

## GEORGIA - COUNTRY REPORT

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The library of the Georgian Marine Ecology and Fisheries Research Institute is the only specific library in the fields of marine biology, ichthyology and eco-toxicology in the country (see the Institution report). There are other libraries containing inter alia aquatic studies related information such as: Library of Institute of Zoology of Academy of Sciences of Georgia; Mikeladze Scientific Technical Library; Tbilisi State University; Batumi State University; Scientific technical Information Research Institute - "Techinformi" (accommodates FAO depository library)

During the last decade the country has faced socio-economic and political crises after the break-up of the USSR. Georgia's participation in the Bucharest Convention (Protection of the Black Sea against pollution) and involvement in a number of projects within the Black Sea Environmental Programme (BSEP) have been the major factors contributing to the production of aquatic information in the region. Under the BSEP the series of publications called Black Sea Environmental Series (over 10 volumes), were published by BSEP/UN Publications. A number of projects aimed at the provision of scientific-technical (survey and monitoring) aquatic information were undertaken in the country within BSEP and other regional programmes.

One such regional (Trans-Caucasian) programme that has been initiated recently is called Water Management in Southern Caucasus, funded by the USAID funds and covering the catchments of R.Kura and Arax. One of the outputs of this project will be the establishment of three National and one Regional Information centres focusing on collection/storage, analysis and dissemination of (mainly water qualitative and quantitative) information.

Another major source of the provision of aquatic information in the country will be the World Bank/GEF funded Georgian Integrated Coastal Zone Management (GICZM) project, implementation of which is currently underway. One of the five components of the programme will be about the establishment of a Coastal Environmental Quality Monitoring and Information System (CEQMIS). This system will build on and

strengthen Georgia's existing monitoring capacity, and provide essential environmental quality data for decision-makers, the general population and environmental institutions in the Black Sea region.

A number of economic development schemes along the Georgian Black Sea Coast, such as construction of oil terminals and reconstruction of ports include Environmental Impact assessment and associated routine environmental monitoring activities, will surely contribute towards generating aquatic information.

With respect to the information network on the Black Sea regional level it should be noted that, under the Black Sea Environmental Programme, thematic Activity Centres were established in all the littoral countries, and to facilitate the regional work of the activity centres, each country has hosted relevant focal points. In Georgia the Biodiversity Activity Centre was established at the Georgian Marine Ecology and Fisheries Institute, which co-ordinates work of the Black Sea Regional Advisory Group on the Conservation of Biological Diversity. The Istanbul Commission Secretariat co-ordinates the work of the centres. At the same time the Commission Secretariat co-ordinates activity of the advisory group on information and data exchange.

*Addresses and contacts of libraries:*

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2. Institute of Zoology of Academy of Sciences of Georgia  
31 Chavchavadze Str.  
380079, Tbilisi, Georgia.  
Dr. Irakli Eliava,  
Tel: (+995 32) 220164, 223353

3. Mikeladze Scientific Technical Library  
47 M. Kostava Str. 380079  
Tbilisi Georgia.  
Director: Mr. Nugzar Goxadze  
Tel: (+995 32) 98 95 36(37)

4. Tbilisi State University  
1, Chavchavadze Ave.  
380028, Tbilisi Georgia  
Contact: Erekle Astakhishvili  
Department of Internal Relations  
Tel: (+ 995 32) 225679, 220241,  
Fax: 221103.

5. Batumi State University  
35 St. Ninoshvili, Batumi  
384500, Georgia  
Rector: N. Verd zadze  
Tel: (+995 222) 71780,  
Fax: (+995 222) 71787,  
email: univer@batumi.net

6. "Techinformi" - Scientific Technical Information Research Institute  
FAO depository library  
47 Kostava Str. 380079  
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Contact: Tsitso Dosmishvili  
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