



KFW



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Project implemented by consortium leaders PEM Consult and ERM

Landfill Operators

Understanding the need for good planning



Starting from November 2016, the team of the project “Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi – Accompanying Measures Consulting (AMC) Services” is hosting a series of training courses for all municipalities in Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regions. In our interview with Mr. René Boesten, the team leader of the project, explains the training programme

Mr. Boesten, what is the main purpose and reason for this training programme?

In accordance with the Waste Code of Georgia, the municipalities have to develop municipal waste management plans in order to better manage and control municipal waste collection, and in future also recycling. Since waste collection (municipal responsibility) and final waste disposal (responsibility of SWMCG) are strongly connected, it was deemed logical and efficient that we, as AMC consultants for the SMWCG assist the municipalities in Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kemo Svaneti Regions, our project region, in preparing these plans

What are the most critical waste management issues for the municipalities in the coming years?

We are now mid-term the training program and we see clearly what the municipalities deem their main priorities. First of all **improvement of services**: for this, new equipment is needed. The municipalities recognize, that the plans are an important tool to determine and justify what equipment is needed. With this comes the need to differentiate between services provided to residents and services provided to others such as hotels, offices etc. that generate waste comparable to household waste. We don't want residents to pay for the waste from tourists! Second priority is to **minimize the quantity of waste that has to go to the landfill**. Composting of green waste from gardens and parks, and home-composting of organic household waste is the easiest step. Separate collection of recyclables such as glass, paper and plastics is another important possibility to reduce waste going to the

landfill. A third priority is to **set up fair and manageable systems for the waste service charge** that citizens (and hotels etc.) have to pay for the collection and safe disposal of waste.

Separate collection and recycling will become obligatory in 2019. Are the municipalities prepared?

Some actions are already ongoing, such as in Kutaisi to collect plastic bottles. In general, no, municipalities are not prepared. There is a growing understanding that separate collection can reduce the costs of land filling, there is also a growing understanding that introducing separate collection is not just a matter of containers; it is even more depending on good public awareness raising with long term actions. BUT, there is one very critical issue: the recycling chain can only work if the volumes are large enough. Recycling factories need a continuous flow of huge quantities in order to work profitable. Achieving such volumes can only be done by collecting recyclable material from several municipalities. If several municipalities will cooperate and sell their materials directly to the recycling companies, they may be able to receive a good price. If they don't succeed to cooperate, the price that they will get from intermediate collectors (private or state companies) might be considerably lower.

Could you please summarize the main achievements and focus of training during the final phase?

Till now, that is June 2017, we have worked with the municipalities on the main principles of strategic planning, on the actual status of waste collection in their municipality and on setting objectives for their plans. Some municipalities

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perform better than others, that is normal, one or two still don't see the need for such a plan, so they dropped out. Also that is to be expected. In the next phase, the working groups in the municipalities have to further develop the objectives into concrete actions and with those proposals for actions, engage in discussions with the stakeholders of their municipality - such as private business, tourism industry, NGOs and local initiative groups, schools and youth. It is essential for effective implementation that all important groups of the community are taken on board while making the plan: this makes them co-owners and thus more committed. For us, as project team, the main challenges are, to make municipalities understand i) the principles of waste management, ii) the importance of involving the citizens and the community and iii) the need for good planning.

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Project

Imereti region journalists and media learn about the new regional waste management system

"You should do more often seminars like this, in this region and also in other regions of Georgia."

