

**OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER-RELATED DIRECTIVES IMPLEMENTED IN GEORGIA IN LINE WITH THE EU-GEORGIA ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT, SCENARIOS FOR THE WATER SECTOR REFORM, AND PROGRESS MONITORING INDICATORS IN THE WATER SECTOR  
(AS OF JANUARY 2024)**

Information presented below is the updated version of the tables originally developed in 2021 in the frame of the publication “Developing a Water Policy Outlook for Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine” (<https://www2.oecd.org/countries/georgia/developing-a-water-policy-outlook-for-georgia-the-republic-of-moldova-and-ukraine-512a52aa-en.htm>), its chapter “Developing a water policy outlook for Georgia” (<https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/4e4ec92d-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/4e4ec92d-en>). These tables have been updated in early 2024 by MEPA to demonstrate the progress and further tasks of the water sector reform in Georgia. The changes in the table 2.1. are highlighted demonstrating the self-assessed status of implementation (legend: **done**, **draft / in process**, to do) and in other tables are written in **green**. Please mind that implementation of the directives presumes more elements and details which are not reflected below.

**Table 2.1. EU directives on water quality and resource management and timeframes for their implementation in Georgia**

Directive	Provision	Timeframe (from entry into force in 2016)	Status (2024) assessed by MEPA
<b>Water Framework Directive</b> (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy as amended by Decision No 2455/2001/EC)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/authorities	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> this issue and it has been <b>adopted</b> on 30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023.
	Identification of river basin districts and establishment of administrative arrangements for international rivers, lakes and coastal waters	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> these issues which has been adopted on the 30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023. Government resolution on the approval of boundaries of river basins/ basin areas has been <b>drafted</b> . The identification of river basin districts and the establishment of administrative arrangements for international rivers, lakes, and coastal waters factually <b>carried out</b> . However, the formal adoption of these actions through a government resolution is <b>anticipated</b> to take place in 2024.
	Analysis of the characteristics of river basin districts	Within five years (i.e. 2021)	Analysis of the characteristics of river basin districts has been <b>done</b> on every river basin district <b>except</b> for the river Mtkvari and due to occupation <b>except</b> for the Bzipi-Kodori river basin district.
	Establishment of programmes for monitoring water quality	Within six years (i.e. 2022) for surface water Within eight years (i.e. 2024) for groundwater	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> these issues and it was adopted on 30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023. Government resolution on the rules for planning and implementation of water resources monitoring has been <b>drafted</b> and anticipated time to take place is 2026, however Water quality monitoring is <b>carried out</b> permanently by National Environmental Agency (NEA) though it is still <b>not fully WFD-compliant</b> .
	Preparation of river basin management plans	Within ten years (i.e. 2026)	Newly adopted (30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023) law on water resources management <b>covers</b> these issues. The draft Government resolution on the procedures

	consultations with the public and publication of these plans		for development, discussion and approval of river basin management plans and related draft minister orders has already been prepared. Three river basin management draft plans (Chorokhi-Adjaristtkali, Alazani-lori, Khrami-Debeda) have been developed but not adopted yet, while two (Enguri and Rioni river basins) are currently under development, several consultation meetings were conducted on them. The draft programmes of measures under the RBMPs are not yet adopted and will have to be updated in 2025-26. There is a need to create 2 additional RBMPs (the Bzipi-Kodori and the Kura) to encompass all 7 river basins however, it is challenging now due to the existing political and security circumstances in Abkhazia.
<b>Floods Directive</b> (Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/ies	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	The new law "On Water Resources Management" promotes the creation of a flood risk assessment and management system.
	Undertaking preliminary flood risk assessment	Within five years (i.e. 2021)	The methodology, in line with FD has been introduced and tested for the pilot catchments. The draft normative act "On the assessment of areas at risk of potential floods" has not been developed.
	Preparation of flood hazard maps and risk maps	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)	The flood hazard and risk mapping methodology has been developed. Based on this methodology, hazard and risk maps have been created for the entire country for the period of 2018-2023.
	Introduction of flood risk management plans	Within nine years (i.e. 2025)	Development of the MHRMPs (including management plans for floods) for 4 pilot river basins are underway, will be finalized in March 2024. The MHRMPs of remaining 7 river basins will be developed in 2024-2025.
<b>Urban Waste Water Directive</b> (Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste water treatment as amended by Directive 98/15/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/ies	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	New law on water resources management covers this issue.
	Assessment of the status of urban wastewater collection and treatment	Within six years (i.e. 2022)	New law on water resources management covers this issue. Assessment has not been done yet.
	Identification of sensitive areas and agglomerations	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)	New law on water management covers these issues. Related government resolutions has not yet been drafted. Methodology is being developed.
	Preparation of technical and investment programme for the urban wastewater collection and treatment	Within eight years (i.e. 2024)	New law on water resources management covers this issue. Unclear which institution will be responsible. According to the new law on WRM the competence of the municipalities under Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development includes: a) implementation of water supply and technical water supply measures, including:

