

# KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA

Considering Georgia’s EU candidate status at the end of 2023, plastic management reflects the country’s priorities in the context of its EU orientation. Therefore, it is appropriate that plastic management measures be in line with the priorities set out in European Union Directive (EU) 2019/904 of June 5, 2019, on reducing the environmental impact of certain plastic products, unless there are compelling reasons to choose a different approach.

At present, the only formal document outlining the measures to be implemented concerning plastic is the National Waste Management Strategy 2016-2030 and Action Plan 2022-2026. The strategy emphasizes:

- “2.11 Managing plastic waste.

Plastic waste pollution is one of the most global environmental problems today. To overcome this problem, a set of measures must be implemented, including the development and implementation of prevention programs, the creation of an effective plastic waste management system, the promotion of modern waste recycling technologies, and raising public awareness.

Although Georgia is implementing measures to reduce plastic usage, it remains a significant environmental issue. Due to the absence of a separate collection system, much plastic waste ends up in landfills or is irresponsibly released into the environment—both on land and in surface water bodies, including the sea—creating risks for the environment and human health. Therefore, it is essential to develop modern systems aimed at preventing the creation and facilitating the recycling of plastic waste.

2.11.1 Problems in the field of plastic waste management:

- The necessity of implementing systems for the separate collection and recycling of plastic waste.
- The necessity of implementing measures to prevent the generation of plastic waste.
- The need for capacity building among stakeholders involved in plastic waste management.”

Additionally, throughout the project implementation process, we have developed the following recommendations based on the stakeholder survey and our review of the relevant documentation. Implementing these recommendations will help address the issues of plastic pollution in Georgia:

- Gradually eliminate problematic plastics that contain toxic chemicals and those that cannot be recycled through bans and restrictions.
- Developing global criteria and standards for plastic sustainability throughout the life cycle of plastic products, for example:
  - Design products to enhance durability and reusability.
  - Ensure that plastics can be efficiently recycled at the end of their life cycle.
  - Manage plastics within a sustainable materials management system to prevent toxic waste and environmental pollution.
  - Consider the environmental impact of plastics from production to disposal, including energy consumption, emissions, and potential for pollution.
- Establish baselines and targets to reduce plastic production and consumption, ensuring that produced plastic items are recycled.
- Ensuring transparency throughout the plastic value chain, which includes the processes of plastic production, consumption, imports, exports, and the chemical composition of plastic materials and products.
- Create a system to enhance regulation on the production, use, export, and import of plastic and plastic waste.
- Ensure monitoring and reporting throughout each stage of the plastic life cycle.
- Single-use and reusable products that are to be regulated should align with the goods regulated by EU countries, unless an analysis indicates that applying the measure to a particular product or category of goods in Georgia is not appropriate.
- Plastic products banned or restricted in the EU market should also face similar restrictions on the Georgian market.
- Product labeling requirements may involve specifying the materials used in the single-use or reusable product, providing information on handling the product, detailing the amount of recycled material it contains, and including other information related to plastic management, such as its toxic content.
- Developing a product verification protocol to meet the requirements for single-use and reusable products is important. Products will meet this requirement if they provide a quality certificate from a trusted third party that can be verified online. In other cases, the Ministry may require them to be

certified according to a protocol established by the Georgian entity.

The Ministry of Environment and Agriculture must allocate the necessary number of qualified staff to implement the recommendation.

## Contacts

Ecovision Georgia  
[www.ecovision.ge](http://www.ecovision.ge)  
[info@ecovision.ge](mailto:info@ecovision.ge)

## Contacts

Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport)  
[info@hej-support.org](mailto:info@hej-support.org)

Follow us on LinkedIn:  
<https://bit.ly/3A0L93C>



HEJSupport Website:  
[www.hej-support.org](http://www.hej-support.org)



More information about the project:  
[www.hej-support/eecca-plastic](http://www.hej-support/eecca-plastic)



**This paper is funded by the Plastic Waste Partnership under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.** The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations (UN) or contributory organisations. The Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, UNEP or the UN do not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned, directly or indirectly, through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this publication. The designations employed and the presentation of the materials in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, UNEP or the UN, concerning the geo-political situations or the legal status of any country, territory, or city or area or their authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.