

GEORGIA



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General

Georgia is a country in the Caucasus Region of Eurasia. Located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, it is bounded in the West by the Black Sea, in the North by Russia, in the South by Turkey and Armenia, and in the Southeast by Azerbaijan. The country has an area of 6.97 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 4.0 million, or 0.57 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

The climate of Georgia is extremely diverse, considering the nation's small size. There are two main climatic zones, roughly corresponding to the eastern and western parts of the country. The Greater Caucasus Mountain Range plays an important role in moderating Georgia's climate and protects the nation from the penetration of colder air masses from the North. The Lesser Caucasus Mountains partially protect the region from the influence of dry and hot air masses from the South. The climate varies significantly with elevation and while much of the lowland areas of western Georgia are relatively warm throughout the year, the foothills and mountainous areas (including both the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Mountains) experience cool, wet summers and snowy winters. Eastern Georgia has a transitional climate from humid subtropical to continental. The region's weather patterns are influenced both by dry Caspian air masses from the East and humid Black Sea air masses from the West. The penetration of humid air masses from the Black Sea is often blocked by mountain ranges that separate the eastern and western parts of the nation.

Annual precipitation is considerably less than that of western Georgia and ranges from 400 - 1600 mm. Much of western Georgia lies within the northern periphery of the humid subtropical zone with annual precipitation ranging from 1000 - 4000 mm. The precipitation tends to be uniformly distributed throughout the year, although the rainfall can be particularly heavy during the Autumn months. The wettest periods generally occur during spring and autumn, while winter and summer months tend to be the driest. Much of eastern Georgia experiences hot summers (especially in the low-lying areas) and relatively cold winters. As in the western parts of the nation, elevation plays an important role in eastern Georgia where climatic conditions above 1500 m are considerably colder than in the low-lying areas.

Georgia is a very mountainous country. The Likhi Range divides the country into eastern and western halves. Historically, the western portion of Georgia was known as Colchis while the eastern plateau was called Iberia. Because of a complex geographic setting, mountains also isolate the northern region of Svaneti from the rest of Georgia. The landscape is quite varied. Western Georgia's landscape ranges from lowland marsh-forests, swamps, and temperate rainforests to eternal snows and glaciers, while the eastern part of the country even contains a small segment of semi-arid plains.

Two major rivers in Georgia are the Rioni and the Mtkvari.

Existing polders

The Group Polder Development (1982) states that the area of polders in Georgia is 5800 ha (Table I).

Proposed polders

No proposed polders have been identified.

References

Group Polder Development, Department of Civil Engineering, Delft University of Technology, 1982.
Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects. Delft, the Netherlands

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World Population Prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision.* New York, USA.

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Georgia

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Total		5800					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake