

CENN Annual Report

2019

Shaping the Future by Changing Today

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
A Letter from the Executive Director	5
Overview of the Organisation	6
Overview of Our Work.....	10
1. Natural Resource Management.....	10
2. Waste Management, Circular Economy and Green Industries.....	18
3. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Rural Development.....	26
4. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	34
5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	37
6. On-road Transport and Air Pollution	44
Youth Action: Transforming Lives of Young People in Georgia	45
Gender and Environment Nexus	53
Knowledge Materials.....	59

List of Abbreviations *and* Acronyms

AA – Association Agreement	GIS – Geographic Information System	MWMP – Municipal Waste Management Plan
ADC – Austrian Development Cooperation	GLOBE – Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment	NEA – National Environmental Agency
AmCham – American Chamber of Commerce	GoG – Government of Georgia	NFA – National Forest Agency
APA – Agency of Protected Areas	GWC – Global Water Challenge	NFC – National Forest Concept
AR – Autonomous Republic	IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons	NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
BftW – Bread for the World	ISSET – International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University	NSC – National Security Council
BMZ – German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	ISWMP – Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan	NWA – National Wildlife Agency
CAEP – Climate Action Enhancement Package	KfW – Kreditanstalt Für Wiederaufbau (German Development Bank)	NWMAP – National Waste Management Action Plan
CBA – Cost Benefit Analysis	LAG – Local Action Group	NWMS – National Waste Management Strategy
CC – Climate Change	LDS – Local Development Strategy	PSA – Public Service Announcement
CE – Circular Economy	LEADER – Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale (a bottom-up partnership approach to rural development)	PwDs – Persons with Disabilities
CENN – Caucasus Environmental NGO Network	LEDP – Local Economic Development Plan	RWC – Rural Women Council
CSA – Climate Smart Agriculture	LEPL – Legal Entity of Public Law	SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
DRM – Disaster Risk Management	LGBTQI – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex	SFMRD – Sustainable Forest Management for Rural Development in Georgia
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction	LLC – Limited Liability Company	TJS – Transboundary Joint Secretariat
EA – Environmental Assessment	M4EG – Mayors for Economic Growth	ToT – Training of Trainers
EC – European Commission	MCEC – Mediation and Conflict Engagement Committee	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
ENPARD – European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development	MEPA – Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia	UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
EPR – Extended Producers Responsibility	MODIS – Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer	USAID – United States Agency for International Development
ESDD – Environmental and Social Due Diligence	MOESD – Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	VIIRS – Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite
ESIA – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment		WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
EU – European Union		WMA – Waste Management Association
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation		WMTR – Waste Management Technologies in Regions
FG-IACCRD – Forest Group established under the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for Rural Development		WRI – World Resource Institute
GES – Green Economy School		WSS – Water Supply and Sanitation
GFW – Global Forest Watch		WWF – World Wildlife Fund

A Letter *from* *the* Executive Director



Dear team, donors and partners,

I have had the honour of working with many talented and intelligent people on our team since the establishment of CENN in 1998. As the Executive Director of CENN, I am proud to say that, over the years, we have succeeded in striving for excellence and bringing together leaders united under one goal – protecting our environment.

When we first started operating in the politically turbulent environment of the Caucasus, people were pessimistic about our ability to fulfil our vision for CENN, and honestly, it was hard not to be at the time. The years since then have been full of ups and downs, new people and challenges, wins and the occasional loss, but always progressing and moving forward! The CENN team expresses sincere gratitude to everyone who has shared this amazing journey with us – our friends, volunteers, partners, and donors. Together we are united in our work and love for our planet, our home!

In the following report, we would like to present our key achievements. 2019 has been a year that made many people around the globe rethink the way we advocate for our planet. As many of you know, CENN has been on the frontier of youth engagement in environmental activism and sustainable innovations in the region, and as a result, we are as active as ever before in shaping the conversation concerning sustainability and a green future.

In the coming years, we pledge to extend our efforts and give a voice to those who have been unheard and underrepresented in a broader context. We pledge to empower even more people in the Caucasus through our Green Scholarship Program and Sustainable Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development project, both set to launch in 2020.

We look forward to the possibilities ahead.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Janashia'.

Nana Janashia
Executive Director

Overview *of the* Organisation

CENN is a non-governmental organisation working to protect our environment through fostering sustainable development throughout the South Caucasus. We specialise in a number of areas including combating climate change, sustainable management of resources, building and developing healthy and prosperous climate resilient communities, and empowering women and girls to participate in creating inclusive solutions.

Since 1998, we have worked with local communities and national governments through region-wide initiatives to engender green growth at every level. At CENN, we believe that sustainable development is best achieved through networking, cooperation, and engaging with all sections of society. We

implement joint initiatives with equal participation across Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to find viable solutions to local and regional environmental challenges.

With representation throughout the South Caucasus, more than 60 full time members of staff, and a network of volunteers across the region, CENN has the capability and commitment to provide a service that is consistent, professional and of the highest quality. We create and deliver modern solutions for the public and business sectors and communities, assisting them in managing their environmental and related risks and helping them to achieve a competitive advantage through improved environmental and social performance.

OUR MISSION

Working with communities, governments, and businesses across the South Caucasus to create sustainable solutions for a healthy environment.

OUR VISION

To foster modern and sustainable development values, build bridges between communities, and develop a progressive society that values and protects the environment.

OUR GOALS

- Work with communities, governments and businesses to develop sustainable solutions, safeguard our environment and improve people's lives
- Be innovative and proactive in response to environmental concerns
- Build a strong and responsible civil society
- Provide open, inclusive and effective multi- stakeholder networking
- Support good governance and responsible businesses
- Lead by example

OUR VALUES

- 100% commitment
- Quality and professionalism
- Accountability and transparency
- Partnership and networking
- Continuous personal and organisational development
- Teamwork
- Inclusiveness and diversity
- Innovation
- Positive approach

OUR COMPETENCES

- Civil society development and institutional strengthening
- Environmental research and policy
- Compliance management
- Education, knowledge management and networking

OUR THEMATIC DIRECTIONS

- Resource Management: land, water, forest, biodiversity, sea, mineral and energy resources
- Climate Change and DRR: CC adaptation and mitigation, natural hazards and risk assessment and analysis, CC resilience building and environmental migration
- Rural Development and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): CSA strategic and actions planning, CSA resilience building, CSA knowledge management and extension
- Gender and the Environment: mainstreaming gender issues and applying gender-specific strategies to ensure equal gender participation and benefit sharing principles
- Circular Economy through Compliance Management
- Integrated Waste, Chemicals and Pollution Management: air, water and soil
- Sustainable Development and Socio-Economic Integration

We are committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-Being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequalities

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals





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Overview of Our Work

1. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Forests, which cover around 40%¹ of Georgia's territory, are a key resource for the country. Georgia's forests are highly diverse and the majority (97.7%)² are located in mountainous terrain. Besides providing livelihoods and rural energy, forests play an important role by providing ecosystem services, timber and non-timber resources, shelter for rich biodiversity species, as well as recreational and touristic value.

However, Georgian forests are severely degraded

due to increased human pressure and unsustainable extraction of resources. High levels of poverty³ and the lack of affordable alternatives to firewood as well as limited rural income generation sources forces rural households to cut wood illegally or buy it from unauthorized sources. The study developed by CENN experts in 2016⁴ has revealed a dramatic shortage in legally and sustainably cut firewood in Georgia, resulting in the exploitation of forest resources. According to the study, the overall annual

¹ FAO and UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), State of Forests of the Caucasus and Central Asia, 2019, retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/3fxAPAU>. Note: it should be clarified that inventory is an ongoing process, and the indicated forest coverage data is set to be updated.

² MEPA, 2019, Rural Development Strategy of Georgia (2017-20), retrieved on 8 May 2020 via <https://bit.ly/2SWlq3g>.

³ GeoStat, Absolute Poverty, 2018, retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/3dvJSjM>. Note: as per statistics, 20.1% of Georgia's population is under the absolute poverty line.

⁴ CENN, IUCN, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) East Countries Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) II Program and ENPI East Countries FLEG II: Complementary measures for Georgia and Armenia (ENPI FLEG II), Assessment of Firewood Consumption and Firewood Production Potential in Georgia, 2016, available at <https://bit.ly/3fEpr5W>.

consumption of firewood amounts to 2,426,138 m³, which critically exceeds the amount of firewood annually allocated by the National Forestry Agency (NFA) (600,000 m³). Households must resort to illegally obtaining the extra 1,800,000 m³ of firewood for their existence. The study has pushed an issue-oriented dialogue that has resulted in various projects and initiatives focused on sustainable heating alternatives.

In 2013, the Parliament of Georgia adopted a National Forest Concept (NFC) that is based on the overarching principle of the sustainable management of forest resources and emphasizes the importance of forests to the local population. The NFC, developed with CENN's support by Austrian experts (financed by ADC) has built a foundation for forest reform and elaborated forest policy implementation tools, including the new "Forest Code of Georgia". A forest strategic zoning plan "Forest Zoning Directive" was prepared in the scope of the CENN program in 2014, and gradually became a part of the new Forest Code document. However, forest users and government officials responsible for policy concerning forestry and related sectors are not sufficiently aware of the value of forests and of the impacts of their actions and decisions, resulting in diverging interests and inadequate financing. The NFA, which manages forestlands on more than one third of Georgia's territory, has one of the smallest state budgets among the state agencies.⁵ Lack of public financing is the underlying cause for weak forest sector governance. It will be a major task for the MEPA to increase the attention surrounding budget planning in the forestry sector.

In order to tackle forest sector challenges described above, CENN, with financial support provided by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), has been implementing various initiatives in Georgia under three projects: "Sustainable Forest Governance in Georgia" Phases I and II (2012-2018) and the ongoing "Promoting Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Resilient Rural Development in Georgia" (SFMRD) project. Since its launch in 2018, the SFMRD project has implemented various important activities.

In 2018, CENN's Austrian experts elaborated the Institutional Model and Action Plan for the Management of Recreational Forests in Georgia. The plan proposed innovative approaches to forest management, in particular, the recreational

potential of forests through the development of nature-based forest tourism to contribute to local and national economies, as well as to sustain forest ecosystems. Based on this document, the Government has already started the process of identifying forested lands to develop recreational infrastructure. Moreover, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MOESD) has begun elaborating the ecotourism strategy in close cooperation with the NFA.

Furthermore, in 2018, CENN and our Austrian and Slovenian experts, within the framework of CENN's SFMRD project, prepared the recommendations for establishing a flexible and effective Organisational Structures for the National Forestry Agency (NFA) and other forest-related bodies. The recommendations played a critical role in political decision-making regarding the institutional development of the forestry sector in Georgia. Specifically, MEPA and the Parliament abandoned the idea of abolishing the NFA and transferring its functions to a limited liability company (LLC). As a follow-up, in order to create a business plan and a model for the forest management unit, the new recommendation document will be prepared in close cooperation with the NFA.

Furthermore, CENN's SFMRD project team contributed to significant improvements in the chapter of the new Forest Code on non-timber forest products in 2018. In particular, after the approval of the Forest Code, the income generated by the production of non-timber forest products will be legal and access to raw materials from the forest will be more accessible to the local population, forest-based product providers, and entrepreneurs. In the long run, the aforementioned change will contribute to diversifying the rural economy - one of the primary goals of the ongoing forestry project.

In 2019, our team highlighted the energy pressure on forests as the main factor contributing to forest degradation in Georgia in the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP). The aforementioned document proposes mitigation measures for phasing out social logging, as well as measures to support organized forest use, promote the eradication of practices concerning the unsustainable and ineffective use of forests resources, and facilitate multi-purpose forest use and interagency coordination.

⁵ GeoStat, 2019.

As a result of joint advocacy activities and a youth-led campaign, CENN and local youth, with partner support, assisted in transforming Krtsanisi Forest Park into a recreational area, which resulted in the conservation of 245 hectares. The National Wildlife Agency took responsibility for its restoration and management in cooperation with CENN and active young leaders.

Modern forest management practices have been piloted and promoted based on the strategic directions of relevant policy documents (2016-2018). Some of the key activities in 2018 and 2019 include:

- Supporting paper waste recycling in schools via the nationwide Green School Campaign;
- Transforming Krtsanisi Forest Park into a recreational area, which resulted in the conservation of 245 hectares of land;
- Identifying and marking a new tourist route (5.3 km) in Tbilisi connecting Turtle Lake to Mtatsminda Park;
- Supporting environmental education and the implementation of innovative green business ideas at schools by establishing 9 modern eco-hubs for youth in the regions;
- The innovative program, Green Economy School, was conducted to identify innovative and promising ideas for pilot projects. As a result of involving 5 state and private university students and community members from the target regions, as well as support from state partners (MEPA, NFA), 8 green business concepts were elaborated that focus on the sustainable consumption of forest resources and promoting women's participation (2020);





- The capacity of the personnel of local authorities and Tbilisi City Hall (170 stakeholders in total) was enhanced via trainings on the following topics: sustainable forest management, recreational function of forests, tree care and green space management, personal safety and the use of specialized equipment for tree trimming and pruning;
- Training courses were prepared and conducted in forest management, forest-monitoring techniques, public participation, gender equality, conflict management, and advocacy and lobbying. 20 trainings were conducted at the local level nationwide;
- In order to tackle inter-agency coordination issues, the Forest Group was established under the Inter-Agency Coordination Council for Rural Development (FG-IACCRD) in 2019, which has 18 state and 15 non-state members/partners. FG-IACCRD aims to improve intersectoral inter-agency cooperation in terms of the sustainable management of forest resources.
- In August 2018, CENN elaborated the Recommendations for Restoration of Edible Chestnut Forest Stands in Georgia.

