



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



General Fisheries
Commission for
the Mediterranean



Georgian Fish Farmer's Association



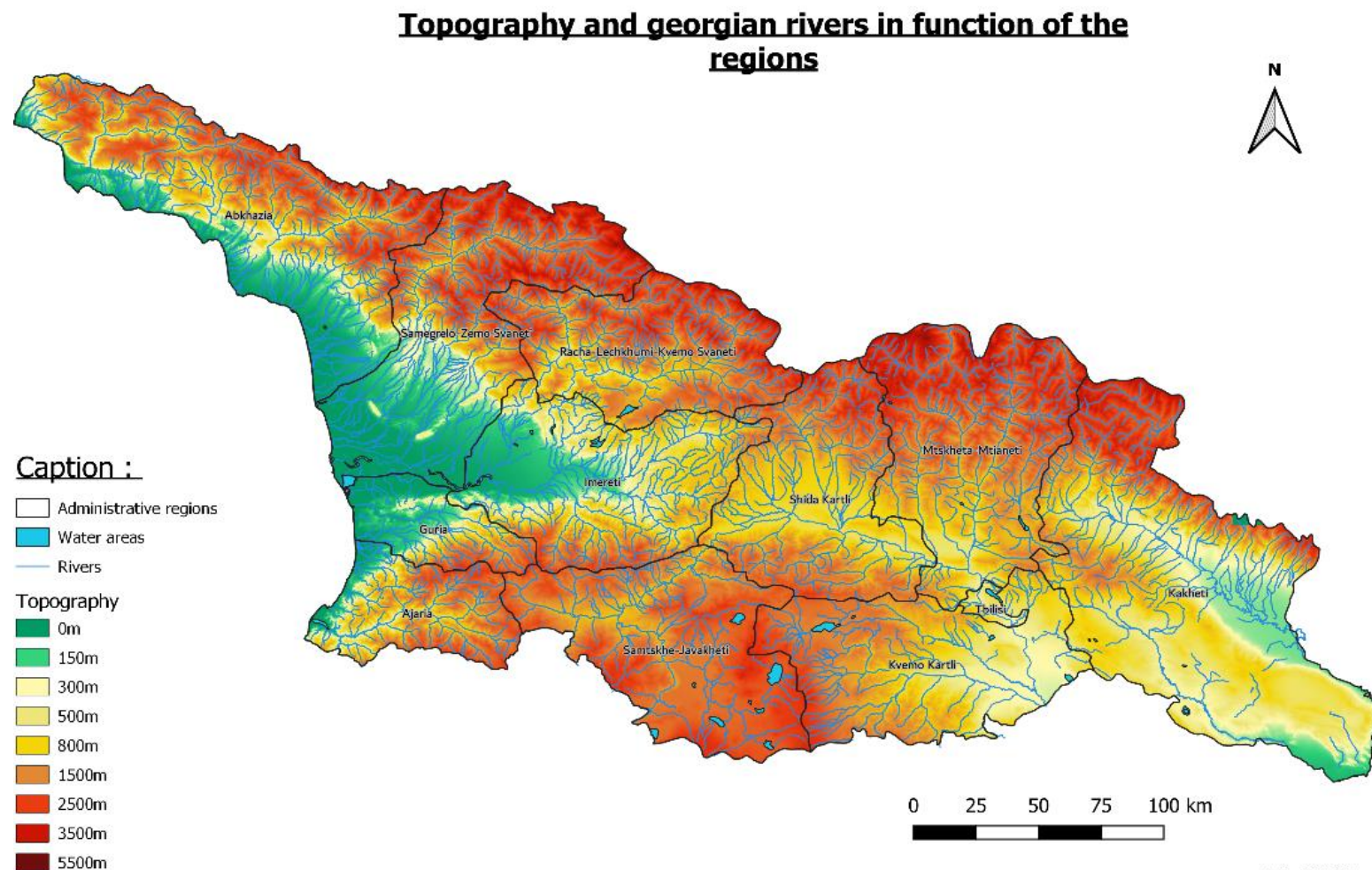
Nino Chobaniani

“Promoting Sustainable Aquaculture Practices in the
Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions: the Producers'
perspective”.

