

**Agreement on Environmental Cooperation Between
the Government of the Republic of Turkey
and the Government of Georgia**

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and The Government of Georgia hereinafter referred as the "Parties",

Considering the similarities in climatic and natural conditions and their close bilateral and multilateral relations,

Recognizing the significance of the sustainable development approach for the protection and improvement of the environment for the health and welfare of the present and future Generations,

Taking into account their mutual interest in the conservation and development of the bioproductive potential of the Black Sea,

Noting the importance of enhancing their bilateral co-operation for the fulfillment of the regional and global responsibilities of both parties on environmental protection,

Recognizing the significance of the principles adopted by the United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing the significance of the successful implementation of International Agreements and Conventions in the field of environment,

Taking into account the Convention on Protection of Black Sea Against Pollution 1992, the objectives of the Ministerial Declaration of 1993, the objectives of the Program for Environmental Protection and Management of the Black Sea and the relevant provisions of the Black Sea Economical Co-operation of 1993,

Bearing in Mind the need for close co-operation on scientific technical and technological aspects of the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources,

Have agreed in the field of environmental protection and improvement, as follows;

ARTICLE I

The parties shall cooperate in the field of environment on the basis of equity, reciprocity, and mutual benefit within the framework of relevant legislation of each party for this purpose.

ARTICLE II

The Government of the Republic of Turkey and The Government of Georgia shall encourage co-operation in the field of the prevention of pollution and the protection of the environment. Their efforts shall be directed primarily at mitigation of harmful influences over the environment and to obtain a sustainable resource management policy.

ARTICLE III

The countries shall cooperate on the basis of mutual benefit for the protection of the environment effectively in the following fields;

1. Prevention of air pollution and acid rains, due to transboundary movement of pollutants.
2. Analysis of land based pollution loads flowing into sea and monitoring studies, establishment of the required systems to exchange information between the two countries.
3. Enhancing the quality of inland, coastal and drinking water and safe disposal of domestic and industrial wastewater.
4. Carrying out projects on conservation of biological diversity and management of protected areas,
5. The protection of endangered flora¹ and fauna species, especially the migratory animals including birds and marine mammals.
6. Joint studies on prevention of soil erosion and rehabilitation projects.
7. Adoption of environmentally sound solid waste management strategies.
8. Preparation of joint programs to develop eco-tourism in Black Sea coasts of each country.
9. Prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes, harmonization of legislation at national, regional and global levels and development of early warning and information mechanisms.
10. In the event of an ecological emergency caused by and industrial accident or natural disasters, the parties jointly will take all due measures to prevent trans-border consequences.
11. Co-operation on the protection of the Black Sea Marine environment Against Pollution by Dumping.
12. Co-operation on the environmental aspects of industrial and agricultural policies as well as transportation, energy, forestry and marine products; integration of environment and development policies to attain the objectives of sustainable development.

13. Planning and implementation of short and long-term environmental programs.

14. Exchange of information and experience and assessment of suitable technologies on new and renewable energy resources to prevent environmental pollution arising from energy production and consumption.

15. Development of methodologies for pilot Projects.

16. Exchange of information on Chorohi river.

17. Environmental impact assessment on jointly decided environmental problems in Turkey and in Georgia.

18. Joint environmental programs.

ARTICLE IV

The parties shall cooperate on the items stated in Article III of this Agreement through,

1. Exchange of information and data in environmental policies legislation and environmental practices, research and development activities, environmentally sound technologies and where necessary co-ordination of research and monitoring activities,

2. Organization of joint meetings of experts and officials of the Parties on the issues covered by this Agreement,

3. Organization of technical symposiums, conferences and seminars on topics of mutual interest to the Parties,

4. Preparation and implementation of joint training programs for training experts in the areas of co-operation exchange of experts between the two countries.

ARTICLE V

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Turkey and The Ministry of Environment of Georgia shall be responsible for the co-ordination and arrangement of the activities to be performed under this Agreement. Each Party shall ensure on its part the appropriate co-ordination of the activities under this Agreement with the other existing cooperative programs between the two governments. Unless otherwise is agreed, each Party shall bear the costs of its own participation to the activities carried out under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI

The Parties shall encourage the public and academic institutions, private companies and non-governmental organisations to participate in the cooperative activities carried out within the framework of this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII

Either party, by mutual agreement may pass the results of their co-operation on to third parties. During exchange of information, the parties shall take into account the provisions of the existing legislation, the rights of the third parties and international commitments. The use of information-either protected or worthy of protection-shall be subject to specific arrangements.

ARTICLE VIII

No provision in this Agreements shall be construed to prejudice other arrangements for cooperation between the parties or with third parties.

ARTICLE IX

In case of a dispute, between two Parties concerning the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement they shall seek a settlement of the dispute through negotiations.

ARTICLE X

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day following the exchange of notes between the parties informing the completion of their national formalities for the ratification of this Agreement, and shall remain in force for a period of five years. This agreement may be amended or prolonged upon written approval of the parties at any time.

This Agreement shall remain in force for another period of five years unless either of the Parties gives to the other a written notice of three months in advance of its intention to terminate it before the date of its expiry. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of the activities agreed upon pursuant to this Agreement and initiated prior to such termination.

Done at Tbilisi on 14 July 1997 in two originals, each in Turkish, Georgian and English languages all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence the English text shall prevail.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
GEORGIA