Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM) include Trans-boundary River Basin Issues**” project will be an important input to this project. Since the development of the NCSA work has also been conducted by various donors and NGOs in setting up monitoring and evaluation methods. Nonetheless, the approach is fragmented, and the GEF increment would provide a benefit in strengthening an integrated monitoring and reporting system for global environmental impacts. During the project preparation phase, further consultations will identify on-going projects and initiatives that can be strategically linked to this project.

243. The project will establish linkages with **WWF-Germany** and its partner organizations in the South Caucasus - WWF Caucasus Programme Office (WWF-Caucasus), WWF-Armenia and WWF-Azerbaijan, implement EU funded project “increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems against climate change in the South Caucasus Countries through forest transformation”.

244. GIZ implements a project entitled “**sustainable biodiversity management in the South Caucasus**”. The project aiming at developing strategies to facilitate the sustainable development of biodiversity by state, private sector and civil society actors. The project supports development of the national biodiversity strategies and establishing monitoring systems; implements environmental education schemes; supports forest management training; demonstrates the practical application of principles of sustainable forest management and climate-adapted agriculture, and integrates these principles into national regulations.

245. Another GIZ supported project entitled “**integrated erosion control in mountainous regions of the South Caucasus**” aims to develop strategies for integrating concepts for integrated erosion control into national regulations on sustainable land use and the conservation of biodiversity. The project activities include assessment and mapping of erosion and the condition of pastureland in the pilot regions as a basis for identifying suitable erosion control measures; targeted reforestation and erosion protection measures and other.

246. ENPI East Countries FLEG II Program implemented by the World Bank in partnership with WWF and IUCN is aimed to support the participating countries strengthen forest governance through enhancing their forest policy, legislation and institutional arrangements, and implementing sustainable forest management models on a pilot basis. The program develops strategic document for forest management in Tusheti Protected Landscape.

247. The **Regional Environmental Centre (REC-Caucasus)** is currently implementing a GEF funded project on Alignment of the National Action Programme with the UNCCD 10-year Strategy. Finalization of the aligned NAP is planned for end of 2014, which is an important input to this project. Other objectives of the project are to train different stakeholders in fulfillment of the National Reporting System and to develop the electronic atlas of land resources and land degradation. The overall aim of the project is to support and enhance the MENRP in implementation of the UNCCD commitments and liabilities.

248. The REC implements also different environmental programs on sustainable management of natural resources, capacity development and information and environmental policy and integration. It implements the following projects that have direct impacts on the Rio Conventions implementation in Georgia: “*identification and implementation of adaptation response to climate change impact for conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in arid and semi-arid ecosystems of South Caucasus*”; “*Support development of biodiversity conservation policies and practices in mountain regions of the South Caucasus*”; “*fostering community forest policy and practice in mountain regions of the Caucasus*”, and update legislation and carry out 5 pilot projects in the East Georgia in order to study loss of fertile soils

249. The **Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)** implements environmental programs and projects in the areas of resources management, disaster risk reduction, climate change, biodiversity protection, socio-economic integration and other. CENN, in partnership with several international NGOs implements the following project: “*enhancing local capacity and regional cooperation for climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in Georgia and the South Caucasus*” aiming at increasing local capacity and regional cooperation for the identification and mitigation of risks likely to be exacerbated by climate change, through disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation, and “*sustainable forest governance in Georgia: strengthening local and national capacity and developing structured dialogue*” project, aiming at contributing to successful implementation of the forest reform in Georgia via strengthening the capacities of authorities and civil society and enhancing issue based policy dialogue.

250. While building on the above, the Project offers cross-cutting capacity development conditions whereby the new information collection and management systems and the legal framework policies will bring additional benefits, in terms of environmental management and monitoring, as well as opens new opportunities to securing necessary financing.

### 5.3 Implementation and Execution Arrangements

251. The project will be implemented according to UNDP’s National Implementation Modality (NIM), as per the NIM project management implementation guidelines agreed by UNDP and the Government of Georgia.

252. The project “*Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia*” will be implemented by the MENRP under the Government of the Republic of Georgia as follows:

#### ***Project Management Unit***

253. A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** comprised of a full time Project Manager (PM) and a project Assistant (part time), see annex 8 for terms of reference. The team will be recruited and will be based in the MENRP. The PMU will undertake the coordination and the day-to-day management of the project with due time and diligence including preparation of the annual work-plan, the reporting requirements (quarterly, annual and donors reporting). External technical consultants will be involved in providing

technical support for the different components of the project and creating national global knowledge products. The project will also draw upon the substantial expertise of the National partners and actors as well as internal UNDP expertise at the national, regional and global levels.

### ***Project Board***

254. A Project Board will be established to provide strategic directions and management guidance to project implementation. The Project Board will consist of representatives of all key stakeholders and will ensure the inclusion of government's interests, the UNDP CO, as well as representatives of the public sector. The Project Board will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by quality assuring these processes and products, and using evaluations for performance improvement, accountability and learning. It will ensure that required resources are committed and arbitrate on any conflicts within the project or negotiates a solution to any problems with external bodies.

255. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability for the project results, Project Board decisions will be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

256. The Board contains three distinct roles, including:

- An Executive: individual representing the project ownership to chair the group.
- Senior Supplier: individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned, which provide funding for specific cost sharing projects and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function within the Board is to provide technical guidance and support for the cost-effective procurement and implementation of project services and activities, including project implementation oversight through regular monitoring and reporting.
- Senior Beneficiary: individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries.

### ***Project Assurance Role***

257. The Project Assurance role is the responsibility of each Project Board member; however, it will be delegated to the UNDP Environment and Energy Portfolio Team Leader and Portfolio Associate to provide independent project oversight and monitoring functions, to ensure that project activities are managed and milestones accomplished. The UNDP E&E Team Leader will be responsible for reviewing Risk, Issues and Lessons Learned logs, and ensuring compliance with the project work plans. The UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor located in Istanbul Regional Hub will also play an important project quality assurance role by supporting the annual reporting process. Advisor's role supports the Project Board Executive by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. The Project Manager and Project Assurance roles should never be held by the same individual for the same project. Therefore, respective UNDP Programme Officer (EE Portfolio Team Leader) will hold the Project Assurance role for the UNDP Board members.

### ***Project Management Team***

258. A Project Manager will be hired to manage the activities on a day-to-day basis. The Project Manager will assume overall responsibility for the successful implementation of project activities and the achievement of planned project outputs. The Project Manager will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The Project Manager will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant Government and other institutions and hold regular consultations with project stakeholders. She/he will work closely with the national and international experts hired under the project, as well as the Project Assistant, and will report to the UNDP CO.

259. The recruitment for required human resources will take place in the first quarter of project implementation. The PMU will appoint a suitably skilled project manager to have overall project control and implementation responsibilities. The PMU will also recruit a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to facilitate the PMU's technical works in implementing the project.

260. Project National Director: the MoENRP, through its Environment Education and Information Center is identified as responsible agency for the project implementation. The EIEC/MoENRP will assume responsibility for the project implementation, and the timely and verifiable attainment of project objectives and outcomes. It will provide support to the project management unit, and inputs for the implementation of all project activities. The EIEC/MoENRP will nominate a high level official who will serve as the National Project Director (NPD) for the project implementation.

261. The Project CTA will have the authority to follow up on delivering the technical components of the project on behalf of the Project Manager within the constraints laid down by the Project Board. His/her prime responsibility will be to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standards of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

262. The Administrative and Financial Assistant (on part-time basis) will provide assistance to the Project Manager in the implementation of day-to-day project activities. She/he is responsible for all administrative (contractual, organizational and logistical) and accounting (disbursements, record-keeping, cash management) matters related to the project.

263. National and international consultancy services will be called in for specific tasks under the various project components. These services, either of individual consultants or under sub-contacts with consulting companies, will be procured in accordance with applicable UNDP guidelines. The project will contract an independent evaluation expert to undertake a final evaluation of the project three (3) months prior to project closure, whichever is latest.

