

**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY – GEF
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME – SGP**

**GEF SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME
STRATEGY FOR OP6**

2015-2018

COUNTRY: ALBANIA

TIRANA, MAY 2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
GEF SGP	Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
ME	Monitoring and Evaluation
NC/NSC	National Coordinator/National Strategy Coordinator
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
OP6	Operational Programme 6
PA	Protected Areas
RB	River Basin
SAP	Strategic Action Plan
UNCCD	United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	US Dollar

COUNTRY: ALBANIA

OP6 resources (estimated US\$)

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. Core funds: | 200 kUSD |
| b. OP5 remaining balance: | 0 |
| c. STAR funds: | 384 kUSD (144 kUSD Biod; 240kUSD Climate) |
| d. Other Funds to be mobilized: | 0 |

1 INTRODUCTION

As a GEF Corporate Programme, SGP aligns its operational phase strategies to that of the GEF, and provides a series of demonstration projects for further scaling up, replication and mainstreaming. Action at the local level by civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is deemed a vital component of the GEF 20/20 Strategy (i.e. convening multi-stakeholder alliances to deliver global environmental benefits and contribute to UNDP's Strategic Plan and focus on sustainable development).

At the global level, the SGP OP6 programme goal is to “effectively support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action.”

2 SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the GEF Small Grants Programme embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". The GEF Small Grants Programme has been present in Albania since 1998 and it has accumulated a total of 228 projects. In compliance with its designated niche, SGP has provided a reliable and straightforward source of funding for a multitude of ideas from the communities and civil society in Albania. Over the years the SGP has been a nursery to innovative ideas that, otherwise, would not have seen the chance of being funded by other donors in Albania.

In contrast with "expert-reliant" interventions the SGP is by designation a programme driven by the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed through actions which are designed, implemented, and owned by communities. Due to the bottom-up approach, the programme runs the risk of anthropomorphizing or skewing its focus on projects which tend to work on species and or interventions that have practical use to humans, aesthetic appeal or intellectual interest to biologists. As usual, the truth is not to be found in the opposing ends of this duality. SGP Albania has been able to build a balanced portfolio of projects that represents a balanced approach on the above mentioned conundrum. This strategy, by the expert inputs and the stakeholders' consultations represents the main tool enabling the programme to address the balance required.

The content of the portfolio of projects has changed during the years shifting from biodiversity to projects addressing issues of climate change. In parallel to the change in focus, projects have also grown in their average grant size. The main reasons of this shift are the increasing importance of climate change as a global trend and the introduction of STAR which brings earmarked funds from the national STAR funding. The increased NGO capacity in managing bigger projects and practical administrative benefits related to smaller number of projects are the main reasons for the trend in the increasing grant size.

2.1 Overall situation analysis for the SGP country programme in OP6

GEF SGP Albania operates in specific conditions of a very dynamic sector with numerous donors and projects, providing from very large to small scale support on the topics of GEF/SGP focus. However, the specific criteria of the GEF/SGP focused on concrete results, having a multidimensional pro-poor, pro-gender and pro social inclusion approach places GEF/SGP in a very favorable position. GEF/SGP focuses on building synergies and catalyzes larger support at local level focusing on small economic development and grounded in local values. The national and governmental support by the national sources (such as Agency for the Support of Civil Society) remains very limited and mainly focuses on other sectors such

as the fight against corruption and transparency, democracy building, good governance, etc. Building synergy with other projects at local level is realistic target, although it has certain limitations at financial scale.

2.2 The experience and resources of past projects can serve as a foundation for the effective implementation of SGP initiatives in OP6

One of the main lessons learned is the fact that at great part the success and the sustainability of projects depends on the ownership of such projects by the communities hence understanding the level of social cohesion, history and cultural background of such communities is of very high importance. When targeting poor communities environmental objectives could be unfairly put in competition with the urgent economic needs the communities have. Not always the solution of environmental problems has the capacity to positively impact the economic needs within the time frame of the project. Ideally interventions that aim at the amelioration of environmental quality should be coupled with funds that target directly the improvement of the quality of living of the communities. Although SGP has tried to address this issue through the broader GEF requirement for co-financing and the concept of non-incremental part of funds, the OP6 with its Grant Maker + concept puts a greater emphasis on this very important issue.

Communities are complex entities hence visible and stable results rarely can be achieved through a single grant. Instead several grants over a 4-5 year period are needed to consolidate a positive trend.

Identifying leaders within the communities is of great importance. Ideally these are individuals that due to their exposure to the social environment outside the community such as returned immigrants, or higher educated members of the community can facilitate the community to articulate their needs.

3 SGP COUNTRY PROGRAMME NICHE

3.1 Alignment with national priorities

The GEF SGP is established to assist countries to meet their international, regional and local obligations and to implement local environmental policies. With the recognition of the importance of the environment by several governments, Albania has since 1994 acceded to, signed and/or ratified many International Conventions which qualifies it for international assistance and confers on it a shared responsibility for addressing global environmental problems at the national and community levels.

At the national level, there is a plethora of policy documents and environmental linked strategies, many of which are yet to be implemented, in best case, partially. Table 2 summarizes the list of international conventions, as well as sub-regional agreements and national policies, plans and programs, which Albania is obligated to implement. Nevertheless, Albania is experiencing a variety of challenges from the low and times wavering political will to lack of funding and human resource constraints.

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programs

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	January 1994 / April 1994
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	November 1999
Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)	October 2014
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	January 1995
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	July 2002 / November 2009 / draft
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	2 NAMAs in registration process
UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA)	-
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	April 2000 / July 2000
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	-
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	October 2004 / January 2005
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	December 2006
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	August 2008
GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	September 2006
GEF-6 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	-
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	-
Minamata Convention on Mercury	October 2014 (signed not ratified)

3.2 Opportunities for involvement of communities and civil society organizations

Based on the NSDI objectives, Albania should complete a strong, sustained and environmentally-friendly economic growth that requires a clear vision of the circumstances through which the economic growth we seek can and will take place. All the multilateral environmental agreements (Table 2) are adopted and approached into the national legal framework. In following period, they need to be enforced and implemented through action plans and public participation components. Furthermore, consolidated monitoring and evaluation programs about their impacts on the economic growth and human rights, should be designed and followed closely.

The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have capacities to perform and support the implementation of the legal framework in nature conservation and environment protection, action for mitigation/adaptation from Climate Change impacts, land degradation, chemical and waste and raising public awareness and participation. They can perform and deliver qualitatively assessments and identify best practices, improve participatory processes, challenge society stereotypes and mentality by integrating contemporary and know-how knowledge. The Albanian CSOs are using the international conventions as reference standards to prevent bad practices and activities through the raising awareness, education of the communities, businesses, media, etc. at local, national, and trans-boundary levels.

The CSO capacities need to further increase on: (i) biodiversity and nature conservation – as a prerequisite for effective implementation of management plans in protected areas, nature protection and conservation, (ii) Climate Change – as a precondition for the implementation of the mitigation/adaptation measures to avoid/decrease the impacts on air, water and land quality, ecosystems services, energy production and efficiency, infrastructure change and maintenance, human health; (iii) land degradation – as a national-wide challenge for land use and protection in order to minimize the land pollution and abandonment; (iv) water – as practice for rational use of water resources and implementation of river basin management plans in local level by increasing awareness and expertise, and (v) chemical and waste management activities – as the pollution is posing an increased challenge and pressure on environment and nature. These priorities support the achieving of the country development goal which is to improve the economic growth through national and transboundary collaboration.

3.3 The potential for complementary and synergy of the OP6 strategic initiatives

During the process of developing the OP6 strategy, a vast list of complementary initiatives and synergies are identified.

Table 2: SGP contribution to national priorities / GEF-6 corporate results

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
Community landscape/seascape conservation	Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it	<u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u> - CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will	- UNDAF/UNDP CPD outcome 1: State and civil society organization perform effectively and with accountability for

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
	<p>provides to society</p>	<p>give the pillars for maintaining the ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation with economic development that the local units can generate their actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross-cutting environmental strategy will give the main direction on nature protection on EU approaching legislation that addresses the intervention of locals in tourism, forestry, protected areas management by generating the activities for community based on environment measures - management plans of PA and RB will support the local action on biodiversity and habitat fragmentation, water users and land degradation -Project “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar (CSBL)”. - Project “Institutional support for the Ministry of Environment for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the protected areas and in the waste management”. - Project “Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa”. - Project “Harmonization of the National Action Plan to 	<p>consolidated democracy in line with international norms and standards</p> <p><i>National priority: Good governance, democracy and rule of law; and Sustainable Development Goals 5, 10, 11, 16</i></p> <p>UNDAF/UNDP CPD outcome 2: All women, men, girls and boys, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, are exercising their entitlements to equitable quality services, in line with human rights; and more effective and efficient investments in human and financial resources are being made at central and local levels to ensure social inclusion and cohesion.</p> <p><i>National priority: Investing in people and social cohesion; good governance, democracy and rule of law; Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 10, 16</i></p> <p>UNDAF/UNDP CPD outcome 3: Economic growth priorities,</p>

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>Combat Desertification in Albania and Preparation of National Report”.</p> <p>- Project “Improvement of coverage and management of MCPA in Albania”</p>	<p>policies and programmes of the Government of Albania are inclusive, sustainable and gender-responsive, with greater focus on competitiveness, decent jobs and rural development.</p> <p><i>National priority: Ensuring growth through increased competitiveness and innovation; investing in people and social cohesion; Sustainable Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11</i></p> <p>UNDAF/ UNDP CPD outcome 4: Government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction</p> <p><i>National priority: Environmental preservation, through the promotion of sustainable production and consumption, the prevention of</i></p>

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
			<i>environmental degradation, the integration of environmental issues in all sectoral strategies; Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15</i>
Innovative climate-smart agro-ecology; Community landscape/seascape conservation	Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	<p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Strategy for Development and Integration will give the main role to agriculture development with update technologies - National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural development will address the local and regional institution responsibility for land use, flood protection, PA management, water users - CC legal framework will be integrated in the agriculture strategy to incorporate climate change scenarios into policy and decision making processes 	
Community landscape/seascape conservation	Promotion of collective management of trans-boundary water systems and implementation of the full range of	Niche: The SGP program will support joint activities among local communities in transboundary water basins, involvement of civil society in the management of the water system, protection of	

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
	policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	<p>water quality and sustainable use.</p> <p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “-ECOSEA” - Project “SEAMED: Strengthening Education, Applied Research, and Marine Development in West Balkans (SEA-Med). - Project “Dalmatian Pelicans and Wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin” - Project “Establishing Albania’s Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting” - Project “Global Project on ABS: “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol” - Project “CRESSIDA: building local Community RESilience for Sustainable development in International watersheds such as the Drini and DrinA river Watersheds” 	
Energy access co-benefits	Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	<p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation energy efficiency will address the action on using the economic 	

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
		<p>lights, solar panels, replacing the old technology with low-carbon emission ones in hotels, food production and processing, heating and cooling inside the buildings, etc.</p> <p>- Project “Support for Low-Emission Development Strategies in South Eastern Europe”</p>	
Local to global chemicals coalitions	Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	<p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <p>- Albania - POPs Enabling Activity: Preparation of the POPs National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP</p> <p>- Country Situation Report on POPs in Albania,</p> <p>- Review and update of the national implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Albania” 2015.</p>	
CSO-Government dialogue platforms	Enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to implementation of MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and national and sub-national policy,	<p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <p>- Guideline of the Government Policies to create an enabling environment for the development of the civil society (including the Action Plan)</p>	

1 SGP OP6 strategic initiatives	2 GEF-6 corporate results by focal area	3 SGP Albania Programme niche relevant to national priorities/other agencies	4 Complementation between the SGP Albania Programme UNDP CO strategic programming
	planning and legal frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project TACSO – Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organizations - Achieve – Albanian Civil Society for an European Environment - Leveraging the capacities of CSO-s in the North of Albania - Lëviz Albania – Local Democracy in Action 	
Social inclusion (gender, youth, indigenous peoples)	GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy and Gender Equality Action Plan and GEF Principles for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples	<p><u>Strategies/Projects relevant to this strategic initiative and may have synergy with SGP Country Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “Leadership and Participation” - Project “UN Support to Social Inclusion in Albania” - The Albanian Women Empowering Network 	
Contribution to global knowledge management platforms	Contribute to GEF KM efforts	Niche: Improve the access of local communities and ECSOs to global initiatives through the accession to the Digital library of Community Innovations for the Global Environment	UNDP ,GEF, UNFCCC knowledge systems

4 “OPERATION PROGRAMME 6” STRATEGIES

4.1 Cross-cutting OP6 grant-making strategies

The selected Landscapes/seascapes cover a large part of the Albanian territory, representing some of the most important areas in terms of biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and chemicals. They cover the two international river’s basins that Albania has. However, there are some cross cutting projects identified during the national level consultations of national importance which are not included in the landscape/seascape areas of focus. These initiatives will serve as good examples on a national scale, by covering few strategic important areas with potentials of influencing the policy making.

