

GEO – Cities Tbilisi

An Integrated Environmental Assessment of State and Trends for Georgia's Capital City



osce



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GEO-Cities Tbilisi: An Integrated Environmental Assessment of State and Trends for Georgia's Capital City

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The ENVSEC Initiative, comprising UNDP, UNEP, UNECE, OSCE, REC and NATO as an associated partner works to assess and address environmental problems, which threaten or are perceived to threaten security, societal stability and peace, human health and/or sustainable livelihoods, within and across national borders in conflict prone regions. The Initiative collaborates closely with governments, particularly foreign, defense and environment ministries, national experts and NGOs. Together with the stakeholders ENVSEC has carried out assessments and published reports illustrated by maps, for understanding the linkages between environment and security in the political and socio-economic reality of South Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Based on the assessments, the Initiative develops and implements work programmes aimed at reducing tensions and solving the problems identified.

Photo on cover: ENVSEC/Victor Melo

Foreword

It is my pleasure to present the first GEO-Cities report for a city in Georgia - the “GEO-Cities Tbilisi” - integrated environmental assessment of state and trends in our city. This report was developed with support of the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative and is the result of more than one year’s hard work by many people: specialists from United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ministry of Environment Protection, National Statistics Office, the Aarhus Centre, local and international environmental experts, Tbilisi City Hall and representatives of non-governmental organizations, academia and media representatives who participated in training workshops and public consultations.



GEO-Cities Tbilisi is the most comprehensive report on the state of, and trends in, the city’s environment. Now all of those who are interested in the environmental “problematique” have this solid investigation at hand that provides relevant and rigorous multi-sectoral and multi-issue analysis of the environmental quality in Tbilisi. It is my hope that it can provide valuable inputs into the work of - first and foremost - Tbilisi City Hall, but also relevant state institutions and agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations.

Environmental quality is an integral part of city’s welfare. Integration of environmental concerns into other sectoral areas should be at the top of Tbilisi’s long-term development strategy. By subscribing to stricter environmental policies and investing in environmental infrastructure, we can achieve significant social and economic benefits for all Tbilisians. Among these benefits are better human health, economic savings for businesses and households through various efficiency programmes, improved logistics and reduced time spent in traffic, resilience to natural hazards and climate change, and the creation of a safer and more pleasant city for its inhabitants and guests. All these multi-faceted aspects of citizens’ welfare are also an integral part of the competitiveness concept. By improving the city’s infrastructure and investing in environmental protection, we can also make Tbilisi more attractive to foreign investment and tourism.

Finally, I believe that the findings of this study should materialize into a local environmental action plan led by Tbilisi City Hall, and also be integrated into Tbilisi’s long-term strategic planning documents. We wish you pleasant reading!

Giorgi Ugulava

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Mayor of Tbilisi

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