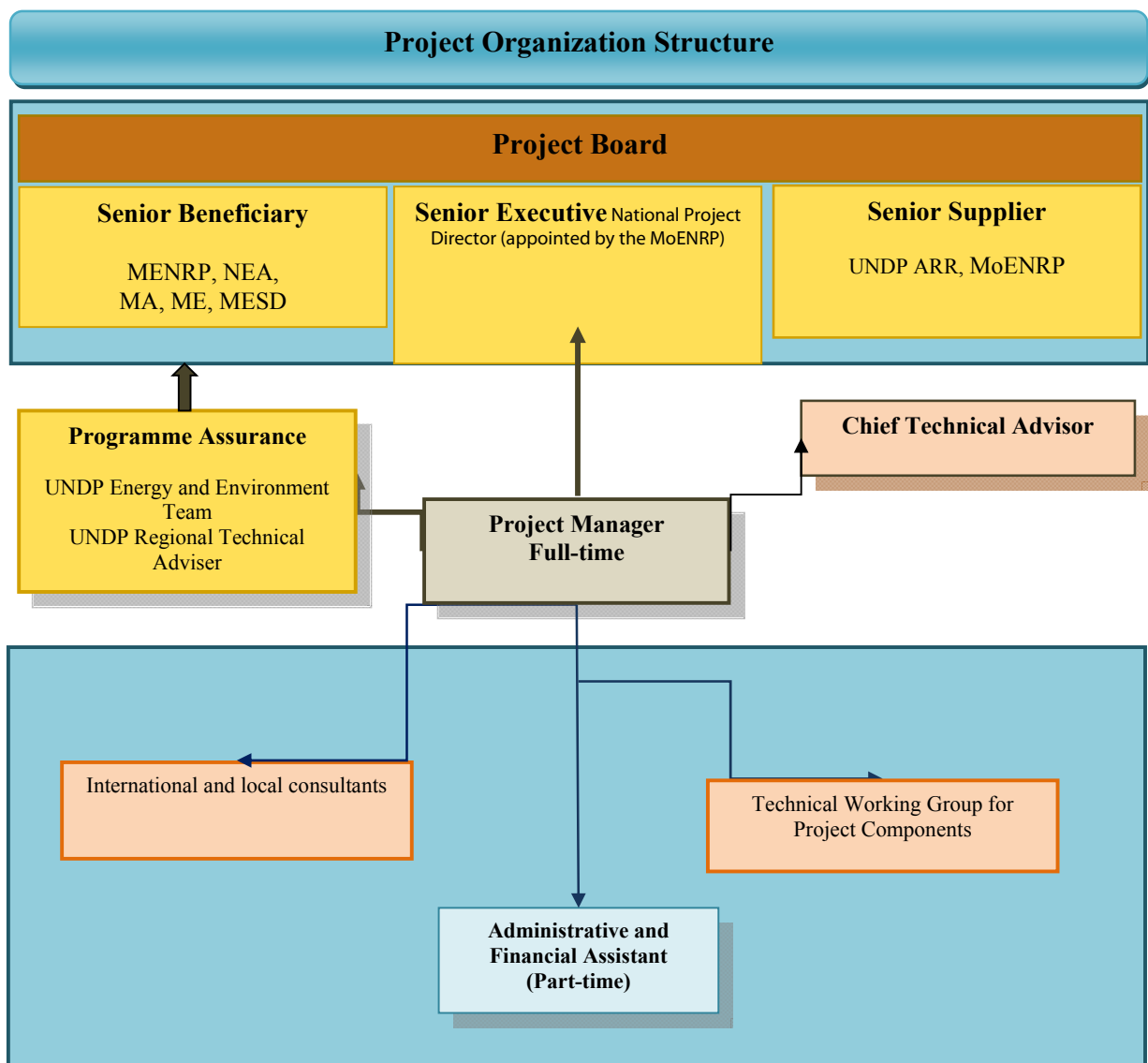
264. Technical Working Groups (TWGs): Working groups comprised of independent experts, technical government agency representatives, as well as representatives from stakeholder groups will discuss and deliberate on strengthening inter-agency coordination to effectively manage environmental information and decision support system.

265. The Project will be implemented over 3 Years with a total budget of US \$ 1,350,000, UNDP will provide US \$ 150,000 from its own TRAC resource, and the GEF will provide US \$ 1.2 Million. The EIEC will provide in-kind support to the project.

266. UNDP Support Services: MoENRP will enter into an agreement with UNDP for support services in the form of procurement of goods and services during the project implementation process. In such a case, appropriate cost recovery will be charged as per UNDP rules and regulations. The support services will be outlined in the form of Letter of Agreement signed between MoENRP and UNDP. Direct Project costs for these services will be charged to the project budget. See annex 9.

267. UNDP will assist in its ability to build partnerships, especially with the donor agencies, development partners and UN organizations, coordinate between the various parties involved, obtain knowledge from global sources and experiences, and assist with fund raising efforts.

268. The above project management structure is illustrated in Figure 1 below.



**FIGURE 1: PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

## 6. LEGAL CONTEXT

269. This document together with the CPAP signed by the Government and UNDP which is incorporated by reference constitute together a Project Document as referred to in the SBAA (or other appropriate governing agreement) and all CPAP provisions apply to this document.

270. Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner.

271. The implementing partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

272. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of this agreement.

273. The implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP/GEF hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document. The list can be accessed via:

<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1267/1267ListEng.htm>

274.

**PART II: ANNEXES**



**ANNEX 1: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD**

Project/Programme Name: **Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia**  
 Project/Programme Cycle Phase: **Project development**  
 Date: **November 2014**

Capacity Result / Indicator	Staged Indicators	Rating	Score	Comments	Next Steps	Contribution to which Outcome
<b>CR 1: Capacities for engagement</b>						
Indicator 1 – Degree of legitimacy/mandate of lead environmental organizations	Institutional responsibilities for environmental management are not clearly defined	0		Institutional responsibilities for environmental management are clearly defined. Mainly, stakeholders recognize authority and legitimacy of the lead environmental organizations. However, due to frequent turnover of the top management, high level decision-makers from the stakeholder agencies are not always aware of institutional responsibilities for environmental management. To this adds that stakeholder meetings and workshops are mostly attended by lower management staff from the stakeholder agencies.	The capacity of lead environmental agencies will be strengthened. By the end of project, Georgia through its Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection will have improved capacities and the needed mechanisms to coordinate environmental management in such a way that will create synergies for the national implementation of Rio Conventions.	1, 2
	Institutional responsibilities for environmental management are identified	1				
	Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management are partially recognized by stakeholders	2	2			
	Authority and legitimacy of all lead organizations responsible for environmental management recognized by stakeholders	3				
Indicator 2 – Existence of operational co-management mechanisms	No co-management mechanisms are in place	0		There are no well-established formal co-management mechanisms between the responsible state agencies. Intergovernmental	An inter-ministerial committee as well as two national committees dealing with Combating Desertification and	1, 2
	Some co-management mechanisms are in place and operational	1	1			

	Some co-management mechanisms are formally established through agreements, MOUs, etc.	2		Commissions, mostly, have been ineffective and many of them have been abolished. Strategic documents, such as NEAP or NBSAP require involvement and collaboration of different responsible stakeholder agencies. However, this collaboration needs strengthening. In addition, MOUs have been established between the state agencies and scientific-research and other organizations, and further enhancement of such agreements is expected.	Climate Change Conventions will be established. The three committees will engage representatives of the line ministries to be on the course of the benefits and priority activities committed by the Government on Rio conventions.	
	Comprehensive co-management mechanisms are formally established and are operational/functional	3				
Indicator 3 – Existence of cooperation with stakeholder	Identification of stakeholders and their participation/involvement in decision-making is poor	0		Stakeholder participation in environmental decision-making is still limited. However, the state agencies involve stakeholders during development of the strategic action plans and programmes as well as legislation.	Stakeholders will first participate in the project inception workshop, and later on the project will engage key decision-makers, experts and other multi-stakeholders to collaborate and discuss an integrated approach to deliver environmental information as well as global environmental benefits through improved interpretation, planning, and decision-making on environmental and sectoral policies, plans, reports and programmes derived from the Rio	2
	Stakeholders are identified but their participation in decision-making is limited	1	1			
	Stakeholders are identified and regular consultations mechanisms are established	2				
	Stakeholders are identified and they actively contribute to established participative decision-making processes	3				

