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Identification of Site Locations for Soil Inventory Works

Enabling the implementation of Georgia's
Forest Sector Reform - **ECO.Georgia**

Report,
Merabi Kvaratskhelia
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Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture # 32d, Marshal Archil Gelovani Avenue
0159 Tbilisi, Georgia

Disclaimer:

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Short Descriptions of the Identified Forest Soil Sampling Sites

1. Algeti used forest

New site, 9 profiles. The forest is located near the village Didi Toneti, it is outside the Algeti national park territory, direct distance from its natural pair is approx. 4 km. Dominated with *Pinus sylvestris* mixed with *Pinus nigra*. South faced, 1400 – 1500 meters a.s.l. The forest is used and disturbed, tree cuts, forest roads, grazing, infrastructural projects, internet cable lines, antennas. The forest is fragmented, we have large gaps. Unlike Algeti natural the trees at the location are relatively small in diameter. Managed by Kvemo Kartli Forestry Service.

2. Tetrtskaro used forest

New site, 9 profiles. The forest is used, there are many forest roads and many tree cuts observed, both oak and hornbeam, both old and new cuts. We have large openings(gaps). 1280 -1320 meters a.s.l. The terrain is almost plane without much slope, bordered by the railway on one side, and the road on the other. Managed by Kvemo Kartli Forestry Service.

3. Tetrtskaro natural forest

Old location. An additional 6 profiles were taken at the location, adjacent to the old 3 profiles, which are divided by the railway. It should be noted that the oak trees on the site are in good condition, no cuts are observed, which cannot be said about the hornbeam trees. The relief is almost plane, altitude is 1330 -1380 meters a.s.l. The geology is identical between the pair of locations. It is managed by Kvemo Kartli Forestry Service.

4. Zedazeni used forest

New location, 9 profiles. The location is located on the upper side of the city of Mtskheta, 750 -850 meters a.s.l. Exposure facing south, main tree species are hornbeam and oak. Its pair is approximately 6 kilometers away from the location in direct distance. Exposure, height above sea level, slope, forest type and geology are identical to the natural pair. The forest has been used, there are many noticeable tree cuts, especially hornbeam, traces of active grazing by both cows and sheep and goats. We have old forest roads in the forest. The location is outside the protected area, it is managed by Mtskheta-Mtianeti Forestry Service.

5. Antoki used forest

New location, 9 profiles. The location is located in Sagarejo, near the village of Mariamjvari in the northern direction. The dominant species are oak and hornbeam, the location borders the Mariamjvari protected area. The slope is south-facing, altitude is 950-1000 meters a.s.l. The forest is used, there are many tree cuts, both oak and hornbeam. We have forest roads and in some places large gaps. Managed by Kakheti Forestry Service.

6. Mariamjvari used forest

New location, 9 profiles. The site is located in Sagarejo, near to the Mariamjvari protected area, the tree species is *Pinus sylvestris*. Altitude is 1070-1200 meters a.s.l. South faced. The forest is used, many tree cuts are observed, we have forest roads. The forest is along the seasonally dry riverbed. The surface is covered with river stones, there is very little soil. The forest visually resembles its natural pair, but the tree heights and diameters are smaller. Forest is managed by Kakheti Forestry Service.

7. Gardabani used forest

New location, 9 profiles. This location, a riparian forest of the Mtkvari River, is located in Rustavi, along the Mtkvari River. Altitude is 320-350 meters a.s.l. The forest is under the protection of the municipality, but is heavily degraded and exploited, with numerous felled trees, overgrazing, forest fragmentation, large openings, removal of inert material from the river banks, and infrastructure projects. Many areas are fenced off by private individuals, and in some places near the river the forest is completely cut down. This site is very good used pair of natural Gardabani riparian forest. Managed by Rustavi municipality.

8. Likani used forest

New location, 9 profiles. Located near Likani, near a populated village, 3 kilometers from the natural Likani location by direct distance, exposure(East) identical, forest type(spruce), geology identical. The large slope is relatively difficult to access. Altitude is 1260-1320 meters a.s.l. The forest is used in the area where the coordinates for the profile were taken, many cut trees are visible. It seems that after cutting the trees, the slope was used to bring the material to the village by sloping. Forest is very close to protected areas border, it belongs to the Borjomi Bakuriani Forest District.

9. Abastumani natural forest

Old location, 4 new profiles. The coordinates of 5 profiles are additionally marked on the old location, from which 4 profile locations should be selected to repeat soil sampling (because the former profiles showed unusual chemistry values indicating human influence). The site is very sloping, which did not allow for deep penetration into the forest, so additional points were taken at the height of the lower and middle levels. Altitude is 1800 -1850 meters a.s.l. West faced slope. Territory of BKNP.

10. Abastumani used forest

New location, 9 profiles. The site is located on the road connecting Abastumani to Sairme, on the Abastumani Natural side, after the alpine zone of the Zekari Pass on the Sairme side, the two locations (Abastumani natural and Abastumani used) are 8-10 km apart from each other. *Abies Nordmanniana* is dominant and some spruce, the forest is used, many tree cuts, grazing, large openings, forest road. There are alpine grazing camps in the vicinity of the forest, which further increases the impact on the forest. Altitude is 1800-1900 meters a.s.l. west faced slope. The geology, exposure and altitude above sea level correspond to the Abastumani Natural location. This location, like Abastumani natural location, is within the boundaries of the Protected Area (BKNP).

11. Tianeti used forest (Sabaduri)

New location, 9 profiles. This location is in the Tbilisi National Park, a beech forest that has been used and traces of logging are visible, the height and diameter of the tree are smaller than in the natural location, there are some big gaps. The profile coordinates on this site are covering the Marteloscope area. Altitude is 1300-1350 meters a.s.l. Northwest faced slope.

12. Tianeti natural forest (Sabaduri) –

New location, 9 profiles. Tianeti Natural and Tianeti Used locations are about 1 kilometer apart from each other, with the same exposure. Beech forest with much larger diameter and height of trees than in Used, and there are no signs of logging. The slope is relatively steeper and the area is divided by small water ravines. Altitude is 1350-1400 meters a.s.l. Northwest slope. Location is in Tbilisi National Park territory.

13. Guria 2 natural forest (Ozurgeti)

New location, 9 profiles. Untouched beech forest, southwest slope, altitude 1450 - 1600m above sea level. Managing body: Guria Forest Service.

14. Guria 2 used forest (Ozurgeti)

New location, 9 profiles. Managed beech forest, next to its natural pair, where the cuttings were and are still being done. 1450-1600 a.s.l. southwest slope. Managed by Guria forestry service.

15. Guria 3 natural forest (Chokhatauri)-

New location, 9 profiles. Beech forest is close to its natural state, we cannot say that it is untouched, but it is in good condition and suitable for our purposes. It seems that in former times, high coppicing at the level of 3 to 5 meters was carried out. In this area new cuts are not observed. The undergrowth is covered with rhododendron. Altitude is 350-450 meters a.s.l. Slope exposure to Southwest. Middle Surebi Forest District, in the Supsa River Gorge, managed by the Guria Forest Service.

16. Guria 3 used forest (Chokhatauri)-

New location, 9 profiles. On the perimeters, ridges and heights of the selected location, we find beech trees. According to the locals, there used to be a beech forest in these places. Now we find hazelnut, alder, chestnut, acacia trees. The location is about 2 kilometers away from its natural pair, at almost the same altitude (300-400 meters a.s.l.) and with the same exposure(southwest). The presence of beech trees on the site and the information of the locals allow us to consider the location as a degraded beech grove, which is suitable for comparison with the natural counterpart for our purposes. The surface is covered with rhododendron, fern and thistle. Middle Surebi Forest District, in the Supsa River Gorge, managed by the Guria Forest Service.

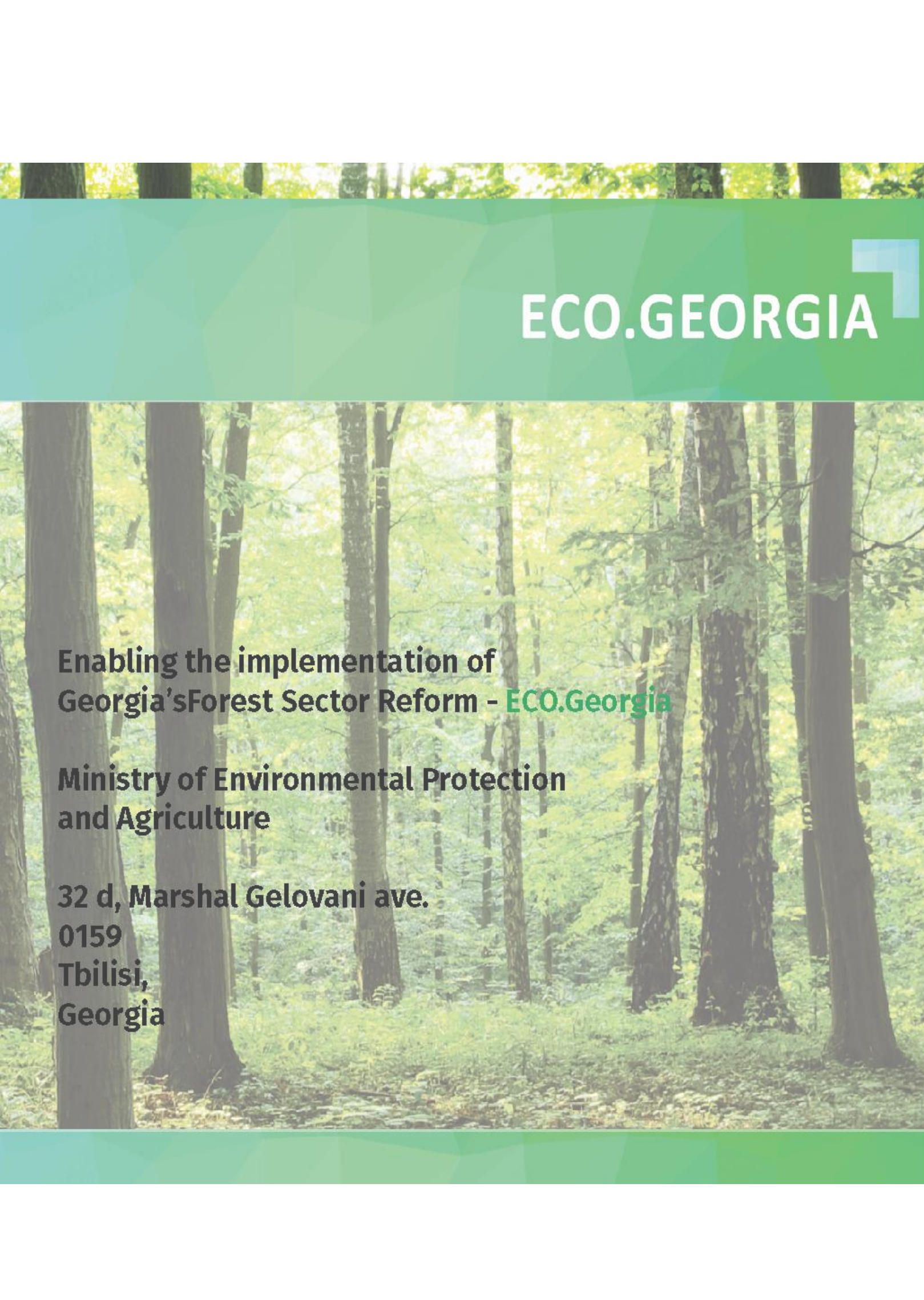
Additional Notes:

Two shapefiles submitted along with the report. The shapefiles contain location points and access roads.

Location: “Abastumani natural” is old location where 4 upper profiles were replaced with new 4 profiles.

Location: “Tetrtskaro natural” is old location, we had 3 already cut profiles, I took additionally 6 new profiles.

In new locations I took 9 profiles each.



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and Agriculture**

**32 d, Marshal Gelovani ave.
0159
Tbilisi,
Georgia**