Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

OCTOBER 2026

Tbilisi Hosts Green Climate Fund Regional Dialogue



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, delivered the opening remarks at the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Dialogue in Tbilisi.

Hosted by Georgia, the event brings together senior government officials from across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, representatives of international partner organizations, and other key stakeholders engaged in advancing climate action.

"Climate change is becoming an increasingly pressing challenge for our region and is already having a significant impact on our countries and populations. For Georgia, strengthening climate resilience and advancing a sustainable economy are key priorities. Moreover, in partnership with the Green Climate Fund, Georgia is taking concrete steps to reduce climate-related risks, strengthen early warning systems, and advance the sustainable management of forests.

Our goal is to turn regional cooperation into concrete projects, and projects into investments and tangible results. We want to be not only beneficiaries of international climate cooperation, but also active partners that share our experience with others and contribute to the implementation of practical regional initiatives," stated Mr David Songulashvili.

On the first day of the Regional Dialogue, the Ministerial Roundtable focused on the theme "From Ambition to Implementation: Scaling Up Country-Driven Climate Investment and Regional Cooperation". The parties

discussed common challenges posed by climate change, opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation, and ways to advance climate investment. The programme also featured thematic and plenary sessions addressing carbon markets, climate platforms, private-sector engagement, early warning systems, and the GCF's strategic priorities.

"I am grateful to the Government of Georgia, which is co-hosting this Regional Dialogue. The Dialogue provides countries across the region with an opportunity to share experience, strengthen partnerships, and take concrete steps towards addressing climate challenges. The Green Climate Fund is pursuing a regionally focused approach and is already delivering tangible results. By deepening partnerships, increasing investment, supporting country platforms, and establishing a regional presence, we are helping countries translate their climate ambitions into concrete action and contribute to building a more sustainable future," stated Mr Thomas Eriksson, Director of the GCF Department for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East.

The following days of the Regional Dialogue will focus on the preparation and financing of climate projects. Participants will learn about GCF financing instruments and support opportunities, including the Readiness Programme and the Project Preparation Facility (PPF). Bilateral meetings are also scheduled to discuss specific projects and potential financing opportunities.

The event brought together senior representatives from countries across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with representatives of international organizations and other partner institutions engaged in climate action.





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David Songulashvili Meets GCF Regional Director



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the GCF Regional Director for Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East Mr Thomas Eriksson.

The meeting was held in Tbilisi as part of the Green Climate Fund Regional Dialogue. The two sides discussed opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Georgia and the GCF, increase climate finance, and advance new projects.

"Georgia is committed to working closely with the GCF to develop and implement projects that deliver tangible results while mobilizing additional resources for climate action. Furthermore, strengthening climate resilience in agriculture, managing water resources, restoring forests, and developing early warning systems are among our key priorities. Thus, we already have strong cooperation with the GCF in these areas, and we are ready to take our partnership to the next level by implementing new projects and engaging more actively in regional initiatives," noted Mr David Songulashvili.

Mr Thomas Eriksson thanked the Government of Georgia for hosting the Regional Dialogue in Tbilisi, noting that Georgia is an important partner to the GCF.

"We already have a very strong foundation for cooperation with Georgia and a substantial programme portfolio. However, this does not mean that we should stop here. Moreover, the priorities identified by Georgia are highly relevant to us, and we see significant potential for developing new initiatives in these areas. Over the course of these three days, together with the Government of Georgia and our partners, we will discuss how to scale up existing projects, develop new initiatives, and further expand access to climate finance," said Mr Thomas Eriksson.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Dialogue is being held in Tbilisi from 6 to 8 October, bringing together senior representatives from countries across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, international partners, and other stakeholders. The dialogue focuses on climate change-related challenges, opportunities for climate investment, and ways to further strengthen the cooperation.

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David Songulashvili Meets FAO Representative in Georgia, Raimund Jehle





The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Raimund Jehle, Representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Georgia, as part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Dialogue currently taking place in Tbilisi.

During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities to address the impacts of climate change, advance climate-smart agricultural practices, attract investment to the sector, and mobilise the necessary financial resources.

"It is important to strengthen cooperation with our international partners and mobilise financial resources that will enable the country to implement climate-related projects. In this regard, cooperation with FAO and the implementation of joint projects will make a significant contribution to achieving our shared objectives," said Mr David Songulashvili.

The parties also focused on ongoing and planned FAO-supported projects, including developing agricultural policy and extension systems, land consolidation, restoring shelterbelts, fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening food safety and the national animal identification system.

Particular attention was also paid to a new project planned with EU support, with a total budget of approximately EUR 3 million. The project will support the development of agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture in Georgia. Within the agricultural component, it will place particular emphasis on strengthening Farmer Field Schools and extension services.

"As part of our cooperation with Georgia, it is essential for us to contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and strengthen the knowledge and services available to farmers. Moreover, enhancing agricultural extension services is particularly important, as it will enable farmers to access practical knowledge, expertise, and the support they need. Fisheries and aquaculture are also among our key priorities. Georgia has significant potential in this field, and I believe that strengthening relevant expertise and technical assistance will make a substantial contribution to the sectoral development," said Mr Raimund Jehle.

