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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

46th meeting,
7-11 December 2026,
Strasbourg

Bureau of the Standing Committee

7-9 April 2026,
Strasbourg

Complaint on Stand-by: 2016/09

**Possible threat to “Svaneti 1” Emerald Site (GE0000012)
from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development (Georgia)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
The Ministry of Environmental Protection
and Agriculture of Georgia*

To: Ms. Alessandra Siino,

Secretary of the Bern Convention

Cc: Permanent Representation of Georgia to the Council of Europe

Subject: Complaint on stand-by No. 2016/9: Georgia: Possible threat to “Svaneti 1”
Candidate Emerald Site (GE0000012) from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development

Dear Ms. Siino,

We would like to refer to the letter of the Bern Convention dated May 19, 2025 with the Bureau Decision regarding Complaint on stand-by No. 2016/9: Georgia: Possible threat to “Svaneti 1” Candidate Emerald Site (GE0000012) from Nenskra Hydro Power Plant development.

We would like to once again confirm that there are no new developments related to the above-mentioned project. All detailed and relevant information from the Government of Georgia was comprehensively provided in the 2024 report, however, much of this information appears not to have been accordingly taken into account by the Bureau. Some of the questions raised have already been answered in that report.

As per the decision, the Bureau expressed its concern regarding protection of rivers of Georgia. In this context and in order to harmonize Georgian legislation with the EU water framework Directive, draft versions of five river basin management plans (Alazani–Iori, Chorokhi–Acharistskali, Khrami–Debeda, Rioni, and Enguri) have been prepared in accordance with the Law of Georgia on Water Resources Management. At present, the update of the draft Alazani–Iori River Basin Management Plan is underway.

We would like to once again remind the Bureau, that in response to the possible negative impact to the Svaneti 1 candidate site from the Nenskra HPP and subsequent reduction of the candidate site Svaneti 1, the Government of Georgia designated 3 large compensatory sites which were adopted in 2018 (see annex 1). It is regrettable that the case file was not closed following the designation of these compensatory sites, which together cover a total area of 387 000 ha and provide greater overall ecological value.

Once again, we thank you for our continued cooperation and would appreciate it if the Government reports could be reviewed and evaluated together. We remain at your disposal should you require any further clarification.

Sincerely,

First Deputy Minister

Nino Tandilashvili