This comment of one journalist summarizes how the seminar about the "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi" was appreciated by most of the participants. 12 journalists from all important TV stations and other regional media of Imereti region participated in this seminar from 13 to 14 September in Tskaltubo. The representative of the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia (SWMCG), Khatuna Chikviladze, presented the National Waste Management Strategy 2016 - 2030 and the "Waste Management Code". This new regulatory framework lays out how the waste management system in all regions of Georgia will be changed

during the coming decade. In 2013 SWMCG started to take over responsibility for the waste disposal sites and the development of new landfill infrastructure according to modern standards and Mrs. Chikviladze gave an overview about the company's achievements since then. For the majority of the participants this was completely new information. A visit to the Samtredia municipal rehabilitated landfill, which is run by SWMG, demonstrated in a practical way how rehabilitated landfills are operated. One participant concluded after the visit: *"You should organise frequently tours for citizens for showing them how landfills are operated and what kind of measures are taken to protect the environment."*

The seminar was organised jointly by the German company PEM Consult and SWMCG, within the project "Integrated Solid Waste Management System – Kutaisi"



Discussion on Samtredia landfill



News directly from the landfill

Safer and healthier working conditions for over 200 landfill staff

The project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi - Consulting Services for Accompanying Measures" conducted a training on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) for the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia. The landfill managers of all nine regional offices of the company were trained by the experts of the project team for five days from March 27 to 31 2017 in Tbilisi.

During the training the participants learned how to assess hazards and risks on landfill sites, develop prevention strategies and plan mitigation activities. The latest Georgian regulations and international best practices were considered in the design of the training course. For implementing the new safety and health rules into the daily work of the over 200 regional staff of the company and improving their working conditions the following concrete steps were identified and agreed with Mr. Giorgi Shukhosvili, General Director of the SWMCG:

1. A guideline will be developed which gives clear indications for the development of **OHS Annual Action Plans**. During the coming months the 2018 Annual Action Plan will be drafted.
2. For verifying and monitoring the correct implementation of the new rules and measures on the ground, a **OHS Monitoring System** framework will be implemented.
3. The existing **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** on the Company's landfills will be checked and brought in line with the new technical specifications.

Overall Situation on Work and Health Safety in Georgia

Issues related to health and safety at work are regulated by the "Labor Code of Georgia", but the country does not have a separate Law on Health and Safety at Work. Absence of an efficient monitoring mechanism of workplace health and safety is frequently cited by the trade unions and human rights NGOs as one of the problems. Frequent accidents resulting in injuries and even fatalities are reported by the Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC). Putting in place an effective monitoring is among the commitments the country has to meet under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.



The training participants after examination, together with Mr. Giorgi Shukhosvili, General Director SWMCG (7th from left) and Mr. René Boesten, Team Leader of the project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi - Consulting Services for Accompanying Measures" (7th from right).

Municipal Waste Management Plan Training - mid term review



7 training sessions and additional consultations on municipal waste management planning have been delivered to the municipalities of the project region by the team of foreign experts together with representatives from the SWMCG by June 2017.

A **mid-term review of training accomplishments** carried out in June 2017 showed, that numerous municipalities were already able to draft certain sections of their plans and present them for review and discussion. The chapters describing the **legal framework and status quo of waste management** have been mostly prepared. All municipalities tried to deliver more or less detailed information about the **quantity and composition of collected waste and the containers and vehicles in use**. Assessment of the condition of equipment is partly missing and must yet be completed. Some municipalities pointed out that population sometimes damages the containers due to negligence or inappropriate use.

The Waste Code of Georgia introduces the obligation to all municipalities of the country to have 5 year waste management plans (covering the period 2018 – 2022) ready by the end of 2017. Therefore the project “Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi – Accompanying Measures Consultancy Services” on demand of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia is carrying out 10 training sessions from November 2016 until November 2017 for all municipalities from Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti regions.

Population dynamics and tourist prognosis as a basis for further planning poses some difficulties to municipalities due to a lack of reliable data. Significant training has already been delivered on how to overcome this gap but the subject requires further efforts and refinement to be fully developed and integrated in an actual plan.

The issue of **fees collected for waste services** was also addressed in detail during the training courses. The importance of this topic will further grow in future and will demand intense work and efforts to be clarified. On the one hand there is a need to do proper calculations with solid data and figures, and on the other hand there is the challenge to convince citizens to regularly pay their fees.

