

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES PROTECTION OF GEORGIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria hereafter referred to as "the Parties",

Wishing to promote and strengthen their bilateral cooperation in order to help both countries to achieve national and international environmental targets and to improve the state of the environment in both countries,

Taking into account the geographic location of both countries in the Black Sea Region,

Considering the Convention on Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution, signed in 1992,

Confirming their mutual interest in the conservation of the Black Sea environment,

Acting in accordance with the domestic legislation of both countries and the generally recognized principles of international environmental law,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Parties shall promote and develop cooperation in the field of environmental protection on an equal and mutually beneficial basis and reciprocity.

ARTICLE 2

For the implementation of the present Agreement the Parties shall appoint competent authorities as follows:

For the Georgian side – The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection;

For the Bulgarian side – The Ministry of Environment and Water;

In the occasion of a change in the name of each of the competent authorities the Parties shall inform each other through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 3

The purpose of this Agreement is to support development of close cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the following directions:

- a) Monitoring of environmental pollution and state of the environment;
- b) Waste management;
- c) Protection of biological diversity, protected areas management and eco-tourism development;
- d) Cooperation on European integration issues;
- e) Cooperation on Black Sea protection issues.

ARTICLE 4

The cooperation of the Parties takes the following form:

- a) Exploration of existing mechanisms and opportunities for implementation of joint projects and programmes;
- b) Exchange of information on environmental legislation, standards and plans;
- c) Arrangement of joint meetings, conferences, consultations of experts;
- d) Exchange of scientific and technical information;
- e) Participation of experts in international environmental conferences and symposia to be arranged in each country;
- f) Training of civil servants in the main fields of environmental protection;
- g) Other mutually agreed forms of cooperation.

ARTICLE 5

1. The Parties shall, within 3 months from the entry into force of this Agreement, inform in written form each other of designation of the coordinators for implementation of the cooperation activities agreed under the present Agreement.

2. The coordinators shall establish and maintain regular contacts through joint meetings and/or by other means.

ARTICLE 6

Unless otherwise is agreed, each Party shall bear the costs of its own participation in

the activities carried out under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

Any dispute that may arise from interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved between the Parties by means of consultations and/or negotiations.

ARTICLE 8

This Agreement shall not be interpreted so as to prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties which result from other agreements in force concluded by each of the two Parties under international law.

ARTICLE 9

This Agreement is concluded for a period of five years and shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties notify each other, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of their national legal procedures required for the entry into force of this Agreement. Its validity shall be extended automatically for another period of five years, unless either of the Parties gives the other written notice six months in advance, through diplomatic channels, of its intention not to extend it.

ARTICLE 10

This Agreement 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 procedures under Article 9 of this Agreement. The document drawn up in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Done in Tbilisi on March 19.03. 2014, in two copies, each in Georgian, Bulgarian and English languages, each text being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail. English language shall also be the language of correspondence.

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PROTECTION
OF GEORGIA**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND WATER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**