

Assessment of Capacity Building Needs of National and Local Stakeholders

PART ONE

UNDP Project

**“Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkans countries to address
environmental hot spots through an integrated approach.
Albanian Component”**

Prepared by

Mihallaq Qirjo

Rr. Ismail Qemali, Nr. 27, Tirana

miha@albania.rec.org

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ANNEXES

Abbreviations

AEF	Agency of Environment and Forestry
BERCEN	Balkan Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement Network
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
DPPP	Directorate of Pollution Prevention Policies
DG-ENV	European Commission DG-ENV - Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection
ECENA	Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network for Accession
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EI	Environmental Inspectorate
ELPA	Environmental Legislation and Planning in Albania
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
ENVSEC	Environmental and Security
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IEWE	Institute of Energy, Water and Environment
ICPR	Interinstitutional Committee for Protection from Radiation
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoAFCP	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (Albania)
MoD	Ministry of Defence (Albania)
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (Albania)
MoETE	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (Albania)
MoH	Ministry of Health (Albania)
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (Albania)
MoPWTT	Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication (Albania)
NEA	National Environment Agency (Albania)
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NES	National Environmental Strategy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PHARE	Poland and Hungary: Action for the Restructuring of the Economy
PEPA	Priority Environmental Projects for Accession
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollution
REA	Regional Environmental Agency
REC	The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
REReP	Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program for South Eastern Europe
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SAP	Stabilization and Association Process
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SEE	South Eastern Europe
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Acknowledgements

- 0.1 One of the first Hot Spot project activities was to assess and analyze levels of national capacities regarding Hot Spot management and remediation, compliance and enforcement with regard to laws and regulations in Albania. The assessment report on current legal structures and resources available to environmental institutions, state agencies and inspectorates is compiled by the support of numerous experts of different levels. Numerous interviews with different actors of national and local level are held to poses the needed level of information and data for drawing a baseline and related recommendations.
- 0.2 Special thanks goes to the colleagues Eduart Cani and Alken Myftiu (REC Albania, Tirana) who supported and assisted on fulfilling this assignment by collecting, reviewing different resource materials and publications, as well as on interviewing different actors. Djana Bejko (REC Albania, Shkodra) assisted on contributing considerably to the local and regional contacts in Shkodra and shared continuously her extensive field experience with environmental demonstration projects. Special acknowledgements should be given to representatives and various institutions that helped on completing the picture of the situation and needs of the national stakeholders.
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About the author/editor

- 0.4 Mihallaq Qirjo is an environmental expert in the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Office in Albania since 1994 and lecturer of Ecology at Tirana University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, since 1990.

A. Project description

- 1 The project “Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkans countries to address environmental hot spots through an integrated approach, Albanian Component” is implemented by UNDP Country Offices in Western Balkans with financial support of the Netherlands government. The Project develop a regional, multi-sectoral demonstration programme around demand driven projects in six locations in the region suffering from the legacy of polluting industries and requiring industrial renewal, environmental cleanup and new economic initiative. It aims at achieving significant improvement of environmental situation and quality of life for citizens living in and around polluted areas through least cost measures, improved local and national policy dialogue and integration, and increased supply of domestic professional services in the sustainable development sector. While the main focus will be the physical works needed to mitigate environmental problems, institutional strengthening and capacity building will be a major theme running throughout the programme.
- 2 The specific objective of the proposed project is to support the Albanian Government to:
 - Secure progress in clean-up and remediation of Bajza hotspot, raise awareness and strengthen capacities for good environmental management at local and national level,
 - Enhanced regional co-operation through improved information sharing progress and supply of professional consultancy services regarding good environmental management
- 3 The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA) and the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication (MoPWTT).

