

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – Georgia a brief review

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Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for Europe on National Biodiversity Strategies and
Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Mainstreaming of Biodiversity.

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Development of the NBSAP-Georgia

1994 - Georgia ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity

1996 - a State programme was launched to assess the biodiversity in the country.

The main objectives of the programme were as follows:

- identification of main threats to biodiversity;
- assessment of species and habitats;
- detection of gaps;
- gathering available information

The assessment was done by NACRES, a local Environmental NGO, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia (MEPNER) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Development of the NBSAP-Georgia

1998 – development of the NBSAP started. The process was supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and coordinated by the MEPNER. No particular guideline was used during drafting. However, adapted Georgian translation of the annex to decision II/17 was considered (to some extent).

2002 – the drafted NBSAP was revised before final approval. Environmental NGOs, Governmental and scientific bodies were involved in updating process.

The final draft was completed with the support from the UNDP/GEF.

19 February 2005 – NBSAP-Georgia was adopted by Government decree #27.

The NBSAP published in Georgian and in English. FFI contributed to English version of the document.

Available as downloadable PDF files on the MEPNER web-site at <http://www.moe.gov.ge>

or on NACRES web-site at http://www.nacres.org/pdf/bsap_en.pdf

Structure of the NBSAP - Georgia

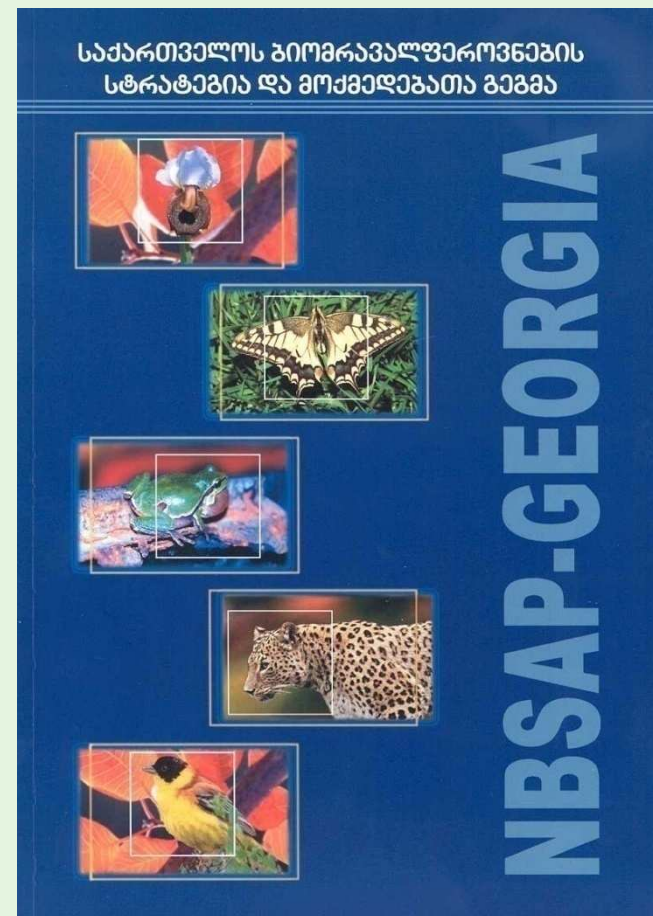
Main parts of the document:

Preamble - strategic components of biodiversity protection and the problems related to them.

Chapter 1 - general aim and vision, strategic principles and concrete objectives for each strategic component.

Chapter 2 - action plan with concrete activities and preliminary amount of funds necessary to achieve the above objectives.

Annexes – a brief review of the country's biodiversity and the main issues of biodiversity protection.



Structure of the NBSAP - Georgia

The key issues identified in the NBSAP and strategic goals

A	Protected Areas	To develop a protected areas system to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.
B	Species and Habitats	To maintain and restore Georgia's habitats, species and genetic diversity through in-situ, ex-situ and inter-situ conservation measures, and through sustainable use of biological resources.
C	Agrobiodiversity	To conserve Georgian agrobiodiversity through ensuring its sustainable use and by promoting of ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures.
D	Hunting and Fishing	To promote sustainable hunting and fishing through adequate planning, restoration and protection of key biological resource.
E	Biodiversity Monitoring	To develop a biodiversity monitoring system and an active and integrated biodiversity database to ensure sustainable use and conservation of biological resources.
F	Biotechnology and Biosafety	To protect both the human population and biodiversity from potential threats from genetically modified organisms (biotechnology), through the strengthening the law and through increasing public involvement in decision making.

Structure of the NBSAP - Georgia

The key issues identified in the NBSAP and strategic goals (continued)

G	Environmental Education, Public Awareness and Public Participation	To raise public awareness of biodiversity issues and to encourage public participation in the decision making process.
H	Financial and Economical Programme	To ensure appropriate financial and economic programmes are in place in order to support effective conservation of biodiversity, and to ensure the delivery of the BSAP.
I	Legislation and Institutional Development	To further improve national legislation (and associated institutions) relating to biodiversity conservation, through the creation of new, and elaboration of existing laws and regulations, and through ensuring harmonization to international legal responsibilities.
J	Sustainable forestry	To conserve forest biodiversity through sustainable forest management.

Status and evaluation of the NBSAP

Since its adoption the NBSAP-Georgia has not been updated.

Currently the MEPNER undertakes inventory of the activities which are carried out by different institutions (NGOs, Scientific institutions, etc) and contribute to the NBSAP implementation.

The inventory aims to evaluate NBSAP implementation and identify the obstacles and needs for better accomplishment.

Based on this analysis the NBSAP will be update if there is a need for that.

