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Emerald Network Joint Programme in Georgia.

3st Steering Committee meeting

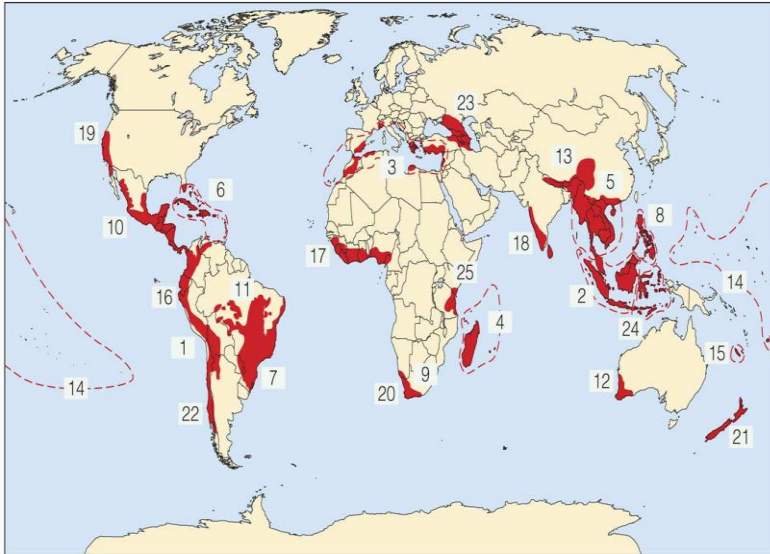
Strasbourg.
14.01.2016

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Caucasus as global 'biodiversity hotspot'

The area is considered a global 'biodiversity hotspot' because of the richness of species and high level of endemism recorded.



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6,350 species of vascular plants, of which 1,600 species are endemic.



- **Vertebrate fauna s represented in Georgia:**
 - 84 species of fish
 - 12 amphibians and 52 reptile species.
 - 300 bird species recorded in total.



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Biogeographical regions of Georgia





საქართველოს გარემოს დაცვისა და
ბუნებრივი რესურსების სამინისტრო

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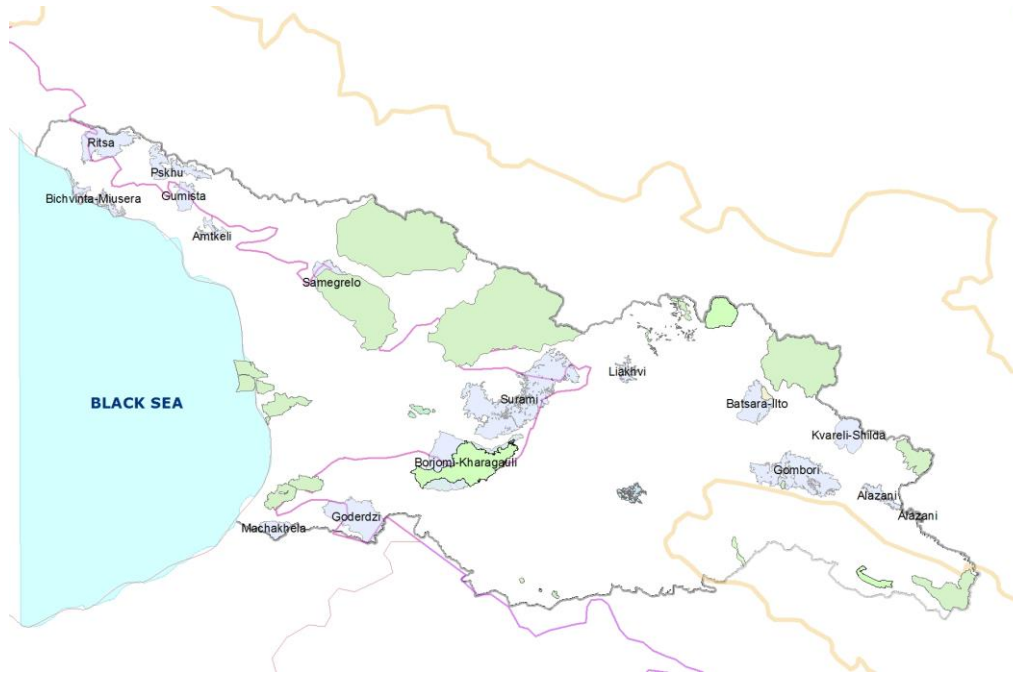


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By 2015 the following activities were implemented in Georgia:

- 34 potential Emerald sites were selected



**EMERALD NETWORK
IN GEORGIA**





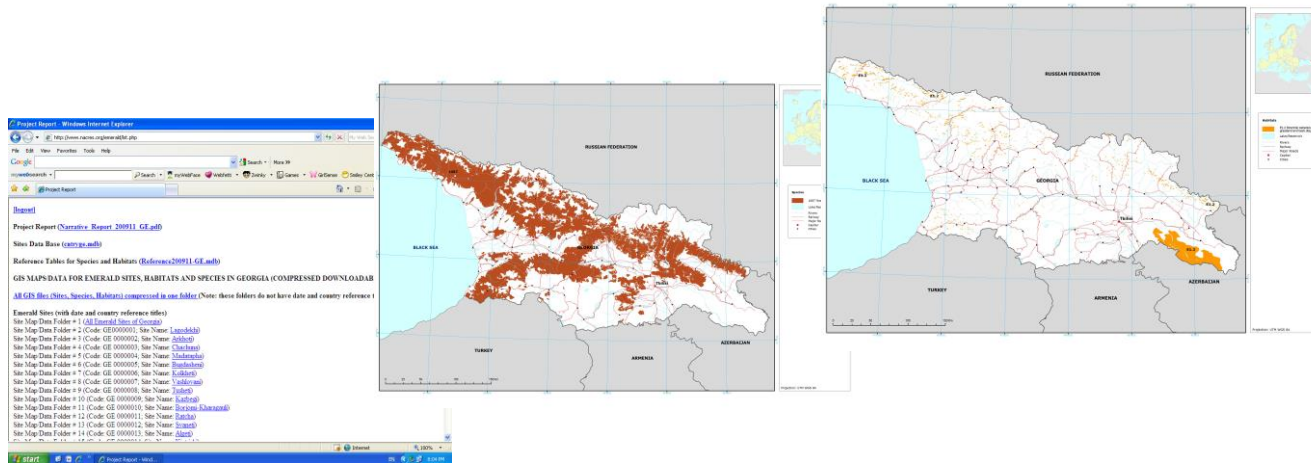
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By 2015 the following activities were implemented in Georgia:

- Distribution maps of 124 species and 15 habitats in GIS were completed ;
- Population estimate and distribution per biogeographical region in Georgia for all species and habitats of Resolutions No. 4 (1996) and No. 6 (1998) of the Bern Convention and Annex I of the Habitats Directive;





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Main tasks for 2015

- **Filling the gaps** according to the results of the
 - Implementation of a self-evaluation exercise,
 - QA/QC conclusions,
 - Conclusions of the biogeographical seminar,
 - Field surveys
- **Identification of additional new sites**
- **Visibility and law enforcement**



Current activities - Filling the gaps

- Implementation of a self-evaluation exercise

A series of meetings and workshops were held

- The stakeholders were provided specific information on the Emerald network aims and procedures.
- QA/QC and the biogeographical seminar conclusions were discussed





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Current activities - Filling the gaps

Habitat protection as one of the cornerstones of the Bern Convention

- By 2013, a total of 15 habitats had been identified and mapped in Georgia.
- In 2014, 13 new habitats were identified.
- In addition, in the biogeographic seminar some of the experts expressed the possibility of the existence of yet another set of habitats.

At present, totally 33 new habitats has been identified for Georgia





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Current activities - Filling the gaps

Habitats identified during 2014-2015

A1.11	Mussel and/or barnacle communities	G1.11	Riverine Salix woodland
A2.2	Littoral sand and muddy sand	G1.12	Boreo-alpine riparian galleries
A2.5	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	G1.21	Riverine Fraxinus - Alnus woodland, wet at high but not at low water
A3	Infralittoral rock and other hard substrata	G1.3	Mediterranean riparian woodland
B1.6	Coastal dune scrub	G1.44	Wet-ground woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
C1.1	Permanent oligotrophic lakes, ponds and pools	G1.6	Fagus woodland
C1.224	Floating Utricularia australis and Utricularia vulgaris colonies	G1.A1	Quercus - Fraxinus - Carpinus betulus woodland on eutrophic and mesotrophic soils
C1.225	Floating [Salvinia natans] mats	G1.A4	Ravine and slope woodland
C1.5	Permanent inland saline and brackish lakes, ponds and pools	G1.A7	Mixed deciduous woodland of the Black and Caspian Seas
C1.66	Temporary inland saline and brackish waters	G3.17	Balkano-Pontic Abies forests
C3.4	Species-poor beds of low-growing waterfringing or amphibious vegetation	G3.1H	Picea orientalis forests
C3.55	Sparsely vegetated river gravel banks	G3.4E	Ponto-Caucasian Pinus sylvestris forests
C3.62	Unvegetated river gravel banks	G3.9	Coniferous woodland dominated by Cupressaceae or Taxaceae
D1	Raised and blanket bogs		
E1.2	Perennial calcareous grassland and basic steppes		
F9.1	Riverine scrub		
E3.4	Moist or wet eutrophic and mesotrophic grassland		
E3.5	Moist or wet oligotrophic grassland		
E5.4	Moist or wet tall-herb and fern fringes and meadows		
E6.2	Continental inland salt steppes		



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Current activities - Filling the gaps

Verification of Habitat maps according to EUNIS



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US Dept. of State, Geographer

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Identification of additional new sites

Collection of the necessary data both on spot and on the basis of analysis of the literature and of field research and other activities



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Identification of additional new sites



2122 Rhinolophus euryale - Prometheus cave





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Visibility and law enforcement

Association Agreements with the European Union and Emerald activities in Georgia

- Article 306
- Annex XXVI
- Nature protection (Directive No 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora amended by Directive No 97/62/EC, No 2006/105/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003)
- Completion of inventory of Emerald sites, designation of these sites and establish priorities for their management (Article 4)
- Establishment of measures required for the conservation of such sites (Article 6)





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Visibility and law enforcement

Draft law on biodiversity – chapter 3

- AREA INCLUDED IN THE EMERALD NETWORK OR A SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA FOR BIRDS

Forest code of Georgia (new version) - chapter 9

- *Protected Forests and High Conservation Status Forest*







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Visibility and law enforcement

გურგუხიძის ქსელის
განვითარება
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Visibility and dissemination of results

Collaboration with various projects in order to update the data necessary for the development of the Emerald Network

Project “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, South Caucasus (SMBP)”

The project is implemented by the German Society for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ), with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

“Supporting the Implementation of Biodiversity-related EU Directives in Georgia”



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Thank you for attention

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