One of the cross-cutting projects will be the capacity development of grantees in the program aiming at improving their information/communication skills throughout the project cycle. Furthermore, it will contribute to improve the visibility of GEF/SGP programme and outreach of the CPS through a consolidated communication strategy with various stakeholders.

Important initiatives proposed to be supported outside the Landscape/Seascape Areas of focus include also the ones tackling biodiversity and climate change programs of a national and/or regional importance. The strategic cross-cutting themes, outside of the selected landscape/seascape focus areas, are: (i) significant increase in Environmental Literacy aiming at increasing the percentage of public awareness, advocacy effort, involvement in positive action as collective stewards of the environment; (ii) identification and start-ups of new micro-business opportunities; (iii) application of gender equality and equity principles for all projects; (iv) promotion and support of research and development as an integral component of all projects.

The proposed projects outside of landscape/seascape areas are (i) Increase the awareness on nature protection and conservation by planting trees, forest services or planting autochthonous plants in coastal areas (dunes, small hills, coastal embankments, etc.); (ii) Land protection by sliding and/or erosion; (iii) Involvement in the water resources management, water quality monitoring, minimizing the overexploitation, pollution or salinization; (iv) Public discussion on river flood protection programme; and (vi) Raising awareness and concrete community action on solid waste reduction, reuse and recycling; Priority might be given in this context to initiatives/actions targeting children of Roma and Egyptians communities, in schools and kindergarten; etc.

In addition, an important initiative will be the conversion of GEF/SGP grant outcomes and results in the local context into policy recommendations for central and local authorities. Use of other existing programs that promote the dialogue among civil society actors and state authorities is deemed necessary. The capacity building to formulate policy recommendations will be available through this support. The GEF/SGP as Grantmaker+ will play an important role.

Support will be available for replication and revitalization of successful initiatives implemented through previous Operational Programs or the library of community innovations. These initiatives might not be linked only to the landscape/seascape area of focus. Whenever it is feeding into the OP6 strategic directions and promote the involvement of local communities in the process, support might be given to ongoing scientific research and involvement of academia institutions and researchers.

Finally, following the global processes where Albanian Government has expressed its own commitments, any initiative on informing and involving the Albanian civil society and local communities into the new global cross-cutting initiatives (Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement etc.) might be supported.

4.2 Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies

The method used to identify the country niche for Landscape/seascape-based OP6 grant-making strategies followed three basic steps.

Firstly, an expert team was established by an open selection process for each area of the country strategy. The expert team drafted the assessment on the current analysis of the situation, documents, strategies, legal framework and projects, as well as the list of the focus areas derived out of the analysis. Based on these analyses, a list of proposed areas as potential zones for Landscape Focus Areas was developed. Since Albania is a small country, it was deemed as appropriate by the expert team to consider the whole territory for the initial support by the SGP fund. The proposed areas were selected based on indicators for their importance on biodiversity and nature conservation, the Climate Change impacts, transboundary collaboration on water bodies, the land degradation risks and the chemical and hazardous waste hotspots.

Secondly, a multi-stakeholder consultation process was designed and carried out. It consisted on a series of meetings with representatives from the public institutions and private sector, e.g. the Ministries of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, Ministry of Energy and Industry and different CSOs and stakeholder from private entrepreneurs, etc. A consultative workshop with national stakeholders was organized on February 11, 2016 in Tirana. It is followed by four regional workshops, in northern, central and southern regions of Albania, where approximately 100 representatives from the public sector and CSOs took part. The regional CSOs and community representatives gathered in Shkodra, Elbasan, Përmet and Tirana in open discussion forums with the objective to identify the priority areas for action.

Thirdly, a large number of reports, strategies, management plans and policy papers on the environment and sustainable development were screened and analyzed. Finally, the findings and the final draft this Strategy was presented in the National Event in Tirana on May 10, 2016. It concluded the consultation process which involved more than a dozen experts and over 200 representatives of direct beneficiaries of the program and interested parties.

4.3 Description of the selected Landscape/seascape areas

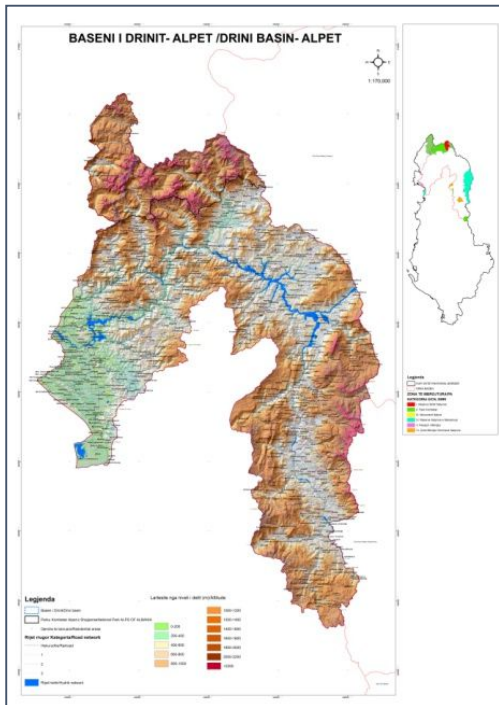
Albania has a total area of 28,748 square kilometers (11,100 square miles). It lies between latitudes 39 and 43° N, and mostly between longitudes 19 and 21° E (a small area lies east of 21°). Albania's coastline length is 476 km and extends along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The lowlands of the west face the Adriatic Sea. The 70% of the country that is mountainous is rugged and often inaccessible from the outside.

Albania is well-known for its varied biological landscapes and ranks among the countries with the highest biodiversity in Europe. The origin of this diversity comes from the geographic position, geological factors, soil, hydrology, relief and climate. According to the existing information there is a diverse flora and fauna with 3,976 higher taxa of plants and 756 species of vertebrates, representing about 32% of all European flora. Forests cover 33% of the country and

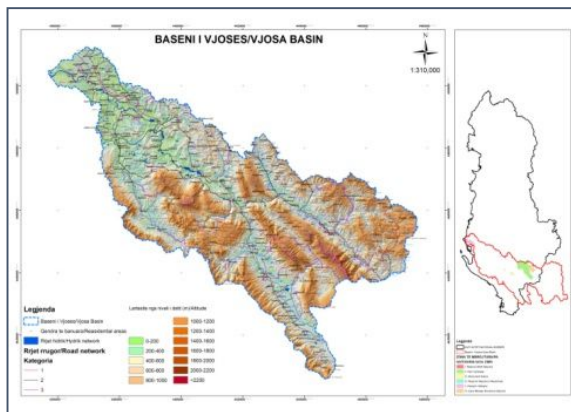
pasture land is at around 15%. According to data there are about 186 species and taxa intraspecific of macro algae and sea grasses, which belong to 63 families and 112 genders.

The natural vulnerability of the country is exacerbated by the negative environmental impacts which come from land degradation, land and water pollution, overexploitation of species, invasive species, and the threats and impacts of climate change. Other factors compounding the adverse impact on the environment include: (i) insufficient inter and intra agency coordination among Government agencies and other stakeholders; (ii) limited involvement and advocacy of the citizens; (iii) too few strong developed and/or developing CSOs; (iv) the absence of sustained environmental monitoring; (v) a limited number of skilled personnel; (vi) insufficient and inadequate strategic planning; (vii) insufficient project and programme monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of knowledge management; (viii) intermittent and discontinuous environmental awareness and education which is frequently not based on research; and (ix) inadequate financing for natural resource management. Socio-economic vulnerability comes from an economy which is open and highly dependent on foreign trade and Foreign Direct Investment for development projects. The economy is dependent on Tourism, Agriculture and minimal manufacturing and is subjected to the effects of all global crises.

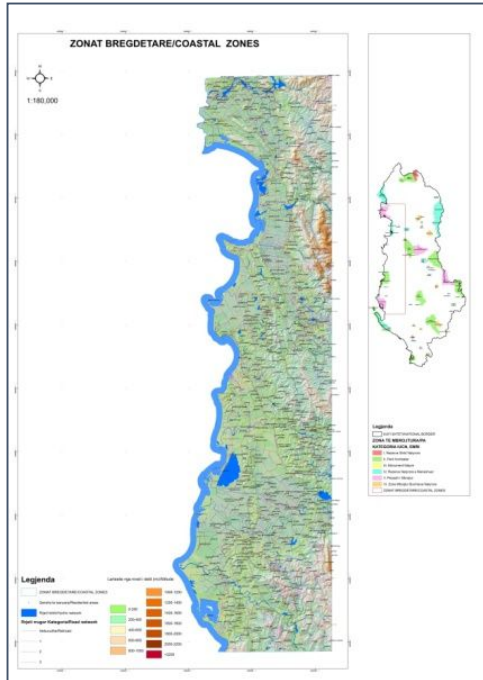
The team of experts took into consideration the vast information gathered in the field and from the desk review to propose three selected landscape areas of which are Drini basin, Adriatic Sea wetlands area and Vjosa basin (maps are shown below). A complete view of the assessment is given in Annex 1.



Map 1: Landscape/Seascape Area no.1 – “Drini River Basin and Albanian Alps”



Map 2: Landscape/Seascape Area no.2 – “Vjosa River Basin”



Map 3: Landscape/Seascape Area no.3 – “Adriatic wetlands area”

The main strategic initiatives that will be prioritized for support on the landscape/seascape areas will be:

- Involving CSO and local communities to implement conservation actions at local level and to implement specific part of existing management plans and specific activities already stated in the PA plans;
- Small scale activities that promote agro-ecology especially in environmental sensitive areas;
- Joint activities among local communities in trans-boundary water basins, involvement of civil society in the management of the water system, protection of water quality and sustainable use;
- Activities related to promoting higher mobility, use of energy efficiency practices and small scale demonstration projects.
- Involvement of civil society in raising the awareness on the sound chemical management and the management of hotspots.
- Involvement of the local communities in the central initiatives that aim to improve the dialogue among civil society and state actors.

The 4 year strategy will aim at developing the capacity of CSOs in the GEF Focal Areas of Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forestry, Chemicals and International Waters, while focusing on environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.

The specific strategy will be implemented by medium and small projects that government, foreign donors, local government unit and small-medium enterprises can develop in the selected landscape/seascape areas and CSO can give their contribution.

The supported projects can be developed in 2-3 year time span, where the participation of CSOs and local community should be continuous and play key role in the project implementation. The main strategies and plans in national or regional level should develop synergy between different initiatives, in line with their implementation and support. The support of capacity building and knowledge management of CSOs will be an added value for the supported projects.

4.4 Grant-maker+ strategies

4.4.1 CSO-Government Dialogue Platform

There is an ongoing process in Albania for the improvement of the dialogue among civil society members and Government authorities. The strategy GEF/SGP will seek the involvement of small, remote areas CSOs into the national processes and/or the increase of visibility of those CSOs into the national wide panorama. During this period, GEF/SGP will make use of the existing channels of communication such as the National Council of Civil Society, open forums organized by the state actors and CSO, etc.

The new Administrative Division in Albania has brought new challenges on environmental management especially at local level. Therefore, an important aspect of the “grant maker +” role will be the improvement of the dialogue among CSOs, Local Government Units and Regional Governmental Agencies. (Table 3).

4.4.2 Policy influence

There is an established procedure to inform and allow the participation of civil society organization in the drafting of new laws and policies. However, the procedures are rarely respected and followed at the local level, not only due to lack of democratic culture and human capacities, but also due to the recent re-arrangement of the Local Government Units. As a general strategy for the policy influence, it is deemed as appropriate the direct involvement of GEF/SGP Albania in the discussions related to national strategies and policies. Civil Society Organizations, as main implementing partners, will contribute directly to GEF/SGP Albania on reaching these targets.

Meanwhile, at the local level, civil society organizations can contribute to influence the implementation and enforcement of the adopted strategies by stronger community involvement and monitoring. The GEF/SGP Albania will contribute indirectly by facilitating such processes, assist and provide interested CSO with resource docs, previous experiences, enhanced expertise, etc.

