

Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia

Council of Europe

National Workshop on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia

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National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

Ratification of the European Landscape Convention by Georgia and the importance of the Convention for the country

- **European Landscape Convention** was signed in Georgia on 11 May 2010: the country ratified the Convention on 15 September 2010.
- The European Council recognised the ratification of **European Landscape Convention** on 01 January 2011, now considered the date of entry into force of the Convention.
- European Landscape Convention is critical for all countries which have ratified it, including Georgia. The Convention supports and stimulates countries to understand the importance and value of landscapes situated on the territory of the countries at the national as well as European level. Such global vision plays significant role in proper evaluation of the landscape's value and promotes achievement of higher levels of its protection.
- Georgia as a country which ratified **European Landscape Convention**, and, according to the Convention provisions, is “aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity”, and Georgia is “concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment”.

Map of Georgia



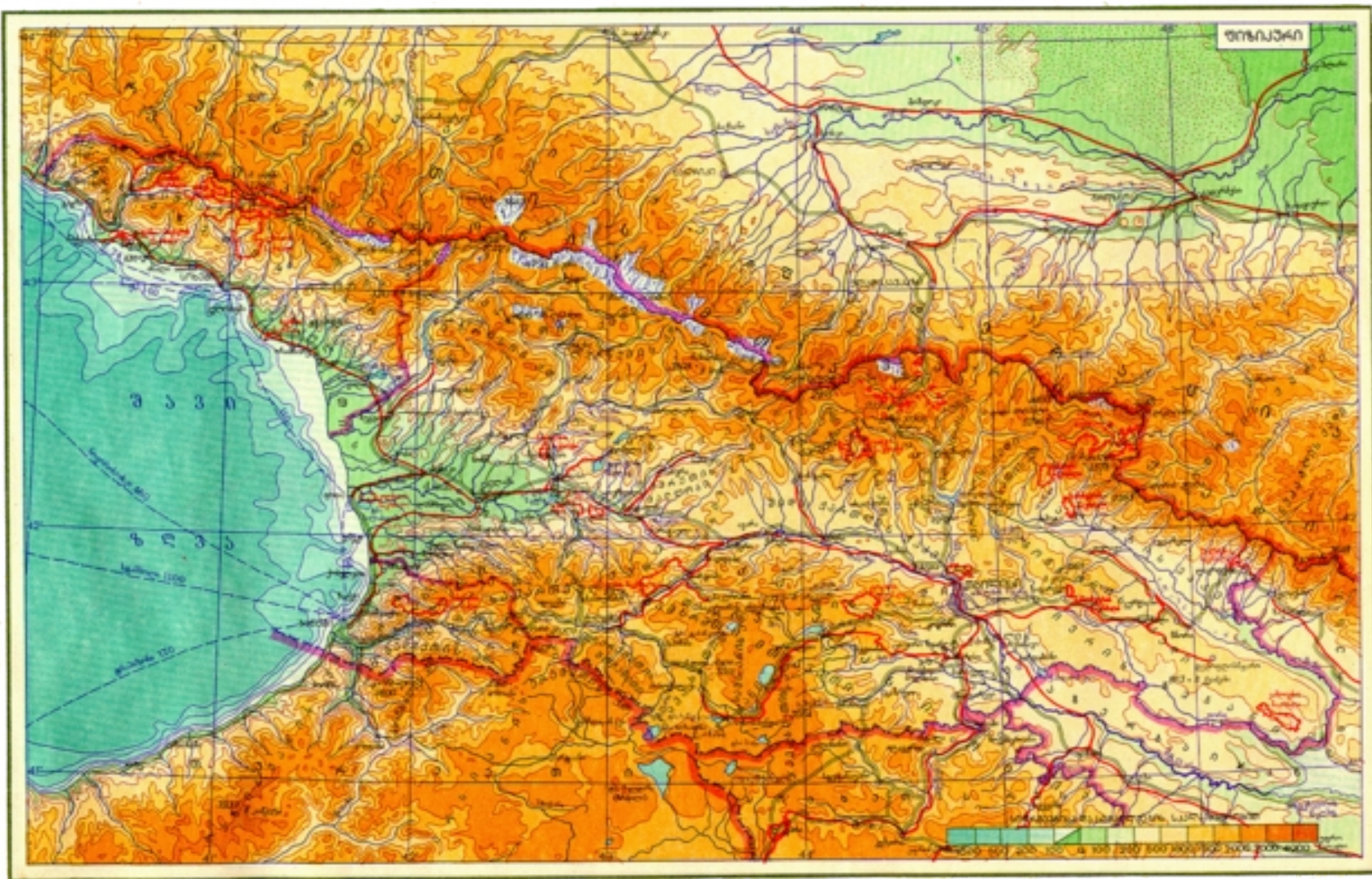
Articles effective in the **Constitution of Georgia** regarding the issues of protection of natural and cultural environment

The Constitution of Georgia indicates the following:

- Everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment and to use the natural and cultural environment. Everyone shall be obliged to protect the natural and cultural environment.
- Taking into account the interests of current and future generations, the State shall guarantee environmental protection and rational use of nature in order to ensure a safe environment for human health and maintain sustainable development of the country, in line with the ecological and economic interests of society.
- Everyone shall have the right to complete objective and timely information about environmental conditions (Article 37, paragraphs 3,4,5.).
- The following shall fall within the exclusive competence of supreme state authorities of Georgia: land, minerals, and natural resources legislation (Article 3, paragraph 1r).

Physical Map of Georgia

6 საქარტოვო რუკები



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Georgia is situated at the far end of northern part of **Subtropical Climate Belt**.

There are almost all types of subtropical climate belt zones observed in Georgia – humid subtropical; mild humid; mild dry and dry-continental. Components composing Georgia's nature (relief, climate, water etc.) are related in different ways in different areas and they also differ in qualitative as well as economic utilisation terms, creating various natural complexes.

There are **11 key natural landscapes** of valley and mountain classes distinguished in Georgia



The highest summit of Georgia is Shkhara. At 5,201 m above sea level, it is situated on the highest section of central Caucasus, the Bezengi wall. Geographers and alpinists refer to it as the “Svanetian Alps”. It is covered with glaciers and snow. “Shkhara” in Svanetian means white line.



