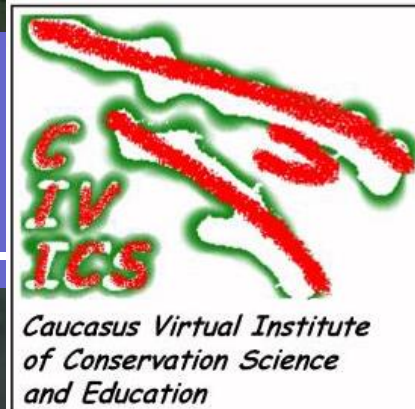


Socio-economic Tools for Integrated Conservation Planning in the Multi-Ethnic South Caucasus



<http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/CIVICS>.

Kick-off Workshop, Hotel Varazi, Tbilisi, Georgia 12-13 March 2012

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Key Economic Indicators

- Country surface area 69,875 sq km
- Population size Current: 4307011
- Rural population: 47.3 %
- Urban population: 52.7 %
- Projections (2020): 3968000
- Annual population growth rate Current: -1.17
- Rural population growth: -1.34
- Urban population growth: - 1.02
- Number of households Current: 1183245
- Projections (2020): 10901101
- Average household size 3.6 (source: MICS, 2005)
- GDP/capita (2008 prices) Current (2008): €2029
- Projections (2020): €30062
- GDP/capita in Purchasing Power Parity (2008 , PPP) Current (2008): €3347
- Projections (2020): €49592
- Share (%) of agriculture in GDP 10
- Share (%) of industry in GDP 21.2
- Share (%) of services in GDP 68.8

State of the environment

- **General environmental problems include (draft NEAP 2011-2015):**
 - **- Inadequate and fragmented environmental legislation**
 - **- Low awareness and limited capacities of stakeholders**
 - **- Weak monitoring, inspection and enforcement systems**
 - **- Lack of data to support adequate policy-making**

River Mtkvari Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park



Significant nature conservation and forestry management issues include (draft NEAP 2011-2015):

- - Decrease of viable populations of endangered species and degradation of habitats
- - Unsustainable fishing and hunting practices and regulations
- - Lack of unified protected areas network
- - Ineffective management of the protected areas
- - Absence of proper data base for biodiversity conservation
- - Worsening land degradation and desertification.
- - unsustainable forestry practices
- - Unsustainable logging and grazing
- - Illegal logging, driven by diminishing living standards.

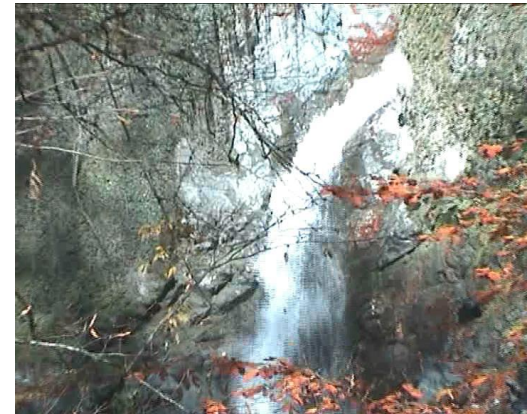


Climate change impacts include (draft NEAP 2011-2015):

- - Impacts on natural ecosystems and biodiversity: forest and land degradation, desertification, melting of glaciers
- - Decreased water resources and soil fertility
- - Increased damages from disasters
- - Increased human mortality/morbidity

The main threats to Georgia's globally significant biodiversity are:

- habitat degradation and fragmentation caused by illegal logging timber trade, overgrazing and water pollution;
- poaching and illegal wildlife trade;
- overfishing;
- infrastructure development.



The protected areas network

- Georgia's main strategy for biodiversity conservation is the development and management of its network of protected areas, which covers 7.3 % of the country's territory. Primary function of the Protected Areas is protection of natural heritage of the country.
- The greatest barrier to the effective management and conservation of Georgia's protected areas network is the lack of sufficient and reliable funding. The creation and development of new protected areas is mostly funded by donors. The government funding has increased substantially since 2007; nevertheless, it only covers about 1/3 of the recurring costs of protected areas management.
- The first Protected Area – Lagodekhi Strict Nature Reserve was established as early as 1912.
- The first nature reserve in Georgia was established in 1912 (Lagodekhi Reserve), and another 13 strict nature reserves, covering 2.4% of the country's territory, and five hunting reserves, covering 0.8% of the total area, were subsequently established during the Soviet era.

The Council of Europe launched a Joint Programme with the European Union in 2009

In Georgia, 17 potential Emerald sites were identified within the protected areas or planned protected areas, up to December 2010: Algeti, Arkhoti, Batsara, Borjomi-Kharagauli, Bughdasheni, Chachuna, Kazbegi, Khanchali, Kintrishi, Kolkheti, Lagodekhi, Madatapa, Mtirala, Racha, Svaneti, Tusheti and Vashlovani.

There are 64 protected areas covering 511274,3 ha, covering 7.3% of the total area of the country. About 75 % of Protected Areas are covered by forests. There are 2 Ramsar sites.

National Category	IUCN Category	Number	Total Area (ha)
Strict Nature reserve	I	14	141473
National park	II	9	270740,83
Natural monument	III	21	455,1*
Managed reserve	IV	18	64119
Protected Landscape	V	2	34708



Socio-economic and Biological Importance

The biological importance of most of the PAs is high, as they:

- are characterized by a relatively high or medium number of rare, threatened, or endangered species
- have high levels of biodiversity
- have a high number of species which are endemic.
- significantly contribute to the representativeness of the PA system
- sustain minimum viable populations of key species
- maintain the full range of natural processes.
- **As for the socio-economic importance of PAs:**
- many have religious significance (mainly churches and cross-icons within the PAs).
- Most PAs contain plant and animal species with high social, cultural or economic importance.
- Most PAs deliver significant eco-system services.
- Many have a high educational and scientific value.



LAND OPERATED BY AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

BY REGIONS (ths. hectares)

Land operated by holdings			Owned			From a private person			From state			
2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	
150	142	133	55	55	69	5	2	0	90	85	64	Kvemo Kartli
56	54	56	39	35	36	0	0	1	17	19	19	Samtskhe-Javakheti

USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND OPERATED BY AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BY REGIONS (ths. hectares)

Agricultural land, total			Uncultivated			Cultivated			Permenent meadows and pastures			Land under permanent crops			
2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	
865	854	838	132	166	130	330	297	329	287	277	264	116	114	115	Georgia
137	134	125	9	20	22	56	46	35	68	64	65	4	4	137	Kvemo Kartli
54	51	52	6	11	7	33	26	26	14	13	18	1	1	54	Samtskhe-Javakhe

MINERAL FERTILIZERS USED BY AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS BY REGIONS (ths. tons)

Mineral fertilizers of all types used			Nitrogenous			other fertilizers			
2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	
95.9	51.1	52.7	67.2	46.8	51.2	28.7	4.3	1.5	Georgia
10.6	7.6	2.0	9.0	6.9	1.9	1.6	0.7	0.0	Kvemo Kartli
6.5	3.5	8.2	6.5	3.3	8.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	Samtskhe - Javakheti