Of critical importance for the five years planning phase is the fact that, according to legal provisions, the **separate collection of certain waste material** should start by the year 2019 at the latest. Among others is currently

discussed the possibility to set up public collection sites where people can bring certain source separated material for a further appropriate handling and in order to save these amounts from being sent to the landfill but recycled instead.

Disposal of waste at non regulated local dumpsites is going to be phased out as soon as the central, high-standard landfill is available. So in the further process of training and waste management planning this will duly be considered and addressed.

Conclusion:

Although a lot of work still must be done to complete these plans, including the obligation to organise public hearings, there are also many promising signals that municipalities are fully aware of the importance of this activity, the problems that must be overcome and the implications this will have on the municipal development and inhabitants.

Kick-off Meeting



The mayor of Kutaisi, Mr. Shota Murgulia, during the kick-off meeting on 17 November 2016 in Tskaltubo

Visiting municipalities



AMC project experts during their visit in Samtredia in June 2017.

Workshop on PR



Participants are doing a practical exercise during the PR workshop on 14-15 June 2017.

News
SWMCG

OHS and EMS commitment of SWMCG



Giorgi Shukhoshvili, Director of the SWMCG, signs the policy statement on OHS and EMS.

The design and construction of the new regional landfills will be done according to modern standards and with all safety precautions. However, the quality of the operation of the landfills determines whether all these safety precautions actually work. Making sure that the SWMCG has all the knowledge and tools to operate the landfills properly is the core element of the Accompanying Measures Consulting Services project. The AMC project introduces two international standards for guiding and

controlling the quality of the work: OHSAS 18001 for occupational health and safety and ISO 14001 for environment. These standards, or management systems, set the internal rules, make sure that resources are made available to do the work properly and require that the SWMCG on a regular base publishes the status and incidents. The management systems also introduce "continuous improvement": a system to identify further improvements. Commitment of the management is essential; therefore the director signed a "policy statement on OHS and EMS" in which the main principles are laid down. The next step is training of staff, the set up on internal rules for operation, monitoring and internal and external reporting. This statement can be downloaded on the website of the SWMCG.

If the management systems are fully implemented and operational for three

years, the management systems can be certified as an additional safeguard to ensure ongoing high quality work and continuous improvement.

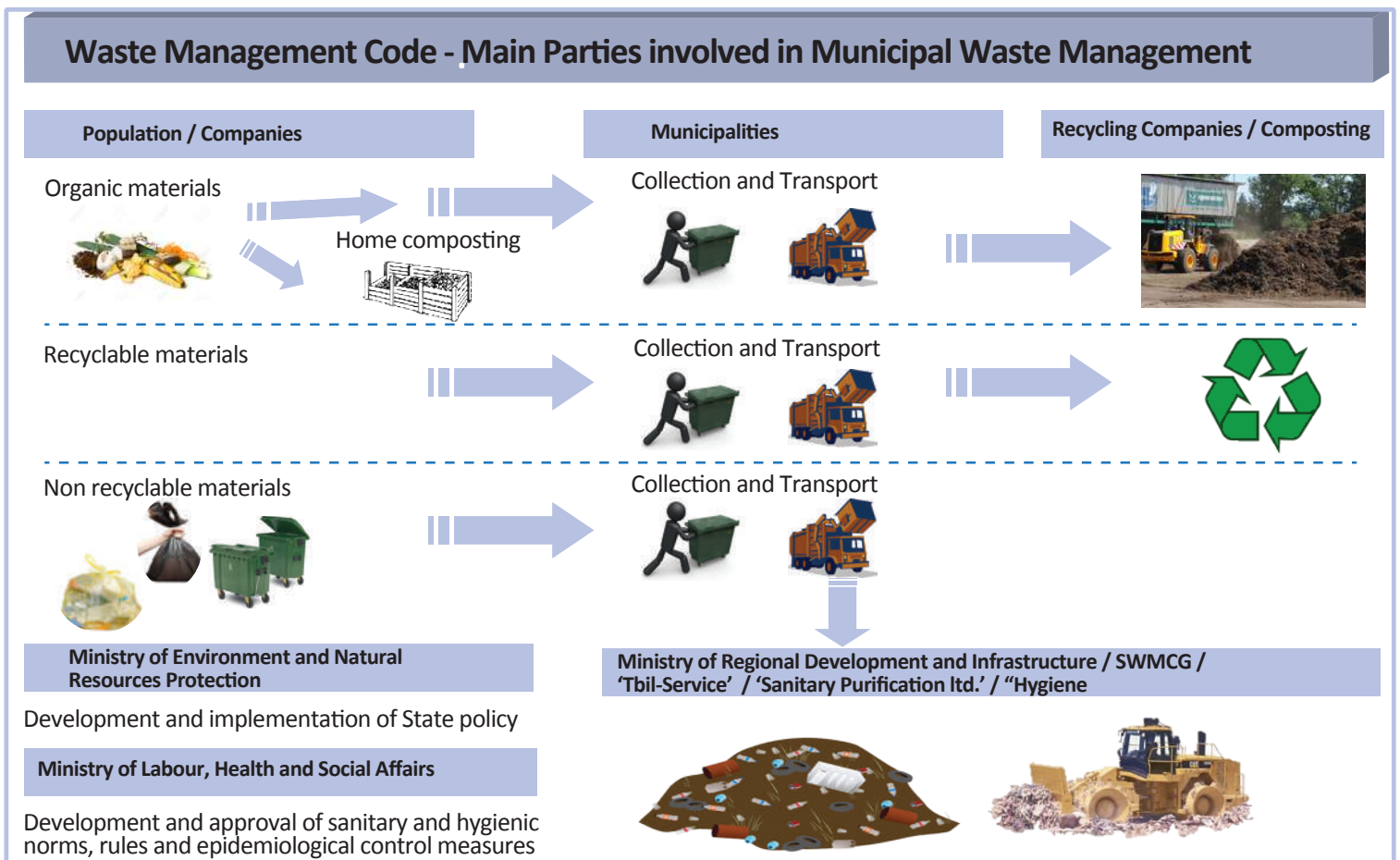


Construction works in Rustavi - installing the impermeable membrane on the ground.



Work safety - a key issue for landfill operation

The waste management system in Georgia - Main responsibilities of the involved parties



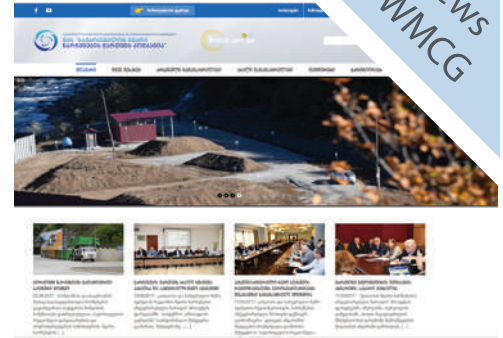
SWMCG in brief

- Established on April 24, 2012 under the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure
- The government holds 100 % shares of the company
- Since 2013, the company owns and operates 53 former municipal landfills
- The company has a total of 277 staff (58 in the head office Tbilisi and 219 in 9 regional offices)
- The company is responsible for solid waste management with respect to landfills in Georgia, excluding the city of Tbilisi and the Adjara region

SWMCG website relaunched

During the past 4 years since 2013, SWMCG has been working hard and achieved a lot. Out of the 53 landfills, 30 have been reconditioned and secured, 21 were closed and five transfer stations were built. These works will be completed during the coming year.