The most humid area – Mtirala National Park

Mtirala mountain is situated at 1,761 m above sea level, between Chakvi and Kobuleti. The mountain micro-climate is the most humid in Georgia and Europe. Annual precipitation reaches 4,500 mm in this area.



The driest area in Georgia – Eldari lowland

Situated on both banks of the river Ivri. Minimal precipitation is observed in this area – 250-300 mm per annum. Eldari lowland is the only place in Georgia characterised with a semi-desert landscape and is the most drought-stricken area in the country.



The longest river of Georgia – Alazani and the Alazani valley landscape

The Alazani river is fed by underground waters, rain water and snow. The length of the river equals 390 km, the area of the basin is 11,800 sq km.

The river head is situated on the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus and it flows into the Mingachevir reservoir, located in Azerbaijan. Prior to the construction of Mingachevir reservoir, the river Alazani flowed directly into the river Mtkvari.



The largest lake of Georgia – Paravani lake

Paravani lake is situated in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region at 2,073 m above sea level. Its volume is 91 m cu.m.; area – 37.5 sq. km, maximum depth – 3.3 m.



The Highest settlement in Europe – village Bochorna in Tusheti. Located at 2,345 m above sea level.



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BOCHORNA – The highest settlement in Europe



Photo by Marina Tumanishvili

Legislative acts governing protection of Georgian landscape

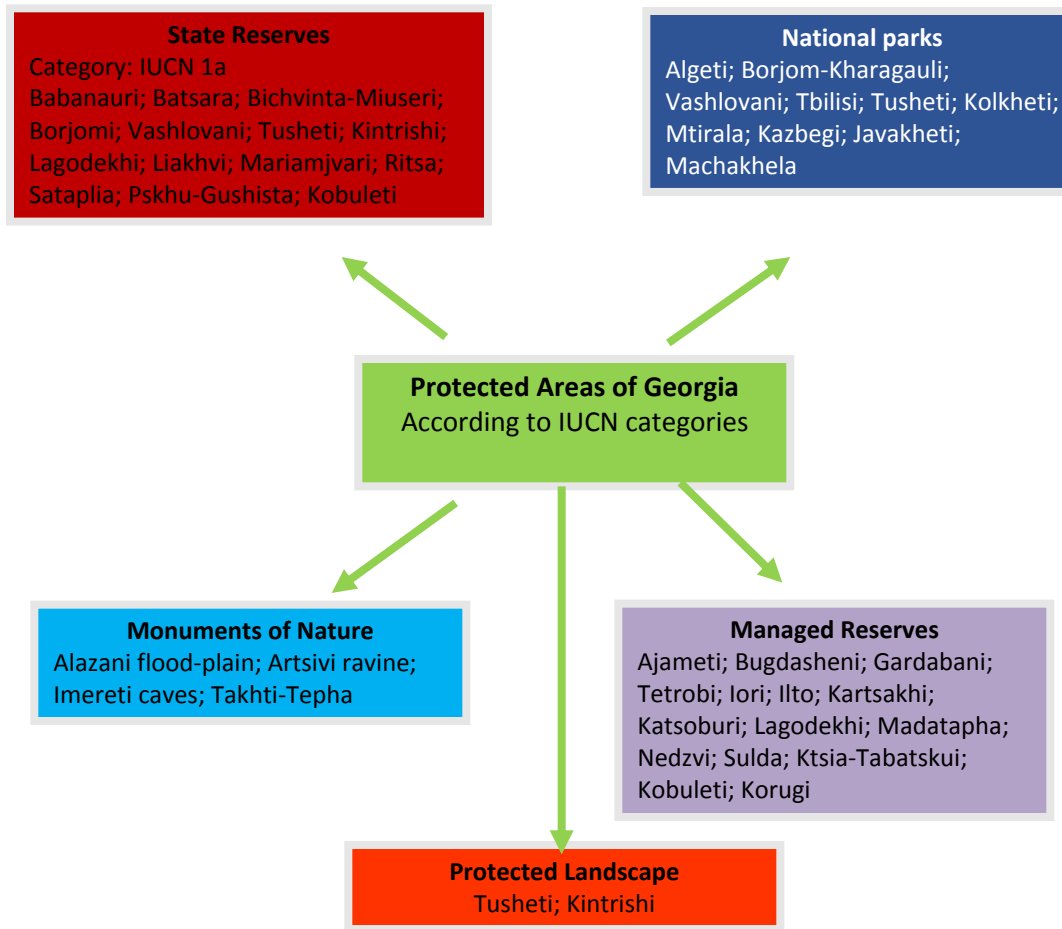
- **European Landscape Convention**
- **Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**
- **Law of Georgia on “The system of protected areas”**
- **Law of Georgia on “The cultural heritage”**
- **In the urban development field – Ordinance of the Government of Georgia N 59, 15.01.2014
Technical regulations – “Key provisions for the utilisation of settlement territories and for development”**

System of Protected Areas of Georgia

- The System of protected areas of Georgia is one of the important instruments for ensuring the protection of Georgian landscapes.
- In the history of creation of protected areas in Georgia, Lagodekhi reserve represents the first example. This is the first official reserve located on the territory of Georgia, in Kakheti region. It was created in 1912.
- In 1996, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the law, “The system of protected areas”, which created a legal framework for the creation of protected areas.
- There are **six** categories of protected areas in Georgia:
 - **State reserve;**
 - **National park;**
 - **Natural monument;**
 - **Managed reserve;**
 - **Protected landscape;**
 - **Territory of multifaceted use.**
- At present, the total area of Georgian protected areas equals 512,123 thousand hectares; including the land area comprising 498,379,710 hectares, and territory with a water surface of 157,430 hectares.