Representatives of the relevant Departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and FAO attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets the Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic



As part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Dialogue, Mr David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, met with Mr Akylbek Toktobayev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic.

During the meeting, the parties discussed prospects for further strengthening friendly, partnership-based relations between Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, with a focus on enhancing cooperation in environmental protection, climate change, sustainable development, natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to meet here in Tbilisi in person, in the framework of the Green Climate Fund Regional Dialogue. Georgia attaches great importance to its relations with Kyrgyzstan, and I believe there is significant potential to deepen our cooperation even further. Georgia and Kyrgyzstan share many common priorities in climate resilience, water resources, agriculture, forests, waste management, and mountain ecosystems. Georgia stands ready to share its experience in air quality protection, air quality monitoring, and industrial emissions management. I believe that sharing expertise and experience will contribute to further strengthening environmental cooperation between our two countries," stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

Mr Akylbek Toktobayev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic, underscored the importance of developing friendly and constructive relations with Georgia and expressed his readiness to strengthen practical cooperation in the fields of environmental protection and climate change.

"We are particularly interested in sharing experience with Georgia in mobilizing climate finance, implementing projects supported by international financial instruments, and developing green financial mechanisms. It is also important to deepen cooperation in protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Our countries have an opportunity to share expertise and practical knowledge, which will contribute to developing new joint initiatives and concrete agreements," said Mr Akylbek Toktobayev.

The sides also discussed opportunities for cooperation in climate finance, sustainable water resource management, climate-smart agriculture, mountain ecosystems, waste management and the circular economy, protected areas, and biodiversity conservation.

At the end of the meeting, the sides expressed their readiness for the relevant authorities to identify priority areas of cooperation following the Regional Dialogue and work towards implementing specific joint initiatives and projects.

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Nino Tandilashvili hosts the President of N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation (NWCF), Based in Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Louis N'Ki Diakité



Ms Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, met with representatives of a delegation from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr Louis N'Ki Diakité, President of the N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation (NWCF), based in Côte d'Ivoire, headed the delegation.

The meeting focused on opportunities to strengthen cooperation in environmental protection and the sustainable management of natural resources.

According to Mrs Tandilashvili, international cooperation and the exchange of expertise in environmental protection and sustainable natural resource management are essential to addressing current challenges effectively.

The First Deputy Minister briefed the delegation on the management and development of Georgia's protected areas, modern monitoring systems, and measures implemented and planned as part of sustainable forest management and the forest reform.

Moreover, the discussions covered opportunities for cooperation and knowledge-sharing in developing mechanisms towards combating poaching and illegal logging, preventing and monitoring the illegal extraction of mineral resources, and applying modern technologies to natural resource management, including monitoring and early warning systems.

The N'Zi Wildlife Conservation Foundation (NWCF) is a Côte d'Ivoire-based organisation dedicated to protecting biodiversity and wildlife, monitoring natural areas, preventing illegal activities, and implementing sustainable environmental projects in cooperation with local communities. The Foundation manages the N'Zi Nature Reserve, covering approximately 41,000 hectares.

Ms. Anabelle Brou, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; Mr. Kakhaber Sabanadze, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire in Georgia; Mrs. Maia Mukhiashvili, Head of the Georgian Representation of the Côte d'Ivoire Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and senior officials from the relevant Agencies and Departments of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili: Gurjaani Wine Festival Is an Important Tradition, Providing Winemakers with Opportunities to Showcase Their Products and Expand Their Businesses



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, attended the Gurjaani Wine Festival alongside Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze and members of the Government of Georgia.

This year marked the festival's 10th anniversary, celebrated at its traditional venue, Akhtala Park in Gurjaani. The anniversary edition was held under the theme "Contemporary Heritage," highlighting Georgia's 8,000-year winemaking tradition and the enduring bond between generations.

"I would like to congratulate the Gurjaani Wine Festival on its 10th anniversary. Over the years, the festival has become an important tradition and a key platform for Georgian winemakers, grape growers, and entrepreneurs to showcase their products, connect with consumers, and build business relationships. All these efforts contribute to the growth and development of their businesses. This year, more than 500 entrepreneurs are represented at the festival, further underscoring the event's scale and significance. The festival welcomes thousands of Georgian and international visitors, adding a special charm to Kakheti in the autumn season. Once again, this event showcases the region's renowned tradition of hospitality and contributes to the development of wine tourism, the promotion of Georgian wine culture and the enhancement of Georgia's tourism potential," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

The Gurjaani Wine Festival promotes Georgian wine culture and traditions, supports the development of the winemaking sector and provides a platform for local entrepreneurs.

Bringing together winemakers and wine producers from across Georgia, the festival enables visitors to explore the diversity of the country's wines.

