

## Annex 12

# Environmental and Social Action Plan

to the GCF Funding Proposal (Simplified Approval Process)

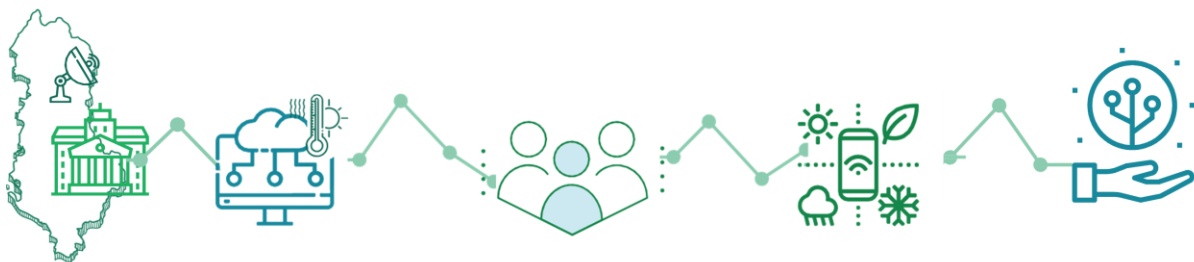
*ALBAdapt – Climate Services for a Resilient Albania*

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACA	Albanian Cadastral Agency
ADF	Albanian Development Fund
AKUM	National Agency of Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Infrastructure
AKZM	National Agency of Protected Areas of Albania
Albcontrol	Air Navigation Services of Albania
ALL	Albanian LEK
AMBU/AWRM	Agency for Water Resources Management in Albania
ASIG	State Authority for Geospatial Information
BR	Biosphere Reserves
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CCKP	Climate Change Knowledge Portal
CCU	Climate Change Unit
CDM	Climate Development Mechanisms
CIEWS	Climate Innovation Ecosystem for climate services
COP	United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EC	European Commission
EE	Energy Efficiency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EnCT	The Energy Community Treaty
EPBD	Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings
ERE	Energy Regulatory Entity of Albania
ESAP	Environmental and Social Action Plan
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESS	Environment and Social Safeguard
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System
FbA	Forecast-based action
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCU	Grievance Consideration Unit
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEE	Gender Equality Employee
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEM	Gender, ESS and M&E
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoA	Government of Albania
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HPP	Hydropower Plant
ICP	Informed Consultation and Participation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	International Financial Cooperation

IGJEUM/IGEO	Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment
ILO	International Labour Organization
iMWGCC	inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics of Albania
IS	Information Society
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KESH	Albanian Power Corporation
KKDM	National Committee of Large Dams
LAAP	Local adaptation action plan
LGUs	Local Government Units
LUCF	Land Use Change and Forestry
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MHEWS	Multi-hazard early warning systems
MIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania
MMS	Military Meteorological Service
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
MW	Megawatt
NAAP	National Adaptation Action Plan
NAIS/AKSHI	National Agency for Information Society
NAPA	National Agency of Protected Areas
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NCCS	National Climate Change Strategy
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NFCS	National Framework for Climate Services
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
NMVOC	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
NSCC&P	National Strategy on Climate Change and Plan
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NSE	National Strategy on Energy
NTPA	National Territorial Planning Agency
NWC	National Water Council
NWMP	National Waste Management Plan
NZEB	Nearly Zero Energy Buildings
PA	Priority Actions
PMU	Project Management Unit
PS	Performance Standards
PV	Photovoltaics
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
REEAP	Regional Energy Efficiency Action Plan
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SASPAC	State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
SEI	State Environmental Inspectorate

SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SHPPs	Small Hydroelectric Power Plants
SMEs	Small and Medium size Enterprises
TESTA	Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations
TPP	Thermal Power Plant
TSCD	Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogue
TWG	Technical Working Group
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UIP	User Interface Platform
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The ALBAdapt Project

Albania is the most climate-vulnerable country in Europe. It is very exposed to extreme weather and climate-related events, a situation that is being further exacerbated by climate change. Future increases in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts, and secondary impacts such as landslides and wildfires, are forecast. Albania's economy is unusually dependent upon climate-sensitive sectors: agriculture accounts for 20% of GDP and employs ~60% of the workforce, 99% of electricity is generated from hydro-power, and tourism accounts for 8% of GDP and 38% of total exports. While everyone is at risk, climate impacts are particularly acute for people living in the coastal zone, where agriculture and tourism are highly vulnerable.

Albania's capacity to cope with climate impacts is hampered by an inability – of the government and of other stakeholders, notably the private sector – to produce high-quality, science-based information and to translate this information into warnings and decision support tools to reduce climate risks facing vulnerable communities and sectors. Albania is the only country in Europe that does not have a dedicated 24/7 national meteorological and hydrological service (NMHS). There is no national framework for climate services (NFCS) that engages stakeholders and provides the space for co-production and facilitation of better climate risk-informed decisions and solutions, including ecosystem-based adaptation. There is little innovation in service provision, with the result that impact-based forecasting and forecast-based action, for example, have not yet been adopted in Albania. Linkages with regional hydro-meteorological programmes and initiatives are weak, despite the enhanced forecasting and early warning capabilities they offer – and the reciprocal benefits they would receive from improved Albanian hydro-met observations and data-sharing.

Links between the NMHS and the early warning system are currently administratively and operationally weak. Effectively, there is no single multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) and the partial, fragmented system that currently operates is not sufficiently 'joined up' with the NMHS. Moreover, Albania's early warning system is not truly multi-platform, is inefficient and offers little certainty that all individuals, particularly vulnerable individuals, will be reached in a timely manner.

The ALBAdapt project will increase the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of Albania, through generation, coordination and effective use of climate information – in the form of a functional NMHS and NFCS – and a people-centred MHEWS that enables economic sectors and local communities (including vulnerable groups) to undertake actions in advance of, in anticipation of and in response to tailored warnings disseminated across multiple channels, including mobile telecommunications.

Component 1 of the project will implement foundational activities that support the development of a strengthened NMHS, accompanied by complementary platform services: a national climate information system (NCIS) and a user interface platform (UIP). Component 2 will put in place a robust, people-centred MHEWS that is strongly coupled to the NMHS and which supports the first steps in transitioning to impact-based forecasts and forecast-based action (FbA). Component 3 will support two critical aspects of climate investment: (i) private sector engagement with, and innovation in, climate services, and (ii) investment in nature-based adaptation solutions – ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) / eco-disaster risk reduction (eco-DRR).

The ALBAdapt project will, inter alia: strengthen the capacities of the institutions involved in collecting and processing hydro-meteorological data in Albania and, equally crucially, fundamentally transform the institutional underpinnings of the NMHS and MHEWS to enhance clarity of roles and responsibilities, and to facilitate information exchange in a truly 'joined up' system; begin the process of mobilising private sector involvement in the provision of climate services, thereby partially detaching service provision from government budget constraints and introducing market discipline (user-oriented focus, dynamic adjustment, profit-seeking motivation) into the hydro-met sector; and improve the usability and usefulness of the hydro-met and early warning systems, thereby cementing their importance to policy-makers, local communities and end-users.



## 1.2 Objective of the ESAP

The main objective of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) is to mitigate the adverse or negative impacts of the project and to enhance the beneficial or positive impacts.

The presented report on the ESAP considers the environmental and social risks of the project identified during the screening process, the risk significance, and measures to manage and address the identified risks.

Also, the ESAP report describes how the identified risks and impacts will be mitigated in accordance with the applicable environmental and social requirements, namely Green Climate Fund (GCF) Environmental and Social Safeguards (GCF ESSs).

## 1.3 Structure of the report

The report is divided into 12 numbered sections and two appendices. A brief description of each section is provided below.

**Section 2** contains a brief description of the ALBAdapt project, including the Albanian context regarding the climate change risks, the project's objective, the project's relation with Albania's documents and policies at national and international level, as well as a description of the project's components, outcomes, activities and sub-activities.

**Section 3** contains the legal and institutional framework in Albania in relation to environment, social aspects and climate. This section provides a brief description of the Albanian legal framework at all levels (strategy, policy, law, decision, etc.) as well as a brief description of the relevant Albanian authorities / institutions at national, regional and local level.

**Section 4** describes the methodology followed for the environmental and social risk assessment.

**Section 5** describes the environmental and social risk assessment methodology used to identify, analyse, and evaluate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project.

**Section 6** provides the environmental and social impact analysis (ESIA), assessing the environmental and social impacts against the relevant standards. These standards include the GCF's interim ESS Standards, the GCF's Indigenous People Policy, the GCF's gender policy and the GLZ's Safeguards + Gender standards.

**Section 7** refers to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) and provides the rationale that the risk in this aspect is low.

**Section 8** outlines the environmental and social safeguards (ESS) management and monitoring system for the project, including the adoption of an ESS policy, identification of risks and impacts, organizational capacity and competency, monitoring and reporting procedures, and the budget for the ESAP.

**Section 9** presents the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that will be used during the project's implementation, in order to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances about the environmental and social performance of the project.

**Section 10** concludes by outlining the ESAP, prepared according to the GFC guidelines. Summarizing the main findings of the foregoing section, this section contains an assessment of impact and proposed relevant mitigation measures for each ESS. The information included in the ESAP refers to: impacts, project sub-activities, mitigation measures, risk significance, responsible party/person, schedule, expected results, cost/budget.

**Section 11** contains a list of references used during the preparation of this annex.

The appendix contains the E&S + SEAH screening checklist (Appendix 1), exclusion criteria (Appendix 2) and the grievance form used in the GRM (Appendix 3).

## 2. Context

### 2.1 Climate Change in Albania

#### 2.1.1 Climate Change Trends

**Temperatures are rising.** For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Albania's average annual temperature ranged between 11 and 12°C. However, observational data clearly reveals a steady increase in the average annual temperature over the past 40 years. The average annual temperature (harmonised) was 11.9°C in 1990, 12.7°C in 2010 and 13.2°C in 2021. Nine of the ten years with the highest annual temperatures since 1850 have occurred since 2011<sup>1</sup>. Under a moderate emissions scenario – Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 – the expected temperature increase relative to the baseline 1986-2005 period is 0.3-1.78°C by 2039 and 1.4-2.6°C by 2100<sup>2</sup>. **Seasonal temperatures are also increasing**, with the most significant increases projected to take place in summer periods (June to August each year) – up to +2.5°C by 2100 under RCP4.5<sup>3</sup>.

**Heat waves are becoming more severe, and the number of hot days is projected to increase.** An increase in frequency (inter- and intra-annual) and intensity (duration) of heat waves (daily air temperature exceeding the long-term average temperature by 5°C for more than five consecutive days) has been observed<sup>4</sup>. Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia are expected to be the most impacted countries in Europe<sup>5</sup>.

**Precipitation will decrease overall and will exhibit greater seasonality.** Albania is already experiencing a reduction in total annual precipitation, with the largest decreases observed in coastal areas (up to 20%)<sup>6</sup>. All future scenarios considered in the Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC (2022)<sup>7</sup> and the Albanian Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)<sup>8</sup> indicate that further reductions in seasonal and annual precipitation are expected for all time horizons. However, the overall reduction in precipitation masks increased seasonality: precipitation will primarily decrease in the months with lower rainfall<sup>9</sup>. Summer months are projected to experience a reduction of up to 40% in precipitation, as well as a substantial increase in the duration of dry spells<sup>10</sup>. Winter months, in contrast, will experience an increase in monthly average precipitation of between 1.8 and 7.8%<sup>11</sup>. In parallel, **hazardous rainfall** – i.e. intensive rain events with precipitation higher than the threshold that could cause social and economic damage (more

<sup>1</sup> Müller, D. and Hofmann, M. (2022), *Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture and Recommendations for Adaptation Measures in the Western Balkans*: <https://seerural.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Impact-of-climate-change-on-agriculture-in-WB.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Tourism and the Environment (2022), *Fourth National Communication of Albania on Climate Change*: <https://unfccc.int/documents/620929>

<sup>3</sup> FAO (2018), *Comprehensive Analysis of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System for Agriculture in Albania*: [www.fao.org/3/i8866en/i8866EN.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/i8866en/i8866EN.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Porja, T. (2013), 'Heat waves affecting weather and climate over Albania', *Earth Science & Climatic Change*, 4: <https://www.omicsonline.org/pdfdownload.php?download=heat-waves-affecting-weather-and-climate-over-albania-2157-7617.1000149.pdf&aid=18519>

<sup>5</sup> Santillán, D. et al (2019), 'Climate change risks and adaptation: new indicators for Mediterranean viticulture', *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, 25: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11027-019-09899-w>

<sup>6</sup> Hodnebrog, O. (2019), 'Intensification of summer precipitation with shorter time-scales in Europe', *Environmental Research Letters*, 14: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab549c/pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the UNFCCC*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>8</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> USAID (2016), *Climate Change Risk Profile: Albania*: <https://www.climatechange.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Albania%20%28003%29.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Doko, A. et al (2020), 'Analysis of climatic variability and determination of thermal and pluviometric limits in Albania's Southwestern Lowland Area (Vlora)', *Mechanisation in Agriculture and Conserving of Resources*, 5: <https://stumejournals.com/journals/am/2020/5/184.full.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> World Bank (2019), *Climate-Resilient Road Assets in Albania*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31616/Climate-Resilient-Road-Assets-in-Albania.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

than 182 mm/24h) – **is expected to increase**. Tirana, for instance, is projected to see a shortening of the return period of heavy rainfall events from 100 years to 60-75 years<sup>12</sup>.

## 2.1.2 Climate Change Impacts

Albania already ranks highest in terms of overall disaster risk amongst European countries, due to very high exposure to extreme weather and climate-related events – a situation that is being further exacerbated by climate change<sup>13</sup>. Albania is ranked 82 (out of 191 countries) – and number 1 in Europe – on the World Risk Index of natural disasters and climate change<sup>14</sup>, and 80 (out of 181 countries) on the ND-GAIN Index of climate vulnerability, making it the most climate-vulnerable country in Europe<sup>15</sup>. Between 1980 and 2021, 35 natural disasters are estimated to have caused approximately US\$ 800 million of damage, with each natural disaster causing average damage of 1.3% of GDP, double the EU average<sup>16</sup>.

It is estimated that, on average, 50,000 Albanians are affected by **floods** every year<sup>17</sup>. All climate scenarios project a future increase in frequency and severity of riverine floods, due to an intensification of heavy precipitation in winter months and ensuing snow melt in spring<sup>18</sup>. The increase in flooding risk will, in parallel, be accompanied by an increase in **drought risk**<sup>19</sup>. Albania already has the highest level of total drought severity per decade in Europe<sup>20</sup>. The probability of droughts is projected to increase by 20%, potentially leading to 23 more drought days/year in the north and 14 more drought days/year in the south of Albania<sup>21</sup>. More severe heat waves and droughts will, in turn, provide more favourable conditions for **wildfires** during the hot and dry summer months<sup>22</sup>. Projections of fire risk in the period 2030-2060 relative to 1961-1990 suggest that Albania will be one of the world's most wildfire-affected countries, with at least one additional month of fire risk expected<sup>23</sup>.

**Sectoral impacts** of climate change include:

- **Agriculture:** The agricultural sector provides employment for ~60% of Albania's labour force and accounts for approximately one-fifth of GDP<sup>24</sup>. Climate change is expected to negatively impact crop yields through changes of temperature, precipitation, hydrological systems (including irrigation), enhanced soil erosion and damage from extreme events<sup>25,26</sup>. The agricultural sector is dominated by family farms – 86% of farms are smaller than 2 ha in size – that are vulnerable to climate shocks<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> World Bank (2021), *Climate Risk Country Profile: Albania*: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15812-Albania%20Country%20Profile-WEB.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> USAID (2016), *Climate Change Risk Profile: Albania*: <https://www.climateintelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Albania%20%28003%29.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2022), *World Risk Report 2022*: [https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WorldRiskReport-2022\\_Online.pdf](https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WorldRiskReport-2022_Online.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> University of Notre Dame (2020), *Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative*: <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

<sup>16</sup> IMF (2022), *Albania: Selected Issues – Adapting to Climate Change*: <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/journals/002/2022/363/article-A001-en.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> World Bank (2017), *Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Risk Profiles: Albania*: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/839891493703488438/pdf/114694-WP-PUBLIC-drp-albania.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Zaimi, K. and Jaupaj, O. (2020), 'Flood forecasting in the Western Lowlands of Albania with application of hydrological modelling', *Journal of International Environmental Application and Science*, 15: <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/1464407>

<sup>19</sup> Klodjan, R. (2016), 'Too much but not enough: issues of water management in Albania in light of climate change', *Studies on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Transition Economies*, 84: <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/156486/1/881860077.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> European Environment Agency (2017), *Climate Change: Impacts and Vulnerability in Europe 2016: An Indicator-Based Report*: [https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016/at_download/file)

<sup>21</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the UNFCCC*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>22</sup> FAO (2018), *Drought Risk Management Guidelines: Western Balkan Region*: <http://www.fao.org/3/i9148en/i9148EN.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> NCPA (2022), *Disaster Risk Assessment in Albania: Wildfire Risk Assessment Report*.

<sup>24</sup> World Bank Open Data (2023), *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Value Added – Albania*: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=AL>

<sup>25</sup> Zupanić, F. et al (2021), 'Climate change and agriculture management: Western Balkan region analysis', *Energy, Sustainability and Society*, 11: <https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/counter/pdf/10.1186/s13705-021-00327-z.pdf>

<sup>26</sup> Teqja, Z. et al (2017), 'A study of the impact of climate change scenarios on the plant hardiness zones of Albania', *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, 56: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/downloadpdf/journals/apme/56/3/jamc-d-16-0108.1.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Zhilima, E. et al (2022), 'Awareness of climate change impact and adaptation in agriculture – the case of Albania', *European Countryside*, 14: [https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/m36VQ?\\_s=w6n8uHq8ny9pMY1kQt4qS3KyDNk%3D](https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/m36VQ?_s=w6n8uHq8ny9pMY1kQt4qS3KyDNk%3D)

- **Energy:** The large share of hydropower in Albania – more than 99% of electricity is produced by hydro-power stations, of which 60% are state-owned – makes the country vulnerable to hydrological changes<sup>28</sup>. Electricity production can vary from almost 6,000 GWh to less than half that amount in very dry years<sup>29</sup>. In good years, Albania is able to export electricity and the sector contributes 1 percentage point to GDP growth; in adverse years, when electricity imports are necessary, the sector can reduce GDP growth by 1 percentage point<sup>30</sup>.
- **Tourism:** as a sector heavily reliant upon the climate, Albanian tourism is considered to be sensitive to climate change.<sup>31</sup> This applies to mainstream tourism – ‘sun, sea and sand’ in coastal resorts – as well as to rapidly-growing sub-sectors, including skiing, eco-tourism and agro-tourism<sup>32</sup>.

**The coastal zone is particularly vulnerable to climate change.** Temperature increases and precipitation reductions are projected to be of greater magnitude in the north-western part of the coastal zone than in the rest of the country, and heatwave recurrence is expected to increase 6-8 times<sup>33</sup>. The greatest fire hazard is faced by the coastal county of Fier<sup>34</sup>. While flash floods occur most frequently in the Eastern mountainous areas, these tend to have short-lived, localised impacts; in contrast, fluvial flooding events on the Western plain are large-scale (often more than 100 km<sup>2</sup>) and long-duration (often lasting several weeks) due to the presence of extensive reclaimed wetland<sup>35</sup>. Moreover, the coastal zone is uniquely vulnerable to storm surges and coastal floods<sup>36</sup>. Most of the dykes and hydraulic structural measures in the coastal zone were designed on the basis of expected 50-year return periods; they are increasingly unable to evacuate the required water volumes as flood events become more frequent<sup>37</sup>.

## 2.2 Brief Project Description

The ALBAdapt project aims to increase the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of Albania, through generation, coordination and effective use of climate information in conjunction with an early warning system (CIEWS).

As a result, vulnerable Albanian communities will be more resilient to climate change impacts, will be able to take early action, and will be able to make informed, climate-related investment decisions, particularly those related to water-related hazards in the coastal belt.

The project is structured across three Components:

<sup>28</sup> Gebremedhin, A. and Zhuri, M. (2020), ‘Power system analysis: the case of Albania’, *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Interdisciplinary Sciences*, 3: <https://ntnuopen.ntnu.no/ntnu-xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/2994149/Gebremedhin.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>29</sup> Gjika, E. et al (2022), ‘Climate change and its effect on the energy production from renewable sources – a case study in the Mediterranean region’, *Journal of Ecological Engineering*, 23: <http://www.jeeng.net/pdf-154062-82828?filename=Climate%20Change%20and%20its.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> IMF (2022), *Article IV Consultation – Albania*: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/CR/2022/English/1ALBEA2022004.ashx>

<sup>31</sup> Vrana, V. (2023), ‘Sustainable tourism development and innovation: recent advances and challenges’, *Sustainability*, 15: [https://mdpi-res.com/d\\_attachment/sustainability/sustainability-15-07224/article\\_deploy/sustainability-15-07224-v2.pdf?version=1682558379](https://mdpi-res.com/d_attachment/sustainability/sustainability-15-07224/article_deploy/sustainability-15-07224-v2.pdf?version=1682558379)

<sup>32</sup> Pojani, E. and Grabova, P. (2022), ‘Discussing sustainable business practices – the case of the tourism sector in Albania’, in Tipuric, D. et al (Eds), *Book of Proceedings of the 80<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on Economic and Social Development*: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Venelin-Terziev/publication/360112360\\_Spiritual\\_leaders\\_of\\_the\\_Bulgarian\\_nation/links/6262c0c9ee24725b3ebde76d/Spiritual-leaders-of-the-Bulgarian-nation.pdf#page=216](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Venelin-Terziev/publication/360112360_Spiritual_leaders_of_the_Bulgarian_nation/links/6262c0c9ee24725b3ebde76d/Spiritual-leaders-of-the-Bulgarian-nation.pdf#page=216)

<sup>33</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Monitoring of the Climate Change Strategy in Albania, 2020-2030 for 2019-2021*: <https://www.recshqiperi.org/publications.php?id=52#:~:text=MONITORING%20OF%20THE%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE,2020%2D2030%20FOR%202019%2D2021&text=National%20Strategy%20for%20Climate%20Change,Albanian%20Government%20in%20July%202019>

<sup>34</sup> Jaupaj, O. et al (2023), ‘Understanding wildfires and risk in Albania: analysis of five years’ observational experience on the risk and its spatial distribution’, *International Journal of Geotechnique, Construction Materials and Environment*, 25: <https://geomatejournal.com/geomate/article/download/4068/3246/7459>

<sup>35</sup> Rustja, D. (2020), ‘Environmental hazards in Albania: case study – Shkoder Region’, *Applied Geography Conference 2020*: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dritan-Rustja/publication/344876332\\_Environmental\\_hazards\\_in\\_Albania\\_case\\_study\\_-\\_Shkoder\\_Region/links/5f95e237a6fdccfd7b7f7b14/Environmental-hazards-in-Albania-case-study-Shkoder-Region.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dritan-Rustja/publication/344876332_Environmental_hazards_in_Albania_case_study_-_Shkoder_Region/links/5f95e237a6fdccfd7b7f7b14/Environmental-hazards-in-Albania-case-study-Shkoder-Region.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> De Leo, F. et al (2019), ‘Coastal vulnerability assessment: through regional to local downscaling of wave characteristics along the Bay of Lalzit, Albania’, *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 19: <https://nhess.copernicus.org/articles/19/287/2019/nhess-19-287-2019.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> NCPA (2022), *Flood Hazards Specific Risk Assessment Report: National Risk Assessment in Albania*.

- Component 1: Weather, hydrological and climate information services;
- Component 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and early action;
- Component 3: Climate-informed investment decisions.

Key project results will include:

- The government establishes fit-for-purpose institutional and regulatory frameworks for the effective implementation of the national meteorological and hydrological service (NMHS) and a national framework for climate services (NFCS), including the establishment of a national climate information system (NCIS): AlbaMet.
- The NMHS possesses the human, institutional, procedural, financial and infrastructure capabilities to effectively coordinate and cooperate in order to provide effective meteorological, hydrological and climate data and services.
- The NMHS, the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) and municipalities sensitise beneficiaries to climate risks, so they know why, where and how to react.
- Leveraging the improvements to the NMHS, NCPA, in fulfilment of its mandate, provides early warnings through a multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) that beneficiaries receive, understand and can take early action on.
- Trained municipal officials, Red Cross volunteers and communities at the local level ('last mile') are ready to respond to and handle climate hazard situations appropriately.
- All stakeholders, including government organisations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector (notably, micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs)) contribute to the design and widespread, effective use of climate services to enhance the implementation of adaptation options and to put measures in place that reduce the impacts of climate risks for society and for the economy.
- The benefits of hydro-met data are maximised by involving private sector actors in the provision of climate services.
- Investments in ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) / eco-disaster risk reduction (eco-DRR) measures are identified, prioritised and demonstrated.

The majority of project activities focus on institutional strengthening, legislative and regulatory support, and capacity building. The project's 'on the ground' interventions are limited to the installation of hydro-met observation stations (on plots of land typically 4m long and 4m wide), forecast-based action pilot projects in three settlements in the coastal belt, the development of FbA emergency management plans for ~114 schools in the coastal belt, and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. The precise nature and locations of these interventions will be determined during project implementation. In addition to the specific mitigation measures presented in this ESAP, the project will, therefore, establish a screening and categorization mechanism specifically for those interventions whose exact location and/or scope will only be determined during project implementation: please see Section 5 and Appendices 1 and 2 for further details.

With regard to the EbA/eco-DRR measures, 5-10 such measures will be piloted during project implementation. All such measures will be sourced from coastal municipalities' Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs), thereby ensuring the measures are well researched, have undergone thorough consultations with local stakeholders and have been explicitly endorsed as adaptation priorities by the municipal authorities. The types and locations of the measures will not be known until during project implementation, but GIZ<sup>38</sup> and the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)<sup>39</sup> provide useful catalogues of nature-based solutions – including tree-planting, dune rehabilitation, terracing, river naturation, green corridors, wetland restoration and bioretention areas – that offer an indicative list of potential EbA/eco-DRR measures the project may support.

