

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
GEORGIA
and
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
IRAN on
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia and Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran, hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Willing to further strengthen the friendly relations and the strategic partnership between the two countries;

Desiring to further develop cooperation on environmental protection and nature conservation;

Convinced to move in coherence with the efficient management of the environment at national, regional and global levels in the interest of present and future generations of both countries, and in pursuance of goals of sustainable development;

Recognizing the importance of cooperative efforts to promote and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as integral and supportive parts of sustainable development;

Determined to promote closer and long-term cooperation in the field of environment and deepening on cooperation interaction;

Now therefore the Parties have agreed to cooperate under this "Memorandum of Understanding"- as follows:

ARTICLE 1

OBJECTIVE

The Parties will cooperate within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as MOU) in accordance with the national legislation of both countries and the generally recognized principles of international environmental law, on the basis of

equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit, taking into consideration their national environmental policies.

ARTICLE II
INTERPRETATION

- 1) This MOU describes general measures to be taken in order to further cooperation between the parties. Implementation of specific activities/projects/programmes pursuant to this MOU will necessitate the execution of appropriate Cooperation Arrangements and/or Plan of Action between the parties.
- 2) This MOU supersedes all prior communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning this MOU.

ARTICLE III
SCOPE OF COOPERATION

- 1) Management of solid waste; the safe disposal, recycling, treatment of industrial wastes, especially hazardous wastes; and the reduction of wastes caused by packaging;
- 2) Exchange of experiences and cooperation in international environmental issues such as climate change, depletion of ozone layer, biodiversity;
- 3) Control and monitoring of air pollution;
- 4) Cooperation in the protection of the marine environment and management of coastal areas;
- 5) Management of natural environment, such as national parks and protected areas;
- 6) Conservation of unique natural eco-systems, particularly wetlands, and cooperation in the management of registered wetlands in the list of the Ramsar Convention;
- 7) Assessment of the ecological values of the natural environment and biodiversity;
- 8) Cooperation on protection and reintroduction of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna; and
- 9) Scientific-educational collaboration in holding joint training courses, and workshops.

ARTICLE IV
ACTIVITIES

In order to achieve the objective, referred to in Article I, the Parties intend to:

- 1- Hold consultations in principle once a year, with the participant of joint commissions including authorized representative of the Parties. As part of the regular consultations and governmental negotiations on bilateral cooperation to:
 - 1.1-Discuss priority issues of mutual concern in the field of the environment and sustainable development;

- 1.2-Discuss their respective positions on issues dealt with in multilateral forums related to sustainable development affairs, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Environment Programme.
- 2- Organize meetings, seminars and joint training programmes.
- 3- Enhance cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organizations with regard to important programmes and initiatives in the field of environment and sustainable development.

ARTICLE V
IMPLEMENTATION

The Parties shall appoint a focal person as the Coordinator for the purpose of implementing this MOU. The Coordinators shall prepare and agree up on the scope of activities in the form of a Plan of Action (PoA) on biennial basis.

ARTICLE VI
FUNDING

Each party shall provide adequate resources to carry out its own responsibilities under this MOU.

ARTICLE VII
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Parties shall consult with each other regarding the Intellectual Property Rights as appropriate relating to any project or benefits derived thereof in respect of activities carried out under a Cooperation Arrangement and/or PoA pursuant to this MOU.

ARTICLE VIII
OBLIGATIONS

The provisions of this MOU do not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties, stemming from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and Programmes which they are a party to.

ARTICLE IX
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Parties.

ARTICLE X
AMENDMENT

This MOU may be amended or supplemented by a mutual consent of the Parties, which shall be formed as a separate document and shall enter into force in accordance with the procedure under which this Agreement enters into force. The protocol drawn up in accordance with the abovementioned provisions shall form the integral part of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XI
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION, AND TERMINATION

- 1- This MOU shall come into force on the date of the signatures.
- 2- This MOU shall remain in force for a period of 5 (five) years and may automatically be extended by the mutual consent of the Parties. It may be terminated at anytime by either party by giving written notification at least 6 (six) months prior to the date of the intended termination.
- 3- The termination of this MOU will not affect the validity and duration of any ongoing project or activity until the completion of such project or activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorized representatives thereto by their respective Governments have signed this MOU.

DONE in Tbilisi on -- September 2012 in two copies, each in Georgian, Farsi and English languages, each text being equally authentic. In case of different interpretations of the provisions of the MOU, the English text shall prevail.

FOR
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
PROTECTION OF GEORGIA

George Zedginidze

Minister of Environment Protection of
Georgia

FOR
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh

Vice President and Head of Department of
Environment of the Islamic Republic of Iran