

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## Urban Services Improvement Investment Program (USIIP)

- ❑ Financed by the ADB through a Multi-Tranche Financing Facility (MFF)
- ❑ USIIP is intended to improve urban water and sanitation (WSS) services in 7 selected provincial capitals and secondary towns of Georgia.
- ❑ The following projects are considered under the USIIP for this case study: REG-01 – “Kutaisi, Poti & Anaklia Water Supply Infrastructures” (Tranche 1) and "Rehabilitation of Water Supply and Sewage System in Ureki" project (Tranche 3).
- ❑ “Improvement of Kutaisi Water Supply” sub-project includes construction of: reservoirs; pumping stations; transmission lines and distribution lines of water supply systems.

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# KEY PLAYERS

- ❑ **Executing Agency (EA):** Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MoRDI)
- ❑ **Implementing Agency (IA):** United Water Supply Company of Georgia (UWSCG)
- ❑ **Supervision Consultant (SC):** “EPTISA” Ltd (Spain)
- ❑ **Design Consultant (DC):** “Kocks” Ltd. (Germany)
- ❑ **Construction Contractor (CC):** “COBRA” Ltd. (Spain)



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- ❑ **Key Environmental Issue:** Impacts on flora, in particular on endangered species of Red Book trees during Tetramitsa reservoirs construction and site clearance in Kutaisi
- ❑ Environmental pollution due to inadequate sludge disposal
- ❑ Nuisance during construction (dust, noise, vibration), thus the Tetramitsa reservoirs construction area lies close to the city Kutaisi, adjacent to populated place
- ❑ Increased road traffic due to construction activities in the town
- ❑ Road blocking due to land excavation and safety risks



# **L2749 - USIIP (T 1), REG 01 - Improvement of Water Supply Infrastructure in Anaklia, Kutaisi and Poti**

- **1.1. Kutaisi Reservoirs & Pump Stations**
- **Vazha Pshavela reservoir & pumping station**
- Project completed.
- Reinstatement of reservoirs done according to the Reinstatement Plan.
- Installation of proper fencing around the construction territory completed.
- All necessary safety signs are installed.

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## 1.2 Tetramitsa str. reservoirs

- *At Tetramitsa two new reservoirs (2000 m<sup>3</sup> each) were installed. Construction is almost completed.*
- *At present, reinstatement/landscaping activities are performed at the construction site. Site is fenced and kept clean.*

Environmental issues: **Preserving Endangered Red Book Trees at Tetramitsa Reservoir's construction place (see details in the following slides).**

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## I. Preserving Endangered Red Book Trees at Tetramitsa Reservoir's construction place

- ❑ **Separate SSEMP** was developed for Tetramitsa Reservoir's construction place in Kutaisi;
- ❑ **Additional Biodiversity Survey** was required due to the red book trees concentrated near the reservoir's construction area;
- ❑ **Biodiversity Survey Results:** Two types of trees were observed at construction site, which are protected by Georgian legislation and shown in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: 1. Zelkova carpinifolia (**Zelkova or Caucasian Zelkova**), native to the Caucasus - Georgia (Fig. 1); and 2. Quercus imeretina (**Imereti oak**), native to Georgia, growing to 30 meters tall (Fig. 2).



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**Fig. 1: Zelkova Trees**



**Fig.2: Oak Trees**



## **L2749 - USIIP (T 1), REG 01 - Improvement of Water Supply Infrastructure in Anaklia, Kutaisi and Poti**

- At the starting phase of the project, reservoirs has been planned to install at the Zelkova trees area and cutting of 4 Zelkova trees were considered;
- To avoid cutting of Zelkova grouping and to minimize impact on Red List species the UWSCG instructed contractor and conducted meeting inviting SC, CC and UWSCG's design department and DREP to optimize reservoir's design;
- Finally reservoir site was relocated and it was necessary to remove only 5 Imeretian oaks;



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## Procedures for cutting of 5 Imeretian oak Red Book trees:

- **First stage:** UWSCG appealed to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MoENRP) through the EA - Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MoRDI), by official letter requesting permission to cut down Red List trees.
- **Second stage:** Government of Georgia has issued an Ordinance N1147, “About removal of wooden plants included in the red data list from natural environment”, dated 26th July of 2014, where Government requested UWSCG to develop Compensation Action Plan for damage done to the biodiversity of Georgia.
- **Third stage:** Contractor has developed a Compensation Action Plan (CAP). CAP includes purchasing of saplings and planting and taking care of purchased seeds in natural environment during the 5 years.



## **L2749 - USIIP (T 1), REG 01 - Improvement of Water Supply Infrastructure in Anaklia, Kutaisi and Poti**

- **TV Tower reservoir**
  
- Construction activities finished in August, 2015.
- During Mission's site visit construction site was kept clean of illegal dumping by other people revealed during the previous mission in May 2015.
- Proper fencing around the reservoirs at TV Tower is still pending (May 2016).