

# Investor.



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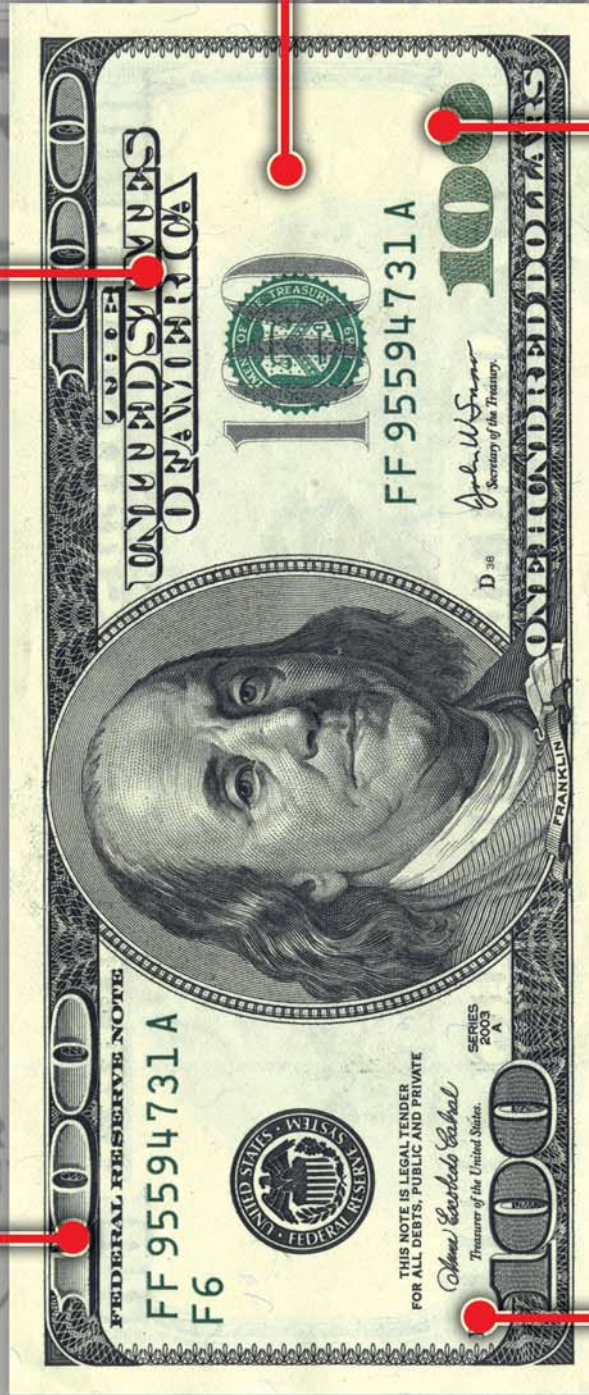
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## Dissecting Financial Aid to Georgia



# First Responders: SEACOR Environmental Services

**S**EACOR Environmental Services (SES) works across the Caspian and Black Sea region- as well as the Middle East and Asia – providing professional, environmentally sound solutions to oil and gas companies as well as ports, the shipping industry, and the chemical and government sectors.

Since the end of Georgia's five day war with Russia, most attention has centered on the humanitarian crisis, economic fall out and defining exactly who was at fault for starting the conflict in the first place. Few are calculating the environmental cost to the war – forest fires and potential oil spills from sunken ships are just two of the major concerns environmentalists believe could result in even more losses for the county.

The seemingly 20th century war has given credence to a very 21st century buzz word: eco-warfare. According to an open letter signed by Georgia's leading environmental groups, one week of military combat has cost the country millions in lost wildlife and damaged ecosystems. In addition, there is fear that sunken vessels off the Black Sea port of Poti could lead to an oil spill, further marring the country's environment and potentially affecting the livelihood of fishermen and tour companies alike.

While high profile humanitarian aid groups and diplomatic delegations usually steal the spotlight, organizations like SES are working behind the scenes to help clean up the environmental damage caused by the August war with Russia.

SES assisted the effort to fight the fires in Borjomi National Forest by providing water pumps, as well as professionally trained personnel to operate the equipment and as-

sist the local fire department for three weeks. The pumps were made available by one of SES's clients, BP.

According to Jesse Keese, the oil spill manager, SEACOR Environmental Services International in Georgia and Azerbaijan, there is evidence that the Russian bombing and attacks on coast guard ships in Poti have potentially created some problems for the local environment. However he stressed that the potential for serious contamination due to oil spills is slight.

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SEACOR is prepared to assist with the wreck salvage and clean up mission for the Coast Guard; to date it is unclear when the government will finalize the tender. According to Keese, there is little chance that either the sunken ship or the wrecked vessel will leak substantial amounts of oil although if they are asked, SEACOR plans to surround the wreck with oil spill containment booms to ensure no widespread contamination in the sea.

Another possible problem area: the site

of an oil fire along the railway near Gori where a train exploded on August 24. According to reports, a few hundred cubic meters of oil were spilled as a result of the fire. Keese visited the site during a recent trip to Gori to evaluate the situation, although SEACOR will not be participating in the clean up effort.

According to him, there is a "minimal" chance that the oil will contaminate the ground water if the spill is properly dealt with – largely because the local terrain (flat land with hard, clay based soil) has contained it naturally to some degree.

## SEACOR IN THE REGION

SES started working in Georgia in July 2004 as a contractor for BP. Since then, it has expanded its operations in both Georgia and the region and its clients include the two major oil terminals, as well as government agencies and other private companies. SEACOR provides project management, environmental products, training, pipeline maintenance, clean up services, waste management, industrial services, site remediation and business consultancy, among other services.

On September 4, SES started a joint project, a new Tier 2 oil spill and emergency response base in Aktau, Kazakhstan, with BORKIT, a local partner. In addition, SES has a joint venture with MEKE Marine Environmental Services — SESMEKE Environmental Services in Turkey, which offers environmental and emergency response services throughout the country. SEACOR holds a number of ISO certificates, including ISO 9001 (quality management systems), ISO 14001 (environmental management systems), and OSHAS 18001 (health and safety).

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