While the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS will be enhanced – or established for the first time – for the entire population, early action and the development of a pipeline of EbA / eco-DRR measures will be focused on the Albanian coastal lowlands (coastal belt). This area, which represents a significant share of the Albanian

<sup>38</sup> GIZ (2024), *Panorama EbA Solutions*: <https://panorama.solutions/en/portal/panorama-eba>

<sup>39</sup> GFDRR (2021), *A Catalogue of Nature-Based Solutions for Urban Resilience*: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/502101636360985715/pdf/A-Catalogue-of-Nature-based-Solutions-for-Urban-Resilience.pdf>

population and economy, is especially important for the agricultural and tourism sectors and is at particular risk of the adverse impacts of climate change.

The ALBAdapt project is aligned with the Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)<sup>40</sup> and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021)<sup>41</sup>, and with national policies and strategies – notably, the Law on Climate Change (2020)<sup>42</sup>, the Law on Civil Protection (2019), the National Climate Change Strategy (2021)<sup>43</sup> and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2022)<sup>44</sup>. The ALBAdapt GCF project is specifically identified as Strategic Project 11 in the associated National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan.

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<sup>40</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> [2021010413081820201227203009ligj nr. 155, dt. 17.12.2020\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.parlament.al/2021/10/10/413081820201227203009ligj_nr_155_dt_17.12.2020_compressed.pdf) (parlament.al)

<sup>43</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Climate Change Strategy in Albania 2020-2030: 2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring*: [https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN\\_Report\\_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf](https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN_Report_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> <https://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Law-No.-45-On-Civil-Protection.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy*.



Table 1: ALBAadapt project components, outcomes, outputs, activities and sub-activities

Component 1 – Weather, hydrological and climate information services	<b>Outcome 1</b> Albania has an enhanced National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) and a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) capable of providing weather, hydrological and climate information services in support of policies, plans and operations across all priority sectors.	<b>Output 1.1</b> Enhanced capacities of the NMHS, leading to reliable data for tailored weather, hydrological and climate services	<b>Activity 1.1.1</b> Strengthening the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service	<b>Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1</b> Supporting comprehensive institutional reform of the NMHS
		<b>Output 1.2:</b> An NFCS is established and deployed as a national coordination platform and knowledge hub	<b>Activity 1.1.1.2</b> Building the fundamental facilities and systems of the NMHS	<b>Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2</b> Building the fundamental facilities and systems of the NMHS
				<b>Sub-Activity 1.1.1.3</b> Strengthening NMHS forecasting capabilities
				<b>Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1</b> Institutional establishment and governance of the NFCS
Component 2 – Multi-hazard early warning system and early action	<b>Outcome 2</b> A widely-available early warning system and targeted early action services are established - saving lives, livelihoods and reducing climate disaster risks.	<b>Output 2.1</b> A multi-hazard early warning system is nationally enabled and deployed	<b>Activity 1.2.1</b> Establishing and deploying an NFCS	<b>Sub-Activity 1.2.1.2</b> Development of the National Climate Information System (NCIS) and the User Interface Platform (UIP)
			<b>Activity 2.1.1</b> Deploying a widely available, fit-for-purpose MHEWS	<b>Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1</b> Strengthening MHIEWS governance and institutional arrangements
			<b>Activity 2.1.2</b> Transitioning towards forecast-based early action in Albania	<b>Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2</b> Co-creation of a people-centred MHIEWS
				<b>Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1</b> Creating an enabling environment for forecast-based early action in Albania
Component 3 – Climate informed investment- decisions	<b>Outcome 3</b> Climate-informed decisions for adaptation measures are improved.	<b>Output 3.1</b> A climate innovation ecosystem to support investment and decision-making for adaptation is established and operational	<b>Activity 2.1.2.2</b> Piloting FbA in selected communities	<b>Sub-Activity 2.1.2.2</b> Piloting FbA in selected communities
				<b>Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1</b> Triggering the development of commercial climate service business ideas
		<b>Output 3.2</b> Climate-informed adaptation measures are analysed, developed and ready for implementation	<b>Activity 3.1.1</b> Strengthening the innovation ecosystem for climate services	<b>Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2</b> Development and demonstration of commercial climate services
				<b>Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1</b> Territorial Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs) and associated EbA / eco-DRR demonstration measures
			<b>Activity 3.2.1</b> Facilitating the identification of adaptation measures and their financing	<b>Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2</b> Establishing a climate financing window for upscaling the EbA/eco-DRR measures

Source: Own elaboration

### 3. Legal, Strategic Climate Documentation and Institutional Framework

#### 3.1 Legal Framework

##### 3.1.1 Climate Change

Albania's **Revised Nationally Determined Contribution** (NDC, 2021)<sup>45</sup> adopts a territorial focus towards adaptation in the Albanian coastal belt and the surrounding lowlands. Priority measures identified in the NDC include: (i) mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral, regional development and spatial planning regulations and procedures; (ii) awareness-raising on climate change impacts and potential solutions; (iii) ensuring effective co-generation and communication of (user-oriented and usable) climate information for relevant sectoral and territorial actors, including through early warning systems; (iv) enhancing technical capacities of public and private actors with regard to risk assessments and the design and implementation of adaptation measures based on actionable climate information; and (v) nature-based solutions (NbS) for adaptation approaches.

Albania's **National Adaptation Plan** (NAP, 2021)<sup>46</sup> notes that, while climate change impacts and vulnerabilities are relatively well understood, committed action for reducing vulnerabilities is less developed. The NAP identifies 3 priorities – reduction of flood damage, enhanced agricultural resilience and protection of drinking water – and a range of strategic actions to achieve these priorities, including mainstreaming climate change in sectoral development and sector plans (Priority Actions 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13: flood protection, integrated water resources management, agriculture, health, tourism, etc.); capacity development of institutions and individuals on climate change adaptation (Priority Action 6); integrating climate change into spatial planning, notably to support the Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coastal Belt (Priority Action 11) and municipal development plans (Priority Action 12); and implementation of a hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning system (Priority Action 14).

Albania's **Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC** (2022)<sup>47</sup> outlines anticipated climate change impacts in key areas, including crops, livestock and forestry, and disaster risks. It notes that floods, flash floods and forest fires account for more than 90% of climate-related hazards. A number of priority adaptation needs are identified, including: (i) mainstreaming climate change adaptation into territorial development planning, (ii) the establishment of early warning systems for mitigation and prevention of disaster risks, and (iii) application of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS). Institutional capacities, inter-institutional coordination and data collection / collation are noted as representing significant constraints on current adaptation response capabilities. The need for an improved hydro-meteorological observation network, data management and forecasting system, in conjunction with hazard monitoring, mapping, forecasting and warning functionality, is specifically highlighted (page 169). The **First Biennial Update Report** (BUR, 2021)<sup>48</sup> identifies disaster risk management as a key requirement for Albania to adapt to climate change. The BUR also notes that Albania's legislative framework for climate change (see below) does not place sufficient emphasis on gender-related issues and that a more proactive gender approach is required. The **UNFCCC Technology Needs Assessment** (TNA, 2004)<sup>49</sup> focuses on Albania's coastal belt because of its particular vulnerability to a range of climate change impacts and its economic and demographic importance. Improvement of the hydro-meteorological monitoring and forecasting system is identified as one of 6 priority adaptation clusters.

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<sup>45</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)

<sup>47</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the UNFCCC*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>48</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Albania's First Biennial Update Report*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/First%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%20for%20Albania\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/First%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%20for%20Albania_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>49</sup> Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration (2004), *Albania's Technology Needs Assessment*: [https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc\\_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk\\_static/TNR\\_CRE/e9067c6e3b97459989b2196f12155ad5/1f5549ee8fc342ab8bfb1d58228e1d03.pdf](https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/TNR_CRE/e9067c6e3b97459989b2196f12155ad5/1f5549ee8fc342ab8bfb1d58228e1d03.pdf)



The recent **Law on Climate Change (2020)**<sup>50</sup> seeks to increase “the ability to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change” as well as “mainstreaming climate change into all existing and future sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and practices”. It obliges line ministries and local governments to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation issues into their legislation, plans, projects and disaster management. The lead agency under the Law is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE); the Institute of Geosciences (IGEO) is identified by the Law as the key institution for the provision of weather- and climate-related data and information. The **National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS, 2021)**<sup>51</sup> builds on the NAP and shares the same Priority Actions, including emphases on hydro-meteorological monitoring, disaster risk reduction (including early warning) and EbA.

The **Law on Civil Protection (2019)**<sup>52</sup> regulates Disaster Risk Management (DRM), including climate risk management for weather- and climate-related hazards and early warning.<sup>53</sup> In addition to establishing the NCPA, the Law emphasises the principle of subsidiarity – that protection, rescue and assistance in response to a disaster is the principal responsibility of the relevant local government – and the importance of risk monitoring, risk avoidance and risk reduction. Collaboration between government entities, the private sector and civil society is encouraged. The Law requires the formulation of a National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy and municipality-level disaster risk reduction strategies that are harmonised with the National DRR Strategy. Municipalities are obliged to spend a minimum of 4% of their annual budgets on disaster risk reduction and civil protection. NCPA is given the responsibility of issuing early warning alerts, based on information provided by relevant government institutions.

The **National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS, 2023-2030)**<sup>54</sup> aims to: (i) strengthen resilience at the national level through the establishment of effective, accountable and comprehensive institutional structures of the civil protection system, and (ii) strengthen community resilience by enabling, empowering and supporting individuals, organisations and communities to act for themselves and others. The NDRRS identifies the pressing need to: (i) strengthen the national hydro-meteorological system in line with WMO standards, (ii) align DRR measures with climate change adaptation measures, and (iii) build links with the broader European hydro-met infrastructure, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). The ALBAdapt GCF project is included as Strategic Project (SP) 11 in the **National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan (NDRRAP)**, which serves as the implementation mechanism for the NDRSS. The NDRRAP notes the complementarities of the ALBAdapt project with Disaster Risk Management Strategic Projects SP 1 (international hydro-met and early warning collaboration), SP 3 (flood risk assessment and early warning), SP 4 (drought risk assessment), SP 10 (forest fires), SP 12 (strengthening the early warning system) and SP 21 (hydro-met network).

### 3.1.2 Development

The **National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDEI, 2022-2030)**<sup>55</sup> outlines the government’s medium-term vision for national social and economic development, accompanied by a set of measures to operationalise this vision. The 4 identified priorities are: (i) encouraging the pace of development and generating sustainable economic growth through macroeconomic and financial stability, (ii) increasing well-being and ensuring the protection of citizens’ rights, (iii) transforming Albania into a country with standards that enable membership of the European Union (EU), and (iv) building the country’s competitiveness. With regard to climate change, the NSDEI observes that Albania, and especially the coastal belt, is increasingly vulnerable to climate hazards. It notes that “recent experiences have shown that there is an urgent need to strengthen disaster preparedness and risk management capabilities, adopt appropriate response systems and procedures, and improve institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction coordination and management for interaction between public levels of government, as well as with private actors and those of civil society.” Strategic interventions identified in the NSDEI include: (i) integration of

<sup>50</sup> [2021010413081820201227203009ligj\\_nr\\_155\\_dt\\_17\\_12\\_2020\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.parlament.al/2021/04/13/081820201227203009ligj_nr_155_dt_17_12_2020_compressed.pdf) (parlament.al)

<sup>51</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Climate Change Strategy in Albania 2020-2030: 2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring*: [https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN\\_Report\\_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf](https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN_Report_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf)

<sup>52</sup> <https://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Law-No.-45-On-Civil-Protection.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

<sup>54</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy*.

<sup>55</sup> State Agency for Strategic Planning and Aid Coordination (2023), *National Strategy for Development and European Integration, 2022-2030*.

adaptation measures in national and local strategic documents, (ii) building a national platform for climate information and services, (iii) adoption of ecosystem-based approaches at local and central levels, (iv) strengthening early warning systems, and (v) institutional reform and strengthening of the structures that deal with the generation and provision of public data on the climate.

The **General National Spatial Plan 2015-2030** (GNP, 2015)<sup>56,57</sup> provides the reference strategic framework for sustainable territorial development until 2030, with a view to ensuring balanced national economic and social development, sound management of natural resources, environmental protection, and solutions to natural and climate risks. The GNP demands the identification and implementation of measures that reduce the consequences of extreme hazard events. The **Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coastal Belt** (ICSP, 2017)<sup>58,59</sup> manages existing risks from natural disasters, especially floods, suggests climate change adaptation measures and highlights the importance of nature-based solutions as a means of adaptation. Both plans are overseen by the National Territorial Planning Agency (NTPA).

### 3.1.3 Environmental and Social

The most important applicable laws and regulations and the relevant environmental and social sectors are listed in Table 2.

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<sup>56</sup> [Plani i Përgjithshëm Kombëtar \(planifikimi.gov.al\)](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Plani i Përgjithshëm Kombëtar - Ministria e Infrastrukturës dhe Energjisë \(infrastruktura.gov.al\)](#)

<sup>58</sup> [Plani i Integruar Ndërsektorial për Bregdetin - Ministria e Infrastrukturës dhe Energjisë \(infrastruktura.gov.al\)](#)

<sup>59</sup> [PINS Bregdeti \(planifikimi.gov.al\)](#)

Table 2: Environmental/Social Sectors and relevant sectoral legislation

#	Sub-field of application	Legal act	Type	Legal act #
1	Ecology	For some changes and additions to Law no. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of wild fauna", as amended	Law	41/2013
		For some changes in Law no. 10 253, dated 11.3.2010 "On hunting"	Law	43/2013
		On the announcement of the hunting moratorium in the Republic of Albania"	Law	61/2016
		For the protection of biodiversity	Law	68/2014
2	Environmental Impact Assessment	For environmental impact assessment	Law	12/2015
3	SEA	For Strategic Environmental Assessment	Law	91/2013
4	Environment	For environmental protection	Law	10431/11
		For environmental permits	Law	60/2014
		Technical Safety Regulation for the civil use of explosives in the Republic of Albania, Chapter 6, Section 2, references on quarries	Regulation	533/2005
		Regulation on criteria, procedures for issuing professional implementation license, classification and systematization of law firms related to construction activities	DCM	42/2008
		Defining the rules and procedures for changing the categories of land resources	DCM	410/2012
5	Protected areas	Law "On Protected Areas"	Law	81/2017
		DCM "On the proclamation of a protected area of Albanian natural monuments"	DCM	67/2002
6	Waste	"On integrated waste management" amended	Law	10463/2011
		"On the environmental management of solid waste"; amended by law 10137, dated 11.05.2009 "On some changes in the legislation in force for licenses, permits and authorizations in the Republic of Albania"	Law	10137/2009
		On the approval of the rules for the transfer of non-hazardous waste and the document for the transfer of non-hazardous waste	DCM	229/2014
		For determining the rules for the delivery of hazardous waste and the approval of the document for the delivery of hazardous waste	DCM	371/2014
		For the management of hazardous waste, amended by Law no. 10137, dated 11.05.2009; and Law no. 9890, dated 20.03.2008	Law	9537/06
		For the functioning and management of the discharge and transfer register of pollutants, the approval of the list of activities and pollutants that are subject to this register, as well as the form for declaring the data for discharges and for the transfer of pollutants by the operator	DCM	742/2015
		For integrated waste management, as amended	Law	32/2013
		Approval of requirements for inert waste management	DCM	575/2015
7	Cultural heritage	Law "On Cultural Heritage"	Law	27/2018
8	Air	Law on protection of air quality in the environment	Law	162/2014
		DCM on the assessment of ambient air quality and requirements for some pollutants related to it	DCM	352/2015
		On the Approval of Air Emission Norms in the Republic of Albania	DCM	435/2002

9	Water	On wastewater management, amended by Law no. 60/2014 "On an amendment to Law no. 10448, dated 14.7.2011, "On environmental permits", as amended	Law	60/2014
		For integrated water resources management	Law	6/2018
10	Noise	For environmental noise assessment and management Instruction no.8, dated 27.11.2007 "On noise limit levels in certain environments"	Law	39/2013
11	Forestry	Law "On Forest Service" amended	Law	36/2013
		For the pasture fund	Law	38/2013
12	Land Use	For the establishment and operation of structures for land administration and protection	Law	10257/10
13	Agriculture	Law "On protection of agricultural land" DCM "On determining the criteria, rules, procedures and standard contract for the lease of state-owned agricultural land"	Law DCM	131/2014 373/2018
		For irrigation and drainage administration	Law	24/2017
14	Expropriations	For expropriations and temporary acquisition of private property for public interests	Law	20/2016
15	Territorial Planning	For territorial planning and development	Law	107/2014
16	Permit	For licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania	Law	6/2015
17	Social	On the public's right to environmental information, its participation in decision-making and in addressing the court on environmental issues	Law DCM	8672/2000 16/2012
18	Work	For safety and health at work	Law	135/2016
19	Health	For public health and the state sanitary inspectorate	Law	45/2013
20	Gender	For gender equality in society	Law	9970/2008

*Source: Own elaboration*

#### 4. Institutional Framework

The **State Agency for Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination (SASPAC)** is a governmental body under the Office of Prime Minister. SASPAC's mission is to coordinate foreign aid for development programs and projects, assist decision-making structures for drafting of the National Strategy for Development and European Integration (NSDI) and monitor its implementation, provide methodological support in the drafting of cross-sectoral and sectoral strategies, with the aim of harmonizing them with NSDI, as well as monitoring their implementation, coordinating the administration process of projects of national interest, providing support to state administration institutions for increasing capacities in the field of development programs and projects.

The **Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE)**<sup>60</sup> is responsible for matters relating to the environment, climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources. MoTE serves as the focal point for international environment conventions, including the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as serving as the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF and the Political and Operational Focal Point for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). MoTE is the lead institution for the National Climate Change Strategy and chairs the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IMWGCC).

Albania's **National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS)** is tasked with providing public weather forecasts and warnings – typically characterised by the acronym CIEWS, for climate information and early warning systems – as well as agro-meteorological, hydrological and climate services. The Institute of Geosciences (IGEO) serves as Albania's NMHS, with complementary – and, in some cases, overlapping – support provided by Albcontrol Meteorological Service (Albcontrol MET) and the Military Meteorological Service (MMS) of Albania.

<sup>60</sup> <https://turizmi.gov.al/>

The **Institute of Geosciences (IGEO)**<sup>61</sup> is a unit of the Polytechnic University of Tirana (UPT) and acts under the Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions (2015). Formerly known as the Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE), the mandate and duties of IGEO are defined in a dedicated order (Order IGEO, 2011). Other regulatory frameworks applicable to the duties of IGEO include the Law on Civil Protection (2019) and the Law on Climate Change (2020). The Director of IGEO serves as Albania's representative at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). IGEO is responsible for a network of 83 synoptic surface stations, of which 63 are manually operated; however, a considerable number of these stations are non-operational. IGEO has received, and continues to receive, support from a range of international organisations, among them the German government through GIZ, the European Commission, USAID, the World Bank (GFDRR), UNDP, JICA and others<sup>62</sup>.

**Albcontrol**<sup>63</sup>, formerly known as the National Air Traffic Agency, manages and controls the airspace of Albania. Albcontrol was created in 1992 as a state-owned enterprise and was restructured as a state-owned joint stock company in 1997. The Meteorological Directorate (Albcontrol Met), one of 17 operating units, is responsible for operating automated weather observing systems (AWOS) at Tirana and Kukës airports. Albcontrol Met produces regular 24-hour terminal aerodrome forecasts (TAFs) and local area forecasts (LAFs) for defined weather parameters, as well as 7-day weather outlooks.

The **Military Meteorological Service (MMS)**<sup>64</sup>, part of the Ministry of Defence, operates according to the Law for the Military Meteorological Service (MMS Decree, 2004). Using a network of 13 manual and 2 automatic weather stations, MMS produces 1-5-day weather forecasts, primarily for military users but also through commercial contracts for television and radio weather bulletins.

The **National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)**<sup>65</sup> has the central mandate for risk forecasting and prevention, civil protection and disaster risk reduction. In civil emergency situations, NCPA coordinates multi-agency responses through the National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies (NOCCE). NCPA, which is an agency under the Ministry of Defence, was established by Civil Protection Law No. 45 (2019). It has ~60 employees, divided into 6 departments and 4 Civil Protection Regional Centres (CPRCs). NCPA is the lead institution for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection.

The **Water Resources Management Agency (AMBU)**<sup>66</sup> was established under the Prime Minister's Office by the Law on Integrated Water Resources Management (2018). AMBU is responsible for the good governance of water resources and the sustainability of freshwater ecosystems at the national level, while water resource management at the basin level is performed by River Basin Councils and River Basin Management Offices. Because of Albania's high dependence on hydro-electric power and its vulnerability to seasonal river flooding, AMBU manages an extensive programme of hydrological monitoring and flood risk mapping.

The **National Territorial Planning Agency (NTPA)**<sup>67</sup> is the principal institution responsible for territorial planning and development. Situated under the Ministry of Interior, NTPA's legal basis is provided by Law No. 107 (2014) and Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 427 (2016). It coordinates planning documents at local and central levels in order to ensure that plans are harmonised and mutually supportive. The General National Territorial Plan (GNTP) is complemented at national level by 2 cross-sectoral plans – the Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coastal Belt and the Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Tirana-Durres Region – and at the local level by General Local Territorial Plans (GLTPs) and Local Detailed Plans (LDPs). GLTPs and LDPs are both developed at local (municipal) level, with GLTPs approved at the national level and LDPs by the local mayor.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.geo.edu.al/>

<sup>62</sup> USAID: United States Agency for International Development; GFDRR: Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>63</sup> <https://albcontrol.al/al/>

<sup>64</sup> <https://aaf.mil.al>

<sup>65</sup> <https://akmc.gov.al/#> and <https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/akmc>

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.ambu.gov.al/>

<sup>67</sup> [www.planifikimi.gov.al](http://www.planifikimi.gov.al)

The **Albanian Authority for Geographical Information (ASIG)**<sup>68</sup> is a state agency established in 2013 under the Law on Organisation and Functioning of the National Infrastructure of Geospatial Information. ASIG operates under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and is primarily responsible for surveying, mapping and land-use registration. ASIG maintains an Emergency Regional Risks Atlas (ERRA) and provides a related public geoportal with over 200 layers relating to (inter alia) geology, terrain, land-use, hydrology, transport networks, protected areas, etc. Environmental hazards are, however, not included and there is no automatic, or even structured, data-sharing with IGEO, NCPA or municipalities<sup>69</sup>.

The **Albanian Development Fund (ADF)**<sup>70</sup> is an autonomous public agency with a mandate to encourage sustainable, balanced and cohesive socio-economic development at municipal and regional levels. ADF provides financial assistance to municipalities and counties in the form of (inter alia) grants, loans and guarantees to improve local infrastructure, public services and institutional capacities. In the period 2016-2020, ADF disbursed Euro 480 million of financial support. ADF's principal focus to date has been on road infrastructure projects, water supply and sewerage, and urbanisation; a growing area of focus is the tourism sector, where ADF is currently supporting the development of studies and intervention plans at regional level. Current and recent ADF donors include the World Bank, the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), KfW and the Saudi Fund for Development.

The **Albanian Red Cross (ARC)**<sup>71</sup>, part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, was founded in 1920 and is the oldest humanitarian association in Albania. Its current activities are guided by Law No. 7864 (1994). With 80,000 members, 2,000 volunteers and 39 branches, ARC is the principal non-governmental organisation that provides volunteer support for disaster prevention, preparedness and response – a role that is explicitly acknowledged in the National Plan for Civil Protection. ARC maintains disaster-trained volunteer teams throughout the country and operates an active, community-level education programme.

**Local Government Units (LGUs):** The Republic of Albania comprises three levels of local government. There are 12 regions known as **counties**, each run by a prefect and a regional council. They have 'exclusive functions', 'shared functions' and 'delegated functions', which they exercise in accordance with the subsidiarity principle; they do not hold legislative powers and exercise their functions by means of decrees, ordinances and orders. Under the counties are 61 **municipalities**, each run by a mayor and a municipal council and each employing, on average, approximately 560 staff members<sup>72</sup>. Municipalities are generally urban and peri-urban in character. Municipalities have the right to fiscal autonomy – the ability to impose local taxes and fees to complement income from central government – provided they publicly disclose their financial accounts. The responsibilities of municipalities are wide-ranging and include, exclusively or in collaboration with counties or central government, civil protection, protection of nature and biodiversity, air quality, management of public land (parks, forest, pasture, etc.), social housing, education and others. Associated with the municipalities are 373 **administrative units** (formerly known as communes), which are essentially villages and fall under the authority of the nearest urban centre.

<sup>68</sup> <https://geoportal.asig.gov.al/en>

<sup>69</sup> World Bank (2022), *Improving Disaster Risk and Loss Information in Albania*: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099430106142216471/pdf/P172145046dbf40a5093060a6deca58f620.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.albaniandf.org/>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.kksh.org.al/>

<sup>72</sup> Association of Albanian Municipalities (2020), *Local Government 2020*: <https://aam.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/pdfresizer.com-pdf-resize.pdf>

## 5. Environmental and Social Risk Assessment Methodology

Risk assessment is the iterative process of risk identification, analysis, and evaluation. The objective is to provide sufficient information at appropriate intervals for risk-informed management decisions. High quality risk assessments enable greater acceptance of risk-taking opportunities (e.g., innovation) while ensuring rigorous due diligence, treatment, monitoring and control.

This ESAP has been drafted based on:

- The GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy<sup>73</sup>, as well as the Albanian safeguards policies, laws and regulations.
- Specific government policies for the operations of GIZ:
- GIZ is legally bound to German law and regulations in environmental and social safeguarding
- Since 2017, GIZ uses a Safeguards + Gender Management System at every stage of commission management for all GIZ business areas and commissioning parties. The Safeguards+Gender Desk at GIZ's headquarters, staffed with specialists in Safeguards Management, ensures compliance with rules and regulations, and advises analysis, risk assessment and identification of adequate measures to mitigate risks as well as use opportunities for co-benefits in the safeguard areas environment, climate protection and adaptation to climate change, conflict and context sensitivity, human rights, and gender.
- On climate risks, the assessment includes risks significantly affecting the climate resilience (adaptive capacity) of people, ecosystems and/or infrastructure, as well as GHG caused by project activities.
- GIZ's S+G Management System has been assessed as compliant with the GCF's revised Environmental and Social Policy as part of GIZ's accreditation as an executing entity for the GCF in 2017 and its continued compliance and track record in accordance with GCF's revised Environmental and Social Policy was checked as part of its re-accreditation in 2023.
- Feedback<sup>74</sup> collected through the consultation process organised with stakeholders in national level during project preparation.
- Input from public stakeholder consultations related to early warning systems on climate change risks (see list of participants in Annex 2e (Stakeholder Engagement Plan), which were held during the drafting of this ESAP. A wide range of participants from local government institutions, local agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and community representatives as part of the stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, were invited in both meetings of Fier and Shkodra region (respectively on July 20, 2023 and July 27, 2023).

The environmental and social impacts of the project have been assessed against the GCF ESSs listed below:

- ESS 1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts;
- ESS 2: Labour and working conditions;
- ESS 3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention;
- ESS 4: Community health, safety and security;
- ESS 5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement;
- ESS 6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources;
- ESS 7: Indigenous peoples;
- ESS 8: Cultural heritage;
- ESS 9: Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure;
- ESS 10: Climate change resilience and adaptation.

These standards reflect the broad consensus on GCF commitments to achieve environmental and social benefits and to avoid harm in all the activities that are undertaken and supported as well as the importance to clearly convey these to stakeholders and communities in order to reach consensus around the programme. The GCF safeguards policy articulates how GCF integrates environmental and social

<sup>73</sup> See URL: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/revised-environmental-and-social-policy> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>74</sup> More information on stakeholder consultation is given in Annex 2e (Stakeholder Engagement Plan) of funding proposal.



considerations into its decision-making and operations to effectively manage environmental and social risks and impacts and to improve outcomes.

This ESAP is committed to:

- Avoid, and where avoidance is impossible, mitigate adverse impacts to people and the environment;
- Enhance equitable access to development benefits; and
- Give due consideration to vulnerable populations, groups, and individuals (including women, children, and people with disabilities), local communities, ethnic group peoples, and other marginalized groups of people and individuals that are affected or potentially affected by project activities.

Risk analysis requires an assessment of the likelihood and the potential impact of a risk. There is a five-point scale that is commonly used to determine likelihood and impact. Available information and evidence are considered in the assessment of likelihood and impact. The risk analysis should be adjusted if and when more information becomes available. Based on the likelihood and impact the risk significance level (High, Medium or Low) is determined using the risk matrix (Figure 1) below.

*Figure 1: Environmental and Social Risk Matrix*

<b>Impact</b>	Critical	5	High	High	High	High	High
	Severe	4	Medium	Medium	High	High	High
	Moderate	3	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Minor	2	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Negligible	1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
			1	2	3	4	5
			Slight	Not Likely	Moderately Likely	Highly Likely	Expected
			<b>Probability</b>				

Source: [UNDP](#)

Table 3 provides ratings and definitions of the five risk impacts.

*Table 3: Rating and definition of risk impact*

Score	Rating	Definition
5	Critical	Significant adverse impacts on human populations and/or environment. Adverse impacts high in magnitude and/or spatial extent (e.g. large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts, cumulative impacts) and duration (e.g. long-term, permanent and/or irreversible); areas impacted include areas of high value and sensitivity (e.g. valuable ecosystems, critical habitats); adverse impacts to rights, lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; involve significant displacement or resettlement; generates significant quantities of GHG emissions; impacts may give rise to significant social conflict.
4	Severe	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of medium to large magnitude, spatial extent and duration more limited than critical (e.g., predictable, mostly temporary, reversible). The potential risk impacts of projects that may affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples are to be considered at a minimum potentially severe.
3	Moderate	Impacts of low magnitude, limited in scale (site-specific) and duration (temporary), can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with relatively uncomplicated accepted measures.
2	Minor	Very limited impacts in terms of magnitude (e.g., a small affected area, very low number of people affected) and duration (short), may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated.
1	Negligible	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or environment.

Source: [UNDP](#)



**High level risks** require escalation and thorough risk analysis. Extra risk control mechanisms need to be put in place, and risk treatment measures clearly identified, budgeted, and implemented; frequent monitoring; and necessary precautions to ensure staff and personnel safety and security are not compromised and opportunities are not missed.

**Medium level risks** require risk analysis scaled to the scope and nature of the risks with risk treatment and monitoring measures in place and budgeted.

**Low level risks** do not require further analysis or treatment.

When undertaking the risk assessment, all activities were assessed. Specific measures for each issue/risk are discussed along with the respective mitigation measures in this ESAP.

The ESAP and mitigation measures which follow aim to mitigate the adverse or negative impacts of the project and to enhance the beneficial or positive impacts.

In addition to the specific mitigation measures presented in this ESAP, the project will establish a **screening and categorization mechanism specifically for those activities whose exact location and/or scope will only be determined during project implementation**. This mainly refers to: (i) the installation of automatic weather stations and hydrological stations ('hydro-met stations'); (ii) the implementation of EbA / eco-DRR demonstration measures and FbA pilots; and (iii) the development and demonstration of commercial climate services.

Prior to the implementation of the above-mentioned activities, the project's Gender, ESS and M&E (GEM) Specialist (see ESS 1 below) will complete the E&S + SEAH screening checklist provided in Appendix 1 separately for each measure and/or location (e.g. in the case of hydro-met stations) and apply the exclusion criteria (provided in Appendix 2). The GEM Specialist will then submit the screening assessment to the AE for validation. If the screening confirms that the E&S + SEAH risks are low and potential site-specific mitigation measures are appropriate, the AE will provide clearance for the implementation of the measures under consideration. Depending on the results of the screening, the AE may solicit the development of location-specific ESAPs for this clearance, as appropriate.

Any measures associated with medium or high E&S + SEAH risks cannot and will not be financed as part of the ALBAdapt project.

## 6. Environmental and Social Impact Analysis

### 6.1 Introduction

This section assesses the environmental and social impacts against the relevant standards. These standards include the GCF's interim ESS Standards based on the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards (PS), adopted by the GCF board in 2014, the GCF's Indigenous People Policy (decision GCF.B.19/11), the GCF's gender policy (B.24/12), and the GIZ's Safeguards + Gender standards.

Section 6.2 provides a summary of the potential impacts per ESS. Section 6.3 provides an **in-depth analysis** of each of the 10 ESS identifying potential environmental and social impacts as a result from the planned project activities. The analysis for the specific ESS contains a baseline of the Albanian and sector context, an analysis/assessment of potential risks and impacts, impact rating and the mitigation measures proposed to address the identified potential risks and impacts.

Overall, it is unlikely that the activities carried out under this project will have major adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts. However, there is a possibility that some activities might involve minor environmental or social risks. There are estimated also some potential minor impacts given the sensitivity of the receiving environment, the complex demographic and social context and the vulnerability of social groups, including marginalized groups.

## 6.2 Summary of potential impacts per ESS

Error! Reference source not found. below provides a summary of potential impacts per ESS.

*Table 4: Summary of potential impacts per ESS*

<b>ESS 1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insufficient institutional capacities to monitor and manage E&amp;S risks;</li> <li>Stakeholders' ability to report grievances is impaired by the complexity of interventions (multiple institutions, sectors and communities).</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 2: Labour and working conditions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational health and safety risks associated with field activities (installation of hydro-met stations, EbA demonstrations, etc.).</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GHG emissions arising from project activities;</li> <li>Waste generation at equipment decommissioning stage.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 4: Community health, safety and security</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazard warnings are not received by, or are misinterpreted by, communities and individuals, thereby exposing them to unnecessary climate risks.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EbA project activities may inadvertently lead to negative biodiversity or ecosystem impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 7: Indigenous peoples (ethnic groups)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethnic groups may not benefit equitably from project activities.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 8: Cultural Heritage</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical cultural heritage (i.e. sites of cultural, historical or archaeological significance) may be disturbed by project activities.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 9: Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because of the project's focus on national structures (NMHS, NFCS, MHEWS, etc.), there is a risk that insufficient attention is paid to stakeholders at the municipal / local level.</li> </ul>
<b>ESS 10: Climate change resilience and adaptation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to the early warning system (quality of warnings, timeliness, expansion of platforms) may result in maladaptation by promoting end-user complacency.</li> </ul>

*Source: Own elaboration*

## 6.3 Environmental and Social Impact Analysis

### ESS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

#### Introduction

ESS1 sets out the Entities' responsibilities for assessing, managing, monitoring and reporting on environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of an activity financed by GCF, in order to achieve environmental and social outcomes consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs).

#### Objectives:

- To identify and evaluate environmental and social risks and impacts of the project;
- To adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimise, and, where residual impacts remain, compensate / offset for risks and impacts to workers, affected communities, and the environment;
- To promote improved environmental and social performance of entities through the effective use of management systems;

- To incorporate environmental and social considerations into the project decision-making process and implementation, in ways that improve environmental and social outcomes and generate co-benefits to the environment and the communities, including Indigenous peoples, that depend on it;
- To incorporate climate hazard, disaster risk and GHG considerations in ways that maximise project contributions to decarbonisation (including low-emission development) and climate-resilient development for people, the environment and critical infrastructure.

## Baseline

The ALBAdapt project supports the Government of Albania in its efforts to improve its national meteorological and hydrological services to develop an effective Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) for climate-related events and related hazards, and to promote green infrastructure development for effective climate adaptation. The project reinforces the government's efforts to support the **UNFCCC** and the **Paris Agreement**, as well as the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, especially Priority 4 (invest in people-centred early warning systems), and the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

Albania's **Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)**<sup>75</sup> adopts a territorial focus towards adaptation in the Albanian coastal belt and the surrounding lowlands. Priority measures identified in the NDC include: (i) mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral, regional development and spatial planning regulations and procedures; (ii) awareness-raising on climate change impacts and potential solutions; (iii) ensuring effective co-generation and communication of (user-oriented and usable) climate information for relevant sectoral and territorial actors, including through early warning systems; (iv) enhancing technical capacities of public and private actors with regard to risk assessments and the design and implementation of adaptation measures based on actionable climate information; and (v) nature-based solutions (NbS) for adaptation approaches.

Albania's **National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021)**<sup>76</sup> notes that, while climate change impacts and vulnerabilities are relatively well understood, committed action for reducing vulnerabilities is less developed. The NAP identifies 3 priorities – reduction of flood damage, enhanced agricultural resilience and protection of drinking water – and a range of strategic actions to achieve these priorities, including mainstreaming climate change in sectoral development and sector plans (Priority Actions 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13: flood protection, integrated water resources management, agriculture, health, tourism, etc.); capacity development of institutions and individuals on climate change adaptation (Priority Action 6); integrating climate change into spatial planning, notably to support the Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coastal Belt (Priority Action 11) and municipal development plans (Priority Action 12); and implementation of a hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning system (Priority Action 14).

The **Law on Climate Change (2020)**<sup>77</sup> seeks to increase “the ability to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change” as well as “mainstreaming climate change into all existing and future sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and practices”. It obliges line ministries and local governments to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation issues into their legislation, plans, projects and disaster management. The lead agency under the Law is MoTE; IGEO is identified by the Law as the key institution for the provision of weather- and climate-related data and information. The **National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS, 2021)**<sup>78</sup> builds on the NAP and shares the same Priority Actions, including emphases on hydro-meteorological monitoring, disaster risk reduction (including early warning) and EbA / NbS.

The **Law on Civil Protection (2019)**<sup>79</sup> regulates Disaster Risk Management (DRM), including climate risk management for weather- and climate-related hazards and early warning<sup>80</sup>. In addition to establishing the NCPA, the Law emphasises the principle of subsidiarity – that protection, rescue and assistance in response to a disaster is the principal responsibility of the relevant local government – and the importance

<sup>75</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>76</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)  
<sup>77</sup> [2021/10/14/13081820201227203009ligj\\_nr\\_155\\_dt\\_17.12.2020\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.parlament.al/2021/10/14/13081820201227203009ligj_nr_155_dt_17.12.2020_compressed.pdf) (parlament.al)

<sup>78</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Climate Change Strategy in Albania 2020-2030: 2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring*: [https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN\\_Report\\_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf](https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN_Report_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf)

<sup>79</sup> <https://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Law-No.-45-On-Civil-Protection.pdf>  
<sup>80</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

of risk monitoring, risk avoidance and risk reduction. Collaboration between government entities, the private sector and civil society is encouraged. The Law requires the formulation of a National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy and municipality-level disaster risk reduction strategies that are harmonised with the National DRR Strategy. Municipalities are obliged to spend a minimum of 4% of their annual budgets on disaster risk reduction and civil protection. NCPA is given the responsibility of issuing early warning alerts, based on information provided by relevant government institutions.

The **National Strategy for Development and European Integration** (NSDEI, 2022-2030)<sup>81</sup> outlines the government's medium-term vision for national social and economic development, accompanied by a set of measures to operationalise this vision. The 4 identified priorities are: (i) encouraging the pace of development and generating sustainable economic growth through macroeconomic and financial stability, (ii) increasing well-being and ensuring the protection of citizens' rights, (iii) transforming Albania into a country with standards that enable membership of the EU, and (iv) building the country's competitiveness. With regard to climate change, the NSDEI observes that Albania, and especially the coastal belt, is increasingly vulnerable to climate hazards. It notes that "recent experiences have shown that there is an urgent need to strengthen disaster preparedness and risk management capabilities, adopt appropriate response systems and procedures, and improve institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction coordination and management for interaction between public levels of government, as well as with private actors and those of civil society." Strategic interventions identified in the NSDEI include: (i) integration of adaptation measures in national and local strategic documents, (ii) building a national platform for climate information and services, (iii) adoption of ecosystem-based approaches at local and central levels, (iv) strengthening early warning systems, and (v) institutional reform and strengthening of the structures that deal with the generation and provision of public data on the climate.

The **National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy** (NDRRS, 2023-2030)<sup>82</sup> aims to: (i) strengthen resilience at the national level through the establishment of effective, accountable and comprehensive institutional structures of the civil protection system, and (ii) strengthen community resilience by enabling, empowering and supporting individuals, organisations and communities to act for themselves and others. The NDRRS identifies the pressing need to: (i) strengthen the national hydro-meteorological system in line with WMO standards, (ii) align DRR measures with climate change adaptation measures, and (iii) build links with the broader European hydro-met infrastructure, including the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). The ALBAdapt GCF project is included as Strategic Project (SP) 11 in the **National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan** (NDRRAP), which serves as the implementation mechanism for the NDRSS. The NDRRAP notes the complementarities of the ALBAdapt project with Disaster Risk Management Strategic Projects SP 1 (international hydro-met and early warning collaboration), SP 3 (flood risk assessment and early warning), SP 4 (drought risk assessment), SP 10 (forest fires), SP 12 (strengthening the early warning system) and SP 21 (hydro-met network).

## Environmental impact assessment (EIA)

EIA is directly integrated into the environmental permitting process. An environmental permit is issued for projects that require the EIA procedure to be carried out. The application for an environmental permit marks the beginning of the EIA process. The application is first sent to the National Licensing Centre (NLC), which checks the documents and then transfers the documents to the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment (MoTE) for review and a final decision. The EIA process subsequently includes screening for the need to apply for a permit, the preparation of the documents including the EIA report, the review and the decision on the report approval.

Activities listed in Annex I of the Law on EIA (2003) require a full EIA due to their scale, nature or location: these include petro-chemical facilities, industrial facilities, chemicals facilities, transport infrastructure, waste disposal facilities, mines and quarries, and intensive animal farming. Activities in Annex II require a partial EIA, unless they can have a significant impact on the environment or will affect a sensitive area, in which case a full EIA is required. Annex II activities include: large-scale agriculture projects, including

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<sup>81</sup> State Agency for Strategic Planning and Aid Coordination (2023), *National Strategy for Development and European Integration, 2022-2030*.

<sup>82</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy*.

irrigation and land drainage, geothermal drilling, energy generation facilities, metal foundries, food production facilities, wood and paper facilities, and holiday villages and hotel complexes. In general terms, EIA policies in Albania are in line with UN and EU safeguard policies<sup>83</sup>.

Due to the types and small scale of the 'on the ground' actions planned by the project (installation of hydro-met stations, FbA and EbA/eco-DRR measures, and support to climate service start-ups), it is unlikely that EIAs will be required. Stakeholder discussions during project preparation have not indicated a need for EIAs. This will be clarified on a case-by-case basis with the competent government authorities during project implementation. The project budget includes scope for EIAs should they be required.

## Assessment of Impacts

With regard to ESS 1, the project presents limited E&S risks. The project is well aligned with national policies and strategies, has been co-designed with the Government and is built on a substantive body of stakeholder consultations, including at local level.

Two specific – but low – risks are identified:

### *i. Institutional capacities*

In the case of NCPA as an Executing Entity, there may be insufficient institutional capacities to monitor and manage E&S risks according to the Action Plan identified in this document.

NCPA is a co-Executing Entity, alongside GIZ, for Component 2 of the ALBAdapt project. NCPA has the central mandate for civil protection and disaster risk reduction in Albania, and is the lead institution for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy. NCPA has a successful track-record of working with international development partners, including the European Commission, GIZ, UNDP and the World Bank.

An Enhanced Due Diligence (EDD) assessment of NCPA was undertaken during project preparation. The assessment concludes that NCPA is a suitable Executing Entity, with a clear mandate and appropriate organisational structure, financial management processes and staffing policies. However, the assessment also identifies two weaknesses relating to E&S standards:

- Limited staff training in gender, environmental and social policies: while staff are trained to some extent, NCPA itself acknowledges that more training is needed in this respect.
- No written policies concerning the identification of environmental and social issues in projects. NCPA does not have any written policies concerning the identification of environmental and social issues in projects, and states that such expertise usually needs to be sourced externally on a project-by-project basis.

The EDD assessment recommends that NCPA create internal procedures setting out exactly how it takes E&S standards into consideration, including the design of appropriate performance indicators, and that staff are sufficiently trained in gender, environmental and social issues.

### *ii. Grievance reporting*

The project involves multiple institutions – spanning the hydro-met, civil protection, ecosystem-based adaptation and entrepreneurial sectors – at both national and local (municipal government, community) levels. This complexity may serve to impair stakeholders' ability to report project-related grievances – for instance, because it is not obvious who the appropriate counterparty is.

*Table 5: ESS 1 Impact rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Not likely (2)
Probability	Minor (2)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

<sup>83</sup> Milieukontakt Albania (2018), *Ex-Post Assessment of the Environmental Impact Law in Albania*: [https://issuu.com/milieukontakt/docs/ex-post\\_ria\\_eia](https://issuu.com/milieukontakt/docs/ex-post_ria_eia)

## Mitigation Measures

The project has developed the Environmental and Social Action Plan, a project E&S monitoring system and a grievance redress mechanism (including a separate GRM for SEAH-related grievances), and it has allocated budgetary resources to mitigating potential risks.

### *i. Institutional capacities*

GIZ serves as an Executing Entity for all project Activities and Sub-Activities. GIZ is one of the largest international providers of capacity development and technical assistance on climate change worldwide, and brings to bear considerable experience of managing projects and managing associated E&S project risks. Globally, GIZ is currently implementing over 300 climate-related projects, with combined funding of over Euro 1.8 billion. In Albania, GIZ operates a dedicated country office (founded in 2008), currently staffed by ~150 personnel and implementing a portfolio of ~Euro 79 million. The climate change and environment portfolio amounts to ~Euro 36 million.

Where NCPA also serves as an Executing Entity (i.e. for Activities and Sub-Activities under Component 2), this is always in conjunction with GIZ and always in the context of GIZ serving as the Lead Executing Entity.

With regard to the specific weaknesses identified in the EDD assessment, the following mitigation measures are advised:

- A project ESS team is constituted, consisting of a GIZ Gender, ESS and M&E (GEM) Specialist and an NCPA ESS Focal Point, as well as additional external specialist resources as required, to implement a fit-for-purpose E&S management system, ensuring, inter alia, screening for upcoming risks, and ESAP monitoring and reporting.
- Capacity building is provided to NCPA (and other key project partners) on environment and social safeguards, environmental and social monitoring, and compliance with GCF and GIZ E&S requirements. The capacity building will be provided by specialist consultants, procured by GIZ and coordinated by the NCPA ESS Focal Point, in the first half of project implementation. In addition to training a broad cross-section of NCPA staff on basic ESS practices and requirements, emphasis will also include building deeper ESS expertise among a core team, of approximately 4-5 NCPA staff members, so that NCPA can sustain strengthened engagement with ESS topics throughout the project implementation period and beyond.
- In conjunction with NCPA, an NCPA framework E&S policy is developed and endorsed that sets out the general principles, criteria and indicators that apply to future NCPA projects.

### *ii. Grievance reporting*

As described in Chapter 9, the project will establish a grievance redress mechanism that: (i) is simple to use, well publicised among project stakeholders (including on relevant websites, at workshops, in flyers, etc.) and which aims to provide rapid feedback and redress; and (ii) is based on an escalatory model, in which grievances are processed locally to the extent possible / desirable and in which Grievance Consideration Units (GCU) are constituted with the appropriate technical, cultural or geographical expertise to address context-specific grievances. SEAH-related grievances will follow a different process due to their potentially different and more serious nature, and potentially accentuated privacy or cultural sensitivity concerns.

## ESS 2: Labour and Working Conditions

### Introduction

ESS 2 recognizes that the pursuit of economic growth through employment creation and income generation should be accompanied by protection of the fundamental rights of workers. All activities financed by GCF will promote decent work, fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity for workers, free of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment and guided by the core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

### Objectives:

- To ensure the fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity of workers in accordance with the decent work agenda;
- To establish, maintain, and improve a sound worker-management relationship;
- To ensure compliance with national employment and labour laws;
- To protect workers, including vulnerable categories of workers such as all gender identities, young workers, persons with disabilities and refugees, workers engaged by third parties, and workers in the client's supply chain;
- To promote safe and healthy working conditions, and the health of workers;
- To prevent the use of forced labour and child labour as defined by the ILO;
- To ensure that accessible and effective means to raise and address workplace concerns are available to workers.

## Baseline

The Albanian legislation on labour protection is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and consists of the Labour Code, the Law on Labour Protection, the Law for Civil Service and other regulatory legal acts of Albania.

The Labour Code of the Republic of Albania is the fundamental legislative act aimed at regulating all labour matters arising in Albania. The Code governs employment relationships and other relations, and pertains to the protection of the rights and freedom of the parties of employment relationships and establishment of minimum guarantees of the rights and freedoms in the sphere of work.

*Contracts and collective agreements* establish the form and amount of compensation for work performed. The monthly salary of an employee cannot be lower than the minimum wage established by law. The minimum wage does not include surcharges and allowances, bonuses and other incentive payments, as well as payments for work in conditions deviating from normal, for work in special climatic conditions and in territories exposed to radioactive contamination, other compensation and social payments (Articles 111, 200 and 202).

The *standard work week* is 40 hours, with less allowed for those aged under 18. The number of hours per day, and days per week, is established in the contract / agreement between the employer and employee (Articles 76-78, 81(1)-84, 88-91).

Types of *rest time* are (Articles 92-94):

- Breaks during the working day (shift);
- Daily (inter-shift) rest;
- Weekends (weekly continuous rest (Article 85);
- Non-working holidays;
- Vacation.

In addition to national holidays (Article 86), employees have to receive at least 28 calendar days of *paid leave* per year (Article 92-94). Leave without pay may also be taken by certain groups of people and may also be covered in contracts. At termination of employment, employees are paid for unused leave, or they may use the leave as their last days of employment.

*Overtime work.* Work beyond the normal working hours can be done either on the initiative of the employee (part-time job) or on the initiative of the employer – overtime work. The overtime hours cannot exceed the limit of 48 hours per week and 200 hours per year (Articles 76-78). At the request of the employee, overtime work can be offset by the provision of additional rest time rather than additional pay, but not by less than the time worked overtime. The additional payment for the overtime should be less than 25% of normal payment (Articles 81(1)-84, 88-91).

Labour disputes are considered to be “unregulated discrepancies” between the employer and employee on the issues of application of legislative and other normative actions on labour and working conditions provided by labour agreements (contracts) and collective agreements and contracts (Articles 10, 176-180 & 187).

*Occupational health and safety.* Law No. 10237/2010 “On safety and health at work” ensures the security and protection of health through prevention of professional risks, eliminating the factors that constitute risk and accidents, inform, advice, balanced participation, in accordance with the law. The present law applies the following:

- The Directive of the European Council 89/391/EEC, dated 12 July 1989 “On the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work”;
- The Directive of the European Council 94/33 EEC, dated 22 July 1994 “On the protection of young people at work,” article 6; and
- The Directive of the European Council 92/85 EEC “On the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding”.

Besides the above-mentioned law, several Albanian legal acts provide additional protections:

- Law No. 9863/2008 (as amended) “On Food” specifies the rules of food safety in Albania;
- Law No. 10433/2011 “On Inspection in the Republic of Albania” specifies that State Sanitary Inspectorate aims to protect workers from the impacts of adverse working conditions, such as exposure to toxic substances, radiation, unworkable noise, vibrations, unfavourable microclimate, and controls the level of occupational diseases and accidents as a result of adverse conditions;
- DCM No. 562/2013 concerning the approval of the regulation on minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace;
- DCM No. 312/2010 “On safety in site construction” sets the rules of safety for construction activities.
- DCM No. 410/2015 “On the establishment, organization and operation of technical and industrial state inspectorate”. This act regulates the inspection of the installations related with industrial processes in Albania.

## **Assessment of Impacts**

The majority of project activities involve institutional and capacity building support, which do not raise any ESS 2 risks. The project’s ‘on the ground’ interventions are limited to the installation of hydro-met observation stations, forecast-based action pilot projects in three settlements in the coastal belt, the development of FbA emergency management plans for ~114 schools in the coastal belt, and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. These ‘on the ground’ interventions are relatively small-scale, are tightly defined and have identifiable counterparties, and are unlikely to present ESS 2 risks.

In the interest of thoroughness, the (low) risk of electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure associated with hydro-met monitoring stations is considered. Although the scientific consensus remains uncertain, exposure to strong EMFs may be implicated in the onset of certain health issues, including headaches and fatigue, and even long-term effects such as cancer. Strong EMFs may also interfere with electric medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, and can also cause induced electrical shocks if appropriate safety precautions are not taken. Furthermore, individuals may experience psychological anxiety related to the perceived risks arising from EMF exposure.

EMF-related risk is considered to be low for workers because: (i) the electronic equipment used in hydro-met stations (sensors, data-loggers, communications devices) operates at relatively low power levels; (ii) Albanian hydro-met stations use standard mobile phone SIM cards to transmit their data: worker exposure to transmission-related EMFs is, therefore, extremely limited; (iii) unlike telecommunications tower maintenance or electrical utility work, installation of hydro-met stations entails limited time in close proximity to the electronic equipment; and (iii) hydro-met stations are located outdoors, thereby enabling EMFs to dissipate rapidly with distance. (Additional mitigating factors are more relevant to members of the public rather than to workers: hydro-met stations are typically fenced off and/or have warning signs to deter entry, and hydro-met stations are typically located in remote locations that are unlikely to be accidentally discovered).

Despite the absence of any significant risks, targeted mitigation measures are nonetheless advisable (see below).



Table 6: ESS 2 Impact Rating

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Moderately likely (3)
Overall	Low

Source: Own elaboration

## Mitigation Measures

Although ESS 2 risks are considered low, the following mitigation measures are advised:

- Existing locations for hydro-met stations will, where feasible, be favoured when new stations are installed. There is a good technical rationale for this (in order to develop a homogenised time-series data-set); the desire to minimise E&S risks – by favouring locations that are already known to be safe from potential threats to workers (e.g. rock falls and wild animals) – merely reinforces this imperative.
- Contracts with the land-owners where hydro-met stations are sited will contain accessibility and safety stipulations – e.g. relating to road access, fencing, the exclusion of dangerous animals, etc.
- National health and safety laws shall be respected by project personnel and contractors at all times, including (inter alia) the use of high-visibility jackets, hard hats, reliable means of communication (in remote locations), etc. Capacity building will be provided to project parties on national health and safety laws and on occupational health and safety best-practice.
- In line with the relevant International Finance Corporation (IFC) guidelines<sup>84</sup>, the project shall implement the following measures to reduce the risks associated with potential exposure to electromagnetic fields:
  - Hydro-met station installation teams (specialised contractors and NMHS staff) shall receive health and safety training prior to the installation process commencing. This shall include training on EMFs and how to minimise exposure.
  - Workers equipped with pacemakers, insulin pumps or other electrical medical devices shall not come into close proximity of the hydro-met stations.
  - Deactivation of non-essential equipment during installation and maintenance activities.
  - Limiting exposure time through work rotations.
- EbA / eco-DRR projects shall be sourced from Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs) which have undergone detailed scrutiny, screening and local stakeholder consultations.
- EbA / eco-DRR project developers / implementers (expected to be primarily municipal governments) must submit worker health and safety plans to the Project Management Unit (PMU) prior to implementation. The PMU shall review these plans and, where necessary, propose amendments. An EbA / eco-DRR project shall not commence (and shall not receive project technical or financial support) until the health and safety plan has been approved in writing by the PMU.

## ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention

### Introduction

ESS 3 recognizes that increased economic activity and urbanization often generate increased levels of pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources in a manner that may threaten people and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. This ESS outlines a project-level approach to resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control in line with internationally disseminated technologies and practices.

### Objectives:

- To avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding or minimizing pollution from project activities;
- To promote the more sustainable use of resources by applying circular economy principles thereby minimizing the use of water and energy amongst other benefits;

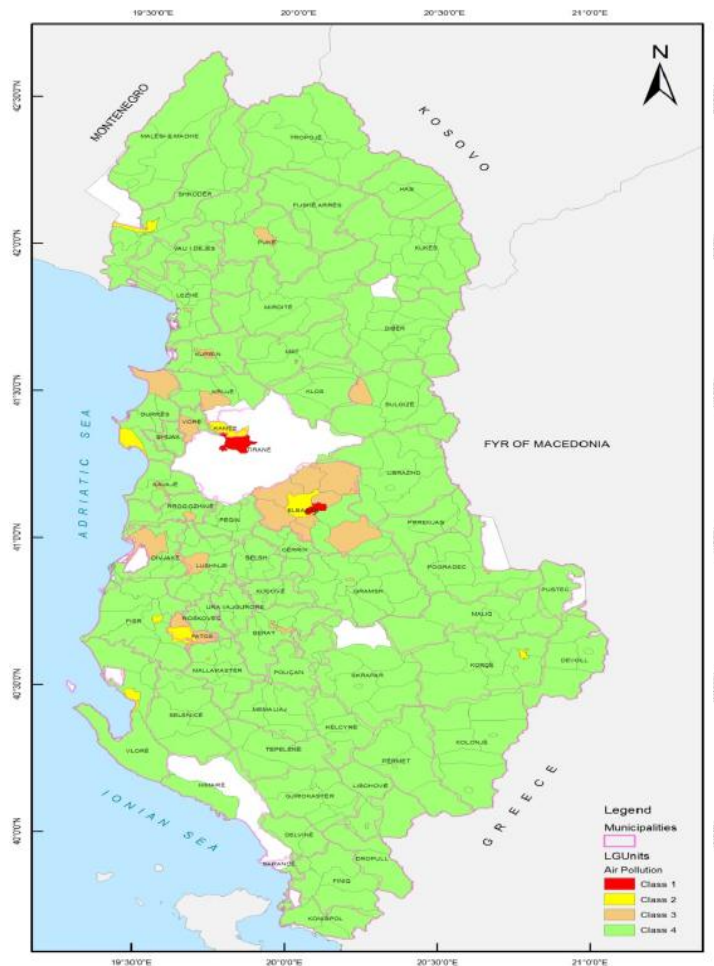
<sup>84</sup> IFC (2007), *Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Telecommunications*:  
<https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2000/2007-telecommunications-ehs-guidelines-en.pdf>

- To reduce project related GHG emissions.

## Baseline

### Air Quality

Figure 2: Air Quality in Albania



Source: DCM No. 412 of 19.06.2019 "On the approval of National Plan for Air Quality Management"

In the main urban centres of Albania, the air quality is poor. Major sources of air pollution include road transport, industry (including the construction industry) and energy production (oil and gas extraction and refining). Releases to the atmosphere also arise from agricultural activities, dumping of waste, and other human activities. Smoke from slash-and-burn agriculture, and the production of silt, ash, and soil dust from activities like tillage, transporting, and harvest contaminate the air with particulate matter.

Intensive urbanization that is not followed by adequate development of infrastructure (e.g., district heating systems and sustainable public transport) poses a major threat to air quality. In urban areas, the main reason for the high levels of pollution is vehicle pollution from the widespread use of diesel vehicles, mainly caused by the age of the vehicle fleet. The number of vehicles continues to grow from year to year and emissions of gases from vehicles (including  $PM_{10}$ ) contribute to a large extent to air pollution causing respiratory problems, especially in the young and the elderly. It is considered that the most important urban air pollutants are fine particles  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ , nitrogen dioxide  $NO_2$  and ozone  $O_3$ . Fine  $PM_{2.5}$  particles are considered the most dangerous for human health.

### Hydrology

Albania is rich in water resources like lakes, rivers, springs, and lagoons, with a high quantity of available water. The Albanian territory covers about 57% of a total watershed (basin) area of 44.000 square kilometres<sup>85</sup>. Water by Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwater constitutes an important resource for Albania, and in comparison, to other European countries is indeed considered to be one of the richest, as far as this resource is concerned. Albania is crossed by several rivers, which flow from mountainous regions to plains, generally from east to west. The most important and the largest rivers of Albania are Drin-Buna, Mat, Ishëm, Erzeni, Shkumbini and Vjosa. The catchments of the Drin and Vjosa are transboundary and are shared with four other countries Montenegro, Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia (RoNM) and Greece for Drin; and Greece only for Vjosa.

*Table 7: The main river basins in Albania*

River	Maximum length (km)	Catchments area km <sup>2</sup>	Average flow m <sup>3</sup> /s
Drin	285	14,173	352.0
Buna	41	5,187	320.0
Mat	115	2,441	103.0
Ishëm	74	673	20.9
Erzeni	109	760	18.1
Shkumbini	181	2,441	61.5
Seman	281	5,649	95.7
Vjosa	272	6,706	195.0

*Source: Own elaboration*

The sources of metal and organic contaminants in Albanian watercourses and water bodies are: i.) many severely contaminated, abandoned or operating sites associated with the oil industry; ii.) copper and nickel mines, mainly in the north; and iii.) old processing factories. The sources that contribute to the high concentrations of nitrogen (N) and phosphorous (P) are: i.) a growing number of fertilizer and pesticide storage facilities (ten of them are considered "hot spots" and significant sources of N and P); and ii.) urban liquid and solid waste; the vast majority of residential areas with more than 5,000 inhabitants have no wastewater treatment plants, and the waste waters are directly discharged into rivers or the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. It is estimated that these sources supply up to 20% of the N and P transported to water collection basins. Another important contributing factor to pollution of waters in Albania is erosion. The erosion rate is one of the highest in southeast Europe, attributable to deforestation<sup>86</sup>.

### Waste management

In 2011, Albania launched the National Strategy for Waste Management, covering the period 2010-2025<sup>87</sup>. This strategy aims to harmonize Albanian waste management legislation with the EU Framework Directive on Waste and the EU acquis. The need for legislation to protect public health, the environment, and the economy made waste management a "priority issue". As with the EU's own waste management policy, Albania's strategy emphasizes waste reduction, resource recovery, recycling, and reusing. Albania also has a new National Waste Management Plan (NWMP) for 2020-2035, which has key targets on waste management.

The Strategic Policy Document is Albania's principal planning document regarding municipal, non-municipal, and hazardous waste management that covers the period 2020 and 2035. This strategic document includes the planning and infrastructural developments in the waste sector since 2011 at the central and local government levels, sustainable involvement of private businesses, and the many investments made at the collection level, transfer, and, especially, treatment of waste. The Strategic Policy Document Review of integrated waste management developed on the vision/perception of the "zero waste"

<sup>85</sup> See URL: <http://www.akbn.gov.al/pershkrim-i-pegjithshem-ener/> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>86</sup> Sulçe, S. et al (2018), 'Water quality in Albania: an overview of sources of contamination and controlling factors', *Albanian Journal of Agricultural Science*, Special Edition: Proceedings of ICOALS: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Evan-Rroco/publication/346942150\\_Water\\_quality\\_in\\_Albania\\_An\\_overview\\_of\\_sources\\_of\\_contamination\\_and\\_controlling\\_factors/links/5fd32f5645851568d154e8ae/Water-quality-in-Albania-An-overview-of-sources-of-contamination-and-controlling-factors.pdf?origin=publication\\_detail](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Evan-Rroco/publication/346942150_Water_quality_in_Albania_An_overview_of_sources_of_contamination_and_controlling_factors/links/5fd32f5645851568d154e8ae/Water-quality-in-Albania-An-overview-of-sources-of-contamination-and-controlling-factors.pdf?origin=publication_detail)

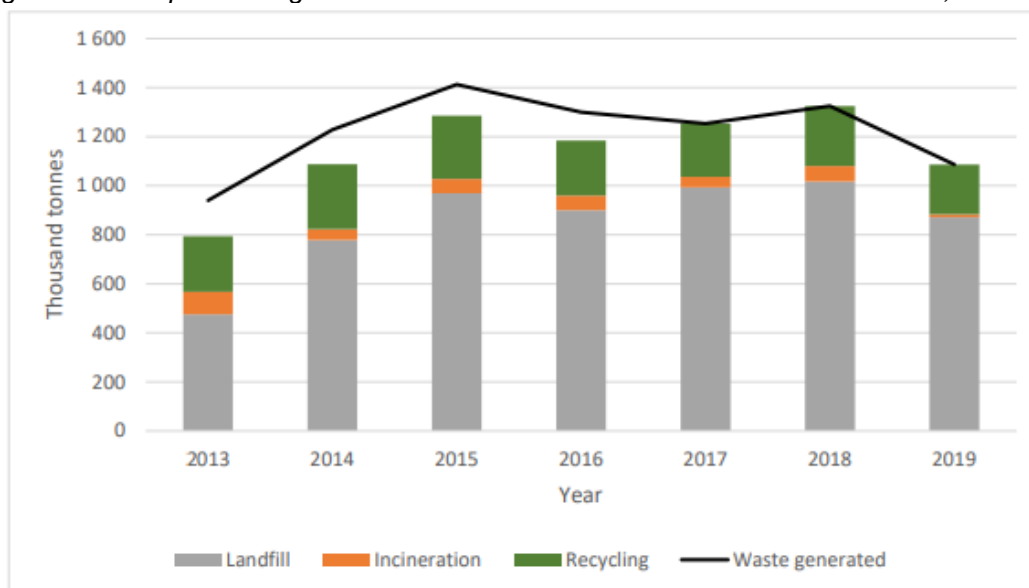
<sup>87</sup> DCM No. 418, date 27.5.2020 "For the Approval of the Strategic Policy Document and the National Plan for Integrated Waste Management, 2020-2035" URL: <https://planifikimi.gov.al/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=5132&token=5b95ae66ffb4dd69fe7f144db8cafa45e7945f07> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

concept. The waste is collected and treated as raw material and managed as a concept of circular economy system, in service of criterion use and conservation of raw material resources.

In Albania, the responsibility for waste management rests with local government units, which manage the operations of landfills, and the development of new landfills, that comply with EU standards. The main system for waste collection in Albania consists of 'collection points' consisting of large waste containers for waste and for recycling. The principal method of managing waste is disposal to landfill. There is also one incinerator and an estimated 10-19% of municipal waste is collected for recycling.

The graph illustrates the development of municipal waste generation and management between 2013 and 2019. It shows that municipal waste generation in Albania has somewhat decreased since the peak in 2015, with a clear drop in 2019. The generated waste was 1.4 million tonnes in 2015 (corresponding to 491 kg per capita), which dropped to 1.1 million tonnes in 2019 (corresponding to 381 kg per capita) (Eurostat, 2021). The decreasing trend is a result of an improvement in the quality of data and a better understanding of municipal waste data reporting; it should not be interpreted as a reducing trend in reality. Although there has been a reported improvement in data quality, the data are still not considered of high quality (European Environment Agency, 2021) <sup>88</sup>.

*Figure 3: Municipal waste generation and treatment in thousand tonnes in Albania, 2013-2019*



Source: Eurostat 2021

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk with regard to resource efficiency and pollution. Two specific, but minor, risks are identified:

- Project activities will generate GHG emissions. As Albania's electricity system relies primarily upon hydro-power, the grid emission factor (~0.07 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/MWh) is very low. Therefore, the bulk of project-related GHG emissions will stem from travel: e.g. visits by international experts to Albania and secondments of Albanian NMHS/MHEWS staff overseas. Project-related GHG emissions will be considerably lower than the IFC reporting requirement of 25,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq/year but would, nonetheless, benefit from minimisation.
- The project will support the modernisation of the hydro-meteorological observation network and the analytical, forecasting and communications capabilities of the NMHS and the MHEWS. This will involve the acquisition of new equipment, leading to the obsolescence of existing equipment (primarily hydro-met stations) immediately and the obsolescence of the new equipment at some point

<sup>88</sup> European Environment Agency, November 2021, Albania, Municipality Waste Management. URL: <https://www.eea.europa.eu> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

in the future (e.g. computers and computer peripherals after several years of service). This will, in turn, lead to waste disposal issues.

*Table 8: ESS 3 Impact Rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are advised:

- To the extent that is feasible subject to other constraints (e.g. the need for practical, hands-on demonstrations by experts, or the need to reach beneficiaries who do not use online tools), the project should prioritise the use of internet-based communications platforms (e.g. Zoom, Teams) instead of physical travel.
- GIZ has a well-developed in-house system for minimising travel-related GHG emissions (e.g. by reimbursing only economy-class air travel) and for promoting sustainable procurement<sup>89</sup>. This system should apply to all project-related activities.
- The Project Management Unit should maintain a record of all air travel undertaken in relation to the project. This will enable (approximate) estimation of project-related GHG emissions from air travel, which represents the most significant component of project-related GHG emissions. The estimated GHG emissions should be reported on an annual basis in relevant reports and should be used by the PMU as a means of tracking emissions and developing strategies to reduce future emissions.
- All equipment retired as a result of project activities (e.g. old hydro-met stations) or equipment procured by the project (e.g. new computers) must, at minimum, be disposed of according to Albanian law. Best-practice disposal should be promoted among – and appropriate training provided to – project partners (e.g. on e-waste recycling, appropriate battery disposal, etc.), with particular focus on (i) waste generation, storage and disposal at the decommissioning stage, and (ii) proper handling of potentially hazardous materials (batteries, solvents, oils, etc.). The technical specifications of the hydro-met stations will be determined by the network concept undertaken under Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2; if solar panels are included in the specifications, appropriate storage, disposal and recycling laws will be complied with and appropriate training provided.
- Selection criteria for cloud platform providers (e.g. for the National Climate Information System, NCIS) should include environmental criteria, including energy usage and energy efficiency.
- Incubated MSMEs under Component 3 of the project should receive training on waste disposal and recycling to ensure that the pollution ‘footprint’ of their future operations is minimised.

## ESS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security

### Introduction

ESS 4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration and/or intensification of impacts due to project activities. While acknowledging the public authorities’ role in promoting the health, safety, and security of the public, this ESS addresses the client’s responsibility to avoid or minimize the risks and impacts to community health, safety, and security that may arise from project related activities, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

#### Objectives:

- To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of the Affected Community during the project life from both routine and non-routine circumstances;

<sup>89</sup> [https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2021\\_en\\_nachhaltigkeitsprogramm.pdf](https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2021_en_nachhaltigkeitsprogramm.pdf)



- To ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in accordance with relevant human rights principles and in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the Affected Communities.

## Baseline

Albania ranks highest in terms of overall disaster risk amongst European countries, due to very high exposure to extreme weather and climate-related events – a situation that is being further exacerbated by climate change.<sup>90</sup> Albania is ranked 82 (out of 191 countries) – and number 1 in Europe – on the World Risk Index of natural disasters and climate change<sup>91</sup>, and 80 (out of 181 countries) on the ND-GAIN Index of climate vulnerability, making it the most climate-vulnerable country in Europe<sup>92</sup>. On the INFORM Climate Change Risk Index, Albania is second highest-ranked in Europe, after Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>93</sup>. Since 2017, at least 6 extreme events in Albania have been mapped by the Copernicus Emergency Management System (EMS), including 2 wildfires, 3 flood events and one earthquake<sup>94</sup>.

In its most recent Article IV consultations with the Government of Albania, the IMF notes “Albania’s large share of agriculture, the concentration of its vital infrastructure, population and economic activity (notably tourism) along the coastal plain, and the high reliance on rainfall to generate electricity make it vulnerable to climate change risks. The number and frequency of climate change-induced natural disasters have increased in the last two decades and the impact is being increasingly felt, with each disaster causing damages on the order of 1.3% of GDP and affecting a considerable share of the population”<sup>95</sup>.

The Law on Civil Protection (2019)<sup>96</sup> regulates Disaster Risk Management (DRM), including climate risk management for weather- and climate-related hazards and early warning<sup>97</sup>. In addition to establishing the NCPA, the Law emphasises the principle of subsidiarity – that protection, rescue and assistance in response to a disaster is the principal responsibility of the relevant local government – and the importance of risk monitoring, risk avoidance and risk reduction. Collaboration between government entities, the private sector and civil society is encouraged. The Law requires the formulation of a National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategy and municipality-level disaster risk reduction strategies that are harmonised with the National DRR Strategy. Municipalities are obliged to spend a minimum of 4% of their annual budgets on disaster risk reduction and civil protection. NCPA is given the responsibility of issuing early warning alerts, based on information provided by relevant government institutions.

The Institute of Geosciences (IGEO), which serves as Albania’s national hydro-meteorological service, operates a warning service during working hours, which can be upgraded to 24-hour coverage at times of emergency. The operations room has basic equipment to enable IGEO staff to monitor the current synoptic situation and more detailed information relating to hydro-meteorological risks. Warnings are issued manually for each of the 12 counties based on internal guidelines and a traffic light system (no risk, low risk, moderate risk and high risk), and only for floods and forest fires. IGEO could, in principle, provide warnings related to drought, heat, cold and other hydro-met variables but it does not do so. No systematic scoring of warning quality (timeliness, false alarms, etc.) is undertaken, but IGEO itself reports that its warnings have weak predictive capability. IGEO provides its warnings to NCPA for dissemination – but NCPA also issues its own warnings (independent of IGEO’s), and IGEO and NCPA do not currently integrate their expertise to provide multi-hazard early warnings that consider all weather and climate-related threats in a systematic and consistent manner. Effectively, there is no single multi-hazard early warning

<sup>90</sup> USAID (2016), *Climate Change Risk Profile: Albania*: <https://www.climate-links.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Albania%2028003%29.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft (2022), *World Risk Report 2022*: [https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WorldRiskReport-2022\\_Online.pdf](https://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/WorldRiskReport-2022_Online.pdf)

<sup>92</sup> University of Notre Dame (2020), *Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative*: <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

<sup>93</sup> UN OCHA (2023), *INFORM Report 2023: Shared Evidence for Managing Crises and Disasters*: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/Portals/0/InfoRM/2023/INFORM%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf>

<sup>94</sup> <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/list-of-components/EMSR412%5D>

<sup>95</sup> IMF (2022), *Article IV Consultation – Albania*: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/CR/2022/English/1ALBEA2022004.ashx>

<sup>96</sup> <https://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Law-No.-45-On-Civil-Protection.pdf>

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>

system (MHEWS) and the partial, fragmented system that currently operates is not sufficiently 'joined up' with the NMHS.

NCPA issues serious warnings through the National Emergency Broadcast System (NEBS), which disseminates messages through radio and television. The broadcasters are obliged to interrupt programmes in case of an emergency; NCPA has good working relations with the broadcasters and the system works reasonably well. Use of other communication platforms offering direct channels to the general public, notably websites and social media (such as Facebook, X<sup>98</sup> and Threads), is less systematic and more ad hoc; instead, it is still common practice for warning messages to be passed from the national level to municipalities (often by means of manual phone calls), and then from municipalities to individuals. Church bells and mosque sound systems are often activated locally in these circumstances. Despite having a high rate of mobile phone ownership – 122% penetration, meaning an average of 1.22 mobile phones per capita<sup>99</sup> – and a simple network architecture consisting of only 2 operators (Vodafone and One Albania), Albania does not have a warning system that operates via mobile phones.

Albania's emergency preparedness and response system is considered to be weak: of the 360 attributes associated with a mature system, 204 of Albania's are deficient or completely absent.<sup>100</sup> The system can address everyday response needs, but it lacks the effective and coordinated inter-agency collaboration required for larger-scale events. As noted in a recent World Bank report, the Albanian emergency preparedness and response system "should seek to move away from an ad hoc, reactive approach and instead work in a systematic, consistent and integrated way, building on a long-term strategic vision"<sup>101</sup>.

Since 2015, prefects and mayors have had primary responsibility for disaster risk reduction. However, the funding to carry out this responsibility is limited, institutional capacities are generally low, community engagement is weak and central provision of tools and information – the hydro-met system and the early warning system being prominent examples – is fragmented and insufficient<sup>102,103</sup>. Only 38% of municipalities have a local emergency plan developed after 2017<sup>104</sup> and most struggle to properly collect, manage and use disaster-related data<sup>105</sup>. Furthermore, the majority of plans focus on: (i) hazard *avoidance* measures (such as urban planning, the construction of river embankments, etc.) and/or (ii) post-hazard *response* (i.e. actions to be taken after an incident has occurred). A neglected area is *early or anticipatory* action: i.e. short-term measures to be taken in the period – typically, days or hours – between issuance of a warning and the onset of the hazard event<sup>106</sup>. Similar omissions are seen in other countries' hazard management systems<sup>107,108</sup>, but in Albania the gap is particularly marked because of historical deficiencies

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<sup>98</sup> Formerly Twitter.

