

“Black Sea Regional Transmission” Project Problems and Challenges

DATE & TIME	NOVEMBER 19, 3PM-4PM
LOCATION	Open Society Georgia Foundation Office 10, Chovelidze str. Tel.250592
3pm - 3:10pm	Opening remarks Tamar Kaldani, Deputy Director, Open Society Georgia Foundation
3:10pm-3:30pm	“Black Sea Regional Transmission” Project -- Problems and Challenges Presentation by Irakli Macharashvili, Association Green Alternative
3:30pm-4:00pm	Discussion, Questions and Answers

The aim of the campaign, initiated by Green Alternative and the Coalition “Transparent Foreign Aid to Georgia”, is to induce Government of Georgia not to use the most damaging route for the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park in the process of “Black Sea Regional Transmission Project” implementation. The “Black Sea Regional Transmission Project” is intended to be carried out with the financial support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB) and German Development Bank (KfW) (*approximately 250 mln Euros in loans*) that is the part of 4,55 bln USD international aid pledged to Georgia to overcome the crisis following the August 2008 Russia's military aggression. Under the "Black Sea Regional Transmission" project it is planned to rehabilitate/construct 500 kW power transmission line from western Georgia to Azerbaijan and Turkey borders. In the process of project implementation the Ministry of Energy of Georgia intends to use the route, which implies to completely cut out the forest zone of 12 km in Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. Although, there exist another alternative - to build the power transmission line as to pass through only the 4,5 km non-forest section of the park territory not causing deforestation and drastic environmental impact.