



Ministry of Environment Protection  
and Natural Resources of Georgia



# Environmental Security in Georgia

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# Georgia: Country Profile



## Major environmental problems creating potential threats to the socio-economic and political stability at national and regional levels

- Deterioration of the environment as well as depletion of natural resources can become a direct or indirect cause of social tension and political conflicts both at national and regional levels.
- Unsustainable use of forest and other natural resources
- Land degradation/ desertification
- Lack of relevant data on Persistent Organic Pollutants

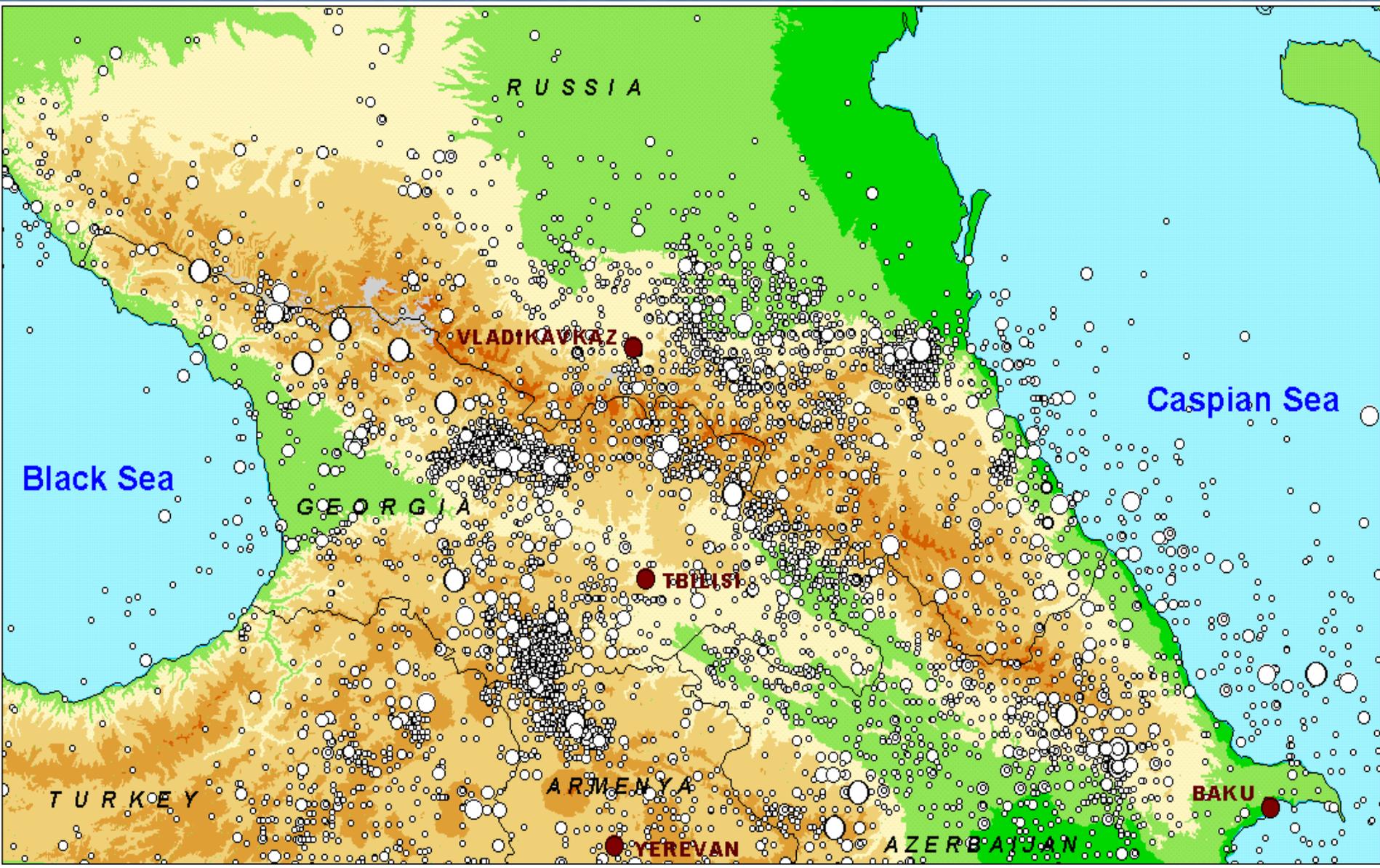
- **Peaceful change of the Government of Georgia in November 2003**, created one more opportunity for the country to recover its economy, get political stability, improve relationship with the contiguous countries. Besides, it increased its chances to achieve accession to the EU and NATO.
- **Program for 2004-2009 of the new Government** makes an emphasis on the rational use of natural resources, safe environment and protection of biological diversity of the country