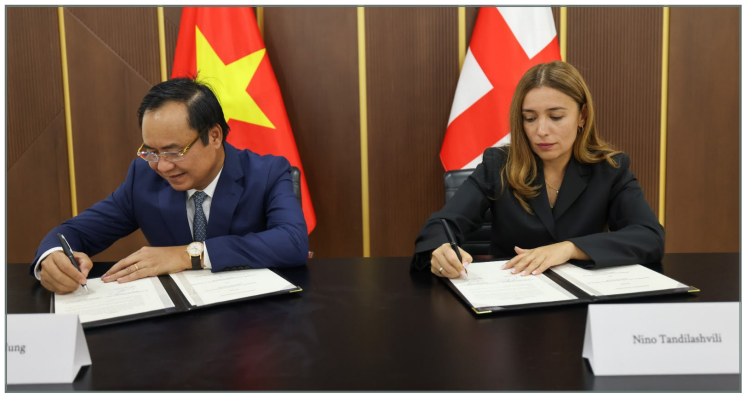
One of the festival's key objectives is to promote qvevri wine, an integral part of Georgia's winemaking tradition recognised by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage; support the development of bottled wine as a high-quality market product; and raise awareness of wines bearing protected designations of origin.

Festival visitors could taste a variety of wines and other beverages, explore local products and discover traditional handicrafts. The event also featured dedicated ethnographic and entrepreneurship zones, culinary masterclasses, tatara-making, a Kakhetian barbecue corner and a sommelier show.

Over the years, the Gurjaani Wine Festival has established itself as an important platform for promoting Georgian wine culture, supporting winemakers and showcasing small-scale wineries. The event contributes to strengthening local entrepreneurship, developing wine tourism, and showcasing Georgia's rich cultural heritage.

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Georgia and Vietnam Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural Cooperation



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the agricultural sector.

Mrs Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, and Mr Vo Van Hung, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, signed the MoU.

"Strengthening cooperation in agriculture is essential, as it creates new opportunities to support the development of the sector. I believe that the partnership between Georgia and Vietnam will help facilitate the implementation of mutually beneficial projects," said Mrs Nino Tandilashvili.

The MoU provides for the promotion of agricultural and fishery product exports and imports; the exchange of experience in the agricultural sector; the organisation of study visits and seminars; the development of cooperation among experts, professionals, scientists, and trainees; collaboration in agricultural and fishery production, scientific research, and scientific education; and enhanced cooperation in animal health, plant protection, and sanitary and phytosanitary matters.

A delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, led by Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan, is currently on an official visit to Georgia. As part of the visit, the signing of Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in various fields is planned.

Mr Le Thanh Van, a representative of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, attended the meeting, along with representatives from relevant Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Georgia.

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Forestry Professionals Honoured for Their Contributions to Forest Protection and the Development of the Forestry Sector



The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia marked Forester's Day with a ceremony honouring representatives from various institutions and scientific and academic communities for their outstanding contributions to forest protection and the development of the forestry sector.

Mr David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, congratulated forestry professionals on their professional day and highlighted the importance of their daily work and professional commitment to forest protection and sustainable forest management.

"Georgia's forestry reform has been underway since 2013, aiming to ensure the sustainable management and restoration of the country's forests and the conservation of biodiversity. I am proud that, together, we have laid the groundwork for unprecedented and comprehensive changes on a scale never before seen in Georgia's history. This is a commitment not only to protecting our forests, but also to serving our society and safeguarding our country's future. These goals would not have been achievable without the dedication and tireless efforts of the professionals who protect and care for Georgia's forests - forest rangers, foresters, specialists, and scientists. On this special occasion, I am pleased to honour forestry professionals whose significant contributions have advanced forestry development in our country. Thanks to your dedication, our forests are in good hands, and you can count on the Ministry as a trusted partner and steadfast supporter of your work," stated Minister David Songulashvili.

In recognition of their outstanding professional service over the years, representatives of the National Forestry Agency, the Agency of Protected Areas, the Department of Environmental Supervision and the Forestry Agency of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara received honorary badges and monetary awards. Representatives of the scientific and academic communities working in the forestry sector were also honoured.

At the initiative of Minister Songulashvili, forestry professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the sector were awarded the honorary title of "Meritorious Forester" and presented with special honours.

During the event, Mr Besik Amiranashvili, Head of the National Forestry Agency, delivered a presentation on the forestry reform. Notably, in addition to improving forest protection and forest-use practices, the reform aims to strengthen forest monitoring and oversight. The event also featured the presentation of a video entitled ''Forestry Reform 2026 ".

As part of the forestry reform, the forest protection and monitoring system has been significantly strengthened. Moreover, to prevent illegal logging and strengthen forest protection, more than 1.7 million hectares of forest have been divided into 903 forest protection units, each assigned to a designated forest ranger responsible for its protection, oversight, and management.

In addition, 499 new employees have been recruited to strengthen forest monitoring and oversight, including 401 forest rangers.

As a result, the area assigned to each forest ranger has been reduced from 10,000–15,000 hectares to an average of about 2,000 hectares. Consequently, forest rangers' salaries doubled in January of this year.

