



საქართველოს გარემოსა  
და ბუნებრივი რესურსების  
დაცვის სამინისტრო

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

On behalf of:



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany

## REPORT ON KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

**Information Matters**  
Transparency through Reporting

**Information Matters:**  
**Capacity Building for Ambitious Reporting and Facilitation of  
International Mutual Learning through Peer-to-Peer  
Exchange**

Tbilisi, Georgia, July 27, 2016

Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

Partner Institution:

**Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoENRP)**

Project delivered by:

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ**

Subcontractor support:

**NIRAS**  
**NIRAS**



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## PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the context of the Information Matters project, the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has provided technical support to four partner countries during the first project phase (2013-2015): Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ghana and the Philippines. During its second phase, it provides to four additional countries: Colombia, Egypt, Georgia and Vietnam (2016-2017).

The project aims – as its primary goal – to strengthen the in-country capacities for enhanced reporting on climate change in the selected countries, including preparation for the Biennial Update Report (BUR). GIZ offers technical support to the partner countries' government institutions in charge of the national systems for monitoring and reporting of climate-relevant data and addresses their specific demands for capacity building support. In consultation with the partner countries, specific needs and priorities for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventories are identified, which are then addressed through tailored in-country capacity building workshops and trainings. Peer-to-peer exchange and generation of lesson learned supports this process.

During the project implementation, an in-country expert is assigned to the respective GIZ country office to support the project throughout its implementation and respond to any *ad hoc* demand from the partner institutions. In addition to the in-country trainings, backstopping support is provided to address any remaining issues to meet international standards and UNFCCC requirements.



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## **BMUB INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)**

Since 2008, the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has been financing climate and biodiversity projects in developing and newly industrializing countries, as well as in countries in transition.

The IKI focuses on four areas: mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change, conserving natural carbon sinks with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), as well as conserving biological diversity.

BMUB IKI homepage: [www.international-climate-initiative.com](http://www.international-climate-initiative.com)



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## KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

In the context of the Information Matters Project a kick-off workshop was organized on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel Tbilisi. The kick-off workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoENRP) and organized by GIZ. Main objectives of the kick-off workshop were to launch the project officially as well as present the global project 'Information Matters' and the ongoing climate change mitigation initiatives in Georgia, and to present and validate the key findings of the stock-taking which GIZ officers and experts from the subcontractor company – NIRAS carried out between 22-26 July in order to understand the current status of Georgia's MRV System to comply with international reporting requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the workshop, the institutional structures and arrangements necessary for MRV and BUR preparation were also presented, and in this process the counterpart of the project (MoENRP) together with other relevant national stakeholders were present. During the



Picture 1. Participant of the kick-off workshop at the Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel Tbilisi



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workshop the priority capacity building needs were identified. Based on the stock-taking mission and workshop results a final concept note for implementation of the project including a detailed work plan/roadmap addressing main capacity building needs was agreed upon with the MoENRP. The workshop was attended by government officials, ministries' representatives, NGOs' and other interested parties.

### **Opening Ceremony**

First Deputy Minister of Environment and National Resources Protection of Georgia, Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, the Head of Development Cooperation South Caucasus of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Georgia Dr. Katharina Derkorn and the GIZ Country Director of South Caucasus Office Mrs. Mary Schaefer took part in the opening ceremony. Mr. Murgulia emphasized the importance of German cooperation for Georgia and talked about the significance of clean energy development especially in the current situation after the Agreement reached at COP21 in Paris in December 2015, when new business possibilities unfold. Dr. Derkorn pointed out that the Georgian government is always very committed in the cooperation with Germany. Mrs. Schaefer described Information Matters project as the latest addition to this successful cooperation and said that the support for Georgia and other selected countries to further develop climate-relevant data systems is of high importance, since the availability of such data is a key necessity for the development of targeted and cost-effective strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change and through accurate data, countries have the information basis for planning and implementing mitigation actions and to provide transparent information to the international community in order to monitor global effects to combat climate change.