Since last year SWMCG started focusing on its second main task: construction of new regional landfills according to EU standards. Therefore also the company communication approach was reviewed and a new and fresh presentation of its activities, achievements



News
SWMCG

and tasks for the future was created. We invite you to explore the new website and find valuable information about the company and the waste

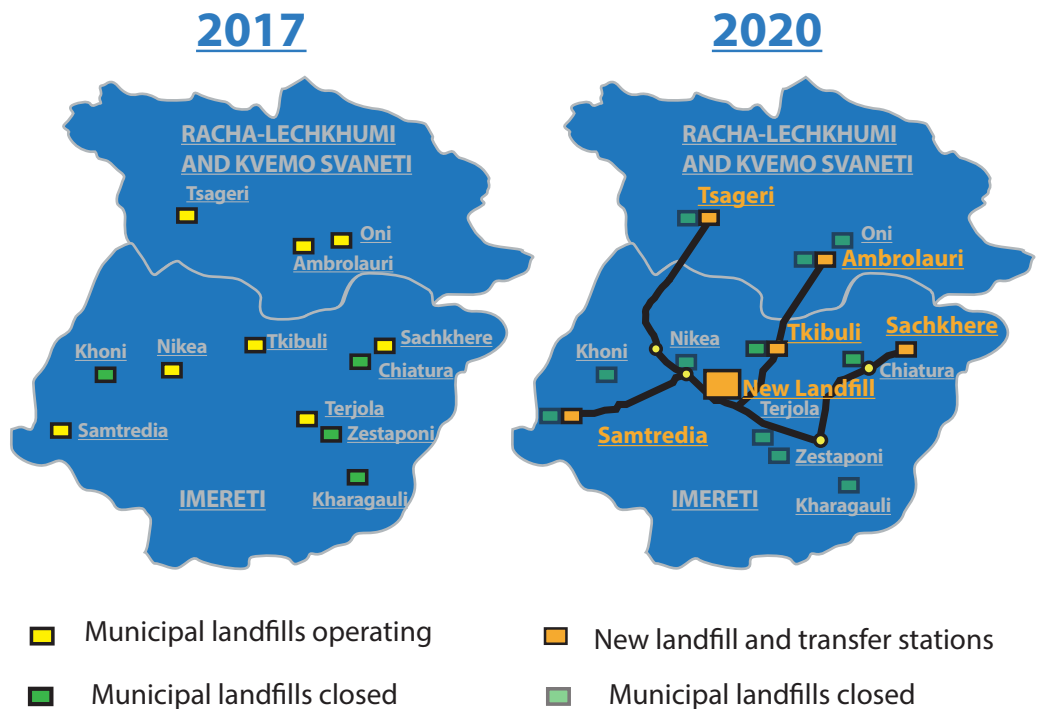
www.waste.gov.ge



SWMCG in the regions Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti - current status and future

There are 12 municipal landfills in total in both regions. Until 2013, almost all landfills were managed in a bad way, without any plans and did not meet minimum environmental standards. SWMCG has taken over the formerly municipal landfills since 2013 and is administrating them. The company has reconditioned and secured 8 municipal landfills and closed 4 landfills from 2013 to 2016.

The municipal landfills are at present still the backbone of the waste disposal system in both regions. This will change in the coming years. Once the new regional landfill will be constructed, all municipal landfills will be closed and transfer stations will be set up on the closed landfills of Tsageri, Ambrolauri, Tkibuli, Sachkhere and Samtredia. A huge challenge for the future remains the problem illegal dumpsites. Strong efforts will need to be made by all municipalities to work on this problem, to close the dumpsites, to remediate as good as possible environmental damages and to assure waste collection services for rural areas.