4.4.3 Promoting social inclusion

SGP understands the importance of *gender* equality and women’s empowerment as essential elements to achieve sustainable development and project impacts for the GEF. As such, gender issues should be well mainstreamed throughout the SGP program and incorporated within the SGP project cycle. Reaching Gender Equality will be one of the mandatory cross-cutting objectives in the SGP grant-making process. The program will be mainstreaming it throughout the project cycle from planning to monitoring and evaluation, through clear gender indicators and criteria.

Although there are no indigenous populations in Albania, inclusion of minorities in the SGP program will be sought, especially when they are settled inside the selected seascape/landscape area of focus. Involvement of minorities on the projects and in activities will be evaluated as an added value in the evaluation process.

Youth and children will be considered priority targets, especially in the environmental education process. When possible, young students will be involved in the project implementation, through activities which promote voluntarism and community mobilization. Furthermore, the youth career development as scientific researchers will be promoted specifically mobilizing students and young researchers in data gathering and professional experience sharing events. Involvement of youth organizations as applicants or partners in the application process will be preferential by the program.

4.4.4 Knowledge management plan

The Knowledge management plan implies the collection and dissemination of information related to the experience gained from each individual project and the entire project portfolio on various GEF strategic initiatives. The objective of these knowledge management efforts is to facilitate the flow of knowledge and experiences, leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and replicate and scale-up the good practices. Best SGP practices will be used as an influential mechanism for policy development and formulation for the implementation of environmental conventions and development agendas.

The Knowledge management will be one of the key activities of the SGP Albania. Knowledge and experience gained through SGP projects will be collected and consolidated in handbooks, factsheets, case studies, films and video materials. Further on, this information will be widely disseminated among practitioners helping them to determine the good/best practices and strategies and share experiences. In addition, the collective experience will be shared in seminars, meetings, public presentations, knowledge fairs, knowledge centers and through various electronic information networks and media, when applicable. Training programs and workshops conducted within the SGP framework are of special importance in the knowledge management aspect.

SGP Albania will seek continuous knowledge sharing among the present and past grantees making available the best practices and lessons learned; document and make them publicly available. It will be reached by creating the "directory of expertise" among SGP grantees to call upon each other for advice and networking; develop website and e-groups for regional groupings; and designate local focal persons.

SGP Albania will encourage applicants to include one specific component for demonstration and knowledge dissemination within each proposed project. Regular public communication tools such as "press releases" will be prepared and disseminated in electronic and/or printed form by the grantees for updating the beneficiaries and the general public on the accomplished (successes, awards, recognitions, etc.), ongoing and future activities. The grantees will be required to ensure continuous and open exchange of knowledge and lessons learned with other applicants. The accessibility of information will be a requirement to all SGP participants.

4.4.5 Program Communication Strategy

GEF/SGP Albania will boost its communication both with local NGO and with government agencies at central and local level. A new web page will be established early in the OP6 timeline, to include data on the granting process and the achievement of the GEF/SGP program. Wherever possible, grantees will include an updated information and communication strategy in their applications.

SGP Albania will communicate the results through already established connections with all stakeholders. SGP will use the communication channels already available and free of charge in Albania (Agency for Support of Civil Society, *Mjedisi Sot*, UNDP website etc.) to improve communication with CSO community nationwide.

SGP, in synergy with the grantees, will prepare concise, easy to read communication materials where contribution of SGP Albania to national priorities, GEF programming, and UNDP strategies will be clearly stated and promoted.

Several awareness materials will be drafted for the promotion of the program outcomes and results including the visibility of GEF/SGP while maintaining the environmental friendly approach (limited copies, minimal plastic usage, reduce consumption through implementing e-office and e-communication practice, etc.)

5 EXPECTED RESULTS FRAMEWORK

5.1 Global and National OP6 project components and targets

Table 3: Consistency with SGP OP6 global programme components

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 1:</u> <i>Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation:</i></p> <p>1.1 SGP country programmes improve conservation and sustainable use, and management of important terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems through implementation of community based landscape/seascape approaches in approximately 50 countries</p>	<p>OP6 will provide support for the entire country, with 70% of OP6 grant making resources focused in three landscape and seascape area of focus. The three areas of focus are a combination of a landscape with a seascape (Drini river basin, Vjosa river basin and Adriatic coast line) Drini river basin and Vjosa river basin includes a combination of mountain, low lying plain, valley, riverine and wetland) Adriatic coast line includes a combination of low lying plain, wetland and seagrass)</p> <p>No SAP available for the Drini river basin and the Vjosa river basin.</p>	<p>2- 3 projects addressing marine biodiversity 3-4 projects on awareness raising focusing on riverine habitat 6 projects focusing on agro-biodiversity/forestry</p>		<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p>1.2. Biological diversity</p>	<p>1.2.2 Promotes approaches for conservation and preservation of endangered and threatened species within their habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of most threatened species/breeds - Development and adoption of best practices for autochthonic species 	<p>At least 2 projects</p>	<p>5 protected species 150 participants in the projects</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Baseline assessment comparison variables (use of conceptual models and partner</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
	<p>- Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use in sectors through community Initiatives and actions</p>			<p>data as appropriate)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 2:</u> <i>Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology:</i></p> <p>2.1 Agro-ecology practices incorporating measures to reduce CO2 emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change tried and tested in protected area buffer zones and forest corridors and disseminated widely in at least 30 priority countries</p>	<p>CPS will target the following agroecology and land protection practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintenance of landscape diversity-including a mosaic of agricultural and natural habitat. - Maintaining a complex matrix of field margins, riparian buffers and forest edges around farms yields several ecological services for farmers. - Natural ecosystems may also purify water and regulate its flow into agricultural systems. - Establishment of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems. - Restoration of degraded lands. - Restoration and conservation of wetlands. - Maintenance of habitat 	<p>6 projects targeting the climate smart innovative agroecology</p>	<p>5,000 hectares of land positively affected</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Socio-ecological resilience indicators for production landscapes (SEPLs)</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
	connectivity for faunal movement across the landscape.			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 3:</u> <i>Low Carbon Energy Access Co-benefits:</i></p> <p>3.1 Low carbon community energy access solutions successfully deployed in 50 countries with alignment and integration of these approaches within larger frameworks such as SE4ALL initiated in at least 12 countries</p>	<p>CPS will target use of alternative renewable energy in remote off-grid areas in low income communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar Panels for electricity and heating in rural/remote areas - small scale innovative solutions for renewable energy (small scale water mills, wind turbines etc.) 	<p>8 projects focusing on renewable solar energies and biomass</p>		<p>AMR, country reports AMR, global database, country reports Special country studies Country Programme Strategy Review (NSC inputs)</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 4:</u> <i>Local to Global Chemical Management Coalitions:</i></p> <p>4.1 Innovative community-based tools and approaches demonstrated, deployed and transferred, with support from newly organized or existing coalitions in at least 20 countries for managing harmful chemicals and waste in a sound manner</p>	<p>Outline of innovative tools and approaches to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pesticide management (Biological agricultural practices that minimize the use of pesticides) - solid waste management (Use of practices to avoid dumping of medical waste, waste burning on landfills, promotion of source separation of waste, clean-up campaigns) - heavy metals management, 	<p>5 projects</p>	<p>6 farms 2 youth NGOs supported 2 junior research students supported</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategic partnership with IPEN country partners</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
	and (abatement through the awareness of heavy metal presence in the food web (fish, plants etc.)			
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 5:</u> <i>CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>5.1 SGP supports establishment of “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms”, leveraging existing and potential partnerships, in at least 50 countries</p>	<p>5.1.1 Support bottom – up community participation and policy development in the topic area of CPS Implement PA Action Plans with participatory approach</p> <p>5.1.2 Empowering NGO action Strengthening human and technical capacities of NGO for environmental control, impact on the work of the local and national environmental bodies and influence polices planning</p>	<p>No direct projects</p> <p><i>Crosscutting issue in all projects implemented in protected areas.</i></p>	<p>2 dialogue platforms supported in the Vjosa and Valbona river basin. Platforms focusing on the dialogue with the Government regarding licensing of hydro power in these two river basins</p> <p>- 5 trainings and capacity building programmes - 100 participants - At least 2 policies, strategies or regulative influenced</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 6:</u> <i>Promoting Social Inclusion (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>6.1 Gender mainstreaming considerations applied by all SGP country programmes; Gender training utilized by SGP staff, grantees, NSC members, partners</p> <p>6.2 IP Fellowship programme awards at least 12 fellowships to build capacity of IPs; implementation of projects by IPs is supported in relevant countries</p> <p>6.3 Involvement of youth and disabled is further supported in SGP projects and guidelines and best practices are widely shared with countries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote gender mainstreaming and incorporate in the project cycle. Gender approach will be mandatory cross-cutting requirement in the SGP grant making criteria's. - Establish a set of gender related indicators within the grant making procedures. - Promote social inclusion for Roma and Egyptian in the specific topic areas (waste management etc.) 	<p>2 projects benefiting Roma minorities</p> <p>2 projects benefiting women NGOs</p>	<p>100 pax. of women and youth participate</p> <p>1 set of indicators integrated into the project proposal</p> <p>4 direct meetings, education and promotions programmes</p> <p>50 pax. of minorities, Roma and Egyptian</p>	<p>Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p> <p>Country Programme Strategy Review</p>
<p><u>SGP OP6 Component 7:</u> <i>Global Reach for Citizen Practice-Based Knowledge program (Grant-makers+):</i></p> <p>7.1 Digital library of</p>	<p>7.2.1 Web platform of GEF/SGP Albania will promote the dissemination of knowledge as a Grant Maker + and the promotion of digital library</p> <p>7.2.2 Set of knowledge delivery (new concepts and new dimensions on</p>	<p>At least, 1 project for establishment of the knowledge platform</p> <p>1 multiyear project</p>	<p>SGP Albania website active within the end of 2016</p> <p>A Communication Plan developed</p>	<p>SGP Global Database</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</p>

1 OP6 project components	2 CPS targets	3 Activities	4 Indicators	5 Means of verification
<p>community innovations is established and provides access to information to communities in at least 50 countries</p> <p>7.2 South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform promotes south-south exchanges on global environmental issues in at least 20 countries</p>	<p>evolving practices) and capacity development conducted for all program beneficiaries (NGOs and others)</p>	<p>on knowledge share and capacity development</p>	<p>All grantees report to the website and exchange platform</p> <p>1 NGO exchange forum per year on progress and development</p> <p>1 yearly publication of project impact and lessons learnt is printed</p> <p>At least 1 NGO fair is organized to share the project results to a larger scale of actors</p>	<p>Country Programme Individual project reporting by SGP country teams</p> <p>Strategy Review</p> <p>Website access data</p> <p>Products</p>



6 MONITORING & EVALUATION PLAN

6.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan at the country programme level

Regular Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is an essential component of the SGP program and intends to measure progress and achievements at project and country program levels. Both, at project and country program levels, M&E will be conducted in the course of implementation of different stages: planning, execution and completion. M&E identifies implementation problems and helps to assess whether targets are being achieved. M&E activities are represented through different types of reports that help the country program and its projects to maintain accountability, achieve sustainability, allow for replicability and provide opportunities for extracting and communicating lessons learned. The results and/or lessons learned from M&E will be used to improve the program and projects design and implementation, and will enable SGP grantees to carry on project activities after the grant period is over.

It is one of the program principles where the SGP grantees will involve deeply local communities and other stakeholders through a participatory self-monitoring and assessment/evaluation process at project level. It is believed that the involvement of project beneficiaries in M&E process will promote mutual understanding about the project's approach, contribute to community "ownership", as well as enable capacity building and apply lessons learned from project and program experience.

At country level, the M&E process mainly involves: development and implementation of the program M&E plan; compilation and communication of lessons learned, and reporting to the Central Program Management Team.

Both at project and program levels, the baseline data refers to the "starting point", as the bases for measuring the change at different results levels - before implementing project or after the implementation of the program activities. By means of indicators, program/project progress and accomplishments can then be compared with the baseline, and hence evaluated. An easily measurable indicator should be logically connected to the baseline related to GEF/SGP initiatives.