18 January, 2024, ROME



- Georgia is located on the southeast coast of the Black Sea.
- The country covers more than 76,000 square km including the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali
- The East part of the river water flows towards the Caspian Sea and the West part flows towards the Black Sea.
- Georgia is extremely rich in water resources, with 26,000 rivers and 850 lakes almost 17,000 hectares.



- GFFA was founded in 2012
- 12 Board members from different regions of Georgia, 200 members;
- “International Experts Counsel”. It is the team of European and Turkish experts on aquaculture, which makes our Association powerful for working with challenges in aquaculture;
- GFFA plays an important role as an interlayer between the farmers and the authorities;
- GFFA provides different kinds of services for the farmers- workshops - awareness raising, fish diseases and food safety. Support in advocacy services.
- Cooperation-FAO, GFCM, CACFish, Eurofish
- The issue of Georgia's accession to the GFCM is being actively discussed in the MEPA
- We are hopeful that we will cooperate with FEAP. The cooperation will allow us to develop and implement BMP for Georgian aquaculture, which is on the developing level for now.





- Since the 1950s, the aquaculture sector has been active in the country thanks to its natural resources;
- Since the 1990s, the field has been in crisis;
- Since 2000, aquaculture has started to develop.
- In 2022, up to 300 farms are focused on the data of the Rural Development Agency (RDA).
- Production- 2019-2 444 tons; 2020-2 269 tons, 2021- 2 861.tons (Geostat).
- However, in reality, the number of farms and the production are much more (According to the project “ Freshwater Aquaculture Value Chain Analysis in Georgia(2022) .
- We need special study to precise number of farms and production.



- The coastline of Georgia is 310 km long ;
- The main share of the fish catch comes from anchovies (about 80-90 %);
- The fishing and fish processing companies (fish meal and oil) operating in Poti, Georgia;
- The annual market quota of Georgian is 60-100 000 tons;
- Now we are working on the National Concept of Sustainable Fisheries



Project:

Support to Environmental Protection and Fight against Climate Change in Georgia (NEAR/TBS/2021/EA-RP/0143) – ongoing (Component 6 - aquaculture)

- Support on the identification of Allocated Zones for Aquaculture (AZA) in Georgia;
- A total of 8 AZA were identified, 3 for finfish and 5 for shellfish.