SWMCG in Imereti

Office Kutaisi
 Administrating 9 Landfills:
 Sachkhere, Chiatura, Tkibuli, Samtredia, Terjola, Zestaphoni, Kharagauli, Khoni, Kutaisi-Nikea
 Contact: Gabriel Kvirikashvili (Director)-
 Tel: 599 788 779; Paliashvili str 33, Kutaisi

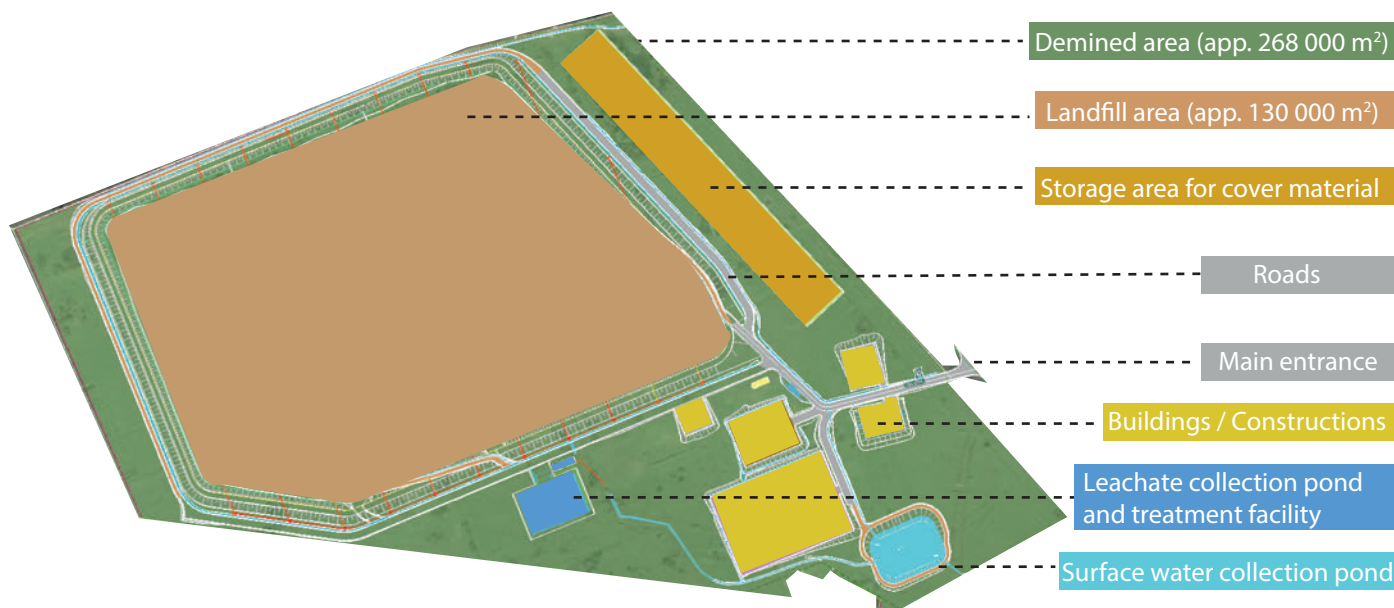
SWMCG in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti

Office Ambrolauri
 Administrating 3 Landfills:
 Tsageri, Oni, Ambrolauri
 Contact: Grigol Momtsemidze (Director)
 Tel: 551 15 88 66; Agmashenebeli str 21, Ambrolauri

New Landfill

The new landfill

Plan of the new landfill



Public review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of the new landfill

According to the Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permits the official EIA public review took place on May 11, 2017 in Terjola Municipality. The Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia (SWMCG) within the framework of the project "Integrated Solid Waste Management System - Kutaisi" had called representatives of regional government, municipalities and the citizens of Chognari and Godogani villages to this meeting.