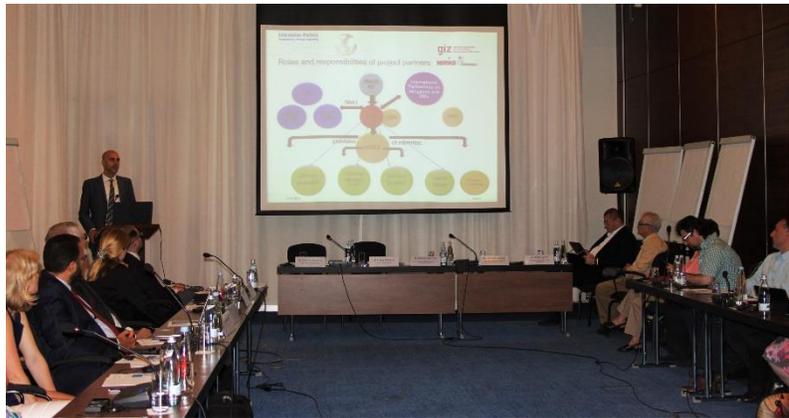
### **Presentation of the Global Information Matter Project**

#### **Overview of the BMUB-supported Global Information Matters Project**



Mr. Oscar Zarzo (GIZ  
Headquarters, Information  
Matters Project, Georgia  
component supervisor)

The presentation aimed to introduce the audience to the Global Information Matters Project, its main goal and objective and also to introduce the responsibilities of project partners



Picture 2. Mr. Oscar Zarzo's presentation on the overview of the Information Matters Project

at the international level. Mr. Zarzo firstly outlined the activities of the project as well as the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in it. Here, he introduced the role of the subcontractor NIRAS as providers of expertise. Following this, Mr. Zarzo provided a short introduction to the requirements of an MRV system relating to its overarching issues, elements and institutional and technical capacities. He also raised the point on challenges related to MRV, such as lack of political buy-in, limited access to data, institutional memory, etc. Further to this Mr. Zarzo made an overview of the timeline of the project and the planned activities for the future, which includes 1<sup>st</sup> Capacity Building Mission in Georgia in 2016 and Two Capacity Building Missions as well as Peer-to-Peer exchange with all project countries throughout 2017. Lastly, Mr. Zarzo provided an overview of the capacity building activities delivered under the first Phase of Information Matters and the results and lessons learnt from it.

### **Presentation on the Preliminary Results of the Stock-take Analysis**

Mr. Daniel Perczyk (Country Lead for Georgia, NIRAS), Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS)

An initial objective of this project and an important part of this workshop was to present the gaps detected by the consultants from NIRAS. In this context, it was important to start off with the presentation of the concept of MRV in its historic framework under UNFCCC, and also to discuss MRV system requirements before and after the Paris Agreement and how this will change the



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preparation of BUR and National Communications (NC) in the future. Mr. Abdel-Aziz gave the audience a good understanding of why MRV is needed and how the system and structure helps to deal with climate change issues. Furthermore, Mr. Abdel-Aziz talked about the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process which all BUR submitted undergo under mandate of UNFCCC.

The subsequent presentation focused on the analysis of the stock-take and the Status Quo of MRV in Georgia. In the presentation Mr. Perczyk and Mr. Abdel-Aziz made the general summary of the interviews with different stakeholders held from 22th to 26th July 2016. Besides the general understanding and the structure of MRV system in Georgia, the presentation outlined major gaps and strengths of each institution identified from this stock-take analysis.

### **Overview on the Climate Mitigation Initiatives in Georgia**

Mr. Grigol Lazriev (UNFCCC Focal Point Georgia, Head of Climate Change Service, MoENRP)

The focus of the presentation was to inform about ongoing climate mitigation initiatives in Georgia and to overview ongoing NAMA development, CDM Projects and Forestry activities related to climate change mitigation. Mr. Lazriev talked about the current and future challenges that Georgia is facing in climate change mitigation such as the upcoming 2019 NDC and the regular reporting requirements (BUR and NC) which are mandatory and likely to become more stringent after implementation of the Paris Agreement.

