



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND WATER ADMINISTRATION
BIODIVERSITY DIRECTORATE

Adresa: Rruga e Durrësit, Nr. 27, Tiranë, Tel: 2270 624, Fax: 2 270 627 - www.moe.gov.al

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FOURTH NATIONAL REPORT TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY, STATUS, TRENDS AND THREATS

Types of diversity

Species diversity

Endangered species

Ecosystem and habitat diversity

Forests

Genetic Diversity

Threats to biodiversity

Current pressures on biodiversity

1. Habitat loss and degradation
2. Climate change
3. Excessive nutrient load and other forms of pollution
4. Overexploitation and unsustainable use
5. Invasive alien species

II. CURRENT STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Summary of progress

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The state of implementation 10 years after

Action Plans for species and habitat conservation

Progress in Legislation and Policy

International Treaties and Activities

National Legislation in the Field of Nature Conservation

Biodiversity Related Legislation and Programmes

Conservation of habitat and ecosystem diversity

Protected Areas

Ecological Networks and Internationally Important Areas

Emerald network

Pan-European Ecological Network

Green belt

Protection of species

Red Books of Plants and Animals

Monitoring, Reintroduction Programmes, *In situ* and *Ex situ* conservation

Genetic resources management

Landscape conservation

Obstacles in Environment and Nature Conservation

III. SECTORAL AND INTER-SECTORAL INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Environmental protection and EU integration
Legal and institutional framework for environmental management
Funding Systems in Environment Protection
Integrating biodiversity conservation into relevant sectors
National legislation
Environmental protection in national strategic documents
Sectors in protection of environment and biodiversity
Agriculture
Forestry
Fishery

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 TARGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Two successful stories as the best examples of the implementation of the CBD Targets
Progress towards the 2010 target of the CBD

Appendix 1. Contributors to the preparation of the National Report
Appendix 2. National list of indicators used for the report
Appendix 3. Table of Protected Areas

Executive Summary

During the period from the third national report, Albania has made a significant progress in protecting biodiversity, through institutional and legislative framework, and their implementation and enforcement in practice. Serious efforts and developments in the field of environment in general and biodiversity and nature protection in particular, have been undertaken especially last ten years with the establishment in Albania of the Ministry of Environment and relevant institutions, enacting environmental legislation, accession to the MEAs, and public awareness.

Another milestone that contributes largely to nature and biodiversity is the starting of the European integration process for Albania from 2006, after the signature of the SAA with the EU and its entering into force in 2008. The National Environment Strategy approved in 2007 considers the biodiversity as one of the priority areas of environment. This document clearly identifies the main areas of work, namely the increase of the Protected Areas coverage, the elaboration of Management Plans and their implementation; the completion of the legal framework in line with the EU *acquis* for nature and environment; the elimination of illegal logging and hunting by the means of better enforcement of the legal framework as well as capacity building activities; implementation of action plans for threatened species and habitats and the update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as the main policy document for nature and biodiversity protection area. These issues are taken into consideration in the National Strategy for Development and Integration for the period 2007-2013.

Pursuant to the main areas of work identified at the NBSAP of 2000, the extension of the Protected Areas network in the country with quite impressive figures standing at 13, 17 % actually, from 9, 08 % in 2007 according to the NBSAP guidelines as well as the national programme of work on PAs is a success story. The extended monitoring of Protected Areas is another priority for the future. In this context the first Marine Protected Area in south of Albania was designated in early 2010. Another important direction has been the establishment of the National Ecological Network as a part of the PEEN. At the same time efforts have been made for the setting-up of the Emerald network in the light of preparations for NATURA 2000 network.

The work for the elaboration of Management Plans of PAs and their implementation in practice is progressing slowly taking into account the considerable amount of financing required in this area. From the last national report, 2 other management plans have been elaborated thanks to the support given by The World Bank and the Global Environment Facility. Two other management plans are being elaborated for two protected areas, Shkodra nature managed reserve and the Prespa national park.

At species and habitats level the elaboration of the Red List of Albanian Wild Fauna and Flora species is to be mentioned. The existing action plans for a handful of

species and habitats is not sufficient and needs to be improved. Further efforts are due for their implementation in practice as well.

Monitoring of biodiversity elements has shown improvements but still remains not comprehensive, thus not giving a full picture of the state of art. The setting-up of comprehensive network of biodiversity inventory and monitoring is in its early stages of designation. A decision of the Council of Ministers has been enacted on Biodiversity inventory and monitoring in 2009.

Increased pressures have been noticed for the reporting period due to the development of the country with an economy in transition. Reforestation of large areas is trying to compensate the deforestation from the developing economy. Encouraging figures for illegal logging are contributing to a recovery of forest coverage and state in Albania.

Regional cooperation especially with the West Balkan neighbouring countries can be referred to as another success story. A number of donor funded projects such as Prespa lake basin Integrated management between Albania, Greece and FYROM and Integrated Management of Shkodra with Monte Negro lake are currently being implemented.

The updating of the NBSAP is a major obligation deriving from the Conventions; text as well as the national legal framework. This update will include the latest trends on biodiversity protection through the sustainable use of its components as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of the genetic resources.

Although environment protection in general is a priority for the government, the budget allocated for this sector is still modest. Thus the increase of investments in this sector is desirable. A part of this gap is filled by the implementation of donor funded projects.

Another issue that should be addressed in the future is the integration of nature and biodiversity issues into sectoral strategies and programmes and especially their implementation in practice, as it still remains at first steps of development.

The implementation of the CBD at national scale in Albania through the elaboration of national programmes and plans with the goal to reach the updated targets established by the Convention will serve and benefit the nature and biodiversity protection in the country.

I. OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY, STATUS, TRENDS AND THREATS

Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Albanias' territory extends between 200 and 2000 m over sea level, with a mean value of 708 m, thus twice higher than the European average figure. It is a mountainous and a coastal country at the same time which implies the conditions for a spectacular biodiversity and landscape values. High diversity of habitats and landscape with enormous natural and biological values that extend over more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the territory is characteristic of the country.

Features include the presence of lagoons, coastal forest belt and dunes. In the south-western part of the country the rocky Ionian Riviera opens up before you impressively. Inside the territory many valleys with interesting slopes, forests and meadows as well as lakes, rivers and springs are found.

In Albania 3200 taxa of higher plants, 800 fungi, 1200 diatoms as well as 313 taxa of fish, 323 birds, 36 reptiles, 70 mammals and 520 molluscs are identified so far.

The data on biodiversity are largely those published in the NBSAP of 2000 with some updates for components of biodiversity.

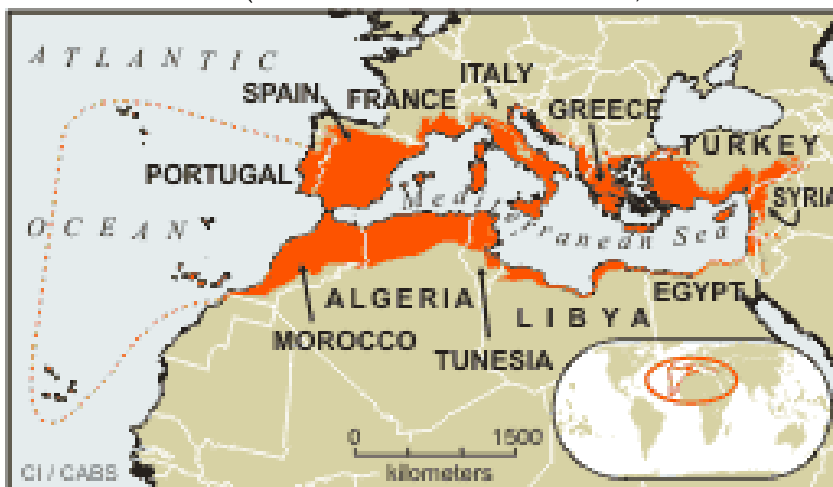
According to the Palearctic Habitat Classification, there are two bio geographical regions in Albania: Mediterranean and Alpine. The major part of the country belongs to the Mediterranean type, which include all the Southern part and the Northwest. Meanwhile the Alpine type covers the North-eastern part of Albania.

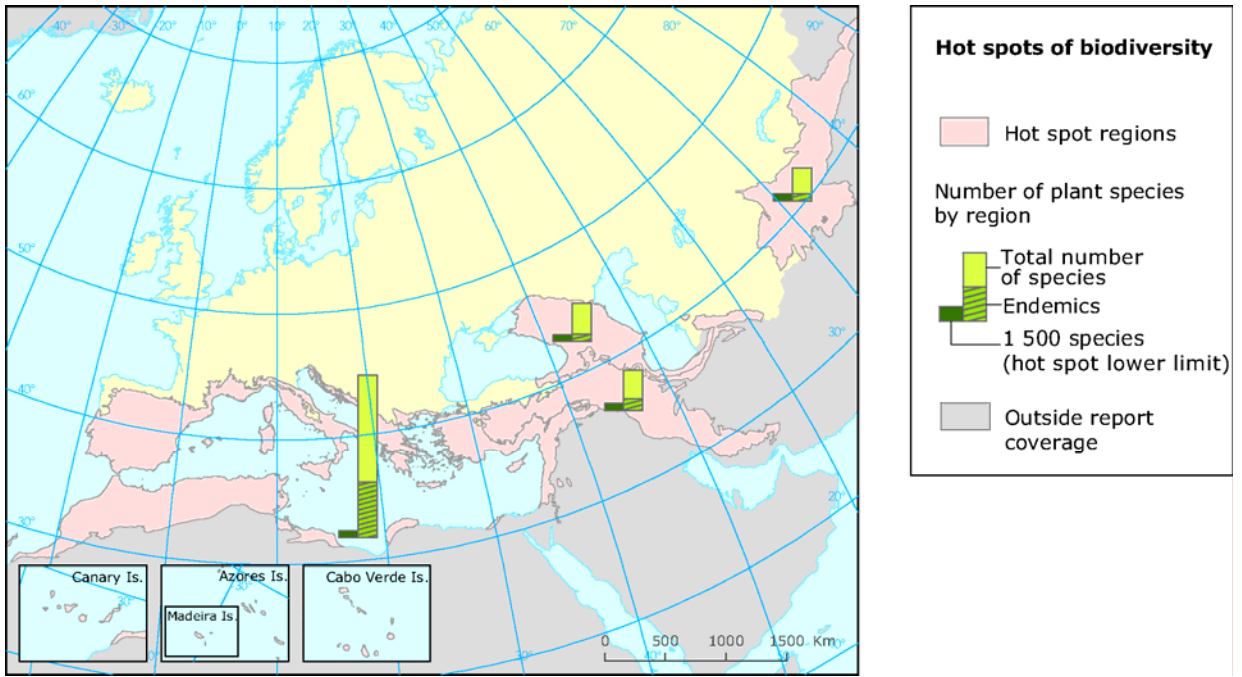
Albania is an important migration route for migratory species of wild fauna.

