

**ALBANIA ONE UN COHERENCE FUND  
FINALPROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT  
PILLAR 5 – ENVIRONMENT  
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM Jan 2007 TO Dec 2011**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: ENVIRONMENT</li> <li>• Programme Number (if applicable) N/A</li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 65676, 65677, 65678, 65679, 65680, 65682, 65683</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>(if applicable) Country/Region <b>ALBANIA</b></p> <hr/> <p>Priority area/ strategic results <b>ENVIRONMENT</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme</li> </ul> <p><i>UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations</li> <li>• Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, Environment and Forestry Agency, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: <b>2,134,744</b></p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by Agency (if applicable)</li> <li>• <b>UNDP – 830,000</b></li> <li>• <b>UNEP – 254,244</b></li> <li>• <b>UNESCO – 130,000</b></li> <li>• <b>UNICEF – 427,500</b></li> <li>• <b>UNIDO – 493,000</b></li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (60) Start Date<sup>5</sup> (01.01.2007)</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (31.12.2011) Actual End date<sup>7</sup>(31.12.2011)</p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system?      Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date<sup>8</sup>: 31 August 2014</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;  
<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).  
<sup>4</sup> The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.  
<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).  
<sup>8</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

**TOTAL:**

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Evaluation Completed

Yes  No Date: *June 2009*

*Midterm Evaluation:*

*(hyperlink)*

Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa  
Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR Macedonia and  
Greece

Evaluation Report - Attached

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

**Report Submitted By**

- Name:
- Title:
- Participating Organization (Lead):
- Email address:

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the environmental domain, in 2011 progress was made in the area of horizontal legislation and approximation with the EU environmental *acquis*. The new laws on Environmental Protection, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Waste Management were approved and a National Strategy for Waste Management was prepared, together with Regional Waste Management Plans for three regions. Management and control of landfills and uncontrolled dumpsites is in process.

Two new protected areas were established in 2011, increasing the proportion of total national territory covered by protected areas in Albania from 12.6 percent to 13.2 percent.

As part of governmental policy towards climate change mitigation and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, a package of four new laws are in the final stage of approval: On Renewable Energy, On Energy Efficiency, On Power Generation and On Concessions are fully in line with the respective EU directives.

CoM has approved the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and the National Plan for Renewable Energy, both fully compliant with the obligations the country has as a party to the energy community and the Stabilisation and Association Agreement under the EU accession process.

Albania is in the early stages of preparing and adopting the climate change *acquis* and government is currently conducting a gap analysis. Internationally, the country aligned itself with the Copenhagen Accord and, as a follow up to formulation of pledges on greenhouse gases, a reduction in emissions is expected.

An Albanian delegation participated in the UN Climate Change Conference COP 17/CMP 7, at which they delivered the Albanian statement and closely followed the EU positioning in the climate change talks.

Aiming at development of a strategic shared vision document for management of the Drin river basin and a plan of action for the promotion of multilateral coordination and cooperation, the ministers of environment of Albania, Kosovo, Greece and FYR of Macedonia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the management of an extended trans-boundary Drin basin.

In 2011, progress was registered in relation to the establishment of a national monitoring system. National reference laboratories and centres were established for air, soil, waste and waste water, biodiversity, bio-monitoring and water. The laboratories and centres fall under the auspices of the Agency of Environment and Forests and are currently undertaking a process of capacity building, including staff training.

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this pillar is closely related to the national priorities and focused on the introduction and enforcement of EU standards, improvement of environmental conditions and sustainable use of natural resources. UN has supported introduction of fiscal instruments to finance environmental activities, promoted environmentally friendly investments, enabled conservation and development of areas of natural values, rehabilitated hotspots and raised awareness on the environment.

## II. Assessment of Programme Results

### Support to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Addressing the need of government to comply with EU requirements under the environmental *acquis*, UNDP has supported the environmental administration in the areas of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environment Assessment, Economic Instruments for Environment, and Environment Inter-Ministerial Coordination. Under the EIA component, the existing legislative gaps were identified and related by-laws, procedures and recommendations in relation to public participation in decision making within the EIA process are in process. A full set of recommendations and guidelines on establishment and functioning of the environment fund in Albania, and the respective draft legislation, have been prepared. Once created, the fund will contribute to the financial self-sustainability of environmental initiatives in the country.

Within the framework of the first climate change project in the region—Identification and implementation of adaptation measures in the Drin–Mat area—UNDP supported Lezha Regional Council to integrate climate change and adaptation into development of new sectorial strategies, including tourism, agro-tourism and forestry. In addition, UNDP supported new development plans for three communes in the locality. As a follow up to regional and communal adaptation plans, a GIS map of the communes' adaptation measures was prepared, supported by the economic estimates of the adaptation measures based upon a vulnerability and risk assessment analysis of the area. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA) was supported by UNDP to include climate change adaptation in the management plans of protected areas. An Integrated Monitoring System was established with UN support. As a conceptual framework, the system includes a detailed set of indicators to be monitored in order to understand ecosystem responses to climate change and the effectiveness of the adaptation measures.

In the framework of Solar Water Heating (SWH) initiative, UNDP supported METE in drafting a National Plan on Renewable Energies and other parts of legislation related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. This draft legislation, now in the final stage of approval, takes into account all sources of renewable energy and includes specific targets for solar energy. It also provides for technical and legislative measures for the country until 2018, in line with the relevant EU directives, obligations the country has as a party to the Energy Treaty, and the objectives of the National Energy Strategy.

Software for dimensioning and calculating the economic and financial feasibility of solar thermal systems for production of sanitary hot water was finalised and released online, with the intention of it being used by all interested persons in the residential and service sectors. Curricula on SWH systems for Professional Vocational Training Centres was prepared with direct support provided to MoLSAEO. The initial testing of three types of solar collectors produced by Albanian manufacturers was conducted by an internationally certified testing centre. The testing provides recommendations for technological improvements, with the aim of the final tests being undertaken by the end of 2012.

Following the good experience gained with preparation of the first and second national communications to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNDP initiated support for GoA in its preparation of the third national communication.

## **Protected areas**

The Management Committee for Prespa Park was established by a ministerial order and UNDP supported the committee in its initial activities. Meanwhile, as a result of a UNDP-assisted project, the first marine protected area of Albania was declared, for Karaburun–Sazan. Based on this experience, a new project on expansion of marine protected areas began in 2011.

## **Reducing threats from environmental hotspots**

Under the UNDP-supported Hot Spots project, in-depth assessments, including EIA, environment statement and a costed remediation action plan, were prepared for the following fourteen sites: battery factory (Berat), textile factory (Berat), tailing dams (Guri i Kuq, Pogradec; Fushe-Arrez), mine site (Perrenjas), film studio (Tirana), pesticides dump (Rreshen), Dajti Enterprises (Tirana), mine site (Bitinska), part of a ferrochrome smelter (Elbasan), mining village (Rehove), phosphate factory (Laç), copper factory (Laç), agricultural storehouse (Lushnja). The total amount needed for remediation of these sites amounts to approximately USD 141 million.

## **Promoting cleaner production**

The joint United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)–United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) National Cleaner Production Programme (NCP) in Albania, launched in March 2010, continued along the three tracks of capacity building, industry demonstrations and policy support. The industry and capacity building components completed the first cycle of expert trainings in plant demonstrations and awareness and industry outreach. A total of twelve enterprises from the food and beverages, quarrying and hotel sectors benefited from detailed assessments conducted by national trainee experts, under supervision of international experts. For all enterprises, practical solutions were identified for cost-effective reduction of energy and water consumption and of waste, effluents and emissions. In September 2011, the second round of expert training and industry demonstrations commenced, with participation of 20 enterprises from the sectors of hotels, olives, wine and related foods, mostly located in rural areas. Moreover, a start was made with preparation of a Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) primer for enterprises, sector guidelines and success stories in RECP (in both Albanian and English).

Under the policy component implemented by UNEP, existing policies and strategy frameworks were reviewed and priority RECP policy instruments were identified and consolidated in the report *Policy Instruments for the Promotion of Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production in Albania*, which was shared and validated through a national workshop that took place in June 2011. National awareness-raising workshops and conferences, including a dedicated event for the national media, were organised and involved the various stakeholders. Building capacity for development and implementation of sub-sector development strategies was singled out as priority, with the tourism sector as the top priority.

## **Education, awareness and participation in environmentally sustainable development**

The United Nations Office for Project Services–UNDP small grants programme supported activities of NGOs and CBOs towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods. Eleven projects were implemented in 2011 with a total budget of USD 122,116, with significant examples including re-establishing the continuity of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) migration in the Lake Ohrid hydrological system (project consists in capturing young eels entering the Buna River and transporting them alive in oxygenated tanks to Lake Ohrid), recycling solid waste arising from olive oil extraction as a renewable source of energy (the project will heat a kindergarten in the outskirts of Tirana using the dry olive pomace produced by local olive oil production factories) and reintroducing the common pheasant (*Phasianus cholchius*) and grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), a project that consists in repopulating 420 hectares with 250 pheasant and 50 partridge.