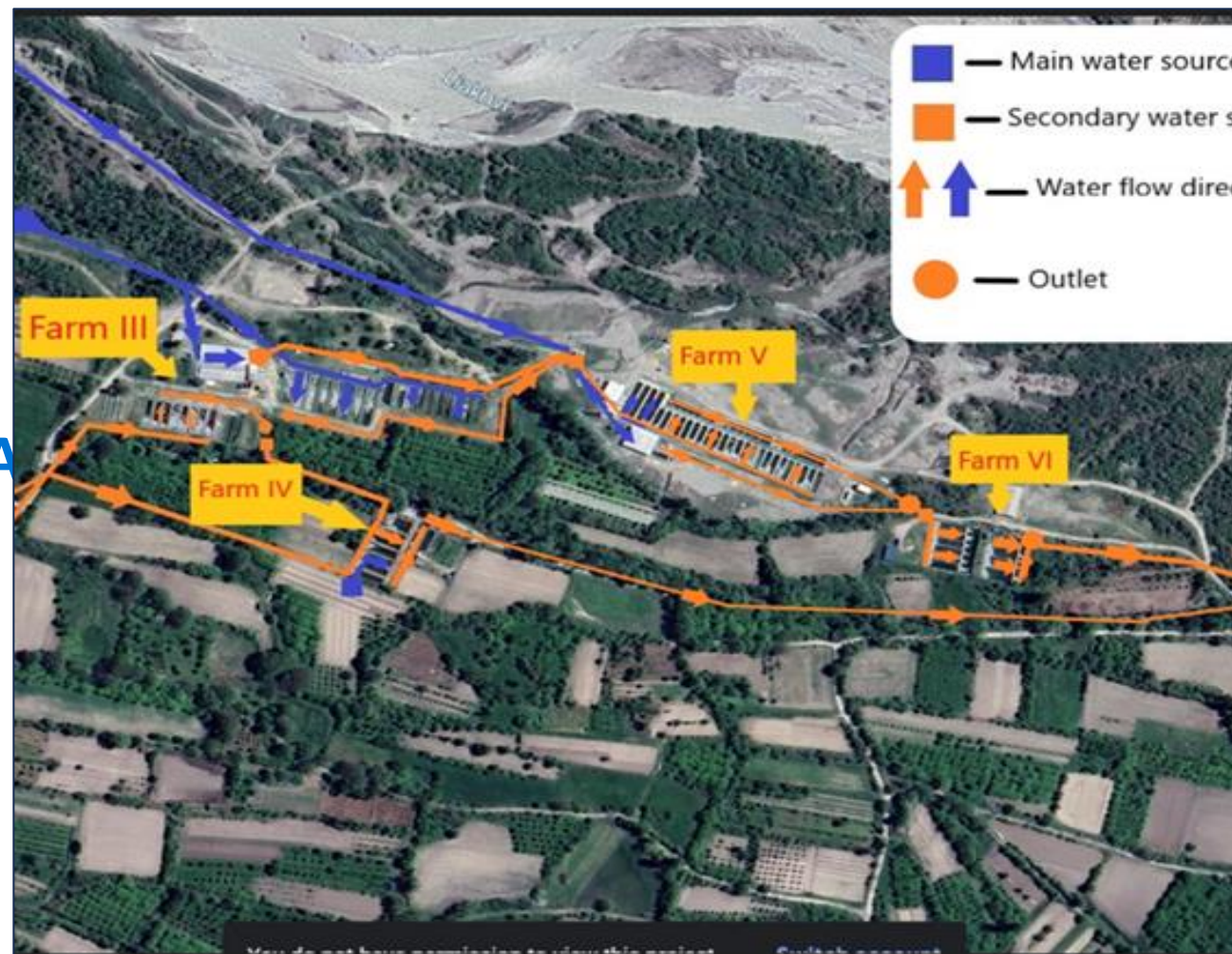
Thanks, GFCM for supporting

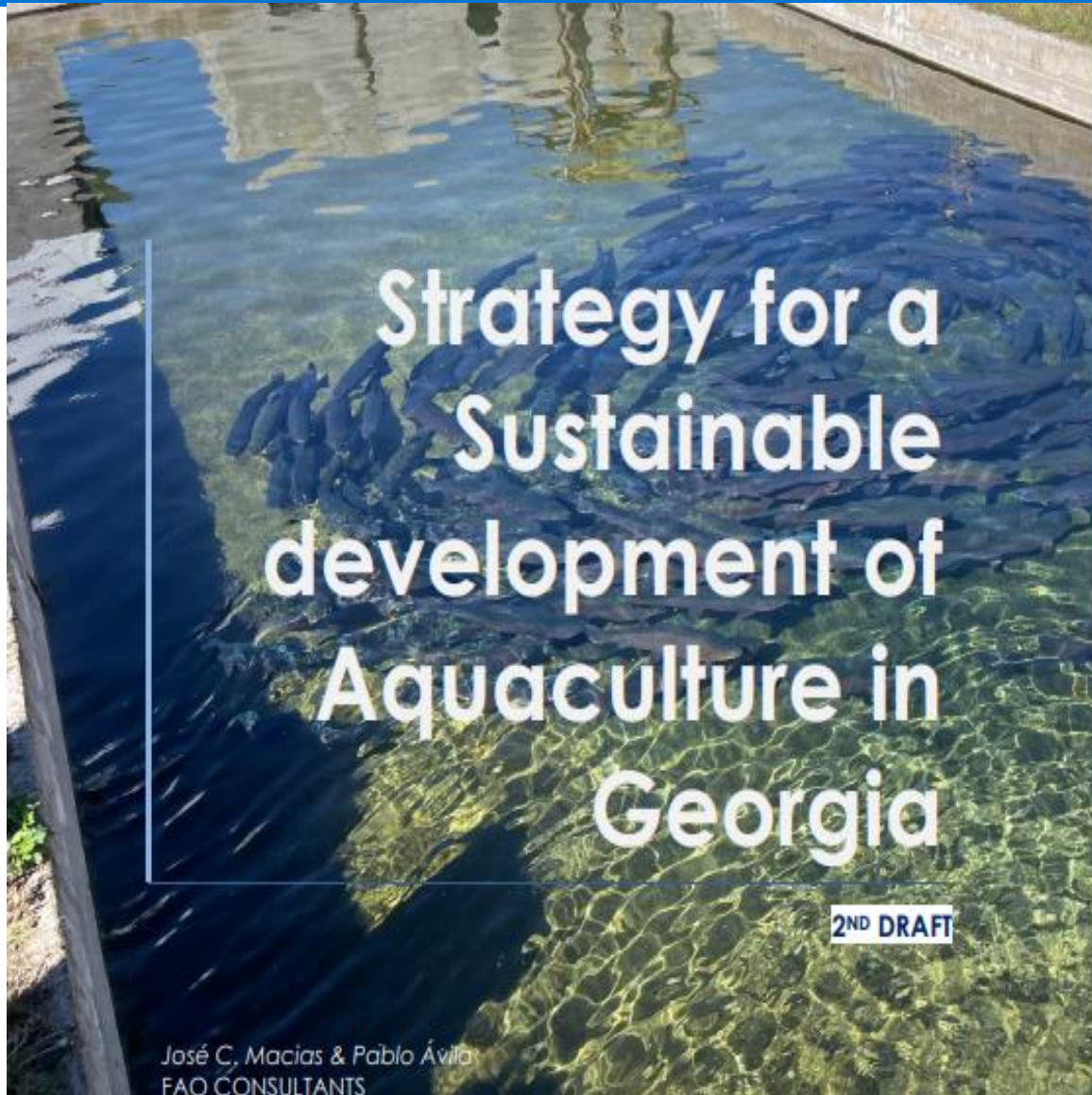


Project, "Support to Environmental Protection and Fight against Climate Change in Georgia

(NEAR/TBS/2021/EA-RP/0143 – the Project),“

- Focus Group was created for AMA by the MEPA
- Cluster was created in the Shida Kartli Region for AMA design
- It is the Pilot project





Strategy for a Sustainable Development of Aquaculture in Georgia is the roadmap for the development of aquaculture in Georgia (freshwater and marine water) and put forward four Strategic Objectives, namely

1. Government: Improve of Legal Framework;
2. Production: Promote the growth and reinforcement of the aquaculture sector;
3. Market and Aquafood: Support the development of trade and marketing for aquaculture products;
4. Social Aspects: Achieve social acceptability.

Supported by GFCM

Project:

- This study provides an overview of the freshwater aquaculture value chain in Georgia
- Funded by the European Commission (EC)
- The study was conducted in 2020-2022
- As a part of the project, two missions were implemented throughout Georgia
- Identified two sub chains: carp sub chain & trout sub chain.
- VCA4D study consists of four analyses:
 1. Functional
 2. Economic
 3. Social and
 4. Environmental

VCA4D CTR /392-4162017)