System of protected areas of Georgia

According to IUCN categories



Georgian landscape and nature, as the key touristic resources of the country

- The distinguished nature of Georgia represents the key touristic resource of the country. The majority of foreign visitors come to Georgia for its very distinguished landscape and nature. Flora and fauna of Georgia preserves dozens of animal and plant species which are included in the “Red list”.
- **State reserve** – is the main category of protected areas; within the boundaries of such areas any type of economic activities are prohibited, for the protection of natural eco-systems and their scientific research. At present, there are 14 reserves functioning in Georgia, with the total area of 141 473 hectares. This includes Lagodekhi, Borjomi and Vashlovani reserves.

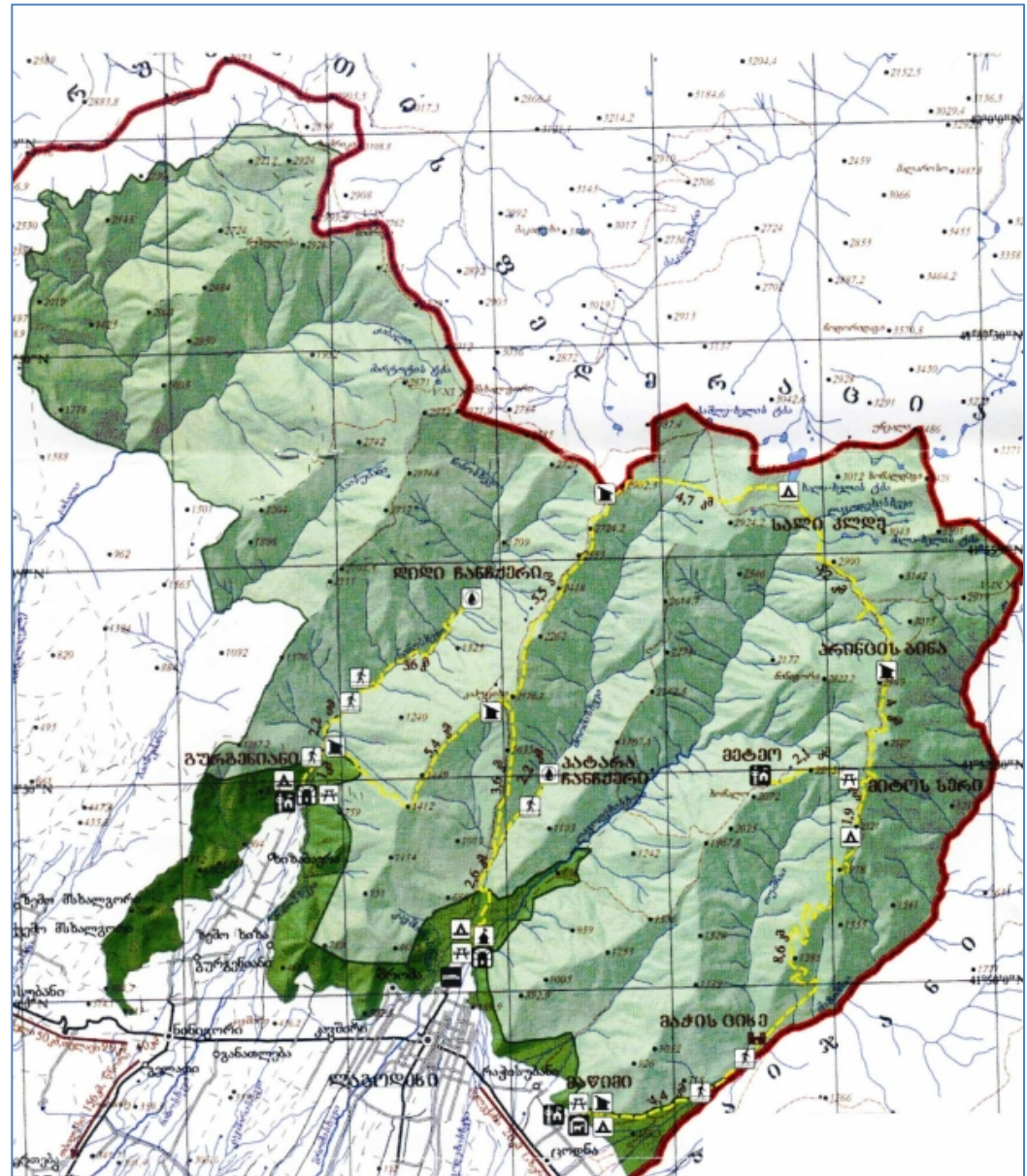
The oldest protected area on the territory of Georgia – Lagodekhi reserve.



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The oldest protected area on the territory of Georgia – Lagodekhi reserve – created in 1912.

Lagodekhi reserve is also distinguished as it includes almost 2/3 of plant varieties observed in Georgia. Moreover, this is the largest reserve, with a total area of **24,451 hectares**. This reserve is situated on the southern slopes of the Main Mountain Ridge of Caucasus.



Borjomi reserve is also one of the largest reserves. It was created in **1935** for the preservation of unique forests and Caucasian noble deer. It covers 14,820 hectares.



Vashlovani reserve – a complex reserve in the Dedoplistkaro municipality, situated over the Shiraki plateau, in the far eastern part of Georgia, 200 km from Tbilisi. It was declared a reserve in **1935**. Total area - **4,868**ha; area covered with forests – 4,032 ha; remaining parts are desert and ravines.



Landscape of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments

Mskhvilo castle



Landscape of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments

Tmogvi castle



Tmogvi castle



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Landscape of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments

Nekresi



Landscape of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments

Samtavisi monument



Landscapes of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments
Nokalakevi architectural-archeological complex



Monuments and landscapes included in UNESCO list

Gelati monastery



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World cultural heritage monuments and landscapes included in UNESCO list
Mtskheta historic monuments – Jvari monastery



World cultural heritage monuments and landscapes included in UNESCO list
Svetitskhoveli and Jvari



World cultural heritage monuments and landscapes included in UNESCO list
Mtskheta historic monuments



Landscapes of Georgia and cultural heritage monuments
Higher Svaneti (Zemo Svaneti), village Chazhashi