					Conventions perspective. Stakeholders will also participate in training workshops and national dialogues to appropriation of the type, format and frequency of the environmental information to better incorporate the best decision-making practices into the inter-ministerial committee meetings.	
<b>CR 2: Capacities to generate, access and use information and knowledge</b>						
Indicator 4 – Degree of environmental awareness of stakeholders	Stakeholders are not aware about global environmental issues and their related possible solutions (MEAs)	0		Stakeholders are partially aware about global environmental issues. However, their involvement and participation is limited. Awareness of stakeholders on possible solutions affecting multiple sectors has been also limited.	The project will establish two technical committees to oversee the implementation of the two Rio Conventions; UNFCCC and UNCCD, while it is going to work intensively with the national committee to oversee the implementation of the UNCBD this will help to recommend best environmental information management and monitoring through improved decision-making practices.	1,2
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues but not about the possible solutions (MEAs)	1	1			
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and the possible solutions but do not know how to participate	2				
	Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues and are actively participating in the implementation of related solutions	3				
Indicator 5 – Access and sharing of environmental information by	The environmental information needs are not identified and the information management infrastructure is inadequate	0		The environmental information needs are identified but there are not enough human, technical and	The project will support the development of two systems for data gathering, analyses and	1,2

stakeholders	The environmental information needs are identified but the information management infrastructure is inadequate	1	1	financial capacities to improve information systems. There are no systems to organize available data and information. Vast amount of historical data is in a paper format and needs to be digitalized. Sharing information between stakeholders is limited as well. There are no formalized rules for information sharing and information flow. Normally, information from a stakeholder agency is obtained upon written request.	sharing as well as for monitoring the implementation of the Rio Conventions. In order to run the two systems, the second outcome of the project will focus mainly on building the needed capacity at the targeted State's agencies in addition to all stakeholders. The training component will assess the existed capacity, define the gaps, and develop and implement a comprehensive capacity development training programs that includes, training workshops, study tours, training courses, etc	
	The environmental information is partially available and shared among stakeholders but is not covering all focal areas and/or the information management infrastructure to manage and give information access to the public is limited	2				
	Comprehensive environmental information is available and shared through an adequate information management infrastructure	3				
Indicator 6 – Existence of environmental education programmes	No environmental education programmes are in place	0		Based on the recent research by the MENRP, “assessment of environmental education in Georgia”, from 57 higher education institutions registered in Georgia, only 11 provides environment related degree, and environment related subjects are taught only in 28 universities which constitutes 49% of all universities. The study covered 57 universities, 69 public secondary schools, 57 preschools, 33 professional	Improve and established environmental information and knowledge systems to fully benefit stakeholders.	1
	Environmental education programmes are partially developed and partially delivered	1	1			
	Environmental education programmes are fully developed but partially delivered	2				
	Comprehensive environmental education programmes exist and are being delivered	3				

				education establishments and 28 organizations. 47% of respondents believe that proper attention is not paid to environmental education and 23% responded that only partial attention is paid.		
Indicator 7 – Extent of the linkage between environmental research/science and policy development	No linkage exist between environmental policy development and science/research strategies and programmes	0		Scientific-research institutions have been involved in policy development. Academy of Sciences and Academy of Agricultural Sciences are the formal advisors of the Government. In addition, the MENRP as well as the Ministry of Agriculture have signed the memorandum of understandings with the scientific-research institutions with the aim to strengthen collaboration and information sharing. Even though the State Agencies share their vision and needs to the scientific-research institutions, there are no relevant research strategies and programmes, which would define specific directions of scientific research and enable integration of scientific knowledge into policy development.	Research Centers and other academic institutions will play a key role given their comparative advantage in identifying empirically valid best practice data and information needs, including methodologies	2
	Research needs for environmental policy development are identified but are not translated into relevant research strategies and programmes	1	1			
	Relevant research strategies and programmes for environmental policy development exist but the research information is not responding fully to the policy research needs	2				
	Relevant research results are available for environmental policy development	3				
Indicator 8 – Extent of inclusion/use of	Traditional knowledge is ignored and not taken into account into relevant	0		There is no mechanism for collecting and use of traditional knowledge.	N/A	

traditional knowledge in environmental decision-making	participative decision-making processes					
	Traditional knowledge is identified and recognized as important but is not collected and used in relevant participative decision-making processes	1	1			
	Traditional knowledge is collected but is not used systematically into relevant participative decision-making processes	2				
	Traditional knowledge is collected, used and shared for effective participative decision-making processes	3				
<b>CR 3: Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development</b>						
Indicator 9 – Extend of the environmental planning and strategy development process	The environmental planning and strategy development process is not coordinated and does not produce adequate environmental plans and strategies	0		In some cases existing environmental strategies and plans lack specific implementation mechanisms, such as integration into the national policies and legislation, which would enable their effective implementation. In addition, strategies and plans often do not envisage sufficient financial resources. Mostly, implementation of the activities is funded by the international donors.	The development of the needed systems for data collection, analysis and sharing will support all stakeholders in providing and getting the needed data on a timely manner that will help in mainstreaming environmental priorities in the development's policies and strategies, as well as in developing the needed indicators, projects and programs and seeking the needed funds from international	1
	The environmental planning and strategy development process does produce adequate environmental plans and strategies but there are not implemented/used	1				
	Adequate environmental plans and strategies are produced but there are only partially implemented because of	2	2			

	funding constraints and/or other problems				development partners.	
	The environmental planning and strategy development process is well coordinated by the lead environmental organizations and produces the required environmental plans and strategies; which are being implemented	3				
Indicator 10 – Existence of an adequate environmental policy and regulatory frameworks	The environmental policy and regulatory frameworks are insufficient; they do not provide an enabling environment	0		Even through relevant legislative framework exists, in some cases improvement as well as update is needed. E.g. The Law on Soil Protection (1994) already needs update; there is no specific legislation on Climate Change; legislation related to Biodiversity Protection needs improvement and alignment with the EU directives. At the same time, there are implementation problems, which in many cases relate to lack of effective legal implementation mechanisms.	The project will develop a clear legal framework for the two information and data collection and sharing systems this will improve the information management as well as integrate Rio Conventions provisions. Policy and legislative amendments will be submitted to the Parliament review and approval.	1
	Some relevant environmental policies and laws exist but few are implemented and enforced	1				
	Adequate environmental policy and legislation frameworks exist but there are problems in implementing and enforcing them	2	2			
	Adequate policy and legislation frameworks are implemented and provide an adequate enabling environment; a compliance and enforcement mechanism is established and functions	3				
Indicator 11 – Adequacy of the environmental information available for decision-making	The availability of environmental information for decision-making is lacking	0		Availability of sufficient, updated environmental information is a problem almost in all sectors. In some cases vast historical data exists in a paper format, which needs digitalization and	Develop environmental information data base at the EIEC as well as a system for monitoring the implementation of the Rio Conventions and reporting on their	1
	Some environmental information exists but it is not sufficient to support environmental decision-making	1	1			

	processes			update.	progress.	
	Relevant environmental information is made available to environmental decision-makers but the process to update this information is not functioning properly	2		There have been attempts to establish and improve data collection systems. However, almost in all cases, these systems are still developing and more time and effort is needed for accumulation of sufficient data and information.		
	Political and administrative decision-makers obtain and use updated environmental information to make environmental decisions	3				
<b>CR 4: Capacities for management and implementation</b>						
Indicator 12 – Existence and mobilization of resources	The environmental organizations don't have adequate resources for their programmes and projects and the requirements have not been assessed	0		Lack of financial resources is one of the major obstacles for implementation of the strategies, plans and programmes. Resource requirements are more or less identified and funds are partially mobilized from the state budget, but mostly through the international donor organizations.	The Ministry of Finance is collaborating with the MENRP and will be supporting the team in designing and setting up a new system for data collection, analysis and sharing. The project will contribute with comprehensive training modules of civil servants on best practices and innovations for easing a sharing mechanism for environmental information. Also, a communication plan and strategy will be formulated to help address financial constraints.	1, 2
	The resource requirements are known but are not being addressed	1				
	The funding sources for these resource requirements are partially identified and the resource requirements are partially addressed	2	2			
	Adequate resources are mobilized and available for the functioning of the lead environmental organizations	3				
Indicator 13 – Availability of	The necessary required skills and technology are not	0		Needed skills and technologies are mostly	The project will support an extensive and extended	2



required technical skills and technology transfer	available and the needs are not identified			identified so as their sources.	program of training, information dissemination and advocacy to ensure adherence and involvement of concerned stakeholders in the policy and institutional reforms.	
	The required skills and technologies needs are identified as well as their sources	1	1			
	The required skills and technologies are obtained but their access depend on foreign sources	2				
	The required skills and technologies are available and there is a national-based mechanism for updating the required skills and for upgrading the technologies	3				
<b>CR 5: Capacities to monitor and evaluate</b>						
Indicator 14 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring process	Irregular project monitoring is being done without an adequate monitoring framework detailing what and how to monitor the particular project or programme	0	0	There is no formal framework for project/program monitoring. It has been planned to establish a commission for monitoring of implementation of the Second NBSAP 2014-2020.	The project will establish three national committees (inter-ministerial, CCC and CCD) and support the existed national committee to oversee the implementation of the CBD. These four committee will monitor the development of the data sharing and management systems	2
	An adequate resourced monitoring framework is in place but project monitoring is irregularly conducted	1				
	Regular participative monitoring of results in being conducted but this information is only partially used by the project/programme implementation team	2				
	Monitoring information is produced timely and accurately and is used by the	3				