A.1 Scope

- 4 The present assessment is one of the expected outcomes of the project. It focuses on conducting an Assessment of capacity building needs of the national and local stakeholders, through analyzing the present institutional and legal framework including comparison of the Albanian regulatory and assessment system with European Standards/best international practices. Particular emphasizes is paid to hazardous waste, chemicals/pesticides /waste management and contaminated sites management, Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Climate Change and Protected Area.
 - 5 Albania is the third country in the Western Balkans to have signed a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA), which establishes a comprehensive contractual framework between the EU and Albania and represents an important step on Albania's path towards the EU. Albania, as all other countries in the region, is in full process of aligning their legislation to the environmental acquis, as part of the Stabilization and Association process. This is one of the main
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driving forces for adoption of high environmental standards and it can support efficiently the compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

- 6 This assessment identifies needs at local and national level where institutional strengthening and capacity building are necessary for improving:
 - sustainable development,
 - hazardous waste management and
 - management of natural resources

A.2 Methodology

- 7 The assessment was conducted through desk research and field work, mainly in Tirana and Shkodra region, focusing specifically at Bajza Hot spot, as the main target area of this project. The study part of the work consisted on the review of documents available on the different national and international, national strategies, policies and reports on the implementation of environmental protection framework. Among the reviewed documents, the following ones can be mentioned specifically: The National Strategy for Environment and Integration, The National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement 2007 - 2012, Progress Monitoring for the countries of South East Europe ("pre-candidates"), Enhancing MEA Implementation in the Balkans, Environmental Enforcement and Compliance in South Eastern Europe. [reference Annex no. 01: List of reviewed reports and documents"]. In addition, the Albanian environmental legal framework is cross checked for reviewing institutional hierarchy and relationships and standards set up for the topic of this assessment.
 - 8 The field work consisted on semi-structured interviews [reference Annex. no.03: "Sample of questions in conducted semi-structured interviews" and Annex no. 04: List of interviewed persons/Institutions] held with 14 representatives of national, regional and local stakeholders. Several types of questionnaires are designed to match with the typology of different institutions and involved actors with hot spots at all levels. The collected information and opinions helped on the identification of the legal and institutional gaps and capacity needs at the national and local level, and draw recommendations on how they should be addressed.
 - 9 The vertical dimension of the assessed institutional structure included the national level (Tirana), regional level (Shkodra Region) and local level (Kastrati Commune: Bajza hot spot area). The horizontal dimension was extended to all in-line Ministries working on environmental field, civil emergency structures, environmental monitoring, health monitoring, etc. In addition, the institutional structures of the regional and local level are considered: Qark and prefectures, REAs presence of academic institutions, etc.
 - 10 In the frame of this assignment, a sample project fiche is developed and distributed to local authorities in Shkodra region in order to identify thematic areas for the implementation of demonstration projects. The information retrieved and data provided by the local authorities represents a wide range of needs varying from small environmental infrastructure projects to institutional development. The author did not undertake either any in depth research or feasibility assessment of this collection of pilot demonstration project fiches, as it was considered out of the
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scope of the Assessment [reference Part II, Annex. no.01: “Sample of the project fiche for identification of demonstration projects”]

- 11 The assessment builds on synergies within other implemented programs within Albania and the region: UNDP environmental program, ENVSEC SEE program (e.g. chemicals waste management at hotspot sites, reduction of transboundary risks and pollution), BERCEN/ECENA programs (e.g on compliance and enforcement through the environmental inspectorates in SEE region). It also draws on the findings of the ELPA project under the CARDS support and the REReP implemented by the Regional Environment Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

A.3 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 12 The assessment is based on the analyses of the current situation of institutional set up, compliance and enforcement of laws and regulations, the shared responsibilities at vertical level and perception of the local population.
- 13 The analysis clearly indicates differing stages of development in comparison to EU or Western Balkan countries. The further progress of Albania in the process of accession to the European Union (EU) — will increase the importance to deal with proper management of environmental hotspots in all levels, hopefully using the knowledge and experience by the advancement of other countries in the region. In addition, it is hoped, the capacity development and knowledge transfer can be performed relatively easily.
- 14 Although the environmental laws and regulations of Albania are being upgraded and reviewed, the overall weak point is completion and the existing legislation in regard to hotspot management, and the implementation and enforcement of new regulations and laws in parallel to capacity development and resources allocation. The basic ingredients: drafting sub-laws, establishing proper monitoring systems, including data compilation and retrieval systems, hardware and software to support these systems and training for personnel in the hotspot management cycle should be established or further developed. Although not being the primary target of this assessment, it clearly indicates the shortcomings related to system functioning: clear division of responsibilities among different units within given institutions, communication and cooperation at horizontal and vertical levels.
- 15 The information available for Hot Spots in Albania, on the required scope of this assessment, differs greatly and, this, results in specific sections of the assessment being more developed than others, where information was scarce. Due to lack of information or in-country clear methodologies on defining hotspots and managing them, individuals and institutions might have different perceptions of the words used, the questions asked and the way they are presented. One has to remember that Albania had neither worked and described in depth the hotspot management systems, nor have Albanian Institutions ever before analyzed their needs for capacity development. The prioritization of these various shortcomings should one of the first steps in addressing the overall challenge of proper management of Hot spot in Albania.
- 16 In the framework of this assessment, the identified needs on Capacity Development are not prioritized. The ways to reach this target are quite different, and goes beyond the scope of this assignment. They mainly represent the existing gaps and help on drawing recommendations for future interventions. Any support