<sup>99</sup> Datareportal (2023), *Digital 2023: Albania*: <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2023-albania>

<sup>100</sup> World Bank (2021), *Diagnostic Report: Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment – Albania*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35716/Albania-Ready-2-Respond-Emergency-Preparedness-and-Response-Assessment-Diagnostic-Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>101</sup> World Bank (2021), *Diagnostic Report: Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment – Albania*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35716/Albania-Ready-2-Respond-Emergency-Preparedness-and-Response-Assessment-Diagnostic-Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>102</sup> GFDRR (2022), *Improving Disaster Risk and Loss Information in Albania*: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099430106142216471/pdf/P172145046dbf40a5093060a6deca58f620.pdf>

<sup>103</sup> World Bank (2021), *Investment Report: Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment – Albania*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/6934930f-2d42-5233-9dea-b77d9966748f/content>

<sup>104</sup> Association for Local Autonomy (2020), *Synthesis Report on Civil Protection Function at Local Level*: [https://www.shav.al/images/raporte\\_publicime/pdf/Synthesis\\_Report\\_English\\_perfunduar\\_.pdf](https://www.shav.al/images/raporte_publicime/pdf/Synthesis_Report_English_perfunduar_.pdf)

<sup>105</sup> GFDRR (2022), *Toolbox for Integrating Disaster Risk Management into Albanian Municipal Planning and Budgeting*: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099145009022241355/pdf/P17214505c77d00cb082fb0346aeaa1065.pdf>

<sup>106</sup> IFRC (2022), *Early Warning and Anticipatory Action*: [https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/220921\\_EWEA%20brief\\_Global%20Climate%20Resilience%20Platform\\_IFRC.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/220921_EWEA%20brief_Global%20Climate%20Resilience%20Platform_IFRC.pdf)

<sup>107</sup> Perez, E. et al (2022), 'Adapting to climate change through anticipatory action: the potential use of weather-based early warnings', *Weather and Climate Extremes*, 38: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212094722000871/pdf?md5=50d4d199c5f1c35a2908c2150ebe5348&pid=1-s2.0-S2212094722000871-main.pdf>

<sup>108</sup> Perez, E. et al (2022), 'Learning from the past in moving to the future: invest in communication and response to weather early warnings to reduce death and damage', *Climate Risk Management*, 38: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096322000687/pdf?md5=52158c12346ecef6d6c48d2d78f9f92d4&pid=1-s2.0-S2212096322000687-main.pdf>

in the country's forecasting and early warning capabilities<sup>109</sup>; capacity limitations within municipalities<sup>110</sup>; and because of a traditional planning focus on hazard magnitude rather than *impact*, with the result that municipal authorities often have a limited understanding of who and what will be most affected by a particular hazard event<sup>111</sup>.

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk with regard to community health, safety and security. Indeed, a central objective of the project, primarily through Component 2, is to *enhance* community safety and security through improvements to the national multi-hazard early warning system. The challenge in this regard, and the only real (low) risk that the project poses to ESS 4, is that hazard warnings are not received by, or are misinterpreted by, communities and individuals, thereby exposing them to unnecessary climate risks.

In the interest of thoroughness, the (low) risk of electromagnetic field (EMF) exposure associated with hydro-met monitoring stations is considered. Although the scientific consensus remains uncertain, exposure to strong EMFs may be implicated in the onset of certain health issues, including headaches and fatigue, and even long-term effects such as cancer. Strong EMFs may also interfere with electric medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, and can also cause induced electrical shocks if appropriate safety precautions are not taken. Furthermore, individuals may experience psychological anxiety related to the perceived risks arising from EMF exposure.

EMF-related risk is considered to be low for communities because: (i) the electronic equipment used in hydro-met stations (sensors, data-loggers, communications devices) operates at relatively low power levels; (ii) Albanian hydro-met stations use standard mobile phone SIM cards to transmit their data: community exposure to transmission-related EMFs is, therefore, extremely limited; (iii) hydro-met stations are typically fenced off and/or have warning signs to deter entry; and (iv) hydro-met stations are typically located in remote locations at considerable distances from local communities.

Table 9: ESS 4 Impact rating

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

Source: Own elaboration

## Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures are advised:

- An inclusive approach to MHEWS design: integration, at an early stage, of vulnerable groups' views (youth, elderly, women, disabled, at-risk professions) and non-government stakeholders to ensure full inclusion. This should include a range of information collection methods (surveys, consultations, workshops, etc.) to assess the best communication channels to reach communities and vulnerable groups.
- Implement a public awareness campaign on the multi-hazard early warning system (once it has been redesigned, enhanced and extended) to build public understanding and acceptance.
- Support community preparedness and anticipatory action ('forecast-based action') to complement support to the warning system, so that community resilience-building is not wholly reliant upon early warnings.
- With regard to potential EMF exposure: (i) local communities shall be consulted, and permission sought, prior to installation of hydro-met stations; (ii) sites shall be selected that minimise interaction

<sup>109</sup> World Bank (2021), *Diagnostic Report: Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment – Albania*: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35716/Albania-Ready-2-Respond-Emergency-Preparedness-and-Response-Assessment-Diagnostic-Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>110</sup> Association for Local Autonomy (2020), *Synthesis Report on Civil Protection Function at Local Level*: [https://www.shav.al/images/raporte\\_publicime/pdf/Synthesis\\_Report\\_English\\_perfunduar\\_.pdf](https://www.shav.al/images/raporte_publicime/pdf/Synthesis_Report_English_perfunduar_.pdf)

<sup>111</sup> UK Meteorological Office and IFRC (2020), *The Future of Forecasts: Impact-Based Forecasting for Early Action*: <https://www.forecast-based-financing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Impact-based-forecasting-guide-2020.pdf>



with the general public; and (iii) hydro-met stations shall be fenced off and/or signposted to prevent accidental intrusion by members of the public.

## **ESS 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement**

### **Introduction**

ESS 5 recognizes that project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons that use this land. Involuntary resettlement refers both to physical displacement (relocation or loss of shelter) and to economic displacement (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood) as a result of project-related land acquisition<sup>2</sup> and/or restrictions on land use. Unless properly managed, involuntary resettlement may result in long-term hardship and impoverishment for the Affected Communities and persons, as well as environmental damage and adverse socio-economic impacts in areas to which they have been displaced. For these reasons, involuntary resettlement should be avoided.

### Objectives:

- To avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring feasible alternative project designs and sites;
- To avoid forced eviction;
- To anticipate and avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by (i) providing compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and (ii) ensuring that land acquisition, restrictions on land use, other assets and natural resources and involuntary resettlement activities are implemented with meaningful consultation, participation, and disclosure of information, in accordance with the requirements of the stakeholder engagement ESS;
- To improve, or restore, the livelihoods and standards of living of displaced persons;
- To improve living conditions among physically displaced persons through the provision of adequate housing, including essential services and utilities, with security of tenure at resettlement sites and where the tenure rights provided to them are socially and culturally appropriate.

### **Baseline**

The Albanian legislation on land acquisition and resettlement, as well as on land use and territorial planning, includes the following legal acts:

- Constitution of the Republic of Albania: main constitutional principles, essential rights and freedoms, organization of the state and independence of the state bodies, elections, hierarchy of the laws etc.
- Civil Code of the Republic of Albania: legal rights related to immovable properties (such as ownership, easement-servitudes and usufruct rights, leases, etc.) Interacting and beneficiary parties, their contractual rights, modalities of acquisition of rights referred above, and the obligation to register them.
- Law No.111 of 07.02.2019 “On Registration of Immovable Properties”: organization and operation of the Albanian Cadastral Agency (ACA), terms and procedures for the registration of immovable properties and administration of immovable properties public register.
- Law No.8561 of 22.12.1999 "On expropriation and temporary use of private property for public interest": establishes the right of a Public Authority to expropriate or take in temporary use for public interest, the properties of legal entities or individuals and the safeguard of the rights and interests of the expropriated owners.
- DCM No.89 of 03.02.2016 “Reference Value of Immovable Property”: the value of land affected by expropriation procedures is defined by the Decisions of the Council of Ministers (DCM) approving the value reference list established in accordance with the Restitution and Compensation Law
- Law No. 10119/2009 “On Territory Planning”, amended by Law No. 10258/2010 and Law No. 10315/2010: the law aims to integrate the urban planning legislative framework into a single law and includes the concept of the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and community health and safety for territorial planning. The law and its by-laws require declaration for any construction.

- DCM No. 408 of 13.5.2015, amended by DCM 231/2017 “The regulation for territorial development”: this regulation specifies the type of installations requiring a construction permit. A preliminary clearance should be sought for the construction of field camps. Installations of mobile structures require a preliminary clearance (or declaration of works) issued by the municipality.
- Law No. 8752/2001, amended by Law No. 10257/2010 "On the establishment and functioning of the structures for land administration and protection": this law regulates land uses issues, and their compatibility with regional planning. The land administration department of each municipality is responsible for land management and leasing of state-owned land.

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses negligible risk – in practice, no risk – with regard to land acquisition or involuntary resettlement. The project focuses largely on capacity building and institutional strengthening, accompanied by small-scale investments (e.g. in computing resources).

The project's ‘on the ground’ interventions are limited to the installation of hydro-met observation stations, forecast-based action pilot projects in 3 settlements in the coastal belt, the development of FbA emergency management plans for ~114 schools in the coastal belt, and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. These ‘on the ground’ interventions are relatively small-scale, are tightly defined and have identifiable counterparties. No land acquisition, evictions or resettlement (voluntary or involuntary) are planned or required, either in advance of project implementation or during project implementation; this extends to informal settlers and other individuals with traditional usage rights.

All of these interventions will be undertaken in conjunction with government entities – e.g. the NMHS in the context of hydro-met stations, NCPA in the context of FbA pilots and school emergency management plans, and municipalities in the context of EbA/eco-DRR measures – in full conformity with relevant laws. No coercion, expropriation or compulsory acquisition will be involved at any stage: all stakeholders (e.g. land-owners) will be willing participants. Arrangements involving land-use will be transparent and uncontested.

The EbA/eco-DRR measures may, of necessity (e.g. to enable ecosystem restoration), require restricted access to the relevant parcels of land. EbA/eco-DRR measures will be drawn exclusively from the priority adaptation measures included in the local municipality's Local Adaptation Action Plan (LAAP); all such measures undergo extensive analysis, screening and consultation (through an extensive Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogue (TSCD) process) prior to inclusion in the LAAP, and the measures selected for project-supported implementation will be accompanied by a further round of local stakeholder consultations. In the unlikely event that a measure does not receive local support – for example, because it is perceived to unduly restrict the community's access to resources such as medicinal plants, mushrooms, grazing land, etc. – the measure will not be advanced and an alternative measure (also drawn from the LAAP) will be assessed instead.

*Table 10: ESS 5 Impact rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are not considered to be applicable, as the risk of land acquisition or involuntary resettlement is essentially zero. All of the project's interventions are subject to Albanian law, which explicitly prohibits involuntary resettlement. All of the project's ‘on the ground’ interventions will only be undertaken with the explicit, written consent of the land-owner (and, if different, the land-user) and will be preceded by local stakeholder consultations.

## ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

### Introduction

ESS 6 recognizes that protecting, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. The requirements set out in this ESS have been guided by the Convention on Biological Diversity, which defines biodiversity as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

#### Objectives:

- To protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- To maintain the benefits from ecosystem services;
- To promote the sustainable management of living natural resources through the adoption of practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities.

### Baseline

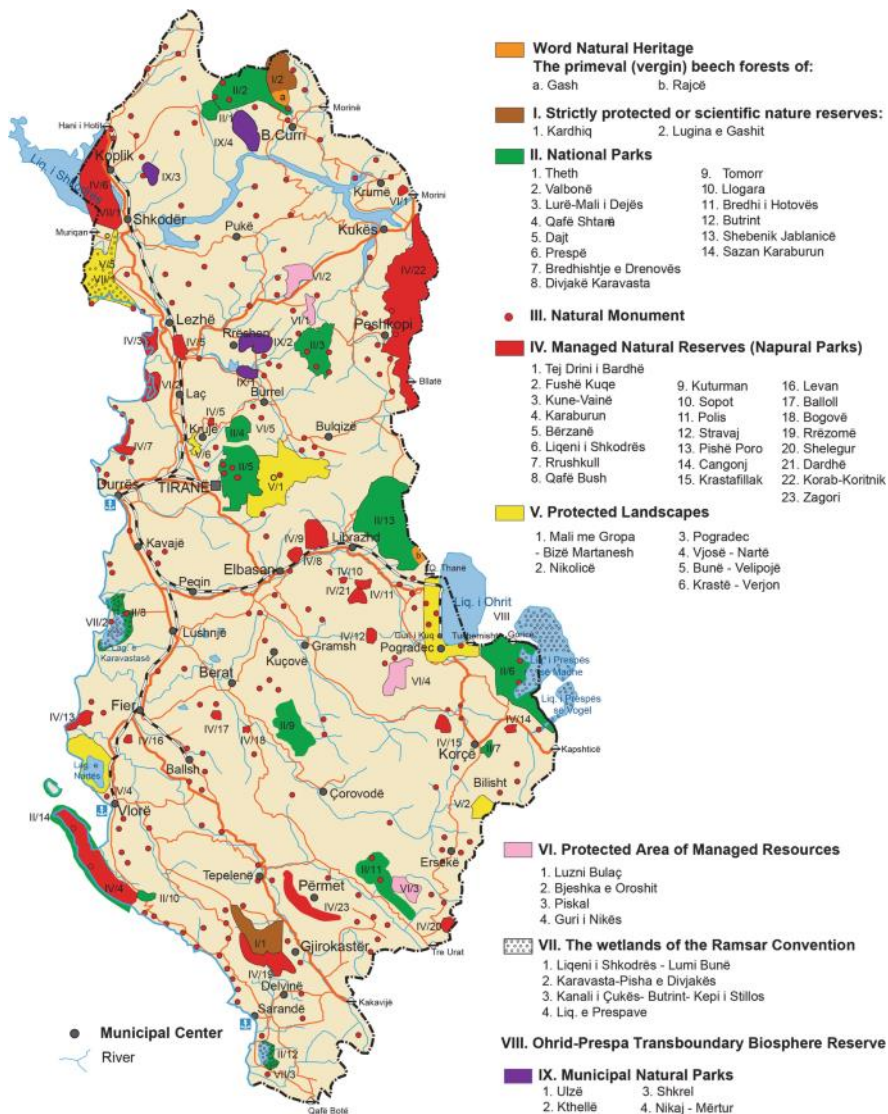
Although a small country, Albania is distinguished for its rich biological and landscape diversity. It is host to 30% of the entire flora and 42% of the fauna of Europe<sup>112</sup>. There are 32 plant species with 150 subspecies that are endemic to Albania and another 160 plant species that are sub-endemic to the Balkan region. Albania has 91 species of globally endangered ornithofauna, and others are of critical importance (e.g., *Pelecanus crispus*, *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*, and *Acipenser sturio*). Coastal lagoons and large lakes are important areas, especially for migrating birds in winter. They are 70 species of waterfowl, with a total population of 180,000 individuals encountered during the winter in Albania. Albania has several indigenous breeds of cattle and crops. About 30 types of legumes are indigenous to Albania. There are nine autochthonous breeds of goats and five sheep, and it has heritage importance for protecting and improving the production and quality of agriculture and livestock.

Albania is divided into three main ecological zones (plain coastal zone, transitional sub-mountainous hilly zone, and mountainous zone) and 13 sub-zones. This diversity is attributable to the country's geographic position as well as geological, hydrological, climatic, and soil and relief factors. The high diversity of ecosystems and habitats (marine and coastal ecosystems, wetlands, river deltas, sand dunes, lakes, rivers, Mediterranean shrubs, broadleaf, conifers and mixed forests, alpine and subalpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems) offers a rich species variety of plants and animals.

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<sup>112</sup> Andrian Vaso, November 2021, ESIA of “National Energy And Climate Plan Of The Republic Of Albania”.

Figure 4: Protected Areas Map in Albania



Source: [Qiriaz \(2022\)](#)

Since 2015, the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is responsible for the management of protected areas in Albania. The protected areas in Albania are found in various forms and sizes (terrestrial, aquatic, marine, local and transboundary); under public, municipal and private ownership; in six administration categories; Ramsar wetlands of international importance; Biosphere Reserves (BR) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Sites. Albania has recently made significant progress in expanding the network of protected areas from 5.2% of the country's territory in 2005 to 16% in 2014. Today, 799 protected areas make up about 18% (5,263 km<sup>2</sup>) of the territorial area. Most of them are defined in the Natural Monument category (747), and most are small in size.

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk to biodiversity conservation and management of living natural resources.

The project's institutional strengthening and capacity building activities (in relation to the NMHS, the NFCS and the MHEWS) have no biodiversity or ecosystem implications.

The project's 'on the ground' interventions are limited to the installation of hydro-met observation stations, forecast-based action pilot projects in 3 settlements in the coastal belt, the development of FbA emergency management plans for ~114 schools in the coastal belt, and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. The FbA emergency management plans have no discernible biodiversity or ecosystem implications.

In principle, therefore, project-related risks to biodiversity or ecosystems stem only from installation of hydro-met observation stations, forecast-based action pilot projects in three settlements in the coastal belt and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. These interventions are relatively small-scale, are tightly defined and have identifiable counterparties, and are considered to pose low risk. A substantial fraction of new hydro-met observation stations will be installed in the same locations as existing stations, and the purpose of the EbA interventions is to *promote* or *restore* ecosystem health. IGEO reports that a small number (approximately 6%) of current hydro-met stations are located in protected areas and notes that: (i) the environmental footprint of such small installations is insignificant (a typical installation occupies a parcel of land 4 metres long and 4 metres wide); (ii) installations are undertaken in conjunction with, and with the full cooperation of, the National Agency of Protected Areas of Albania (AKZM), which utilises the data (temperature, humidity, etc.) to support its efforts to preserve biodiversity; and (iii) the stations, in turn, benefit from being in protected areas, as it minimises interference from passing people.

*Table 11: ESS 6 Impact Rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Minor (2)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

Although the project it is not expected to have adverse impacts on biodiversity and natural living resources, it is nonetheless good practice to implement mitigation measures to minimize any potential harm. In this regard, the following measures are advised:

- A hydro-met observation station can be installed in a protected area only if, as judged by competent professionals:
  - It is strictly necessary (e.g. to achieve appropriate geographical coverage) and alternative sites are not available.
  - It is in line with the management plan of the protected area.
  - Local stakeholder consultations are undertaken in advance, including with affected communities.
  - Written agreement is provided by the relevant management authority (typically AKZM), including confirmation that: (i) the observation station will not lead to measurable adverse impacts on those biodiversity values for which the protected area was designated, and (ii) the installation will not lead to a net reduction in Critically Endangered or Endangered species.
  - Regular checks (on at least an annual basis) are undertaken with the management authority to ensure that: (i) operation of the observation station is not having unforeseen negative impacts, and (ii) continued operation of the observation station is acceptable.
- Source EbA / eco-DRR projects solely from Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs). This will ensure that the projects have undergone detailed scrutiny, including explicit screening for E&S (including biodiversity) risks.
- Ensure that all EbA / eco-DRR and forecast-based action projects comply with relevant environmental regulations and permits.
- The project environmental and social management system incorporates EbA and forecast-based action activities, and that potential problems are identified quickly and remedial actions are put in place.

## ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples (Ethnic Groups)

### Introduction

ESS 7 recognizes that Indigenous Peoples, as social groups with identities that are distinct from mainstream groups in national societies, are often among the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of the population. In many cases, their economic, social, and legal status limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, lands and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development.

#### Objectives:

- To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples;
- To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts of projects on communities of Indigenous Peoples, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize and/or compensate for such impacts;
- To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in a culturally appropriate manner;
- To establish and maintain an ongoing relationship based on Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) with the Indigenous Peoples affected by a project throughout the project's life cycle;
- To ensure the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples when the circumstances described in this Performance Standard are present;
- To respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples.

### Baseline

The concept of "indigenous peoples" often refers to groups with deep historical and cultural ties to a specific region, typically predating the arrival of other groups. In the case of Albania, the Albanian people themselves are the dominant group and have a long history in the region. Albania is home to several ethnic groups, but it does not have a significant indigenous population in the traditional sense of the term. The majority of the population in Albania identifies as Albanian, and Albanians make up approximately 82% of the population.

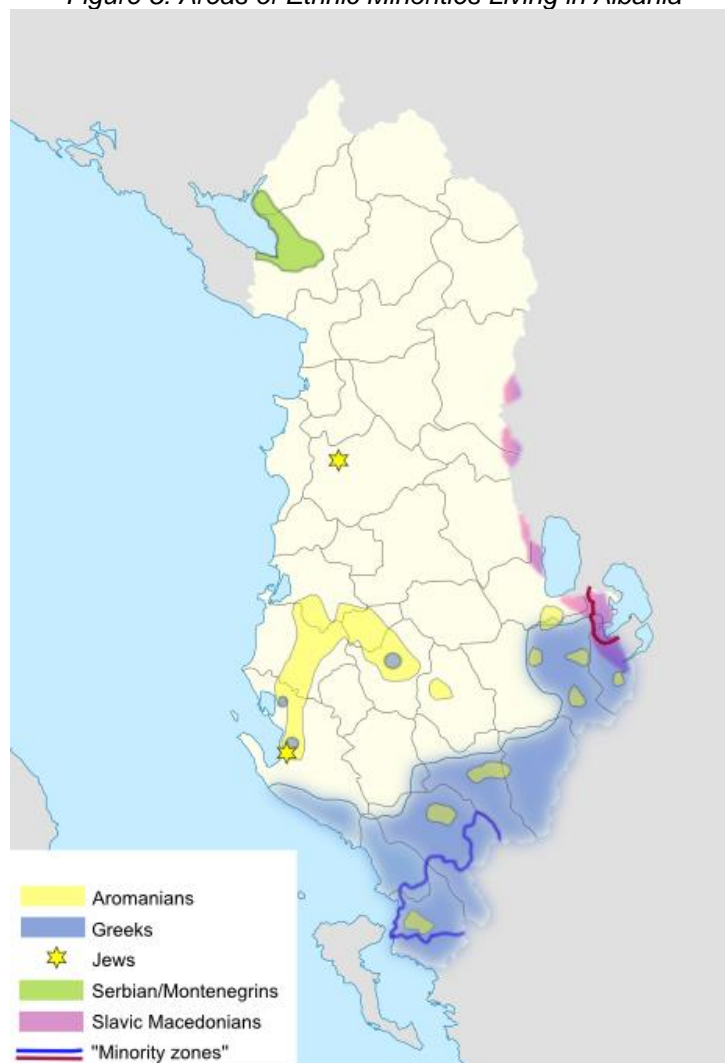
However, there are smaller ethnic groups and communities in Albania, some of which have historical ties to the region, while others have migrated more recently. In Albania there are two types of minorities: ethnic minorities, consisting of a national minority such as the Greek, Macedonian and Serbo-Montenegrin minorities; and ethno-linguistic minorities, including the Vlach minority and the Roma minority.

Briefly, the minority groups include:

- Greeks (~1% of the population): The Greek minority in Albania is one of the largest minority groups, primarily concentrated in the southern part of the country, especially around the city of Gjirokastrë and the Himara region;
- Macedonians (~0.2%): There is a small Macedonian minority in Albania, mainly in the Prespa region;
- Aromanians (Vlachs) (~0.3%): Aromanians are a small ethnic group with a presence in several Balkan countries, including Albania. They are concentrated in areas such as Muzinë, Drenovë and other parts of southern Albania;
- Roma (~0.3%): The Roma population in Albania is a minority group with a distinct cultural and social identity. They are spread throughout the country;
- Montenegrins (~0.01%): There is a small Montenegrin minority in northern Albania, particularly in the Malesia Madhe region;
- Serbs (<0.01%): The Serbian community in Albania is quite small and primarily found in areas near the northern border with Serbia, such as the town of Bajram Curri.

The law provides official minority status for nine national minorities without distinguishing between national and ethno-linguistic groups: Greeks, Macedonians, Aromanians (Vlachs), Roma, Balkan-Egyptians, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Serbs and Bulgarians are defined as national minorities. The law provides for minority-language education and dual official-language use for the local administrative units in which minorities traditionally reside or in which a minority group comprises at least 20% of the total population.

Figure 5: Areas of Ethnic Minorities Living in Albania



Source: [Rekacewicz \(2018\)](#)

The Constitution of the Republic of Albania sanctions the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Article 18 provides: "Everyone is equal before the law and no one can be unjustly discriminated for reasons such as gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, political, religious or philosophical beliefs, economic, educational and social status or affiliation parenting". Article 16/1 of the Constitution provides that the fundamental rights and freedoms as well as the obligations set forth in the Constitution for Albanian citizens apply equally to foreigners and stateless persons in the territory of the Republic of Albania.

Law no. 10221, dated 04.02.2010 "On the Protection against Discrimination", provides and regulates the implementation and observance of the principle of equality in relation to gender, race, colour, ethnicity, language, etc. (Article 1). The Law on Protection against Discrimination defines discrimination as: any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on any cause referred to in Article 1 of this Law, which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, the international acts ratified by the Republic of Albania and the laws in force.

The State Committee on Minorities (CSC) was established by a decision of the Council of Ministers no. 127, dated 11.03.2004 "On the establishment of the State Committee on Minorities", and has a consultative status for drafting and implementing national minority policies. It consists of elected representatives of

minorities/minority associations. The State Committee for Minorities aims to encourage the participation of persons belonging to minorities in public life, as well as to suggest measures for the exercise and protection of their rights and freedoms. The State Committee for Minorities is a central institution with legal personality, subordinated to the Prime Minister. The State Committee of Minorities cooperates with central and local government bodies, as well as with legitimate organizations and associations, carrying out activities for the exercise of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to minorities. The State Committee for Minorities is chaired by the chairman (Greek minority representative) and deputy chairman (currently a representative of the Aromanian/Vlachian minority) and comprises five members (from a representative of the Greek minority, the Macedonian minority, the Montenegrin minority, the Roma minority and the minority Aromanian/Vlach).

Albania has signed and/or ratified a range of international treaties and conventions relating to ethnic groups and human rights, including the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the Revised European Social Charter, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk to indigenous peoples and ethnic groups. Based on the social situation in Albania (the absence of an indigenous population and a historical track-record of traditional ethnic co-existence), the project has no impact in this regard. Project support is primarily for national public goods – accurate weather forecasts, timely and accurate hazard early warnings, etc. – that provide universal benefits.

*Table 12: ESS 7 Impact rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

The following measures are advised:

- The Law on Weather, Climate and Hydrological Services should explicitly reference and reiterate the National DRR Strategy's inclusivity of marginalised communities.
- Ethnic groups should be included, alongside other stakeholders, in consultations on the design of the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS.
- Project-supported capacity building and awareness-raising activities (including at municipality level) should make a concerted effort to reach and serve ethnic groups – including use of tailored materials calibrated to appropriate linguistic, educational and cultural needs.
- Ethnic groups (individuals and/or representative organisations) should be invited to hackathons and other MSME support activities.

## ESS 8: Cultural Heritage

### Introduction

ESS 8 recognizes the importance of cultural heritage for current and future generations. Consistent with the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, this ESS aims to ensure that clients protect cultural heritage in the course of their project activities.