			a.a) Participation in the preparation of technical and investment programs and projects for water supply systems and urban waste water collection and purification;
<b>Drinking Water Directive</b> (Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on quality of water intended for human consumption as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/ies	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> this issue.
	Establishment of standards for drinking water	Within four year (i.e. 2020)	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> these issues. Government resolution on water quality for human consumption not yet drafted. Ministry of Health is currently working on this resolution.
	Establishment of a monitoring system	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)	Belongs to the competencies of National Food Agency (under MEPA).
	Establishment of a mechanism to provide information to consumers	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> this issue. Relevant minister orders has <b>not been drafted</b> yet. National Food Agency (under MEPA) is responsible.
<b>Nitrates Directive</b> (Directive 91/676/EC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1882/2003)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/ies	Within four years (i.e. 2020)	New law (adopted on 30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023) on water resources management <b>covers</b> this issue.
	Establishment of monitoring programmes	Within five years (i.e. 2021) for surface water Within eight years (i.e. 2024) for groundwater	New law on water management <b>covers</b> these issues. Government resolution on the rules for planning and implementation of water resources monitoring has been <b>drafted</b> . Recommendations for establishment of monitoring programmes have been? <b>delegated</b> to NEA.
	Identification of polluted waters or waters at risk and designation of nitrate vulnerable zones	Within five years (i.e. 2021) for surface water Within eight years (i.e. 2024) for groundwater	New law on water resources management <b>covers</b> these issues. Nitrate Vulnerable Zones have been <b>delineated</b> within the EU project.
	Establishment of action plans and codes of good agricultural practices for nitrate vulnerable zones	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)	<b>Draft</b> of action plan and codes of good agricultural practice for NVZ has been <b>prepared</b> . Currently EU funded project is working and will be finalized in 2024.
<b>Marine Strategy Framework Directive</b> (Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy)	Adoption of national legislation and designation of competent authority/ies	Within three years (i.e. 2019)	Not covered in the present assessment. However, to protect the environment of the Black Sea and improve the state of the marine environment, under the "2022-2026 Georgian Environmental Protection Fourth National Action Program" (NEAP-4) The Black Sea Marine Strategy is <b>integrated</b> . NEAP-4 is the main national strategic document in the field of environment and natural resources management. Despite it is
	Development of a marine strategy in co-operation with relevant EU member state(s)	Within eight years (i.e. 2024)	

(and non-EU member states in alignment with the Black Sea Convention)	
Initial assessment of marine waters, determination of good environmental status and establishment of environmental targets and indicators	Within five years (i.e. 2021)
Establishment of a monitoring programme for ongoing assessment and regular updating of targets	Within seven years (i.e. 2023)
Preparation of a programme of measures to achieve good environmental status	Within eight years (i.e. 2024)

concentrated holistically to the environmental protection, a separate chapter ("Protection of the Black Sea and promotion of achieving a good quality state of the marine environment") is devoted to the Black Sea. This strategy is in line with the EU Directive on the development of a framework for public action in the field of marine environmental policy.

Sources: **2021**: Elaboration of a consultant for the OECD publication, based on European Union (2014[1]), "Association agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part", *Official Journal of the European Union*, L 261/4, 30 August 2014, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22014A0830\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22014A0830(02)). **2024**: MEPA desk assessment

Table 2.8. **Activities and initial and recast timelines for the full-reform and alternative full-reform scenarios**