Our team launched an educational program for students – Green Economy School – to provide hands-on experience for students. In total, 20 students developed 10 innovative socially and environmentally responsible business projects based on the economic function of forests.



Ilia Archemashvili

**Beneficiary of the Green Economy School (GES) and
Head of the Tianeti's Nobati Cooperative**

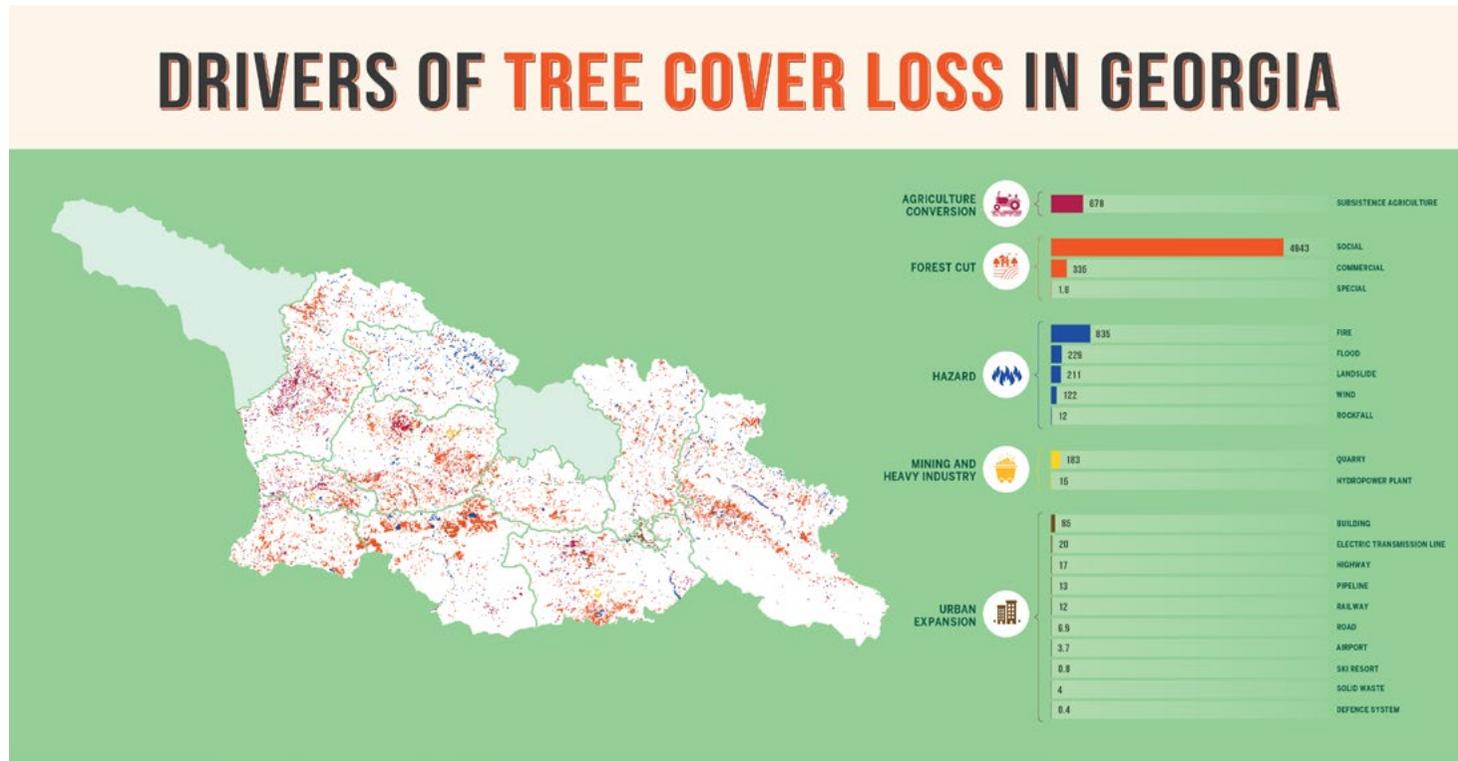
"I had the opportunity to improve my business idea (re: production of the rosehip beer), I met professional experts and got helpful information to improve the business line. The Green Economy School helped me understand that the sustainable usage of forest resources can be profitable to our business as well as the entire community. The Green Economy School is really one of the best experiences working with very interesting and motivated people, especially students."

We developed multiple Geo-Statistic Databases that show tree cover loss drivers in Georgia and identified the factors that lead to tree cover loss in the country. In addition, we created another specific Geo-Statistic Database that shows grass and forest fires in Georgia. Our team identified 706 fires between 2001-2018 covering a total of 82,349 hectares of forests, agriculture lands and grass lands. Research indicates that as a result of interactions between social, economic, and political influences, social cutting is by far the main driver of tree cover loss in Georgia.

In 2019, we partnered with the World Resource Institute (WRI) and implemented the Monitoring and Analysis of Forest Dynamics and Trends. The project has supported ongoing forestry reform and policy improvement in Georgia by reducing uncertainty and enabling access to most current information. Specifically, our team identified direct drivers behind tree cover loss/gain and developing forest dynamic trends. The project provided essential information for policymakers at local and national levels to develop necessary policy actions and reduce the negative impacts of deforestation and forest degradation.

Research conducted within the project indicates that social cutting is by far the main driver of tree cover loss in Georgia as a result of interactions between social, economic and political influences, based on Global Forest Watch tree cover loss

data. Additionally, another geo-statistic database was developed to identify grass and forest fires in Georgia using Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) and Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) active fire data. The information was processed in a Geographic Information System (GIS). As a result of analysing the information bases and processing satellite data, the area of each wildfire and date of fire occurrence (year, month, number) were identified and burnt vegetation cover was classified into the following categories: (1) fires in the field, (2) fires on agricultural land, (3) fires in the forest, (4) tree species growing in the area of wildfire.



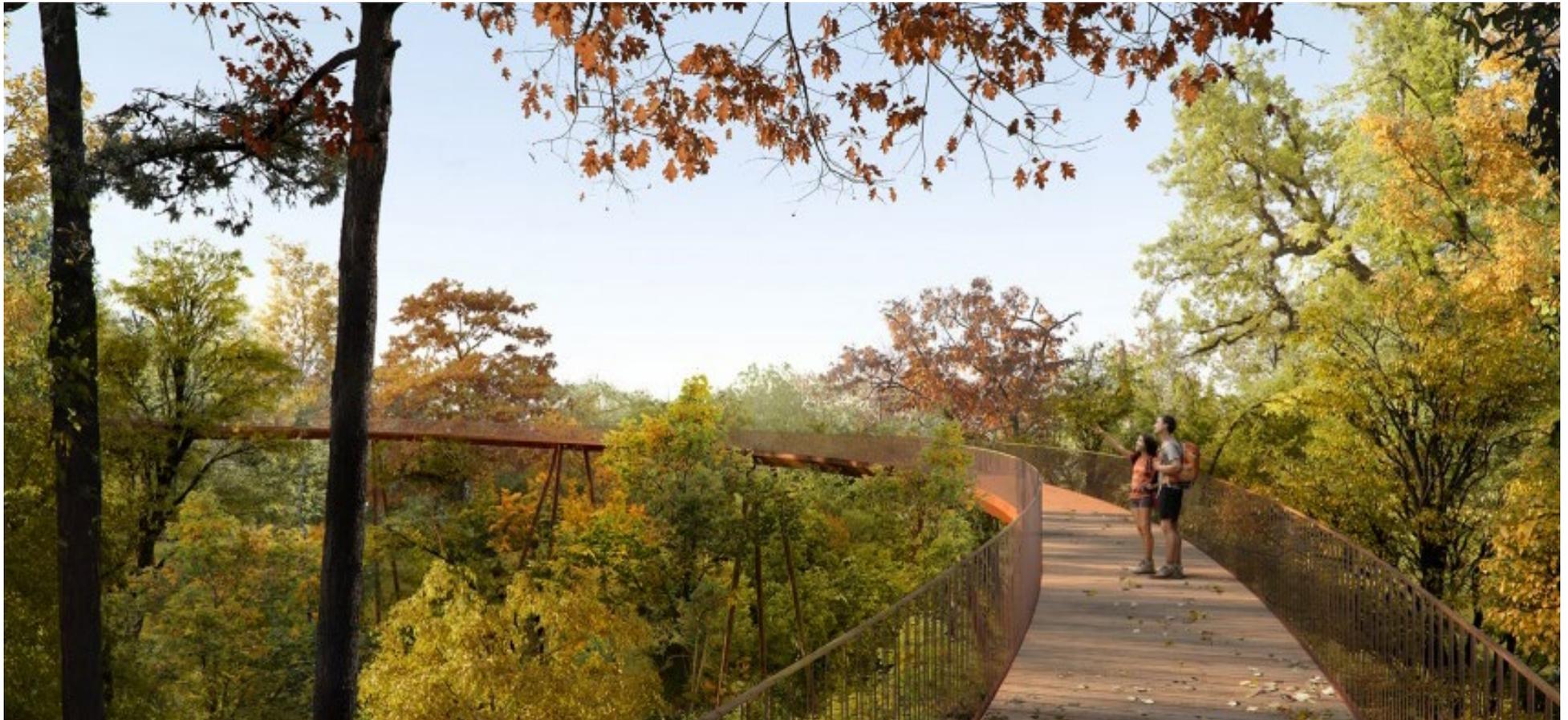
The research identified fire sites and the impact of fires on the environment throughout Georgia between 2001 and 2018. The forest fires have occurred at the following locations: Kakheti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Kvemo Kartli, Tabatskuri Lake, Vashlovani, Atskuri, Chobiskhevi, and Sadgeri. 706 fires were identified in the study period, and the total distribution of wildfires was 82,349 hectares including forest, agriculture lands and grass lands. Out of the identified forest fires, 10 of the biggest forest fires were selected for field work to observe the regeneration process. The fieldwork revealed that burned coniferous forests had more trouble regenerating as compared to burned deciduous forests. Research reveals that

areas in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti and Guria were affected by frequent fires, which represents 88.3% of total wildfires in Georgia. The most wildfire-prone area is the Samtskhe-Javakheti region due to its coniferous forests, especially its pine trees. In total, 3,767 hectares were ravaged by wildfires in this region alone. Overall, we identified the locations where wildfires have occurred since 2001, giving various agencies, partner NGOs and universities the opportunity to conduct further research and reduce the risks of wildfires in the future.



The CENN team contributed to the design of the treetop trail in Lagodekhi Protected Area together with the German-Dutch companies Cityförster, Openfabric and Imagine Structure within the framework of the Transboundary Joint Secretariat (TJS) III project, implemented by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Caucasus Programme office and with financial support provided by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Development Bank (KfW). After implementation, the project will be the first treetop trail in Georgia. The concept emphasizes the forest as the protagonist and proposes

a minimalist design, a circular-shaped handicap accessible trail that gradually ascends towards the canopy. The length of the trail will be 500 meters. Additional features are considered in order to enhance the experience of the forest. This includes a watch tower, a dome, a large net, a cave, and multiple platforms. Such trails are arranged only in the world's leading national parks. The trail is expected to host 60,000-100,000 people per-year.





2. WASTE MANAGEMENT, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND GREEN INDUSTRIES

About 900,000 tons of waste is generated annually in Georgia, the main part of which is disposed at official landfills. Apart from the official landfills, there are dozens of dumpsites in the regions of the country which chaotically come and go as the population tends to dump waste at random sites. Landfill disposal is the least desirable way of handling waste, in addition to the fact that illegally dumping waste is harmful to humans and the environment.

A lack of modern waste management practices and a weak recycling sector is a significant issue in Georgia, considering that according to seasonal waste composition studies conducted in Kakheti,

Adjara AR and Shida Kartli regions, about 14% of the disposed waste is polyethylene/plastic, 12% - paper and paperboard, 6% - textile, 3% - glass.⁶ These are resources that could be recycled, in turn creating employment opportunities in the country and reducing the harmful impact on natural resources. In recent years, a number of positive changes have been made in Georgia's waste management sector. However, weak waste management practices remain a major problem throughout the country. This is caused by several factors, including a lack of management knowledge and expertise at local levels; inadequate infrastructure, and limited funding in municipal budgets for waste management.

⁶The Municipal Waste Composition Seasonal Studies were conducted by CENN with the support of USAID in the Adjara AR, Kakheti and Shida Kartli regions during the period of 2016-19. Available at <https://bit.ly/2LiSYVd>.

Furthermore, a limited number of recycling companies with limited capacity and resources; problems obtaining raw materials; and a lack of coordination and communication among donor agencies and state institutions responsible for waste management hampers the development of the waste management sector.