The main elements of the Albanian flora are Mediterranean (24 %), Balkan (22 %), European (18 %) and Eurasian (14 %). The Eurasian, Holartic, Mediterranean and Balkan elements dominate the fauna spectrum of the country.

Map of Mediterranean region as a hot-spot of biodiversity

(source: Conservation international)





Source EEA

Types of diversity

Albania is distinguished for a high diversity of genetic resources, species and ecosystems. A general overview of the number of species known so far in Albania is given by the table below.

	Number of species in Albania	Number of species in Europe
Bacteria	unknown	unknown
Viruses	unknown	unknown
Protozoas	unknown	unknown
Macroscopic Algae	136	
Microscopic Algae (diatoms)	1200	c.a 1500
Fungi	800	16.000
Likens	400	1200
Mosses	500	10.000
Ferns	45	145
Flowering plants	3200	11415
Molluscs	520 (700)	unknown
Insects	4000 (14.000)	40.000
Decapods	115	150 (Adriatic)
Echinoderms	46	94
Fishes	313 (350)	618 (Mediterranean)
Marine fishes	249	unknown
Freshwater fishes	64	unknown
Amphibians	15 (16)	62
Reptiles	36 (38)	123
Birds	323 (335)	514
Mammals	70 (84)	200

Source : H. Lange-Bertalot, Botanisches Institut, Frankfurt

In an overview plant species belong to 166 families and 1022 genera. Out of this figure 27 plant species and 150 subspecies are endemic to Albania. There are around 400 plant species of the Balkan region.

Species diversity

Endangered species

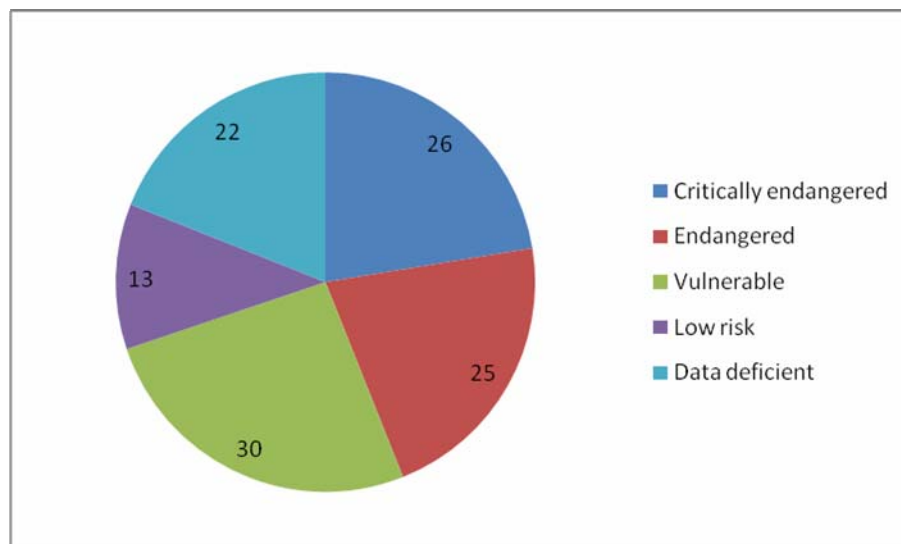
The Red List of endangered species of Albania is elaborated using the IUCN criteria. The updating of the list according to the legal framework is due every five years.

Table: Threatened species according IUCN and Red List of Albanian Fauna and Flora

	Total in Albania	Red List
Mammals	70	36
Aves (Birds)	323	117
Reptilians	36	20
Amphibians	15	2
Pisces	253	23

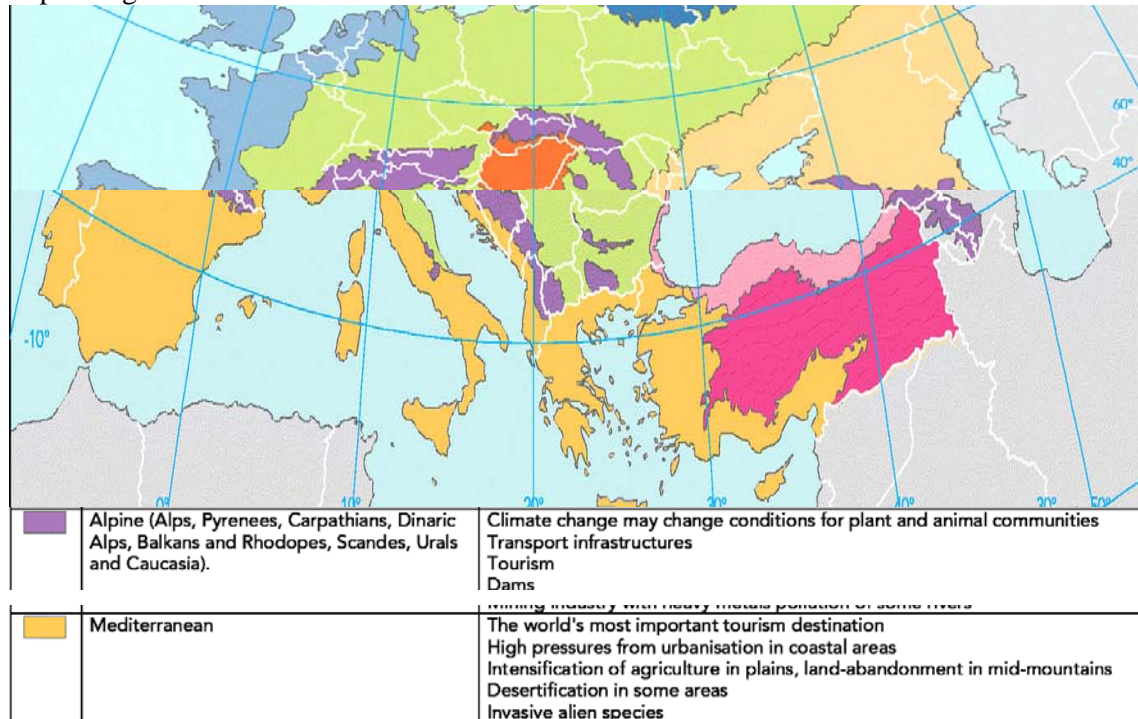
According to different IUCN categories the scale of threat for the bird species listed in the Red Book of the Albanian fauna has been estimated as follows:

Extinct	
Critically endangered (CR)	26
Endangered	25
Vulnerable (VU)	30
Low Risk (LR)	13
Data deficient (DD)	22



Ecosystem and habitats diversity

Biogeographical regions in Europe: regions in Albania: the Mediterranean region and the Alpine region.



Biogeographical regions map – source EEA

Albania is well known for its high diversity of ecosystems and habitats. Albania boasts a landscape of coastal plains and a largely forested mountainous interior, and is home to the deepest lake in the Balkans.

Within its territory there are maritime ecosystems, coastal zones, lakes, rivers, evergreen and broadleaf bushes, broadleaf forests, pine forests, alpine and sub-alpine pastures and meadows, and high mountain ecosystems. Albania is also well known for its rich and complex hydrographic network composed of rivers, lakes, wetlands, groundwater and seas.

1. Along the coastline of the country there are many ecosystems of significance in the Mediterranean region such as lagoons, wetlands, sand dunes, river deltas, hydrophil and hygrophil forests. Littoral and infralittoral communities of Mediterranean origin along the rocky coast are quite diverse and well preserved.
Wetlands coverage is 60.215 ha or 3% of the country and of this figure around 45.000 ha are designated Ramsar sites namely: Karavasta lagoon, Butrinti lake and Shkodra Lake.
2. The lakes and rivers are also important for the biological and landscape diversity of the country. About 247 natural lakes of different types and

dimensions, and a considerable number of artificial lakes are located inside the country.

3. The main rivers are Drini, Buna, Mati, Shkumbini, Semani, Vjosa, Erzeni, Ishmi, Bistrica and Pavlo and their courses have an important effect on the country's coastal biodiversity.
4. Albania is rich in forest and pastures resources. The forests cover or 36 % of the country's territory and the pastures about 15 %. Approximately 60 % of the pastures are alpine and sub-alpine pastures and meadows. The forests and the pastures have a diversity of types, formations, and plant and animal communities.

The mountain alpine forest ecosystems are also rich in biodiversity. The higher areas are dominated by beech and pine forests and preserve a large number of endemic and sub-endemic plant species. A total of 27 plant species with 150 sub-species are endemic in Albania.

5. There is a diversity of landscapes in Albania due to its natural characteristics and long history of population and human activities. Traditional agriculture and stockbreeding developed in the countryside, in accordance with natural conditions, have been the major factors determining the Albanian landscape, where indigenous elements are not missing.