### **Group Work: Gap Analysis Validation**

Following the presentations, the workshop was devoted to group work in form of validation of the stock-take analysis and prioritization of gaps identified in Georgia's MRV system. During the Group Work Session all participants were divided into groups related to the different emission categories under the IPCC guidelines, namely Energy, Industrial Processes, Agriculture and Land Use and Forestry, and Waste. These groups discussed the results of the stock-take analysis



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under each critical area of study: institutional, capacity and technical aspects. The discussions were guided by a questionnaire handed over by the consultants.

In the Industrial Processes and Energy Sectors the focus of the discussion was on how can the country collect reliable data. In order to accomplish this, according to the group participants, there's the need for communication between different ministries, as well as the improvement of institutional structure and legislation.

In the Agriculture and Waste Sector the discussion was focused on the system of information flow not only about mitigation of climate change but also for international support needed and received. The group participants identified three basic capacity needs for their sector, which are the following: training of staff on raw data collection for GHG inventory preparation, elaboration of templates for standardization of data collection and establishing procedures for data flow and quality management (QA/QC).

Each group responded the questionnaire prior prepared by the consultants and also drew a diagram identifying the three prioritized capacity building needs for each sector.

At the end of the day participants noted that the whole workshop very sufficient and very useful for the new networking opportunities. Some of them wished for more time for the workshops in the future to devote for the experience of other counties and to include more technical aspects.

After the workshop the results from the group work was used by the consultants for preparing the concept note for the stock-taking mission and for the implementation of capacity building activities for the Information Matters project in Georgia in 2016 - 2017. Finally, a roadmap for a Capacity Building Programme for Georgia was agreed upon between the Climate Change Service of Georgia, GIZ officers and NIRAS experts.



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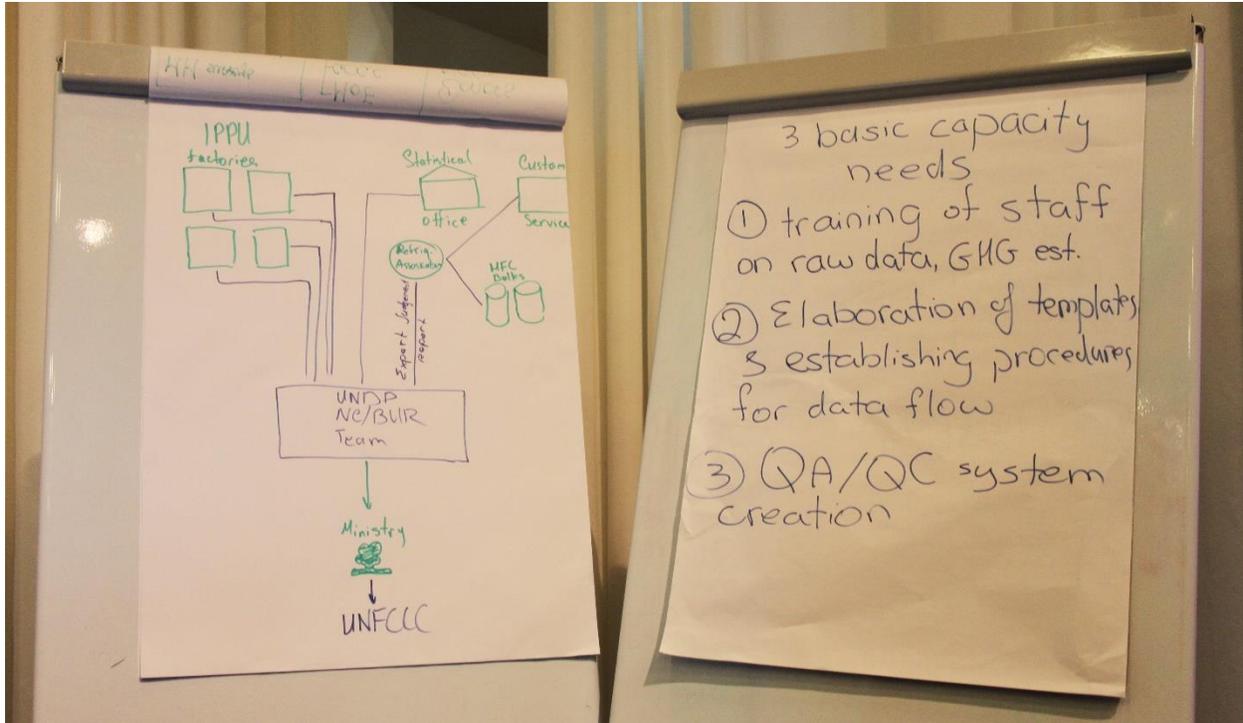
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Picture 3. Group work results