In 2014, Georgia embarked on an ambitious structural reform to modernize its waste management system. This transition has been supported by the EU-Georgia Association Agreement (AA), which obliges the country to introduce modern waste management practices considering the hierarchy of the waste management options (waste prevention, preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery, waste disposal).⁷ In 2015, the Government of Georgia (GoG) adopted the Waste Management Code, in line with the AA. The Code was followed by the National Waste Management Strategy (NWMS) and the National Waste Management Action Plan (NWMAP) approved in 2015, which cover the periods of 2016-2030 and 2016-2020 respectively. These documents created a legal framework in the county that required the development and adoption of secondary legislation to ensure their implementation. To meet the challenges existing in the waste management sector of Georgia, CENN, with financial support provided by USAID and within the framework of the project Waste Management Technologies in Regions (WMTR), supported the public and private sector in various ways described below.

CENN's team supported the MEPA to develop bylaws and technical regulations required to implement the waste code, strategy and action plan, and in particular, technical regulations concerning:

- Rules of collection and treatment of municipal waste
- Construction, operation, closure and after-care of landfills
- Design, construction and operation of incinerators

We assisted the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture to finalize regulations on Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR). The technical regulations included the following: (1) Packaging Waste, (2) Electrical and Electronic Equipment, (3) End of Life Vehicles, (4) End-of-Life Tires, (5) Used Batteries and Accumulators, and (6) Used Oils.

Per request of MEPA, our team developed a control and monitoring system for European Commission EN 13432:2000 standard biodegradable and compostable bags produced in or imported to Georgia. With this support, MEPA will be able to implement the requirements of the technical regulation on Rule of Control of Plastic and Biodegradable Plastic Bags. The gradual implementation of the regulation will start in 2020.



⁷ Publications Office of the EU. 2010. Being Wise with Waste: The EU's Approach to Waste Management. Available at <https://bit.ly/2Zg9tJP>

We developed 19 Municipal Waste Management Plans for various municipalities across Georgia. All plans are already approved and operational across the country and in the capital, Tbilisi.



In addition, the program has been extensively working on a municipal level. Our project team developed an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Development (ISWMP) Guideline for municipalities in Georgia. Furthermore, the program has supported all municipalities in Kakheti, Adjara AR, Shida Kartli regions and Tbilisi to develop 5-year Municipal Waste Management Plans (MWMPs), required by the Waste Management Code. All plans were approved by local councils and the plans are in operation. We also supported municipalities to work on implementing the 5-year MWMPs, including:

- Assisting 8 municipalities in project target regions to optimize their waste collection and transportation systems, which minimizes expenses and makes the process more effective;
- Supporting the effective implementation of the waste fines system at local levels in all municipalities;
- Assisting local governments to close about 30 illegal dumpsites in Adjara AR and the Kakheti region;
- Implementing public awareness raising via various communication and awareness raising campaigns;
- Assisting the local governments of Tbilisi, Batumi, Kobuleti and Khelvachauri to introduce separated waste collection system. As of 2020, [48 pilot separation points](#) have been established in the following towns/cities: Khelvachauri (4), Kobuleti (4), Batumi (11) and Tbilisi (29). Residents of the aforementioned towns/cities have the opportunity to separate paper, PET bottles, glass and aluminium waste.

We also developed a General Methodology for Waste Tariff Calculation and a Cost Recovery System and helped all municipalities in the project target regions to calculate waste tariff according to this methodology. Kvareli Municipality (Kakheti region) has already approved waste tariff calculated using the aforementioned methodology.

We assisted local governments to introduce a separated waste collection system at the local level. As of 2020, we have helped municipalities establish [48 pilot separation points](#). As a result, residents can already separate paper, PET bottles, glass and aluminium waste.

Furthermore, our team developed the Waste Management Guideline for Agency of Protected Areas (APA) and supported the agency to develop the municipal waste management plans for Lagodekhi Protected Areas, Tbilisi National Park, and Mtirala National Park.



The first ever Waste Expo was organized in Georgia. The event hosted a total of 15 recycling and aggregating companies (paper, glass, aluminium, plastic, used cooking oil, tires, electronic and wood waste) and 300 visitors. The waste expo increased the awareness of these companies and helped them network with various stakeholders.

Since an underdeveloped recycling sector is one of the key issues within the waste management sector, we strengthened the private recycling sector in the country through the following means:

- We provided technical support to about 20 waste recycling and aggregating companies to improve their operations. Our team, with the support of leading experts, assisted these companies in developing business and marketing plans, product quality management manuals, improving supply chains and financial management systems, as well as developing various documents required by legislation;
- Our project assisted waste recycling companies to establish the Georgian Waste Management Association (WMA), which currently unites 25 companies;
- We cooperated with the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) to establish the Environmental Business Committee within AmCham;
- We issued sub-grants to six waste aggregating and recycling companies to purchase modern and energy-efficient equipment.





David Tskitishvili

Director of Clean World Ltd.

"The company was founded in 2013. In the beginning, there were only three people on our team, we just had 1 truck and were only able to collect from 3 sites. We weren't getting enough recyclable materials and didn't have adequate machinery. In 2015, we heard about the USAID project and went to meet with the CENN team to introduce our company, our needs and plans. As of that day, we began our cooperation, we received consultations, became a member of the Waste Management Association (WMA), and attended various trainings. With the support of the program, we purchased modern equipment. However, what is more important is that the program helped us receive more recyclable materials, which was our biggest challenge. Currently, we collect waste from the existing pilot separation corners in Tbilisi and increased the number of companies we service on-site to up to 24. As a result, we were able to employ an additional 30 people and increased our capacity by 70%. Ultimately, our profits continue to grow, and our company is becoming stronger and stronger."

3 large illegal landfills were closed down across the country.

Aside from public and private sector assistance, our program has implemented multiple activities to support the development of the waste management sector of Georgia:

- We developed a number of reports, including: (1) Cost-Benefit Analysis of Waste Management Strategies; (2) Recycling Market Research of Plastic, Glass, Paper and Aluminium; (3) Management of Plastic Waste; (4) EPR Policies Regarding Drinks Packaging; (5) Guideline for the Industrial Production of Biodegradable and Compostable Bags for Current Facilities;
- We promoted a Circular Economy (CE) course at educational institutions for the first time in Georgia. As a result, starting in fall 2019, the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET) included the course in its educational program for third-year Bachelor students. A total of 10 students have been registered for the first-year course. The program covers the following topics: overview of the circular economy concept, different approaches of CE, existing environmental legislation with a CE perspective, aspects regarding the implementation of CE;
- In order to raise awareness about the negative impacts of plastic pollution our team cooperated with Cannes Lions Georgia to organize the Young

Cannes Lions competition. The competition is the global benchmark for effective creative marketing communications, and it holds young marketers competition every year in various categories. The WMTR II program supported the print category of Cannes Lions Georgia for 2019. In total, 48 teams of young creatives registered for this category and developed thematic posters ([see several posters on pg. 25](#)) addressing the negative effects of plastic pollution. The participants were given 24 hours to produce prints based on the brief. Furthermore, we hosted an exhibition of the posters to expand the public outreach and make these works available to an even larger audience;

- We organized a series of tailored trainings for various stakeholders, including the business sector, farmers, the GoG, NGOs and international organisations, and educational institutions (schools, universities) about modern waste management practices;
- We conducted public awareness campaigns through competitions, community events, and social media targeting. We launched the large-scale environmental campaign – Keep Georgia Beautiful and a large-scale behavioural change campaign – Say No to Plastic.

End Plastic Occupation!

By 2050 we will have
50% plastic-covered
water environment.

Replace single-use plastic
items with reusable ones!

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CENN
Shaping the Future by Changing Today

It Returns

With The Worst Outcome

USAID Reduce Reuse Recycle **CENN**





3. CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Due to limited economic opportunities in rural areas, rural populations are generally employed in the agricultural sector, 38.9%⁸ in total. This is economically unsustainable in the long-term and aims only to provide food for their households.

Agriculture has always been a priority sector within the Georgian economy, but with many challenges. Farmers have limited information on climate-smart agriculture and limited access to finances. Small-scale farms and parcellation of agriculture plots hinder investments and the development of the agricultural sector. In addition, low yield in plant production and low productivity in animal production caused by inadequate land cultivation, animal

feeding, agro-technical measures, limited access to modern approaches and knowledge in the sector are also challenge for the sustainable development of the sector.

Due to improper living conditions, a lack of economic diversification, job opportunities and income sources, the rural population migrated to bigger cities and to foreign countries. Based on official statistics from the National Statistics Office, the number of rural populations in Georgia decreased by 26.7% between 2001 and 2018. The rural population in 2019 was 1.539 mln. (41.3%).⁹ Based on Rural Development Strategy of Georgia (2017-20), the rural population of Georgia will be 27%¹⁰ of the total population by 2050.

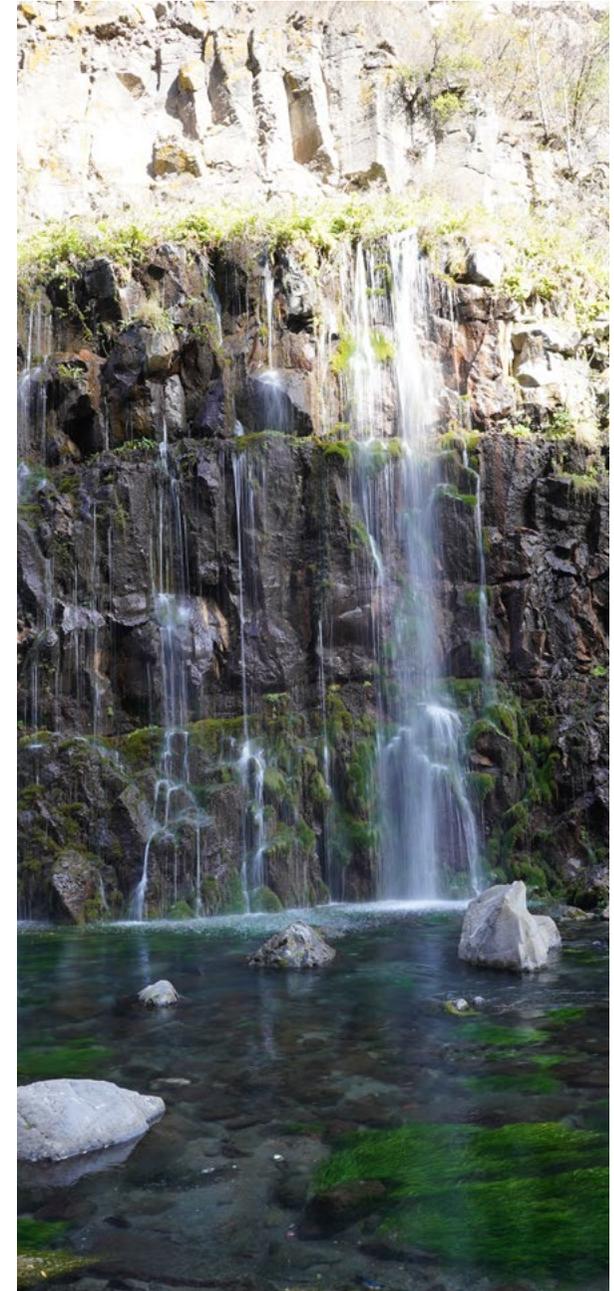
⁸ MEPA, 2019, Rural Development Strategy of Georgia (2017-20), retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/2SWlq3g>.

⁹ GeoStat, Agriculture of Georgia, 2018, retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/35NnmQW>.

¹⁰ MEPA, 2019, Rural Development Strategy of Georgia (2017-20), retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/2SWlq3g>.

To address these challenges, in 2018 and 2019, the CENN team, with the financial support of the European Union (EU) ENPARD program, has been implementing the LEADER methodology-based bottom-up local development projects in two municipalities – Keda Municipality in Adjara AR and Tsalka Municipality in the Kvemo Kartli region. Within the projects, our team implemented the following activities :

- Community mobilization and informational meetings;
- Establishing the Local Action Groups (LAG) in Keda and Tsalka Municipalities;
- Increasing the awareness of stakeholders concerning the LEADER approach;
- Participatory elaboration of the Local Development Strategies (LDS) for Keda and Tsalka Municipalities;
- Implementing grant competitions based on the priority directions identified by locals in the LDS documents and providing financial support for implementation of the innovative projects for rural development;
- Organizing study-tours and establishing synergies with other LAGs operating in Europe and Georgia;
- Developing the Regional Development Manual, Territory Analysis Studies and other knowledge materials for both municipalities;
- Facilitating local entrepreneurs' participation in local and international rural festivals;
- Implementing school competitions, youth camps and other educational programs;
- Capacity building activities, including trainings on sustainable use of natural resources, DRR, fishery, honey production for LAG members, farmers, various groups and local stakeholders.



With the support of the EU, we established two Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Keda Municipality, Adjara AR and Tsalka Municipality, in the Kvemo Kartli region. Each LAG unites 322 local members in Keda and 176 in Tsalka. Both LAGs followed the bottom-up LEADER approach and developed municipality-specific Local Development Strategies (LDS) addressing the needs and priorities of local residents.





We assisted the EU in funding 75 sustainable local business and social innovation initiatives in Keda Municipality, Adjara AR. The total funds provided by the project was 621,042 EUR, which added a total of 313 new jobs in the municipality.

The grant component of the project has been one of the main instruments to effectively combat rural development challenges. So far, grant competitions were successfully implemented in Keda municipality, and Tsalka Municipality is preparing to announce its first grant competitions in 2020. The priority directions under the grant competitions in Keda Municipality were: (1) the development of agricultural value chains, (2) diversification of rural economic activities through the development of tourism sector, and (3) funding of educational, cultural, sports and youth activities.