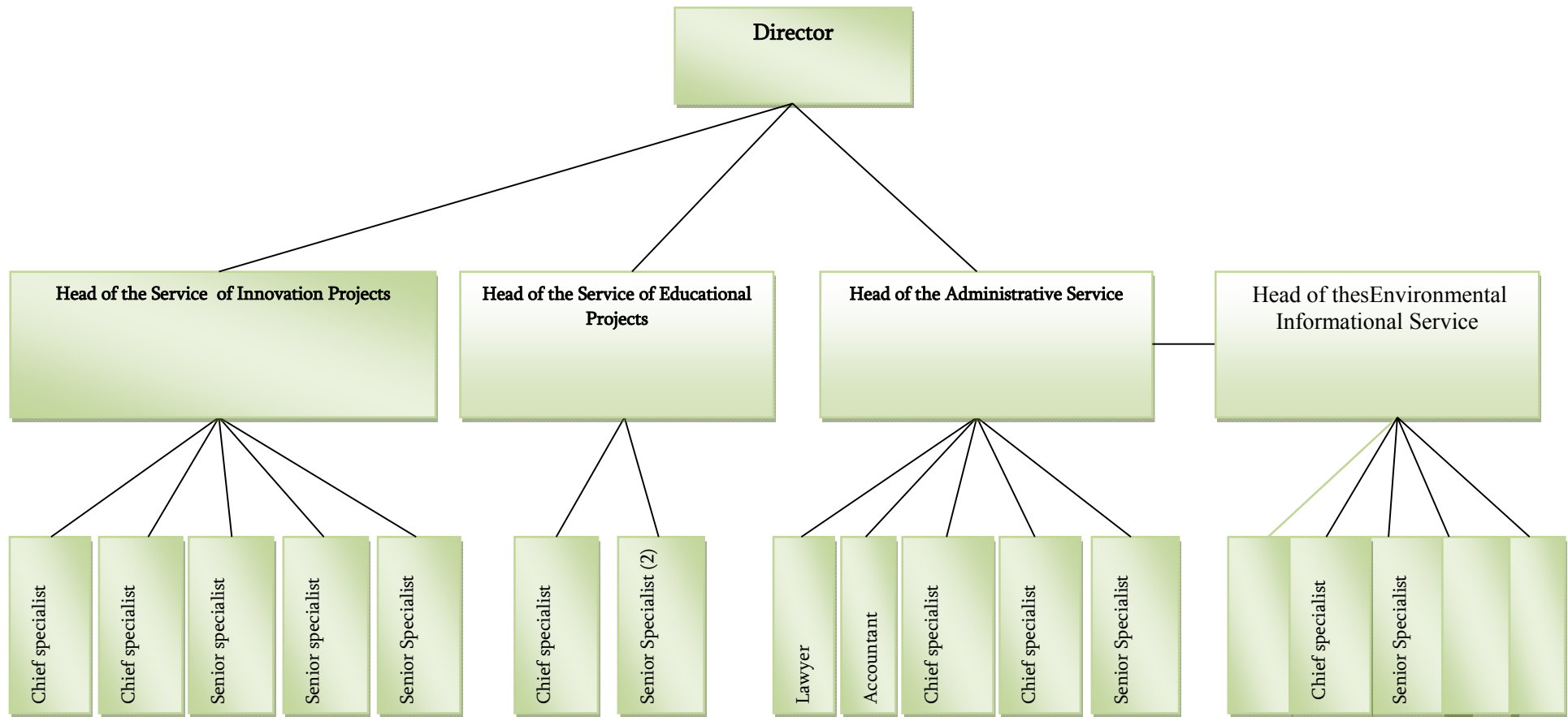
	implementation team to learn and possibly to change the course of action					
Indicator 15 – Adequacy of the project/programme monitoring and evaluation process	None or ineffective evaluations are being conducted without an adequate evaluation plan; including the necessary resources	0	0	There is no evaluation plan to conduct project/programme evaluation. However, qualitative evaluation of the strategic programmes and plans has been done.	Projects progress reports will be prepared on a quarterly basis and shared with BP. Annual reports will be prepared by the end of the year and discussed on the annual review meetings. A midterm review and a final evaluation to evaluate the project's progress towards its original pre-identified outcomes will be conducted.	2
	An adequate evaluation plan is in place but evaluation activities are irregularly conducted	1				
	Evaluations are being conducted as per an adequate evaluation plan but the evaluation results are only partially used by the project/programme implementation team	2				
	Effective evaluations are conducted timely and accurately and are used by the implementation team and the Agencies and GEF Staff to correct the course of action if needed and to learn for further planning activities	3				



**ANNEX 3: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY**



ANNEX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CENTER



**ANNEX 5: STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSULTED PARTIES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Individual Contact</b>	<b>Organization</b>
20/10/2014	Nino Antadze	UNDP Country Office Energy and Environment Team Leader
	Mr. Giorgi Shukhoshvili Ms. Khatuna Chikviladze Ms. Medea Chachkhiani	Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia: - Director - Advisor to the Director - Head of Environmental Protection Division
	Ms. Nino Tkhilava	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: - Head of Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations GEF Operational Focal Point
	Ms. Nino Gvazava	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: Head of Environmental Education and Information Center
	Ms. Nino Chikovani	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: - Head of Land Resources Protection and Mineral Resources Service UNCCD Focal Point
	Mr. Tornike Phulariani	Sustainable Management of Pastures in Georgia to Demonstrate Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Benefits and Dividends for Local Communities Project: - Project Manager/ UNDP
	21/10/2014	Ms. Ekaterine Sanadze
Ms. Nino Kvernadze		Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development: - Head of Sustainable Development Department
Mr. Ramaz Chitanava Mr. George Kordzaxia Mr. Irakli Megrelidze Ms. Lia Megrelidze Mr. Vakhtang Geladze Mr. Merab Gaprindashvili Ms. Marika Bezhashvili Ms. Marine Arabidze		Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: - Head of the Hydrometeorology Department - Deputy Head of the Hydrometeorology Department - Deputy Head of the Hydrometeorology Department - Head of Meteorology and Climate Division - Head of Land and Sea Hydrology Division - Head of the Geology Department - International Relations Division - Head of Environmental Pollution Monitoring Department

	Mr. IosebKartsivadze	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: - UNCBD Focal Point
22/10/2014	Mr. Albert Sido	Attache of Czech Embassy Czech Development Agency
	NGOs meeting: Mr. Kakha Artshivadze Ms. Nino Tevzadze Ms. Sophiko Akhobadze Mr. Irakli Macharashvili Ms. Nino Chkhobadze Ms. Marika Kavtarishvili Mr. Ramaz Gokhelashvili	- NACRES - CENN - Rec-Caucas - Green Alternative - Green's Movement - IUCN/FLEG - Support Programme for Protected Areas in Caucasus
	Ms. Mariam Jorjadze	- ELKANA
	Ms. Maka Urdia	GIZ
	Mr. David Chichinadze	Swiss Embassy Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC:  - National Programme Officer
23/10/2014	Ms. Nino Gvazava Ms. Irma Melikishvili	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: Environmental Information and Education Centre:  - Director - Head of Environmental Information and Public Participation Department
	Ms. Mziuri Barbakadze Ms. Gogutsa Gelashvili	Ministry of Finance of Georgia LEPL Financial Analytical Service:  - Head of Department - Project Manager
03/11/2014	Mr. Grigol Lazriev	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia: - UNFCCC Focal Point

**ANNEX 6: PROVISIONAL WORK PLAN**

	Description	Quarter											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Outcome 1</b>	<b>Capacities for environmental monitoring are better enabled</b>												
Output 1.1	System of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries (Environment, Economy and Regional Development, Agriculture etc) and the EIEC to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions improved												
1.1.1	Conduct a comprehensive assessment within relevant Ministries and agencies on their needs for environmental data; type, format and frequency, and data flow;	■	■										
1.1.2	Carry out an assessment of the relevant national agencies, with special focus on the EIEC and the NEA, on their roles on environmental information management and monitoring;		■	■									
1.1.3	Reconcile and harmonize the various mandates and operational plans of the relevant national agencies to integrate Rio Convention obligations and determine roles and responsibilities pertaining to information sharing;			■	■								
1.1.4	Forge strategic partnerships to enhance the flow of information between different agencies and the MENRP;				■								
1.1.5	Develop a plan for addressing content gaps according to national needs and global commitments;				■	■							
1.1.6	Organize national stakeholders meetings to discuss and recommend best practices for sharing environmental data, information and knowledge;						■						
1.1.7	Establish a system of information exchange among relevant departments in key ministries and the EIEC and NEA to support environmental monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions;							■	■				
1.1.8	Conduct a series of trainings for expert institutions identified as entry points for the system on data collection, databases operation, equipment handling, and data quality validation.								■		■		■
Output 1.2	Clear legal framework established to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions												
1.2.1	Undertake an analysis of Georgia’s environmental legislation and compliance, using the Rio Convention legal analytical framework; the three conventions and the cross-cutting area.		■										
1.2.2	Undertake an analysis of the MENRP, EIEC and NEA’s statute and the legislations pertaining to monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions;			■									
1.2.3	Establish a clear legal framework to facilitate monitoring in implementing Rio Conventions. This framework would be used to cross-reference and assess the				■	■	■						



	coverage of Rio Convention obligations through Georgia's national environment-related legal instruments; and																				
1.2.4	Organize and convene a series of stakeholders meetings for discussing the proposed legal framework. Collect and incorporate all related recommendations and suggestions																				
<b>Output 1.3</b>	<b>Data collection, analysis and monitoring system developed at the EIEC with optimal linkages to local authorities</b>																				
1.3.1	Undertake institutional mapping of existing stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, and analyze their respective roles and responsibilities, including legal mandates as well as institutional overlaps and/or gaps.																				
1.3.2	Identify key databases that need to be linked to the environmental information management system;																				
1.3.3	Prepare detailed data collection, sharing and reporting mechanism scheme, in line with the Rio Convention Reporting, to be adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection for an improved Rio Conventions reporting system;																				
1.3.4	Develop mechanisms for managing information flows from identified sources (government, multilateral, NGOs, indigenous organizations, academic, corporate and other) accessing data online, through a communication and training strategy.																				
1.3.5	Develop quality control/validation procedures and identify responsible scientific and institutional correspondents;																				
1.3.6	Support EIEC's team in the development and building of the environmental information management system and submit for consideration by respective responsible state committee and Parliament;																				
1.3.7	Organize an official testing event followed by a demonstration session to stakeholders in order to build awareness; and																				
1.3.8	Create an outreach plan (communication plan) that includes selecting and accruing strategic partners, and defining the levels and types of contribution from each partner (i.e. funding or in kind support such as content creation).																				
<b>Outcome 2</b>	<b>Technical and management staff sufficiently trained in monitoring and data analysis, and linkage to decision-making process</b>																				
<b>Output 2.1</b>	<b>Convention monitoring and reporting capacities developed</b>																				
2.1.1	Undertake in-depth capacity needs assessment among officers in charge, respective committee members and convention focal points on the Rio Conventions reporting and monitoring in Georgia;																				
2.1.2	Develop a capacity development plan based on the assessment, and present to																				

	relevant authorities for validation through peer review of experts and stakeholders;												
2.1.3	Design a targeted capacity development programs and modules to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders. The capacity development program will be carried out within the structure of the national, regional and local environmental data collection, processing and delivery in the context of the Rio Convention;												
2.1.4	Provide the proposed capacity development plan and document the capacity development progress through the capacity scorecards and events' evaluation; and												
2.1.5	Organize cross-cutting awareness raising meetings with stakeholders on the importance of integrating environmental management into planning and monitoring processes.												
Output 2.2	Inter-ministerial cooperation for collaborative decision-making among policy makers achieved.												
2.2.1	Conduct a comprehensive assessment within concerned stakeholders (decision-makers) and institutions on their roles pertaining to the implementation of the Rio Conventions.												
2.2.2	Conduct an institutional analysis of the challenges and barriers for inter-ministerial cooperation in relation to managing environmental data and monitoring of Rio Conventions implementation and reporting.												
2.2.3	Propose and recommend appropriate inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms, and define the structure, mandate, and governance structure of the proposed mechanisms to make informed decisions on the global environmental conventions.												
2.2.4	Organize and convene stakeholder dialogues to present the proposed mechanisms and to exchange experiences on strengthening available practice for monitoring and reporting on the Rio Conventions.												
2.2.5	Develop the selected inter-ministerial cooperation mechanisms in close cooperation with all stakeholders.												
<b>Project Management</b>													
A	Locally recruited personnel: Project Manager and Assistant												
B	National Consultants												
C	International Evaluation Consultant												
D	Office facilities and communications												
E	Project start-up: Organize project team and review work plan												
F	Policy Board meetings												

**QUESTION 1:**

**Has a combined environmental and social assessment/review that covers the proposed project already been completed by implementing partners or donor(s)?**

Select answer below and follow instructions:

**XNO** → Continue to Question 2 (do not fill out Table 1.1)

**YES** → No further environmental and social review is required if the existing documentation meets UNDP’s quality assurance standards, and environmental and social management recommendations are integrated into the project. Therefore, you should undertake the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Use Table 1.1 below to assess existing documentation. (It is recommended that this assessment be undertaken jointly by the Project Developer and other relevant Focal Points in the office or Bureau).
2. Ensure that the Project Document incorporates the recommendations made in the implementing partner’s environmental and social review.
3. Summarize the relevant information contained in the implementing partner’s environmental and social review in Annex A.2 of this Screening Template, selecting Category 1.
4. Submit Annex A to the PAC, along with other relevant documentation.

<b>TABLE 1.1: CHECKLIST FOR APPRAISING QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. Does the assessment/review meet its terms of reference, both procedurally and substantively?	
2. Does the assessment/review provide a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project?	
3. Does the assessment/review contain the information required for decision-making?	
4. Does the assessment/review describe specific environmental and social management measures (e.g., mitigation, monitoring, advocacy, and capacity development measures)?	
5. Does the assessment/review identify capacity needs of the institutions responsible for implementing environmental and social management issues?	
6. Was the assessment/review developed through a consultative process with strong stakeholder engagement, including the view of men and women?	
7. Does the assessment/review assess the adequacy of the cost of and financing arrangements	

for environmental and social management issues?	
<b>Table 1.1 (continued) For any “no” answers, describe below how the issue has been or will be resolved (e.g., amendments made or supplemental review conducted).</b>	

## QUESTION 2:

Do **all** outputs and activities described in the Project Document fall within the following categories?

- Procurement (in which case UNDP’s [Procurement Ethics](#) and [Environmental Procurement Guideline](#) need to be complied with)
- Report preparation
- Training
- Event/workshop/meeting/conference (refer to [Green Meeting Guide](#))
- Communication and dissemination of results

Select answer below and follow instructions:

**NO** → Continue to Question 3

**X YES** → No further environmental and social review required. Complete Annex A.2, selecting Category 1, and submit the completed template (Annex A) to the PAC.

## QUESTION 3:

Does the proposed project include activities and outputs that support *upstream* planning processes that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change (refer to Table 3.1 for examples)? (Note that *upstream* planning processes can occur at global, regional, national, local and sectoral levels)

Select the appropriate answer and follow instructions:

**NO** → Continue to Question 4.

**X YES** → Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Adjust the project design as needed to incorporate UNDP support to the country(ies), to ensure that environmental and social issues are appropriately considered during the upstream planning process. Refer to Section 7 of this Guidance for elaboration of environmental and social mainstreaming services, tools, guidance and approaches that may be used.
2. Summarize environmental and social mainstreaming support in Annex A.2, Section

Cofthe Screening Template and select "Category 2".

3. If the proposed project ONLY includes upstream planning processes then screening is complete, and you should submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) to the PAC.If downstream implementation activities are also included in the project then continue to Question 4.