Monuments and landscapes submitted by Georgia to UNESCO's Tentative List

Shatili



Monuments and landscapes submitted by Georgia to UNESCO's Tentative List

Alaverdi



Monuments and landscapes submitted by Georgia to UNESCO's Tentative List

Gremi



Monuments and landscapes submitted by Georgia to UNESCO's Tentative List

Kolkheti marshlands and forests

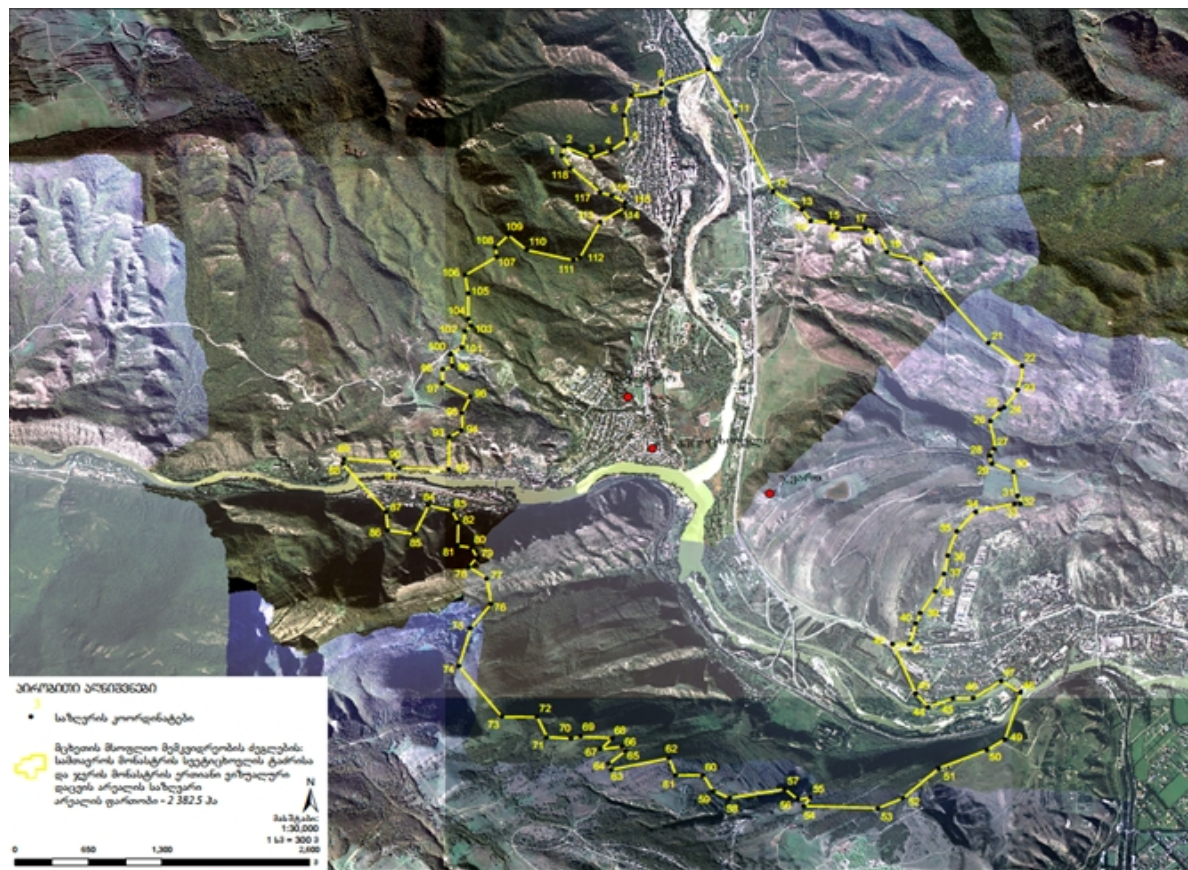


Protection of landscapes under the law of Georgia on the “Cultural heritage”

System of protection zones for cultural heritage

- System of protection zones for cultural heritage consists of the individual protection zone of the monument and a general protection zone.
- Individual protection zone of the monument consists of the following areas:
 - a) physical protection zone of the monument;
 - b) visual protection zone of the monument.
- General protection zones are:
 - a) protection zone for the historic development;
 - b) development regulation zone;
 - c) **historic landscape protection zone**;
 - d) archeological protection zone.
- The individual protection zone for the monument is established automatically, from the moment of granting the monument status to the immovable object of the cultural heritage.
- The general protection zones are established in agreement with the local self-governance bodies, based on the recommendation provided by the Minister, via the resolution of the Government of Georgia.

Map of united visual protection area for Mtskheta World Heritage monuments: Samtavro monastery, Svetitskhoveli cathedral and Jvari monastery



World cultural heritage monuments and landscapes included in UNESCO list
Mtskheta historic monuments – Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Jvari and Samtavro monasteries



Setting historic landscape protection zones in accordance with the law of Georgia on “Cultural heritage”

- **Historic landscape protection zone** is a natural, rural or urban territory of historical, cultural and aesthetic value which has been fully or partially developed as a result of human activity throughout the period of historical development or which represents the natural environment of individual cultural properties developed throughout history
- **Objective of determining Historic landscape protection zone is:** to preserve and restore the appearance of immovable objects of cultural heritage and protection zones for the protection of cultural heritage, and historically developed natural environments related to historical events, narratives and folklore.
- **According to the regime effective in the Historic landscape protection zone,** –the following is mandatory: to preserve the natural environment and water reservoirs, to free up the landscape from distorting buildings and structures, and plants with no cultural value, to protect and regulate the vegetation cover, to ensure the natural restoration of forest and greenery, and to protect meadows and other areas against landslides and floods.
- **According to the law of Georgia on “Cultural heritage”:** “If an area falls within several protection zones, a prohibitive legal norm from the protection zone regimes shall apply in each particular case”.