Our key achievements within each grant competition include:

- **1st grant competition** financed 27 initiatives with a total budget of 850,601 GEL (65% grant, 35% co-financing) and created 109 new jobs;
- **2nd grant competition** financed 20 initiatives with a total budget of 686,074 GEL (70% grant, 30% co-financing) and created 79 new jobs;
- **3rd grant competition** financed 28 initiatives with a total budget of 1,679,920 GEL (58% grant, 42% co-financing) and created 125 new jobs.

As a result, the project contributed to local value chains' development, especially in the agriculture sector by establishing vineyards and wine cellars, supporting a trout incubator to give local trout farmers opportunity and access to locally produced trout fingerlings. The project also contributed to tourism development and supported local family guesthouses, innovative touristic projects and hotels.



Tamaz Nakashidze

**Grant Competition Beneficiary and Owner of the Trout Farm
Village Akho, Keda Multiplicity**

“For rural development in Adjara AR, it is important to implement/finance projects, which secures jobs locally. My project won the grants competition of the ENPARD rural development project and received funding to establish a trout farm. The farm gives us the opportunity to produce 15-16 tons of fish annually. The farm will ensure jobs for local youth.”





Inga Beridze

**Grant Competition Beneficiary and owner of the Vine Nursery
Village Kokotauri, Keda Municipality**

"I received information about the project from the informational campaign organized by the Keda LAG. I later submitted an application and won the grants competition. Nowadays, I produce 30,000 vine seedlings – "Chkhaveri" and "Tsolikauri" varieties in two greenhouses. With financial support provided by the EU, it is planned to build one additional greenhouse, which will give me the opportunity to produce 60,000 vine seedlings annually."

COOPERATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM MAYORS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH



The European Commission (EC) has launched the Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) initiative, which aims to support local authorities to become active facilitators for economic growth and job creation. The initiative encourages and supports local authorities to design and implement Local Economic Development Plans (LEDPs) and to strengthen the technical skills of local authorities to implement economic strategies in line with the principles of good governance and sound financial management.

The project contributed to the aforementioned activities and elaborated the Local Economic Development Plan for Keda, Shuakhevi and Khulo Municipalities of Adjara AR. These plans aim to empower local stakeholders, create jobs, diversify economic activities, increase incomes and improve livelihoods and living conditions in the municipalities.



4. CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

The CENN team analysed physical-geographical and geo-ecological preconditions for the occurrence of catastrophic flash floods in 15 tributaries of the Mtkvari River within the city limits of Tbilisi and offered to assess the rehabilitation works undertaken since the catastrophic Vere River flash flood on June 13, 2015. A list of recommendations developed by our team is a key storm water management planning tool to prevent future catastrophic flooding, deaths and property in the future.

Climatic conditions play an essential role in triggering hazardous natural events in Georgia. There are often periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall (especially in Western Georgia). A rapid rise in the air temperature and the subsequent, rapid and intensive melting of the snowpack and/or the prolonged rains, occurring in late winter and early spring, further facilitate the rapid rise of the water levels in rivers causing floods, mudflows and other natural disasters. Avalanches are quite frequent, especially in western and central parts of the Caucasus as well as in the territory of mountainous Adjara AR. Avalanches are often associated with heavy snow and the constant fluctuations in air temperature observed at the end of winter and beginning of spring.¹¹ According to the recent National DRR Strategy (2017-2021), hydro-meteorological phenomena have increased by 15% averagely and the number of natural geological phenomena has increased by 58%. In addition, one of the most noteworthy factors that contribute to the formation of natural processes is unnecessary human activities (i.e. deforestation, over-grazing pastures, building infrastructure at the bottom of river valleys, cutting off steep hillsides) which provokes and activates natural disasters (i.e. mudflows, landslides, flash floods, etc.).

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Georgian Office,¹² in recent years, forest cover in Georgia has decreased by 15%, this further contributes to the acceleration of CO₂ emissions and increases the risk of natural disasters. However, natural disaster risks are not considered in the allocation of forest-cut areas and therefore, new hazard zones are being created. According to the Forest Cover Hazard Zoning Map (2019) presenting forest cut areas and hazard zones, 12% of forest territory appeared to be in the high hazard zone and 46% in the moderate zone.

In order to address these challenges, the CENN team, in cooperation with the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the World Resource Institute (WRI), has worked on DRR and DRM measures under our different projects.

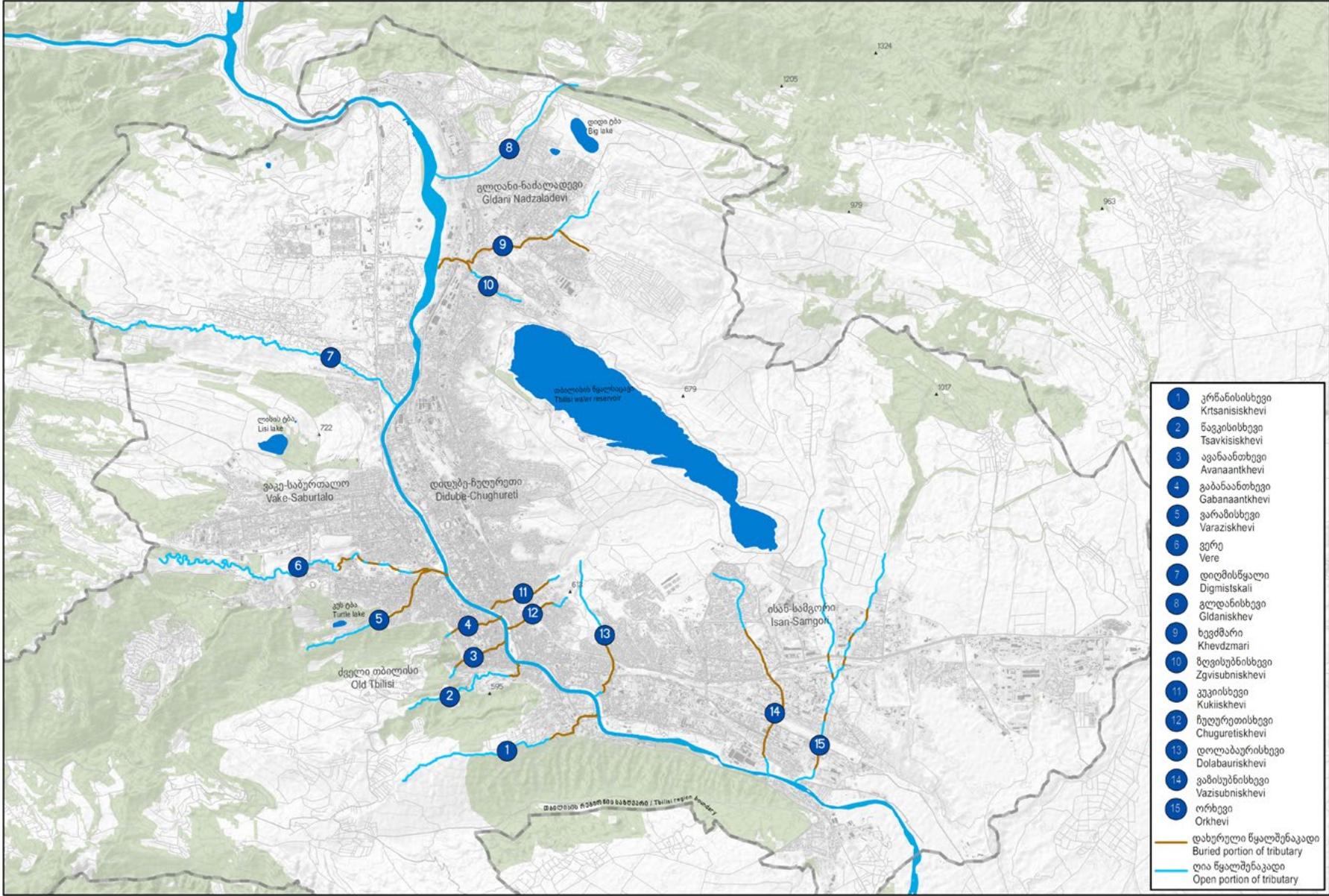
- The CENN team has identified and mapped the hotspots in Georgian forests where logging potentially will result in natural disasters. The maps have been incorporated in the 2019 updated version of the Atlas of Natural Hazards of Georgia, which is now available both in printed and digital formats (available at drm.cenn.org).
- Our team has also contributed to improving the chapters on integrated watershed management in the forestry sector in the strategic national policy documents, such as the New Forest Code of Georgia and the Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of Georgia (2021-2027).
- In order to evaluate the correlation between unsustainable forest logging and natural disasters, field trips have been conducted in the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions. Case study reports with visual materials were prepared and shared with the National Forest Agency (NFA) and National Security Council (NSC). This has facilitated dialogue on DRR reform between the National Environmental Agency (NEA), the NFA and CENN's SFMRD project. Our key recommendation is that in high hazard zones, no forest cut operations should be conducted, while in moderate zones, cutting should only be allocated after a preliminary risk analysis is conducted by the NEA in cooperation with the NFA.
- The CENN team conducted and published a comprehensive study "Hazards of Disastrous Flooding in the City of Tbilisi"¹³. The study analysed physical-geographical and geo-ecological preconditions for the occurrence of catastrophic flash floods in 15 tributaries of the Mtkvari River within the city limits of Tbilisi ([see the map on pg.36](#)). In addition, it offers an assessment of the rehabilitation works undertaken since the June 2015 Vere River flash flood and gives some general recommendations for the mitigation or prevention of negative effects of such extreme natural events. This comprehensive look at the Mtkvari River urban watershed in Tbilisi is a key storm water management planning tool to prevent future catastrophic flooding and loss of life and property.

¹¹ CENN, University of Twente, the Social Transformation Programme (MATRA) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands, ADC, 2019, retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/35VtAyf>.

¹² FAO, Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Components Related to Sustainable Food and Agriculture Baseline Report and Action Plan for Georgia (Draft), Georgia, 2018.

¹³ ADC, CENN, Hazards of Disastrous Flooding in the City of Tbilisi, 2019, retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/2yCfw07>.

TRIBUTARIES OF THE RIVER MTKVARI WITHIN THE CITY OF TBILISI





5. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The human right to water entitles everyone to clean, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.¹⁴ Despite the abundance of water resources in Georgia, rural communities suffer from a lack of access to clean water. This refers to all interrelated and essential features of the right to water:

1. **Availability** of the quantity of water needed to satisfy basic needs, which varies depending on the context (including health status, climate, and work conditions);
2. **Quality** of water for personal and domestic use should be free from harmful substances and have acceptable odour, colour and taste for human consumption; and

3. Water **accessibility** is defined as the proportion of the population with a reliable and improved drinking water supply as well as equal access to WASH information.

WASH problems are complex and linked to educational (low awareness and knowledge of their rights, poor hygiene and sanitation habits), socioeconomic (high levels of poverty, lack of a social safety net, underdeveloped and outdated infrastructure), political (Soviet legacy, IDPs) and environmental (climate change, degradation of watersheds) issues.

In the Kvemo Kartli region, 49.3% of rural population have problems with access to adequate quality of drinking water.¹⁵ In the Kakheti region, almost all settlements are supplied with water based on special schedules,

¹⁴ WHO, The Right to Water, 2003, retrieved on 12 May, via <https://bit.ly/3fGXqUg>.

¹⁵ Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, 2013, Regional Development Strategy of Kvemo Kartli Region (2014-21), retrieved on 12 May, via <https://bit.ly/35U0j5k>.

sometimes with 4-day intervals. Local authorities responsible for sanitation systems do not have any technical knowledge of the skills required to assess and respond to existing WASH needs. In the Kakheti region, the situation is even more severe: only 9.8% of citizens in rural communities have access to sanitary infrastructure.¹⁶

Access to safe water is even worse in multi-ethnic communities, which lack integration, education, financial resources and political support. The availability of water resources reduces also due to the degradation of watersheds and the impact of climate change. Lack of access to water creates conflicts among community

members resulting in marginalization of the most vulnerable ethnic groups and inequities.

Limited access to water especially burdens rural women, who are traditionally responsible for cleaning, washing, fetching water for household and animal use, cooking, nursing the children and caring for the elderly. Due to the inadequate WASH situation in the regions, there have been numerous cases of water borne infectious diseases, such as: Botulism, E. coli infection, Dysentery, Salmonellosis, Hepatitis A, etc.



¹⁶ Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, 2013, Regional Development Strategy of Kakheti Region (2014-21), retrieved on 12 May, via <https://bit.ly/3cu3PaL>.

The CENN team and our partner organizations have advocated for and provided free legal aid and strategic litigation for 35+ cases of violations in terms of rights to health, water and sanitation (WASH) and an adequate standard of living in vulnerable multi-ethnic communities.



In order to protect and promote the right to water, health and adequate living standards of citizens in vulnerable multi-ethnic communities of Georgia, CENN has been working with the European Union (EU) and the New World Programme (funded by the Global Water Challenge and The Coca Cola Foundation) and achieved substantial results in the following directions:

Expanding access to water

Our program helped ensure access to clean water to more than 3,500 people living in rural Georgia. The processes facilitating change was initiated by the WASH Councils (8 WASH Councils were formed in the regions of Imereti, Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli) around Georgia, who gained extensive knowledge on water, sanitation and hygiene through numerous capacity building activities on water rehabilitation systems, human rights, budgeting, etc.