<b>TABLE 3.1</b> <b>EXAMPLES OF UPSTREAM PLANNING PROCESSES WITH POTENTIALDOWNSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS</b>	Check appropriate box(es) below
1. Support for the elaboration or revision of <b>global-level</b> strategies, policies, plans, and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support related to international negotiations and agreements. Other examples might include a global water governance project or a global MDG project.</i>	
2. Support for the elaboration or revision of <b>regional-level</b> strategies, policies and plans, and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support related to trans-boundaryprogrammes and planning (river basin management, migration, international waters, energy development and access, climate change adaptation etc.).</i>	
3. Support for the elaboration or revision of <b>national-level</b> strategies, policies, plans and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support related to national development policies, plans, strategies and budgets, MDG-based plans and strategies (e.g., PRS/PRSPs, NAMAs), sector plans.</i>	<b>X</b>
4. Support for the elaboration or revision of <b>sub-national/local-level</b> strategies, polices, plans and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support for district and local level development plans and regulatory frameworks, urban plans, land use development plans, sector plans, provincial development plans, investment funds, provision of services, technical guidelines and methods, stakeholder engagement.</i>	<b>X</b>

#### QUESTION 4:

**Does the proposed project include the implementation of *downstream* activities that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change?**

To answer this question, you should first complete Table 4.1 by selecting appropriate answers.If you answer "No" or "Not Applicable" to all questions in Table 4.1 then the answer to Question 4 is "NO."If you answer "Yes" to any questions in Table 4.1 (even one "Yes" can indicated a significant issue that needs to be addressed through further review and management) then the answer to Question 4 is "YES":

**X NO** → No further environmental and social review and management required for downstream activities.Complete Annex A.2 by selecting "Category 1", and submit the Environmental and Social Screening Template to the PAC.

**YES** → Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Consult Section 8 of this Guidance, to determine the extent of further environmental and social review and management that might be required for the project.
2. Revise the Project Document to incorporate environmental and social management measures. Where further environmental and social review and management activity cannot be undertaken prior to the PAC, a plan for undertaking such review and management activity within an acceptable period of time, post-PAC approval (e.g., as the first phase of the project) should be outlined in Annex A.2.
3. Select “Category 3” in Annex A.2, and submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) and relevant documentation to the PAC.

**TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT**

<b>1. Biodiversity and <u>Natural</u> Resources</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
<b>1.1</b> Would the proposed project result in the conversion or degradation of <u>modified habitat</u> , <u>natural habitat</u> or <u>critical habitat</u> ?	No
<b>1.2</b> Are any development activities proposed within a legally protected area (e.g., natural reserve, national park) for the protection or conservation of biodiversity?	No
<b>1.3</b> Would the proposed project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
<b>1.4</b> Does the project involve natural forest harvesting or plantation development without an independent forest certification system for sustainable forest management (e.g., <i>PEFC, the Forest Stewardship Council certification systems, or processes established or accepted by the relevant National Environmental Authority</i> )?	No
<b>1.5</b> Does the project involve the production and harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species without an accepted system of independent certification to ensure sustainability (e.g., <i>the Marine Stewardship Council certification system, or certifications, standards, or processes established or accepted by the relevant National Environmental Authority</i> )?	No
<b>1.6</b> Does the project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?  <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction.</i>	No
<b>1.7</b> Does the project pose a risk of degrading soils?	No
<b>2. Pollution</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
<b>2.1</b> Would the proposed project result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and	No

<b>TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
trans-boundary impacts?	
<b>2.2</b> Would the proposed project result in the generation of waste that cannot be recovered, reused, or disposed of in an environmentally and socially sound manner?	No
<b>2.3</b> Will the proposed project involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of chemicals and hazardous materials subject to international action bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or the Montreal Protocol.</i>	No
<b>2.4</b> Is there a potential for the release, in the environment, of hazardous materials resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage and use for project activities?	No
<b>2.5</b> Will the proposed project involve the application of pesticides that have a known negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
<b>3. Climate Change</b>	
<b>3.1</b> Will the proposed project result in significant <sup>75</sup> greenhouse gas emissions? <i>Annex E provides additional guidance for answering this question.</i>	No
<b>3.2</b> Is the proposed project likely to directly or indirectly increase environmental and social vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? You can refer to the additional guidance in Annex C to help you answer this question. <i>For example, a project that would involve indirectly removing mangroves from coastal zones or encouraging land use plans that would suggest building houses on floodplains could increase the surrounding population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding.</i>	No
<b>4. Social Equity and Equality</b>	
	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
<b>4.1</b> Would the proposed project have environmental and social impacts that could affect indigenous people or other vulnerable groups?	No
<b>4.2</b> Is the project likely to significantly impact gender equality and women's empowerment <sup>76</sup> ?	No
<b>4.3</b> Is the proposed project likely to directly or indirectly increase social inequalities now or in the future?	No

<sup>75</sup> Significant corresponds to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions greater than 100,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). Annex E provides additional guidance on calculating potential amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

<sup>76</sup> Women are often more vulnerable than men to environmental degradation and resource scarcity. They typically have weaker and insecure rights to the resources they manage (especially land), and spend longer hours on collection of water, firewood, etc. (OECD, 2006). Women are also more often excluded from other social, economic, and political development processes.

<b>TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
4.4 Will the proposed project have variable impacts on women and men, different ethnic groups, social classes?	No
4.5 Have there been challenges in engaging women and other certain key groups of stakeholders in the project design process?	No
4.6 Will the project have specific human rights implications for vulnerable groups?	No
<b>5. Demographics</b>	
5.1 Is the project likely to result in a substantial influx of people into the affected community(ies)?	No
5.2 Would the proposed project result in substantial voluntary or involuntary resettlement of populations? <i>For example, projects with environmental and social benefits (e.g., protected areas, climate change adaptation) that impact human settlements, and certain disadvantaged groups within these settlements in particular.</i>	No
5.3 Would the proposed project lead to significant population density increase which could affect the environmental and social sustainability of the project? <i>For example, a project aiming at financing tourism infrastructure in a specific area (e.g., coastal zone, mountain) could lead to significant population density increase which could have serious environmental and social impacts (e.g., destruction of the area's ecology, noise pollution, waste management problems, greater work burden on women).</i>	No
<b>6. Culture</b>	
6.1 Is the project likely to significantly affect the cultural traditions of affected communities, including gender-based roles?	No
6.2 Will the proposed project result in physical interventions (during construction or implementation) that would affect areas that have known physical or cultural significance to indigenous groups and other communities with settled recognized cultural claims?	No
6.3 Would the proposed project produce a physical “splintering” of a community? <i>For example, through the construction of a road, power line, or dam that divides a community.</i>	No
<b>7. Health and Safety</b>	
7.1 Would the proposed project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions? <i>For example, development projects located within a floodplain or landslide prone area.</i>	No
7.2 Will the project result in increased health risks as a result of a change in living and working conditions? In particular, will it have the potential to lead to an increase in HIV/AIDS	No



<b>TABLE 4.1: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED AND POSSIBLE EXTENT OF FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
infection?	
7.3 Will the proposed project require additional health services including testing?	No
<b>8. Socio-Economics</b>	
<b>8.1</b> Is the proposed project likely to have impacts that could affect women's and men's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources and other natural capital assets?  <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their development, livelihoods, and well-being?</i>	No
<b>8.2</b> Is the proposed project likely to significantly affect land tenure arrangements and/or traditional cultural ownership patterns?	No
<b>8.3</b> Is the proposed project likely to negatively affect the income levels or employment opportunities of vulnerable groups?	No
<b>9. Cumulative and/or Secondary Impacts</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Not Applicable)
<b>9.1</b> Is the proposed project location subject to currently approved land use plans (e.g., roads, settlements) which could affect the environmental and social sustainability of the project?  <i>For example, future plans for urban growth, industrial development, transportation infrastructure, etc.</i>	N/A
<b>9.2</b> Would the proposed project result in secondary or consequential development which could lead to environmental and social effects, or would it have potential to generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?  <i>For example, a new road through forested land will generate direct environmental and social impacts through the cutting of forest and earthworks associated with construction and potential relocation of inhabitants. These are direct impacts. In addition, however, the new road would likely also bring new commercial and domestic development (houses, shops, businesses). In turn, these will generate indirect impacts. (Sometimes these are termed "secondary" or "consequential" impacts). Or if there are similar developments planned in the same forested area then cumulative impacts need to be considered.</i>	Yes

## ANNEX A.2: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING SUMMARY

**Name of Proposed Project: Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia**

### **A. Environmental and Social Screening Outcome**

Select from the following:

- Category 1.** No further action is needed
- Category 2.** Further review and management is needed. There are possible environmental and social benefits, impacts, and/or risks associated with the project (or specific project component), but these are predominantly indirect or very long-term and so extremely difficult or impossible to directly identify and assess.
- Category 3.** Further review and management is needed, and it is possible to identify these with a reasonable degree of certainty. If Category 3, select one or more of the following sub-categories:
  - Category 3.a:** Impacts and risks are limited in scale and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and can often be handled through application of standard best practice, but require some minimal or targeted further review and assessment to identify and evaluate whether there is a need for a full environmental and social assessment (in which case the project would move to Category 3b).
  - Category 3.b:** Impacts and risks may well be significant, and so full environmental and social assessment is required. In these cases, a scoping exercise will need to be conducted to identify the level and approach of assessment that is most appropriate.