During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) document presentation, local population had an opportunity to get detailed information about the New Regional Landfill and analyses of its environmental impact. Participants received comprehensive answers and explanations on all existing ques-

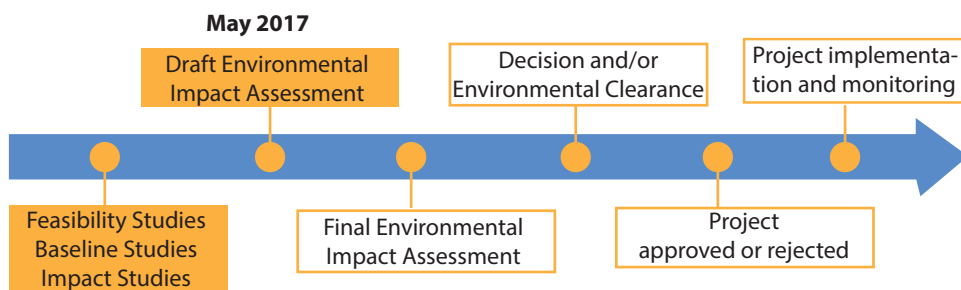
tions from the Company director and some experts of relevant Ministries involved in EIA document development and final assessment. SWMCG has expressed during discussion to consider involvement of local population in landfill construction and monitoring process.



The EIA public hearing was attended by SWMCG Management; representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia; Governors of Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi; representatives of Municipalities and the local population of Godogani and Chognari villages

Legal Steps of Environmental Impact Permits Procedure

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is regulated by the "Law of Georgia on Environmental Impact Permits*". Citizens can review the EIA report, ask questions and formulate problems from their point of view.



* <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/download/20206/14/en/pdf> (English)
<https://www.matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/download/20206/13/ge/pdf> (Georgian)



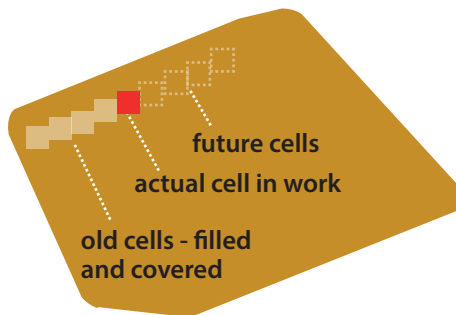
Ms. Khatuna Chikviladze, Advisor of the SWMCG Director presented the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) document to the local population.

The new landfill - some facts and figures

- *The project "Integrated Solid Waste Management Kutaisi" foresees the construction of a new regional landfill and the closure of the Nikea landfill in Kutaisi during the period of 2015-2019.*
- *The new landfill will serve the Imereti and the Racha-Lechkhumi / Kvemo Svaneti regions.*
- *The new regional landfill will be constructed conform EU standards.*
- *It will serve a total population of about 700 000 citizens until its planned closure in the year 2034.*
- *Total investment: 26 mio Euro.*

The Cell - the 'working face' of the landfill

Only where the actual cell is, waste can be seen shortly before it is covered with soil at the end of the day! All the other area, the previous cells - are safely covered with soil!



On the total surface of 54,000 square meters of the new landfill, the 'cell' is planned to be maximum 1000 square meters (this means 33 on 33 meters).

New landfill - Discussion and dialogue with citizens

New Landfill

In frames of "Integrated Solid Waste Management System - Kutaisi" project, during 2016-2017 a number of public meetings involving stakeholders and local population have been held. The SWMCG together with consulting company experts of the project provided comprehensive answers on concerns and questions raised by the citizens.

- 14 March 2016 - representatives of the SWMCG and the consulting companies (Implementing Consultant (IC) ERM and Accompanying Measures Consultant (AMC) PEM GmbH and GAMMA met with Chognari population. A detailed presentation of the technical details of the planned landfill was followed by a discussion at City Hall of Kutaisi.
- 15 April 2016 - a public information and discussion meeting was held in Chognari. Present were representatives of the SWMCG and the Accompanying Measures Consultant (AMC) PEM GmbH and GAMMA. The meeting was co-chaired by Nino Chkhobadze from "The Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of Earth Georgia".
- 16 June 2016 - the citizens of Chognari sent an open letter to the prime minister of Georgia addressing various questions.
- 6 June 2016 - the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia officially delivered detailed description on existing questions raised by public.
- 11 May 2017 - Public Hearing on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Terjola Municipality. The meeting was attended by SWMCG Management; representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia; Governors of Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi; representatives of Municipalities and the local population of Godogani and Chognari village

Questions and answers

Is it cost effective to build regional landfills?