Rita Beridze

Eco-migrant from the Marneuli Elevator Settlement in Georgia

The eco-migrants were relocated to the former vocational school building in 1991 after the earthquake in Sachkhere. Many years have since passed, but they still have to cope with intolerable conditions. They started using drinking water and natural gas recently. Water issues have been creating sanitation problems in the settlement for years.

“Once a week, sometimes twice, a car would come with water, and we stood in a line with our vessels. We might get water, or maybe not. The water was arriving in cisterns for 28 years and was very expensive. Moreover, we had to carry water from far away to wash clothes or dishes, and this was actually damaging our health - now we have water in the rooms. The water supply is scheduled, but there it is no comparison to before. We have created wet rooms, as previously having bathrooms and toilets was pointless. We even had to bathe in the rooms, the toilet was far away, and we had to live in very harsh conditions due to the lack of water.”



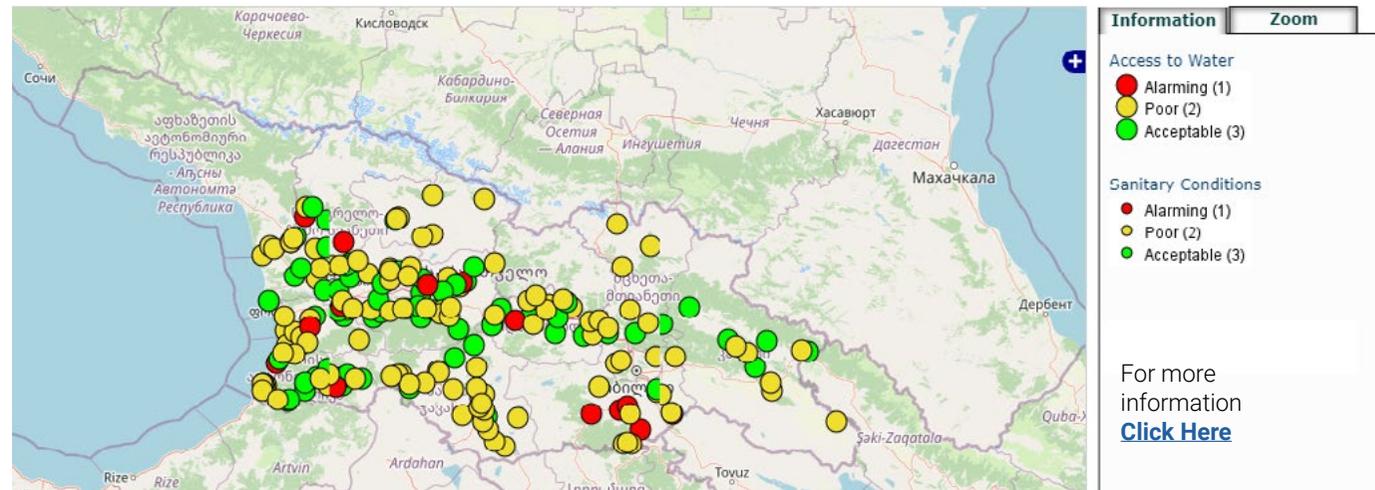
Advancing science and research to identify and meet global WASH standards

- Our team has studied up to 400 objects: human rights' violations related to WASH in target communities are analysed and key types of violations in schools, kindergartens, orphanages, shelters and health centres (i.e., national, ethnic and religious minorities, IDPs, etc.) are identified. Hot-spot communities are defined and agreed upon in a participatory way. A report with recommendations and actions to improve and enforce WASH policy and regulatory framework is developed.
- We have created two online maps in order to increase and improve access to information concerning WASH conditions in Georgia. The map includes up to 400 public buildings (schools, kindergartens and health centres), and contains important information about water accessibility, sanitation and hygiene habits.

Engaging communities to solve water conflicts and existing WASH problems

Water conflicts are resolved by CENN and its partners; discrimination and inequalities in access to water and sanitation are reduced in multi-ethnic communities of Kakheti (Akhmeta, Sagarejo and Lagodekhi municipalities) and Kvemo Kartli (Dmanisi, Marneuli, Tetritskaro, Tsalka municipalities) regions through conflict mediation and implementation of priority WASH projects. Projects have effectively advocated for additional funding from the state and non-state funds.

Water and Sanitation Assessment in Public Schools of Georgia





Nona Samkharadze

Marneuli WASH Council Member, Parent

"On the first day of my son's school, he had to go to the toilet. But it was impossible to use water for cleaning the toilet, the tap and the sinks were out of order, there was even danger of falling into it; it was impossible to close doors, wash hands, and often the children avoided using the toilets due to the smell. There were barrels in the toilets with a pipe for flowing water. The children had to take the pipe out of the barrel to wash their hands. Besides, tissues were never provided to their dry hands with. I wrote a public post about this on social media. The local media was interested in my post, and the problems of the school became known to a broader audience. CENN representatives contacted me and together we started fighting for the change. This was not an easy task. At first, even the school administration and parents had a critical attitude towards me as I started to talk openly about the problem. However, despite the initial position of the parents who said that their children did not use the toilets and suppressed their physiological functions, after a certain period of time they expressed interest; they kept asking me about the status of the problem and its possible results, and about the timeline for changing conditions at the school. The project enabled us to achieve results through cooperation with the director and local government. Today, the wet rooms at the school are renovated, water pipes have been changed, and water and sanitation issues are no longer on the agenda."

Improved governance and accountability: ignited discussions on involving disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes

Cases of violations of rights to health, water and sanitation and an adequate standard of living in vulnerable multi-ethnic communities were advocated through free legal aid and strategic litigation (more than 35 applications and petitions were filed and submitted to relevant local and regional state and non-state institutions). Urgent HR issues were addressed and litigated.

Establishing WASH Councils - local affiliates to take the lead

CENN team created two Regional WASH Advisory Committees in the Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli regions. Regional WASH Advisory Committees

involve representatives from the local and regional government, community institutions, ethnic minorities, women and youth groups, the private sector, public health and educational institutions. Active community engagement will ensure the project's sustainability in the long run. They are trained to be actively engaged in WASH-related social and health rights advocacy based on the findings of the WASH needs assessment report in target municipalities.

Building capacities to deliver sustainable results

- Capacity of 10,000+ women and youth groups advocated for WASH-related HRs and social and health issues were increased through (1) various capacity building activities; (2) provision of sub-grants to support the local youth and women-led initiatives in the target communities;
- Media coverage on WASH issues increased in the regions of Georgia by 50% due to CENN's strong presence via active capacity building of media representatives, organizing media tours, campaigns, etc.





6. ON-ROAD TRANSPORT AND AIR POLLUTION

The on-road transport sector is a major source of air pollution and a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Georgia, especially in urban areas where 79% of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and 62% Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) come from the transport sector.¹⁷ According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the vehicle fleet has been steadily increasing annually by 8-9% over the last 6 years. Therefore, strict regulations in accordance to the EU-Georgia Association Agreement directives must be established in the country to protect human health and the environment from the negative impact of emissions from the transport sector. CENN implemented a UNEP-Air project - Sustainable Low Emissions Transport to contribute to finding solutions to current air quality challenges.

The project aimed to assist the Government of Georgia

(GoG) to harmonize legislation with the EU requirements and protect human health and the environment from the negative impacts of harmful emissions from the transport sector. To achieve this objective, our team intended to develop technical regulation (by law) to introduce EU emission standards for road transport. This includes vehicle imports and enforcing any proposed vehicle emission standards (Euro 4+).

To speed up the adoption of the regulation by the Government of Georgia and to how best assess enforcing the technical regulation, this project intends to conduct a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) study on introducing low-emission transport policies and standards in Georgia, in consultation with lead project partners including the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture.

¹⁷ MEPA, 2018, Third National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (2017-21), retrieved on 8 May 2020, via <https://bit.ly/3dx2Qin>.

YOUTH ACTION: TRANSFORMING LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

10+

YEARS OF
POSITIVELY
TRANSFORMING
THE LIVES OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
IN GEORGIA

1,200+

YOUNG ALUMNI
FROM CENN'S
GREEN CAMPS

700+

SCHOOL ECO-CLUBS
FROM EVERY REGION
OF GEORGIA JOINED
THE ENVIRONMENTAL
YOUTH AWARD "NIKO
KETSKHOVELI 2019."

Youth engagement in activities concerning environmental and climate protection is an effective tool to inspire change and raise awareness about environmental values and concerns. At CENN, we believe that engaging youth and women in environmental protection and civil activism has vital importance for improving the quality of life, especially, in rural areas, where communities suffer from extreme poverty and largely depend on natural resources to make a living. For years CENN has been working with youth and engaging young people, especially, girls and various disadvantaged groups – PwDs, LGBTQI, minorities, IDPs, eco-migrants in our development projects. Youth engagement has a major impact not only on their lives, but also on the wellbeing of their communities and social stability in general.

For over 10 years, CENN has have been running the Green Camp program for nationwide environmental education, and for more than five years, conducting

the Niko Ketskhoveli Youth Environmental Award for young people from all over Georgia.

We work with youth in the fields of environment, agriculture, entrepreneurship, democracy and human rights to achieve sustainable outcomes and help them reach their full potential. In the meantime, we work with schools and youth groups from Abkhazia and help them to increase awareness and skills to solve existing environmental challenges and integrate with the Georgian community. CENN has more than 1,200 young alumni from green camps, more than 4,000 youth beneficiaries of various trainings and has worked with more than 500 school eco-clubs, empowering future leaders and decision makers. Moreover, environmental education is promoted at all levels – including pre-schools, schools and universities.



In 2019, Georgia became a partner of the worldwide hands-on, science and education Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.

NATIONAL NIKO KETSKHOVELI SCHOOL AWARD

ENCOURAGING FUTURE LEADERS AND INNOVATORS TO ACT



Active school children from hundreds of School Award annually engage in year-long environmental competition (Niko Ketskhoveli School Award) to solve local environment-related challenges. Since 2018, the competition has been SDG-themed and especially focuses on SDGs 4, 5, 13 and 15. In order to win the award, school students must solve a set of challenges connected to at least one of the 17 SDGs. Over a period of five years, up to 700 schools have been engaged in the competition, streamlining environmental education and activism in their daily activities and thus benefitting at least 4,000 people.

The initiative especially focuses on rural and vulnerable communities, aspiring to leave no one behind. In 2019, out of 700 schools from all regions of Georgia, there were 16 schools in communities of ethnic and religious minorities, 44 schools in IDP settlements, 5 schools in eco-migrant settlements, and 5 schools with disabled youth.

The competition contributes to solving actual problems: e.g. (1) in 2019 alone up to 3,000 tree saplings were planted (including, in co-operation with the National Forestry Agency); (2) over 4 tons of waste has been removed from recreational areas; (3) due to the activism of the schoolchildren in the scope of the project, the Krtsanisi Forest Park development program was initiated, resulting in the conservation of 245 hectares of urban forests.

With the help of expert support and supervision, the competition helps schools to engage in research and advocacy, prepare for development programs, introduce new technologies, organize educational, clean-up and tree-planting activities, and promote environmentally friendly attitudes. Via the competition, the schools make positive changes to combat climate change, including:

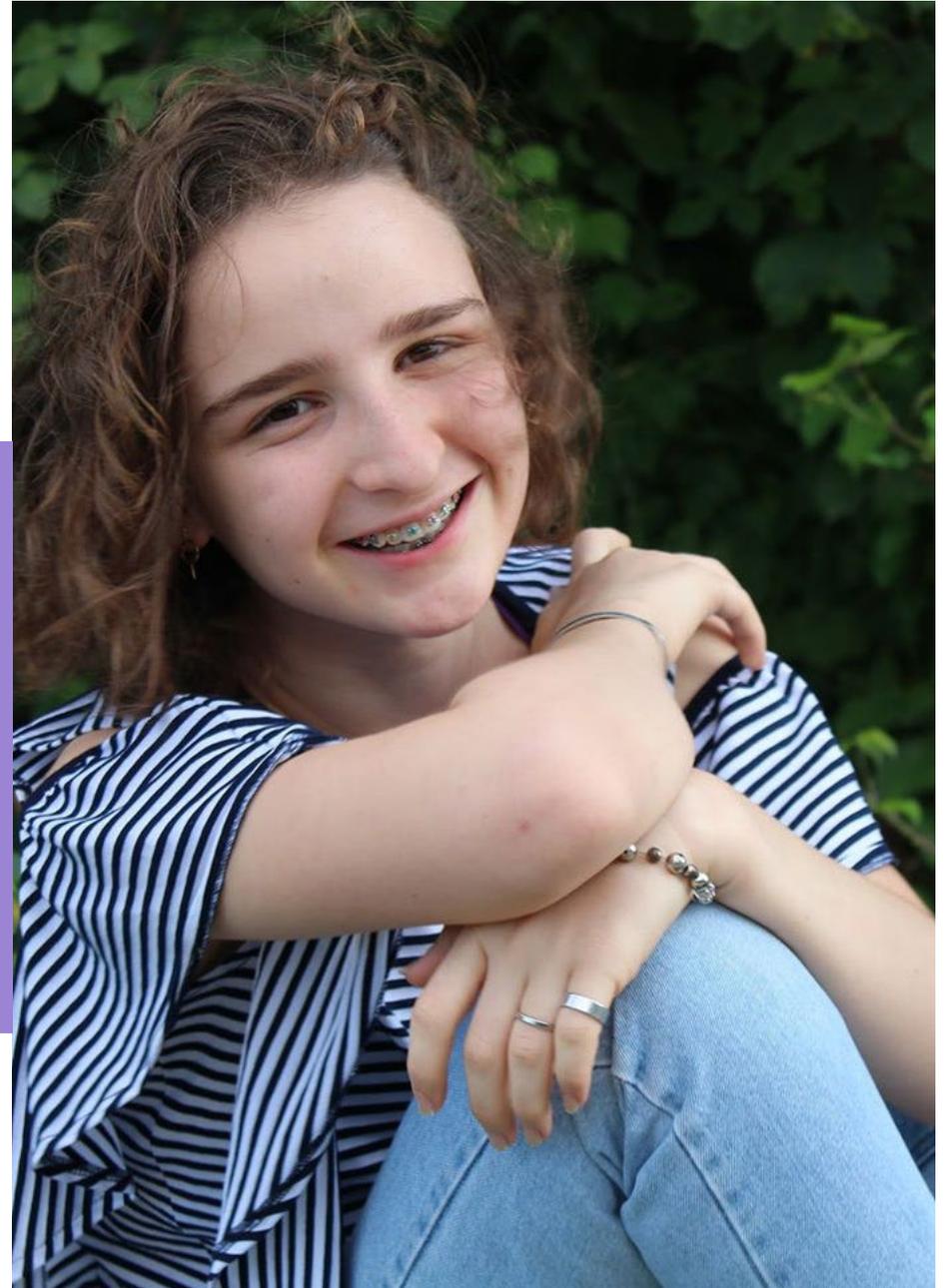
- Recycling paper, plastic and glass waste
- Banning single-use plastic usage at their school or eco-club
- Advocating for the conservation of recreational forests
- Adopting recreational forest sites and conducting regular tree planting activities
- Independent monitoring of littering in public spaces
- Organizing school-based nurseries to support the conservation of red-listed species