UNICEF provided support in the area of environmental education for children, to develop an integrated series of environmental competencies in a teaching–learning environment that promotes active learning and where community institutions are open to child environmental action. The teacher training and the methodology were recognised and accredited by the Institute of Curriculum and Training, enabling additional teachers to request the training from their school budget. With UN support, a communication for behavioural change—*My Albania, Beautiful and Clean*—was carried out and involved children, schools, media and private businesses. Regular collection of plastic waste was carried out in 40 schools in cooperation with the private sector, which then sent the collected waste (including 800,000 bottles) to recycling facilities. The evaluation results showed an increased environmental awareness in children from the experimental schools compared to those from the control group, and that 44 percent of children have adopted at least one environmentally friendly action. Eighty school grants were allocated and implemented by schools and communities in order to gain knowledge and assist the communities act to improve the situation.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

Reporting, based on progress towards outcomes, through contributing outputs, is available in the Annual Reports of the Program for 2007-2011, reachable at <http://www.un.org.al/subindex.php?faqe=details&id=64&mnu=32> Progress towards outcomes was not reported in a single results framework with corresponding indicators.

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no programme evaluation have been done yet?
- Explain challenges such as delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources etc. What actions were taken to mitigate these challenges? How did such challenges and actions impact on the overall achievement of results? Have any of the risks identified during the project design materialized or were there unidentified risks that came up?
- Report key lessons learned and best practices that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc. Please also include experiences of failure, which often are the richest source of lessons learned.

### SUMMARY EVALUATION

Overall, the Project entitled Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Prespa Lakes Basin of Albania, FYR of Macedonia and Greece is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with significant shortcomings and hence the MTET evaluates it as Marginally Satisfactory. In making this evaluation, it is important to understand that much of the actual implementation by the Project's staff has been of a very high order, but that the external enabling environment is much changed since that present at the time of the Project's design – political relations between two of the participant countries have deteriorated significantly, much of the enthusiasm for transboundary cooperation engendered by the Prime Ministers' Agreement of 2000 has ebbed away; and Greek Government's failure to honor its financing commitments to the Project have all made implementation of the transboundary activities much harder and much slower than anticipated. Poor Project design, a needlessly complex logframe and set of indicators, and poor oversight arrangements have combined with the low capacities of some stakeholders and unrealistic expectations of others to provide a challenging framework within which to work. In addition, the Project has been hampered by a UNDP office whose rigidity in applying its own operational policies has often been at the expense of a commonsense approach to project implementation.

39. It is, therefore, very important that the MTE has realistic expectations for what it is possible that a project such as this can achieve in the time that it has been working, and throughout this evaluation the MTET has forced itself to go back to basics and assess progress with this background very firmly in mind. The MTET believes that the Project can be proud that some of the achievements made by its national components, e.g. the Local Environmental Action Plans, the demonstration wastewater treatment plant in Nakolec, the work with farmers to reduce the application of agrochemicals, are increasing the integrated ecosystem approach to the management of the Prespa Basin. However, its greater goals of developing effective, streamlined, cooperative mechanisms for transboundary management of the Basin remain slow, mired in the challenges listed above, and lacking innovative approaches from its staff or stakeholders as to ways to overcome these challenges. As a result, the above overall evaluation stands.

Key Project achievements include:

- development and publication of the Local Environmental Action Plans in Liqenas and Proger communes in Albania, and initial implementation underway;
- spatial plans for Ohrid and Prespa in FYR Macedonia in the final stages of Parliamentary approval;



- development of fisheries association for Micro Prespa;

**CERTIFICATION ON OPERATIONAL CLOSURE OF THE PROJECTS - PILLARY ENVIRONMENT**

Result 5.1.1 - Baines the profile of the environment

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.1.1.1	ALB Report 5.1.1 - Environmental Assessment	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
5.1.1.2	ALB Report 5.1.1 - Environmental Assessment	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>

Result 5.1.2 - Environmental

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.1.2.1	ALB Report 5.1.2 - Environmental Assessment	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
5.1.2.2	ALB Report 5.1.2 - Environmental Assessment	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>200,000.00</b>

Result 5.1.3 - Environmental Assessment and Information management

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.1.3.1	ALB Report 5.1.3 - Environmental Assessment and Information management	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>

Result 5.1.4 - Civil society

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.1.4.1	ALB Report 5.1.4 - Civil Society	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>

Result 5.2.1 - Strategies to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.2.1.1	ALB Report 5.2.1 - Strategies to Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>

Result 5.2.2 - Environment

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.2.2.1	ALB Report 5.2.2 - Environment	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>

Result 5.2.3 - Air, water

Activity	Project/Program	Phase	Start	End	Value
5.2.3.1	ALB Report 5.2.3 - Air, water	Assessment	01/01/2011	31/12/2011	100,000.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>

**GRAND TOTAL ENVIRONMENT**

<b>Total</b>					<b>1,124,000.00</b>
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UNEP  
Mr. [Signature]  
Regional Director  
Date: 17/06/2014

UNEP  
Mr. [Signature]  
Regional Director  
Date: 17/06/2014

UNEP  
Mr. [Signature]  
Regional Director  
Date: 16/07/2014

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