6.2 M&E of individual SGP grantee partners

The NC will undertake, at least, two monitoring visits per each project realization, preferably at the intermediate reporting(s) and at final reporting. Upon necessity and whenever possible, respective members of the NSC will also participate in site visits, too. The site visits will give the NC/NSC the opportunity to observe the actual implementation of the project and confirm the information presented in the interim and final reports of grantees. During the site visits, the NC will collect materials, information, make photos, etc., in order to document lessons learned and to demonstrate the environmental and sustainable livelihood impacts of the SGP activities. After each site visit the NC/NSC member(s) will prepare the monitoring report indicating observations, recommendations and respective measure to be taken. This report will be provided to the grantee and the NSC, upon request.

Thus, at project level M&E process implies planning, coordination, systematic reporting, and agreement upon these and other issues by all project participants before projects are undertaken (see Table 4).

Table 4: M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Project Progress and Financial Reports <i>(depending on disbursement schedule)</i>	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Work plans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

Apart from the interim progress reports, the grantee will prepare a final report upon completion of the project. The final report must cover the life of the project, objective reached, expected and actual results, lessons learned, perspectives or replication and other interesting aspects of the project. In addition, the report should include the project sustainability aspects. If necessary, the NC might ask for additional information or clarification.

Upon approving the reports, the NC will prepare project completion report and register the conclusion of the project in the SGP project database

6.3 Involvement of local stakeholders and community members

The involvement of all stakeholders at national and local level, including community members, youth, women, and marginalized groups is considered one of the main principles on planning and implementing the OP6 programme. This principle will be materialized through concrete activities which will channel the contribution and feedback of the stakeholders to monitor and adjust the implementation plan (see Table 5).

Table 5: M&E Plan at the Country Programme Level

M&E Activity	Purpose	Responsible parties	Budget source	Timing
Country Programme Strategy elaboration	Framework for identification of community projects	NC, NSC, country stakeholders, grantee	Covered under preparatory grant	At start of operational phase
Annual Country Programme Strategy Review	Learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Reviews will be conducted on annual basis to ensure CPS is on track in achieving its outcomes and targets, and to take decisions on any revisions or adaptive management needs
NSC Meetings for ongoing review of project results and analysis	Assess effectiveness of projects, portfolios, approaches; learning; adaptive management	NC, NSC, UNDP	Covered under country programme operating costs	Minimum twice per year, one dedicated to M&E and adaptive management at end of grant year
Annual Country Report (ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to NSC	NC presenting to NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in June
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) Survey (based on ACR)	Enable efficient reporting to CPMT and GEF; presentation of results to donor	NC submission to CPMT	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per year in July
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	Learning; adaptive management for strategic development of Country Programme	NSC	Covered under country programme operating costs	Once per operational phase

Indicators to measure the expected results at country program level (Outcomes) are agreed with the NSC, while for the project level results (Outputs) indicators are determined by the NC and grantees.



7 RESOURCE MOBILISATION PLAN

The main objectives of resource mobilization strategy to enhance the sustainability of the SGP Country programme will be:

- cover the cost of project activities not fully funded by the SGP, as in the case of alternative livelihoods components;
- cover part of the administrative and operational costs associated with managing the programme in Albania;
- develop projects at scales which will ensure their viability and sustainability; and
- meet the project and programme co-financing ratios as required by the GEF regulations.

RM should result in *Cash and/or In-Kind* contributions and take place at three levels targeting the GoA and its various Ministries, the private sector, bi-lateral and multilateral donors and where possible, wealthy persons living in the country. The three levels of RM are:

- *The Project Level:* it is expected that every project proponent shall raise at least 50% of the project budget (in-kind and in-cash) and provide evidence to that effect. All projects should have at minimum in-kind co-funding and those exclusively with in-kind co-funding shall be determined by the NC and the NSC.
- *The Country Programme Level:* Once completed, the CPS shall serve as a basis for raising funds over its three-year life span. This task shall be the direct responsibility of the NC with assistance from the NSC.
- *The Sub-regional and International Levels:* The CPS shall serve as the basis for RM at the sub-regional and international levels. This task shall be the direct responsibility of the NC with assistance from the NSC.

Successful RM strategies are context specific and cannot be generalized as potential donors have their own tailor-made requirements. However, there is a menu of general guidelines, which can be adapted to various contexts, which are linked to the credibility of the programme.

The possible proposals that can be funded by donors are: (i) for nature protection and conservation like Natura 2000, CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, management plans of PA and RB, National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural development, etc; (ii) for climate change as Green Climate Fund, REED+, Adaptation Fund, etc; (iii) for international waters like transboundary management plans of lakes or rivers, transboundary protected areas, industrial accidents, etc; (iv) for land degradation like territory planning, rural development strategy, etc; (v) for chemicals and waste management like the national implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, etc.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The following risks are identified for OP6, described by the degree and the probability of risks and the foreseen mitigation measures (see Table 6).

Table 6. Description of risks identified in OP6

Identified risk	Degree of risk (low, medium, high)	Probability of risk (low, medium, high)	Risk mitigation measure foreseen
Low participation of women in project design and implementation	Medium	Medium	Use of gender mainstreaming criteria as an indicator for the project quality and obligatory gender disaggregated data for project reporting
Active involvement of women and youth in decision making and overall activities	Medium	Medium	Use of alternative strategies to involve women and youth in areas where cultural barriers exist
CSO are not well prepared to deal with projects targeting climate change issues directly	High	Low	Climate change activities will be promoted as crosscutting in those grants which target climate valuable topics.
Other programs/initiatives operating in the area are not willing to create synergies with GEF/SGP Albania initiatives	High	Low	GEF/SGP Albania via NSC will keep continuous contacts with donors, implementing agencies and program managers to guarantee a close collaboration when interventions are targeting the same area and have a high potential for complementarity or can further increase the impact of the action

GEF/SGP Albania will keep a continuous track of the identified risks. A monitoring of all grantees related to risks will be done prior to the approval of the grants. When applicable, grantees will be required to respond on how they will manage to mitigate these risks for their individual grants.

A monitoring table will be kept updated by GEF/SGP Albania on the risks and respective mitigation measures to be implemented for each project, during the implementation of OP6. A short summary of the measures should be reported in the Annual Review Meeting.



9 NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

NSC members involved in OP6 CPS development, review and endorsement	Signatures
Mr. Ismail BEKA	
Mr. Pellumb ABESHI	
Mr. Ferdinand BEGO	
Ms. Merita MANSAKU	
Ms. Elvita KABASHI	
Mr. Roland KRISTO	
Mr. Mihallaq QIRIO	
(Add more rows as necessary)	



10 ANNEXES

Annex 1: OP6 landscape/seascape baseline assessment

Annex 2: OP6 donor partner strategy

10.1 Annex 1: OP6 Landscape/Seascape Baseline Assessment

General Introduction

Albania has a total area of 28,748 square kilometers (11,100 square miles). It lies between latitudes 39° and 43° N, and mostly between longitudes 19° and 21° E (a small area lies east of 21°). Albania's coastline length is 476 km (296 mi) and extends along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. The lowlands of the west face the Adriatic Sea. The 70% of the country that is mountainous is rugged and often inaccessible from the outside.

Biodiversity

Albania is well-known for his varies biological landscapes and ranks among the countries with the highest biodiversity in Europe. The origin of this diversity comes from the geographic position, geological factors, soil, hydrology, relief and clime. According to the existing information there are a diversity of rich flora and fauna with 3976 higher taxa of plants and 756 species of vertebrates, about 32% of all European flora. Forests cover 33% of the country territory and the pasture around 15%. The rich marine flora and fauna communities are an indicator of the high level of conservation and the quality of these communities in Albania. According to data are recorded about 186 species and infraspecific taxa of macro algae and sea grasses, which belong to 63 families and 112 genders. The natural vulnerability of the country is exacerbated by the negative environmental impacts which come from land degradation, land and water pollution, overexploitation of species, invasive species, and the threats and impacts of climate change.

Other factors compounding the adverse impact on the environment include: (i) insufficient inter and intra agency coordination among Government agencies and other stakeholders; (ii) limited involvement and advocacy of the citizens; (iii) too few strong developed and/or developing CSOs; (iv) the absence of sustained environmental monitoring; (v) a limited number of skilled personnel; (vi) insufficient and inadequate strategic planning; (vii) insufficient project and programme monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of knowledge management; (viii) intermittent and discontinuous environmental awareness and education which is frequently not based on research; and (ix) inadequate financing for natural resource management.

Socio-economic vulnerability comes from an economy which is open and highly dependent on foreign trade and Foreign Direct Investment for development projects. The economy is dependent on Tourism, Agriculture and minimal manufacturing, and is subjected to the effects of all global crises.

Climate change

Climate of Albania is typically Mediterranean. It is characterized by mild winters with abundant precipitation and hot, dry summers. Temperature values vary from 7° C over the highest zones up to 15° C on the coastal zone; in the south- west the temperatures even reach up to 16° C. Along the lowland, an almost stable distribution of annual mean temperature (12–14°C) is observed. Annual mean maximum air temperature varies from 11.3 °C in the mountainous zones up to 21.8 °C in the low and coastal zones while annual mean minimum varies from – 0.1°C up to 14.6 °C respectively.

The mean annual precipitation total over Albania is about 1485 mm/year. Nevertheless, the spatial distribution varies within quite wide limits. The southeast part of the country receives the smaller amount of precipitation (annual value reaches up to 600 mm), followed by the Myzeqeja field, that receives about 1000 mm/year. The highest precipitation total is recorded in the Albanian Alps, where the values reach up to 2800-3000 mm/year. Another center with abundant rainfall is also the mountainous southwest zone, with a precipitation total up to 2200 mm. Precipitation displays a clear annual course with the maximum in winter and the minimum in summer. The highest total precipitation (about 70 %) is recorded during the cold months (October- March). The richest month in precipitation over the whole territory is November, while the poorest are July-August. Snow is characteristic for inland mountainous regions, i.e. the Albanian Alps, and the central and southern mountainous regions. It is a rare phenomenon in the West Plain lowlands, in particular in the southwestern part of the Albanian coast. The precipitation total and regime is a key factor in national electricity production, since the country produces majority of its electricity from hydropower plants. It is also very important for agriculture which is still the most important economic activity.

Transboundary waters

Albania is one of the richest countries in water resources. The watersheds of its two main rivers (Drin and Vjosa) are shared with other countries.

- Drini River basin is shared between Greece, Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro. This relatively large basin (with an area of about 19 000 km²) is a complex hydraulic system consisting of: Prespa Lake, Ohrid Lake, Skadar Lake, Drini River, Moraca River and Bojana River.
- Vjosa River basin is shared between Albania (67%) and Greece (33%). This river is 269 km long, originates in the northern part of the Pindos Mountains and its river mouth is located south at Narta wetland. The population living in this basin is about 350 000, which have bound their lives, inter alia, with this water resource.

Land degradation

Protecting the environment remains tough challenge for Albania. Long term strategy of defensive action plans, land use-handling, that workable in particular has a key role. After 1991 the legal framework of the relevant state bodies of achievements, thanks to donors, including the GEF / SGP in financing the projects. But there are still concern failure protection laws in land degradation. The effects of the geographical environment in damage, including land degradation, have social and economic cost. State institutions do not exclude the legal framework, legal acts and regulations, rules and instructions of land from degradation.

Today's situation is not good. Land degradation in Albania favored by: (i) natural factors as terrigenous rocks (flysch's & molasses), mountainous terrain, moderate to high gradients of slopes, Mediterranean climate, etc. (ii) Increased anthropogenic factor, economic activity on the geographical environment, fueling-speed land degradation, opening indiscriminate new lands (300 ha to 1990), use not careful arable land, natural vegetation, use abusive gravel, great exodus of rural, low awareness of stakeholders that use environment-land, scarce anti-erosion measures, etc. There are environmental elements that have given the signal "SOS". Global warming will further complicate the situation. February where we give these consequences is visible today and the future.

Long observations resulting from the care of the Albanian attitude towards the environment, in particular soil is not the right level. The last 25 years have reduced 8-10% of the forest area, cutting, fires; abandonment, fallow, occupation Inappropriate of arable land in diversity construction, etc., have spurred add processes of degradation (over 140 thousand ha threatened

by mudslides, around the cities of Tirana, Durres, Lezha, Vlora, Grama, Pogradec, Vlora , Çorovodë, etc.), soil pollution, loss of productivity, diversity and biodiversity. Erosion remains the main factor of degradation: 60% of the arable land slopes is very steep slope, 30% prone to high erosion, for erosion 50% average and 20% for slight erosion. According to the study results in higher values of erosion (60 t/ha/year) have municipalities: Tepelene Saranda, Delvina, great Highland, Lezha, Shkodra, Gjirokastra; value of 40 t/ha/ year is in the municipalities of Lushnja, Fier, Elbasan, Durres, Tirana, berate, Gramsh; value of 20 t/ha/year with municipalities: Cologne, shines, Bajram Curri, Kukes, Pogradec.