#### Objectives:

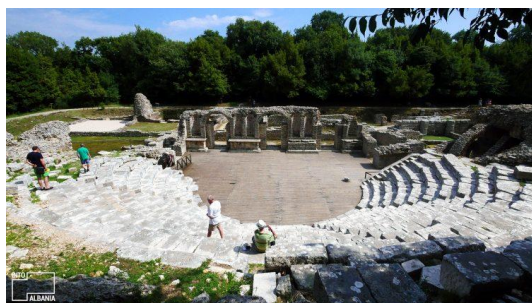
- To protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation;



- To promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage;
- To address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development;
- To promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding Cultural Heritage.

## Baseline

Albanian culture is a term that embodies the artistic, culinary, literary, musical, political and social elements that are representative of Albanians. Albanian culture has been considerably shaped by the geography and history of the country. Thanks to its long history, Albania is home to many valuable monuments, such as (among others) the remains of Butrint, the medieval cities of Berat and Gjirokastër, the Roman amphitheatre of Durrës, the Illyrian Tombs and Fortress of Bashtovë. Other examples of important contributions to architecture may be found in Apollonia, Byllis, Amantia, Phoenice and Shkodër.



Albania ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1989, making its historical sites eligible for inclusion on the list. There are four sites in Albania<sup>113</sup> inscribed on the list and a further four sites on the tentative list. The first site in Albania to be added to the list was the ancient city of Butrint, which was inscribed at the 16<sup>th</sup> UNESCO session in 1992. The historic centre of Gjirokastër was inscribed in 2005 as the Museum-City of Gjirokastra. In 2008, the historic centre of Berat was added, to form the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastër. In

2017, the Gashi River and Rrajcë regions were listed as part of the Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, which is shared with 17 other countries. In 2019, the site 'Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid' region, a World Heritage Site in North Macedonia since 1979, was expanded to include the Albanian part of the coast.

Law No. 27 (2018) 'On Cultural Heritage and Museums' concerns national cultural heritage, museums and cultural landscape preservation, safeguarding assessment and management, and hence contributing to national memory safeguarding and the tangible and visible representation of national identity. The Law stipulates that cultural properties and archaeological sites may be taken under State ownership or, alternatively, management plans may be imposed upon private owners. Legally registered religious communities may make proposals to the minister responsible for cultural heritage on inscribing significant cultural values.

<sup>113</sup> See URL: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/al> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

Figure 6: Cultural, natural and mixed sites in Albania  
(Blue: cultural sites; green: natural sites; red: mixed sites)



Source: [Bitton \(2022\)](#)

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk to cultural heritage. No activities supported by the project serve to undermine or weaken intangible cultural heritage. The only risks posed by the project to tangible cultural heritage stem from the project's 'on the ground' interventions: i.e. the installation of hydro-met observation stations, forecast-based action pilot projects in 3 settlements in the coastal belt, the development of FbA emergency management plans for ~114 schools in the coastal belt, and 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures in coastal belt municipalities. Given the small scale and highly managed nature of these exinterventions, it is difficult to envisage them exerting adverse impacts on tangible cultural heritage.

Table 13: ESS 8 Impact rating

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

Source: Own elaboration

## Mitigation Measure

Although the project it is not expected to have adverse impacts on cultural heritage, it is a good practice to implement mitigation measures to prevent any accidental damage. In this regard, the following measures are advised:

- The project shall exclude heritage-protected areas: i.e. the project shall not install hydro-met stations, pilot FbA community interventions or undertake EbA / eco-DRR measures in areas legally protected for heritage purposes.
- Ensure that project activities comply with all relevant laws and regulations related to cultural heritage protection.
- Ensure that the project environmental and social management system is capable of tracking compliance with these cultural heritage stipulations, and that potential problems can be identified quickly, and remedial actions put in place.

## **ESS 9: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

### **Introduction**

ESS 9 recognizes the importance of an open and transparent engagement between the entity, its workers, worker representatives, local communities and persons affected by the project and, where appropriate, other project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice and corporate citizenship. Such engagement is also a way of improving the environmental, social and overall sustainability of projects. In particular, effective community engagement, appropriate to the nature and scale of the project, promotes sound and sustainable environmental and social performance, and can lead to improved financial, social and environmental outcomes, together with enhanced community benefits.

#### Objectives:

- To outline a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help the entity build and maintain a constructive relationship with their stakeholders;
- To provide the means for effective and inclusive engagement with project stakeholders throughout the project cycle;
- To ensure that appropriate environmental and social information is disclosed, and meaningful consultation is held with the project's stakeholders and where appropriate, feedback provided through the consultation is taken into consideration;
- To ensure that grievances from stakeholders are responded to and managed appropriately.

### **Baseline**

The main principles for public participation are stipulated in Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, which states that every person enjoys the guarantee of the right for information.

Law No 119/2014, dated 18.09.2014, "On the right of information" defines the rules for ensuring public access to information produced or held by public authorities. This law also aims to promote the integrity, transparency and accountability of public authorities. The law also defines the procedures and competences for proceeding complaints for persons whose rights have been violated under this law.

Law No 146/2014 – "On Notification and Public Consultation" – regulates the process of notifying the public on drafting legislative work and other national and local strategic documents and policies of high public interest. Furthermore it; defines the Commissioner for the right of Information and Data protection competencies to address all complaints if public right to information and consultation has been infringed by the public authority; Transparency Programs for all public institutions made obligatory; establishment of electronic register to ensures and strengthens equality in terms of access to information and services, taking into account the specific needs of certain persons or groups; yearly public reports on all planned acts, number of planned public hearings.

Republic of Albania also ratified the Aarhus Convention in 2000 (Law No. 8672, dated 26.10.2000, "On the Aarhus Convention Ratification on public right to information, to participate in decision-making and to have access to justice in environmental matters"), which stipulates the public rights on information related to environment, the public rights to participate in environmental decision-making and the right to file complaints when the public perceives that considerations of environmental issues are insufficient.

Law No.10440 'On Environmental Impact Assessment', aim to ensure high level of environmental protection through prevention, minimization and compensation of damage on environment from proposed projects, prior to their approval for development; It guarantee an open decision-making process, in identifying,

describing and evaluating adverse environmental impacts, in a timely manner; as well as the involvement of all interest stakeholders.

LAW No. 107/2021 on 'Co-Government' aims to create conditions and encourage interaction between the state administration and individuals, natural and legal persons and interest groups, in this way to increase their role in improving the quality of public service provision, as well as the enterprise of joint initiatives, projects or programs aimed at involving citizens in co-governance through the platform "Shqiperia qe duam". According to Article 5 of this law, state administration institutions, as well as any public official involved in the implementation of this law, must exercise administrative activity by promoting effective citizen interaction and participation, especially during the conception, drafting and approval of initiatives which aim improving the provision of public services, de bureaucratization, as well as increasing the efficiency of the operation of the state administration and public service.

According to Article 51 of the draft law on 'Electronic Government', public authorities have the obligation to create and maintain their official website, easily accessible for providing information in accordance with this law and the legislation in force on the right to information.

## Impact Assessment

The project poses low risk in the context of stakeholder engagement and information disclosure. The project development team consulted widely during project preparation, over several rounds of consultations, with a diverse array of stakeholders from the public sector, the private sector, academia, NGOs and civil society, including members/representatives of vulnerable groups (including women, children, ethnic groups, people with disabilities, the poor and specific at-risk occupational groups) – as described in the detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The National Designated Authority (NDA) has been closely involved in project design discussions.

If a (small) risk can be identified, it is that, because of the project's focus on national structures (NMHS, NFCS, MHEWS, etc.), there is a possibility that insufficient attention is paid to stakeholders at the local (municipality / community) level. However, given that local-level stakeholders are critical 'last mile' stakeholders in the context of the MHEWS, as well as direct beneficiaries of FbA pilots and EbA / eco-DRR measures, this risk is marginal.

*Table 14: ESS 9 Impact rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Minor (2)
Probability	Not likely (2)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

The following measures are advised:

- Municipalities and other local stakeholders (CSOs, the Albanian Red Cross, etc.) shall be included in design consultations for national structures, including the AlbaMet Alert platform.
- As the principal beneficiaries of FbA pilots and EbA demonstrations, municipalities and other local stakeholders shall be closely involved in project activities, including associated capacity building and awareness-raising support.
- Business ideas for climate services shall be actively sourced from outside Tirana (notably in rural areas) and hackathons shall include local stakeholders; incubator selection should place weight on geographical diversity.

## ESS 10: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

### Introduction

This ESS recognizes the importance of explicitly addressing climate hazard and disaster risk considerations and maximizing project contributions to improved resilience to future climate trends for people, the

environment and critical infrastructure. The requirements of this ESS are based in part on the enhanced commitments and reporting requirements for addressing risk posed by climate change in the 2020 Equator Principle 4 revisions.

#### Objectives:

- To ensure alignment of GCF projects with the goals of the Paris Agreement and other international frameworks;
- To ensure that GCF projects are comprehensively screened for climate change and disaster risk to society, environment and critical infrastructure and that the mitigation and management hierarchies are applied in project design and delivery;
- To ensure that GCF projects maximize potential resilience (and optionally mitigation) benefits and deliver co-benefits.

### **Baseline**

#### *Climate Policy*

Albania's **Revised Nationally Determined Contribution** (NDC, 2021)<sup>114</sup> adopts a territorial focus towards adaptation in the Albanian coastal belt and the surrounding lowlands. Priority measures identified in the NDC include: (i) mainstreaming adaptation into sectoral, regional development and spatial planning regulations and procedures; (ii) awareness-raising on climate change impacts and potential solutions; (iii) ensuring effective co-generation and communication of (user-oriented and usable) climate information for relevant sectoral and territorial actors, including through early warning systems; (iv) enhancing technical capacities of public and private actors with regard to risk assessments and the design and implementation of adaptation measures based on actionable climate information; and (v) nature-based solutions (NbS) for adaptation approaches.

Albania's **National Adaptation Plan** (NAP, 2021)<sup>115</sup> notes that, while climate change impacts and vulnerabilities are relatively well understood, committed action for reducing vulnerabilities is less developed. The NAP identifies 3 priorities – reduction of flood damage, enhanced agricultural resilience and protection of drinking water – and a range of strategic actions to achieve these priorities, including mainstreaming climate change in sectoral development and sector plans (Priority Actions 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13: flood protection, integrated water resources management, agriculture, health, tourism, etc.); capacity development of institutions and individuals on climate change adaptation (Priority Action 6); integrating climate change into spatial planning, notably to support the Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coastal Belt (Priority Action 11) and municipal development plans (Priority Action 12); and implementation of a hydro-meteorological monitoring and early warning system (Priority Action 14).

The **Law on Climate Change** (2020)<sup>116</sup> seeks to increase “the ability to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change” as well as “mainstreaming climate change into all existing and future sectoral and inter-sectoral policies and practices”. It obliges line ministries and local governments to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation issues into their legislation, plans, projects and disaster management. The lead agency under the Law is MoTE; IGEO is identified by the Law as the key institution for the provision of weather- and climate-related data and information. The **National Climate Change Strategy** (NCCS, 2021)<sup>117</sup> builds on the NAP and shares the same Priority Actions, including emphases on hydro-meteorological monitoring, disaster risk reduction (including early warning) and EbA / NbS.

Albania's **Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC** (2022)<sup>118</sup> outlines anticipated climate change impacts in key areas, including crops, livestock and forestry, and disaster risks. It notes that floods, flash floods and forest fires account for more than 90% of climate-related hazards. A number of priority adaptation

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<sup>114</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>115</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)

<sup>116</sup> [https://www.parlament.al/2021/10/13/081820201227203009liqi\\_nr\\_155\\_dt\\_17.12.2020\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.parlament.al/2021/10/13/081820201227203009liqi_nr_155_dt_17.12.2020_compressed.pdf) (parlament.al)

<sup>117</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Climate Change Strategy in Albania 2020-2030: 2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring*: [https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN\\_Report\\_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf](https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN_Report_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf)

<sup>118</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the UNFCCC*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC_EN.pdf?download)

needs are identified, including: (i) mainstreaming climate change adaptation into territorial development planning, (ii) the establishment of early warning systems for mitigation and prevention of disaster risks, and (iii) application of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS). Institutional capacities, inter-institutional coordination and data collection / collation are noted as representing significant constraints on current adaptation response capabilities. The need for an improved hydro-meteorological observation network, data management and forecasting system, in conjunction with hazard monitoring, mapping, forecasting and warning functionality, is specifically highlighted (page 169). The **First Biennial Update Report** (BUR, 2021)<sup>119</sup> identifies disaster risk management as a key requirement for Albania to adapt to climate change. The BUR also notes that Albania's legislative framework for climate change (see below) does not place sufficient emphasis on gender-related issues and that a more proactive gender approach is required. The **UNFCCC Technology Needs Assessment** (TNA, 2004)<sup>120</sup> focuses on Albania's coastal belt because of its particular vulnerability to a range of climate change impacts and its economic and demographic importance. Improvement of the hydro-meteorological monitoring and forecasting system is identified as one of 6 priority adaptation clusters.

### *Climate Vulnerability*

It is estimated that, on average, 50,000 Albanians are affected by **floods** every year<sup>121</sup>. All climate scenarios project a future increase in frequency and severity of riverine floods, due to an intensification of heavy precipitation in winter months and ensuing snow melt in spring<sup>122,123,124</sup>. The increase in flooding risk will, in parallel and seemingly paradoxically, be accompanied by an increase in **drought risk**<sup>125,126</sup>. Albania already has the highest level of total drought severity per decade in Europe.<sup>127</sup> The probability of droughts is projected to increase by 20%, potentially leading to 23 more drought days/year in the north and 14 more drought days/year in the south of Albania<sup>128</sup>. More severe heat waves and droughts will, in turn, provide more favourable conditions for **wildfires** during the hot and dry summer months, as observed in 2017<sup>129,130,131</sup>. Such a hot summer or heat wave would have been very rare a century ago. Nowadays, with about a 10% chance of it occurring every year, it is common<sup>132</sup>. Wildfires are already the second largest driver of forest loss in Albania (after managed forestry operations)<sup>133</sup> and projections of fire risk in the period

<sup>119</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Albania's First Biennial Update Report*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/First%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%20for%20Albania\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/First%20Biennial%20Update%20Report%20for%20Albania_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>120</sup> Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration (2004), *Albania's Technology Needs Assessment*: [https://unfccc.int/tclear/misc/StaticFiles/gnwoerk\\_static/TNR\\_CRE/e9067c6e3b97459989b2196f12155ad5/1f5549ee8fc342ab8bfb1d58228e1d03.pdf](https://unfccc.int/tclear/misc/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/TNR_CRE/e9067c6e3b97459989b2196f12155ad5/1f5549ee8fc342ab8bfb1d58228e1d03.pdf)

<sup>121</sup> World Bank (2017), *Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Risk Profiles: Albania*: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/839891493703488438/pdf/114694-WP-PUBLIC-drp-albania.pdf>

<sup>122</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

<sup>123</sup> Zaimi, K. and Jaupaj, O. (2020), 'Flood forecasting in the Western Lowlands of Albania with application of hydrological modelling', *Journal of International Environmental Application and Science*, 15: <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/1464407>

<sup>124</sup> Abazaj, F. (2019), 'A geospatial analysis of the existing flood situation in the Buna river basin', *UBT International Conference*, 190: <https://knowledgecenter.ubt-uni.net/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2363&context=conference>

<sup>125</sup> Roudier, P. et al (2015), 'Projections of future floods and hydrological droughts in Europe under a +2°C global warming', *Climatic Change*, 135: [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-015-1570-4?app=true&error=cookies\\_not\\_supported&code=d199acf2-4ac9-4c28-8a5d-0824066ab718](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-015-1570-4?app=true&error=cookies_not_supported&code=d199acf2-4ac9-4c28-8a5d-0824066ab718)

<sup>126</sup> Klodjan, R. (2016), 'Too much but not enough: issues of water management in Albania in light of climate change', *Studies on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Transition Economies*, 84: <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/156486/1/881860077.pdf>

<sup>127</sup> European Environment Agency (2017), *Climate Change: Impacts and Vulnerability in Europe 2016: An Indicator-Based Report*: [https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016/at\\_download/file](https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016/at_download/file)

<sup>128</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *Fourth National Communication of the Republic of Albania under the UNFCCC*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC\\_EN.pdf?download](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fourth%20National%20Communication%20of%20Albania%20to%20the%20UNFCCC_EN.pdf?download)

<sup>129</sup> FAO (2018), *Drought Risk Management Guidelines: Western Balkan Region*: <http://www.fao.org/3/i9148en/i9148EN.pdf>

<sup>130</sup> Hysa, A. and Teqja, Z. (2020), 'Counting fuel properties as input in the wildfire spreading capacities of vegetated surfaces: case of Albania', *Notulae Botanicae Horti Agrobotanici Cluj-Napoca*, 48: <https://www.notulaeobotanicae.ro/index.php/nbha/article/download/11994/9016/48625>

<sup>131</sup> Caton, O. et al (2019), *Exploring the Potential for Drone Use in Firefighting: Addressing Forest Fires in Albania*: [https://web.cs.wpi.edu/~rek/Projects/EXINN\\_Proposal.pdf](https://web.cs.wpi.edu/~rek/Projects/EXINN_Proposal.pdf)

<sup>132</sup> Kew, S. et al (2018), 'The exceptional summer heat wave in Southern Europe, 2017', *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 100: [https://www.ametsoc.net/eeee/2017a/ch11\\_EEEof2017\\_Kew.pdf](https://www.ametsoc.net/eeee/2017a/ch11_EEEof2017_Kew.pdf)

<sup>133</sup> Global Forest Watch: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/ALB>



2030-2060 relative to 1961-1990 suggest that Albania will be one of the world's most wildfire-affected countries, with at least one additional month of fire risk expected.<sup>134,135</sup>

**Sectoral impacts** of climate change include:

- **Agriculture:** The agricultural sector provides employment for ~60% of Albania's labour force and accounts for approximately one-fifth of GDP<sup>136</sup>. Climate change is expected to negatively impact crop yields through changes of temperature, precipitation, hydrological systems (including irrigation), enhanced soil erosion and damage from extreme events<sup>137,138,139</sup>. The agricultural sector is dominated by family farms – 86% of farms are smaller than 2 ha in size – that are vulnerable to climate shocks<sup>140</sup>. Climate change has already negatively affected wheat, maize, potato and grape yields for many regions, including Shkodra, Korça, Lezha, Lushnja, Fieri and Vlora<sup>141,142</sup>. Several periods of rapid food and cereal price increases following climate extremes in key producing regions indicate a sensitivity of current markets to climate shocks.<sup>143</sup> For most crops, it is projected that rainfall during the growing season (spring and summer) will become insufficient without supplemental investment in irrigation<sup>144</sup>. Lowland sheep, goats and cattle will be affected by heat stress, water availability, pests and impacts on forage production<sup>145,146</sup>.
- **Energy:** The large share of hydropower in Albania – more than 99% of electricity is produced by hydro-power stations, of which 60% are state-owned – makes the country vulnerable to hydrological changes<sup>147</sup>. Electricity production can vary from almost 6,000 GWh to less than half that amount in very dry years<sup>148</sup>. In good years, Albania is able to export electricity and the sector contributes 1 percentage point to GDP growth; in adverse years, when electricity imports are necessary, the sector can reduce GDP growth by 1 percentage point<sup>149</sup>. A drought in 2017 resulted in an additional US\$ 240 million of electricity imports and placed the power sector in severe financial difficulty<sup>150</sup>. Climate change will likely have an adverse effect on hydropower production: by 2050, annual average electricity output from Albania's large hydropower plants could be reduced by about 15% and from

<sup>134</sup> NCPA (2022), *Disaster Risk Assessment in Albania: Wildfire Risk Assessment Report*.

<sup>135</sup> GFDRR (2020), *ThinkHazard! Tool: Albania*: [blob:https://thinkhazard.org/39316f3e-18b7-4eea-9a5c-1ef0fdadc8a1](https://thinkhazard.org/39316f3e-18b7-4eea-9a5c-1ef0fdadc8a1)

<sup>136</sup> World Bank Open Data (2023), *Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Value Added – Albania*: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NV.AGR.TOTL.ZS?locations=AL>

<sup>137</sup> Zupanić, F. et al (2021), 'Climate change and agriculture management: Western Balkan region analysis', *Energy, Sustainability and Society*, 11: <https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/counter/pdf/10.1186/s13705-021-00327-z.pdf>

<sup>138</sup> Teqja, Z. et al (2017), 'A study of the impact of climate change scenarios on the plant hardiness zones of Albania', *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, 56: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/downloadpdf/journals/apme/56/3/jamc-d-16-0108.1.pdf>

<sup>139</sup> Kolaj, R. et al (2019), 'Social and climate changes in agriculture: challenges as opportunities for adaptation', *Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference 'Bulgaria of Regions'*: <http://www.science.uard.bg/index.php/regions/article/download/631/586>

<sup>140</sup> Zhllima, E. et al (2022), 'Awareness of climate change impact and adaptation in agriculture – the case of Albania', *European Countryside*, 14: [https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/m36VQ?\\_s=w6n8uHg8ny9pMY1kQt4qS3KyDNk%3D](https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/m36VQ?_s=w6n8uHg8ny9pMY1kQt4qS3KyDNk%3D)

<sup>141</sup> Maho, A. et al (2019), 'Changes to potato cultivation technology in Korça region as adaptation to climate change', *Italian Journal of Agronomy*, 14: <https://www.agronomy.it/index.php/agro/article/download/1374/1076/9701>

<sup>142</sup> Hoxha, E. (2018), 'Climate change: actual situation and risks in Albania', *Proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> ICEEE International Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Engineering*: [https://www.academia.edu/37879015/CLIMATE\\_CHANGE\\_ACTUAL\\_SITUATION\\_AND\\_RISKS\\_IN\\_ALBANIA](https://www.academia.edu/37879015/CLIMATE_CHANGE_ACTUAL_SITUATION_AND_RISKS_IN_ALBANIA)

<sup>143</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)

<sup>144</sup> World Bank (2022), *The Future of Water in Agriculture in Albania: A Broad Sector Rethinking*: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099745002162237184/pdf/P1724700fec9280650aad201dde94af7777.pdf>

<sup>145</sup> Koluman, N. et al (2018), 'Climate change and goat agriculture interactions in the Mediterranean region', in Simões, J. et al (Eds), *Sustainable Goat Production in Adverse Environments: Volume 1*: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-71855-2\\_22](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-71855-2_22)

<sup>146</sup> Gilbert, L. (2021), 'The impacts of climate change on ticks and tick-borne disease risk', *Annual Review of Entomology*, 66: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-ento-052720-094533>

<sup>147</sup> Gebremedhin, A. and Zhuri, M. (2020), 'Power system analysis: the case of Albania', *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Interdisciplinary Sciences*, 3: <https://ntnuopen.ntnu.no/ntnu-xmliui/bitstream/handle/11250/2994149/Gebremedhin.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>148</sup> Gjika, E. et al (2022), 'Climate change and its effect on the energy production from renewable sources – a case study in the Mediterranean region', *Journal of Ecological Engineering*, 23: <http://www.jeeng.net/pdf-154062-82828?filename=Climate%20Change%20and%20its.pdf>

<sup>149</sup> IMF (2022), *Article IV Consultation – Albania*: <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/CR/2022/English/1ALBEA2022004.ashx>

<sup>150</sup> IRENA (2021), *Renewables Readiness Assessment: The Republic of Albania*: [https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2021/March/IRENA\\_RRA\\_Albania\\_2021.pdf?rev=6b6325eaf5b046329500b961042a265f](https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2021/March/IRENA_RRA_Albania_2021.pdf?rev=6b6325eaf5b046329500b961042a265f)

small hydropower plants by around 20%<sup>151</sup>. Moreover, reductions in hydro-power availability will likely coincide with temperature-driven spikes in space cooling demand, thereby exacerbating power deficits<sup>152</sup>. In response to these mounting climate challenges, the Albanian Power Corporation (KESH) has been obliged to adopt a Climate Risk Management Plan<sup>153</sup>. Albania's increasing adoption of utility-scale wind energy (~220 MW of generation capacity auctioned by mid-2023) and solar energy (~240 MW) will expose the country to additional climate variability<sup>154</sup>.

- **Tourism:** as a sector heavily reliant upon the climate, Albanian tourism is considered to be sensitive to climate change<sup>155</sup>. This applies to mainstream tourism – 'sun, sea and sand' in coastal resorts – as well as to rapidly-growing sub-sectors, including skiing, eco-tourism and agro-tourism<sup>156,157</sup>. The precise impacts of changes in precipitation, temperature and other climatic variables on tourist numbers are difficult to predict, partly because of the complex causal chains involved (a decline in summer rainfall may, for instance, serve to attract more tourists, but only up to the point that drought does not disfigure landscapes or result in water shortages<sup>158</sup>) and partly because the tourist industry is young (dating from the early 2000s) and still rapidly evolving<sup>159</sup>. Nonetheless, it is clear that climate change will impact the sector, with the result that current investment (such as hotels and other infrastructure) may prove to be maladapted and uncertainty may suppress future investment<sup>160</sup>.

