

Minute of Workshop Report

Tbilisi

22 May 2025

IBEDC has conducted final workshop within the stakeholders and potential in physical format for the project on BUILDING UP INTEGRATED MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING FOREST FIRES DETECTION SYSTEM IN THE BORJOMI - KHARAGAULI NATIONAL PARK BY INNOVATIVE REMOTE SENSING TOOLS, IN GEORGIA. The event was held on May 22, 2025 in the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Tbilisi organized by N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center (IBEDC).

The event is related to the Activity 5.2: Organize a workshop with national officers of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and the Agency of Protected Area of Georgia and Activity 5.3: Organize a stake holder engagement workshop with Donors. The main objective of this event was to present to stakeholders how the project objectives were reached, the progress and the implemented activities, the final project products and the achieved results, and the future plans. A presentation for potential donors of new project concepts was also made. The new project ideas consisting in scaling up the project in the Borjomi Kharagauli National Park and implementation in another protected area of a similar system derived from comments and input provided during previous workshops. The concept notes will help the country in leveraging funds to scale up the system. As final deliverables of the contract, they will be prepared and delivered to the NDE and Project Proponent.

The implementer presented and introduced the purpose of the TA and the achieved results, as well as the dissemination materials that were elaborated by the project team.

A workshop meant to agree with stakeholders upon project follow up was organized in presence of the financial sector in Georgia, including but not limited to banks, multilateral funds (GCF representatives, UN representatives, WB representatives), as well as any other sources of financing that could support the implementation of the designed system.

During this workshop, the practical results of implementing the integrated monitoring and early warning forest fires detection system for the Borjomi - Kharagauli National Park was presented. An important goal of the meeting was to understand what the financial sector would require to scale up the implementation of the system to other locations of the park.

The National Agency of Protected Area, Beneficiary of the services, supported the organization of the workshop by coordinating communication with relevant public authorities, stakeholders and donors. Involvement of women and young people as participants was taken into consideration.

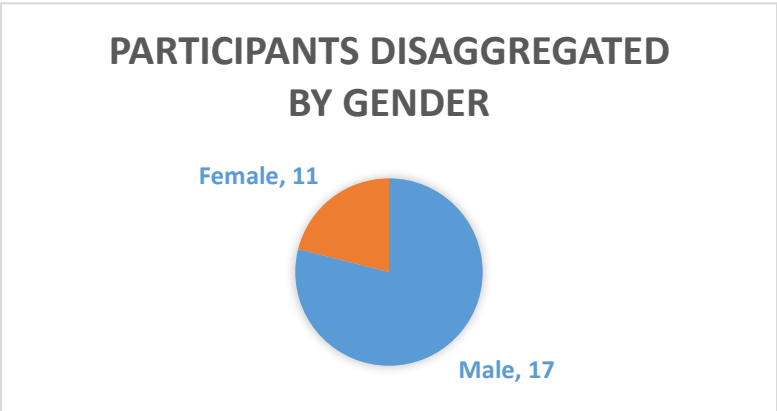
28 participants including IBEDC team and project stakeholders and Donors attended at the workshop:

No.	Name of the representative	Gender M / F	Institution and position
1.	Toma Dekanoidze	M	Deputy of Head of Agency of Protected Area
2.	Avtandil Mikaberidze	M	Representative of Agency of Protected Area
3.	Levan Sabanidze	M	Head of Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park
4.	Nato Sultanishvili	F	Head of Department of Planning and Development of Agency of Protected Area
5.	Tamar Tabagari	F	Representative of Agency of Protected Area
6.	Lado Trapaidze	M	Representative of Agency of Protected Area
7.	Pikria Partskhaladze	F	Representative of Agency of Protected Area
8.	Eva Bolkvadze	F	Representative of Agency of Protected Area
9.	Tekle Gurgenidze	F	Representative of Climate Change Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
10.	Shota Tsiklauri	M	Representative of Biodiversity Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
11.	Zurab Janiashvili	M	Representative of Biodiversity Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
12.	Mamuka Kemertelidze	M	Representative from Ministry of Internal Affairs Emergency Management Service
13.	Irakli Metreveli	M	Deputy of Head of Borjomi-Kharagauli Division of Ministry of Internal Affairs-Emergency Management Service
14.	Vakhtang Bolqvadze	M	Representative from Ministry of Internal Affairs Emergency Management Service
15.	Nikoloz Burduli	M	Head of Environmental Protection of City Hall Tbilisi
16.	Nino Chkhobadze	F	Head of Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth
17.	Nikoloz Inashvili	M	Representative of Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth
18.	Nikoloz Jikia	M	Representative of Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth
19.	Mariam Abashidze	F	Representative of Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth
20.	Nukri Kvelashvili	M	Head of NGO Youth Alternative
21.	Natalia Abramia	F	Representative of NGO Tbilisi Liberal Academy
22.	Darejan Kapanadze	F	World Bank

23.	Dali Tevzadze	F	UNDP
24.	Levan Tabunidze	M	CNF (Caucasus Natural Fund)
25.	David Tsiskaridze	M	N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center(IBEDC) – Team Leader
26.	Davit Kurdgelaidze	M	N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center(IBEDC)-IT Expert
27.	Ioana Lazar	F	N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center(IBEDC)-Gender Expert
28.	Merab Machavariani	M	N(N)LE International Business and Economic Development Center(IBEDC)-Forest Management Expert

It should be noted that event was a representative one, attended by high and mid-level representatives from Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Agency of Protected Area, Ministry of Internal Affairs Emergency Management Service, Tbilisi City Hall, Donors: World Bank, UNDP and CNF.

Tabel no.1 – Participants disaggregated by gender



The Power Point presentations as delivered by IBEDC team: David Tsiskaridze, Ioana Lazar, Davit Kurdgelaidze and Merab Machavariani are attached to the report.

Afterwards it was open discussion between the project team, stakeholders and donors.

Most questions were related to the efficient use of the designed integrated monitoring and early warning forest fires detection system and about advantages and disadvantages. Respectively, IBEDC team has provided clarifications and proper answers to questions as it follows:

- How many video cameras can be connected to the current system?**
 The system software does not impose a limitation on the number of video cameras. As of today, the available server resources are optimized for the stable operation of up to 10 video cameras. If additional cameras are required, the server infrastructure must be scaled accordingly, including expansion of the disk array, RAM, number of CPU cores,

and GPU resources. Additionally, the appropriate number of licenses will need to be procured.

- **Is it possible to integrate other agencies into the existing system?**

Yes, the system supports multi-tenancy and allows independent operation for different agencies.

- **How is information security ensured in such a setup? Can organizations view each other's cameras?**

Each organization has access only to its own video cameras. If necessary, specific cameras can be shared with another organization or individual, subject to explicit permission.

- **How does the operational workflow function, and what happens when smoke is detected?**

The system defines the following user roles:

- **Administrators** have access to all cameras, full camera control, and complete system functionality.
- **Senior Operators** have access to specific cameras and can manage camera functions and smoke detection capabilities.
- **Monitoring Operators** have view-only access to assigned cameras.

The system automatically detects smoke and alerts operators. Senior Operators verify whether it is a legitimate smoke detection (potentially hazardous event) and notify administrators and supervisors. If necessary, a rapid response team is dispatched to the incident site. The incident location is marked on the map.

Senior Operators and Administrators can also classify the nature of the smoke detection event — e.g., bonfire, waste burning, or another cause

- **Do the video cameras operate in 360 degrees?**

Yes, the video cameras support 360-degree operation in patrol mode. This mode is pre-configured based on the camera's physical location.

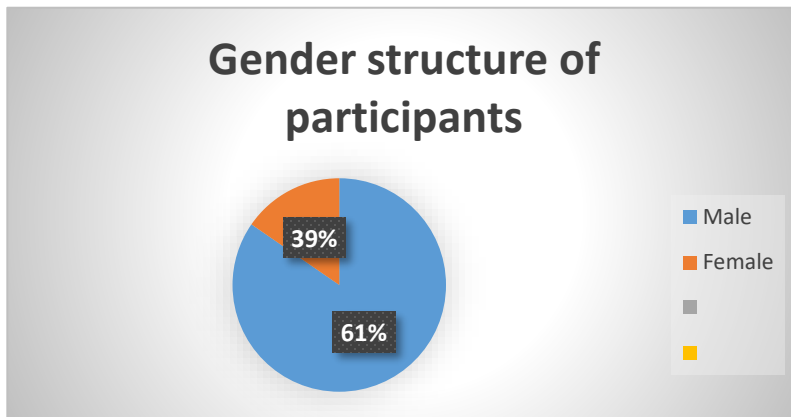
- **Planned locations for the video cameras include border areas, as well as the Kolkheti National Park, which is a flat area and detecting violations/poaching is easier than in a forested area. One of the questions addressed to the speaker was "if you plan to give access to the cameras to the relevant agencies whose duties include border control and detecting various violations, including illegal logging and poaching. I have heard from the media and from the population living near the protected areas that the rangers themselves hunt and also fish in the protected areas, and the involvement of various agencies, including them, would be a good prevention to prevent such incidents, as well as the involvement of various agencies would have a positive effect on greater inter-agency coordination and effective and timely responses.**

There were similar cases where rangers had also uncovered facts of illegal hunting, but they had appropriate control mechanisms and did not consider it appropriate to involve additional agencies.

It was noted by the representative of the Emergency Management Service that the introduction system built within the project in the forest fire annual operational plan will significantly support them in timely and efficiently respond on wildfires through the timely elaboration of the tactical plan and its implementation.

While during the project meetings the gender balance was difficult to ensure due to the fact that most key positions within the public bodies that were represented in the Stakeholders Working Group are held by men, the structure of participants to these two final workshops was better in terms of gender representation.

Table no. 2 – Gender structure of participants to final workshops.



At the end of the meeting as well as during an informal discussion, the representatives of two important donors, Ms. Darejan Kapanadze – World Bank and Ms. Dali Tevzadze-UNDP expressed their interest in the follow -up ideas as presented and asked for concept notes of the two potential projects in order to be able to assess the circumstances under which financial support can be granted.

Annex 1 - Attendance sheet of the workshop

Annex 2 – PowerPoint presentation used during the workshop

Photos of the event:













Team leader

David Tsiskaridze