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## ANNEXES

### Kick-off Workshop Agenda

DATE/TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
27 July	Day 1 - stakeholders group	
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival of participants and Registration	
9:30 – 10:00	Opening ceremony & Introducing to the Agenda	<p><b>Mr. Teimuraz Murgulia, First Deputy Minister (MoENRP)</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Katharina Derkorn, Head of Development Cooperation South Caucasus (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Georgia)</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Mary Schaefer, Country Director, (GIZ South Caucasus Office)</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by Mr. Irakli Samkharadze (GIZ Georgia, Project Focal Point in Georgia, Event Facilitator)</b></p>
10:00-11:30	<p><b>Presentation of the Global Information Matters Project</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overview on the climate mitigation initiatives in Georgia</li> <li>○ Overview of ongoing NAMA development, CDM Projects, Forestry Activities, etc.</li> <li>○ Overview of the BMUB-supported Global Information Matters Project               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction, organizational structure</li> <li>- Collaboration with other global capacity building initiatives on MRV and reporting</li> <li>- Terms of reference, schedule of deliverables, timelines</li> <li>- Approach and methodology</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Grigol Lazriev, UNFCCC Focal Point Georgia, Head of Climate Change Service, MoENRP</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo, GIZ Headquarters, Project Georgia component supervisor.</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Daniel Perczyk, Country Lead for Georgia, NIRAS</b></p>
11:30-12:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
12:00-12:30	<b>Introduction to MRV systems</b>	<b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS</b>



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DATE/TIME	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRV System Requirements before and after Paris Agreement</li> <li>BUR and NC Requirements under the UNFCCC</li> </ul>	<b>Mr. Daniel Perczyk, NIRAS</b>
12:30-13:15	<p><b>Presentation on the preliminary results of the stock-take analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background on the interviews with stakeholders from 22th to 26th July</li> <li>Discussions on preliminary results of the study mission – outlining major gaps and strengths identified from stock-take analysis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz, NIRAS</b> <b>Mr. Daniel Perczyk, NIRAS</b></p>
13:15-14:15	<b>Lunch and Networking</b>	
14:15-15:45	<p><b>Workshop Session: Validation of stock-take analysis results with stakeholders (split into subgroups)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction/ Instructions for workshop</li> <li>Split into five groups as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Sectoral working groups (Energy, Industry, Agriculture and Forestry, Waste) to discuss MRV System for GHG inventories and INDC/NAMA</li> <li>One working group to discuss MRV system for support</li> </ul> </li> <li>Challenge/validate, add ideas, group prioritize identified gaps</li> <li>Consolidation of comments/suggestions and summarization</li> </ul>	<p>Conducted by <b>Mr. Daniel Perczyk (NIRAS), Mr. Amr Abdel-Aziz (NIRAS)</b> and <b>Mr. Oscar Zarzo GIZ.</b></p> <p><b>Each group will designate a facilitator who will summarize discussion results to be presented later at the plenary</b></p>
15:45-16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
16:00-17:30	<b>Plenary: reporting back to main group, open discussion and preliminary conclusions</b>	<b>Group Facilitators presenting group conclusions</b>
17:30-18:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Moderated by <b>Mr. Irakli Samkharadze, GIZ Georgia.</b>