Under the modern forest protection and monitoring model, monitoring processes have been fully digitised. Tablets, body-worn cameras, two-way radios and camera traps are now used in state oversight, enhancing the effectiveness of forest protection and on-the-ground monitoring.

Representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government, the academic community, and environmental non-governmental organisations attended the event.





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David Songulashvili Participates in the Opening of the World Food Forum in Rome



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, participated in the opening of the World Food Forum 2026, held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome.

The theme of this year's World Food Forum is "Innovation Today for a Healthy and Sustainable Tomorrow.", which encompasses three key pillars: global youth engagement, the advancement of science and innovation, and the promotion of investment in the agrifood sector.

The Forum emphasizes the role of science and innovation, modern technologies, investment, youth engagement, and international cooperation in advancing agrifood systems.

As part of the Forum, Minister Songulashvili is participating in high-level meetings and discussions.

Georgia will also be represented at the international Forum through an event entitled "Georgian Wheat: A Tradition for the Future," which aims to showcase the unique heritage of Georgian wheat and the country's rich agrobiodiversity, while raising their international profile.

The event will highlight the diversity of Georgian wheat varieties, their cultural and nutritional significance, and the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and genetic resources.

Established in 2021 by FAO partner organizations, the World Food Forum serves as a global platform dedicated to transforming agrifood systems, fostering sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems, and strengthening food security. The Forum brings together policymakers, scientists, young people, farmers, innovators, investors, and representatives of the private sector and international organizations annually.

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Rome Hosts High-Level International Event on Georgian Wheat



Rome recently hosted a high-level international event titled "Georgian Wheat: Tradition for the Future" at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), held as part of the World Food Forum 2026.

Organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, the event aimed to introduce the global community to the rich history of Georgian wheat, its unique genetic diversity, and the cultural traditions associated with its cultivation and use. It also sought to underscore the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and integrating it with modern scientific approaches.

The event featured distinguished speakers including Mr. David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; Ms. Nino Tsilosani, Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia; Mr. Maurizio Martina, Deputy Director-General of FAO; Ms. Aruna Francesca Maria Gujral, Director-General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM); Ms. Natia Shamatava, Deputy Minister of Culture of Georgia; and Ms. Tamuna Liluashvili, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Italian Republic and Georgia's Permanent Representative to FAO.

"Bringing together such esteemed guests offered a remarkable opportunity to showcase the 8,000-year legacy of Georgian wheat and the ancient tradition of bread-making, as recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage," stated Mr. David Songulashvili.

The program featured presentations on Georgian wheat culture, traditional practices and rituals, the country's unique genetic resources, plant breeding efforts, and sustainable agricultural methods. Discussions also focused on adapting wheat production to climate change, including the application of modern agricultural technologies.

Participants had the opportunity to taste bread made from Georgian wheat varieties and discover wines produced from rare indigenous Georgian grape varieties.

Georgia stands as one of the world's oldest centers of wheat origin and genetic diversity, home to fourteen wheat species across its terrain, including five endemic species. In 2025, the traditions and rituals related to Georgian wheat culture were officially inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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David Songulashvili Meets with Representatives of Italy's Agri-Food Sector



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with senior representatives of Italy's agricultural and agri-food sectors, including the leadership of Coldiretti and Filiera Italia.

During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities to deepen cooperation between Georgia and Italy in the agri-food sector, with particular attention to modernizing agriculture, developing integrated value chains encompassing production, processing, and marketing, and strengthening direct business ties between the two countries' private sectors.

"Georgia considers Italy and Italian agribusinesses as important partners. We are particularly interested in Italy's experience in connecting producers, processors and markets. We seek to strengthen cooperation in processing, technology, investment and the development of high-value-added products, while facilitating the establishment of direct business links between Georgian and Italian companies," stated Mr David Songulashvili.

The parties discussed a proposal to establish a practical framework for agri-food business cooperation between Georgia and Italy. The initiative aims to identify priority areas for collaboration, potential partner companies, and facilitate the implementation of concrete business projects. Moreover, the discussion included exchanging business information and organising visits by Italian companies to Georgia, which would strengthen business ties and deepen bilateral cooperation further.

The Deputy Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze, Ambassador of Georgia to the Italian Republic, Ms Tamuna Liluashvili, and Director of the Rural Development Agency, Mr Zurab Gozalishvili, accompanied Minister Songulashvili at the meeting. The Italian delegation included Mr Luigi Scordamaglia, Chief Executive Officer of Filiera Italia and Head of Coldiretti's Markets, Internationalization and EU Policies Area; Mr Stefano Masini, Head of Environment and Territory at Coldiretti; Ms Francesca Alfano, Head of Coldiretti's Internationalization and Food Policy Unit; and Mr Carmelo Troccoli, Director General of the World Farmers Markets Coalition.

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David Songulashvili Meets with Representatives of Italy's Food Industry



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Paolo Mascarino, President of the Italian Food Industry Federation (Federalimentare), and a representatives of the Italian food manufacturing company.