YES

The investments costs for building a new landfill conform EU standards are very high. From a technical, operational and logistical point of view there exists a certain optimum range of combinations between these factors which assures minimum costs, i.e. the costs per ton of waste that has to be disposed and the costs for citizens that have to pay fees.

So in practical terms the following factors have to be considered when planning landfills:

- Overall capacity of a landfill (tons of waste over a certain time period)
- Annual quantity of waste produced in

a region, the costs for collection

- Average transportation distance and resulting average costs per ton of waste
- Overall annual landfill operational costs
- Costs for closing and maintenance and control after closure

Experience in many western countries has shown, that the concept of less landfills, for bigger regions with higher capacities and lifetime in combination with a network of transfer stations is assuring a cost effective way of disposing waste with minimum negative impacts on environment.

Is it cost effective to build transfer stations and transport waste from there to the regional landfill?

YES

As it is described in the previous paragraph, operating one big Regional landfill for a region(s) instead of 4 or 5 smaller landfills helps minimizing costs. So in the end the gate fee, i.e. the costs for ton of waste which municipalities

have to pay for final disposal of waste, are lower when operating one big landfill including a network of transfer stations if compared with the gate fee for a smaller landfill complying with EU standards.

The new regional landfill - who is doing what?

Construction and operation

Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia / Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development



The solid waste management company of Georgia is the beneficiary. The company has since 2013 in property and operation 53 former municipal landfills in Georgia. The mandate for the future is, to construct and operate up to 9 regional landfills and to close down all former municipal landfills. The landfill for Imereti and Racha Lechkhumi/Kvemo Svaneti is the FIRST regional landfill that will be constructed.

- Beneficiary of the project
- Contracting consulting companies
- Contracting construction companies
- Supervision of construction works
- Final approval and reception of construction
- Owner and operator of the new landfill

Technical assistance

The Implementation Consultant (IC)



The consulting company ERM (Environmental Resources Management) delivers consulting services for **planning, tendering and supervising** the construction of the new sanitary landfill and the transfer stations including the long distance transport equipment.

- Design of the sanitary landfill
- Environmental Impact Assessment study (EIA)
- Prepare tender dossiers for construction works and equipment
- Supervise construction works

The Accompanying Measures Consultant (AMC).



This component is implemented by the German consultancy company PEM Consult in cooperation with INTECUS GmbH and Gamma Consulting and delivers **training and consulting services** to support and **improve the organisational and institutional capacities** of the Solid Waste Management Company of Georgia

- Support and improve organisation and management
- Support and improve financial management and technical competences
- Strengthen PR, communication and public awareness activities.

Financing

German-Georgian Cooperation, KfW



Within the bilateral German-Georgian Cooperation Programme, the KfW provides a € 20 mio loan to the Georgian State.

EU Neighbourhood Investment Fund



ევროკავშირი საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia

The EU provides through its Neighbourhood Investment Fund a € 2 mio grant for financing the technical assistance for implementing the project.

Government of Georgia



The Government of Georgia contributes with € 4 mio to the total costs of € 26 mio.

Beneficiaries

16 municipalities of the regions Imereti and Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti - about 700 000 citizens

Kutaisi, Ambrolauri, Lentekhi, Oni, Sachkhere, Samtredia, Chiatura, Terjola, Tsalktubo, Zestaponi, Tsageri, Kharagauli, Khoni, Bagdati, Vani, Tkibuli



Project financed by EU NIF, KfW and Government of Georgia



Project implemented by consortium leaders ERM and PEM Consult



Builder and Operator of landfill

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