## Dangerous geological and hydrometeorological phenomena:

- Flood
- Hail
- Drought. During the vegetation period drought is quite common for the east part of the country
- Landslides
- Earthquakes



# Seismicity of Caucasus



# Key Problems

## RADIATION

Different types of sources left on former Soviet military sites  
Both military servants and civilians injured

## HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Rocket fuel remained in storages  
Unregistered explosives and weapons

## OIL PRODUCTS

Soil contamination  
Water Pollution

## OTHER PROBLEMS

Soil erosion  
Damaging of historical sites

# Relevant projects

- Water Management in the South Caucasus (USAID)
- Joint River Management Programme-Kura Basin (TACIS)
- Monitoring of the South Caucasus Rivers (NATO)
- Implementation of London Protocol in Georgia (DANCEE)
- Development of a Transboundary Cooperation for Hazard Prevention in the Kura River Basin (BMU/UBA)
- National Action Program on Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Forest Development Project (World Bank)
- Increase of Public Environmental Awareness and Information in Transboundary Regions of the South Caucasus Countries: Watersheds of Debeda and Khrami Rivers (CENN)
- Preparation of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention

# Development of a Transboundary Cooperation for Hazard Prevention in the Kura River Basin (BMU/UBA)

The project comprises the following tasks:

- Survey of industrial plants with potential water pollution and its assessment (2003 – 2004)
  - *Identification and quantification of hazardous incident potential and associated risks for humans and environment in the Kura River catchment area*
- Selection and exemplary investigation of relevant plants with a high potential water pollution
  - *Recommendation of measures concerning safety engineering for defined plants fraught*
  - *Procurement of technical knowledge in the range of installation and safety engineering*
- Compilation of checklists for investigation and assessment of plants with water pollutants and suited processing facilities (here: tailings management facilities, closure of plants (2004 – 2006))
  - *Procurement of applicable methods to reduce potential of hazardous incidents*
  - *Gradual development of a security level comparable with that of EU countries to improve integration opportunities of the South Caucasian Countries into the EEA (European Economic Area)*
- Compilation of an international warning and alarm program in the Kura River catchment area
- Implementation of International Main Warn Centre (IHWZ) to provide cross national communication (2006)

# EAST-WEST ENERGY CORRIDOR



Implementation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Main Export Pipeline and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzrum South Caucasus Pipeline System projects lays a foundation to a full-scale development of the East-West Energy Corridor.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES APPLIED IN THE COURSE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BTC AND THE SCP PROJECTS**

- **EU Standards and Practices**
- **ISO, API, ANSI, ASTM, BSI etc.**
- **World Bank Environmental Standards and Practices**
- **Netherlands Standards (for the BTC Project)**
- **Austrian Standards (for the BTC Project)**
- **UK Standards (for the SCP Project)**

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF BTC AND SCP CONSTRUCTION

- Georgia has approved the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Project Design Documents for the BTC and SCP Projects, with certain conditions.
- Among others, these conditions call for special solutions with respect to environmentally sensitive areas
- Conditionally has been approved also Oil Spill Response Plan for BTC Pipeline. Emergency Response Plan for SCP Pipeline has to be approved before the operation phase.



## Possible further steps aiming at reduction of ecological threat

- Carry out full transfer of inventory and military lands and facilities to the civil administration, investigate them on presence of dangerous chemical and radioactive pollutants, recycle outdated ammunition.
- Conduct awareness raising campaigns on environmental protection and management in the military sector.
- Shift to NATO standards in military sector.

# Possible further steps aiming at reduction of ecological threat

- Carry out Monitoring of the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions through the assistance of IAEA, the United Nations, OSCE, NATO and other international organizations in order to detect radioactive and nuclear materials.
- Ensure the disposal of all existing radioactive sources and wastes from all territory of Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia, in the centralized storage as soon as it is constructed.
- Carry out comprehensive work to prevent the distribution of nuclear and radioactive materials. These activities should include improvement of physical protection of the places used for temporary storages as well as promoting of public awareness raising campaigns on these issues.
- Carry out informative and awareness raising campaigns among the population regarding the terrorism and in particular ecological terrorism.

# Possible further steps aiming at reduction of ecological threat

- Promote harmonization of the national environmental legislation with the EU directives.
- Prepare the suitable basis for the introduction of EU directive on drinking water and water framework directive.
- Take all measures to rehabilitate water supply and sanitation systems



Thank You