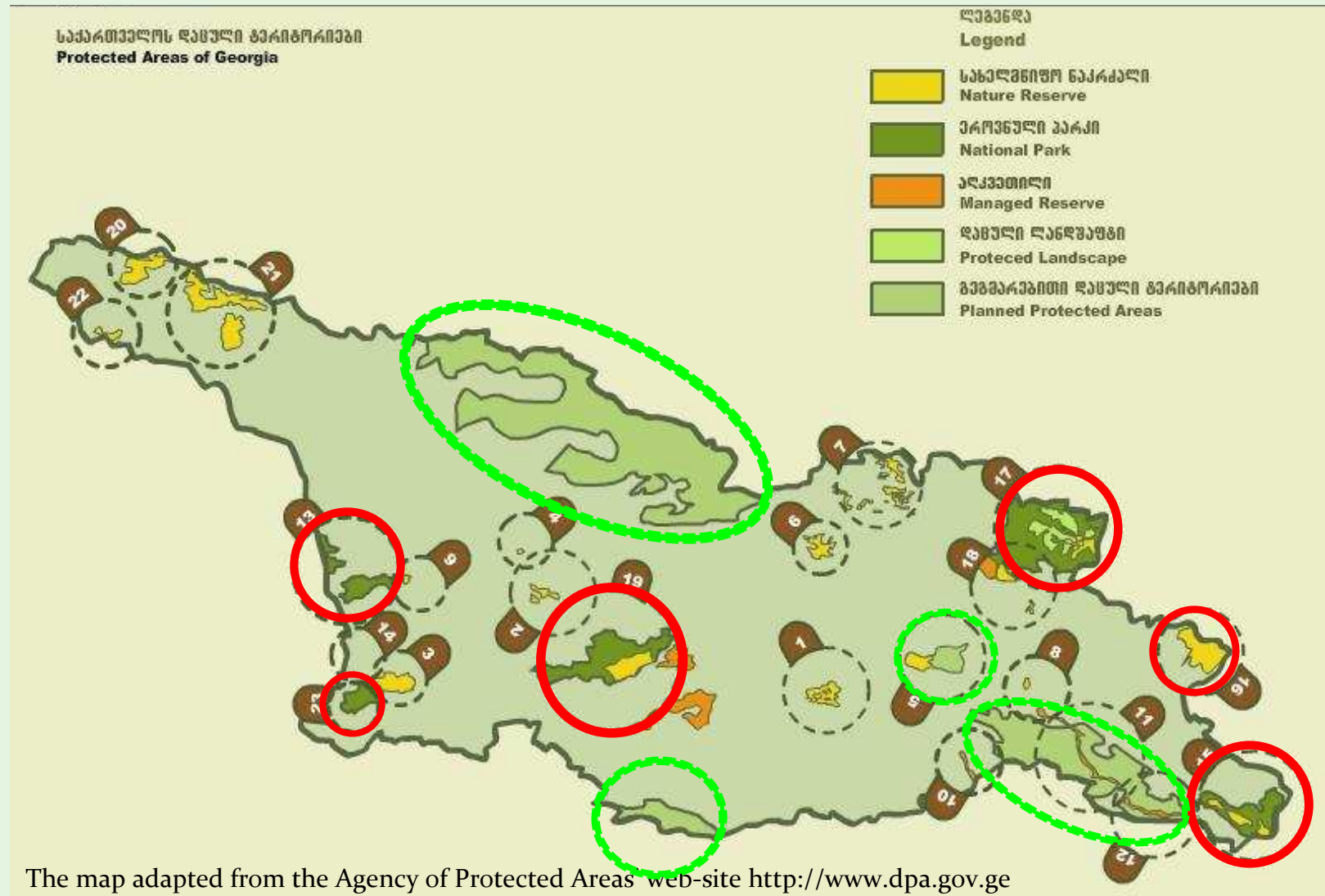


Cliff Volpe photography

Implementation of the NBSAP

key points - component A

Number of PAs covering important biodiversity areas increased and some more are under planning



The map adapted from the Agency of Protected Areas web-site <http://www.dpa.gov.ge>

Implementation of the NBSAP

key points – component B

Management plans have been developed for Brown bear, Leopard, East and West Caucasian turs, Grouse, Salamander.

Red List has been updated and some vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered species added.

Reintroduction of Gazelle in Vashlovani National Park (Eastern Georgia) is planned.



Unknown source



Photo by NACRES



Mertensiella caucasica. Photo by David Tarkhnishvili

Implementation of the NBSAP

key points – component C



Photo by Giorgi Lebanidze

Support to traditional and organic agriculture.

Implementation of the projects encouraging on-farm conservation of agrobiodiversity.

Implementation of the NBSAP

key points – component D

With the support of the FAO, baseline study of the hunting sector was carried out in Georgia. The aim of the study was to identify gaps in the hunting reforms and needs for sustainable resource use. Based on the study results, the hunting reform will be implemented within the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme.



Implementation of the NBSAP

key points – component E

National Biodiversity Monitoring System is being established now in Georgia.

The monitoring system uses Pressure-State-Response (P/S/R) model of biodiversity indicators created by OECD.

The monitoring system involves different stakeholders, such as scientists, NGOs, Governmental bodies etc. The success depends on their contribution to the system. The ministry ensures coordination of the monitoring process.



Photo by Cliff Volpe



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Implementation of the NBSAP

key points – component **F, G, H, I, J**

Public awareness-raising campaigns / projects .

Amendments of different laws and regulations (e.g. Law of Georgia on “Red List” and “Red Data Book”, Forest Code).

Assessment of Capacity Building Needs for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use, Participation in Clearing House Mechanism and Preparation of a Second and Third National Reports to CBD – on-going project supported by the UNDP/GEF.



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Main Obstacles / Problems

- Communication of the NBSAP
- Integration in different sectors
- Low public awareness on environmental issues

We look for other's experience in solving the above problems.



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THANK YOU.



Photo by Kote Gabrichidze