The parties focused on opportunities to deepen cooperation between Georgia and Italy in the agri-food sector, attract investment, and establish direct business ties between Georgian and Italian companies.

"Italy is an important partner for Georgia in developing cooperation in the agri-food sector. Today's meeting with Mr Paolo Mascarino, President of Federalimentare, provided an opportunity to explore new prospects for bilateral collaboration. For Georgia, strengthening the food processing industry, enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Georgian products, expanding export capacity, and reinforcing their presence in international markets are crucial," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

Discussions also addressed opportunities to develop food processing, packaging, branding, and export-oriented production in Georgia. The parties explored prospects for Italian companies to invest in Georgia, build partnerships in manufacturing and processing, and develop joint ventures.

Minister Songulashvili proposed establishing a practical mechanism to help identify specific business opportunities and strengthen direct cooperation between representatives of the Italian food industry and Georgia's private sector.

The parties agreed to explore opportunities for bilateral cooperation by identifying priority sectors and companies, exchanging information on concrete business opportunities, and organizing a visit to Georgia by representatives of Italian food industry companies.

Mr Lasha Dolidze, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture; Ms Tamuna Liluashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to the Italian Republic; and Mr Zurab Gozalishvili, Director of the Rural Development Agency, accompanied the Minister.

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First Deputy Minister Nino Tandilashvili Meets with the Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas



Mrs. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, met with Dr. Madhu Rao, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

During the meeting, the parties focused on developing Georgia's protected areas system, conserving biodiversity, recovering wildlife species, and strengthening international cooperation. Particular emphasis was placed on enhancing the effectiveness of protected area management and promoting the exchange of Georgia's experience and best practices with the international community.

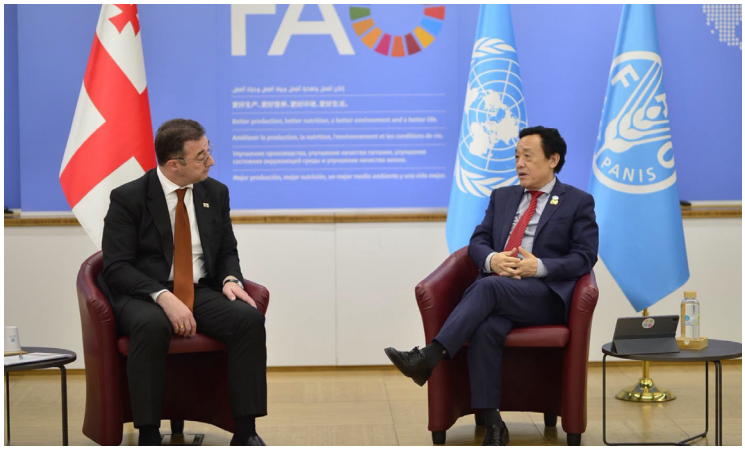
Lagodekhi will host a meeting of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Steering Committee in the coming days. The event will bring together approximately 30 international experts and Commission members. Discussions will include the Commission's strategic priorities, preparations for the IUCN World Protected and Conserved Area Congress 2027, and plans.

The visit represents an important opportunity to showcase Georgia's protected areas system internationally, deepen cooperation with international partners, and exchange best practices in protected area management.

Established in 1912, Lagodekhi Protected Areas is a candidate for the European Diploma of Protected Areas and is participating in the process of inclusion on the IUCN Green List.

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David Songulashvili Meets FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu





The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), on the sidelines of the World Food Forum 2026, at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The parties addressed strengthening cooperation between Georgia and FAO and identifying key areas for future partnership. Discussions also focused on a project proposed for financing through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is expected to play a significant role in strengthening Georgia's agricultural sector, enhancing climate resilience, and advancing sustainable rural development.

"Cooperation with FAO plays an important role in the development of Georgia's agricultural sector. Our priorities include addressing the challenges posed by climate change, ensuring food security, and enhancing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector. Our partnership with FAO is also important for promoting rural development and introducing modern approaches across the sector," said Mr David Songulashvili.

During the meeting, FAO Director-General Mr Qu Dongyu expressed his intention to visit Georgia in early 2027, before the end of his term.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Lasha Dolidze, and the Ambassador of Georgia to Italy, Ms Tamuna Liluashvili, also attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets IFAD Vice-President Donald Brown



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Donald Brown, Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The parties focused on strengthening Georgia's longstanding cooperation with IFAD and identifying key areas for future partnership. They paid particular attention to sustainable pasture management, climate change adaptation, livestock development, and enhancing economic opportunities for rural communities.

"Georgia attaches particular importance to its partnership with IFAD, which has spanned nearly three decades. Our cooperation is instrumental in strengthening rural economies, creating new opportunities for farmers, and enhancing the resilience of the agricultural sector in the face of climate change. Continued cooperation in sustainable pasture management is also crucial," stated Mr David Songulashvili.