Global warming with rising temperatures, depletions-disorder rainfall regime, etc. will add degradation in Albania. Soil functions moved visibly: physical and chemical qualities. Arable land in 1970 was 0.38 ha/inhabitant after 2005 is 0.2 ha / inhabitant. Law no 7501 "On Land", Decision no. 452 dt.17.10.1992 "On Restructuring of Agricultural Enterprises" of arable land is fragmented, hindering the development of land protection from degradation; 60% of farmers have 1 ha of land, only 12% over 2 ha. Compared to the surface of Albania, received the following figures: 24% of agricultural land (43.3% in field-coastal, 34% in hilly, 27.7% in the country). According to forms of relief: the area 304 thousand ha (250,000 ha coast: grades 1-4, high agro-production value); hills, sloping 5-25% are about 239 000 ha (34% of agricultural land, grades 4, 5 and 6); in the mountainous area, about 159,000 ha (22.7% of agricultural land).

Over 30 years of research has been the classification of land by way of use: arable land surface So (1960) was: 91.2% arable land, orchard 3.3%, 3.7% olive groves, vineyards 1.8%; 1989 arable land 82.6%, 8.3% orchard, olive groves and vineyards 6.2% 2.9%; in 2010 all the above figures were greatly reduced in 1990 compared with 1989. The national classification system based on plant floors: 50.6% of the area of arable land on the ground shrubs); 30.6% in the oak and other conifers in alpine pastures. Overall about 45% of the two floors are threatened from degradation-desertification. It should be added that in recent years resulting 45% of arable land is uncultivated. This has reduced and land planted with cereals, about 375 thousand hectares of deforested areas in 2010. The last 10-15 years should lower erosion be over 70 t/ha/year.

Chemicals and waste

Chemicals are an integral part of daily life in today's world. Millions of people throughout the world lead richer, more productive and more comfortable lives because of the thousands of chemicals on the market today. At the same time, sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle is essential in order to reduce and avoid impacts on human health and the environment as well as to avoid substantial costs to national economies.

On March 2016 Albania adopted the draft law "Chemicals Management". This law is considered as the most important one because it directly affects in human health and environment protection, but at the same time guarantees chemicals free movement, and stimulates competition and innovation in this field. The Ministry of Environment has approximated the national legislation with the EU and has given in consideration Progress -Reports recommendation from 2011 to 2014 in chemicals' field.

Key innovations of new chemicals management are:

- Establishment of a chemicals management system in line with that of EU and not as a parallel or competitive system;
- Establishing only one competent authority, specifically the Ministry of Environment, which is very important in chemical field, unlike to the existing legal framework
- Responsibilities relocation for chemical management throughout their life cycle from competent authorities to manufacturer, importer and user.
- They will have main responsibilities regarding to registration, classification, labeling,

packaging, chemicals safety assessment, data chemical safety document. So costs will also pass to manufacturer, importer and user.

The new Law on Chemicals provides the establishment of Chemicals Office, which will ensure the integrated management of chemicals whole life cycle and will also serve as absorption and implementing institution for projects in our country funded by EU IPA funds or other donors.

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are highly toxic, organic compounds. They include pesticides used to protect plants from insects (aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, and toxaphene) and in control of vector-borne diseases (DDT) or to protect seeds (HCB); heat resistant compound used primarily in electrical equipment such as transformer (PCBs); and substances generated as a by-product of incomplete combustion and chemical processes (dioxin and furans). POPs can persist in the environment for decades. They are semi-volatile and can be circulated across country boundaries and globally. POPs resist breakdown in water and readily dissolve and accumulate in fatty tissue (in lipids). In a process known as bioconcentration, animals can absorb concentration of POPs at levels many times higher than those found in the environment. POPs can bioaccumulate exponentially up the food chain, reaching the greatest magnitudes in predatory birds, mammals and humans.

Waste management in Albania is at a very low level. Although the level of waste generation is below average, in comparison to other European countries, the systems of collection and disposal are poor. The current level of Municipality Solid Waste (MSW) recycling is very low and there is a complete lack of separate collection of the generated waste.

Heavy metals are naturally occurring elements that have a high atomic weight and a density at least 5 times greater than that of water. Their multiple industrial, domestic, agricultural, medical and technological applications have led to their wide distribution in the environment; raising concerns over their potential effects on human health and the environment. Their toxicity depends on several factors including the dose, route of exposure, and chemical species, as well as the age, gender, genetics, and nutritional status of exposed individuals. Because of their high degree of toxicity, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury rank among the priority metals that are of public health significance. These metallic elements are considered systemic toxicants that are known to induce multiple organ damage, even at lower levels of exposure.¹

The selected landscape/seascape focused areas

A large number of reports, strategies, management plans and policy papers on the environment and sustainable development were read and analyzed. As a result the team of experts taking into consideration all the factors has identified three selected landscape areas of which are Drini basin, Adriatic Sea wetlands area and Vjosa basin.

Drini River Basin is the biggest and the most important basin in Albania² (see Map 1). It has a wide variety of ecosystems, habitats, wild species of flora and fauna, unique and wonderful landscape with 12 Protected Areas according to the IUCN categorization and a large number of natural monuments. These basin has a potential of natural resources like water, minerals, forest, groundwater, etc. giving in this way the exploitation possibilities and impacted in economic sectors like ecotourism, industry, hydro energy, mines, etc. these activities impacted the biodiversity and nature resources. Chaotic development, forest damage and illegal logging, fires and land degradation caused land erosion at river banks, land sliding and flooding. All these development has increased immigration of population, pressure on the natural resources and

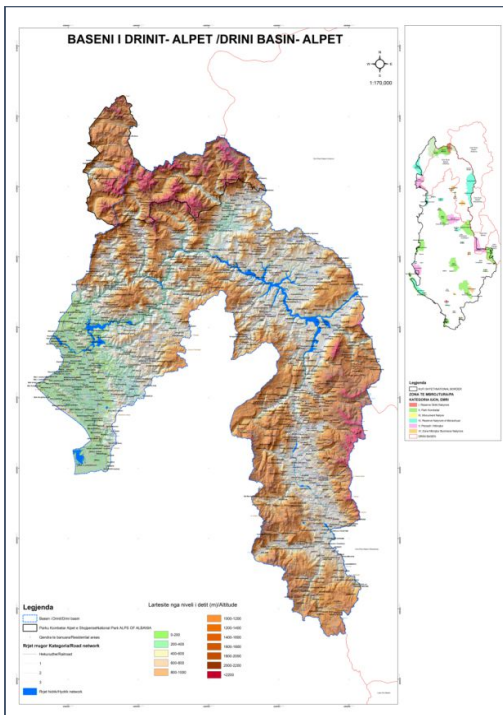
¹ *Municipal waste management in Albania, Prepared by Arta Kodra Agency of Environment and Forestry, NRC for Waste, Albania Leonidas Milios ETC/SCP November 2013*

² For the purpose of this strategy the Drini river basin includes only the Albanian part

pollution of water. The whole Drini basin is a transboundary region divided between five countries. The collaboration of countries is a weak point on basin management despite several joint projects related to biodiversity protection, nature conservation, promotion of traditional and heritage culture building the communication bridges for community participation, education and awareness increasing are implemented. The national, local and regional projects are developed for this basin with the collaboration of local NGOs/CSOs, governmental institutions, and with the support of donors aiming the development of local organization by increasing their capacities in project development and implementation.

The water bodies that are characterized as transboundary are:

Lake Ohrid - Although the lake water is affected by both direct and diffuse sources of pollution, its condition in the pelagic area is considered oligotrophic. Whereas in the littoral area is noted an increase in the anthropogenic impact. Furthermore in some areas of the Macedonian side the



water is in mesotrophic stage with an eutrophication tendency. Also, based on data on the phytoplankton and chlorophyll-a has been determined that in the littoral area of the Macedonian part are visible signs of a trophic status of the lake. The population living below the poverty line is respectively 32% in Albania and 30.2% in FYROM

Lake Prespa - According to the physical-chemical assessments the water of the lake, in the Macedonian part, are in the process of eutrophication. While estimates based on the trophic index (determined according to the total Phosphor and Secchi depth) and the scheme of OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), Lake Prespa is considered in a mesotrophic stage. In the Albanian part of the lake according to the trophic index definitions (based on the assessment of chlorophyll-a) it goes from a oligotrophic state to a mesotrophic in Gollomboc and a predominance of mesotrophic conditions in Pustec. It should be mentioned that according to the latest information on this index has

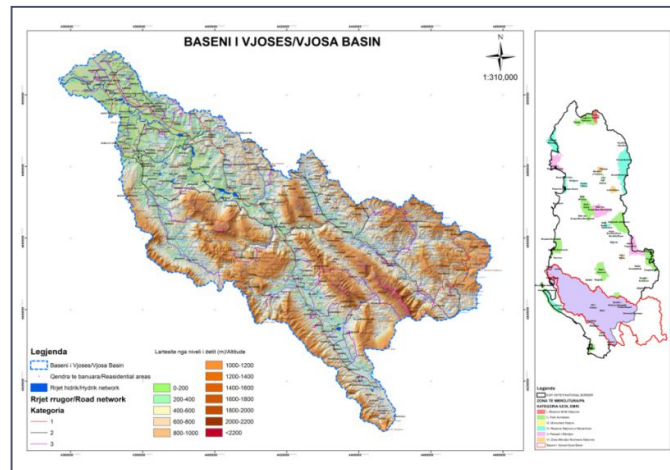
been confirmed a mesotrophic condition in the entire Macedonian parts of the lake in each season. Currently in the Lake Prespa water are present 13 native fish species and 7 alien species. Briefly, it could be affirmed that the water of Prespa Lake and its tributaries are at risk of failing to achieve a "good status".

Skadar Lake - The human activities have considerably affected the water quality of the lake directly or indirectly. According to the studies conducted so far the physic- chemical conditions of the water of Lake Skadar can be considered in mesotrophic situation. Based on the data on the phytoplankton abundance and chlorophyll-a confirm the mesotrophic conditions of Skadar Lake. While according to the data on the macrophytes are notices a high level of eutrophication. The main pollution and high quantities of nutrients come in the lake inflow in mainly from Moraca and Crnojevica Rivers. Moraca is the largest tributary flowing into the lake (99 km long), which provides about 62% of the volume of its lake. 4 HPP for power generation have been built in this river.

Watershed of Drini River, the largest in Albania, covering the towns of Kukes, Bishop, Bajram Curri, Puka, Krumë and a large number of villages that face the exodus of high rural, especially

Dibra, Kukes and Tropoje has: considerable use of agriculture land (Black Drin Valley, holes Bajram Curri, Krumës Topojan Iballe); presence of mines (Nimça, Muhur, Bulqizë), extensive destruction of forests (Kukes, Puka, Debar); abandonment of cession of fallow land (Kukes, Shishtavec, Topjan, Has, Bajram Curri), the presence of national parks (Lura, Theth, Valbona); great opportunities for traditional agriculture (bio products), for adventure tourism and rural, high potential natural heritage and hydrological, biodiversity, etc.