Main Habitat Types in Albania

Habitat Type	Habitat Subtype
Coastal communities	Marine communities
	Marine wetlands
	Coastal sandy
	Dunes and seaside's
Non-maritime water	Rocky coast
	Coastal wetlands
	Sweet waters
Bushes	Running waters
	Rivers and springs
	Temperate heath grove
	Bushes
	Garriga

	Pseudomakja
	Terrain
	Gorse terrain
	Friganat
	Grass Terrain's
	Termofile forest
	Sites with Mediterranean grass
	Mediterranean-Mountain grass terrain's
	Dry grass terrain's
	Alpine and sub-alpine grass terrain's
Forests	Broadleaf forest
	Conifer forest
	Forest and bushes
Pond water vegetation	Evergreen and Temperate board leaf forest
Rocky formations	Rush formation
	Rocky slope
	Rocky gaps
	Caves

Other habitat types: Crop lands; Fruit-tree plantations; Vineyards; Low forests; Urban parks; Towns, villages or industrial sites; Mines.



Forests

Albania is a rich country with forests and pastures. The forest land covers about 1.071.880 hectares or 36 % of the national territory, whilst the pastures cover about 400.000 hectares or 15 %.

Table: Structure of forest fund

No.		Area covered (hectares)	Volume(000/ m3)
	Year 2009		
1.	High forests	454 202.7	56 988.1
2.	Low forests	330 660.2	11 718.2
3.	Shrubs	257 927.1	7 019.8
4.	Area with forest plants	29 090	0
	Total	1 071 880	75 726.1

Source : State of the Environment Report , 2010

Table: Distribution of forest fund according to ownership 2008-2009

No.	Nomination	2009
1.	Forests under state administration	495,700.0
2.	Forests undercommunal administration	530 000.0
3.	Forests under private administration	19 000.0
	TOTALI	1,045,000.0

Source : State of the Environment Report , 2010

Genetic Diversity A number of autochthonous breeds of cattle and crops have been created and exists in the country. About 30 species of crops are native to Albania. There are nine autochthonous breeds of goats and five for sheep. This is an important heritage for the protection and improvement of the production and the quality of the agriculture and livestock.

Threats to biodiversity in Albania

Although Albania is rich in biodiversity, the country is faced with the loss of biodiversity as a result of different factors.

The main ones to be mentioned are: infrastructure development, urbanization and tourism, deforestation, hunting, fishing, soil erosion, energy and mining as the main sectors with great impacts on the biological diversity. Water pollution is also a factor that poses a risk to the biological diversity.

Land use change

Land conversion resulting in the habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation is arguably the single most significant factor responsible for the endangerment of species in Albania. Lands have been, and continue to be, converted for commercial, touristic and residential purposes. Land use conversions include draining of wetlands; encroachment of residential or commercial areas into native habitats; creation of recreation areas such as ski resorts; etc. Such conversion of native habitats to human-dominated environments reduces the area of habitat available to biodiversity, while also fragmenting and degrading remaining areas.

Even well planned, road construction can impact natural ecosystems, thus causing direct damage through loss of habitats for sensitive plant and animals, which is the main cause of biodiversity loss. Transportation infrastructures also fragment habitats, restricting or preventing natural movement of animals and exchange of genetic material. Habitat fragmentation damages ecosystems' stability and health,

particularly when the movement of keystone species important to ecosystem integrity (e.g., large predators,) is restricted. Many wildlife species that need to move to find food or for breeding purposes are either reluctant to cross the roads or get killed while crossing it. It is also a case that some animals are attracted to roads for various reasons - more abundant food, shelter from predators, or easier movement - which often leads to increased mortality due to accidental deaths.

Alteration to the natural flow regimes of rivers and streams and their floodplains and wetlands is recognized as a major factor contributing to loss of biological diversity and ecological function in aquatic ecosystems, including floodplains. Alteration to natural flow regimes can occur through reducing or increasing flows, altering seasonality of flows, changing the frequency, duration, magnitude, timing, predictability and variability of flow events, altering surface and subsurface water levels and changing the rate of rise or fall of water levels. Four primary ways in which humans alter flow regimes in natural waterways are: building of dams, diversion of flows by structures or extraction, alteration of flows on floodplains with levees and structures (including those on wetlands to allow water storage), and extraction of gravel and alluvial sands and dredging.

Worldwide, timber harvest practices have caused significant impacts to biodiversity and forest ecosystems, including reduction of forest area, fragmentation, degradation, and changes in patterns of forest age structure and species composition across the landscape. In general, timber practices have created forests that are younger, more even in age structure, biologically less diverse, and economically less productive. The mix of wildlife and plant species within the forests has changed along with the changes in over-story tree composition. In many areas this has involved replacing mixed broadleaved and conifer forests with conifer dominant forests or plantations. Fire suppression and the inability to prevent and control human and natural caused fires has also resulted in changes in the species composition of many forests. In some instances, forests are now more susceptible to damage from insects, disease, and fire.

Livestock grazing in natural ecosystems changes the relative mix of native species in grasslands and shrub-steppe ecosystems. In addition, grazing in forests has reduced the shrub and forb understory, which has resulted in the development of dense, fire-prone, forests. Grazing also has negative impacts on stream, riparian, and wetland systems, including increased sedimentation, altered stream flow patterns, and increased nutrient loads. Those ecosystems hardest hit by past grazing practices, where there has been nearly total replacement of native by non-native species, may never fully recover.

Pollution and environmental contamination will likely accompany the projected population growth in Albania and surrounding regions. Increased contamination of the environment, particularly via discharges of wastewater and storm water runoff and atmospheric deposition of pollutants, such as those in automobile emissions, can be anticipated. As additional land in the region is converted to intensive agriculture, there is greater potential for contamination from the application of fertilizers and

pesticides. In addition there is lack of adequate manure management, especially on big farms leading to soil and water nitrification. New chemicals and the inadequacy of assessing the impacts of chemicals' impacts on the environment are also risks.

Current pressures to biodiversity

Main sectors pressures on biodiversity in line with GBO3 are present also in Albania:

I. Habitat loss and degradation – it comes primarily as the result of deforestation in high forest areas and desertification of arable land. The conversion of agricultural arable land to land used for housing construction leads to habitat degradation. Meanwhile in forest areas the illegal logging and destruction of meadows and pastures has a great impact on habitat loss.

II. Climate change: Impacts on biodiversity have been identified especially in the coastal area of Albania. Major events include excessive flooding of large areas and erosion along the coastline of the country. Some initiatives have been undertaken for the reporting period. A World Bank funded project on the identification and implementation of adaptation and response measures to Drini-Mati river deltas in the north-western part of the country has been going on from 2008 with the following products: Climate change scenarios developed for the study area as a part of the Albanian coastline with high pressure.

Further outputs will include climate change indices will be used for assessment of climate change impacts on ecosystems, agriculture, tourism, and water resources in DMRD. Concrete results include expected climate change and sea level rise impact on Ecosystem, Water resources (surface & groundwater), Agriculture & livestock population, settlements and tourism; Inventory of GIS layers in DMRD; Maps of expected sea level rise owing to climate changes as well as the elaboration of habitat map according to Natura 2000 and EU Directives for biodiversity.

III. Excessive nutrient load and other forms of pollution: it comes primarily as the result of discharge of untreated waste waters in rivers. Strong erosion in deforested watershed areas contributes to the high figures of total suspended soils indicator. Other factors include uncontrolled dumping sites and old fashioned technology in industry, transport and mining activities. Most of river parts in Albanian coastal lowland are in eutrophic to polytrophic conditions due to the high content of nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus (Çullaj et al.).

IV. Overexploitation and unsustainable use: Mainly by other related sectors such as forestry, fisheries as well as hunting activities.

Forestry- the main pressure on biodiversity in this field comes from the illegal logging and overexploitation compared to natural growth of forests.

However it must be underlined that in recent years the illegal logging has been reduced significantly and the scale of authorized use has decreased as well.

Hunting- In Albania there are around 400 hunting grounds. The Most important Protected Areas such as National Parks, nature monuments and Ramsar sites are

excluded from the hunting activity. According to hunter associations , there are around 17.000 registered hunters in Albania in 2009. The list of huntable species includes 20 species of which only 2 mammals and 18 bird species, the majority of which are migratory to Albania.

Fisheries - Fishing has a number of direct effects on marine ecosystems because it is responsible for increasing mortality of target and by-catch species; an important physical impact on the habitat of benthic organisms is caused by bottom trawling.

In Albania fishing activity takes place along the entire coastline. However for the most part it is concentrated along the continental shelf zone, which on the Adriatic side in the north extends 25 miles, but only 2-4 miles on the side of the Ionian Sea.

Fishing in Albania is primarily marine fisheries, although lagoon and inland fishing does take place on a limited scale. During recent years aquaculture is being increasingly promoted with particular focus on carp fingerlings and fish for general consumption (including sea farms). Currently there are 58 Albanian fish farms: 9 fish farms, 3 carp fingerling hatcheries and 46 for trout culture.

Invasive alien species - not a major threat to biodiversity in Albania yet, although no research has been done so far mainly due to the lack of human and financial resources.

II. CURRENT STATUS OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Since ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996, Albania has made a significant progress in protecting biodiversity through legislative and institutional framework, as well as by making some concrete steps in this respect.

The NBSAP after 10 years of approval is implemented at a large extent successfully. The most significant progress achieved is the one on Protected Areas coverage in the country which was doubled in a five years period. The area protected in 2010 reached 13, 17 % of the country's territory (see map and table in Appendix 3).

Main objectives of NBSAP (2000)

In Albania, the main objectives for the implementation of the NBSAP are:

- Protection and improvement of biological and landscape diversity;
- Incorporation of the principles and policies required for sustainable biodiversity use and management; and
- Promotion of sustainable development for present and future generations.

The main points identified to be part of the implementation process are as follows:

- Dialogue and co-ordination process;

- Identification and mobilization of financial resources;
- Identifying economic barriers to biodiversity protection;
- Finding and implementing the appropriate mechanisms to realize the benefits of protection;
- Technical support for projects.

Two lists based on their importance and the scale of threat:

1. species/habitats action plans which should be undertaken within 1-2 years (short-term priorities includes 80 taxa – 42 vertebrates, 26 invertebrates, and 12 plant species);
2. species/habitats action plans which should be undertaken within 3-5 years (long-term priorities include 143 taxa – 95 vertebrates, 31 invertebrates, and 17 plant species).

Priority assessment criterias for action plans for relevant species and their habitats:

1. Endangered species and habitats with global, regional, and national importance;
2. Habitats containing endemic species or high levels of biodiversity;
3. Species or habitats risking total extinction;
4. Species or habitats which would yield local or national economic benefits;
5. Species or habitats with local or national education benefits;
6. Endangered species or habitats which could be better protected through more suitable policies and use; and
7. Actions which could yield viable economic, ecological, and social benefits.

Since 2006, there are 6 protected areas proclaimed namely NP “Divajake-Karavasta”, NP “Shebenik-Jabllanice”, NP “Bredhi i Hoteves-Dangelli”, NMR “Kune-Vain Tale”, and NP “Karaburun-Ishulli i Sazanit” PL “Mali me Gropa-Bize –Martanesh”,.

Summary of the Progress

Main achievements on the implementation of the NBSAP in Albania are:

Legislation: completion of the legal framework by the means of elaboration of by-legal acts for the law ‘On biodiversity protection’, and the approval of the law “On some changes and additions to the law “On protected areas”, in 2008 as well as several key laws in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development have been enacted, which have all been harmonized with the appropriate EU directives. A detailed list of legal acts enacted from 2007 onwards is given in the following section of this report.

In-situ conservation: Increased the surface of protected areas from 9, 08 % in 2007 to 13, 07 % in 2010;

Action plans for single species and habitats: so far 5 species action plans have been elaborated. The following strategic documents as Action Plans have been prepared:

- Action Plan for Conservation of the Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*);
- Action Plan for Conservation of the Lynx (*Lynx lynx*);
- Action Plan for the conservation of the Pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygaeus*)
- Action Plan for the Conservation of *Cetaceans*;
- Action Plan for the Conservation of *Posidonia oceanic* meadows.

Institutional reform: the restructuring of the overall structure of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration with the setting-up of two sectors: the Sector of protected Areas and National parks and the Sector of Biodiversity (Fauna, Flora and Soil/Land).

Progress in Legislation and Policy

The legal base for nature protection derives from the Constitution of the Republic of Albania 1998, approved by Law No. 8417, dated 21.10.1998 "Constitution of the Republic of Albania" Official Journal: year 1998, No 28, Page 1073, publishing date 07.12.1998, inits Article No.59 is determined that "the state intends a healthy and ecologically suitable environment for current and future generations, and a rational exploitation of natural resources based on the sustainable development principle".

Nature Protection in general principles is also guaranteed through Law "On Environmental Protection" No. 8934, dated 5/9/2002, Official Journal No. 60, dated 16.10.2002, page 1673, amended by Law No. 9890, date 20.03.2008, Official Journal: Year 2008, No. 45, Page 2031;Publishing date 01.04.2008, in Article 5 of which is defined that "conservation of biological diversity" is one of the environmental elements.

Nature protection in the Republic of Albania is directly guaranteed through some legal acts such as:

- Law "On Biodiversity Protection", No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006;
- Law "On protected areas", No. 8906, dated 6.6.2002; amended in 2008 by Law 9868, date 04.02.2008 'On some addendums and changes in the Law No.8906, date 06.06.2002 "On protected Areas"";
- Law "On Wild Fauna Protection", No.10006, dated 23.10.2008;
- Law "On rules and procedures for international trade of endangered species of flora and fauna", No .9867, dated 31.1.2008;
- Law "On hunting", no. 10253, date 11.3.2010.

Protection of species and habitats

Following the implementation of the provisions of the laws are drafted by-laws, which complete the legal basis for specific elements of nature. Among such documents is the list of flora and fauna species that are under protection and are materialized with the publication of the of the Red Book of Albanian Flora and Red Book of Albanian Fauna.

Protection of species of conservation interest is realized through specific biodiversity law provisions and the law for protection of wild fauna. The biodiversity Law at the same time contains provisions for invasive species and protection measures for species conservation. The achievement of favourable status of conservation for species is aimed through biodiversity law and protected areas law, which contain provisions for the protection of biodiversity inside protected areas as well as outside them.

The habitat protection is done through provisions of the law on protected areas, based on which is revealed the representative network of protected areas that will serve to identify and create the ecological network NATURA 2000.

The Law on wild fauna protection foresees protecting provisions for important habitats for birds in general and migratory birds in particular.

Biodiversity-related Programmes from other sectors

Biodiversity issues and conservation have been sufficiently presented in the Environmental Strategy of 2007, but it remains at a large extent under represented in other sectoral strategic documents. To illustrate forestry, fishery and tourism strategies include issues related to biodiversity, but they do not have concrete terms and steps to be taken and in the same time they do not give the considerations to biodiversity and its prioritization in cross – cutting terms with these sectors;

For the climate change action plan biodiversity remain a key word; Most of the Local Environmental Action Plans are developed and in several cases biodiversity has been mentioned. However it must be underlined that these documents are at very early stages of implementation, thus no concrete results/reports for their enforcement are in place.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Albania is a party to a considerable number of MEAs as follows:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in which Albania is a Party since 10.11.1996;

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; ratified by the Albanian Parliament through the Law No. 9279, dated 23.9.2004 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania at Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention "On biological diversity"" published at Official Journal No.74, dated 27.10.2004, page 5136;
- Convention "On the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats" (Bern Convention), ratified by the Albanian Parliament by the law "On the ratification of the "Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention)"" , published in the Official Journal no.7, dated 4.4.1998. page 251;
- Convention "On International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES), in which Albania has acceded after the approval of the Law no.9021, dated 6.3.2002 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the "Convention on international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora", published in the Official Journal no.22, dated 2.4.2003, page 665;
- Convention "On the conservation of migratory species of wild animals" (Bonn Convention) and its Agreements for Cetaceans (ACCOBAMS), European populations of bats (Eurobats) and conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (AEWA), in which Albania has acceded by the law no. 8692, dated 16.11.2000 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Bonn Convention "On the conservation of migratory species of wild animals" and agreements of this Convention", published in the Official Journal 43, dated 13.11.2000, page 1936;
- Convention "On Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats" (Ramsar Convention), in which Albania is a Party since 29.2.1996;
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in which Albania is Party after the approval of the Law no. 8556, dated 22.12.1999 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the UN Convention "To combat desertification in countries that have passed long draught and/or desertification, especially in Africa"" , published in the Official Journal 37, 25.2.2000, page 1471;
- Convention "On the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution" the protocol on Specially protected Areas, in which Albania is a Party after the approval of the law "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the convention "On the protection of marine environment and coastal area of the Mediterranean sea, as well as its 6 accompanying protocols"" , published in the Official Journal 43, dated 13.12.2000, page 1935.

Conservation of habitats and ecosystems

Protected areas

The total number of protected areas is 797 (including nature monuments), covering an area of 375,947.7 hectares. This is 13, 17 % of the territory of Albania.

Based on the law, important or threatened parts of the country's territory are proclaimed as protected areas, according to the following categories:

- a) Strict natural reserve / scientific reserve (I Category);
- b) National Park (II Category);
- c) Nature Monument (III Category);
- d) Managed Nature Reserve/natural park (IV Category);
- e) Protected landscape (V Category);
- f) Protected area of managed resources/ protected area with multiple use (VI Category).

Law No. 9868, dated 04.02.2008 on some addendums and changes to the Law No. 8906, dated 6.6.2002 "*On protected areas*", defines the criteria for proclaiming protected areas as well recognizes special protected areas of interest to the European Community, initially providing the possibility for assessment of habitats of interest to the European Community included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive and then to propose these areas based on criteria established by law in accordance to Habitats Directive.

Also, the law sets the internal sub-zoning for each protected area. The concept of division of a protected area territory into functional sub zones based on their characteristics, facilitates the performance of community activities in the territories of protected areas, provides "buffer" or mitigating effects and better characterize the properties of natural areas. The law defines the procedures for proclaiming protected areas in regard to local government and landowners.

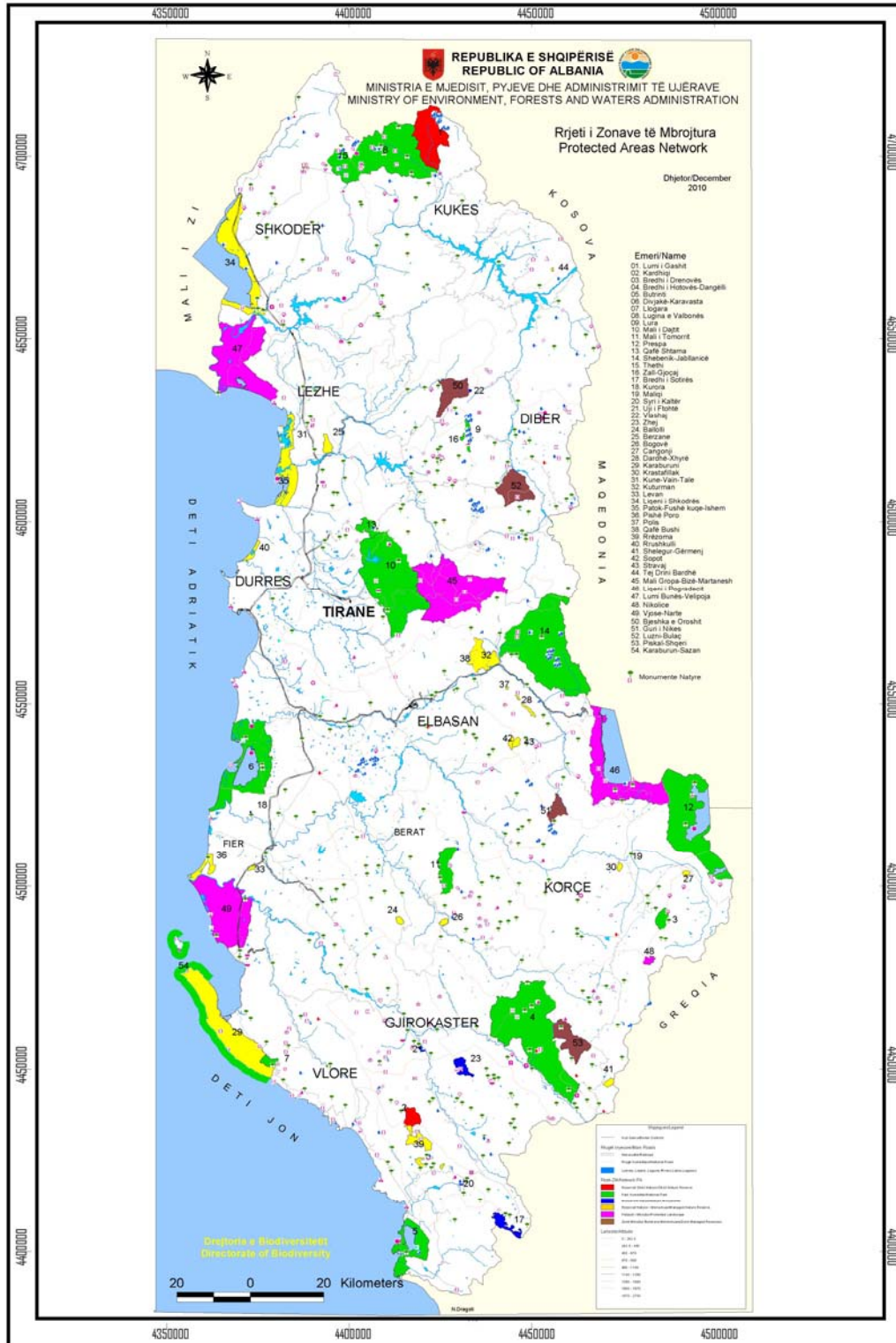
Till now marine protected areas (MPAs) are very few and included as parts of the terrestrial PAs. Based on this situation protection of marine environment is defined as an important priority for the future. The first MPA in Albania was designated in 2010 as the "Karaburuni peninsula-Sazani island" protected area.