Key activities related to scenario development	Initially planned	Full-reform timeframe	Alternative full-reform timeframe	Actual Timeframe
Establishment of three river basin management organisations and councils	2018-21	2022	2023	2026, 01, Sept.
Establishment of the remaining two river basin management organisations and councils	2018-21	2022	2025	2026, 01, Sept.
Introduction of new economic instruments for water management (changes in the permit system for the abstraction of surface water and water discharge)		2024-26	2024-26	2026, 01, Sept.
Creation of a water balance and water user register (preferably using GIS)		2024	2024	2027, 01, Sept.
Identification of sensitive areas for urban wastewater discharge	2021	2022	2022	2026, 01, Sept.
Monitoring nitrate concentration in 100% of selected surface water and groundwater bodies	In surface water bodies by 2021; in groundwater bodies by 2024	2022 and 2024, respectively	2024 and 2030-35, respectively	2026, 01 Sept.
Identification of polluted waters or waters at risk from agricultural sources and designation of nitrate vulnerable zones	2019-20	2022	2024	2026, 01, Sept.
Establish monitoring programmes, action plans and codes of good agricultural practice for nitrate vulnerable zones	2020-21	2022	2024	2026, 01 Sept.
Changes in monitoring practices and procedures for surface water quality	2019-20	2022	2030	2030
Rehabilitation or construction of urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in at least ten major settlements	2021	2022	2025	2026, 01 Sept.

Sources: **2021**: Elaboration of a consultant for the OECD publication. **2024**: MEPA desk assessment

Table 2.12. Progress monitoring indicators

Activities	Indicators*	Implementing agency (and partner organisations) **	Timeframes*** 1) Initial 2) Revised 3) Revised after Law Adoption
<b>Objective 1: Improving water resource management and ensuring the sustainable use of water</b>			
Finalisation and promotion of the Law on Water Resources Management (taken from the Water Framework Directive [WFD])	The law is adopted.	MEPA	1) 2017-18 2) By the end of 2021 3) Adopted on 30 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023
Establishment of river basin management organisations (RBMOs) under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (taken from the WFD)	At least five RBMOs are established.	MEPA	1) 2018-21 2) Three RBMOs to be created by 2023 and the remaining two by 2025. 3) The format of RBMOs will be determined according to the EU project recommendation in 2024
Establishment of river basin councils (taken from the WFD)	A governmental decree on the rules, composition and functioning of river basin councils is adopted. At least five river basin councils are established.	MEPA (with municipalities and NGOs as partner organisations)	1) 2018-21 2) Three river basin councils to be created by 2023 and the remaining two by 2025. 3) According to the new Water law, the establishment of River basin councils are not numerically specified, but their establishment is planned by 2026, 01 Sept.
Adoption of the existing river basin management plans (RBMPs), taken from the WFD	Three (Alazani-Iori, Khrami-Debeda, and Chorokhi-Adjaristskali) RBMPs are adopted.	MEPA (with ministries, municipalities and NGOs as partner organisations)	1) N/A 2) 2022 3) After 2026, 01 Sept
Development of the remaining RBMPs (taken from the WFD)	The remaining two (Mtkvari (Kura) and Rioni-Enguri) river basin plans are developed.	MEPA (with ministries, municipalities and NGOs as partner organisations)	1) 2024 2) 2024 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Improvement of household water use measures (taken from the WFD)	Percentage increase of total households with water meters.	MEPA, GNERC, municipalities, local water suppliers	To be determined by regional development plans
Better water abstraction monitoring for surface water bodies (taken from the WFD)	Percentage increase in the number of registered water users.	MEPA, GNERC, local government	1) N/A 2) 2022 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Properly calculated environmental charges/fees, which ensures cost recovery and compliance with new environmental standards (taken from the WFD)	All charges/fees for water use and water abstraction are calculated according to a consistent methodology.	MEPA, GNERC, MoESD	1) N/A 2) 2024-26 3) 2027, 01 Sept