for



Freshwater aquaculture value chain analysis in Georgia

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February 2022



SWOT

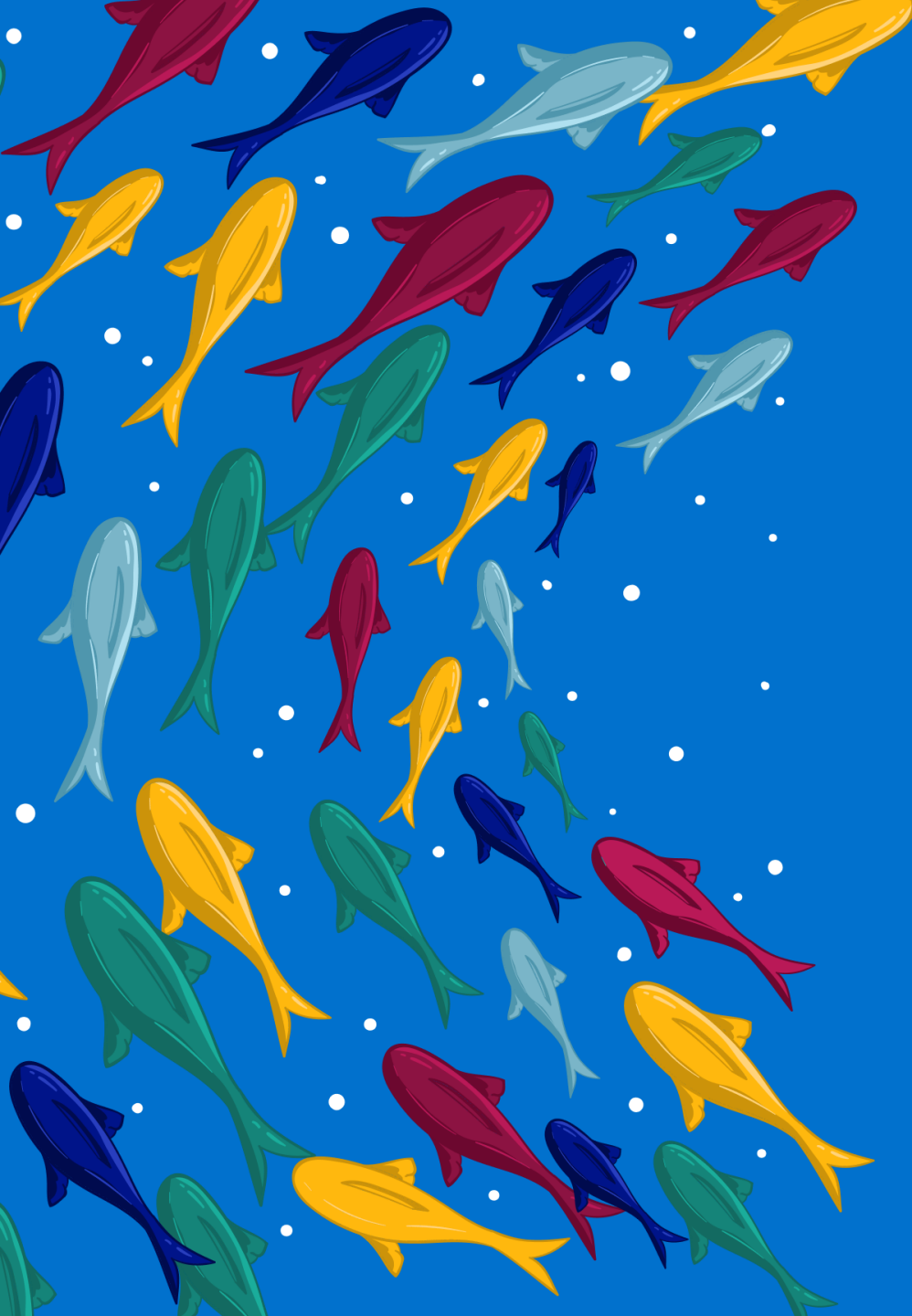
Strength	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive impact of the VC on food and nutrition security • Use of local feed for the carp • Lower environmental impact of fish production compared to most other animal meat products • Local and tourist demand for trout and carp • Availability of land and water resources to develop aquaculture • High consumption of trout by restaurants • Law on Aquaculture with by-laws, VC, Aquaculture Strategy, AZA, AMA, the National Concept of Sustainable Fisheries (elaborating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of training in aquaculture especially for feeding, processing, water quality and fish disease • Lack of cooperatives and interprofessional agreement • Emissions caused by the transport of live fish in small vans with water containers • Dependency on imported feed for trout and sturgeon • Unestimated number of farms and produced product
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the EU for the entrance into the EU market • Suitable geographic position to export, especially for the sturgeon and trout caviar • Produce local feed for trout and surgeon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of work-force and low attractiveness for youth in the agricultural sector • Unfavourable exchange rate (for feed import) • Lack of knowledge about aquaculture production techniques • Risks to biodiversity (escape of fish from the basins and ponds).

Candidate status of EU

In December 2023, Georgia was granted candidate status of EU on the understanding that it takes the relevant steps as set out in a Commission recommendation.

We hope that Georgia will soon become a full member of the big EU family.





**Thank you for
your attention**

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