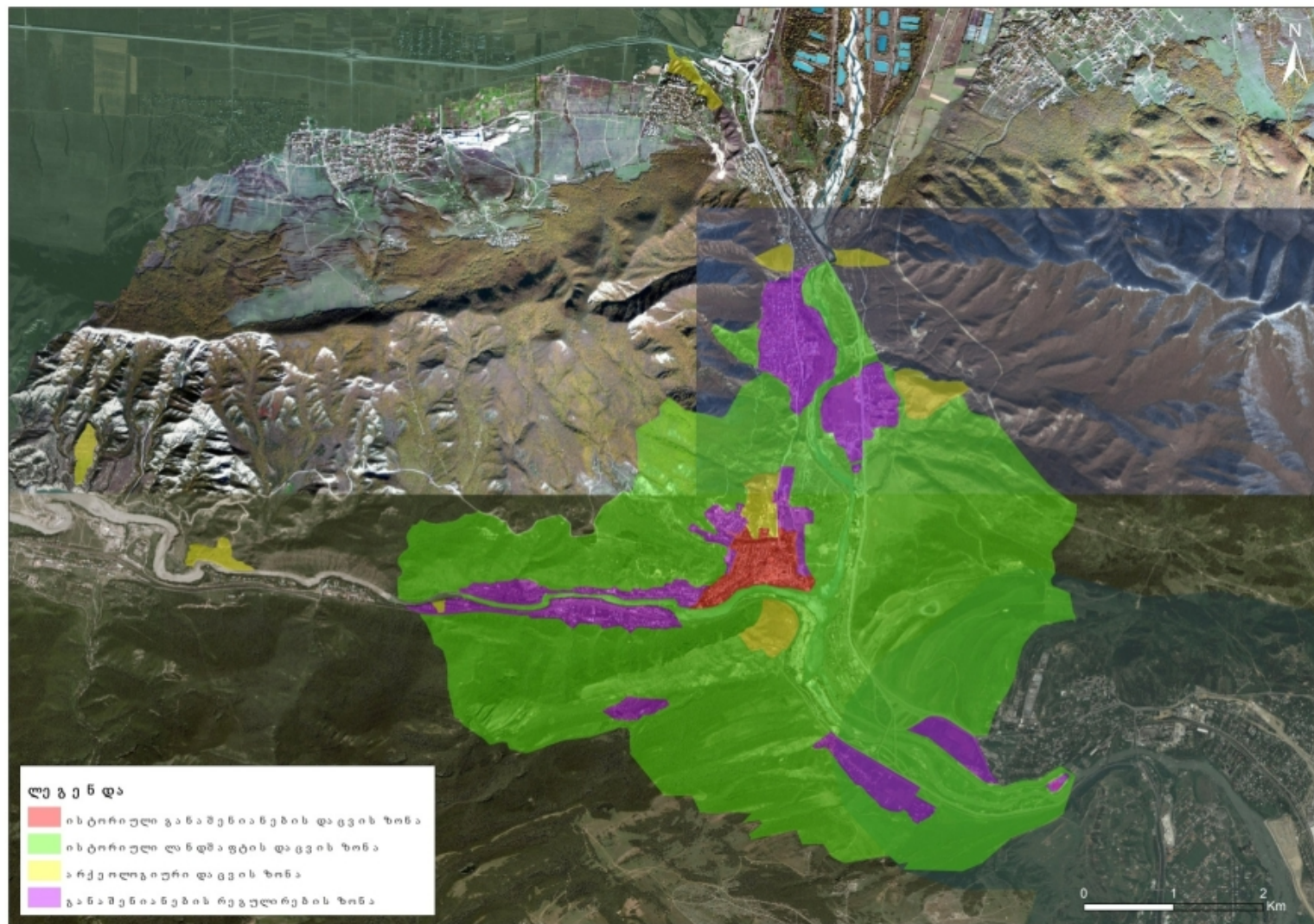
Issues of protection of historic landscape within the urban environment
Protection zone for Mtskheta historic landscape
(under the context of cultural heritage protection zones, 2012) - existing



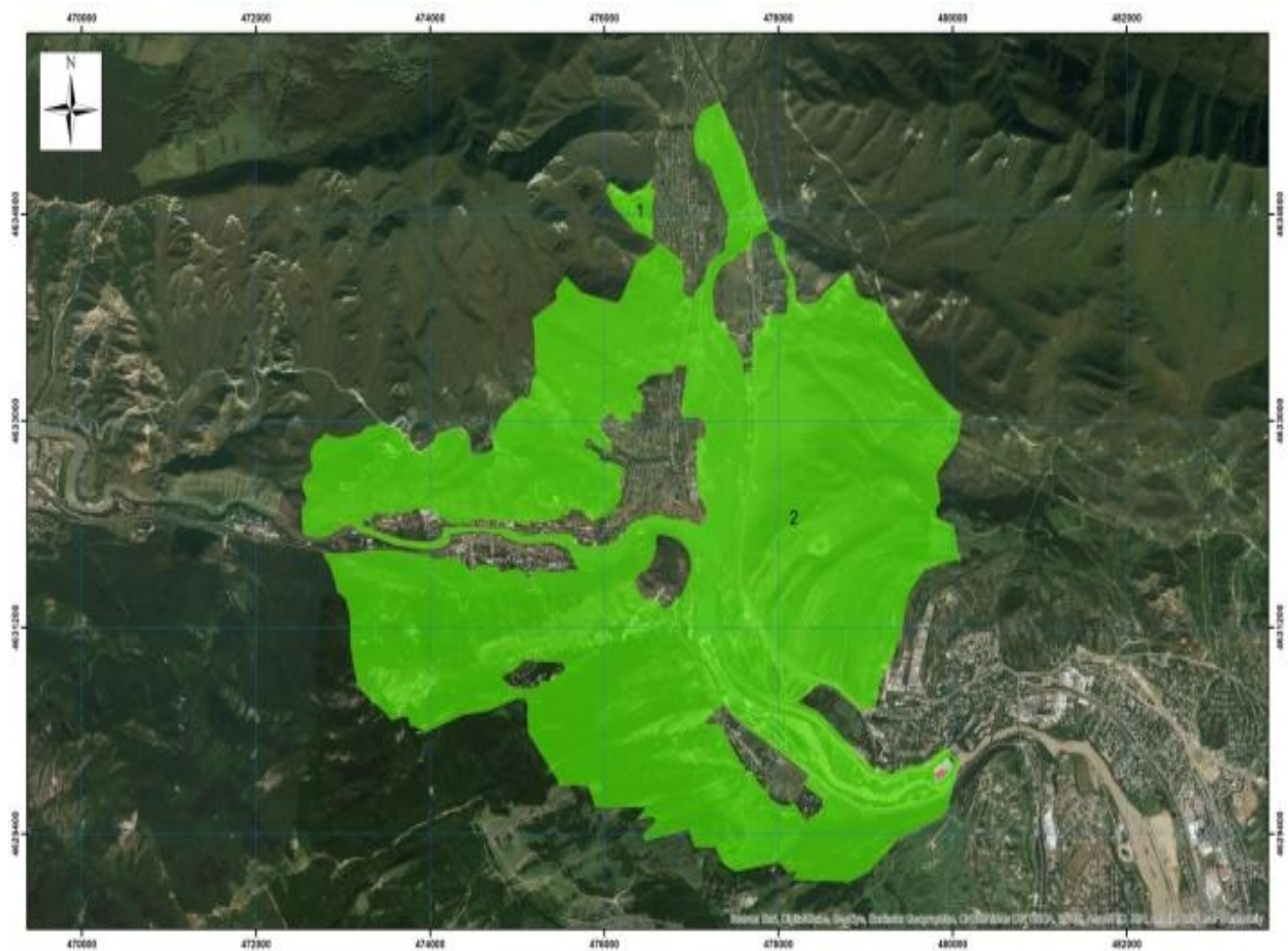
Historic landscape protection zone of Mtskheta - existing (General protection zones for Mtskheta cultural heritage, 2012)