scheme for Capacity Development would need further Institutional dialogue and broader participation of the beneficiaries, in order to design specific programs leading to sustainable system changes.

17 The following main conclusions are drawn from the main chapters, according to required ToRs:

At National Level:

- Albania has adjusted the laws and regulations to the new political reality, and this legislation is in the process of implementation. The country expects assistance from the European Union (EU) and other international donors and countries.
- MoEFWA is the key structure at the national level responsible for the policy and legal framework development. But the institutional capacities and functioning is far of being efficient and playing the primary role for the Hot spot management.
- Different structures at MoEFWA and Agency of Environment and Forestry claim non clear division of tasks and responsibilities, in addition to weak or no communication channels established practically.
- Various ministries cooperate weakly on environmental issues, and it is based mostly on personal relations rather than formal relations. Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Interiors cooperate hardly at all in environmental issues, even though hotspot areas are under their administration.
- Further need for modernization of the legal framework is evident in such trends as the movement from sectoral monitoring, inspection and management of specific hotspot areas goes to a more integrated approach. This requires the framework law and other specific laws to be fine-tuned and implemented.
- Data storage and data-retrieval systems are underdeveloped. Albania still relies to a great extent on paper archives. Electronic archiving is on its way in Albania, but hardware and software is urgently required, along with training in the use of this equipment.
- Monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment is weak, considering the human resources and information available.
- Small and simple monitoring equipment to be used in emergency situations is lacking, which hinders quick response to environmental accidents.

At National, Regional and Local Level

- There is limited staff and knowledge available for the development of management plans of identified hotspot area. Specific job descriptions should be developed to appointed staff in Inspectorate of Environment and different directorates, which cover the hotspot management and monitoring issues. This approach should be not limited only at MoEFWA, but also at other involved Ministries. In addition, it should be extended to authorities at regional level (Qark) and Local level (Municipalities and Communes)
- There is lack of knowledge and application for SEA procedures for the areas where hotspot is identified. Models and case studies are needed as part of the technical assistance through trainings for the involved staff of different Ministries and institutions, both at national and region level.
- The Inspectorate of Environment indicates a lack of personnel with the legal training, necessary to develop structured compliance monitoring, consistent non-compliance response, and enforcement procedures

- The programme compliance inspection is weak.

At Regional and Local Level

- Mostly regional and local authorities strongly indicate the need for training — including courses in law framework — and they need better support in the area of human resources. Special emphasis should be given to MEAs and their obligations for different authorities.
- Training is very much undervalued in Albania. Management gets no training whatsoever, while other staff receive only a few days per year, if any. The lack of staff training makes for very static organizations. In addition, no specific training related to different hotspots is designed.
- Public awareness and action is very weak in areas around the hotspots. There is lack of specific school programs at school to prevent health impacts.
- NGO action is still weak and based on ad-hoc action, mainly as reaction to specific emergency cases.
- Local authorities pay no active role on informing the public regarding different aspects related to Hot spot presence, impacts and potential interventions.¹

¹ **Note:** For each of the fields and identified conclusions, one or more recommendations are drawn. The recommendations are marked with the symbol ® at the beginning of the respective paragraph or sentence.