Vjosa river basin includes the main river in the south of Albania and its important tributaries. It is nominated as the Wild River of Europe and for its values on biodiversity and landscape there are requests to declare it a Natural Park. Its basin is characterized by a wide typology of biological ecosystems, wild species of flora and fauna, beautiful landscape, with 9 Protected Areas and a large number of natural monuments. This region is well known for the agriculture and livestock, forest, pastures, medicinal plants, water (surface and groundwater), and has

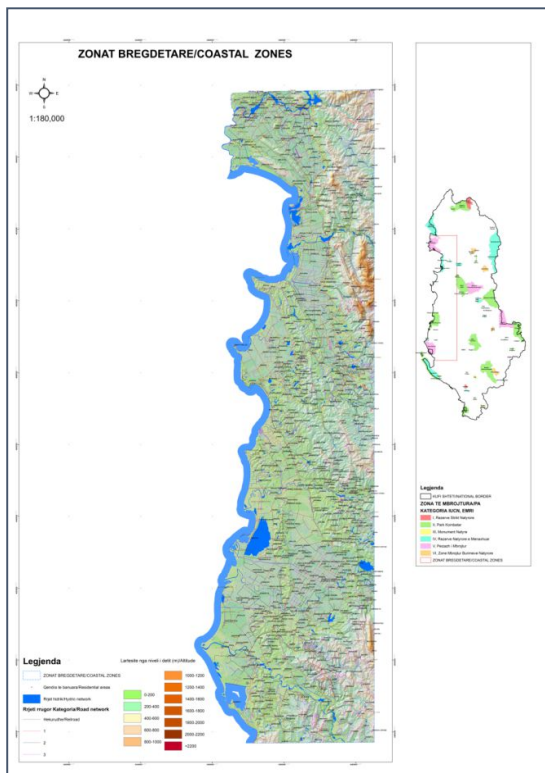


important potential of socio-economic development, cultural and heritage, historic and religious. The main potential is on the nature resources exploitation like water for HPP, ecotourism, food industry and infrastructure that impacted the flow river and their ecosystems. The region is poor and there is a high youth immigration and emigration rate in the last 20 years. The development of region is impacted by the forest degradation, construction of small HPP, forest fires, bank river erosion, landslides, flooding, and water pollution from urban solid waste and waste water. The local governance is a weak point in nature resources management accompanied by lack of funds on nature conservation and biodiversity resilient, ecosystems and habitats restoration, and landscape rehabilitation. There are management plans of protected areas of “Bredhi i Hotoves-Dangelli” offering an opportunity for the local community and Civil Society Organization to be involved in its implementation and being part of local and transboundary projects of region and basin. A lot of local, national and international projects are developed in the area aiming to increase the local NGO/CSOs capacities on project designing, implementation and awareness and education. Also these projects worked for decreasing of the poverty, providing the employment of community especially in small business of food production and artisan. The basin starts from North-western Greece and as such is a transboundary water body.

This basin is shared by Albania and Greece. Aaos River originates from Mavrovouni mountain (part of the Northern Pindos mountain chain in Greece). It flows in NW direction through Albania and discharges into the Adriatic Sea. The total length of the river is about 269 km, with the first 80 km in Greece. The catchment has a surface of 6,519 km², where the Greek part covers approximately 2,154 km². The river section between the village of Vovoussa and the city of Konitsa (60,000 inhabitants) is used for different water sports (rafting and canoe-kayak). Vjosa River flow, so far, can be considered in a "very good" status. Nevertheless, an integrated approach of all environmental, social, economic and technical aspects of water resources management is needed in order to ensure water preservation and environmental integrity in the region.

One of the largest in Albania, nearly untouched by HPP, with many settlements (Përmet, Gjoroaktër, Këlcyrë Tepelena Memaliaj, Selenicë) and many villages with tradition for agriculture and livestock, the presence of extensive agricultural activity in the valley slopes mountains, area prone to erosion of soil significantly (Frashër-Shqeri, Bubes-Vokopola, Mallakstra, Shushica, Dëshnica, Luftinja); mining (Memaliaj-Luftinjë, Selenicë); enough oil fields of environmental pollution problem (Mallakstra Selenicë-Gorrihst-Kocul); abandonment, dispossession of land fallow, large rural exodus (Përmet Këlcyrë municipalities); the risk of marine abrasion add (Grykëderdhaj Vjosë: Poro-Poro pine), the risk of flooding (Kashish-Mifol-Novosel-Poro, etc.); soil loss from erosion banks, especially those Vjosë (Hekal-Selish-Kashish-Mifol-Novosel, etc.), gravel exploitation, especially Beshisht-Kashish-near Mifol); Southern Albania's main corridor that connects with Greece; landscape diversity, nature monuments, unique landscapes of high biodiversity; great opportunities for nature tourism (Hotoves National Park), opportunities for adventure tourism, rural, agriculture in the valley hills livestock mountain pastures, etc.

Adriatic Sea coastal area (including the wetlands, river deltas and lagoons) is considered the most important area where is placed the biggest part of the population and of the economic development including urban development, tourism, industry, agriculture, fishery, transport, and natural resources like lagoons and wetlands habitats and ecosystems that offer important coastal services. The coastal and marine area has a wide variety of ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes. There are 11 protected areas according to the IUCN categories and a several natural



monuments. This area is also very special for its cultural, heritage, historical and religious values. The region has overexploitation of the natural resources because of the lack of local governance control and management. The illegal construction impacted on the land using and alternate, increasing the coastal erosion and decreasing the arable surface. There are management plans although they are not fully implemented and the lack of local governance and management coastal units is evident and pressure the marine and coastal areas from Buna estuary up to Karaburuni peninsula.

The three areas are facing with the impacts of climate changes such as increasing the temperature, decreasing the precipitation and the most important for the coastal area the sea level rise. Some of the problems identified are land degradation, coastal erosion, forest fire and illegal logging, flooding and drought, habitat fragmentation. The water bodies are:

Narta Lagoon - has a water surface of about 42 km², of which 14 km² are used for salt production in the salty mine of Skrofotina. Narta Lagoon is one of the Albanian lagoons facing a very rapid degradation due to very limited flow of seawater and freshwater therefore the lagoon itself is subject to frequent dystrophic crisis. Besides a limited agricultural activity in the dry land, other activities such as fishing, forestry, salt extraction (Narta), hunting, etc. are developed



in the area.

Orikum lagoon - It has an area of 130 ha, while the Dukati field is about 1000 ha. Lagoon has a maximum depth of 3 m and is connected to the sea through a channel of a length of 50 m. The lagoon has appropriate habitats for water birds and other species. The surrounding agricultural land is at large abandoned and presently used for grazing. Fishing in the area is not an important activity.

Karavasta lagoon - The total surface of the area is about 22,000 hectares. The coastline of Divjaka-Karavasta has constantly changed its configuration due to accumulation and alluvium of the Seman and Shkumbin Rivers and the swell of the Adriatic Sea. Inside the Divjaka-Karavasta are found several distinct ecosystems, which can be classified into terrestrial, fresh water and wetland. The main activities in the area are fishing and tourism (during summer). Outside the Park are well developed several agricultural activities. Most of the land is mainly cultivated with cereals, fodder and vegetables.

Rrushkulli lagoon - Rrushkulli wetland area covers an area of 744 ha, consisting in 380 ha of forest, 260 ha of open water surface and marshlands, sandy beaches 87 ha and 17 ha of agricultural land. The agriculture is the main activity for the population living in the area. Tree cutting (an illegal activity carried out mostly by population that has moved recently in the area) is an activity carried out also within the borders of the Rrushkulli area. Hunting in this area has been not regulated and has been out of control during the last 10 years. There are currently two private companies that have been licensed for the cultivation of fish and hunting activities and the management of the wild fauna.

Kune-Merxhani lagoon - Kënalla Lake and the wetlands of Merxhani and Kune covers around 5500 ha. This part of the coast is sandy and the sediment is transported in by the two rivers, Buna and Drini, and spread by the long shore currents. The human settlements are located in the cities of Shengjin and Lezha. The urban population of Lezha is the order of 45000-50000 inhabitants; while the rural population density is relatively high (100-200 inhabitants/km²). Fishing and fish farming are relatively important and recently the industry has developed further. Illegal fishing is a commonplace as well as fishing with dynamite. There are a lot of illegal buildings and a road along the coast behind the dune.

Vaini-Ceka lagoon - This lagoon is part of Kune-Vaini wetland system. It lies at the junction of the mouths of rivers Drin and Mat and covers 1500 ha. The reclaimed areas are farmed in this area, with artesian wells scattered across the area. Apart from the livestock and agriculture activities, the local populations are involved in fishery activities fish farming, hunting and in part in forestry. The flow of water in the lagoon should be improved. The channels connected to the sea is closed, thus generating changes in the lagoon and in fish reproduction.

Velipoja lagoon - Velipoje wetland is situated in the Buna River's mouth, and comprises four shallow marshes with a surface in the region of 694 ha. The main activities in this area are linked to the agriculture and livestock (sheep, goats, cows and horses). The rural population is relatively low with 20-50 inhabitants / km², which tend to increase during the summer season. The wastes are not collected regularly, and thus are accumulated everywhere in small quantities. The wetland is important for its rich biodiversity.

Viluni lagoon - The water surface of the lagoon is about 280 ha. The maximum length is 3.5 km and the maximum width 2 km. The maximum depth is 5 m and the average one is 1m. The water exchange with the sea is facilitated by a channel 500 m long and 40 m wide. Nowadays, the population of this area is getting reoriented towards livestock. The arable land is mostly used to meet the needs of the population with vegetables, potatoes and melon as well as the livestock needs (corn, alfalfa, beets). In addition to these the local populations are dealing with fisheries



(mainly in the lagoon), a little hunting and forestry.

Tourism is not much developed in this area. Viluni lagoon has important biodiversity values as it shelters species belonging to varying degrees of salinity.

Potential pressures

The most significant pressures and their likely impacts on achieving the Directive's aims should be assessed in terms of point source pollution, diffuse source pollution, water abstraction and flow regulation, physical modifications and other man-made pressures ((e.g., introduction of alien species).

Generally, the point sources of pollution in the transboundary waters (especially in lakes) are related to discharges from treatment plants of waste water and untreated sewage discharges of some villages, discharges from the local business in the area etc.

The most relevant diffuse sources of pollution are discharges from agricultural soils, wastes of mining, activities, land field of Cerava, intensive use of pesticides in the watershed, as well as other anthropogenic activities on both sides of the lake. Sateska River deviation has increased the impact of the agricultural related discharge as well as the sedimentary flow.

The anthropogenic pressure in the Montenegrin part of the Skadar Lake is significant (large part of the population and industrial activities of Montenegro are concentrated in this area). The biggest impact comes on the ecosystem of Lake Skadar from the untreated or poorly treated discharges of industrial and urban waste water. In the lake basin the potential resources of discharge of toxic and dangerous substances are still related to the steel plant in Niksic and that of aluminum in Podgorica. Although such plants are not longer operating, their impact is still present in the level of pollution, especially in lake sediments. Other sources of pollution of the lake are related to the food processing industry etc.

The main diffuse sources of pollution in our part of the lake basin are the waste water of the houses that are not connected to the sewage system and the agriculture activities. Due to the extensive use of the chemical fertilizers (mainly N and P) high levels of these macronutrients have been observed in this part of the basin. The pollution load produced by the agriculture is greater than that related to the waste water. It should be noted that the treatment of waste water and waste from manufacturing activities especially in the meat-processing sector in the Albanian side are not in accordance with the EU standards.

About 1.5 million inhabitants exploit the Drin basin as drinking water recourse, for irrigation in agriculture, in the tourism sector, in the fisheries, in the industry, for the generation of electric power etc. In this case it is worth mentioning that the use of water for power generation requires a study for a fair balance between the economic and financial relevance and the environmental and social impact. The large dams not only weaken the diversity of fishes but "do not allow" the migratory species to complete their life cycle. The construction of large dams on the Drini River has "closed" the natural path of slow-moving migration in the Ohrid Lake. The construction of the large dams delays and reduces the amplitude of the floods in the downstream areas and consequently reduces the ability of these areas to provide development. The ecological effects of the large dams are not limited to water flow, but also to the "obstruction" of the sediment nutrients and changes in the dynamics of the biogeochemical processes in the river delta and the coastal area.

Approximately 350,000 people live in the Vjosa basin. Of the basin, 47% is covered with forests. Other forms of land use include: cropland (3.5%), grassland (13.6%), barren (6.4%) and shrubs (29.5%). In Greece, the Aoo is part of the Vikos-Aoos National Park, a NATURA 2000 site.



The main pressures result from agricultural activities, animal production and aquaculture. In Greece, the Aaos Springs Hydroelectric Dam (Public Power Corporation) was built on the river. Also in the Albanian part of the river is in process of construction the Kalivaci HPP and some small HPPs in the tributaries of Vjosa River.

The process of communication and awareness of the public in the development of the dams, especially the large ones is of great importance in order to provide complete information about the risks and long-term impacts. In this context should be taken into account that the local community has often been confused in regard of some benefits linked to the power generation and opening of some new job positions and ignoring the losses produced in sectors like fishing, agriculture and real estate.

For each water body should be assessed the potential risks of a damage of the "good status" and should be proposed appropriate mitigation measures to minimize them, including the identification of protected areas. It is understandable that this important task can be performed, based on a set of comprehensive, accurate and comprehensive data on the current state of the ecosystem, the different pressures on the ecosystem and therefore their impacts.