Georgian schools often act as the only active organisations at the community level; however, they generally lack opportunities for extra-curricular activities and volunteer programs. In this light, the competition is extremely popular and has been successful in mobilizing groups of active school students (organized as eco-clubs) in the regions of Georgia.

Nini Kruashvili

**Participant of the Niko Ketskhoveli School Award from Tbilisi
N 169 Public School**

“Together with many “green habits” I learned how to work with an audience within the contest. For the past several years, I participated in different events as a speaker that wouldn’t have been possible without the Niko Ketskhoveli School Award. In addition, I got to know many interested people via participating in the contest. I would recommend every school student to involve themselves in the competition as it is great chance to implement our green ideas, which will contribute to a more sustainable future.”



GREEN CAMPS

EXPANDING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH



The intensive educational program of the Green Camps aims at raising the awareness of the young generation about environmental protection, sustainable development, science and technology, human rights, tolerance, promoting liberal values and creating new possibilities for future leaders. Green Camps, which usually last for about a week, bring together young participants from all regions of Georgia for a program loaded with environmental education as well as civic activism. During the camps, national and international experts conduct sessions and activities on a diversity of topics including, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, sustainable

management of forest resources, sustainable waste management and circular economy, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) issues, natural disaster risks and mitigation measures, etc.

In 2019, a total of 15 Green Camps were conducted for a total of 400 youth from all regions of Georgia. About 70% of the participants were girls. In addition to Green Camps, CENN projects have conducted dozens of one-day trainings in the regions of Georgia, amounting to up to 5,000 beneficiaries in 2019.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Upon successful completion of Green Camps, the participants become part of the CENN alumni network. The network already includes over 1,200 young adults. CENN provides additional opportunities for its alumni, striving to further increase their capacities as active and environmentally conscious citizens. In 2019, as part of an alumni strengthening initiative, CENN conducted Training of Trainers (ToTs), provided financial support for voluntary activities and supported one alumna to take

part in an international voluntary exchange program. Natia Lagurashvili was selected to take part in the Bread for the World (BftW) South-North exchange service within the weltwärts programme. Within the program, she is volunteering at Stadtteilnetzwerk Potsdam-West e.V. in Potsdam, Germany and is actively involved in planning and conducting various civic events for the local community.





Natia Lagurashvili

CENN Alumna and BftW volunteer

“Within the cooperation of CENN and Bread for the World, I was lucky enough to become a South-North volunteer from 2019-2020. The program gave me an ability to see the processes from a global perspective. It showed me that people around the world still have the same values. And overall, the program gave me significant motivation and encouraged me to believe in myself.”

Since 2014, CENN has hosted 3 German volunteers for a year and has also sent 10 future leaders from Georgia to Germany. The volunteer service fosters solidarity and civil society engagement to create common responsibilities. It strengthens cultural exchange and empowers future generations to tackle global problems.

ALUMNI CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2019, CENN conducted special ToT camps for selected active alumni. The camps had an advanced programme, focusing on planning environmental campaigns and active citizenship. The goal of the camps was to further increase capacities of alumni in identifying and tackling local environmental problems. By the end of the ToT course, alumni were supported to create their own action

plans for addressing previously identified environmental challenges, which were implemented in the second half of 2019. Upon completion of the program, alumni became CENN's green ambassadors and will further be engaged in CENN youth mobilization and awareness raising activities.

SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY ALUMNI INITIATIVES

In addition to capacity building, CENN provided additional financial support for voluntary alumni initiatives, tackling various aspects of environmental problems in 2019. For instance, 20 students from 4 schools in the Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions started implementing the following informational and educational campaigns in their communities in order to help increase access to clean water:

- Youth Initiative project - "Together for a Healthy Environment". The aim of the project was to raise awareness in targeted communities (especially within school children) about WASH issues such as environmental responsibility, importance of hygiene for health care and disease prevention, etc. (Public School, Village Baisubani, Lagodekhi municipality, Kakheti region);
- Youth Initiative project - "WASH Awareness Raising in Dmanisi Community". The project served to raise awareness on WASH issues among the most vulnerable segments - children and young people to influence attitudes and behaviours that would change future risks related to WASH (Public School 1, Dmanisi municipality, Kvemo Kartli region);
- Youth Initiative project - "WASH for Your Health". The project intended to give students and community members the impression that hygiene and sanitation are essential for personal life and as well as on a large scale (e.g. community, village). (Kistauri School, Akhmeta municipality, Kakheti region);
- Youth Initiative project – "Saving Water Promotes Wealth of the Village". The aim of the project was to enhance education on the benefits of sustainable water consumption (Public school of Heretis Kari, Lagodekhi municipality, Kakheti region).

GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT NEXUS



Georgia faces numerous challenges in terms of gender equality that hinder women's participation in economic activities¹⁸ and impede progress in eliminating poverty and hunger.¹⁹ According to a recent study, when a woman was not working, her household was 26% poorer.²⁰ According to the same study, compared to men, women in Georgia are significantly less likely to engage in economic activities – 50% of women above 18 are in the labour force, as compared to 79% of men. The main causes for women's lack of economic activity are gendered division of labour, unpaid care work and weaker financial incentives to work reflected in the gender pay gap.

In addition to gender equality and women's empowerment being important goals in themselves, there are clear links between gender equality and environmental

protection. On one hand, gender equality is essential in addressing major sustainable development challenges, such as preventing environmental degradation and pollution, and sustainably using energy, among others. On the other hand, limited access to assets, including natural resources, is an additional factor hindering women in particular and societies in general from eradicating poverty. Women-led households are poorer and often depend on the consumption of forest resources.²¹ Furthermore, women are very rarely included in the management of local natural resources through various communications and mobilization channels, such as rural advisory councils.²²

The gender gap is evident in agriculture, which is the main sector for employment²³ for both men and women in Georgia. Namely, men are more than twice as likely to be documented owners of agricultural land as women.²⁴ Moreover, the number of female students is the lowest in agricultural programmes,²⁵ which is an important factor since recent studies emphasize the crucial role of education in terms of empowering women. According to UN Women, education, especially tertiary education, has the biggest positive impact on women's participation in economic activities.²⁶ According to FAO, agricultural productivity of women would increase with better access to training and information.²⁷ Lack of knowledge among women about existing natural resources, e.g., non-timber forest products, is also documented by other available studies.²⁸

Taking into consideration the existing challenges briefly outlined above, CENN is committed to gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender mainstreaming is addressed in CENN's activities in a multitude of ways, including creating educational programs targeted at women, increasing employment opportunities, encouraging environmental activism and leadership and promoting engagement of women in decentralized management of natural resources, etc.

¹⁸ UN Women, 2018, Women's Economic Inactivity and Engagement in the Informal Sector in Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia.

¹⁹ FAO, 2018, Gender, agriculture and rural development in Georgia – Country Gender Assessment Series, Rome p 7.

²⁰ UN Women, 2018, Women's Economic Inactivity and Engagement in the Informal Sector in Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia, p 7.

²¹ CENN, 2019, Sustainable Forest Management for Rural Development - Baseline Survey, Tbilisi, p 10.

²² FAO, 2018, Gender, agriculture and rural development in Georgia – Country Gender Assessment Series, Rome, p 9.

²³ UN Women, 2018, Women's Economic Inactivity and Engagement in the Informal Sector in Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia. p 17.

²⁴ GeoStat, 2018, Pilot Survey on Measuring Asset Ownership and Entrepreneurship from a Gender Perspective, Georgia, Tbilisi, p. 48.

²⁵ GeoStat, 2019, Women and Men in Georgia, Statistical Publication, Tbilisi, p 33.

²⁶ UN Women, 2018, Women's Economic Inactivity and Engagement in the Informal Sector in Georgia, Tbilisi, Georgia. p 7.

²⁷ FAO, 2011, the state of food and agriculture 2010 – 2011, Women in Agriculture, Closing the gender gap for development, Rome, p 160.

²⁸ CENN, 2019, Sustainable Forest Management for Rural Development - Baseline Survey, Tbilisi, p 6.

ORGANIZING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

We at CENN believe that environmental education is essential to ensure increased women empowerment. Therefore, girls and women are taken into consideration during planning of all development interventions implemented by our team with the support from our donors and partners. The projects ensure the participation of women in seminars, multi-stakeholder meetings or workshops during the project's inception phase via personally inviting female representatives to various partner organisations. For example, throughout the entire course of the USAID-supported WMTR II program, up to 5,500 people were trained, out of which more than 3,000 were women. The target groups are inclusive, attempting to address women from vulnerable groups, such as teachers from IDP settlements where our ADA-SFMRD program has significant contributions.

Tailored capacity building activities address the needs of women in a multitude of ways. For example, fostering entrepreneurship amongst women via the Keda LEADER project potentially increases employment opportunities. Next, the WMTR II program provides opportunities for women to be involved in the waste management sector followed up by individual action plans and voluntary activities. Lastly, the ADA-SFMRD project provides teaching methods for women on SDGs and the sustainable consumption of natural resources. It is important to note that, although some activities are not explicitly focused on women, they have proven to be an effective instrument for raising awareness, especially among rural women.

For instance, since the majority of teachers in Georgia are female (86.4% in 2018-2019 school year²⁹), the ADC-supported Niko Ketskhoveli School competition has substantially contributed to environmental education and civic activism among professional women in the education sector.

Upon completion of trainings, our programs' participants frequently follow up with their own voluntary activities, such as further trainings for teachers or students. For example, three active female students from Badiauri Public School in Sagarejo Municipality, trained by the WMTR II team on waste management and gender issues, conducted trainings in all Kakheti municipalities from June-July 2019. School students, teachers and representatives of the municipalities attended trainings, 91 attendees in total.

In addition, gender-specific issues are highlighted in the projects' communication, training, and outreach materials (e.g., trainings at the local level on gender and environment, guide for schoolchildren on environmental protection in the context of gender (draft), curricula for summer schools; and empowering female foresters and rangers throughout strategic communication).

²⁹ GeoStat, 2019, Women and Men in Georgia, Statistical Publication, Tbilisi. p 32.

INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

A direct way to empower women is to increase their employment opportunities. CENN's projects work to foster female leadership and to ensure their engagement in economic activities.

Our ADA-SFMRD project has developed business ideas for rural development under the Green Economy School program, which focuses on empowering local women and involving them in forest-related business initiatives. The project is encouraging the replacement of male-dominated timber production activities with

the development of recreational potential of forests, promoting the use of non-timber forest resources to create new opportunities for personal, social, economic growth and employment of women to increase their income. This approach was demonstrated by pilot projects concerning the development of the Sviana recreational site managed by the Rural Women Council (RWC), establishment of the Buxus Colchica nursery and Beshumi Recreational Forest rehabilitation, production of frozen tea from wild blueberries as a part of the pilot project "Freeze Tea", establishment of the community-based nurseries, etc.



Nestan Varshanidze

Student at Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

"A year ago, I was involved in the Green Economy School program. From the beginning, based on my profession, I was interested in a green economy. This project was a kind of challenge that fulfilled my expectations.

After meetings at the Bulachauri Training Center, we passed different stages – the selection of a project, fieldwork, writing a business plan, presentation, and competition. I met people with different professions, which was a great experience. The successful completion of these stages was an internship program. This gave me additional knowledge about ecology and business plan writing, which will help me with my future job. I think this period plays an important role in my personal and career development. I hope that in the future we will be able to fulfil our goals and plans."

