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## Martvili Canyon Sustainable Development Martvili Municipality

The Martvili Canyon received the status of Natural Monument in 2013, and an administration in charge of the monument was created in 2015. Previously, the site was only known locally and, due to the lack of suitable management, it became degraded: illegal fishing and poaching were taking place, and the flora was damaged. In addition, due to the lack of infrastructure, the safety of tourists was not assured. The situation has changed rapidly since 2015, when the Agency of Protected Areas of Georgia started, in the framework of a co-operation with the Municipality of Martvili, to implement a project of sustainable development for the area. The canyon now has a visitor centre, quays, a shelter for boats, walking trails, bridges and viewpoints. A 19th-century water mill has been restored and a flood-warning system has been installed for the River Abasha. In addition, large quantities of plastic bottles and packaging have been removed and the place is now totally clean and safe. The Government of Georgia granted boating rights to the local company, Oputsokhi, which purchased boats and set up services to welcome visitors.



The Committee of Ministers acknowledged the great value of the achievement presented for the 6th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention 2018-2019, and the importance to make it well-known as a source of inspiration.

In accordance with Resolution CM/Res (2017)18 of the Committee of Ministers, the project is thus part of the Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe.