

Decree of the President of Georgia

#389

June 25, 1999

Tbilisi

On Guidelines for the Development of National Report on State of Environment

In accordance to the Article 14.3 of the Law of Georgia on Environment:

1. Attached Guidelines for the development of the National Report on State of Environment shall be approved.
2. Together with the National Report on State of Environment The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia (N. Chkhobadze) shall prepare a brief version each year to be provided to the population using mass media sources.
3. Ministry of Finance of Georgia (D. Onoprishvili) shall consider the costs needed for publication and distribution of the National Report on State of Environment while formulation of the annual State Budget of Georgia.

E. Shevardnadze

Approved by #389 Decree of the President of Georgia

on June 25, 1999

Guidelines for the Development of National Report on State of Environment

Title I

General Section

Chapter 1

General Provisions

Article 1. Normative acts that serve as the basis for Guidelines for the Development of National Report on State of Environment and the acts that shall be implemented

Guidelines for the Development of National Report on State of Environment (hereinafter referred to as “Guidelines”) was adopted in accordance with the Article 14.3 of the Law of Georgia on Environment (Parlamentis Utskebani, legislation addition – Georgian Laws, 1997, #1-2 (/33-34/7/)) to ensure implementation of the legal norms of the same law as well as those stipulated in article 37.5 of the Constitution of Georgia.

Article 2. Subject of Regulation

This Guideline regulates legal norms for the development of the National Report on State of Environment, its submission to the President of Georgia and ensuring the principle of its accessibility to public by publication (herein referred to as “development of National Report on State of Environment”).

Article 3. System of legislation for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

Legislation of Georgia on the development of the National Report on State of Environment is comprised of the Constitution of Georgia, international agreements and contracts, law of Georgia on Protection of the Environment of December 10, 1996, this Guideline and other legislative normative acts.

Article 4. Main goals and objectives

1. Main goals of the Guidelines for the Development of the National Report on Environment are:
 - a. Ensure basic human rights stipulated under the Article 37.5 of the Constitution of Georgia concerning provision of full, objective and timely information on the conditions of the environment he/she lives in;

- b. Legally enforce protection of the access to information principle established by the legislation of Georgia.
2. The purpose of the Guidelines for the Development of National Report on State of Environment is as follows:
 - a. Defining regulations for creation and submission of the report to the President;
 - b. Identifying structure of the National Report on State of Environment;
 - c. Defining rights and responsibilities of the public and state agencies while making the National Report;
 - d. Defining regulations for funding publication and distribution of the National Report on State of Environment;
 - e. Ensuring accessibility of National Report on State of Environment to public by its publication and distribution in accordance with the information access principles.

Article 5. Definitions of key terms

Terms used in this Guideline have the following meaning:

- a. Principle of access to information – key principle of environment protection established by the law – information on protection of the environment is open and accessible to public;
- b. Sustainability principle – use of environment and natural resources, when public development is not under the threat and environment and natural resources are protected against uncontrollable and quality changes;
- c. Natural persons and legal entities – natural persons and legal entities of private law defined according to the Civil Code of Georgia of June 26, 1997 (Parlamentis Utskebani, legislative addition – Georgian Legislation, 1997, #31);
- d. State agency and state legal entity – legal entity of public law (state authority agency, public legal corporation, public-legal agency, etc) which is created, organized and works according to regulations defined by the law;
- e. Agency of executive government – governmental agency or sub-agency defined according to the Law of Georgia on Structure and Activities of the Executive Government of April 15, 1997 (Parlamentis Utskebebi, legislative addition – Georgian Legislation, 1997, #17-18);

- f. Legislation of European Union – standards and norms established by the European Union within the field of environmental protection and use of nature, regulations, decisions, directives adopted by the Council of Ministers of the European community as well as non-legislative recommendations and resolutions. Necessity of harmonization of Georgian legislation with the standards established by the European Union is stipulated within the Parliamentary Resolution on Harmonizing Georgian Legislation with Legislation of the European Union, adopted on September 2, 1997;
- g. National classifier of types of economic activities – National Classifier NACE 001-97 – Types of Economic Activities, approved by #2 Resolution of the State Department for Standardization, Metrology and Certification of Georgia on January 13, 1997;
- h. Ministry – Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.

Chapter II

Rights and Responsibilities

About Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 6. Rights and responsibilities of natural persons and legal entities for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Natural persons and legal entities are entitled to:
 - a. Receive full, objective and timely information on the conditions of the environment
 - b. Directly participate in collection and analysis of information needed for the development of the National Report;
 - c. Arrange public hearings regarding the National Report and send its recommendations and comments to the legislative, representative and executive branches of the government;
 - d. Increase awareness on environmental issues and protection of the environment by getting to know the National report;
 - e. Implement other rights established by the legislation of Georgia and this Guideline within the field of development of the National Report on State of Environment.
2. Natural persons and legal entities are responsible to follow the requirements of the legislation of Georgia in case of participating in activities of information collection and analysis for the development of the National Report on State of Environment.

Article 7. Rights and responsibilities of state agencies and legal entities for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. State agencies and state legal entities are entitled to:
 - a. Receive full, objective and timely information on the conditions of the environment
 - b. Directly participate in collection and analysis of information needed for the development of the National Report;
 - c. Implement other rights established by the legislation of Georgia and this Guideline within the field of development of the National Report on State of Environment.
2. State agencies and legal entities are responsible for:
 - a. Provision of available information about the environment free of charge to the agency responsible for development of the National Report on State of Environment no later than two months after making such request
 - b. Following other requirements of the legislation of Georgia and these Guidelines for the development of the National Report on State of Environment.

Chapter III

Outlining the Competences

About Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 8. Competence of the highest state agencies of Georgia for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

In the process of development of the National Report on State of Environment the competence of the highest state agencies of Georgia is to establish the structure of the National Report, coordination of the activities for the development of the report and its approval.

Article 9. Competence of the governance of autonomous republics of Georgia for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Governments of the autonomous republics of Georgia participate in the process of development of the National Report on State of Environment within the regulations set in the legislation.
2. Government agencies of the autonomous republics are responsible to develop, approve, publish and distribute Reports on of respective autonomous republics.

3. Report of Autonomous Republics on should have the same structure as the National Report on State of Environment.
4. Guidelines for the development of the Report on for the autonomous republics as well as its funding are defined based on relevant normative acts of the autonomous republics.

Article 10. Competence of the local governance and self-governance agencies for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Local governance and self-governance agencies participate in the process of development of the National Report on within the regulations set in the legislation.
2. Local governance and self-governance agencies are responsible to develop, approve, publish and distribute respective local and regional Reports on State of Environment.
3. Local and regional Reports on should have the same structure as the National Report on State of Environment.
4. Guidelines for the development of local and regional Report on as its funding is defined based on relevant normative acts of the local governance and self-governance agencies.

Title II

Structure of the National Report on State of Environment

Chapter IV

General Principles for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 11. General Principles for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. General principles for the formulation of the National Report on are:
 - a. Objectiveness of information about State of Environment;
 - b. Complexity of information about State of Environment
 - c. Sustainability principle
 - d. Compliance with Georgian and international (European Union) legislations;
 - e. Reflection of the requirements stipulated in international agreements.
2. National Report is comprised of general, main and conclusive sections.

Article 12. General section of the National Report on State of Environment

General section is comprised of: foreword, table of contents, table of figures and illustrations, annexes, bibliography of sources used, participant subjects of the process of creation of National Report on State of Environment.

Article 13. Main section of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Main section of the National Report on is comprised of:
 - a. Quality of the environment;
 - b. Influence of national production on the environment;
 - c. State management of the environmental protection.

Article 14. Conclusive section of the National Report on State of Environment

Conclusive section of the National Report on is comprised of the forecasts and recommendations on the activities to be implemented.

Article 15. Rules for citing sources of information and literature used in the National Report on State of Environment

Rules for citing sources of information and literature used in the National Report on are defined by the legislation of Georgia.

Article 16. Maintenance of database for dynamic data of the within the National Report on State of Environment

The Ministry ensures formulation and update of the information according to the structure of the National Report.

Article 17. Rules for making changes and amendments to the National Report on State of Environment

1. The Ministry is entitled to make changes and amendments to the structure of the National Report on State of Environment.
2. Changes and amendments to the National Report on can be made based on the changes on the legislation of Georgia as well as new international responsibilities.
3. The Minister issues a normative act on this matter.

Article 18. Information containing state, commercial and production secrets regarding State of Environment

1. State agencies and state legal entities are responsible for provision of information for the National Report to the Ministry even if such information contains state, commercial and production secrets.

2. Environmental information containing state, commercial and production secrets are submitted by participant entity with special protection.
3. Part of the information containing state, commercial and production secrets should be labeled appropriately and kept separately. This part of information is not accessible for public.
4. The Ministry is responsible to ensure protection of state, commercial and production secrets.
5. Information containing the state, commercial and production secrets can only be provided to the authorized persons according to the guidelines provided by the legislation of Georgia.
6. Persons that are authorized to see the information containing the secrets will be held legally responsible for disclosing such information.

Title III

Contents of the Main Section of the National Report on State of Environment

Chapter V

Quality of the Environment

Article 19. Atmospheric Air

1. General conditions of the atmosphere, including:
 - a. Data describing the quality of atmospheric air;
 - b. Qualitative and quantitative indicators of the pollutants of atmospheric air, change dynamics and tendencies;
 - c. Main pollution sources and their characteristics.
2. Key reasons for pollution of atmospheric air, activities implemented for the improvement of the situation.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Energy;
 - b. Ministry of Transport;
 - c. Ministry of Health;
 - d. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources

- e. Ministry of Internal affairs;
- f. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- g. Ministry of Industry;
- h. Ministry of Finances;
- i. Ministry of Defense;
- j. State Department of Statistics;
- k. Academy of Sciences;
- l. Agencies of local governance and self-governance.

Article 20. Water and water resources

1. General condition of surface waters, including:
 - a. Average annual inflow of waters of Georgia according to streams, dynamics of changes and main tendencies;
 - b. Conditions of water supply and water discharge ;
 - c. Quality of water in state facilities and facilities of special state importance, including the sources of pollution;
 - d. Reasons for pollution of surface waters and actions taken for improvement of the conditions.
2. General conditions of ground waters, including:
 - a. Total volume of ground waters of Georgia;
 - b. Active mines, sorted according to their importance and meaning, indicating average annual percentage of exploitation;
 - c. Main sources for pollution of ground waters, intensiveness of pollution, causes, actions taken for improvement of the situation.
3. General condition of the sea ecological system, including:
 - a. Main sources of pollution, list of pollutants;
 - b. Main reasons for pollution, actions taken for the improvement of the conditions.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Energy;
 - b. Ministry of Health;

- c. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
- d. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- e. Ministry of Industry;
- f. Ministry of Transport;
- g. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
- h. State Department of Geology;
- i. Academy of Sciences;
- j. Agencies of local governance and self-governance.

Article 21. Land and land resources

1. General conditions of the land, including:
 - a. General condition of the land according to the categories;
 - b. Dynamics and tendencies of structural changes of the land;
 - c. Quality of lands of various categories, the process of their exhaustion, destruction, erosion, degradation (swamping, salination, etc), causes and actions taken for the improvement of the situation;
 - d. Quality of pollution of land of certain categories indicating pollutants (ingredients), sources of pollution, actions taken for the improvement of the situation;
 - e. Actions taken for the protection of land.
2. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
 - b. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
 - c. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - d. State Department of Land Management;
 - e. State Department of Geology;
 - f. State Department of Statistics;
 - g. State Department of Forest Management;
 - h. Academy of agricultural Sciences;
 - i. Agencies of local governance and self-governance.

Article 22. Entrails of the earth and minerals

1. General conditions of the entrails and minerals.
2. Volume and dynamics (tendencies for increase or decrease) of use of entrails (according to the types and groups).
3. Actions taken for ensuring efficient use and protection of natural resources.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Industry;
 - c. Ministry of Energy;
 - d. State Department of Geology;
 - e. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - f. State Inspection of Technical Monitoring;
 - g. Academy of Sciences;
 - h. Agencies of local governance and self-governance.

Article 23. Flora

1. General condition of floral cover (except forests), including:
 - a. Areas of distribution of plants of special importance (treatment, production), tendencies of qualitative, quantitative and characteristic changes and causes, actions taken for the improvement of the situation;
 - b. Conditions of artificially planted areas (parks, gardens);
 - c. Conditions for mutual existence of naturally distributed and introduced species, changes identified.
2. General conditions of the forests, including:
 - a. Volume of planned, legal and illegal cutting within the forest system;
 - b. Correctness of allocation of cutting areas and conditions for implementing of cutting;
 - c. Intensiveness and dynamics of forest restoration works;
 - d. Anthropogenic and natural conditions having negative influence on the forests of the country, causes and actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:

- a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
- b. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
- c. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- d. State Department of Forest Enterprise;
- e. State Department of Statistics;
- f. Ministry of Trade and International Economic Relations;
- g. State Customs Department
- h. Academy of Sciences;
- i. Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Article 24. Fauna

1. General condition of the animals living on the territory of the country, including:
 - a. Areas of distribution of animals;
 - b. Conditions for their registration, numerical changes, reasons for such changes, actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
2. Conditions of endemic, rare and endangered animals, natural and anthropogenic factors of their numerical changes, reasons for such changes, actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
3. Volume of commercial fishing in separate watercourses and the Black Sea according to species, the influence of water quality on reduction of number of fish.
4. Dynamics of environmental equilibrium in water systems, causes and actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
5. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - c. State Department of Statistics;
 - d. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
 - e. State Department of Protected Territories, Reservations and Hunting;
 - f. Academy of Sciences.

Article 25. Radiation conditions

1. Level of radioactive pollution of surface layer of the atmosphere and its causes.
2. Level of radioactive pollution of ground and list of pollutants.
3. Level of radioactive pollution of watercourses indicating the reasons for pollution.
4. Radiation condition in towns and settled areas.
5. List of pollutant objects and level of radiation pollution caused by them.
6. Actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
7. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Energy;
 - b. Ministry of Industry;
 - c. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - d. Ministry of Defense;
 - e. Ministry of Health;
 - f. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - g. Ministry of State Security;
 - h. State Department of Standardization, Metrology and Certification;
 - i. Academy of Sciences.

Article 26. Special types of physical influence over environment

1. Special types of physical influence over the environment: noise, vibration, electric magnetic fields, etc. Subsequent negative results and Actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
2. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Health;
 - b. Ministry of Communication and Post;
 - c. Ministry of Defense;
 - d. Ministry of Transport;
 - e. Ministry of Energy;
 - f. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - g. Academy of Sciences;
 - h. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Article 27. Characteristics of meteorological conditions throughout the year. Natural disasters

1. Distribution of air temperature and average precipitations throughout the country during the year (according to months).
2. Analysis of deviations from average climate characteristics.
3. Extreme forms of disastrous hydro-meteorological and weather conditions throughout the year.
4. Natural disasters of the year, damage caused and actions taken for their liquidation.
5. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - b. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - c. State Department of Geology;
 - d. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
 - e. Academy of Science.

Article 28. Possible influence of environmental factors on the health conditions of the population

1. General demographic conditions of the country, dynamics of the population, main reasons for its change and tendencies for worsened human health based on the and pollution (according to components), typical diseases and environmental causes/
2. Sanitary-epidemic conditions of the country.
3. Threat to development of especially dangerous infectious diseases, analysis of separate cases, actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of agriculture and Food;
 - b. Ministry of Health;
 - c. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - d. State Department of Statistics;
 - e. Academy of Science;
 - f. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Article 29. Influence of environmental factors on maintenance of cultural heritage

1. Historic and cultural monuments of the country influenced by environmental factors.
2. List of destructed cultural monuments or those under the threat of destruction, their conditions and actions implemented.
3. General conditions of archaeological heritage, negative influence of environmental factors over archaeological monuments, actions taken for the improvement of the situation.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Culture;
 - b. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
 - c. Academy of Science.
 - d. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Article 30. Protected territories

1. General condition of the protected territories of the country.
2. Conditions for protecting established regimes on each of the categories of the protected areas, conditions of represented flora and fauna as well as natural monuments, actions implemented.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - b. State Department of Protected Territories, Reservations and Hunting;
 - c. Academy of Science;
 - d. Academy of Agricultural Science.

Chapter VI

Influence of National Enterprises on the Environment

Article 31. Characteristics of the influence of the national enterprises over the environment

1. General indicators of entrepreneurial activities on the environment and its specific components.
2. Influence of the national entrepreneurial activities on the environment according to the types of economic activities (NACE 001-97), regions and key pollutant facilities.

3. Qualitative and quantitative indicators of anthropogenic influence over the environment according to regions and large industrial centers, dynamics of change.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Entities of Executive Government;
 - b. Academy of Science;
 - c. Academy of Agricultural Science.
 - d. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Article 32. Chemicals

1. General conditions of production, import, export, transit and consumption of chemical products in the country.
2. Turnover of chemical products in the country, including the volume of pesticides and mineral fertilizers used in agriculture, conditions for storage, actions implemented.
3. Conditions for storage of overdue chemical means, actions implemented.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Industry;
 - c. Ministry of Health;
 - d. Ministry of Trade and International Economic Relations;
 - e. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
 - f. State Customs department;
 - g. Academy of Science.
 - h. Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Article 33. Waste

1. Total volume of production waste in the country, classification and territorial distribution.
2. Condition of garbage dumps, polygons and burials of the country, actions implemented.
3. Actions implemented by industrial enterprises to introduce technologies producing less waste with the purpose of harmlessness of industrial waste and its utility.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:

- a. Ministry of Economics;
- b. Ministry of Industry;
- c. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
- d. Ministry of Health;
- e. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
- f. State Department of Statistics;
- g. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Article 34. Technogenic accidents and disasters

- 1. Total number of technogenic accidents and disasters in the country.
- 2. Causes, results of negative influence over the environment and its separate components, level of damage caused, actions taken for liquidating results.
- 3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Industry;
 - c. Ministry of Energy and Fuel;
 - d. Ministry of Transport;
 - e. Ministry of Urbanization and Construction;
 - f. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - g. State Department of Highways;
 - h. State Department of Geology;
 - i. State Department of Technical Monitoring;
 - j. Local governance and self-governance agencies.

Chapter VII

State Management of Environment Protection

Article 35. Environmental legislation of Georgia

- 1. Normative-legal provision of environmental activities.
- 2. Legal sanctions for violation environmental legislation with indication of articles of Criminal Code and Administrative Violations Code, amount of money transferred to

the state budget as a result of penalties and reimbursement of damage to the environment.

3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry Justice;
 - b. Ministry of Finance;
 - c. State Department of Statistics.

Article 36. Control over protection of the environment

1. Number of inspections carried out and violations identified (according to the environment components), measures taken.
2. Number of employees working in the field of control.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Health;
 - c. Ministry of Internal Affairs;
 - d. Ministry of Agriculture and Food;
 - e. State Department of Land Management;
 - f. State Department of Protected Territories, Reservations and Hunting;
 - g. State Department of Forest Enterprise.

Article 37. Environmental policy and state programs

1. Key priorities of environmental policy of Georgia and its priorities.
2. Targeted state and international environmental programs.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Agencies of Executive Government.

Article 38. Environmental safety

1. Conceptual, normative-legal, methodic and database completion activities implemented to ensure environmental safety, including creation of national and regional environmental safety programs, their approval and implementation (keeping in mind priority directions).
2. Activities implemented to ensure environmental security.

3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Agencies of the Executive Government;
 - b. Academy of Science;
 - c. Academy of Agricultural Science.

Article 39. Economic Mechanisms for using natural resources

1. Activities implemented to refine economic mechanisms of consuming natural resources and its normative-methodological provision.
2. Condition of tax systems on consumption of natural resources and pollution.
3. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Finance;
 - c. Ministry of Economics;
 - d. State Tax Department.

Article 40. Funding of environmental activities

1. Volume of funds allocated and used for environmental activities according to fields, it's appropriate use.
2. Current costs, capital renovation of environmental monuments, capital investment in environmental protection, costs undertaken for preservation of protected territories, etc.
3. Other sources for funding environmental activities (credit, grant and others), already utilized amount according to fields, appropriateness of use.
4. Existing problems of funding environmental activities, results of incorrect or insufficient funding.
5. State agencies responsible for information provision:

Agencies of the executive government.

Article 41. Environmental monitoring system

1. Ongoing activities to ensure formulation of unified environmental monitoring system, with full list of components of the system:
 - a. Monitoring of sources of anthropogenic influence over the environment;
 - b. Monitoring of pollution of non-biotic component of the environment;

- c. Monitoring of pollution of biotic component of the environment.
2. Ensuring creation and functioning of the environmental information system, including number of observation points, labs, information transmission, reception and processing sources, their hierarchy, location and effectiveness of activities.
3. Activities implemented to ensure perfection of the unified state environmental monitoring.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
Agencies of the executive government.

Article 42. Environmental Permit

1. Total number of projects, programs, plans and others (according to the categories of activities) that went through the state environmental expertise, including the number of positive and negative conclusions.
2. Activities of the enterprises that were provided with the environmental license.
3. State agency responsible for information provision:
Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources.

Article 43. International collaboration and international environmental problems

1. Collaboration with international organizations working on environmental issues.
2. International conventions that Georgia is part of.
3. International conventions that Georgia is preparing to endorse.
4. Countries that Georgia works with on environmental issues, activities implemented.
5. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Agencies of the executive government
 - b. Academy of Science.

Article 44. Scientific-research activities to resolve environmental problems and ensure environmental safety

1. Scientific basis for the long-term environmental policy of the country.
2. Key social-political, organizational, financial and methodological principles of sustainable development that ensure environmental safety of the country on the regional and national levels.

3. Approved targeted scientific-technical programs, results of implemented scientific-research activities that are directed towards maintaining of environmental balance and resolution of specific environmental problems.
4. Existing condition regarding consumption of the funds allocated from the state budget and other sources.
5. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - b. Ministry of Finance;
 - c. Ministry of Economics;
 - d. Academy of Science;
 - e. Academy of Agricultural Science.

Article 45. Environmental education and informational-educational activities

1. Main directions of environmental education, national and international programs, implemented activities.
2. Informational-awareness activities in the field of environment and unused funds allocated from the state budget.
3. Existing level of environmental education within the system of the Ministry of Education.
4. State agencies responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Education;
 - b. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources;
 - c. Academy of Science.

Article 46. International environmental organizations

1. Working with international environmental organizations.
2. Activities implemented by international environmental organizations.
3. Public participation in the discussion of environmental issues.
4. State agency responsible for information provision:
 - a. Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources.

Title IV

Development of the National Report on

Chapter VIII

Status of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 47. Status of the National Report on State of Environment

National Report is an official state document reflecting conditions of the environment and natural resources of the country.

Article 48. Agency responsible for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. The agency responsible for the development of the National Report on is the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia.
2. State agencies and legal entities that provide information to the Ministry are responsible for the correctness of the information provided.

Article 49. Council responsible for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. The Minister issues an individual normative act to approve the composition of the Council responsible for the development of the National Report on (herein referred to as “Council”).
2. The Council is comprised of 7 members:
 - a. Deputy Minister;
 - b. Representative of the Ministry (coordinator);
 - c. Representative of the Ministry (secretary);
 - d. Representative of the academic institution;
 - e. Representative of non-government organization;
 - f. Representative of the Ministry of Health;
 - g. Representative of the State Department of Statistics.

3. The Minister issues individual legal act regarding the authority and regulation of work of the Council.

Article 50. Timeframe for requesting and provision of information for the National Report on State of Environment

1. The Ministry defines timeframe for requesting and provision of information for the Report.

2. Information for the Report is provided to the Council.

Article 51. Rules and forms of requisition and provision of information for the National Report

Rules and forms of requisition and provision of information for the National Report are defined by the Ministry.

Article 52. Participation of independent experts and organizations in preparation of the National Report on State of Environment

1. For participation in the development of the National Report the Ministry invites independent experts and organizations.
2. Decision on invitation of independent experts and organizations is made by the Minister.

Article 53. Rules for selection of independent experts and organizations participating in the development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Independent experts and organizations participating in the development of the National Report are selected based on the competition.
2. Terms of the competition and procedures are approved by the individual legal act of the Minister.
3. The Ministry signs contracts with independent experts and organizations according to the requirements of the legislation of Georgia.

Article 54. Procedure for the development of the National Report on State of Environment

The procedure has three phases:

- a. Finding information;
- b. Processing information;
- c. Formulation of the final version of the Report.

Article 55. First phase of the National Report on State of Environment

1. First phase of the National Report is finding information.
2. The Ministry defines timeframe for this phase as well as its participants.
3. State agencies and state legal entities are responsible to provide the Ministry with requested information free of charge no later than 2 months from the moment of such requisition.

Article 56. Second phase of making the National Report on State of Environment

1. First phase of the National Report is processing and analyzing information.
2. The Ministry defines timeframe for this phase as well as its participants.

Article 57. Final phase of making the National Report on State of Environment

1. The final phase of the National Report is formulation of the final version of the Report.
2. The Ministry defines timeframe for this phase.

Article 58. Revision of the draft National Report on by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources

The draft of the National Report on is submitted to the extended Council for its conclusion.

Article 59. Timeframe for submission of the National Report on to the President of Georgia and its publication

1. Bill of the Decree of the President and draft of the National Report is agreed with interested entities, Ministries and is submitted to the President of Georgia in December of each year (*26.10.2006 N625*).
2. Decree of the President of Georgia and full text of the National Report are mandatory to be published.

Chapter IX

Ensuring Public Access to the National Report on State of Environment

Article 60. Creation of specialized version of the National Report on for pre-school and elementary educational facilities, its publication and distribution

1. President of Georgia creates a special committee with the leadership of the Minister of Education to create a specialized version of the National Report on for pre-school and elementary educational facilities
2. The State ensures preparation, publication and distribution of the “children’s” version of the National Report.

Article 61. Translation and international distribution of the National Report on State of Environment

1. The State ensures translation of the National Report into Abkhazian language and its distribution.

2. If needed, the State ensures translation of the National Report into a foreign language and its distribution internationally.

Article 62. Consideration of the public opinion regarding the National Report on and formulation of the database

1. The Ministry creates a special database to reflect opinions of public regarding the National Report.
2. The Council ensures maintenance of this database.
3. Public proposals regarding the National Report are reviewed by the Council.

Article 63. Use of information provided within the National Report on for making significant decisions about environment

While making important decisions on environmental influence it is necessary to consider the information provided in the Report.

Chapter X

Frequency of Developing of the National Report on State of Environment and rules for its publication and distribution

Article 64. Frequency of Developing of the National Report on State of Environment

National Report is produced on an annual basis.

Article 65. Publication and distribution of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Printing and distribution of the National Report is ensured by the state.
2. Relevant number of the National Report to be printed is defined by the Ministry.
3. The National Report is provided free to the state agencies and state legal entities.

Chapter XI

Guidelines for Publication of the National Report on State of Environment and its Funding

Article 66. Publication of the National Report on and its Funding

1. Costs associated with publication and distribution of the National Report are funded from the State Budget.

2. Order for publication of the National Report is made by the State Chancellery of Georgia.

Chapter XII

International Agreements regarding the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 67. International Agreements of Georgia regarding the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. It is mandatory to reflect requirements and obligations of the international agreements of Georgia in the National Report on State of Environment.
2. In case of Georgia taking new international obligations, these obligations will be automatically reflected in the Report, without making changes and amendments to the Decree of the President.

Chapter XII

Responsibility for violation of requirements of Guidelines for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 68. Responsibility for violation of requirements of Guidelines for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Responsibility for violation of the requirements of these Guidelines is stipulated within the legislation of Georgia.

Title V

Transitional Part

Chapter XIV

Transitional Provisions Regarding Activation of the Guidelines for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

Article 69. Individual legal acts to be adopted for activation of the Guidelines for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment

1. Resolution of the Minister on Charter of the Council Responsible for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment.

2. Resolution of the Minister on Composition of the Council Responsible for the Development of the National Report on State of Environment.
3. Resolution of the Minister on Organizing a Competition for Selection of the Independent Experts and Organizations for Participation in the Development of the National Report on State of Environment.
4. Decree of the President of Georgia on Creation of the Committee for the Development of Specialized Version of the National Report on for Pre-school and Elementary Educational Institutions.