**The coastal zone is particularly vulnerable to climate change.** Temperature increases and precipitation reductions are projected to be of greater magnitude in the north-western part of the coastal zone than in the rest of the country, and heatwave recurrence is expected to increase 6-8 times<sup>161</sup>. The greatest fire hazard is faced by the coastal county of Fier<sup>162</sup>. While flash floods occur most frequently in the Eastern mountainous areas, these tend to have short-lived, localised impacts; in contrast, fluvial flooding events on the Western plain are large-scale (often more than 100 km<sup>2</sup>) and long-duration (often lasting several weeks) due to the presence of extensive reclaimed wetland<sup>163</sup>. Moreover, the coastal zone is uniquely vulnerable to storm surges and coastal floods<sup>164</sup>. Most of the dykes and hydraulic structural measures in the coastal

<sup>151</sup> Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National\\_Adaptation\\_Plan\\_Albania.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf)

<sup>152</sup> ERE (2020), *The Situation of the Power Sector and ERE Activity During 2019*: [https://ere.gov.al/doc/ERE\\_annual\\_report\\_2019\\_26102020.pdf](https://ere.gov.al/doc/ERE_annual_report_2019_26102020.pdf)

<sup>153</sup> KESH (2018), *Climate Risk Management Plan*: <https://www.kesh.al/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CLIMATE-RISK-MANAGEMENT-PLAN-2018-1.pdf>

<sup>154</sup> EBRD (2023), *Albania Announces Results of First Onshore Wind Auction*: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2023/albania-announces-results-of-first-onshore-wind-auction.html>

<sup>155</sup> Vrana, V. (2023), 'Sustainable tourism development and innovation: recent advances and challenges', *Sustainability*, 15: [https://mdpi-res.com/d\\_attachment/sustainability/sustainability-15-07224/article\\_deploy/sustainability-15-07224-v2.pdf?version=1682558379](https://mdpi-res.com/d_attachment/sustainability/sustainability-15-07224/article_deploy/sustainability-15-07224-v2.pdf?version=1682558379)

<sup>156</sup> Pojani, E. and Grabova, P. (2022), 'Discussing sustainable business practices – the case of the tourism sector in Albania', in Tipuric, D. et al (Eds), *Book of Proceedings of the 80<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference on Economic and Social Development*: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Venelin-Terziev/publication/360112360\\_Spiritual\\_leaders\\_of\\_the\\_Bulgarian\\_nation/links/6262c0c9ee24725b3ebde76d/Spiritual-leaders-of-the-Bulgarian-nation.pdf#page=216](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Venelin-Terziev/publication/360112360_Spiritual_leaders_of_the_Bulgarian_nation/links/6262c0c9ee24725b3ebde76d/Spiritual-leaders-of-the-Bulgarian-nation.pdf#page=216)

<sup>157</sup> Korsita, B. and Cania, L. (2019), 'Challenges in agribusiness and rural tourism development in Albania', *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 5: <https://www.mcser.org/journal/index.php/ajis/article/download/9765/9403>

<sup>158</sup> Dogru, T. et al (2019), 'Climate change: vulnerability and resilience of tourism and the entire economy', *Tourism Management*, 72: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0261517718303145>

<sup>159</sup> Domi, S. et al (2019), 'Effects of innovativeness and innovation behaviour on tourism SMEs' performance: the case of Albania', *Economics and Sociology*, 12: [https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/zQdxB?\\_s=WLMN3RGQPE0b%2BxxCmeaU5x4ZybQ%3D](https://media.proquest.com/media/hms/PFT/1/zQdxB?_s=WLMN3RGQPE0b%2BxxCmeaU5x4ZybQ%3D)

<sup>160</sup> Steiger, R. et al (2023), 'Climate and carbon risk of tourism in Europe', *Journal of Sustainable Tourism*: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09669582.2022.2163653?download=true>

<sup>161</sup> Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Monitoring of the Climate Change Strategy in Albania, 2020-2030 for 2019-2021*: <https://www.recshqiperi.org/publications.php?id=52#:~:text=MONITORING%20OF%20THE%20CLIMATE%20CHANGE,2020%2D2030%20FOR%202019%2D2021&text=National%20Strategy%20for%20Climate%20Change,Albanian%20Government%20in%20July%202019>

<sup>162</sup> Jaupaj, O. et al (2023), 'Understanding wildfires and risk in Albania: analysis of five years' observational experience on the risk and its spatial distribution', *International Journal of Geotechnique, Construction Materials and Environment*, 25: <https://geomatejournal.com/geomate/article/download/4068/3246/7459>

<sup>163</sup> Rustja, D. (2020), 'Environmental hazards in Albania: case study – Shkoder Region', *Applied Geography Conference 2020*: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dritan-Rustja/publication/344876332\\_Environmental\\_hazards\\_in\\_Albania\\_case\\_study\\_-\\_Shkoder\\_Region/links/5f95e237a6fdccfd7b7f7b14/Environmental-hazards-in-Albania-case-study-Shkoder-Region.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Dritan-Rustja/publication/344876332_Environmental_hazards_in_Albania_case_study_-_Shkoder_Region/links/5f95e237a6fdccfd7b7f7b14/Environmental-hazards-in-Albania-case-study-Shkoder-Region.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> De Leo, F. et al (2019), 'Coastal vulnerability assessment: through regional to local downscaling of wave characteristics along the Bay of Lalzit, Albania', *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*, 19: <https://nhess.copernicus.org/articles/19/287/2019/nhess-19-287-2019.pdf>



zone were designed on the basis of expected 50-year return periods; they are increasingly unable to evacuate the required water volumes as flood events become more frequent<sup>165</sup>. Approximately 300 km of the country's 850 km of river and marine embankments are in need of repair, rehabilitation or re-dimensioning because of climate change<sup>166</sup>.

## Assessment of Impacts

The project poses low risk in the context of climate change resilience and adaptation. Indeed, the project aims to *increase* climate change resilience and adaptive capabilities within Albania, with a particular focus on the coastal belt.

There is a minor risk of the project causing maladaptation. Improvements to the early warning system (quality of warnings, timeliness, expansion of platforms, etc.) could, in principle, result in maladaptation by promoting end-user complacency. This is considered highly unlikely: a more likely eventuality is the exact opposite, where people do not take sufficient notice of early warnings, despite the improvements to the early warning system put in place by the project.

It should also be noted that the risk of maladaptation arising from project interventions is considered a considerably lower risk than the risk of maladaptation arising from project inaction: climate risks and negative outcomes for Albanian people and communities will be far greater in the absence of a functional early warning system.

Moreover, the project's support in other areas, such as hazard risk mapping and the development of Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs), will serve to reduce the risk exposure and/or build the climate resilience of stakeholders independently of their interactions with the early warning system.

*Table 15: ESS 10 Impact rating*

Impact Rating	
Impact	Negligible (1)
Probability	Slight (1)
Overall	Low

*Source: Own elaboration*

## Mitigation Measures

The following measures are advised:

- The project should invest in capacity building, including public awareness campaigns and training, specifically oriented around the new MHEWS.
- By working closely with key 'last mile' stakeholders (such as municipalities and the Albanian Red Cross), as well as with sectoral partners (tourism, agriculture, energy, etc.), the project should build stakeholder trust in, and understanding of, the system, as well as a balanced view on its capabilities.

The project should support anticipatory action, such that end-users are better 'primed' to react to early warnings.

<sup>165</sup> NCPA (2022), *Flood Hazards Specific Risk Assessment Report: National Risk Assessment in Albania*.

<sup>166</sup> Republic of Albania (2022), *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy*.

## 7. Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) violates human dignity and universally recognised international legal norms and standards and have always been unacceptable behaviour. Sexual Harassment results from a culture of discrimination and privilege, based on unequal relations and power dynamics.

The GCF Policy on the Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment establishes GCF's zero tolerance of SEAH. It sets clear obligations for GCF Covered Individuals and its Counterparties to prevent and respond to SEAH and to refrain from condoning, encouraging, participating in, or engaging in SEAH.

Kindly note that gender roles related to the project, as well as needs and interests of the relevant stakeholders, are outlined in Annex 4 (Gender Assessment and Action Plan).

The SEAH risk for the ALBAdapt project is low, given that there will be no labour influx or labour camps. Some minor works may be executed as part of the hydro-met stations' rehabilitation/upgrading. The works to be executed in this regard will be undertaken by qualified professionals in conjunction with NMHS staff. This, in combination with the country's risk level<sup>167</sup>, makes the SEAH risk low.

Although it is not expected that the ALBAdapt Project will cause any SEAH risks, it is necessary to include mechanisms to avoid SEAH, to monitor occurrence, and to implement a zero-tolerance policy.

### GIZ-wide measures

GIZ does not tolerate any form of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment in the company. All employees must follow:

- the GIZ policy banning sexual harassment at the workplace;
- the GIZ Code of Ethics;
- the GIZ Code of Conduct;
- the GIZ Human Rights Policy.

GIZ promotes a corporate culture of action always based on universal ethical values and principles<sup>168</sup>. Integrity, honesty, respect for human dignity, openness and non-discrimination are at the heart of this culture. We categorically reject corruption and bribery and stand for human rights<sup>169</sup>.

GIZ's ethical principles, values and beliefs are set out in a Code of Ethics<sup>170</sup>. Its purpose is to guide the actions of our own workforce and all those we work with. GIZ has a specific policy banning sexual harassment at the workplace, which refers to the sanction mechanisms in place (related to HR measures etc.). Since 2021, there is also a dedicated unit within the Compliance and Integrity Unit, which is responsible for SEAH and serves as a complaint mechanism.

The protection of whistle-blowers<sup>171</sup> is a high priority. The Compliance and Integrity Unit<sup>172</sup> investigates all reports of violations of the Code of Conduct, Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, work harassment (bullying) or serious compliance violations. It ensures that all reports are followed-up with, including the response with appropriate consequences.

Children's rights are an essential component of GIZ's approach to human rights. GIZ takes its responsibility to protect children seriously in its business activities. The GIZ Child Protection Policy<sup>173</sup> is aligned with GIZ's value system, the GIZ Code of Ethics. When it comes to child protection, GIZ is guided by international legal frameworks on children's rights.

<sup>167</sup> See URL: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/albania/> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>168</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/86915.html> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>169</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2021-en-human-rights-policy.pdf> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>170</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/Code%20of%20ethics.pdf> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>171</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/Code%20of%20ethics.pdf> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>172</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/Code%20of%20ethics.pdf> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

<sup>173</sup> See URL: <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/kindesschutzpolicy-en.pdf> (Last accessed: 21.11.2023).

### Project-specific measures

The project incorporates measures to raise awareness of, to avoid and to respond to SEAH-related issues, as well as a dedicated SEAH-specific grievance procedure:

- Gender-based capacity building of key project personnel, including on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses).
- Training of Gender Equality Employees (GEEs) of key project stakeholder institutions, including on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses).
- Training for NMHS staff on gender aspects of hydro-met services, including on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses).
- Further elaboration of existing NCPA internal policies on gender, non-discrimination and SEAH.
- Training of NCPA and coastal municipality staff on gender aspects of civil protection and early warning systems, including on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses).
- Conduct a gender analysis of ADF's organisation, staff capacities, management processes and communications, and work with ADF to address identified gender-related needs, including SEAH.

Additionally, capacity building activities undertaken by the project will, at a minimum, provide basic information (flyers, contact details, etc.) about SEAH and about the project's SEAH-related GRM. These capacity building activities will include:

- Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1: NMHS capacity building
- Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2: Network management capacity building
- Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1: NFCS capacity building
- Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2: MHEWS capacity building, including the 'last mile' (coastal municipalities, communities, CSOs, vulnerable groups, etc.)
- Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1: FbA capacity building
- Sub-Activity 2.2.1.2: FbA pilots community capacity building
- Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1: Climate services ideation
- Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2: Climate services incubation
- Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2: ADF capacity building

SEAH-related grievances follow a different process than non-SEAH grievances due to their different and potentially more serious nature. The SEAH-related grievance procedure is detailed in Section 9.

## 8. Environmental and Social Management System

As required under ESS1, the environmental and social management system for the project includes/covers:

- The adoption of an E&S policy for the project;
- A procedure for identification of new and upcoming risks and impacts;
- A screening and assessment process for 'on the ground' interventions whose specific characteristics/locations are not known in advance;
- Organizational capacity and competency: the definition of staffing and training needs;
- Updating of the ESAP;
- Implementation of the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (see Annex 4);
- Disclosure of the E&S documentation;
- Implementation of the project's stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) and GRM (see section 9).

### 8.1 Human resource arrangements

As described, both EEs are responsible for E&S risk mitigation. During the inception phase, GIZ as AE will develop an effective Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Management and Monitoring System - defined as a set of relevant procedures and plans, organisational structure, planning activities and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining the E&S requirements.

This means, inter alia, that the appropriate human resources must be allocated. For this purpose, GIZ, in its role as EE, will recruit a Gender, ESS and M&E (GEM) Specialist to coordinate all ESS-related processes within the project as well as the implementation of the ESAP. NCPA will nominate a ESS Focal Point to ensure planning, implementation and the monitoring of the ESAP.

SEAH-related grievances will be processed by the GEM Specialist, who will customize a response approach for each SEAH grievance that considers the nature and seriousness of the allegations. If appropriate (due to gender or linguistic considerations, for example), the GEM Specialist will transfer responsibility for a specific SEAH grievance to a specially-appointed grievance Focal Point, who will adhere to strict confidentiality requirements.

The GEM Specialist and the ESS Focal Point nominated by NCPA will form the ESS Advisory team (ESA team). The competence fields that need to be covered are to be determined in the project inception phase, but will certainly need to cover project management, adult education/didactics (for capacity building purposes), communication and technical/scientific educational backgrounds for the safeguards dimensions. The ESA team will ensure ESAP implementation and will be involved in the respective activities: e.g., capacity building, monitoring and reporting. Where needed, the ESA team will include external specialist resources on a temporary basis (e.g. a biodiversity expert, experienced ESS trainers, etc.).

The GEM Specialist will serve as coordinator and resource person of the project. He or she will ensure overall management and guidance of the ESA team and the delivery of all ESS-related outputs (including M&E). The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will oversee ESAP implementation and provide strategic advice on ESS matters. The project governance ensures regular monitoring of progress and adherence to environmental and social safeguards at Project Management Committee (PMC) and Project Management Unit (PMU) level. Annual monitoring will also identify any additional environmental or social risks that may have emerged during project implementation and establish appropriate mitigation measures for any significant new risk. These additional risks and their mitigating measures should be added to the ESAP and reported on as part of the annual performance report. In addition, annual ESS progress is reviewed by the GCF Oversight Unit of GIZ as part of the systematic risk dialogue and periodic project supervision missions.

### 8.2 Monitoring and reporting

The implementation of the ESAP will be monitored. Compliance with the ESS, as well as the progress of implementation of the ESAP, will be monitored through results-based monitoring as well as through the ESS management system itself. Monitoring reports will be prepared by the ESA team and will be submitted to the Project Management Unit (PMU) on a regular basis. The PMU will be responsible for disseminating them to the Project Management Committee (PMC; quarterly meetings) and to the Project Steering

Committee (PSC; annual meetings). GIZ, as Accredited Entity, sits on the PSC and will therefore routinely receive the monitoring reports.

In this context, each mitigation measure will be assessed: i.e. it shall be determined whether implementation is on track and according to schedule. Where delays are observed, the reasons will be explained and solutions suggested. Beside progress monitoring of the mitigation measures, effectiveness will also be monitored. Additional monitoring activities and indicators will be established where needed. The project will use observations and stakeholder consultations to assess the measures' effectiveness. SEAH-related concerns and grievances, and resulting assessments and decisions, will be recorded in a grievance register log that is maintained by the GEM Specialist; this SEAH-related information will be included in the monitoring reports.

## 9. Grievance Redress Mechanism

According to the GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy, the purpose of the GRM is to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances about the environmental and social performance of GCF-financed activities. In the context of the ALBAdapt Project, the specific objectives of the GRM are to:

- Establish a communication channel to receive feedback and address grievances from stakeholders in a timely manner, ultimately with the goal of resolving grievances amicably where possible and minimising the use of the legal system;
- Define a clear grievance procedure with designated responsibilities and reporting lines to ensure transparent processing of stakeholder grievances;
- Develop a system for documenting grievances and the corresponding measures (if any) put in place to respond to the grievances;
- Provide a separate GRM for SEAH-related grievances that reflects the particular gender, cultural and privacy sensitivities that can be associated with SEAH complaints.

The project's GRM is built upon the following basic principles:

- **Transparency:** Conducting the receipt and processing of grievances transparently, in a culturally sensitive and gender inclusive manner, and using the appropriate language;
- **Consistency:** Maintaining open communication channels between the complainant and the GRM for the duration of the grievance process;
- **Accessibility:** Allowing all stakeholders to freely access the GRM;
- **Disclosure:** Documenting and archiving all grievances, regardless of their justification, with subsequent investigation determining the validity of the complaints;
- **Discussion:** Following up on all justified grievances with one or more discussions involving the claimant and, if necessary, conducting site visits with a project representative;
- **Privacy:** Ensuring compliance with relevant data protection laws and respecting confidentiality and privacy of complainants within the GRM.

The GRM will facilitate ongoing feedback and address individual complaints during the project's implementation. Transparent procedures for handling complaints will be published on the MoTE website and GIZ's social media channels / sites to ensure openness.

The GRM will serve as an information hub and grievance mechanism at the project level, catering to those impacted by all project components, activities and sub-activities within affected stakeholders/local communities. It will be responsible for receiving and addressing grievances and feedback from the following three groups:

- Individuals or entities directly impacted by the project, including potential beneficiaries such as the NMHS, municipalities, local communities, climate entrepreneurs and climate start-ups;
- Stakeholders with a vested interest in the project;
- Residents or communities influenced by project activities.

A Grievance Consideration Unit (GCU) will be established after the project's commencement, managing and responding to complaints throughout its various phases. It will have at least three members (the GEM Specialist, one representative from MoTE and one representative from NCPA).

In view of the level of intervention and engagement of mostly governmental entities, the GRM is designed to include three levels:

- Country level;
- GIZ institutional level;
- GCF level.

### 9.1 Grievance Administration

Any grievance must adhere to the following mandatory steps:

- i. Submission of grievance;
- ii. Recording;
- iii. Screening;
- iv. Investigation;
- v. Resolution.

Upon submission of a grievance by a grievant (i.), the project team records the grievance (ii.)<sup>174</sup>. The project's GEM Specialist screens the grievance (iii.), conducting a prompt assessment to verify the nature and severity of the grievance. This step includes an assessment of whether the grievance falls within the scope of the mechanism. The scope of the GRM includes all grievances directly or indirectly caused by the project implementation. Grievances not related to project implementation are outside the scope of the GRM and will be forwarded to the appropriate institution if the complainant agrees.

Within three days of registration, the GRM will acknowledge the case and provide the grievant with essential information about the next steps. It will then investigate the issue from the complainant's perspective, understanding the necessary action required. The GRM will examine the facts and circumstances, providing a clear response (iv). The first investigation will be conducted by the GCU. If the GEM Specialist agrees to the recommendations set forth by the GCU, these shall be communicated to the grievant no later than 30 days after the submission of the grievance.

If the grievant is not satisfied with the proposed recommendations, the matter will be re-considered by the GIZ Albania country office, which should issue a recommendation to the grievant no later than 30 days. In addition, a grievant can turn to an Albanian ombudsperson.

If the grievant is satisfied with the proposed recommendation, resolution of the grievance entails the implementation of the recommendation and verification thereof by the GEM Specialist (v.).

In cases where an agreement is not reached or the grievance is rejected, the results will be documented, detailing the actions and efforts made toward resolution.

In addition, the grievant can resort to: (i) the GIZ Compliance and Integrity system, which includes an ombudsperson at GIZ institutional level; (ii) the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism; and (iii) legal and administrative remedies outside the project framework that are available in Albania.

The process flow of the GRM is visualized in figure Figure 7 below.

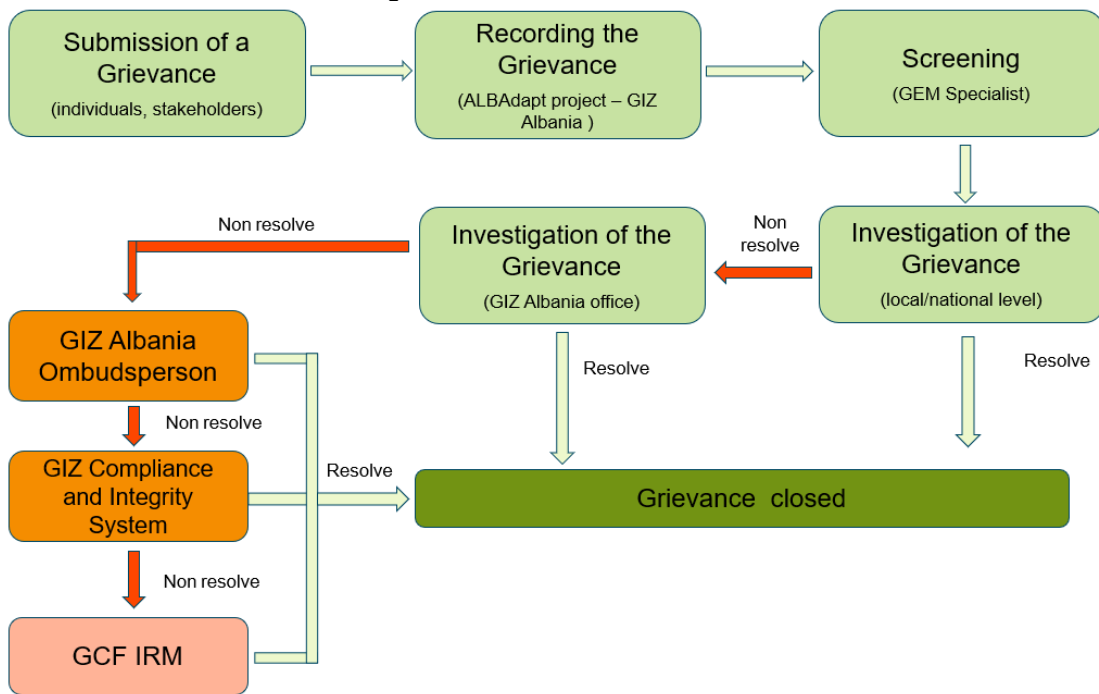
In the case of an anonymous grievance, the GRM will investigate the grievance following acknowledgment within three days of registration. Within 30 days of the grievance being registered, the GRM will issue a final decision, which will be disclosed on the relevant website.

The GEM Specialist is responsible for maintaining a grievance register log, including grievances received through all admission channels. This log will contain essential elements for disaggregating grievances by the gender of the person filing the grievance and the type of grievance. Personal data of each grievant will be protected in line with the Law no. 9887, dated 10.03.2008, amended by law no. 120/2014 "On the Protection Of Personal Data".

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<sup>174</sup> See section 9.2 below.

Figure 7: GRM flow chart



## 9.2 Grievance Log

The GRM should maintain a grievance log to ensure that each complaint receives an individual reference number, and actions are appropriately tracked and recorded. Upon receiving feedback, including grievances, the following details should be defined and recorded:

- Type;
- Category;
- Deadline for resolving the grievance;
- Agreed action plan.

Each complaint should be assigned an individual reference number and thoroughly tracked. The log should include the following information:

- Name of the grievant, location, and details of the grievance;
- Date of submission;
- Date when the Grievance Log was uploaded onto the project database;
- Details of the proposed corrective action;
- Date when the proposed corrective action was sent to the complainant (if appropriate);
- Date when the grievance was closed out;
- Date when the response was sent to the grievant.

**An exemplary grievance log template can be found in Appendix 1: E&S + SEAH Screening Checklist**

### Part A: E&S Risk Factors



Please indicate your answers to the questions below and provide an explanation on the response selected. If the criterion is not applicable to the measure under consideration, you may write N/A in the justification box.

Risk Factors	YES	NO
Is the measure confined to a defined geographical area with no/minimal spill-over to other areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure involve trans-boundary impacts, including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers, including women and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants (including pesticides) and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure involve the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure be located in, or in the vicinity of, protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		

## Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	YES	NO	TBD
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Is the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Labour and Working Conditions</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure potentially have adverse impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will the measure pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will the measure utilize significant amounts of natural resources, including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will there be a need to develop detailed actions to reduce pollution resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Community Health, Safety, and Security</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure potentially generate risks and adverse impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the measure site to the workers and affected community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>

Will the measure potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will the measure have potential adverse impacts on ecosystem services, including production of living natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure potentially have any indirect adverse impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure restrict access to cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Stakeholder engagement and grievance</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the participants in the measure be part of a stakeholder engagement process and be informed of the project's grievance redress mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			

### Part C: Additional SEAH-related considerations

<b>Risks and Impacts</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the responsible party for the measure receive project-supported training on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will all participants involved in, or affected by, the measure have full access to the project SEAH-related grievance redress mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will there be an influx of male workers into the measure area (as opposed to using local labour)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will migrant workers be employed to undertake the measure, especially those who may not speak Albanian?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will workers associated with the measure all have formal contracts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			

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**Part D: Summary risk categorization**

E&S + SEAH risk category	YES	NO
Considering the responses in the checklist and the associated exclusion criteria, do you consider the proposed measure to be Low Risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		

## Appendix 2: E&S and SEAH Exclusion Criteria for the Screening

Environmental and Social and SEAH Risks and Impacts	Basis for Exclusion from Project
Is the measure confined to a defined geographical area with no/minimal spill-over to other areas?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure if it presents a risk of significant adverse out-of-boundary impacts (e.g. downstream hydrological impacts, contamination of neighbouring fields, displacement of damaging activities, etc.).
Will the measure involve trans-boundary impacts, including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers, including women and children?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
Will the measure potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants (including pesticides) and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless: (i) hazardous waste relates to decommissioned equipment (e.g. hydro-met stations) that will be disposed of according to, at a minimum, Albanian law, and (ii) stakeholders are provided with best-practice guidance on waste generation, storage and disposal, and handling of potentially hazardous materials.
Will the measure involve the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure be located in, or in the vicinity of, protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	If <b>YES</b> : the measure can only proceed if the following criteria are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If siting in a protected area is strictly necessary and alternative sites are not available.</li> <li>• If they are in line with the management plan of the protected area.</li> <li>• Local stakeholder consultations are undertaken in advance, including with affected communities.</li> <li>• Written agreement is provided by the relevant management authority.</li> <li>• Regular checks (on at least an annual basis) are undertaken with the management authority to ensure that continued operation of the observation station is acceptable.</li> </ul>
Will the measure affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.