On the basis of the studies and examinations carried out so far we can state below some of significant parameters and indicators for the most important water bodies in the three proposed areas.

Legal framework consulted for the GEF-SGF

Conventions

- Convention on Biodiversity.
- Convention "Preservation of Wildlife and Natural Habitats"
- Convention "On international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora" (CITES), the Convention "On the Conservation of migratory Species of Wild Animals" (Bonn Convention).
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as habitat Waterfowl
- United Nations Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD)
- Convention "On Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution" (Barcelona Convention)
- Nagoya Protocol.
- Additional Protocol Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur,
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Vienna Convention "for the Protection of the Ozone Layer" and the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - the Convention - LAW NO. 8463, dated 10.3.1999
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Vienna Convention "for the protection of the ozone add" and the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - Protocol - LAW NO. 8463, dated 10.3.1999
- For accession of the republic of Albania the Convention "On protection of marine environment and coastal zone of the Mediterranean, 6 PROTOCOLS AND THE ACCOMPANYING" - LAW Nr.8690, dated 16.11.2000
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Kyoto Protocol to the Framework Convention of the United Nations Climate Change - LAW NO. 9334, dated 16.12.2004
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - law no. 9480, dated 16.2.2006
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the London amendment, Annex II, of the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - Law no. 9484, dated 02.03.2006
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Beijing amendment to the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - law no. 9486, dated 03.06.2006

- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol "on substances that deplete the ozone layer" - law no. 9485, dated 06.03.2006
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the International Convention on Civil Liability for damage caused by bunker oil pollution from 2001 No. 10224 dated 04.02.2010
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the United Convention "For the safety of the management of fuel consumed and the safety of radioactive waste management – Law Nr. 10379, dated 24.02.2011
- On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Protocol of the Convention of 1979 "On Transboundary Air Pollution in the distance, to reduce acidification, eutrophication and ozone in the lower atmospheric layer - Nr. 10476, dated 3.11.2011
- Law no. 112, dated 22.11.2012 "On accession of the Republic of Albania in the Additional Protocol to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Responsibility and Reparation to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety".
- Law no. 113, dated 22.11.2012 "On accession of the Republic of Albania in the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity, access to genetic resources and sharing of fair and equitable benefits arising from their use".
- COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 757/2010 of 24 August 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants as regards Annexes I and III
- COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 756/2010 of 24 August 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants as regards Annexes IV and V
- Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production, EGTOP, Final Report on Plant Protection Products (II). The EGTOP adopted this technical advice at the 9th plenary meeting of 28 – 30 April 2014. EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT Directorate B. Multilateral relations, quality policy. B.4. Organics

Strategies

- National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020
- Draft Strategy for Tourism Development in Albania 2014-2020
- National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
- National energy strategy-draft
- Draft - Environmental Cross-cutting Strategy
- National Security Strategy
- National Biodiversity Strategy

Laws

- Amended the law no. 9876 dated 14.02.2008 "On the production, transportation and marketing of biofuels and other renewable fuels for transport", change - no. 143/2014 dated 23.10.2014
- On protection of air quality in the environment - no. 162/2014 dated 04.12.2014
- On power consumption information and other resources in energy products with no impact. – no. 68/2012 dated 21.06.2012
- On amendments to Law no. 8025 dated 11.09.1995 "On protection of air pollution," – no. 27/2013 dated 14.02.2013
- For renewable energy resources - no. 138/2013 dated 02.05.2013
- On amendments and additions to Law no. 8905 dated 06.06.2002 "For the protection of the marine environment from pollution and damage" changed - no. 36/2013 dated 14.02.2013
- Some changes and additions to Law no. 10431 dated 09.06.2011 "On Environmental Protection" - no. 31/2013 dated 14.02.2013
- Some changes and additions to Law no. 10463 dated 22.09.2011 "Integrated waste management" - no. 32/2013 dated 14.02.2013
- Some changes and additions to Law no. 9108 dated 17.07.2003 "On chemical substances and

- preparations" - no. 33/2013 dated 14.02.2013
- On amendments and additions to Law no. 9115, dated 24.07.2003 "For the treatment of waste water", changed - no. 34/2013 dated 14.02.2013
 - On integrated management of water resources - no. 111/2012 dated 25.11.2012
 - To use vegetation trash - no. 10390 dated 03.03.2011
 - On Environmental Protection - no. 10431 dated 09.06.2011
 - On integrated waste management - no. 10463 dated 22.09.2011
 - The production, transportation and marketing of biofuels and other renewable fuels for transport - no. 9876 dated 14.02.2008
 - Natural Gas Sector - no. 9946 dated 30.06.2008
 - the environmental treatment of wastewater - No. 9115 dated 27/04/2003
 - To protect the air from pollution - no. 8897 16.05.2002
 - On the protection of the marine environment from pollution and damage - Nr. 8905 dated 06.06.2002
 - Law Nr. 8906, dated 06.06.2002 "On protected areas".
 - Law no. 9587, dated 20.07.2006 "On the protection of biodiversity"
 - Law no. 9868, dated 04.02.2008 "On some amendments to Law no. 8906, dated 6.06.2002 "On protected areas.
 - Law no. 9867, dated 31.01.2008 "On establishing the rules and procedures for the international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora"
 - Law no. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of wild fauna"
 - Law no. 10253, dated 11.02.2010 "On Hunting"
 - Law no. 111, 2012 "On Integrated Management of Water Resources"
 - Law Nr.8093, dated 21.03.2006 "On Water Resources"
 - Law Nr. 8990, dated 23.01.2003 "Environmental Impact Assessment"
 - Law Nr. 9890, dated 20.03.2008 "Amendments to the Law on Environmental Protection"
 - Law Nr. 8934, dated 05.09.2002 "Environment Protection"
 - Law Nr. 8906, dated 06:06. 2002 "For the Protected Areas"
 - Law Nr.9868, dated 04.02.2008 "On some additions and amendments to Law No. 8906, dated 06.06.2002" On Protected Areas "
 - Law Nr. 10 448, dated 14.07.2011 "On Environmental Permitting"
 - Law Nr. 64, 2012 "On Fishery"
 - Law no. 8318, dated 04.01.1998, "On the lease of agricultural land and forest, meadows and pastures that are state property."
 - Law no. 8337, dated 04.30.1998, "On transferring the ownership of agricultural land, forests, meadows and pastures" change.
 - Law no. 8312, dt.26.3.1998 "On rural land", as amended.
 - Law no. 8752, dt.26,03.2001, "the establishment and functioning of the structures and the Protection of Land Management", as amended;
 - Law no. 9244, dt.7.6.2004 "On protection of agricultural land".
 - The law no. 8788 "on the Non-Profit Organizations" of 7.5.2001, amended, is the main legislative acts regulating the activities of the CSO.
 - In 2009, the Agency for the Support of the Civil Society was established. The Agency is regulated by Law 10093 of 9.3.2009 "on the Organization and the Functioning of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society"
 - Law no. 8672, of 26.10.2002 "on the Ratification of the Aarhus Convention...";
 - Law No. 16/2014 of 18.09.2014 "on the Right for Information";
 - Law No. 119/2015 of 06.11.2015 "on the Establishment and the Functioning of the National Council for the Civil Society";

Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM)

- On reduction and stabilizing emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases - DCM no. 865 dated

10.12.2014

- On determining the necessary measures for the collection and treatment of bio-waste and the criteria and deadlines for reducing their – DCM no. 608 dated 17.09.2014
- On adoption of the national strategy for environmental air quality –DCM Nr. 594 dated 10.09.2014
- To separate collection of waste at source – DCM no. 418 dated 25.06.2014
- On approval of rules for delivery of hazardous waste and to document their delivery -DCM no. 371 dated 11.06.2014
- On setting the rules for the control, sampling, analysis and procedures, delivering results, analysis and evaluation of fertilizer – DCM no. 260 dated 27.03.2013
- On zoning green belt of the capital city and its surroundings – DCM no. 221 dated 20.02.2013
- On waste landfills –DCM No. 452 dated 11.07.2012
- On waste incineration - DCM no. 178 dated 06.03.2012
- On their packaging and waste – DCM no. 177 dated 06.03.2012
- On quality of some fuel, liquid, for thermal use, civil and industrial, as well as vehicles used in water (sea, river and lake) – DCM No. 781 dated 14.11.2012
- On batteries, accumulators and their waste - DCM no. 866 dated 04.12.2012
- On approval of the National Strategy on Waste Management and the National Plan of waste management – DCM no. 175 dated 19.01.2011
- On approval of the Protocol of Understanding and signed agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, represented by the state authorized (OSHA), consisting of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy, Minister of Public Works and Transport, Minister of Finance and Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Management, and Society "La Petrolifera Italo-Albanese" JSC, "IEP – DCM no. 110 dated 26.01.2011
- On a change in the decision nr.486, dated 25.07.2007 of the Council of Ministers "On the cessation of activity of processing ships that transfer oil, gas and their by-products in the ports of Durres and Shengjin" changed – DCM No. 111 dated 26.01.2011
- On approval of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, 2011-2018 – DCM No. 619 date 07.09.2011
- On the quality of diesel fuel (diesel) produced from the refining of crude oil extracted in the Republic of Albania, and traded for road vehicles and generators – DCM no. 52 date 14.01.2009
- On emergency measures to improve the security situation and the activities on installations and plants that serve for storage, transportation and marketing of oil, gas and their derivatives – DCM No. 114 date 27.01.2009
- On approval of the technical regulation "On the essential requirements and conformity assessment of household refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof, with regard to energy efficiency requirements - DCM no. 141 date 11.02.2009
- On approval of the technical regulation "On the essential requirements and conformity assessment of equipment and protective systems for use in environments (atmospheric), potentially explosive – DCM no. 142 date 11.02.2009
- On approving the list of Organic Pollutants, Sustainable and setting measures for production, importation, placing on the market and their use. Decision No. 360, dated 04/29/2015
- NEW NAP National Implementation Plan for Reduction and Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants, Tirana, Albania, 2016 (on going).
- On Monitoring of Environment in the Republic of Albania" DCM. 103, dated 31.03.2002
- On Environmental Protection and Urban Pollution Damages" DCM., Dated 27.05.1992
- On rural land, as amended by Decision no. 176, no. 03/30/2001. Decision no. 531, no. 08.21.1998
- On the criteria for calculating the annual rental value of agricultural land, forests, meadows and pastures Decision no. 830, no. 12.08.1998 "
- On the leasing of agricultural land state property", as amended. Decision no. 831, dated 28.12.1998
- On the composition, method of operation, duties and responsibilities of state structures to protect agricultural land" Decision no. 80, dated 28.01.2005

- On the composition, operation modes, duties and responsibilities of state structures to protect agricultural land"; DECISION. 80, no. 28.01.2005
- On the identification and termination procedures alienation of state property, agricultural land, forests, meadows and pastures". Order of the Prime Minister, no. 287, dated 20.12.2006
- On a change in the physical compensation fund created by the agricultural land" Decision Nr. 459, dated 22.5.2013
- On Amending the category of agricultural land resources". Order no. 1, no. 20.02.2006,
- On the Approval of the Guideline for the Establishment of Policies and Measures for an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society; DCM No. 459, of 27.05.2015
- On the Public Right for the Environmental Information"; DCM No. 16, of 4.1.2012

Institutions

Central institutions

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources,
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education and Sports,
- Ministry of Infrastructure and transport
- Ministry of Economical Development, Tourism, Trade and Enterprises
- Ministry of Energy and Industry
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Urban Development
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of European Integration
- Ministry of Local Issues
- Municipalities
- Regional councils

Executive and researcher institutions

- Institute of Public Health
- Academy of Sciences
- Polytechnic University of Tirana
- Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment
- Agricultural University of Tirana
- University of Tirana - Faculty of Natural Sciences
- National Agency of Natural Resources
- National Agency of Protected Areas
- National Coast Agency
- National Agency of Environment
- National Agency of Territory Planning
- National Agency of Tourism
- National agency of Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of formal zones/constructions
- Governmental Inspectorate of Environment and Forest
- National Council of Territory
- National Council of Water
- National Inspectorate for Territory Protection
- Albanian Geological Survey
- Nuclear Physics Institute
- Biological Agriculture Institute,
- Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary,

- National Food Authority
- Agricultural University of Tirana,
- Faculty of Natural Sciences,
- Departments of Agriculture of all Albanian regions
- Drainage boards
- Agency for the Support of the Civil Society
- National Council for the Civil Society

Other institutions

- ECSOs and NGOs
- REC
- Media
- Private enterprises/businesses
- Educational organs in local level
- Associations for water use
- Albanian companies representative as world leaders of pesticides: BAYER, Syngenta; BASF, etc.