**B. Environmental and Social Issues**(for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management)

In this section, you should list the key potential environmental and social issues raised by this project. This might include both environmental and social opportunities that could be seized on to strengthen the project, as well as risks that need to be managed. You should use the answers you provided in Table 4.1 as the basis for this summary, as well as any further review and management that is conducted.

**C. Next Steps**(for projects requiring further environmental and social review and management):

In this section, you should summarize actions that will be taken to deal with the above-listed issues. If your project has Category 2 or 3 components, then appropriate next steps will likely involve further environmental and social review and management, and the outcomes of this work should also be summarized here. Relevant guidance should be obtained from Section 7 for Category 2, and Section 8 for Category 3.

### **D. Sign Off**

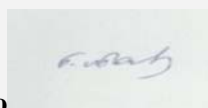
**Project Manager**

**Date**

**PAC**

**Date**

**Programme Manager Nino Antadze, UNDP EE Portfolio**



**Date 15.12.2014**



**National Project Manager****Description of Responsibilities**

The National Project Manager (NPM) has the responsibility for the delivery of the project's outcomes and activities in accordance with the project document and agreed work plan. She/he will serve on a full-time basis and will be committed to the day-to-day management of the project and for its successful implementation in line with the UNDP standards. The specific tasks and responsibilities include the following:

**Project management (75%)**

- Provide overall management and planning for the implementation of the national project's outcomes, outputs and activities according to the project document and annual work-plan;
- Participate in conferences, workshops, meetings to provide input in the strategic planning & implementation of the project.
- Establish coordination mechanisms and maintain continuous liaison with UNDP-CO and the national implementing agency.
- Develop and submit a detailed work program for the national execution of the project and the delivery of outputs.
- Ensure that the project activities are delivered on time according to the work-plan and assure quality control.
- Document project activities, processes and results.
- Provide financial oversight and ensure financial accountability for the Project (monitor and manage the allocation of available budget to project activities, undertake all necessary financial arrangements, processes, requests for authorizations, payments).
- Ensure preparation & timely delivery of narrative & financial reporting (quarterly, progress and annual reports) submitted to UNDP; taking into account the norms and standards for project monitoring and reporting are properly met.
- Provide management oversight to daily operational and administrative aspects of project (procurement, recruitment, staff supervision); Supervise all staff assignments, consulting agreements and procurements;
- Identify and appoint national experts/consultants, in conjunction with UNDP, to be hired for the implementation of specific project components or training of the project, develop TOR and agreements, and follow-up on performance.
- Initiate, in coordination with the UNDP, the Project Board, and ensure that the Project acts as the Secretariat for the Board (calling for meetings, preparing and consulting on agenda, steering discussions, follow-up on decisions, keep members informed on the progress, etc.).
- Establish and manage office facilities as needed to support project activities.
- Ensure sound programme monitoring and evaluation.

**Project Outreach (Education, Awareness, Networking) (25%)**

- To prepare & perform awareness campaign & presentations to target audiences (decision makers, universities, general public ...).

- Attend as appropriate national, regional and international events to enhance information sharing and dissemination and lessons learned.
- Establish continuous liaison with media providing updates on the project.
- Document and disseminate lessons learned and best practices.
- Participate in, & contribute to, the regional activities and network established by the UNDP and the GEF; a network for influence, exchange, support, capacity-development and knowledge management.
- Contribute to, and draw from, relevant knowledge management networks

### **Relationships**

The National Project Manager will:

- Report directly to the UNDP and MENRP regarding project performance, administrative and financial issues.
- Be accountable to the UNDP for the achievement of project objectives, results, and all fundamental aspects of project execution.
- Maintain regular communication with UNDP and the Project Board.

### **Qualifications and Experience**

The National Project Manager will have the following qualifications, or be able to demonstrate:

#### **Education**

- An advanced university degree (MSc) in any appropriate discipline related to environment, biology, agriculture sciences, engineering, project management or any related field.
- Additional qualifications or experience related to marketing and communication will be advantageous

#### **Experience, Skills and Competencies**

- A minimum of seven years national experience in project development and management; related to Biodiversity or Climate change or land degradation and /or project management.
- Proven knowledge of the environmental sector in the country; overview knowledge of the region is an added asset.
- Proven ability to work with a variety of people including government officials, international and national NGOs, local stakeholders, experts and consultants.
- Strong leadership, managerial and team-building skills; committed to enhancing and bringing additional value to the work of the team as a whole.
- Proven experience in facilitating and chairing meetings and/or workshops.
- Excellent communication, presentation and facilitation skills.
- A proven ability to manage budgets.
- Good organizational and planning skills and a proven ability to adhere to deadlines.
- A proven ability to provide financial and progress reports in accordance with reporting schedules.
- Good computer skills;
- Fluency in verbal and written English and Georgian.

**National Project Admin/Finance Assistant  
On Part-time Basis**

**Objectives of the Assignment**

In consultation with the Project Board (PB) and the project manager, the Project Admin/Finance Assistant is responsible for Supporting the Project Manager in operational and administrative aspects of the project.

**Key Results Expected and Measurable Outputs**

The Assistant is expected to assume the following tasks:

% of Time	Key Results Expected/Major Functional Activities	Measurable Outputs of the Work Assignment
50%	<p>Administrative responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the Project Manager in operational and administrative aspects of project.</li> <li>▪ Schedule workshops and meetings, and arrange their logistics.</li> <li>▪ Draft and type minutes of meetings and correspondence in English and/or Georgian.</li> <li>▪ Follow-up on correspondence with MENRP, UNDP, etc.</li> <li>▪ Assist the Project Manager in maintaining continuous liaison with UNDP and the national partners of the project.</li> <li>▪ Maintain up-to-date soft and hard filing systems.</li> <li>▪ Support the Project Manager in the project's role as the Secretariat for the project board (calling for meetings, preparing and consulting on agenda, steering discussions, follow-up on decisions, keep members informed on the progress, etc.).</li> <li>▪ Assist Project Manager to develop and submit progress and financial reports to UNDP in accordance with the reporting schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project documentations are properly filed.</li> <li>▪ Workshops and meetings are properly scheduled and organized.</li> <li>▪ Correspondences are properly prepared and followed up.</li> <li>▪ Secretarial work is done properly.</li> </ul>
30%	<p>Financial responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the Project Manager in all necessary financial arrangements, processes, requests for authorizations, payments.</li> <li>▪ Prepare financial forms and periodic reports according to UNDP requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial forms and periodic reports are properly prepared.</li> <li>▪ Financial matters are followed-up with the UNDP-Jordan office.</li> </ul>
20%	<p>Technical responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assist in some technical aspects of the project such as collection and classification of data and information.</li> <li>▪ Assist in drafting inception, progress and final reports, presentations, and any other project related materials.</li> <li>▪ Support the Project Manager in documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices.</li> <li>▪ Assist Project Manager to co-ordinate project implementation.</li> <li>▪ Support the Project Manager in preparing awareness campaigns &amp; presentations to target audiences (decision makers, universities, general public...).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reports are prepared properly on time.</li> </ul>

### **Minimum Qualifications and Experience**

The Project Admin/Finance Assistant will have the following qualifications, or be able to demonstrate:

<b>Minimum Qualifications and Experience</b>	
Education	University degree (B.Sc) in any appropriate discipline related to Administration, Finance and Project Management.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum of three years national experience in project Administration and Financial development and management.</li><li>• Previous experience with UN Agencies will be Advantage.</li><li>• Proven ability to work with a variety of people including government officials, international and national NGOs, local stakeholders, experts and consultants.</li><li>• Excellent communication, presentation and facilitation skills.</li><li>• A proven ability to manage budgets.</li><li>• Good organizational and planning skills and a proven ability to adhere to deadlines.</li><li>• A proven ability to provide financial and progress reports in accordance with reporting schedules.</li></ul>
Language requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fluency in verbal and written English and Georgian</li><li>• Excellent communication (written and oral) skills in English and Georgian;</li><li>• <u>Report writing in English with fluency is absolutely necessary</u></li></ul>
Computer skills	Excellent computer and word processing skills.
Nationality	Georgian

**ANNEX 9: STANDARD LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDP AND THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES**

Dear Mr. Khokrishvili,

1. Reference is made to consultations between officials of the Government of *Georgia* (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the project “Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia” (*Atlas Project ID: 00082289/Output ID: 00091279*) implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia. UNDP and the Government hereby agree that the UNDP country office may provide such support services at the request of the Ministry detailed in the respective project document, as described below.
2. The UNDP country office may provide support services for assistance with reporting requirements and direct payment. In providing such support services, the UNDP country office shall ensure that the capacity of the Ministry is strengthened to enable it to carry out such activities directly. The costs incurred by the UNDP country office in providing such support services shall be recovered from the project budget in accordance with UN Universal Price List.
3. The UNDP country office may provide, at the request of the designated institution, the following support services for the activities of the project, details are specified in the Attachment:
  - (a) Payments, disbursements and other financial transactions;
  - (b) Recruitment of staff, project personnel and consultants;
  - (c) Procurement of services and goods, including disposal
  - (d) Organization of training activities, conferences and workshops, including fellowships;
  - (e) Travel authorization, visa requests, ticketing, and travel arrangements;
  - (f) Shipment, custom clearance, vehicle registration, and accreditation
4. The procurement of goods and services and the recruitment of project and programme personnel by the UNDP country office shall be in accordance with the UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures. Support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be detailed in an annex to the project document, in the form provided in the Attachment hereto. If the requirements for support services by the country office change during the life of the project, the annex to the programme support document or project document is revised with the mutual agreement of the UNDP resident representative and the Ministry.
5. The relevant provisions of the UNDP Standard Basic Assistance Agreement with the Government of Georgia (the “SBAA”), including the provisions on liability and privileges and immunities, shall apply to the provision of such support services. The Ministry shall retain overall responsibility for the nationally managed project. The responsibility of the UNDP country office for the provision of the support services described herein shall be limited to the provision of such support services detailed in the annex to the project document.



6. Any claim or dispute arising under or in connection with the provision of support services by the UNDP country office in accordance with this letter shall be handled pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SBAA.

7. The manner and method of cost-recovery by the UNDP country office in providing the support services described in paragraph 3 above shall be specified in the annex to the project document.

8. The UNDP country office shall submit progress reports on the support services provided and shall report on the costs reimbursed in providing such services, as may be required.

9. Any modification of the present arrangements shall be effected by mutual written agreement of the parties hereto.

10. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two signed copies of this letter. Upon your signature, this letter shall constitute an agreement between your Government and UNDP on the terms and conditions for the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the project.

Yours sincerely,

---

Signed on behalf of UNDP  
Niels Scott  
Resident Representative

---

For the Government  
Teimuraz Murghulia  
Acting Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia

Date:

Attachment

**DESCRIPTION OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SUPPORT SERVICES**

1. Reference is made to consultations between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (the Ministry), the institution designated by the Government of Georgia and officials of UNDP with respect to the provision of support services by the UNDP country office for the nationally managed project “Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia” (*Atlas Project ID: 00082289/Output ID: 00091279*).

2. In accordance with the provisions of the signed letter of agreement and the project document, the UNDP country office shall provide support services for the Project as described below.

3. Support services to be provided:

Support services (insert description)	Schedule for the provision of the support services	Amount and method of reimbursement of UNDP (where appropriate)	Estimated Chargeable Amount
1. Payments, disbursements and other financial transactions	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 6,000
2. Recruitment of staff, project personnel and consultants	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 6,000
3. Procurement of services and goods, including disposal	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 3,000
4. Organization of training activities, conferences and workshops, including fellowships	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 2,500
5. Travel authorization, visa requests, ticketing, and travel arrangements	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 2,840
6. Shipment, custom clearance, vehicle registration, and accreditation	2015-2018	Cost-recovery for ISS based on UNDP Universal Price List	\$ 980
			Total: US\$ 21,320

4. Description of functions and responsibilities of the parties involved:

UNDP will provide support services to the Ministry as described in the paragraph 3 above in accordance with UNDP rules and procedures; it retains ultimate accountability for the effective implementation of the project;

The UNDP will provide support to the National Project Director (appointed by MoENRP) in order to maximize the programme's impact as well as the quality of its products. It will be responsible for administering resources in accordance with the specific objectives defined in the Project Document, and in keeping with the key principles of transparency, competitiveness, efficiency and economy. The financial management and accountability for the resources allocated, as well as other activities related to the execution of programme activities will be undertaken under the direct supervision of the UNDP Country Office.

The Ministry through its National Project Director (NPD) designated from its staff or through duly authorized person, will approve annual work plans, authorize direct payment requests and submit them to UNDP country office in a timely manner;

The Ministry through its NPD or other duly authorized person will monitor and assure that the project funds are spent in accordance with Annual Work Plan (AWP) by authorizing and signing direct payment requests and Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs).

**Part III: GEF Endorsement and Co-financing letters**

საგარეო ურთიერთობების მინისტრის განყოფილება  
საგარეო ურთიერთობების მინისტრის განყოფილება  
"საგარეო ურთიერთობების მინისტრის განყოფილება"

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia  
Legal Entity of Public Law  
"Environmental Information and Education Centre"



№ 04/438

04.12.2014

To:  
Mr. Niels Scott  
UNDP Resident Representative  
UN House  
9 Eristavi Street  
0179 Tbilisi  
Georgia

Dear Mr. Scott,

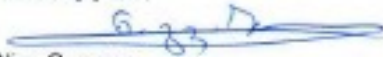
Following to the consultations with the UNDP Georgia project development team in October 2014, we would like to confirm our support and express willingness and readiness to collaborate with the proposed UNDP-GEF Project "Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia". The objective of the proposed project, to improve and strengthen the data collection and analysis system across the three Rio Conventions in Georgia, is directly linked to the objectives of our Center. In particular, the Center coordinates the development of the Environmental Information Management System, a unified electronic system for environmental data, information and services. As part of the System, we are planning to develop shared databases within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, as well as with other stakeholder public agencies. In addition, the System will ensure the public access to environment related data and information.

We are planning to fully develop the Environmental Information Management System in the period of up to three years. We have already started initial activities with kind support of the Financial Analytical Service, LEPL under the Ministry of Finances of Georgia. According to our estimations, the total annual cost for the development and support of the Environmental Information Management System amounts to 1,191,938 USD, which includes development costs – 442,795 USD and capital and operation costs – 749,143 USD.

This amount can be considered as co-financing to the proposed UNDP-GEF project.

We look forward to close collaboration with the proposed project and strongly believe that the activities planned in the framework of the project will support us in reaching our objectives.

Sincerely yours,

  
Nino Gvazava  
Director

საქართველო 0114 თბილისი, ვაჟა-ფშაველას ქ. № 6, ტელ/ფაქსი +995 32 275 24 19; ელ.ფოსტა: info@eicc.ge

#6 Guletsi Str., Tbilisi 0114 Georgia, Tel/Fax: +995 32 275 24 19; E-mail: info@eicc.ge



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

3 December, 2014

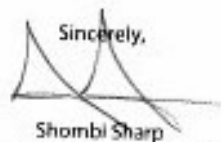
Dear Dr. Ishii

On behalf of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Georgia, I'm pleased to reconfirm our firm endorsement of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Medium-sized Project: "Harmonization of information management for improved knowledge and monitoring of the global environment in Georgia". We confirm that the Project objective - to make the best practices and innovative approaches, for meeting and sustaining the Rio Conventions, available and accessible for implementation through national development policies and programmes - fully aligns with our strategy of the country and is an integral part of the Country Programme Action Plan signed with the Government of Georgia. Supporting improving of effectiveness in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia is one of our main goals for the upcoming programme period.

In line with the Project Identification Form, UNDP Georgia will contribute the USD 150,000 as co-financing during the four-year implementation period of the Project, of which USD 70,000 represents in-kind contribution covering project management costs.

The medium size project document is a result of a participatory process during the implementation of the PPG stage during the year of 2014. The preparation process was conducted in cooperation between UNDP, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. The aims and activities of the project have been consulted widely and are fully aligned with the national goals.

We at UNDP Georgia look forward to final endorsement of the project by the GEF Council and are ready to provide further information if needed.

Sincerely,  


Shombi Sharp  
Deputy Resident Representative

Dr. Naoko Ishii  
CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility

CC: Mr. Elguja Khokrishvili  
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia