



## commission for environmental impact assessment

To: Mr D. Tkeshelashvili  
Minister of Environment Protection and  
Natural resources  
6 Gulua Street  
0114 Tbilisi  
Georgia

your reference

-

your letter of

10 January 2007

our reference

069-034/Kh/Lw

Subject

Advice on Terms of Reference for the  
EIA/Feasibility study for Batumi,  
Chorokhi in Georgia

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Utrecht,

17 April 2007

Your Excellency,

By letter, dated 10 January 2007, you requested the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (EIA) to advise on Terms of Reference (ToR) for a combined EIA/Feasibility study for Rehabilitation of Chorokhi River and Batumi Coast in Adjara, Georgia.

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the Advice on Terms of Reference for a combined EIA / Feasibility study prepared by a working group of the Commission. I would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. The Commission visited Adjara and noticed the urgent need to stop coastal erosion south of Batumi. In order to protect the remaining houses, the local authorities decided to dump construction waste (concrete, stones, etc.) in front of the houses. In this way the coastline retreat is stopped locally. The Commission noticed that this type of emergency measures:

- do not integrate with a sound coastal defence measure;
- have strong negative down-drift effects, both in terms of erosion as in the spread of garbage along the shoreline and beaches.

It is recommended, as an emergency measure for one year, to use coarse bed material from the Chorokhi River and to place that along the eroding beach section.

2. The Commission recommends to study a number of alternatives for a sustainable coastal protection that is an important condition for a secure investment climate. One of the alternatives, as requested for by the Adjara authorities, is the development of a sand beach. The outcome of the study is a comparative cost and benefits analysis of all feasible alternatives. As mentioned in our advice it is recommended to execute a combined EIA / feasibility study because it is expected that international donors or finance institutes that might become involved in funding of coastal protection will ask for an EIA study.

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3. As a consequence of dam construction in Turkey two types of risks are introduced:  
- on a daily basis there are rapid changes in water levels and flow velocities due to operation of the turbines;  
- extreme floods due to dam breaks or uncontrolled releases from the reservoir.  
It is recommended to make an emergency plan in order to be prepared in case necessary.

4. Finally, the Chairman of government of Adjara autonomous republic stated that Adjara wanted to achieve a sustainable development and getting a national park status for the entire region. Moreover, an Adjara Master plan will be made for planning of the development. The Commission suggests to make use of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the preparation of this Master plan. Because an SEA provides the opportunity to investigate the scenarios to achieve sustainable development via the preparation of a Master plan. The Commission is ready to guide this SEA process.

The Commission would appreciate to be kept informed about the use that is made of this advice and is ready to review, on your request, the EIA / feasibility report.

Yours sincerely,



Klaas Jan Beek  
Chairman of the Working Group of the Commission for Environmental Assessment for Rehabilitation of Batumi coast and Chorokhi river, Georgia

cc. Chairman of State of the Adjara Autonomous Republic, Georgia