B. Assessment of the present legal and institutional situation

on hazardous chemicals/pesticides/waste management and contaminated sites management, SEA, EIA, climate change and protected area

B.1 Introduction

- 18 Although many plants built during the socialist era have now been closed, they continue to pollute the environment and adversely affect the health of local populations. The abandonment of most of this industrial infrastructure as a result of the economic changes in 1990 has left many areas of heavily contaminated land. In 2000, UNEP analyzed the conditions at a number of the most contaminated industrial sites in Albania. Their findings clearly identify the current serious pollution and dangers to public health, particularly through the contamination of water. Due to its different scope, the capacity development component was tackled in brief without any gap analyses and proposed measures plan at national or local level. Nevertheless, approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of decade passed since then, therefore such analyses are crucial on addressing the issue not only reviewing the progress on environmental remediation and recovery, but also identifying country needs and projecting future institutional development changes.
- 19 Over the past decade, Albania undertook legislative reforms and has brought the environmental institutional structures in line with the new reality. The country has realized that changes are necessary, and therefore, new laws are drafted accordingly. But, in many cases, due to many pressure and limiting factors, little attention is paid to hotspots. Too little attention is paid to the institutional capacity and capability required to make the address this issue properly. Some of difficulties include:
- lack of human, technical and financial resources;
 - unclear positions and share of tasks of environmental-responsible authorities within governmental structure;
 - insufficient regulatory frameworks;
 - ineffective compliance and enforcement activities;
 - non-compliance with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and slow progress on transposition of legal framework with *acquis communautaire*; and
 - lack of public participation.
- 20 Through this project, UNDP Country Offices in Western Balkans assists and promotes enforcement of regulations and introduce proper hotspot management standards and take demonstration action of hotspot remediation in Albania and throughout SEE by disseminating information, undertake studies and assessments, and finding ways for participating countries to cooperate and develop demonstration projects of hotspot remediation. Different national stakeholders are considered to work together on projects to make progress in the application and implementation of environmental legislation and to increase the effectiveness of different enforcement agencies in national, regional and local level.

B.2 Waste Management

- 21 Albania is working both on the developing and completing the legal framework and remediation of some of the Hot spot areas. Work is ongoing on the rehabilitation of the Sharra landfill in the municipality of Tirana and on the wastewater treatment plant of the Ballshi Oil Refinery, on-site disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material in the Fier Nitrate Fertilizer Plant. A project to assess environmental impact at the Patos-Marinez oil field started in April 2007. However, the work in the Rubik Copper Smelter has not yet started.
 - 22 The progress in implementing the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) is also a strong driving factor on achieving the needed standards for addressing the hotspot issues. Although the Progress Report (Nov.007) states that *“there has been little progress in the area of **waste management**. Work is ongoing on the rehabilitation of the Sharra landfill in the municipality of Tirana and on the wastewater treatment plant of the Ballshi Oil Refinery. ... Minor hot spots persist. An accurate inventory of all hot spots, accompanied by an environmental impact assessment, is necessary before any new interventions are planned. There is no clear strategy for the disposal of municipal solid waste. Uncontrolled dumping and burning of waste continue to pose environmental and health risks. Preparations in the field of waste management are not very advanced”*.
 - 23 **Industrial waste:** The collection and disposal of industrial waste is the responsibility of the producer. Information on the quantity or types of industrial waste is not collected. Precise information concerning its fate is not available, although it is known that much of it is disposed of at municipal waste sites, some is kept at the site of production, but some of it is also dumped at unauthorized locations. Based on a comparison with other countries and assuming that generation is proportional to GDP, the level of industrial waste generation in Albania is estimated to be in the region of 170 000 tones per annum, of which a proportion would be classified as hazardous.
 - 24 **Hazardous waste:** Legislation has recently been introduced to address the management of hazardous waste in Albania. However, at present there is no reliable data concerning the levels of hazardous waste actually generated. Recent studies undertaken in connection with preparations for the construction of a properly engineered hazardous waste landfill site indicate about 3 - 4% of industrial waste is hazardous (excluding clinical waste and hazardous elements of domestic waste), a level comparable with that of other Mediterranean countries. A critical issue which arises in this context is how to deal with the legacy of past activity, including the uncontrolled dumping of hazardous wastes, hot spot pollution and the storage of unused, outdated or banned chemicals.
 - 25 The government has embraced the “polluter pays” principle, but current legislation does not allow this concept to be implemented in practice. The collection rate for fines is very low (15%) and environmental inspectors lack adequate resources to carry out their duties.
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26 Current Legal Framework

The residues management legal framework includes the following legal acts:

- Law No. 8934 dated 05.09.2002. “On Environmental Protection”
- Law No. 9010, dated 11.02.2003 “On environmental management of solid waste,
- DCM “On the Approval of an Albanian Waste Classification Catalogue
- “Law No. 9537, dated 18.5.2006, “On the Management of Hazardous Waste”

27 Current Institutional Framework

According to Law No. 9010, dated 11.02.2003 “On the Environmental Management of Solid waste” solid waste management is the responsibility of the following institutions: MoEFWA, MoPWTT, MoH, MoETE, and MoAFCP.