In addition, out of 76 financed projects under the EU-supported Keda LEADER project in mountainous Keda Municipality, 20 were initiated by women (26%). The projects initiated by women are quite diverse, make significant contributions to agricultural production, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management and include guest houses, green houses, raspberry production, bee-keeping and honey production, pastry shops, car wash services and wine cellars. In total, 313 additional jobs were created by the project and 43% of these jobs are now employing women.



ENCOURAGING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM AND LEADERSHIP AMONG LOCAL WOMEN

We promote the recognition of women in environmental activism and leadership. With support provided by the CENN team, active women's groups have been pioneering various community activities. For example, a women's group in Shuakhevi municipality conducted a clean-up activity on a territory adjacent to the municipality under our USAID-supported WMTR II program. Tea Talakhadze, a teacher from a high mountainous Imeretian village – Bazaleti, has supported 10 schools in her community to establish eco-clubs and to be actively involved in CENN-ADA environmental initiatives, especially the Niko Ketskhoveli School Award. This fact was communicated to our partner organization, MEPA. As a result, on March 21, 2019, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Levan Davitashvili, awarded Ms. Talakhadze with a special prize - "Green Award 2019 – The Best Teacher" at the final event for the Niko Ketskhoveli School Award. On another occasion, MEPA gave Nana Labadze (16 years old), the leader of the eco-club in a high mountainous village Rokiti school, the opportunity to act as the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture for one day.

In addition, we believe that a critical tool to empower local women is through their increased engagement in local governance. With this goal in mind, CENN has been promoting the engagement of women in decentralized management of natural resources and public participation through encouraging their involvement in existing and newly created local bodies. Good examples of such bodies are: Pshaveli Rural Women Council (RWC), Local Action Groups (LAGs), Mediation and Conflict Engagement Committee (MCEC) and WASH Councils.

Pshaveli Rural Women Council (RWC), established under our ADA-SFMRD project, maintains active dialogue with the local authorities on a number of issues, which ensures the increased involvement of women in local self-governance. The major

achievements of the Council in recent years include the development of the Sviana Forest Recreational Site, the first case of forest management decentralization and transferring forest management rights to a community organisation. The Sviana pilot project has created a precedent of functional diversification of forest management. Specifically, a tourist-recreational infrastructure and services have been established outside of a protected area for the first time, giving women the opportunity for legal employment in the forestry sector. The newly established tourist attraction encouraged the revival of female-dominated traditional activities, including crafts, jams, dried fruits, bread making, local agricultural production and cuisine. In addition, the Council, in cooperation with the local authorities, initiated the collection and removal of waste from forests, thus establishing a modern method of forest stewardship. To this end, waste bins have been installed (WMTR II) and the forest is being cleaned up on a regular basis.

As part of the EU's agriculture and rural development programme ENPARD, our team has established LAGs in two municipalities – Keda and Tsalka, followed by continuous capacity building activities. LAGs have created gender and youth-sensitive local development strategies, while CENN supports diverse innovative projects by locals in order to further promote economic opportunities and inclusive rural growth and improve the well-being of rural communities. While creating LAGs, CENN has ensured representation of active local women, as well as youth. As a result, 36% of LAG members in Keda Municipality are women and over 30% in Tsalka Municipality. In addition, the Tsalka LAG has created Mediation and Conflict Engagement Committee (MCEC), a multi-stakeholder body aimed at advocating for solving various social, economic and ethnic problems at community, municipality and central levels. The Committee is comprised of 18 members - all local women.

Tamar Tsipiani

Member of Tsalka Local Action Group (LAG) Governing Board

"I became a member of Tsalka LAG in order to voluntarily employ my resources, experience and potential for the benefit and development of the municipality, as well as my own personal development. Being a member of LAG has given me the opportunity to better understand the needs of society in general and in my municipality in particular, especially the needs of women. Being a part of LAG has helped in various ways, in my personal and professional development, including management, leadership, team-building, project writing, project selection, communication skills and public relations."

Another good example of how CENN promotes gender equality in terms of access to natural resources is related to our work in the field of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). Limited access to Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) services disproportionately affects local women, thus contributing to gender inequality and realization of human rights in the country. CENN identifies gender-specific WASH related needs of communities and addresses them via ongoing projects. As a result, water conflicts are resolved; discrimination and inequalities in access to water and sanitation are reduced in multi-ethnic communities of the Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Imereti regions through conflict mediation and implementation of priority WASH projects, attracting additional funds and financing women and youth initiatives on WASH (8,000 beneficiaries, with about 2/3 women) (WASH EU & WASH GWC).



KNOWLEDGE MATERIALS

Electronic and printed knowledge materials, digital products and video PSAs have been developed for different target audiences. Check them out and help us spread this useful information.



Books and Brochures

[Atlas of Natural Hazards and Risks in Georgia](#)

The atlas contains maps and explanatory text related to natural hazards, exposure, vulnerability and risk in Georgia. The atlas also shows baseline maps concerning natural conditions and human conditions in the country. The maps show various types of vulnerabilities (physical, social, ecological, economic) and risks typical to Georgia's territory.



Flowering Plants of Georgia

The field guide includes information about 800 species of Georgian flora and 800 corresponding original photos. The aim of the field guide is to assist the general population interested in plant diversity to identify flowering plants in the field. The publication includes both rare and endemic species, as well as more common ones. While working on the field guide, the author travelled throughout Georgia in order to collect information for the field guide from March until the end of September.

კრწანისის ტყავანის ფრინველები



Birds of Krtsanisi Forest Park

The brochure aims to raise awareness regarding Krtsanisi Forest Park located between Tbilisi and Rustavi municipalities, and provides information regarding bird species that can be seen in the park during different seasons.



“Book of my Goals” SDG-themed Notebook

The aim of the notebook is to provide information regarding the global SDGs and also provide a space for brainstorming for each SDG.



Hazards of Disastrous Flooding in the City of Tbilisi

The publication contains analysis of physical-geographical and geo-ecological preconditions for the occurrence of catastrophic flash floods in the tributaries of the Mtkvari River within the city limits of Tbilisi, the assessment of rehabilitation works undertaken to eliminate the consequences of the June 2015 Vere River flash flood, and general recommendations to mitigate and prevent negative effects of flash floods.



Bee Keeping and Honey Production in Georgia and EU

The guideline aims to improve the safety and quality of honey and contains important topics like food safety issues, practical advice for farmers and a review of the EU and Georgian honey production and market.



საქართველოს

წითელი

წიგნი



Printed and online version of the “Red Book of Georgia”

The Red Book provides information on rare and endangered species of flora and fauna of Georgia. It also includes living and non-living (inorganic) natural monuments of high aesthetic and scientific value – landmark trees, geomorphological, geological and hydrographic formations, which distinguishes the Georgian Red Book from other countries of the same period. The Red Book of Georgia was published in 1982 and is now a bibliographic rarity. In the new version, the text has been slightly modified, taking into account the numerical and stylistic tendencies characteristic of the Soviet period.



[Low Waste Event Guide](#)

The guide explains the basics of low waste events by focusing on reducing (1) paper, (2) plastic, (3) food waste and (4) recycling what remains.



სკოლებში წყლისა და სანიტარიულ-ჰიგიენური (WaSH) მდგომარეობის შეფასება



Assessment of Water, Sanitary, and Hygienic Conditions in schools of Georgia

The main objective of the assessment was to evaluate water, sanitary, and hygienic (WASH) conditions in Georgian schools and to develop recommendations in order to solve the identified problems and challenges.



Publication on WASH and Human Rights

The publication aims to inform people about the rights to WASH.



Fairy-tale on the Importance of WASH for Kids

The fairy-tale aims to provide information about the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene for kids.



Guidelines for the Industrial Production of Biodegradable and Compostable Bags

by an Existing Facilities in Georgia on the Example of Ltd. Zugo

Program
**Waste Management
Technology in Regions
Phase II**



Guidelines for the Industrial Production of Biodegradable and Compostable Bags

The guidelines in this report focus on the adjustment of the current production process in terms of producing biodegradable/compostable bags. Nevertheless, since the market of biodegradable raw materials and products is relatively new, a research and development plan is proposed to optimize future production lines.



Circular Economy – Concept and Facts

The first part of the textbook on circular economy introduces the concept and explains the economic background and its close relationship to sustainable development and the waste hierarchy. Relevant environmental regulations are briefly introduced, important paragraphs addressed, whereas examples show that current attempts to implement certain features of circular economy by means of this legislation still pose a serious challenge. The second part of the textbook focuses on implementing the circular economy concept via appropriate tools and policies. In this context, the concept of an “Integrated Environmental Policy” is developed and practical examples are provided after a thorough analysis of current regulations.



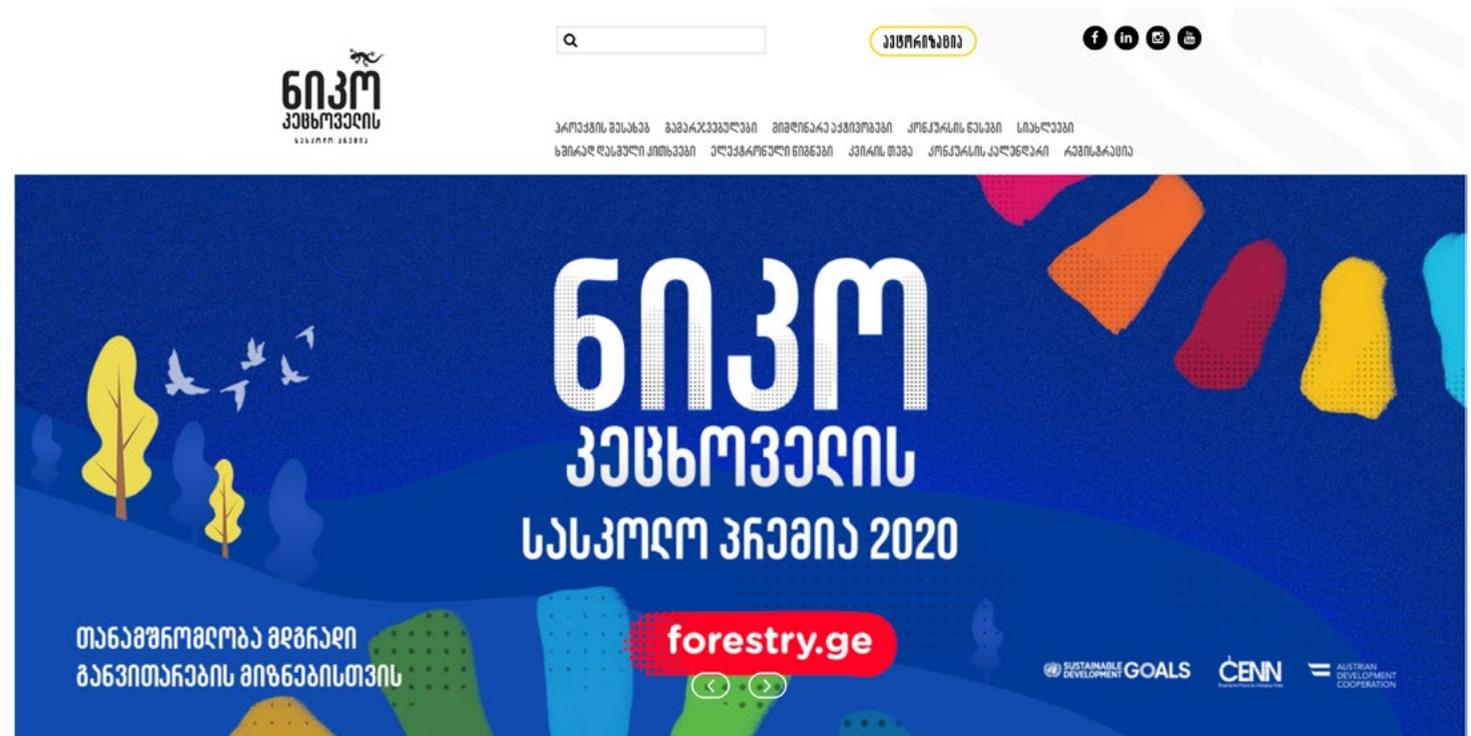
Circular Economy – Implementation (Part 2)

The second part of the textbook focuses on the implementation of circular economy.