Table: The surface of current network of Protected Areas in Albania

No.	Category of Protected Area	No. PA	Surface Ha	%/ of Republic's surface
1.	I Category. Strict natural reserve / scientific reserve	2	4,800.0	0.17
2.	II Category. National Park.	14	176,517.0	6.14
3.	III Category. Nature Monument	750	3,490.0	0.12
4.	IV Category. Managed natural reserve/natural park	22	62,530.0	2.18
5.	V Category. Protected	5	95,864.4	3.33

	landscape			
6.	VI Category. Protected area of managed resources/ protected area with multiple use	4	18,200.0	0.63
	Total	797	361,401.4	13.17

There are three Ramsar sites of wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitats: Karavasta lagoon, Butrinti wetland complex and Shkodra Lake and Buna river wetland complex.



Map of Protected Areas of Albania, June 2010 (source MoEFWA – Biodiversity Directorate)

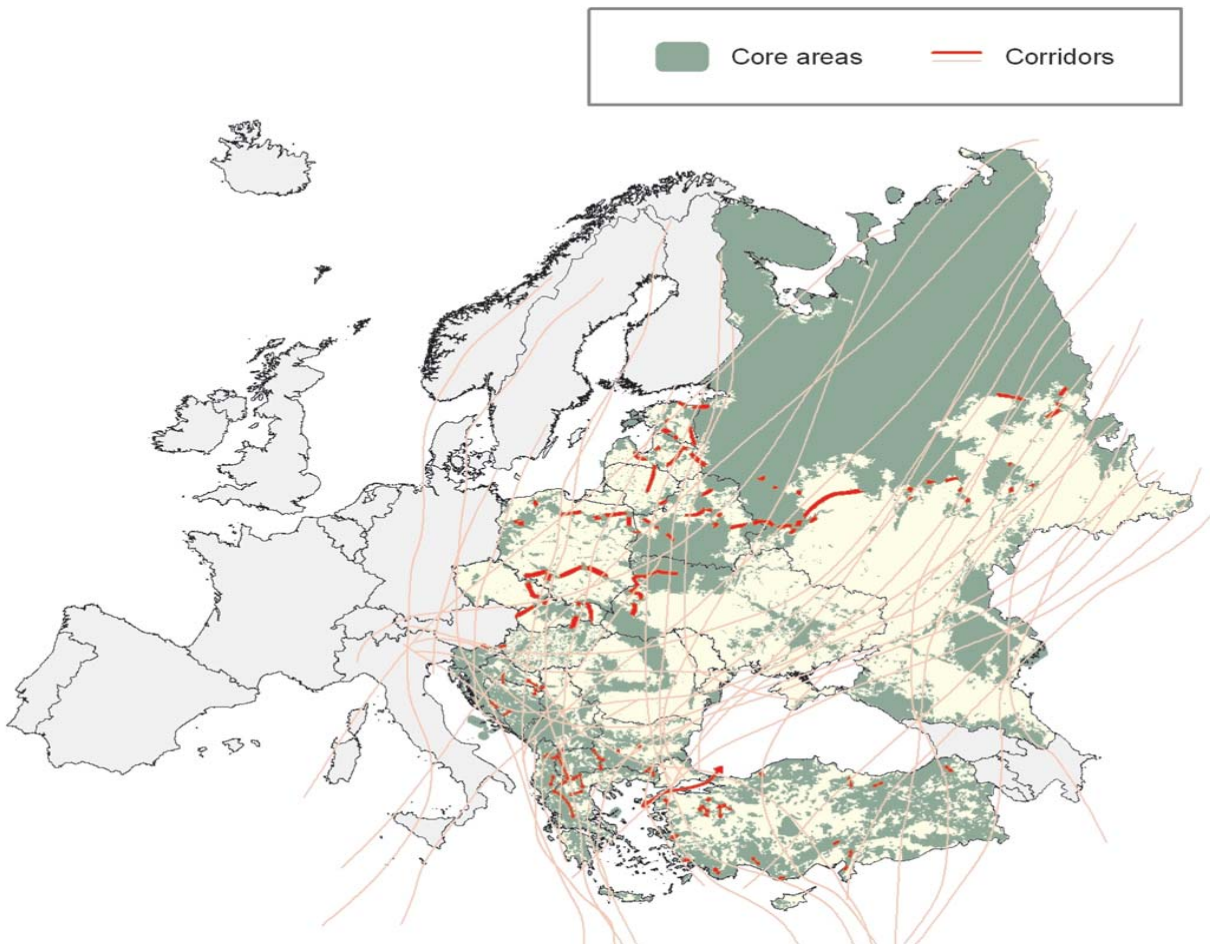
Ecological Networks and Areas of International Importance

The National Ecological Network as part of the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN)

The Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) originated from the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS) aims to link different European and national protected areas and ecological networks with the goal of ensuring a favourable conservation status of Europe's key ecosystems, habitats, species and landscapes.

Albania participated in the project carried out by the European Centre for Nature Conservation ECNC that produced for the first time the Indicative map of PEEN for south-eastern Europe which identified the core nature areas of European importance, existing corridors between these areas, and where new corridors could and should be established. However this process is in its early stages of implementation in Albania.

PEEN indicative map for South-Eastern EUROPE

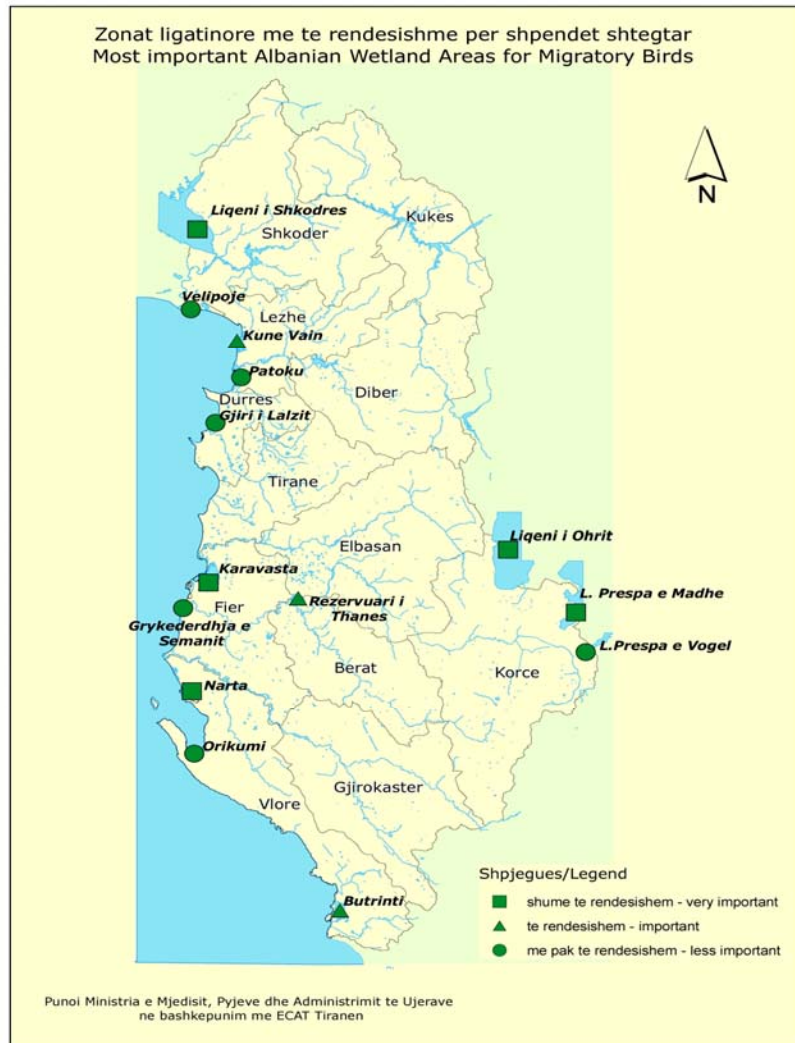


Simplified overview of core areas and corridors in South-Eastern and Central and Eastern Europe (source ECNC)