Projects that are developing:

- Project "Strengthening the capacities of MoE for drafting and implementation of National Environmental legislation "SELEA" to ensure the project area of nature 8 drafting management plans for protected areas and for the 2 studies evaluating PA.
- The "Straight government forcibly common heritage of natural and cultural cross-border region of Lake Ohrid"
- The project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Prespa Lakes, Ohrid and Shkodra (Albania Regional Plan Macedonia and Montenegro)".
- Project "Institutional Support for the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Management for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in protected areas and waste management".
- Project "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa Support Prespa National Park in Albania".
- Project "Harmonization of the National Plan to combat Desertification and reporting to the Convention".
- The project "Improvement of coverage to effectively manage coastal and marine areas".
- The "Review of the National Biodiversity Strategy".
- The project "Capacity building for implementation of the national biosafety framework in Albania".
- The project "Protecting and improving the integrated management of the marine environment and natural resources-border ECOSEA".
- The project "Conservation and sustainable development of the National Park" Divjake- Karavasta "with the participation of local government and stakeholders".
- The project "Conservation and use of biodiversity in rural areas of Albania.
- "Support for planning, zoning and development of the Marine Protected Area in the Gulf of Porto Palermo (Albania).
- Project "sustainable economic activities in Marine Protected Areas of the Mediterranean (SEA-Med).
- "Support for Long-Term Sustainable Management of Transboundary Lake Skadar"
- The project "Management of wetlands and preservation of Pelican in the Mediterranean Basin".
- The "Dinaric Arc Sustainable Hydropower Initiative (DASHI) - Phase II component for Albania".
- Project "Financing of national capacities for the conservation of nature-preparation for Natura 2000 Network."
- The project "Adaptation to Climate Change in the Western Balkans (CCAWB)".
- "Project Environmental Services".
- Project "Achieving adaptation of Kune-Vain Lagoon, through adaptation based approach Ecosystem" (EBA).



- The project "Technical Assistance for Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Ministry of Environment for Law Enforcement European Environment and Climate" (IBEC).
- Project "Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa", the second stage.
- Project "Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting".
- Project "Enabling a financially sustainable Protected Areas system in Albania".
- Project "Global Project on ABS: "Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol".
- ACHIEVE – Albanian Civil Society for an European Environment;
- ECONORD - Leveraging the Capacities of CSO-s in the North of Albania for the betterment of biodiversity and environment protection;
- ECRAN - Environment and Climate Regional Accession Network;
- Environmental Services Project;
- ESP – Environmental Service Project"
- WRIP - Water Resources and Irrigation Project"
- TACSO - Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations
- PROJECT "Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures to Drini – Mati River Deltas"
- Project proposals based on priority measures to adapt to climate changes
- Protecting Albania's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity
- The Country Program of Albania under the Global Solar Water Heating Market Transformation and Strengthening Initiative
- Third National Communication of Albania to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Marine PA management plan of Karaburun - Sazan
- Plan for Flood Risk Management - SHKODËR REGION
- Albania - POPs Enabling Activity: Preparation of the POPs National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP
- Country Situation Report on POPs in Albania, The report explains the sources and types of POPs in Albania and the damage caused by them, including studies describing the contamination of the environment, food, breast milk and blood. In addition, the report covers the results of six new monitoring samples collected by EDEN Center and Arnika from soil and chicken eggs gathered near POPs hotspots. This is the first report to comprehensively describe the POPs situation in Albania. Czech Republic / Albania April, 2006
- Albania renews commitment to join the Air Convention's Protocols on POPs, Heavy Metals and Gothenburg. UNECE, 2010
- Review and update of the national implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Albania", (Project number: GFL-2310-2760-4E40-2202), 2015.
- Projects rehabilitating flood drainage-protection: World Bank since 1994.
- Third Report of the National Convention on Desertification - UNCCD (2010).
- National Report to the RAMSAR Convention - September 2014.
- National Programme "Real Natural Albania". 2001-2005
- Project "Harmonization of the National Plan to combat Desertification and reporting to the Convention," supported by the GEF, MM, terminated in 2014.
- The project "Improvement of coverage to effectively manage coastal and marine areas", supported by UNDP / GEF, ended in 2015.
- The project "Conservation and use of biodiversity in rural areas of Albania, supported by GIZ and implemented by GOPA (Worldwide Consultants), completed in 2014



Proposed activities to GEF/SGF

Biodiversity

- Conservation of biodiversity and conservation of natural and rural landscape can achieve through the creation and strengthening of local and national networks of nature conservation, as the need to improve and consolidate their management and the quality of life of the community.
- Increasing the care of local communities for the assessment and sustainable use of natural resources and agro-biodiversity, providing income for improvement of living and the quality of the environment and ensuring their longer-term storage.

Climate change

Appropriate adaptation/mitigation measures need to be planned in conjunction with features of the natural and socio-economic systems that are important to the integrity of the selected landscape/seascape areas. These fall under the categories of (i) coastal ecosystems, (ii) flood protection, (iii) agriculture, (iv) population and settlements, and (v) tourism.

- **Coastal ecosystems** - Adaptation activities that can be beneficial to natural ecosystems include the establishment of a mosaic of interconnected terrestrial, freshwater and marine multiple-use reserve protected areas. These areas should be designed to take into account climate impacts, and integrated land- and water-management activities that reduce non-climate pressure on the natural ecosystems and hence make the system less vulnerable to climate impacts.
- **Flood protection** - Flood protection systems are threatened by illegal gravel extraction leading to maintenance problems that exacerbate flooding. Construction of new embankments could greatly reduce the threat from flooding. Other measures that could be considered to reduce the threat from flooding include: the arrangement and systematic cleaning of river beds; continuous monitoring and maintenance of the embankments along the river banks; continuous monitoring of the river flows.
- **Agriculture** - Adaption is important to protect local livelihoods and to ensure agricultural practices do not reduce the buffering capacity of the natural environment. Some measures can implement are: changes in farm management practices (planting earlier in time or breeding of livestock species that is more resistant to heat); changes in the use of plants and agricultural crops (species that fit more or are more resistant to drought); technological improvements (improvement in livestock, improvement of species or varieties of agricultural crops, improvement in the application of irrigation, improvement of the work and planting soil, improvement of the practices of fertilizers use, disease and pests management practices etc.); coupling agro-forestry practices.
- **Population and settlements** - develop a communication strategy to disseminate information on climate change impact, including climate related hazards, to increase the public awareness; incorporate climate change adaptation/mitigation in environmental education;
- **Tourism** – develop the infrastructure of hotels and recreative places, health protection and environment protection.

Transboundary waters

- Approval of laws and regulations for water users and suppliers in harmony with EU laws and regulations.
- Implementing of the integrated water management of basin.
- Approval of strategic plans in emergency cases.
- Public awareness and education for the rational use of water resources.



- Capacity building
- Raising awareness of the local population

Land degradation

Today and in the future actions to protect land from degradation will remain a priority and challenge for the Albanian society. Postulate that the risk prevention is much better than the fight against terrorism remains a priority. Below are the main directions in February, which should include all stakeholders on geographical environment, where soils are the main elements.

- Protection-expanding forest-pasture areas severely restricts land degradation, forest oak delaying holds about 40% of the precipitation falling in the leak, conifers 13-15%, 6-12% alpine pastures. During the former communist (New Land) about 300 thousand hectares of bush returned to farmland, especially the hills of the Western Lowlands.
- Export ban logging, charcoal production and logging control for the needs of residents. Decree No. 171 dated. 12/11/1939, banning the export of wood charcoal from Albania. 2016 started a 10-year moratorium.
- Addition of care for arable land: After 1990 flexible structure of land use has changed (grains (wheat, corn, barley) accounted for about 48.6% of the area (today half), but requires continuous improvement of her hills -male take advantage orchards, vineyards, olive farm, etc., in areas (grades 1-4 take 70-75%) protection requires: effective use of mechanization, irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.
- Management Plane forest-pasture-land, already exist, but applications must be correct in practice; "Code of Good Agricultural Practice" paper. Fertilization, traditional anti-erosion measures, cares in irrigation, etc.
- Reduction of erosion-abrasion in the coastal area, especially the Adriatic beaches, Poro, Seman. Reached by cutting vegetation control in watersheds, reforestation of degraded areas, prohibition of abuse of gravel in the rivers, simply anti-erosion measures be abandoned in the barren lands, reforestation and protective constructions studied in abrasion emphasize beaches.
- scientific and traditional protective measures for protection from landslides that have significant role in the degradation of land, line, wall, walls, planting trees suitable, reinforced concrete walls, etc.
- Concrete rehabilitation measures for the reduction of land surfaces contaminated by extracting and processing industry: planting trees, cleaning waste, etc.
- For too long it has become clear that an important role in sustainable environmental education, considered "key" to change human behavior in the use of land-protection: this education lasts a lifetime.

Chemicals and waste

We can focus our work on packing, storage and environmental disposal of obsolete pesticide, promotion of organic farming and certification, and the development of technologies & alternatives to pesticides (e.g. traditional knowledge). Proposed activities may include:

- Introduction of alternatives to DDT for vector control including approaches to improve their safe and rational use for public health
- Introduction of non-chemical alternatives
- Integrated pesticide management including in the context of food security
- Design of products and processes that minimize the use and generation of hazardous substances and waste

Community-based waste management may focus on domestic solid waste, medical waste, e-waste and plastics. Proposed activities may include:



- Promote sound solid waste management to avoid public open burning through alternative environmentally sound waste disposal and management
- Develop or establish community-based waste sorting, collection, recycling or environmentally sound waste management
- Develop and implement integrated waste management plan at the community level generating livelihoods, health and other benefits
- Promote awareness-raising, knowledge and technical capacity for waste management

Proposed projects under this thematic area may include the following:

- Promote sound solid waste management to avoid public open burning through alternative environmentally sound waste disposal and management
- Develop or establish community-based waste sorting, collection, recycling or environmentally sound waste management (e.g. sustainable cities)
- Develop and implement integrated waste management plan at the community level generating livelihoods, health and other benefits
- Promote awareness-raising, knowledge and technical capacity for waste management

Work will also involve advocacy for national government policies that will influence markets including chemicals import and export. Activities or possible projects under this thematic area may include:

- Systems of local certification of producers and/or their products
- Development and implementation of local certification manual/guidelines
- Networking of producers
- Strategic linkages and agreements between producers and consumers
- Advocacy for national policies that will influence chemicals import and export.

10.2 Annex 2:OP6 donor partner strategy

Name of the Agency / organization	Project (Donor)	Partnership opportunities for complementarity and synergy within the landscape area	Geographic focus
UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “Harmonization of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Albania and Preparation of National Report”. - Project “Improvement of coverage and management of MCPA in Albania” - Project “Global Project on ABS: “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol” - Albania - POPs Enabling Activity: Preparation of the POPs National Implementation Plan under the Stockholm Convention, GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP - Project “UN Support to Social Inclusion in Albania” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to combat desertification and land degradation Protection of marine biodiversity Capacity development of CSOs on Nagoya Protocol Awareness rising on Stockholm Convention and updated list of POPs Support social inclusion 	National
EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “Institutional support for the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the protected areas and in the waste management”. - The project “Protecting and improving the integrated management of the marine environment and natural resources-border ECOSEA”. - Project “SEAMED: Strengthening Education, Applied Research, and Marine Development in West - Balkans”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support sustainable use of biodiversity at local level Protect marine biodiversity Strengthening CSO – Government dialogue platform 	National

	<p>(SEA-Med).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project TACSO – Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organizations - ACHIEVE – Albanian Civil Society for an European Environment - Leveraging the capacities of CSO-s in the North of Albania 		
GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity at Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Shkodra/Skadar (CSBL)”. 	Conservation of the biodiversity and promote agro-ecology	Shkodra, Ohrid and Prespa Lakes
KfW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa”. 	Conservation of the biodiversity and promote agro-ecology	Prespa Lake
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project “Dalmatian Pelicans and Wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin” - Project CRESSIDA building local Community RESilience for Sustainable development in International watersheds such as the Drini and DrinA river Watersheds - Lëviz Albania – Local Democracy in Action - The Albanian Women Empowering Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect engendered species Promote gender inclusion and empowerment 	National