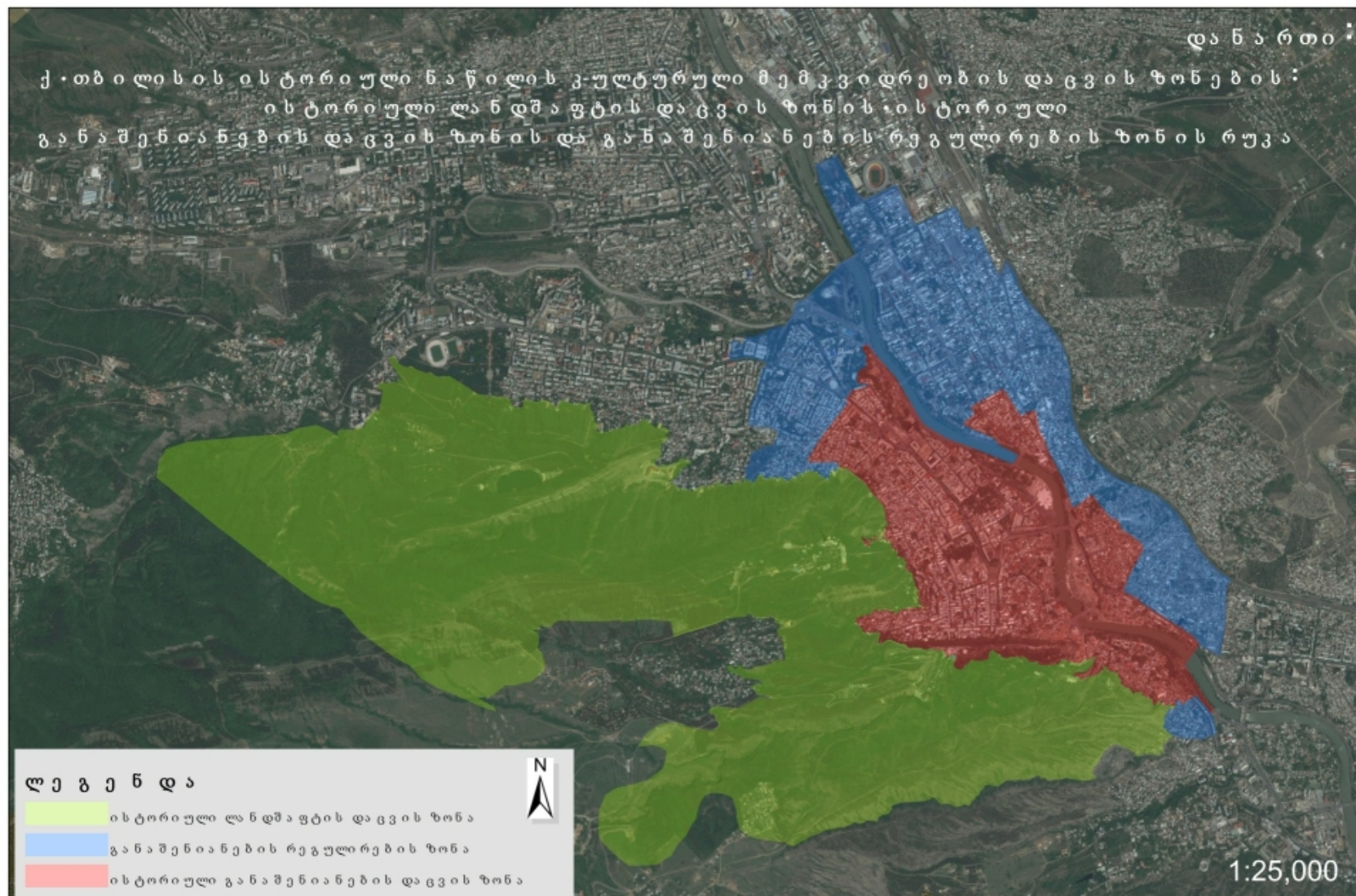
Mtskheta – project on adjustments to the cultural heritage general protection zones, 2018
– developed by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia in 2018, with the purpose of improving protection of Mtskheta historic monuments of world heritage.