Digital Platforms:

Forestry Portal: **forestry.ge**

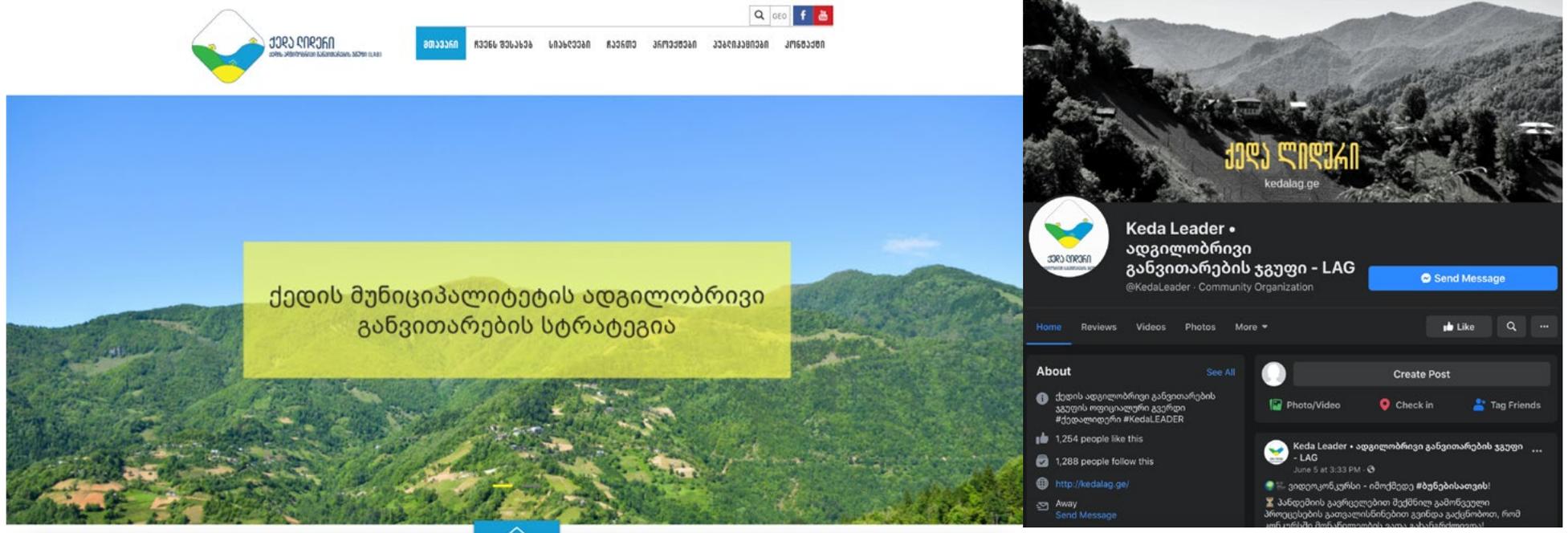
The portal supports the Niko Ketskhoveli School Award - provides platform for eco-clubs for idea sharing and inspiration for sustainable activities in their communities.



კვირის თემა

Keda LAG website: **kedalag.ge** and Facebook page: **Keda LEADER**

These digital channels provide information about the EU supported project – Keda LEADER activities. These digital platforms inform and update the target groups, as well as the general public about the most recent and reliable information related to the project.



Tsalka LAG website: **tsalkalag.ge** and Facebook page: **EMBRACE Tsalka**

These digital channels aim at creating online resource to build a credible knowledge and informational platform for our EU supported project EMBRACE Tsalka target groups as well as public and exchange news, activities and opportunities conducted within the project.

The image displays two digital channels for EMBRACE Tsalka. On the left is the website tsalkalag.ge, featuring a navigation menu in Georgian and a prominent red circular graphic with the text: **ვიდუო კონკურსი** (Video Competition), **დროა, ვიმოქმედოთ #ბუნებისათვის** (It's time, let's support #Nature), and **გადაიღე ვიდეო, გამოაგზავნე, მოიგე!** (Take a video, send it, win!). On the right is the Facebook page for **Embrace Tsalka - ეს ნაღკაა - LAG**, showing a post about the same video competition with the text: **ვიდუო კონკურსი** (Video Competition), **დროა, ვიმოქმედოთ #ბუნებისათვის** (It's time, let's support #Nature), and **გადაიღე ვიდეო, გამოაგზავნე, მოიგე!** (Take a video, send it, win!).

Video PSAs:



Click to see the video / Opens Browser

Save the Box Trees

The aim of the PSA is to raise awareness regarding the conservation of box trees (*buxus colchica*).

<https://youtu.be/9RLWmUtQKxI>

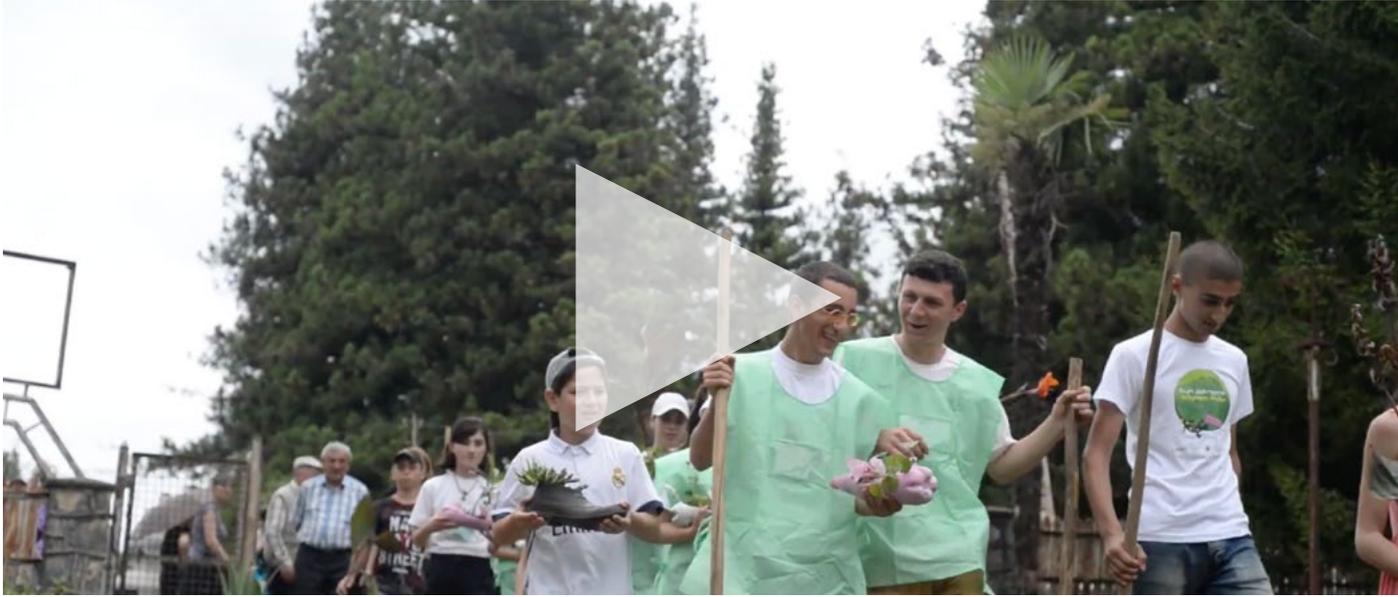


Click to see the video / Opens Browser

Importance of Forester and Ranger Professions

The aim of the PSA is to raise awareness regarding the importance of forestry professionals.

<https://youtu.be/2GGRZ4SgnXY>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

10 Reasons to Join the Niko Ketskhovereli School Award

The aim of the PSA is to provide the viewers with 10 reasons to get interested in environmental activism and provide information about the **Niko Ketskhovereli School Award**.

<https://youtu.be/sXXe01MKZ6c>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Recycling Companies in Georgia

The aim of the video is to provide information about waste recycling companies operating in Georgia.

<https://youtu.be/i9zir0Ld994>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Waste Pollution

The aim of the video is to provide information about waste regulations in Georgia.

https://youtu.be/AmQSL_7hvag



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Keep Georgia Beautiful Campaign

The video provides information on the nationwide campaign, Keep Georgia Beautiful. Within the campaign, diverse institutions and organizations can adopt littered territories across Georgia and maintain their cleanliness.

<https://youtu.be/RPbfnsUweDU>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Recycle in Tbilisi

This video provides information about the recycling process in Tbilisi.

<https://youtu.be/QppM5b8BbgU>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Say No to Plastic Challenge

The video provides information about how and why we should reduce plastic consumption.

<https://youtu.be/Y5pGTNg4lco>

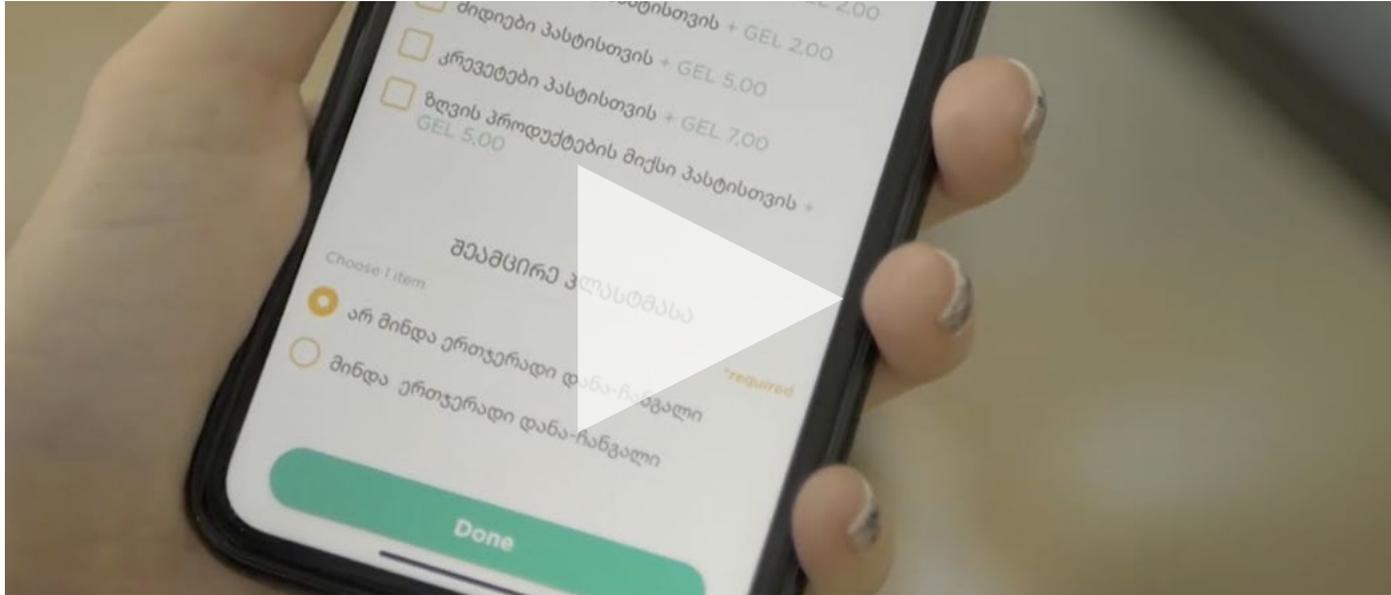


Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Waste Expo 2019

The video aims to provide information about the Waste Expo 2019. Recycling companies operating in Georgia were exhibited at the event.

<https://youtu.be/qbPN1QoTMjo>

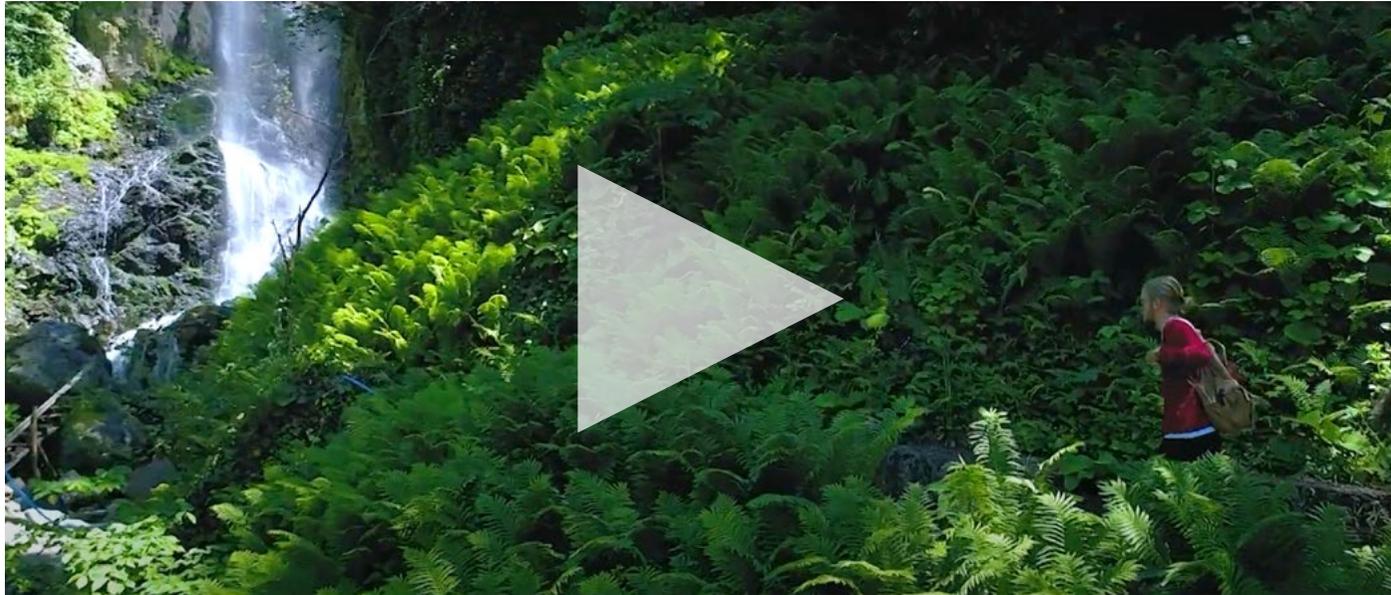


Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Say No to Plastic Campaign with GLOVO

The video provides information about the Say No to Plastic campaign that aims to reduce plastic pollution and how GLOVO became part of it.

<https://youtu.be/ESs0mFXfGa4>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

Visit Keda

The aim of the video is to promote tourism potential of Keda municipality and present its beautiful sites.

<https://youtu.be/osj5za9WehE>



Click to see the video /Opens Browser

#KedaLEADER Video Story

The video provides information about project activities, personal stories and the experiences of LAG members implemented within the project.

<https://youtu.be/gROEuFdlh4w>



Proud to be diverse!

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