



Ulrich Schröder, KfW
send via email

Győr, 26 October, 2009

Dear Mr. Schröder,

I am writing to you on behalf of the PAN Parks Foundation. Our organisation protects Europe's last pieces of wilderness. There are currently 11 protected areas in Europe including Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park of Georgia, which joined our network. Our concept was acknowledged by the European Parliament through including PAN Parks in the explanatory statement of the Parliament's special report on wilderness (adopted on 3 February 2009).

With this letter I would like to express the concerns of our network in relation to the development of Black Sea Regional Transmission Project, supposedly financed jointly by EBRD, EIB and KfW. I decided to write this letter after meeting with the Minister of Environment Protection and Natural resources of Georgia in Tbilisi on September 27.

According to the project proposal, the power transmission line will pass through Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. The administration of the National Park and a consulting company preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment study, both support the alternative that would cause the least impact on the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. However, according to my knowledge, there is a pressure on the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources to select the cheapest alternative that may have the greatest impact on the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park (first alternative).

Although there is a 100 years history of nature conservation in its region, the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park was the first national park in South Caucasus. The protection regime was enforced with significant contribution of the German Government and the German Reconstruction Bank (KfW). This is the only national park in the region, which has joined PAN Parks. Its territory covers over one percent of Georgia; it contains pristine ecosystems and many endemic, relict and endangered species live there, which are protected by the national and international legislation. It sounds ironic that on one hand KfW finances the protection of this beautiful protected area, on the other hand might also finance to damage it.



Following upon the statement of Georgian Civil Society Organizations on "Potential Impact of the Proposed Black Sea Regional Transmission Project on the Borjomi–Kharagauli National Park" I am expressing our support to the alternative, which would cause the least damage for nature conservation.

I sincerely hope that KfW's commitment towards being a green bank will ensure that project is implemented in accordance of best international practice. We hope that finally the investment, which is surely needed to help the Georgian economy to flourish, will be implemented with the least damage on natural values.

We are looking forward to receiving your reply regarding our amendment requests.

Yours sincerely

Kun Zoltán, Executive Director

CC: Gogi Sanadiradze, WWF Caucasus Programme Office
Irakli Matcharashvili, Biodiversity Programme Coordinator, Association Green
Alternative