

Guest Lecture

Paata Shanshiashvili & Natia Kobakhidze

GIZ, Tbilisi, Georgia

“Integrated Biodiversity Management, South Caucasus (IBiS)”



Protected Area Development in Georgia

Paata Shanshiashvili will speak about the “*Spatial Planning Context of Protected Areas Development with a spotlight on Georgia's concept*”. Georgia is a small ancient country with unique bio-geographic characteristics, globally important ecosystems and a rich cultural heritage. All of these have been threatened by an insufficient system of protected areas – “zapovedniks” governed by a “no public access” principal. Paata Shanshiashvili will show how right after the breakup of the Soviet Union Georgia has advanced its approach for the enhancement of area based conservation.

Natia Kobakhidze will continue with highlights of recent international support. She will talk about “*Assisting a Country to achieve Spatial Coherence: the GIZ IBiS Georgia Initiative*”. Special emphasis will be placed on the integration of environmental, social and economic interests.

Natia Kobakhidze, is a biologist with a PhD in Biophysics, worked in the field of education as a teacher in Gymnasium and at Tbilisi State University. In 1998, she joined the conservation movement and got actively involved in the work of protected areas management. She worked for NGOs and International organizations and tried herself in the public sector as well. Since 2010, she works with the GIZ Caucasus biodiversity program, supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in all three South Caucasus Countries.

Paata Shanshiashvili, spatial planner and landscape architect, is the leader of Georgia's protected areas movement. He authored the protected areas framework legislation and several laws on 16 new protected areas. Georgia's new holistic concept for protected areas is his achievement. He is the principal spatial planning expert assisting the GIZ biodiversity project in Georgia and has been serving as technical adviser for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Monday, January 9th, 2017, 4:00 pm

Room L.2.2.01 (Lakeside Park)

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