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in Albania

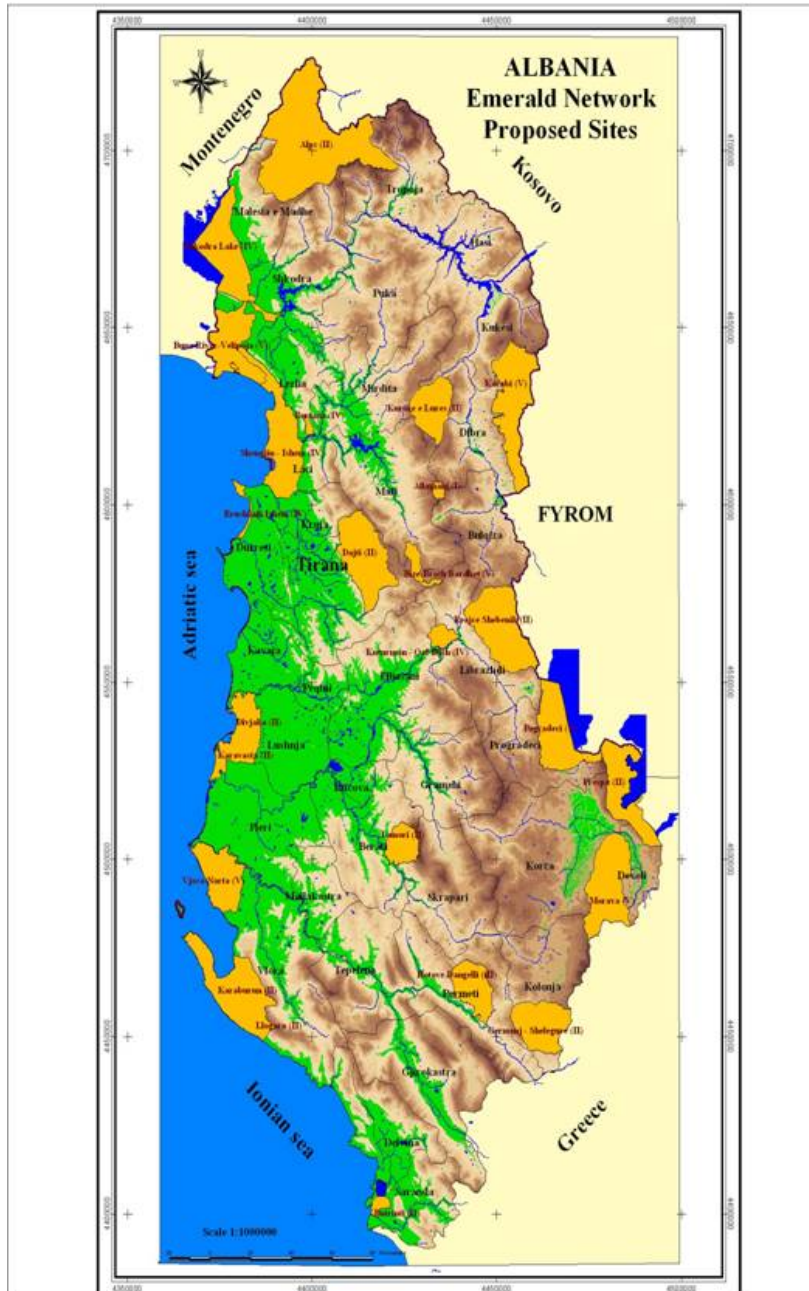
According to the study "Inventory of wetlands in Albania", carried out by ECAT Tirana in cooperation with EKBY Greece, the following sites presented on the map have been identified as IBAs for Albania.

Furthermore their status towards the designation as SPA for birds, according to the provisions of the Birds Directive, has been prepared by the elaboration of the national legal framework with the approval of the law "On protection of wild fauna" in late 2008.



Emerald process

The identification of Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) was carried out in the period 2002-2008 for Albania. As the result 25 potential Emerald sites were identified and studied. The process of evaluation by the Council of Europe is ongoing. Below is the map of potential Emerald sites for Albania.



Map of proposed Emerald sites for Albania

Green Belt initiative

Albania has participated in the process of Green belt initiative for the identification of the areas of ecological network in the countries where the former so called “iron curtain” was placed prior to 1990.

As the result the following map was produced to mark area of conservation interest



Source :

Monitoring, *In situ* and *Ex situ* Conservation

The current status of biodiversity monitoring in Albania can be characterized as rather incomplete and fragmented monitoring. The level and quality of the obtained data from monitoring is also very inhomogeneous. Another important issue is the scale of monitored parameters and the quality of data obtained in monitoring.

The Agency of Environment and Forest of Albania has been established since 2006. One of its most important missions is to gather data from the environment monitoring, including biodiversity monitoring, their processing, and assessment and reporting on the national and international level.

Landscape Conservation

In Albania there is no strategy directly related or covering the protection and sustainable utilization of landscape diversity, therefore landscape issues are poorly integrated in sectoral policies.

Albania has not acceded to the European Convention on Landscape. This remains for the future to be planned as it is an important aspect that will contribute to the protection of habitats and ecosystems.

Red Book of Albanian Flora and Fauna

According to the provisions of the law "On biodiversity protection" the Red List of Albanian Fauna and Flora is updated regularly every five years and approved by the Minister of Environment. Thus the current one reviewed in 2007 has to be updated in 2012.

The following table gives an overview of the protection of species at national level compared to other MEAs as well as the Habitat Directive of the EU (92/43/EEC).

Fauna species protection

Group	Total number in Albania	Threatened species at		Species protected by						
		Nat	Global	Birds directive	Habitats directive	Barcelona Convention	Bern Convention	Bonn Convention	CITES	Libri i kuq
Mammals	91	46	21	-	40	5	63	31	11	45
Birds	330	115	17	186	-	14	217	146	52	120
Reptiles	37	37	9	-	-	3	37	3	3	37
Amphibian	15	15	2	-	-	-	15	-	-	15
Fish	311	54	16	-	13	17	31	5	4	61
Insects	680	108	16	-	-	-	10	2	4	108
Molluscs	183	130	1	-	-	9	8	-	1	110

Flora species protection

Group	Total number in Albania		Threatened species at different levels			Species protected from				
	Total		National	Global	European	Bern Convention	Barcelona Convention	CITES	Habitats Directive	Government Decree
Vascular Plants	3228		363	80	80		11	37	2	329
Marine algae	Total	13				3	3			13
	Red algae	7				1	1			
	Brown algae	4				2	2			
	Green algae	2								
Fungi										19

Source: Monitoring reports 2007-2009

Communication, education and public awareness

This is a field where some progress has been made thanks to the projects from the donors (mostly GEF) and the NGOs;

The vocabulary of the local community, the inclusion of the environmental education in the school, the celebration of the international days, the organization of lake days in the trans-boundary lakes, etc., are some of the examples of the activities in this field.

Future priorities for biodiversity in Albania

The Biodiversity Strategy and action Plan approved by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 532, dated 5.10.2000, on the approval of the study "Strategy and action Plan for Biodiversity", published in Official Journal No. 32, dated 23/10/2000, is the main document on biodiversity for the period 2000-2015.

The Strategy defines the main directions of preserving biodiversity and habitats, through their identification and proclamation as protected areas, and through protection of species in and outside the protected areas.

During these years a series of strategy recommendations have been implemented such as: drafting and implementation of the law "*On biodiversity protection*", 2006, "*On protected areas*", 2002, as amended, designation of new Protected Areas, increase of protected areas coverage from 5 % to 12.57 %, according to the proposed network project in the strategy, taking into account the European ecological network elements and international guidelines including those European. Parts of the Cross Sectoral Environmental Strategy of 2007, are dedicated to specific issues of biodiversity such as protected areas, threatened species etc.

Preparation and implementation of action plans for specific threatened and endemic species of wild fauna are part of plans for biodiversity. In this framework 5 action plans have been elaborated including threatened species of wild fauna and flora.

The Strategy and Action Plan for Wetlands, of the year 2006 is another document that complements the framework of plans for elements of biodiversity.

Another national document is the action plan for global environment regarding the implementation of three United Nations conventions, the so-called Rio Conventions (Biodiversity , Climate Change, and Desertification).

The Government's Program 2009-2013, to increase the surface of protected areas is also part of biodiversity plans, aiming to guarantee preservation of habitats and species to reach a favourable conservation status. The intention is to increase the surface of protected areas at comparable levels to the average of EU member countries.

Forestry Strategy of 2004 addresses the issues of forest biodiversity conservation.

Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 84, 27.1.2009 "*On determining the criteria for establishment of biodiversity inventory and monitoring network*", completes a necessary element for a functional biodiversity monitoring network.

Future plans for biodiversity consist in the main directions as follows:

- Further increase of Protected Areas surface coverage up to 17 % in 2013;
- Implementation of existing management plans of protected Areas and elaboration of new ones for the remaining Protected Areas;
- Implementation of existing action plans for species and drafting of new ones for globally threatened and endemic species in order to ensure their favourable conservation status;
- The setting-up of the network of biodiversity monitoring and inventory in accordance with the new legal provisions in place;
- Implementation of the Emerald network of the Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs) as a contribution to the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN) and the Pan European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity (PEBLDS).
- Review of the national Programme of Work of Protected Areas in the light of new developments from CDB and CoP 10 Nagoya (Japan);
- Assessment of the achievements for the objective to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, in compliance with the approach of the European Environment Agency (EEA).

III. SECTORAL AND INTERSECTORAL INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The elaboration and approval of the Cross-cutting Environmental Strategy as an integral part of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2007-2013 has followed the approach of inter-sectoral integration for the environment generally. In this framework biodiversity integration in other sectoral policies is considered as crucial in order to achieve the final goal to reach the 'favourable conservation status' for species and habitats.

Biological resources represent an important economic potential. Their exploitation significantly contributes to the socio-economic development. Biological resources are

renewable, but only to a certain extent. If their exploitation in agriculture, forestry, or industry is excessive, the survival of certain species and/or ecosystems could be put into danger. The principles of sustainable use of biological resources must be implemented first of all within sectors that significantly contribute to socio-economic development, such as agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, energetic, industry, etc.