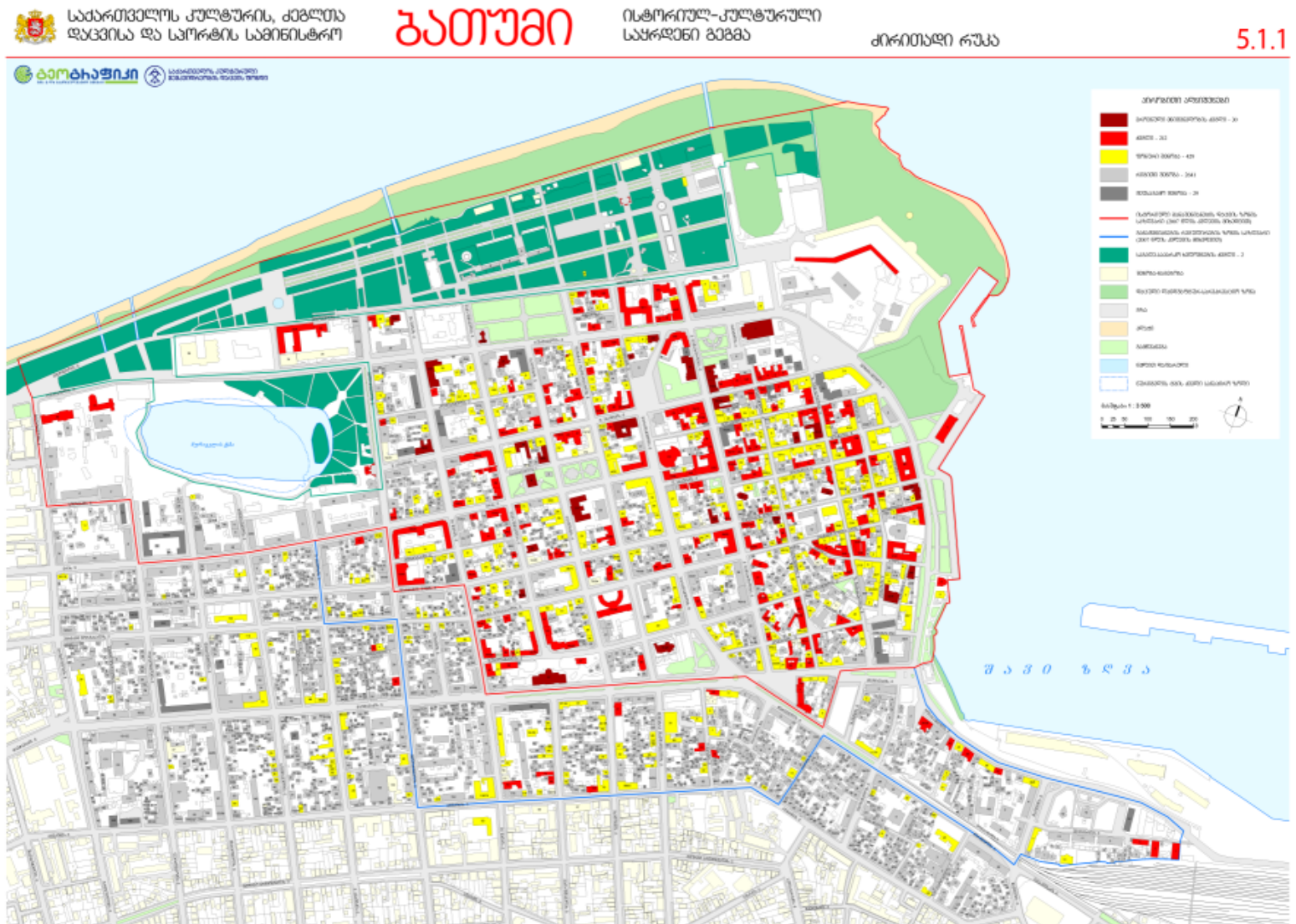
Adjusted historic landscape protection zone of Mtskheta – draft, 2018.



Landscape protection zone for Tbilisi historic part,
Historic development protection and development regulation zones - **existing**



Draft historic-cultural master plan for Batumi



Draft general protection zones for Telavi cultural heritage, prepared according to the order of the
Ministry of Economy within the Urban Development Project



Panoramic views of Telavi historic landscape



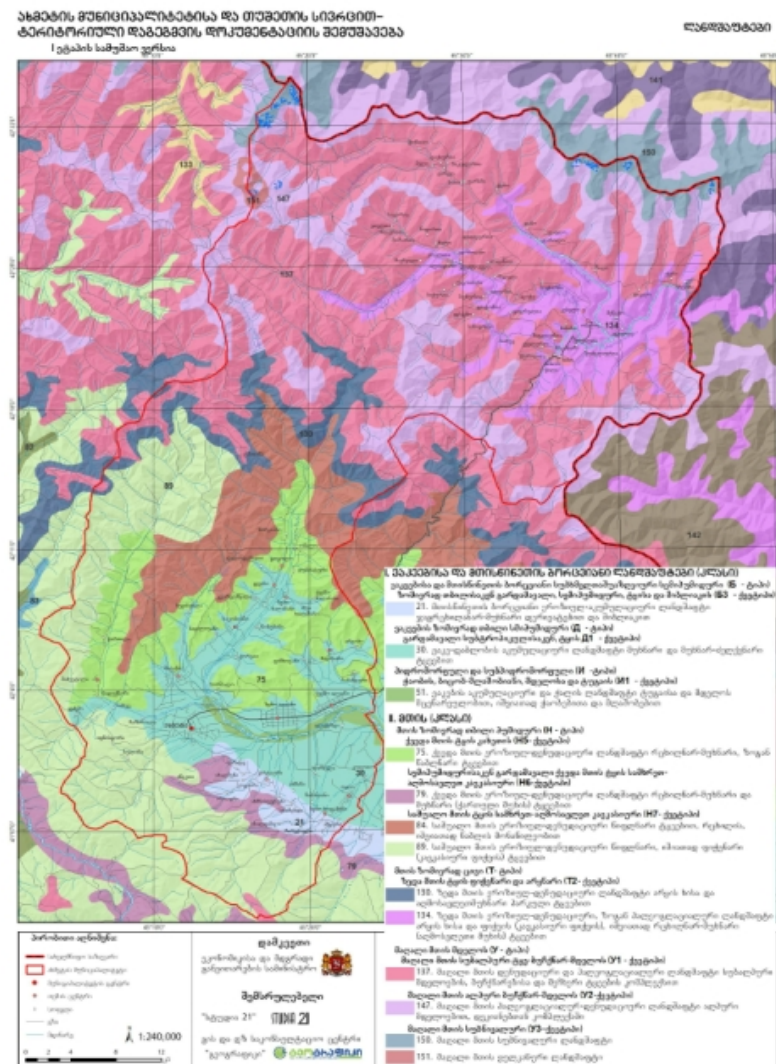
Monuments and landscapes submitted by Georgia to UNESCO's Tentative List
Cultural landscape of Vardzia-Khertvisi Oloda



