



legislation was not observed either, as a result of which local communities were left dissatisfied, cultural heritage was damaged and the project was impeded. Although during project preparation, cultural heritage was fully considered and the policy was applied, during implementation quality control was weak. Use of resources and efforts must be balanced between the project preparation and implementation phases, because good safeguard policies and national legislation alone are not a guarantee of good implementation.

- Several projects have been implemented over the years in which the Bank assisted Georgia in improving legislation concerning plant protection, elaboration of effective methods of pest management etc. Unfortunately, the good examples were not followed in practice for a variety of reasons. The Bank could help to promote good international practice in pest management in Georgia through its Pest Management policy, in particular through requirements regarding integrated protection of plants. Technical assistance would also be needed along with the requirements.
- In order to implement environmental assessment policy successfully, countries need to make a strategic evaluation of their environmental situation and economy. As Georgia is a small country where many financial organizations and donors operate, projects implemented by those organizations sometimes overlap geographically and have competing interests. For example, one project is directed at protecting nature while another involves construction of a power station in the same area; or one organization is protecting wetlands whereas another is fighting malaria by drying up those same wetlands. Therefore, elaboration of a strategic development document should be a requirement of international donors. Strategic environmental assessment, the assessment of impacts that sectoral and regional development as well as programs have on the environment, is still not part of national legislation, but should be. National environmental assessment and identification of critical issues is another matter, which would help all the donors in their assistance programs.
- While the Ministry of Culture has a group that monitors application of requirements for physical cultural resources, the Ministry of Environment Protection noted that lack of material and human resources remain a constraining factor in environmental inspection.
- The importance of the environmental impact report for all the activities that are included in national legislation (24 types of activities) was emphasized. It must include area evaluation, environmental impact caused by the activities and the planned actions that will minimize the impact. As for procedures, the requirements included in the national standards differ from the Bank's requirements and investors complain that they have to prepare two documents. It is hoped that this problem can be minimized.
- It would be good if the World Bank participated in the evaluation of the state of the environment in Georgia.
- The Bank's cooperation with the Municipal Development Fund was appreciated. A framework and guidance is being prepared for all projects, including environmental protection and restoration framework documents, which include guidelines and requirements on how to raise public awareness and involve people in the process. Raising workers' awareness in order to improve the observance of safety rules is also important.
- Regarding land use and land management policy in Georgia, this is managed by the Ministry of Economy. An initiative concerning the creation of a Land Code is being prepared. A new, clear policy needs to be elaborated. There is legislation, including the Law on Soil Protection, but as there are no corresponding institutions, the law is not fully enforced.