Integration of biodiversity conservation into relevant sectors

The legislation on nature protection, horizontal environmental legislation, the legislation of forests, fisheries, water, land, territorial planning, tourism, etc. include various management and control measures on land planning and use, and law enforcement within and outside the system of protected areas.

The law "*On protected areas*", for each category of protected area, defines the degree of protection and prohibited activities, those requiring approval of the competent authorities and relevant environmental permits.

In the same time private land owners, whose properties are included in the protected area, as well as users of these properties, participate in the planning, conservation and use of natural resources of the area. They are obliged to cooperate with the administration of the protected area and strictly implement certain rules, management plans and programs designed for a sustainable development of the area.

Economic and social activities, and implementation of projects in protected areas, are not allowed without possession of an environmental permit; and without relevant study and full report on environmental impact assessment, based on the law "*On Environmental Protection*", as amended and according to rules, procedures, deadlines, rights and duties stipulated in the law "*On environmental impact assessment*".

All public, private and tourism constructions in the territory of protected areas, are made in accordance with the management plan, after having received the environmental permits, based on studies and general adjustment (physical) plans, approved by the Council of Territory Adjustment of the Republic of Albania, applying the law "*For urban planning*", as amended and the Law "*On territorial planning*."

Protected areas can be proclaimed in publicly owned territories, municipal and communal territories and in special cases private properties. Private territories and facilities included in protected areas remain the property of a private owner. They are administered and used by him or by legitimate users, only based on requirements of the area management plan, approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration. In case of owner's disagreement, they have the right to seek compensation in cash or in kind or they can sell the surface to state, according to

legislation in force. Compensation for caused damages in cases of actions to protect such areas are not foreseen in the legal provisions.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, other state and local government units or in partnership with third parties, are obliged to prepare management plans for each protected area as well as plans for the preservation of habitats and species. Management plans of protected areas are included in policies, programs and government activities related to them, and in decision-making processes at national, regional or local level.

Contracts to monitor the state and the management of protected areas, of flora and fauna, habitats, forest and soil ecosystems, including species or habitats that are object of EU directives' addendums and nature protection conventions, are signed by state institutions, public or private in accordance with rules and procedures of competition and tendering. Currently, monitoring is organized and run by the Agency of Environment and Forestry, involving public and academic institutions and the network of Regional Environmental Agencies at regional level.

On this purpose, the cross sectorial Environmental Strategy has an action plan according to various fields. In particular the Law "*On biodiversity protection*" and the law "*On wild fauna protection*", include provisions for protection of species. These, together with the Law "*On protected areas*" comprise provisions from the two main directives, concerning the protection of habitats within and outside protected areas.

Legal requirements for management measures include management plans of protected areas, establishment of their management committees, action plans for habitats and species within and outside protected areas.

Based on projects supported by foreign donors: European Commission, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, World Bank and UNDP, as well as funding based on bilateral collaborations with other countries: U.S.A and European countries, there are 3 management plans for protected areas elaborated, 2 plans are in the approval process, while it is expected to have 3 new plans within 2013.

The control of land use planning is provided through Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment of strategies, plans, projects and state and private activities, and according to special provisions of sectoral and environmental legislation. The Network of Environmental Regional Agencies has an important role in assessment at local level, besides the one carried out at central level based on Commission of Environmental Permits and through the new procedures of one stop shop aiming to facilitate business registration.

Law enforcement measures regarding the nature protection are expressed in the environmental and sectoral laws on use of natural resources. Their implementation is ensured by Environmental Inspectorate, Forestry Police, the Inspectorate of Fisheries and inspectors under line Ministries.

Sectors in protection of environment and biodiversity

Besides the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration other competent ministries related to the environment include:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection – Directorate for Plant Protection (control of production, traffic, import, export, storage, and application of plant protection and nutrition agents), Veterinary Services in customs etc.;
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (industry, energy efficiency, licenses for exploitation of mineral resources except ground waters, renewable energy sources
- Ministry of Health (implementation of sanitary regulations related to environmental protection);
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport (road, air, railway, and water traffic);
- Ministry of Tourism (tourist development areas);

IV. PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 TARGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Successful stories as the best examples of the implementation of the CBD Targets

I. Integrated management of Shkodra Lake Nature Reserve and Ramsar site – a cross-border cooperation with Montenegro.

Lake Skadar-Shkodra Integrated Ecosystem Management Project (LSIEMP) is a cross border project financed by GEF and successfully implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration of Albania and Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development of Montenegro with the supervision and guidance from the World Bank. The global project development objective is to maintain and enhance the long-term value and environmental services of Lake Skadar-Shkoder and its natural resources and the project development objective is to help establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms for transboundary cooperation through joint efforts to improve sustainable management of Lake Skadar-Shkoder. The Project has three components: 1. Capacity Building for Improved Understanding and Joint Management of the Lake; 2. Enhancing Sustainable use of Lake Ecosystem Component and: 3. Investments to protect water quality.

Before the project start, there were big differences between Albania and Montenegro in protection and management of the lake and its natural resources. In the transboundary level there was no joint agreement for the lake protection and management, no joint structures, no joint management plan, no joint monitoring program, no joint fish stock assessment etc. Contrary to Montenegro, on the Albanian side, the Lake and its immediate surroundings were not protected by law; there was no management unit and management plan etc. All these issues and missing joint efforts are addressed by Lake Skadar-Shkodra Integrated Ecosystem Management Project which so far is a very good example of transboundary cooperation. Apart from good will and cooperation from both Ministries of Environment in Albania and Montenegro, the key for the transboundary cooperation is the establishment of the joint structures and stakeholder participation from both sides.

In terms of implementation, the progress of the Project is characterized by a substantial improvement of Project efficiency and acceleration in achieving its targets by Albanian and Montenegrin Ministries for protection, management and sustainable development of the lake and its natural resources.

In the transboundary level good cooperation has resulted in the main achievements of joint activities implemented by both sides out of which worth mentioning are: adoption and endorsement by Albanian and the Montenegrin Ministries of Environment of a Joint Agreement for the Protection and Sustainable Development of Lake Skadar-Shkodra; establishment of the joint institutional structures foreseen in the joint agreement including Skadar-Shkodra Lake Commission, its secretariat and four working groups (WGs) on Planning and Legal, Monitoring and Research, Communications/Outreach and Sustainable Tourism, and Water Management, with participation of central and local government including NGOs and technical experts from both countries; adoption of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministries of Environment of Albania and Montenegro "On cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources"; establishment of a joint website for Lake Skadar;Shkodra; establishment of a joint database for Lake Skadar-Shkodra; preparation of a predictive hydrological model of the lake; joint fisheries assessment"; preparation of a joint monitoring program and procurement of equipments for transboundary monitoring; joint public awareness campaign"; review of legal framework differences", with regard to Lake protection, management and sustainable development, and preparation of a joint management plan for the lake.

In the national level main achievements are: establishment of the Administration of Skadar-Shkodra Lake Managed Nature Reserve composed of 26 persons, preparation of a management plan for the PA and procurement of equipments for Rangers to enhance their enforcement capacity; preparation of a business plan for the FMO and procurement of equipments for FMO to strengthen their role; implementation of reforestation activities in the immediate areas around the lake.

- Stakeholder participation in the project implementation has been decisive and their involvement was mainly realized through their direct participation in all project activities. In the transboundary level central and local level stakeholder participation has been realized mainly in the joint institutional structures like SLC and the WGs, in implementation of the joint activities like Social Economic Assessment, Public Awareness Campaign, etc. in donor coordination meetings etc.

The Project will be closed by October 2012, however sustainability of the Project is ensured through official commitment by both Ministries of Environment for government financial support of the joint structures established in the frame of LSIEMP and implementation of the joint management plans and monitoring programs. It is also sure that all project activities will have replication not only in the transboundary level but regionally and even internationally as well. It is a good example to be followed by riparian countries for protection, management and sustainable development of shared water bodies.

Progress towards the 2010 target of the CBD

PROTECT THE COMPONENTS OF BIODIVERSITY

Goal 1. Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes

Target 1.1: At least 10% of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved

Target 1.2: Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected

Albania as described above has already reached in this period more than 10% of the protected territories by increasing the surface area and the number of the protected areas.

Progress is also made on the areas of particular importance such as Ramsar sites and Important Bird Areas.

<i>Relevant CBD Indicators</i>	<i>State of implementation</i>
	13, 17 % of the territory covered by the nationally designated protected areas, 375 thousand hectares
	361 flora species and 575 fauna species protected
	25 Potential Emerald sites, covering an area of around 17 % of the country's territory
Coverage of protected areas	12 Important Bird Areas (IBA)
Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats	3 Ramsar areas, with a total area of more than 83 thousand hectares
Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species	16 Important Plant Areas (IPA) identified
	Indicative map of the Pan-European Ecological Network for Southeastern Europe (PEEN) with the drafting part for Albania
	Participation at the Green Belt initiative

Goal 2. Promote the conservation of species diversity

Target 2.1: Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups

Target 2.2: Status of threatened species improved

Assessment

Albania has made some progress in protection of species diversity. This improvement is achieved by the adoption of new national legislation for the protected species which is increased with improved figures especially for the endangered species status. Figures from inventories show stable population of endangered species.

<i>Relevant CBD Indicators</i>	<i>State of implementation</i>
Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species	Number of species protected: <i>Ex situ</i> conservation in botanical gardens. Trends in abundance and distribution of indicator species of birds and butterflies in accordance with EEE Core Set Indicators (CSI)
Change in status of endangered species	Action Plans for Conservation of Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>), Brown Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>), pygmy cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax pygmaeus</i>), cetaceans and <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> .
Percentage area of protected areas	Forest conditions and extension improved.

Goal 3. Promote the conservation of genetic diversity

Target 3.1: Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associate indigenous and local knowledge maintained

In the last few years efforts have been made to reduce pressure on the natural population of the medicinal and aromatic herbs, as well as of wild fauna, by specifying limits for their picking in the landscape.