Georgia-IFAD cooperation began in 1997. Since then, IFAD has invested approximately USD 70 million in rural development in Georgia. The partnership covers a range of areas, including improving access to agricultural finance, infrastructure development, market access, strengthening value chains, land registration, and climate-smart agriculture.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Lasha Dolidze, and the Ambassador of Georgia to Italy, Ms Tamuna Liluashvili, also attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets Representatives of the EMaVE Consortium





The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with representatives of EMaVE, an international educational consortium specialising in viticulture and winemaking.

During the meeting, the parties focused on opportunities to share international expertise in Georgia's viticulture and winemaking sector, strengthen education and research, and promote sustainable viticulture.

"Cooperation with academia and international partners, as well as the exchange of knowledge and expertise, is essential to promoting Georgian wine and expanding its export potential. We are committed to making the most of every opportunity to enter new markets, improve the quality of Georgian wine, and increase its export value," said Mr David Songulashvili.

The EMaVE consortium brings together European universities and educational institutions that jointly deliver the Vinifera EuroMaster, an international master's programme in viticulture and oenology. The programme covers viticulture, oenology, and the economics of the wine industry, giving students opportunities to gain academic and practical experience across different countries.

Universities and agricultural education institutions operating in Georgia are among the programme's partners. Their involvement strengthens international academic collaboration, fosters the exchange of cutting-edge knowledge across the sector, and advances scientific research.

The consortium representatives from Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and France, including representatives of educational and research institutions in Turin, Geisenheim, Lisbon, Madrid, and Montpellier, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets with Roger Oakley, Team Leader of the Local Economic Development Project (LEDP)



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Roger Oakley, Head of the Local Economic Development Project (LEDP), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

During the meeting, the parties focused on the project's ongoing activities in Georgia, opportunities to harness the economic potential of the country's regions, and prospects for future cooperation. Particular emphasis was placed on advancing tea and wine production, strengthening the competitiveness of local producers, and promoting ecotourism in the areas surrounding Kolkheti National Park.

"Strengthening economic opportunities in the regions requires ensuring that local producers have access to modern knowledge, financial resources, and markets. Cooperation between the government, international partners, and the private sector is crucial in this process. Therefore, similar projects help enhance the competitiveness of local products, strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises, and create new economic opportunities across the regions," Minister Songulashvili noted.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)-funded Local Economic Development Project (LEDP) seeks to promote economic development across Georgia's regions, strengthen the capacity of local entrepreneurs, and foster their greater engagement in local economic activities.

Under the project, tea producers in the Guria and Samegrelo regions have benefited from marketing assistance and business development support. The association "Georgia – The Republic of Tea" was established, bringing together 27 producers and promoting Georgian tea. In Kvemo Kartli, a winemakers' association was founded, uniting 25 winemakers.

The project supported 59 representatives, helping raise the profile of local wines and expand market access opportunities, including promoting tourism development in the areas surrounding Kolkheti National Park. To support this effort, five tourist routes have been developed, and two international familiarization tours have been organized on a trial basis.

The Deputies of the Minister, Mr Lasha Dolidze and Mr Lasha Avaliani; the Director of the Rural Development Agency, Mr Zurab Gozalishvili; and representatives of the relevant agencies attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Presents Georgia's National Statement at the CBD COP17 Ministerial Segment



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, presented Georgia's national statement during the high-level segment of the Ministerial Meeting of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17), in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

The high-level segment of the Ministerial meeting takes place on October 27–28, bringing together Ministers from various countries and representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, civil society, and the private sector.

In a National Statement, Minister Songulashvili highlighted the country's achievements in biodiversity conservation, the expansion of protected areas, measures to restore endangered species, and the importance of international cooperation.

"The credibility of our international commitments is measured not only by the ambitious goals we announce, but also by the tangible results we achieve. Georgia can play a significant role in promoting peace in our region by coordinating environmental cooperation," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

The Minister also highlighted measures implemented to conserve biodiversity. In 2024, Georgia approved a recovery plan for endangered species. As part of its implementation, the goitered gazelle population in the Samukhi Valley has recovered to more than 500 individuals. Recovery measures are also underway for five additional species.

Developing protected areas is another key component of Georgia's biodiversity conservation efforts. Over the past decade, protected areas have doubled, exceeding one million hectares and accounting for more than 15% of the country's territory. Including internationally recognized conservation areas, nature conservation sites cover approximately 23% of Georgia's territory. In 2026, Georgia established 12 new protected areas, with an overall area covering 136,185 hectares.

These efforts contribute to Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for the conservation of at least 30% of the world's terrestrial, inland water, coastal, and marine areas by 2030.

The inclusion of Georgia's Colchic rainforests and wetlands on the UNESCO World Heritage List further underscores the importance of safeguarding the country's natural heritage.

CBD COP17 is the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. During the conference, countries assess progress in biodiversity conservation and discuss pathways to achieving global biodiversity targets.

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David Songulashvili Meets with Armenia's Minister of Environment



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Armenia's Minister of Environment, Mr Hambardzum Matevosyan, on the sidelines of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in Yerevan.