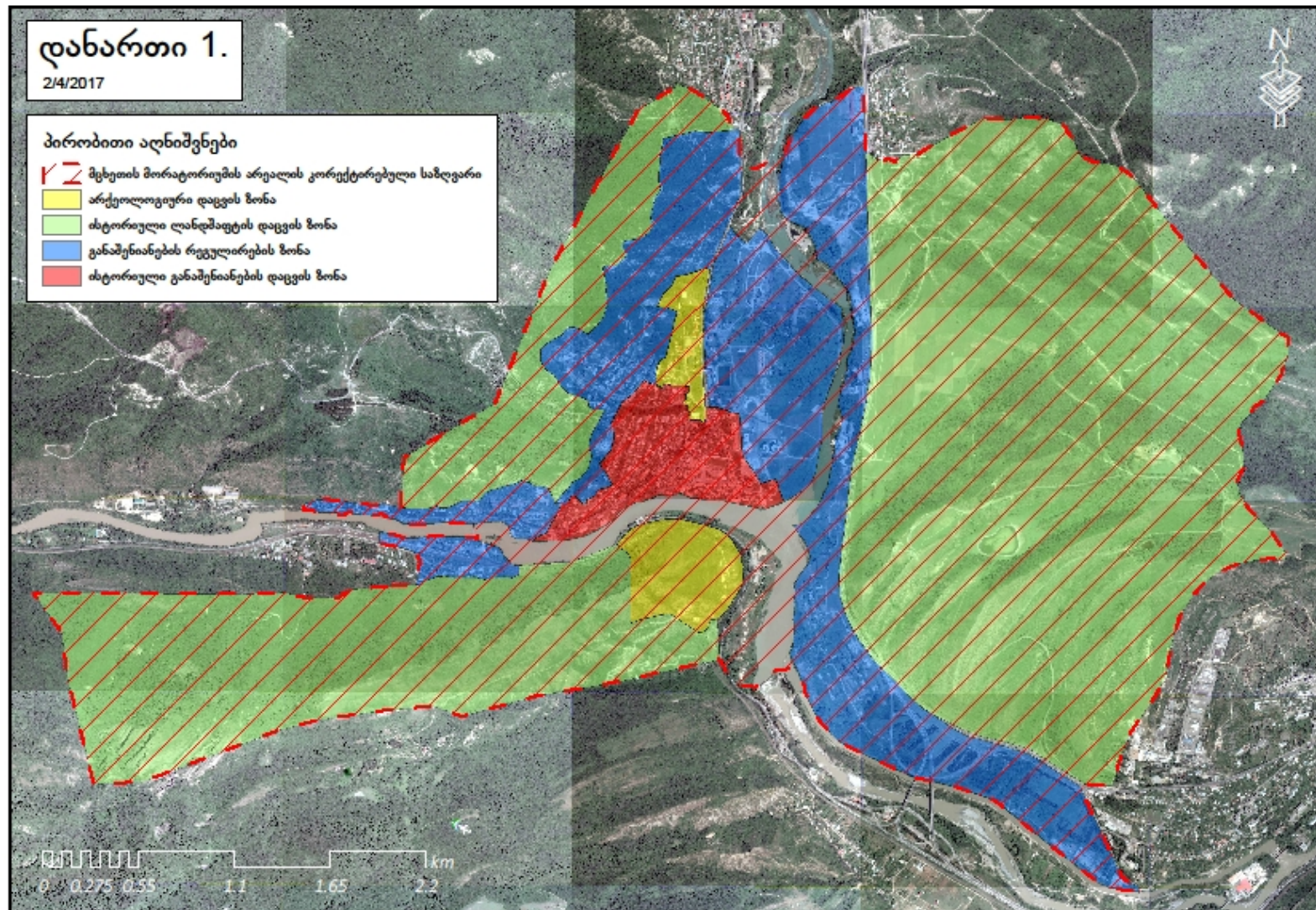
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Draft documentation on spatial-territorial planning of Svaneti-Mestia municipality – 2017



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Ordinance No 119 of 07.03.2017 issued by the Government of Georgia on changes to the ordinance N411, 03.08.2015 regarding enforcing a special urban development regulation regime over Mtskheta protection zones

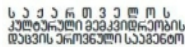


Prospective goals for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Georgia

- To improve landscape protection via the elaboration of mechanisms of monitoring over the compliance with the effective legislative acts;
- To enrich methods for teaching landscape protection issues in the educational system;
- To draw particular attention to the landscape protection provisions envisaged under the legislative acts in the process of preparation of urban development projects;
- To promote the European Landscape Convention and to introduce the Convention to the wider public;
- To develop a national landscape protection policy for Georgia.

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ზაგიდმადი ლანდშაფტების დაცვის პოლიტიკის შემუშავებისას ერთ-ერთ მიზნულად საკითხი წარმოადგენს საზოგადოების ფართო წრისათვის კონვენციის გაუმჯობესების უზრუნველყოფა და მისი პოპულარიზაცია. საკითხი ჯერჯერობის მოხსნა საკუთარ თავზე, რომ მათი შედეგების ქალაქის თუ სოფლის დიდი ლანდშაფტის დაცვით ისინი დიდ საქმეს აკეთებენ არა მარტო ლიკალი დიდი ქალაქი არამედ მანეროლად მომართლებენ ზოგადსაზოგადოებრივ ღირებულების მქონე დროებით ლანდშაფტების დაცვის საქმით.



National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia

Information on the involvement of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia in the implementation process of the European Landscape Convention was provided in the 2016-2017 report published by the Agency



Thank you for your attention!



Mount Ushba in Svaneti

საქართველოს კულტურული მემკვიდრეობის დაცვის ეროვნული სააგენტო