Creation of a water balance (taken from the WFD)	A water balance is created.	MEPA	1) N/A 2) 2024 3) 2027, 01 Sept
Development of a water allocation plan and the establishment of a water allocation system for integrated water management (taken from the WFD)	A water allocation plan is developed. The water allocation system is established and functioning according to the plan.	MEPA, NEA, Ministry of Energy, GA, MRDI	1) N/A 2) 2022-23 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Development of uniform database for water users (taken from the WFD)	A water user register is created. The register is developed using GIS.	MEPA	1) N/A 2) 2024 3) 2026, 01 Sept
<b>Objective 2: Reducing water resource pollution</b>			
Better monitoring of wastewater discharge in surface water bodies (taken from the Urban Waste Water Directive)	Existing number of registered pollutants has increased.	MEPA; GNERC, local government, MRDI	1) N/A 2) 2022 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Rehabilitation and construction of urban sewage collection and treatment systems (taken from the Urban Waste Water Directive)	Urban WWTPs in at least ten major settlements are constructed or rehabilitated.	MRDI UWSCG	1) 2021 (at least ten urban WWTPs) 2) At least ten urban WWTPs exist in major settlements by 2025 3) At least ten urban WWTPs exist in major settlements by 2026
Identification of areas sensitive to urban wastewater discharge (taken from the Urban Waste Water Directive)	The ministerial decree on the identification of sensitive areas of urban wastewater discharge is adopted.	MEPA (with MRDI as a partner organisation)	1) 2021 2) 2022 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Monitoring nitrate concentration in surface water and groundwater bodies (taken from the Nitrates Directive)	100% of selected surface water and groundwater bodies are monitored for nitrate concentration.	MEPA, NEA	1) 2021 (surface water bodies), 2024 (groundwater bodies) 2) 2024 (surface water bodies), 2030-35 (groundwater bodies) 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Identification of nitrates polluted surface waters or waters at risk caused by agricultural sources, and the designation of nitrate vulnerable areas (taken from the Nitrates Directive)	The number of nitrate polluted water or waters at risk mapped has increased. The number of identified nitrate vulnerable zones has increased.	MEPA	1) 2019-20 2) 2024 3) 2026, 01 Sept
Establishment of action plans and regulations for good agricultural practice for nitrate vulnerable zones (taken from the Nitrates Directive)	Action plans are prepared for nitrate vulnerable zones.	MEPA	1) 2020-21 2) 2024 3) 2026, 01 Sept
<b>Objective 3: Improving the monitoring of water quantity and quality</b>			
Penalties for environmental legislation offences, relative to the damage caused, to develop better user and pollutant conduct (taken from the WFD)	The percentage of penalties enforced for environmental damages has increased.	MEPA, DES	1) N/A 2) 2030

Improvement of monitoring for groundwater quality and quantity (taken from the WFD)	The percentage of groundwater bodies equipped with fully functioning monitoring systems has increased.	MEPA, NEA	1) 2017-20 <sup>1</sup> 2) 2030
Development of a surface water quality monitoring programme (taken from the WFD)	A surface water quality monitoring programme is adopted.	MEPA NEA	1) 2019-20 2) 2030
Constant improvement in water quality status (taken from the WFD)	In each river basin, the percentage of surface water and groundwater bodies upgraded to a good quality status has increased.	MEPA, NEA, MRDI, GA, Ministry of Energy	1) N/A 2) 2036 <sup>2</sup>
Revision of standards for drinking water (taken from the Drinking Water Directive)	The standards for drinking water are reviewed.	MEPA, NFA, Ministry of Health	1) 2021 2) 2021 3) 2030
Strengthening the urban drinking water monitoring system and the establishment of a rural drinking water monitoring system (taken from the Drinking Water Directive)	A drinking water monitoring system is established for both the urban and rural drinking water supply. Drinking water monitoring systems for both urban and rural drinking water supplies are functioning.	MEPA, NFA	1) 2023 2) 2023 3) 2030
Establishment of mechanisms to provide information to consumers (taken from the Drinking Water Directive)	A system for providing information to consumers is established. The established system for providing information to consumers is functioning.	MEPA, NFA	1) 2023 2) 2023 3) 2030

*Note:* \*Some indicators are derived from both NEAP and the Roadmap for EU approximation in environmental and climate action (the AA Roadmap); they required revising or updating due to the conditions of the water management sector. \*\*The implementing agencies and partner organisations are identified in NEAP or suggested by the authors and field experts. \*\*\*The initial timeframes are based on NEAP or the AA Roadmap. However, since the new draft law has not yet been adopted and all consequent activities were unable to start on time, most of the timeframes are revisions based on expert suggestions. DES = Department of Environmental Supervision (of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture); GA = Georgian Amelioration; GNERC = Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission; MEPA = Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia; MRDI = Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; MoESD = Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; NFA = National Food Agency; NGOs = non-governmental organisations; RBMO = river basin management organisation; RBMP = river basin management plan; UWSCG = United Water Supply Company of Georgia; WWTP = wastewater treatment plant.

1. The action plan sets the timeframe for the purchase and installation of equipment on selected wells.

2. The relevant agency should define interim indicators and timeframes.

Sources: **2021**: Elaboration of a consultant for the OECD publication. **2024**: MEPA desk assessment.