Will the measure be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Labour and Working Conditions</b>	
Will the measure potentially have adverse impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk: (i) to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) of use of child labour, forced labour or any labour practices in contravention of Albanian law.
Will the measure pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
<b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>	
Will the measure generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if the emissions, discharges, noise and/or waste are voluminous, are exacerbated by contextual conditions (e.g. protected area, proximity to population, etc.) and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
Will the measure utilize significant amounts of natural resources, including water and energy?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will there be a need to develop detailed actions to reduce pollution resources?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	
Will the measure potentially generate risks and adverse impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if: (i) there is a plausible risk to community health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) the affected communities oppose the proposed activities.
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure. (An exception is made if the proposed measure focus on FbA pilots or school emergency response plans – both of which intrinsically are emergency preparedness and response plans.)
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the measure site to the workers and affected community?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	
Will the measure likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>	
Will the measure potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless the introduction of such species is deliberately undertaken as part of an EbA pilot for credible scientific reasons, is implemented by a qualified expert and is preceded by full consultations with communities, CSOs and relevant government/local government bodies.
Will the measure have potential adverse impacts on ecosystem services, including production of living	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to ecosystem services and mitigation measures are not sufficient.

natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	
Will the measure potentially have any indirect adverse impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if: (i) there is a plausible risk that such impacts are meaningful and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) any affected communities, minorities or groups oppose the proposed measures.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	
Will the measure restrict access to cultural heritage sites and properties?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Stakeholder engagement and grievance</b>	
Will the participants in the measure be part of a stakeholder engagement process and be informed of the project's grievance redress mechanism?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>SEAH</b>	
Will the responsible party for the measure receive project-supported training on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses)?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure unless such training can be provided in advance of the proposed activities commencing.
Will all participants involved in, or affected by, the measure have full access to, the project SEAH-related grievance redress mechanism?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will there be an influx of male workers into the measure area (as opposed to using local labour)?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless: (i) the 'influx' is small-scale (fewer than 10 individuals) and short-lived (less than 1 month) and/or (ii) there are legitimate reasons for assessing that such an influx does not present a SEAH risk (e.g. because there is a track-record of problem-free influxes in the past, there is no nearby local community, etc.).
Will migrant workers be employed to undertake the measure, especially those who may not speak Albanian?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless the workers are legal migrants (have appropriate visas), an interpreter is present and the responsible party for the measure receives project-supported training on SEAH-related issues.
Will workers associated with the measure all have formal contracts?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.

Appendix 3: Grievance form 2.

### 9.3 SEAH-related grievances

SEAH-related grievances follow a distinct process due to their potentially different and more serious nature compared to non-SEAH grievances. These grievances can present the following qualitative differences:

- **Potential conflicts of interest:** the grievance might pertain to the conduct of a project stakeholder who typically participates in the consideration of grievances;
- **Privacy concerns:** a grievant raising allegations of sexual harassment or abuse may prefer not to disclose their identity widely;
- **Gender and cultural sensitivity:** a complainant, particularly if affected by trauma, may wish to discuss a grievance solely with someone of the same gender or within a culturally appropriate context.

SEAH-related feedback and grievances can be submitted by the same three groups as are served by the non-SEAH GRM:

- Individuals or entities directly impacted by the project, including potential beneficiaries such as the NMHS, municipalities, local communities, climate entrepreneurs and climate start-ups;
- Stakeholders with a vested interest in the project;
- Residents or communities influenced by project activities.

For handling SEAH-related grievances, individuals will be encouraged to use a dedicated project phone number and dedicated project e-mail address distinct from the general GRM contact details. The project will discourage SEAH-related grievance submissions through other channels such as government extension officers and workshops. Comprehensive guidance on the SEAH GRM process will be made available on the project website and within project literature, including leaflets and workshop materials.

In case of SEAH-related grievance is inadvertently submitted through non-SEAH channels the responsible GEM Specialist will ensure that they are redirected to the SEAH-related grievance track. SEAH-related phone calls and e-mails will be managed separately and distinct from non-SEAH grievances.

SEAH-related grievances will always be considered with compassion and sensitivity. The GEM Specialist will customize a response approach for each SEAH grievance, considering the nature and seriousness of the allegations. If necessary (due to gender or linguistic reasons), a grievance Focal Point will be appointed, adhering to strict confidentiality requirements. The Grievance Focal Point will establish contact with the complainant to understand their preferences and ensure a confidential approach. Based on the details provided, a tailored response approach will be devised, in line with the complainant's wishes and the severity of the grievance.

Should the complainant remain dissatisfied with the proposed actions or the response approach, the grievance can be further escalated to: (i) the GIZ Albania Country Office; (ii) the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism; and (iii) legal and administrative remedies outside the project framework that are available in Albania.

Possible project responses to SEAH grievances are diverse and context-specific. Examples of responses could, conceivably, include actions such as: support to survivors (such as psycho-social support or medical care); education of trainers on gender- and SEAH-related topics to ensure inappropriate behaviour is not repeated; removal of personnel from project roles; expanded SEAH awareness-raising among project stakeholders; women-only or ethnic group-only (as appropriate) training workshops; or, in extreme cases, referral of grievances to relevant regulatory or law enforcement authorities.



## 10. Environmental and Social Action Plan

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
<b>ESS 1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impact</b>							
Insufficient institutional capacities of NCPA to monitor and manage E&S risks	Low  (The ALBAdapt project presents limited E&S risks; NCPA has strong capacities in many areas and a successful track-record of implementing donor-funded projects; GIZ serves as the Lead EE for Component 2.)	Primarily Component 2 (NCPA as EE)	A project ESS team is constituted (consisting of a GEM Specialist and an NCPA ESS Focal Point, as well as external specialist resources as required) to implement a fit-for-purpose E&S management system.	GIZ	Project E&S risks are monitored, assessed and addressed in line with ESAP requirements.	Year 1	Cost already included in project budget
			Capacity building is provided to NCPA (and other key project partners) on E&S safeguards and monitoring, including compliance with GCF and GIZ E&S requirements. Deeper ESS expertise will be built up in a core team of 4-5 NCPA staff members to sustain ESS engagement during project implementation and beyond.	GIZ	NCPA is able to implement E&S safeguards and monitoring in line with ESAP requirements.	Years 1-3	EUR 40,000
			An NCPA framework E&S policy is developed and endorsed that sets out the general principles, criteria and indicators that apply to future NCPA projects.	NCPA	NCPA projects are subject to an E&S policy informed by international best-practice.	Years 3-4	EUR 10,000
Stakeholders' ability to report grievances is impaired by the complexity of interventions (multiple institutions, sectors and communities)	Low  (The nature of the project suggests low 'grievance potential'; stakeholders have easy access to information.)	Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)	Establishment and operationalisation of a project GRM (and a separate GRM for SEAH-related issues) that is user-friendly, objective and provides rapid feedback.	GIZ	The GRM is established, is accessible via multiple channels (phone, e-mail, etc.), and contact details are well publicised (website, project literature,	Year 1	Cost already included in project budget

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
					workshops, etc.).		
<b>ESS 2: Labour and working conditions</b>							
Occupational health and safety risks associated with field activities (installation of hydro-met stations, EbA demonstrations, etc.)	Low  (Field activities are limited; EMF exposure risk is limited; EbA demonstrations are small-scale, screened and implemented by parties with detailed local knowledge.)	1.1.1.2	Contracts with hydro-met station landowners contain accessibility and safety stipulations (e.g. road access, fencing, no dangerous animals on site, etc.).	GIZ	The hydro-met observation network is upgraded safely.	Years 2-3	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget.
		1.1.1.2 2.1.1.2 3.2.1.1	Capacity building is provided to project parties on national health and safety laws and occupational health and safety best-practice.	GIZ	Field activities are conducted safely.	Years 2-4	EUR 10,000
		1.1.1.2	Occupational EMF exposure risks are minimised through: health and safety training for hydro-met station installation teams; exclusion of workers with medical devices; deactivation of non-essential equipment during installation and maintenance; and use of work rotations to limit exposure time.	GIZ	Hydro-met station installations are conducted safely.	Years 2-3	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget.
		1.1.1.1 1.1.1.2 1.2.1.1 2.1.1.2 2.1.2.1 2.2.1.2 3.1.1.1 3.1.1.2 3.2.1.2  GAP interventions 2, 4, 13, 20, 22 and 35.	SEAH-related risks to project workers are addressed through appropriate training and awareness-raising, as well as a readily-accessible, compassionate SEAH-specific grievance redress mechanism.	GIZ	SEAH-related incidents are minimised in number and are addressed promptly and compassionately to the satisfaction of the grievant	Years 1-6	Cost already included in Sub-Activity and GAP budgets.

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
		GRM.					
<b>ESS 3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention</b>							
GHG emissions arising from project activities	Low  (Although project activities, such as travel and meetings, may generate GHG emissions, these will be well below the IFC reporting requirement of 25,000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e/year; EbA activities are expected to enhance carbon sequestration.)	All	Project procurement and travel will be undertaken in line with the GIZ Sustainability Programme <sup>175</sup> , which seeks to avoid GHG emissions where possible (e.g. use of online meetings) and otherwise minimise emissions (e.g. economy-class flights).	GIZ	The project produces a low carbon footprint while delivering its climate adaptation benefits.	Project duration	Cost already included in project budget.
			As part of GIZ's Corporate Sustainability Handprint (CSH) initiative <sup>176</sup> , specific actions are devised every year.	GIZ	Each year, GIZ uses the CSH to collect project sustainability data to set two-yearly targets for sustainability measures.	Project duration	Cost already included in project budget.
Waste generation at equipment decommissioning stage	Low  (The project may generate a small volume of waste in the form of replaced hydro-met stations and, eventually, computers, monitors and other ICT	All, but primarily: 1.1.1.2 1.1.1.3 1.2.1.2 2.1.1.2 3.1.1.2	Best-practice waste disposal is promoted among – and appropriate training provided to – project partners (including incubated MSMEs): e.g. e-waste recycling, appropriate battery disposal, etc. A key focus will include (i) waste generation, storage and disposal, and (ii) handling of potentially hazardous materials.	GIZ	All equipment retired as a result of project activities is, at a minimum, disposed of according to Albanian law.	Years 1-4	Euro 8,000

<sup>175</sup> [https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2021\\_en\\_nachhaltigkeitsprogramm.pdf](https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2021_en_nachhaltigkeitsprogramm.pdf)

<sup>176</sup> <https://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/34118.html>

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
	equipment that reach the end of their lives.)	1.1.1.3 1.2.1.2	Selection criteria for cloud platform providers (e.g. for the forecasting workstation and the NCIS) include environmental criteria.	GIZ	The energy, water and GHG footprints of cloud data storage are minimised subject to budgetary and other procurement considerations	Years 2-3	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets.
<b>ESS 4: Community health, safety and security</b>							
Electromagnetic field exposure	Low  (Hydro-met station equipment operates at relatively low power levels; Albanian hydro-met stations use standard mobile phone SIM cards to transmit their data; stations are typically fenced off and/or have warning signs to deter entry; and stations are typically located in remote locations.)	1.1.1.2	Community EMF exposure concerns are minimised through: (i) local communities being consulted, and permission sought, prior to installation of hydro-met stations; (ii) sites being selected that minimise interaction with the general public; and (iii) hydro-met stations being fenced off and/or signposted to prevent accidental intrusion by members of the public.	GIZ	Hydro-met stations operate safely with community consent	Years 1-6	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget.
SEAH	Low  (The project will not entail large-scale labour influxes or labour camps. On-site activities (hydro-met stations, EbA pilots, etc.) will be small-scale and undertaken by qualified professionals in	1.1.1.1 1.1.1.2 1.2.1.1 2.1.1.2 2.1.2.1 2.2.1.2 3.1.1.1 3.1.1.2 3.2.1.2	SEAH-related risks to communities are addressed through appropriate training and awareness-raising for project workers and community members, as well as a readily-accessible, compassionate SEAH-specific grievance redress mechanism.	GIZ NCPA	SEAH-related incidents are minimised in number and are addressed promptly and compassionately to the satisfaction of the grievant	Years 1-6	Cost already included in Sub-Activity and GAP budgets.

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
	conjunction with government agency – NMHS, NCPA, municipality, etc. – staff.)	GAP interventions 2, 4, 13, 20, 22 and 35.  GRM					
Hazard warnings are not received by, or are misinterpreted by, communities and individuals, thereby exposing them to unnecessary climate risks	Low  (The project will invest considerable effort into developing a multi-platform, people-centred EWS – TV, radio, internet, mobile, etc. – that uses best-practice standards (e.g. CAP) and builds on a detailed understanding of user needs, including those of vulnerable groups.)	2.1.1.1	Integration, at an early stage of MHEWS design, of vulnerable groups' and non-government stakeholders' (ARC, CSOs, academia, etc.) views.	NCPA GIZ	The MHEWS design process considers the views and needs of a broad spectrum of end-users.	Years 1-2	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget (NCPA & GIZ).
			Surveys, consultations and workshops are undertaken to assess the best communication channels to reach communities and vulnerable groups.	NCPA GIZ	Early warnings are disseminated through reliable channels and are understandable, interpretable and actionable by target groups.	Years 1-3	EUR 20,000 (NCPA)  Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget (GIZ)
			Design and implementation of a public awareness campaign on the MHEWS.	NCPA GIZ	The MHEWS is known to, and trusted by, communities as a source of accurate and timely hazard information.	Years 2-4	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget (NCPA & GIZ)
ESS 5: Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement							
Not applicable	None  (The project does not involve any land acquisition, coercion, expropriation or						

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
	involuntary resettlement, including informal settlers or individuals with traditional usage rights; installation of hydro-met stations and implementation of FbA and EbA demonstrations are subject to written landowner / user agreement.)						
<b>ESS 6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources</b>							
Hydro-met observation stations may negatively impact biodiversity in protected areas	Low  (only ~6% of stations are currently located in protected areas; they occupy very little space (typically 4m x 4m only) and are necessarily located in areas that already have road access (where biodiversity impact is likely minimal); they are installed in conjunction with (and often with the positive encouragement of) the relevant management authority.)	1.1.1.2	Mandatory assessment of siting necessity in a protected area, accompanied by close coordination with the management authority and local communities.	GIZ	Station installations in protected areas are limited to the minimum necessary and they do not negatively impact biodiversity.	Years 1-3	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget.
EbA project activities may inadvertently lead to negative biodiversity or ecosystem impacts	Low  (EbA interventions are screened and are intended to <i>promote</i> ecosystem health / restoration; EbA	3.2.1.1	E&S risks for EbA demonstrations are screened prior to implementation.	GIZ	EbA demonstrations enhance ecosystem functions in support of	Years 3-5	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget and ESS 1.

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
	activities comply with relevant environmental regulations; the E&S management system incorporates EbA activities.)				climate adaptation.		
ESS 7: Indigenous peoples (ethnic groups)							
Ethnic groups may not benefit equitably from project activities	Low  (Project support is primarily for national public goods – e.g. the NMHS, NFCS, MHEWS – that provide universal benefits; ethnic groups are generally well integrated into Albanian society.)	1.1.1.1 1.2.1.1 2.1.1.1	Stakeholder consultations on the design of the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS include representatives of ethnic groups (e.g. community groups, CSOs, NGOs).	NCPA GIZ	The institutional design processes of the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS consider the views and needs of ethnic groups.	Years 1-2	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets (NCPA & GIZ).
		3.1.1.1	Ethnic groups (individuals and/or representative organisations) participate in hackathons and other MSME support activities.	GIZ	Climate service ideation includes the perspectives and needs of ethnic groups.	Years 2-3	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budget.
ESS 8: Cultural Heritage							
Physical cultural heritage (i.e. sites of cultural, historical or archaeological significance) may be disturbed by project activities	Low  (On-the-ground project activities are limited in scope and scale, have defined counterparties and are closely managed.)	1.1.1.2 2.1.2.2 3.2.1.1	Prospective sites for project-supported hydro-met observation stations, FbA pilots and EbA / eco-DRR measures are screened: those sites that are legally protected for heritage purposes are excluded.	NCPA GIZ	The project does not undertake field activities in areas legally protected for heritage purposes.	Years 2-5	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets (NCPA & GIZ).
ESS 9: Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure							

Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
Because of the project's focus on national structures (NMHS, NFCS, MHEWS, etc.), there is a risk that insufficient attention is paid to stakeholders at the municipal / local level	Low  (Local-level stakeholders are considered to be key 'last mile' actors and are accorded considerable project attention.)	1.1.1.1 1.2.1.1 2.1.1.1	Municipalities and other local stakeholders (CSOs, ARC, etc.) are included in design consultations for national structures.	NCPA GIZ	The institutional design processes of the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS consider the views and needs of local-level stakeholders.	Years 1-2	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets (NCPA & GIZ).
		2.1.2.2 3.2.1.1	As the principal beneficiaries of FbA pilots and EbA demonstrations, municipalities and other local stakeholders are closely involved in project activities, including associated capacity building and awareness-raising support.	NCPA GIZ	The project's field interventions are informed by and serve local adaptation needs and preferences.	Years 2-6	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets (NCPA & GIZ).
ESS 10: Climate change resilience and adaptation							
Improvements to the early warning system (quality of warnings, timeliness, expansion of platforms) may result in maladaptation by promoting end-user complacency	Low  (The risk of maladaptation arising from project interventions is considered a considerably lower risk than the risk of maladaptation arising from project inaction: climate risks and negative outcomes for people and communities will be far greater in the absence of a functional EWS; a more likely eventuality	2.1.1.1 2.1.1.2 2.1.2.1	The project undertakes extensive capacity building, public awareness-raising and training specifically oriented around the new MHEWS.	NCPA GIZ	The project overcomes lack of information / end-user apathy about the improved MHEWS while also ensuring end-users have realistic expectations of the potentialities and limitations of the new system.	Years 2-6	Cost already included in Sub-Activity budgets (NCPA & GIZ).
		3.2.1.1	The project supports the development of LAAPs, thereby	GIZ	Climate resilience of	Years 2-4	Cost already included in



Summary of Risks	Risk Significance	Project Activity / Element	Mitigation Measure	Responsible EE Party	Expected Results	Timeline	Cost / Budget
	(and one the project is prepared for) is people not taking sufficient notice of early warnings, despite the improvements to the system.)		building the climate resilience of stakeholders independently of their interactions with the MHEWS.		end-users is built through other project channels.		Sub-Activity budget.

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## Appendix 1: E&S + SEAH Screening Checklist

### Part A: E&S Risk Factors

Please indicate your answers to the questions below and provide an explanation on the response selected. If the criterion is not applicable to the measure under consideration, you may write N/A in the justification box.

Risk Factors	YES	NO
Is the measure confined to a defined geographical area with no/minimal spill-over to other areas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure involve trans-boundary impacts, including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers, including women and children?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants (including pesticides) and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure involve the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure be located in, or in the vicinity of, protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		
Will the measure be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide a justification of your answer:		
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## Part B: Specific environmental and social risks and impacts

Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	YES	NO	TBD
Is the identification of risks and impacts based on recent or up-to-date information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Labour and Working Conditions	YES	NO	TBD
Will the measure potentially have adverse impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Will the measure pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	YES	NO	TBD
Will the measure generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Will the measure utilize significant amounts of natural resources, including water and energy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Will there be a need to develop detailed actions to reduce pollution resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Community Health, Safety, and Security	YES	NO	TBD
Will the measure potentially generate risks and adverse impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the measure site to the workers and affected community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please provide a justification of your answer:			

<b>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will the measure have potential adverse impacts on ecosystem services, including production of living natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure potentially have any indirect adverse impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the measure restrict access to cultural heritage sites and properties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
<b>Stakeholder engagement and grievance</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the participants in the measure be part of a stakeholder engagement process and be informed of the project's grievance redress mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			

### Part C: Additional SEAH-related considerations

<b>Risks and Impacts</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Will the responsible party for the measure receive project-supported training on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will all participants involved in, or affected by, the measure have full access to the project SEAH-related grievance redress mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will there be an influx of male workers into the measure area (as opposed to using local labour)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			

Will migrant workers be employed to undertake the measure, especially those who may not speak Albanian?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			
Will workers associated with the measure all have formal contracts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>			

#### Part D: Summary risk categorization

E&S + SEAH risk category	YES	NO
Considering the responses in the checklist and the associated exclusion criteria, do you consider the proposed measure to be Low Risk?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please provide a justification of your answer:</i>		

## Appendix 2: E&S and SEAH Exclusion Criteria for the Screening

Environmental and Social and SEAH Risks and Impacts	Basis for Exclusion from Project
Is the measure confined to a defined geographical area with no/minimal spill-over to other areas?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure if it presents a risk of significant adverse out-of-boundary impacts (e.g. downstream hydrological impacts, contamination of neighbouring fields, displacement of damaging activities, etc.).
Will the measure involve trans-boundary impacts, including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers, including women and children?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
Will the measure potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants (including pesticides) and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless: (i) hazardous waste relates to decommissioned equipment (e.g. hydro-met stations) that will be disposed of according to, at a minimum, Albanian law, and (ii) stakeholders are provided with best-practice guidance on waste generation, storage and disposal, and handling of potentially hazardous materials.
Will the measure involve the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will the measure be located in, or in the vicinity of, protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas and internationally recognized conservation sites?	If <b>YES</b> : the measure can only proceed if the following criteria are satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If siting in a protected area is strictly necessary and alternative sites are not available.</li> <li>• If they are in line with the management plan of the protected area.</li> <li>• Local stakeholder consultations are undertaken in advance, including with affected communities.</li> <li>• Written agreement is provided by the relevant management authority.</li> <li>• Regular checks (on at least an annual basis) are undertaken with the management authority to ensure that continued operation of the observation station is acceptable.</li> </ul>
Will the measure affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and documentation of development plans?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.

Will the measure be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Labour and Working Conditions</b>	
Will the measure potentially have adverse impacts on the working conditions, particularly the terms of employment, worker's organization, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, child labour, and forced labour of direct, contracted and third-party workers?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk: (i) to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) of use of child labour, forced labour or any labour practices in contravention of Albanian law.
Will the measure pose occupational health and safety risks to workers including supply chain workers?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to worker health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
<b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b>	
Will the measure generate (1) emissions to air; (2) discharges to water; (3) activity-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, (4) noise and vibration; and (5) wastes?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if the emissions, discharges, noise and/or waste are voluminous, are exacerbated by contextual conditions (e.g. protected area, proximity to population, etc.) and mitigation measures are not sufficient.
Will the measure utilize significant amounts of natural resources, including water and energy?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will there be a need to develop detailed actions to reduce pollution resources?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	
Will the measure potentially generate risks and adverse impacts to the health and safety of the affected communities?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if: (i) there is a plausible risk to community health & safety and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) the affected communities oppose the proposed activities.
Will there be a need for an emergency preparedness and response plan that also outlines how the affected communities will be assisted in times of emergency?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure. (An exception is made if the proposed measure focus on FbA pilots or school emergency response plans – both of which intrinsically are emergency preparedness and response plans.)
Will there be risks posed by the security arrangements and potential conflicts at the measure site to the workers and affected community?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</b>	
Will the measure likely involve land acquisition and/or physical or economic displacement?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>	
Will the measure potentially introduce invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting the biodiversity of the area?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless the introduction of such species is deliberately undertaken as part of an EbA pilot for credible scientific reasons, is implemented by a qualified expert and is preceded by full consultations with communities, CSOs and relevant government/local government bodies.
Will the measure have potential adverse impacts on ecosystem services, including production of living	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if there is a plausible risk to ecosystem services and mitigation measures are not sufficient.



natural resources (e.g. agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry)?	
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	
Will the measure potentially have any indirect adverse impacts on indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, or vulnerable and marginalized groups?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure if: (i) there is a plausible risk that such impacts are meaningful and mitigation measures are not sufficient, and/or (ii) any affected communities, minorities or groups oppose the proposed measures.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	
Will the measure restrict access to cultural heritage sites and properties?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>Stakeholder engagement and grievance</b>	
Will the participants in the measure be part of a stakeholder engagement process and be informed of the project's grievance redress mechanism?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.
<b>SEAH</b>	
Will the responsible party for the measure receive project-supported training on SEAH-related issues (awareness, avoidance, responses)?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure unless such training can be provided in advance of the proposed activities commencing.
Will all participants involved in, or affected by, the measure have full access to, the project SEAH-related grievance redress mechanism?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.
Will there be an influx of male workers into the measure area (as opposed to using local labour)?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless: (i) the 'influx' is small-scale (fewer than 10 individuals) and short-lived (less than 1 month) and/or (ii) there are legitimate reasons for assessing that such an influx does not present a SEAH risk (e.g. because there is a track-record of problem-free influxes in the past, there is no nearby local community, etc.).
Will migrant workers be employed to undertake the measure, especially those who may not speak Albanian?	If <b>YES</b> : reject proposed measure unless the workers are legal migrants (have appropriate visas), an interpreter is present and the responsible party for the measure receives project-supported training on SEAH-related issues.
Will workers associated with the measure all have formal contracts?	If <b>NO</b> : reject proposed measure.

### Appendix 3: Grievance form

Reference No:.....

Note: You can choose to remain anonymous if you prefer or request that your identity not be disclosed to third parties without your consent. In the case of anonymous grievances, the decision will be disclosed on the project's website.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I wish to raise my grievance anonymously

☐ I request not to disclose my identity without my consent

Contact Information: Please indicate how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).

☐ By Post: Please provide mailing address:

☐ By Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ By E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will follow up on the resolution on the website as I prefer to remain anonymous

Preferred Language for Communication:

☐ Albanian

☐ Other (please specify)

Description of Incident or Grievance: (What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to?

What is the result of the problem? Date of Incident/Grievance)

☐ One-time incident/grievance (date: \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Happened more than once (how many times? \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Ongoing (currently experiencing the problem)

What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to: *(dedicated e-mail address to be made effective when project starts)*.

Please note that your grievance will be handled in a timely and transparent manner. You will be informed of the progress and outcome of the investigation.