During the official meeting, the parties focused on key priorities for bilateral environmental cooperation between Georgia and Armenia, including biodiversity conservation, transboundary water monitoring, and climate change adaptation.

"Georgia and Armenia share a longstanding friendship and strategic partnership, providing a solid foundation for further strengthening cooperation in the environmental sector. Our countries face common challenges in biodiversity conservation, water resource management, and climate change adaptation," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

Moreover, the parties highlighted an initiative to establish a joint network of regional geoparks involving Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Georgia is working on the initiative in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and relevant partners.

The discussion also focused on the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2025 between the relevant environmental monitoring Agencies of Georgia and Armenia concerning the transboundary Khrami–Debed River Basin. Both sides expressed their readiness to support the effective implementation of the Memorandum and strengthen cooperation in water resource monitoring and information exchange.

The meeting also addressed climate change issues and opportunities to deepen cooperation in this area, with particular emphasis on sharing expertise and implementing joint initiatives.

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David Songulashvili Meets with IUCN Director General Grethel Aguilar



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr Grethel Aguilar, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), on the sidelines of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in Yerevan.

The meeting focused on opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Georgia and IUCN, with particular emphasis on updating Georgia's Red List and developing its protected areas network. Georgia is currently working to update its Red List in accordance with IUCN categories and criteria.

The discussions also addressed the expansion of the protected areas network and improvements in its management. Over the past decade, Georgia has doubled the area of its protected territories, which now cover more than one million hectares, accounting for over 15% of the country's total territory. As of September 2026, Georgia had established 12 new protected areas, covering 136,185 hectares, while bringing the total number of protected areas in the country to 112.

"For Georgia, the priority is not only to expand the network of protected areas, but also to ensure their effective management and deliver tangible results in biodiversity conservation. The knowledge, experience and expertise of international partners are vital to achieving these objectives. We are committed to further strengthening our cooperation with the IUCN, particularly in updating the Red List and advancing the development of Georgia's protected areas network," said Mr David Songulashvili.

Georgia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Armenia, Mr Giorgi Sharvashidze; Mr David Chitaishvili, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration; and Ms Liana Giorgadze, Head of the Biodiversity Policy Department attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili meets with Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of CITES



As part of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in Yerevan, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Ms Yvonne Higuero.

During the meeting, the parties focused on strengthening cooperation between Georgia and the CITES Secretariat, particularly in fulfilling international obligations and combating the illegal wildlife trade.

"Enhancing international cooperation within the framework of CITES is essential for Georgia. We continue to improve our national legislation, administrative procedures and enforcement mechanisms. In this regard, coordination among relevant Agencies, the exchange of expertise and regional cooperation are crucial. Thereby, we remain committed to actively engaging in the activities of the Convention and ensuring the effective implementation of our international obligations," said Mr David Songulashvili.

The discussion focused on Georgia's implementation of the Convention's requirements and the measures undertaken to detect and combat illegal trade in wild fauna and flora species.

Mr Songulashvili underscored the importance of species recovery. Both sides expressed their readiness to continue sharing expertise, strengthen enforcement capacity and further enhance regional cooperation.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Armenia, Mr Giorgi Sharvashidze, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, Mr David Chitaishvili, and Head of the Department of Biodiversity Policy, Ms. Liana Giorgadze, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets UNDP Regional Director



During the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in Yerevan, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Ms Ivana Živkovi, UNDP Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia,

The parties focused on cooperation priorities between Georgia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ongoing programmes on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and the regional geoparks initiative.

"UNDP is an important partner for Georgia in advancing its environmental protection and sustainable development priorities. During the meeting, we focused on the regional geoparks initiative, which creates new opportunities for cooperation among Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. We are ready to continue working with our partners on shared priorities and to contribute to achieving our common goals," said Mr David Songulashvili.

The sides also highlighted the importance of a programme on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, supported by UNDP and the Green Climate Fund and implemented with the involvement of the governments of Switzerland and Georgia.

The program covers 100 high-risk communities across 11 river basins, aiming to strengthen climate resilience, improve disaster risk management, and develop early warning systems and climate information services.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Armenia, Mr Giorgi Sharvashidze; Mr David Chitaishvili, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration; and Ms Liana Giorgadze, Head of the Biodiversity Policy Department, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention



The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Ms Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention).

The meeting took place in Yerevan on the sidelines of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17).

The discussions focused on cooperation under the Ramsar Convention, particularly the conservation and management of the Colchic wetlands, the fulfilment of international commitments, and priorities for future collaboration.

"Protecting and restoring wetlands, preserving their ecological significance, and effectively fulfilling our international commitments are important priorities for Georgia. We are actively working to translate our cooperation with the Ramsar Convention and its international recommendations into concrete national measures, ensuring the long-term protection of our unique natural ecosystems," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

The parties also discussed opportunities for cooperation in assessing and monitoring the ecological status of wetlands and supporting their restoration. They underscored the importance of drawing on international expertise and incorporating relevant recommendations into these efforts.

Mr Giorgi Sharvashidze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Republic of Armenia; Mr Davit Chitaishvili, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration; and Ms Liana Giorgadze, Head of the Biodiversity Policy Department, attended the meeting.

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David Songulashvili Meets with Council of Europe and Bern Convention Representatives in Yerevan



On the sidelines of the high-level Ministerial Segment of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) in Yerevan, bilateral meetings were held between the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, and Mr Rafael Benitez, the Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment of the Council of Europe, as well as Alessandra Sillini, Secretary General of the Bern Convention.

During the meetings, the parties discussed the importance of strengthening international cooperation on biodiversity conservation, expanding the protected areas network, and fulfilling commitments undertaken under the Bern Convention.

"Cooperation with the Bern Convention and international partners, alongside stronger regional cooperation, is essential to achieving the 2030 targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Georgia stands ready to make an active contribution to their implementation," stated Mr David Songulashvili.

Following the meetings, the Georgian Pavilion hosted an event entitled "Strengthening Protected Areas under the Bern Convention," opened by Mr Rafael Benitez.

During the event, Minister Songulashvili outlined Georgia's progress in expanding and managing protected areas, noting that, when areas of national and international importance, including Emerald Network sites, are taken into account, the total coverage reaches nearly 23% of the country's territory, marking significant progress towards achieving global biodiversity targets.

The Minister also highlighted Georgia's achievements in species and habitat conservation and restoration, including the approval of the National Species Recovery Plan and ongoing measures, aiming to restore six species.

The event continued with a panel discussion featuring Mr Carlo Amirgulashvili, Chair of the Bern Convention, the Secretary General of the Bern Convention, and representatives of the CBD Secretariat and the Ministry's Biodiversity Policy Department.

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David Songulashvili Meets David Morrison, Chair of the Board of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF)





The Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr David Songulashvili, met with Mr David Morrison, Chair of the Board of the Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF).

During the meeting, the parties discussed the development of Georgia's protected areas and explored opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

"Cooperation with international partners enables us to strengthen biodiversity conservation, adopt modern management approaches, and ensure the long-term preservation of natural ecosystems," Mr David Songulashvili stated.

The sides paid particular attention to expanding the Kolkheti Protected Areas, the significance of the Rioni Strict Nature Reserve, and protecting sturgeon species and their habitats.

The discussions also addressed the potential for UNESCO recognition of the Batsara-Babaneuri Protected Areas, as well as prospects for the further development of Georgia's protected areas and national parks.

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Solomon Pavliashvili Meets with World Bank Representatives



The Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Mr Solomon Pavliashvili, met with World Bank Representatives.

During the meeting, the parties focused on preparations for a proposed hazardous waste management project, investment priorities, and opportunities for future cooperation, while emphasizing the importance of preparatory activities for constructing a landfill for the pre-treatment and disposal of hazardous waste under the project.

Discussions covered a wide range of issues, including the preparation of a feasibility study, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) report, and detailed design documentation.

The parties also highlighted the importance of strengthening inter-agency coordination, enhancing institutional capacity, and ensuring that environmental and social considerations are duly addressed to support effective project implementation.

"Developing a modern hazardous waste management system is a key environmental priority for the country, which requires the development of appropriate infrastructure and close cooperation with international partners. The World Bank's support will contribute to the proper preparation of the project and help improve Georgia's waste management system," Mr Solomon Pavliashvili stated.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, with the involvement of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), have signed a grant agreement to finance the preparation of the project "Georgia Water Supply, Sanitation, Wastewater and Hazardous Waste". The grant is provided by the World Bank.

Mr Mikheil Gogolidze, Director of the Solid Waste Management Company, and Senior Officials from the relevant Departments of the Ministry attended the meeting.

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Nino Tandilashvili Participates in Green Innovation Conference



The First Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ms Nino Tandilashvili, participated in the Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference in Hong Kong.

During the conference, Ms Tandilashvili delivered a keynote address, highlighting Georgia's sustainable development priorities, projects implemented to promote the green economy, and the importance of international cooperation. Particular emphasis was placed on opportunities to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership between Georgia and China, as well as Georgia's strategic location and the role of the Middle Corridor in strengthening transport and trade connectivity between Europe and Asia.

The First Deputy Minister underscored the importance of sustainable water resource management, the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure, and biodiversity conservation, noting that more than USD 300 million had been mobilised to develop irrigation and drainage infrastructure in Georgia with the support of the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

"More than 15% of Georgia's territory is designated as national protected areas, while 23% of the country's territory comprises areas of high conservation value protected under international conventions. This reflects the Georgian Government's long-term vision for biodiversity conservation and the preservation of ecosystem resilience," Ms Nino Tandilashvili stated.

In her address, the First Deputy Minister also highlighted prospects for expanding cooperation with China in green technologies, waste management, renewable energy, and environmental initiatives.

On the sidelines of the conference, Ms Tandilashvili attended an official reception hosted by Mr John KC Lee, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Belt and Road Green Innovation Conference 2026, organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China in collaboration with the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, brought together Mr Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, senior government officials from various countries, and representatives of international organisations.

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