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p>Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and fish species of major socioeconomic importance</p> <p>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</p> <p>Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</p>	<p>Growing of the population of the autochthonic domestic animal breeds included in the Program of allocation and use of incentives for conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources</p> <p>Rural Development Strategy proposes measures for rural development in 2007 - 2013.</p> <p>Inter-sectoral-action Plan for the development of the national legal framework on GMOs elaborated</p>

Promote sustainable use

Goal 4. Promote sustainable use and consumption

Target 4.1: Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity

Target 4.2: Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced

Target 4.3: No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade

The adoption of the Environmental Cross cutting Strategy in 2007 for the period up to 2013 includes the concept of integrated sustainable development in the sectoral and cross-sectoral approach.

Forest management are also a contribution to achieve the sustainable use.

CITES provisions are implemented in the area of international trade.

The organic agriculture land is still insignificant in relation to the total arable land.

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p>Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management</p> <p>Proportion of products derived from sustainable sources <i>(indicator under development)</i></p> <p>Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species</p> <p>Marine trophic index</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</p> <p>Ecological footprint and related concepts</p> <p>Change in status of threatened species</p>	<p>Sustainable agricultural and fisheries practices are being promoted</p>

Address threats to biodiversity

Goal 5. Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced

Target 5.1: Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased

Some progress made with the identification of the National Ecological network core areas. Further work needs to be undertaken

<i>Relevant CBD Indicators</i>	<i>State of implementation</i>
Trends in extent of selected biomes, ecosystems and habitats	Designation of all coastal wetlands as protected Areas and prohibition of their exploitation
Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species	Preparations for the National Ecological Network of Albania
Marine trophic index	Publication of the Red Book of Albania flora and fauna

Goal 6. Control threats from invasive alien species

Target 6.1: Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled

Target 6.2: Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species

Elaboration of invasive alien species national study and action plan

<i>Relevant CBD Indicators</i>	<i>State of implementation</i>
Trends in invasive alien species	Law “On biodiversity protection” provisions Government Decree On invasive alien species of 2009, which includes the list of alien species that are not allowed to enter the country.

Goal 7. Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution

Target 7.1: Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change

Target 7.2: Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity

As regards the efforts to prevent climate changes, large increase in wood land and the work on establishment of the ecological networks make a significant move forward.

Water quality

Relevant CBD Indicators	State of implementation
Connectivity/fragmentation of ecosystems	Development of the legal framework for the implementation of the CDM in different projects such as the construction of hydro-power plants, wind farms etc.
Nitrogen deposition	
Water quality in aquatic ecosystems	

Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being

Goal 8. Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

Target 8.1: Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained

Target 8.2: Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained

In the last few years a noticeable progress has been made in state owned forests management in accordance with the principles of sustainable managing. Laws and strategies adopted per sectors recognize the importance of biodiversity conservation and production based on the autochthonous races and taxa. The ways of collecting of the nature products, issuing of licenses and quotas for such collecting are regulated by a special Ordinance. Quality of waters and lakes have been slightly improved in the last few years as the result of the waste water treatment plants entering into operation.

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p>Biodiversity used in food and medicine (indicator under development)</p> <p>Water quality in aquatic ecosystems</p> <p>Marine trophic index</p> <p>Incidence of Human induced ecosystem failure</p> <p>Health and well being of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services</p>	

Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

Goal 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities

Target 9.1: Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

Target 9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing.

The issue of protection traditional knowledge, innovations and practices has not been resolved in the whole and systematically.

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p data-bbox="207 520 685 667">Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</p> <p data-bbox="207 789 685 856">Additional indicators to be developed</p>	<p data-bbox="711 331 1403 445">Local incentives have been introduced and promoted in order to serve as examples for the whole national territory.</p>

Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

Goal 10. Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

Target 10.1: All access to genetic resources is in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions

Target 10.2: Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared in a fair and equitable way with the countries providing such resources in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions

All access to genetic resources and benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources are regulated by the Albanian legislation in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relevant provisions.

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p>Indicator to be developed</p>	<p>The Law “On biodiversity protection” of 2006 has provided the main legal framework for the equitable use of genetic resources in Albania.</p>

Ensure provision of adequate resources

Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

Target 11.1: New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20

Target 11.2: Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4

Relevant CBD Indicators	<i>State of implementation</i>
<p>Official development assistance provided in support of the Convention</p> <p>Indicator to be developed</p>	<p>Being a country with the economy in transition and facing a lot of difficulties itself, Albania is in need of having financial support from the developed countries that will contribute to the implementation of the Convention.</p>

PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK IN ALBANIA, 2010

IUCN Category	Region	District	Name of PA	Legal act	Area in Ha
I	Kukës	Tropojë	Lumi i Gashit	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	3,000.0
I	Gjirokastrë	Gjirokastrë	Kardhiq	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,800.0
					4,800.0
II	Shkodër	Shkoder	Thethi	VKM nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	2,630.0
II	Dibër	Dibër	Lura	VKM nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,280.0
II	Vlorë	Vlorë	Llogara	VKM nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,010.0
II	Korçë	Korçë	Bredhi i Drenovës	VKM nr. 96,datë 21.11.1966	1,380.0
II	Berat	Berat	Mali i Tomorrit	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	4,000.0
II	Kukës	Tropojë	Lugina e Valbonës	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	8,000.0
II	Durrës	Kruje	Qafë Shtamë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	2,000.0
II	Dibër	Mat	Zall Gjoçaj	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	140.0
II	Korçë	Korçë	Prespa	VKM nr. 80,datë 18.02.1999	27,750.0
II	Vlorë	Sarandë	Butrinti	VKM nr. 693, datë 10.11.2005	8,591.2
II	Tiranë,Durres	Tiranë,Kruje	Mali i Dajtit	VKM nr.402,datë 21.06.2006	29,216.9
II	Fier, Tiranë	Lushnjë, Kavajë, Fier	Divjakë-Karavasta	VKM nr.687,datë 19.10.2007	22,230.2
II	Elbasan, Diber	Librazhd,Bulqize	Shebenik-Jabllanice	VKM nr.640,datë 21.05.2008	33,928.0
II	Gjirokastrë, Korce	Përmet, Kolonje	Bredhi i Hotovës-Dangelli ^h	VKM nr.1631,datë 17.12.2008	34,361.1
II	Vlore	Vlore	PKD 'Karaburun-Sazan'	VKM nr.289, datë 28.04.2010	12,428.0
					188,945.4
III	Shqipëri	Shqipëri	BioMonumente Nr.	VKM nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	348.0
III			GjeoMonumente Nr.	VKM nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	398.0
III			ShumaBio&Gjeo Nr.		746.0
III	Gjirokastrë	Gjirokastrë	Bredhi i Sotirës	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,740.0
III	Gjirokastrë	Gjirokastrë	Zhej	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,500.0
III	Vlorë	Delvinë	Syri i Kaltër	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	180.0

III	Dibër	Dibër	Vlashaj	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	50.0
				VKM nr.676,datë 20.12.2002	750.0
					3,470.0
IV	Lezhë	Lezhë	Kune-Vain-Tale	VKM nr.432, date 28.04.2010	4,393.2
IV	Vlorë	Vlorë	Karaburun	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	20,000.0
IV	Korçë	Devoll	Cangonj	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	250.0
IV	Berat	Skrapar	Bogovë	U Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	330.0
IV	Korçë	Korçë	Krastafillak	Urdhër MB, 1970	250.0
IV	Elbasan	Librazhd	Kuturman	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	3,600.0
IV	Fier	Fier	Pishë Poro	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	1,500.0
IV	Lezhë	Kurbin	Patok-Fushëkuqe-Ishem	VKM nr. 995, date 03.11.2010	5,000.7
IV	Lezhë	Lezhë	Berzanë	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	880.0
IV	Fier	Fier	Levan	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	200.0
IV	Berat	Berat	Balloll	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	330.0
IV	Elbasan	Elbasan	Qafë Bushi	Rreg.MB nr.1, date 27.7.1977	500.0
IV	Durrës	Durrës	Rrushkull	Urdhër MB nr.2,datë 26.12.1995	650.0
IV	Vlorë	Delvinë	Rrëzomë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	1,400.0
IV	Kukës	Has	Tej Drini Bardhë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	30.0
IV	Korçë	Kolonjë	Gërmenj-Shelegur	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	430.0
IV	Elbasan	Librazhd	Polis	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	45.0
IV	Elbasan	Librazhd	Stravaj	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	400.0
IV	Elbasan	Librazhd	Sopot	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	300.0
IV	Elbasan	Librazhd	Dardhë-Xhyrë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	400.0
IV	Shkodër	Shkodër	Liqeni i Shkodrës	VKM nr. 684,datë 02.11.2005	26,535.0
					67,423.9
V	Korçë	Devoll	Nikolicë	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	510.0
V	Korçë	Pogradec	Pogradec	VKM nr. 80,datë 18.02.1999	27,323.0
V	Vlorë	Vlorë	Vjosë-Nartë ^e	VKM ⁶ nr.680,datë 22.10.2004	19,738.0
V	Shkodër	Shkodër	Lumi Buna-Velipojë ^f	VKM nr.682,datë 02.11.2005	23,027.0
V	Tiranë,Diber,Elbasan	Tiranë-Mat-Bulqize-Librazhd	M.Gropa-Bizë-Martanesh	VKM nr.49, datë 31.01.2007	25,266.4
					95,864.4
VI	Dibër	Dibër	Luzni-Bulaç	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	5,900.0

VI	Korçë	Kolonjë	Piskal-Shqeri	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	5,400.0
VI	Lezhë	Mirditë	Bjeshka e Oroshit	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	4,745.0
VI	Korçë	Pogradec	Guri i Nikës	VKM nr.102,datë 15.01.1996	2,200.0
SHUMA VI					18,245.0
TOTAL in Ha					378,748.7

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Strategic Action Plan for Shkodra Lake

Second National Report to the UNFCCC Convention

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