

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
PROTECTION OF GEORGIA  
AND  
THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT  
AND WATER MANAGEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
ON  
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria, hereinafter referred to as "Partners",

*Based on the friendly relationship* between the two countries,

*Desiring* the initiation of continuative bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that this bilateral cooperation contributes to broader European Union ambitions to strengthen its relation with neighboring countries especially under the European Neighborhood Policy,

*Convinced* that such cooperation between the Partners is of mutual benefit and will further promote the friendly relations between the two countries,

*Acting* in accordance with the national legislation of both countries and the principles of international environmental law,

Have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE 1

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to promote cooperation between the Partners in the field of environmental protection on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

## ARTICLE 2

The following areas have been identified by the Partners as mutually high priority areas of close cooperation:

1. Protection of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources;
2. Sustainable management of national parks and protected areas;
3. Sustainable forestry;
4. Climate change;
5. Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and technologies;
6. Air quality, air pollution monitoring;
7. Integrated water resource management;
8. Sustainable waste management, including industrial and hazardous waste;
9. Environmental monitoring, information and reporting;
10. Natural hazard and risk management;
11. Any other area upon which the Partners reach an understanding.

## ARTICLE 3

Cooperation between the Partners may be concluded in the following forms:

1. Exchange of relevant environmental information and documentation;
2. Jointly organized seminars, workshops and meetings for scientists, experts, regulators and others concerned;
3. Exchange of visits of experts, scholars and delegations;
4. Cooperation in relevant regional and international fora;
5. Education and training;
6. Other forms of cooperation as mutually agreed upon.

## ARTICLE 4

To implement this Memorandum of Understanding, the Partners will encourage environmental protection organizations, enterprises and municipalities as well as research institutions of both sides to establish and develop direct contacts with each other in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development.

#### ARTICLE 5

The Division of International Relations of the Department of Environmental Policy and International Relations of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and the Division of International Environmental Affairs of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria will act as focal points which will be responsible for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and will coordinate bilateral cooperation and organize relevant activities according to mutual demands.

#### ARTICLE 6

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented in a manner consistent with the laws and regulations of each Partner and consistent with the obligations of the Partners deriving from any treaties, conventions, regional or global agreements related to environmental protection.

#### ARTICLE 7

In case of visits, workshops, seminars and exchange of experts, the delegating Partner will bear any expenses arising from such activities under this Memorandum of Understanding, unless otherwise agreed in specific cases.

Each Partner will provide the necessary assistance to representatives of the delegating Partner in order to accomplish their mission.

#### ARTICLE 8

Any differences that may arise with regard to the interpretation and implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled between the Partners in a friendly way, by means of consultations and/or negotiations.

ARTICLE 9

This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into effect on the date of signature by both Partners and will remain in effect for an undefined period of time.

A Partner may at any time notify the other Partner in a written form of its intention to cancel this Memorandum of Understanding. In such case the Memorandum of Understanding will expire six months after the day of the receipt of the cancellation notice.

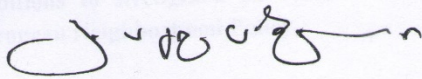
The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect validity of any arrangements already made under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done on 19 May 2015, in Tbilisi, in two original copies, each in German, Georgian and English languages, all three versions being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text will prevail.

The Minister of Environment and  
Natural Resources Protection of  
Georgia

The Federal Minister of Agriculture,  
Forestry, Environment and Water  
Management of the Republic of Austria

Gigla Agulashvili



Andrä Rupprechter