- The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, which has only one expert for the residues and dangerous residues issues, located at the Directorate of Pollution Prevention Policies;
- The Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, which has an Urban waste Sector, with 3 personnel members (for urban residues and construction residues (passives), on vehicle waste and those who emerge from replacing of materials or consumed parts. The new 2000 Law “On the organization and functioning of local government” enforces the role of the municipalities to be involved in urban waste management (collection, transportation, and elimination) in local level. The law “On local tax” gives to the municipalities the right to fix locative taxes on the city cleaning, paid by the families’ sector and the social-economic agents.
- The Ministry of Health is responsible for the hospitals’ waste;
- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy is responsible on industrial and quantitative waste
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection is responsible for agriculture waste and animal growth/stockbreeding.

B.3 POLLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL RISKS

28. Current Legal Framework

The following conventions/protocols have been signed/ratified:

- Protocol of Barcelona Convention “On Pollution Prevention in the Mediterranean from the cross border Movement of hazardous waste and their disposal”.
 - Convention “On the Cross Border Effects of Industrial Accidents”, ratified on 05.01.1994.
 - Convention “On the Ozone Layer Protection”, Protocol of Montreal.
 - Law No. 8463, dated 10.03.1999, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to Vienna Convention on ozone layer protection and Montreal Protocol on substances which dilute the ozone layer”;
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- Law No. 9425, dated 06.10.2005, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to 1979 Convention “On transboundary air pollution in big distance”.
- Law No. 9480, dated 16.2.2006, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to Copenhagen amendment of Montreal Protocol on substances which dilute the ozone layer”;
- Law No. 9484, dated 2.3.2006, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to London amendment of Montreal Protocol on substances which dilute the ozone layer”;
- Law No. 9485, dated 6.3.2006, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to Montreal amendment of Montreal Protocol on substances which dilute the ozone layer”;
- Law No. 9486, dated 6.3.2006, “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to Beijing amendment of Montreal Protocol on substances which dilute the ozone layer”;

29. **Current Institutional Framework**

The institutions responsible for issues related to industrial pollution are MoEFWA (drafting policies, acts, inspections, etc), Agency of Environment and Forestry (monitoring), MoETE (implementation of discharging norms and environmental quality, clean technology implementation, etc).

B.4 CHEMICALS

30. **Current Legal Framework**

- Law No. 8934, dated 05.09.2002 “On environmental Protection”
- Law No. 9108, dated 17.07.2003, “On substances and chemical preparations”
- Law No. 9263, dated 29.07.2004, “On the ratification of Convention on Persistent Organic Pollution”, (Stockholm Convention, POPs) Persistent Organic Pollution”, (Stockholm Convention,
- DCM no. 824, dated 11.12.2003, “On the classification, packing, labeling and safe storage of dangerous substances and preparations”;
- DCM no. 26, dated 31.01.1994, “On hazardous waste and wastes”;
- DCM no. 447, dated 19.09.1994, “On the Banning of Asbestos as a Thermo-insulating Material in all Forms of Construction”;
- DCM no. 447, dated 16.09.1999, “On the Destruction of Toxic Waste Stored in Military Depots”;
- DCM dated 20.12.2006, “On the approval of the National Action Plan for the elimination of organic resistant pollution”;

31. **Current Institutional Framework**

Chemical management issues follow under the responsibility of various Ministries and these responsibilities are divided among them. MoEFWA (is responsible for the chemicals, as industrial hazardous waste), MoETE (is responsible for the chemicals, as material used in industry, including import-export); MoAFCP (is responsible for the chemicals, as pesticides), MoPWTT (is responsible for the chemicals, as urban waste), MoLSAEO (in this Ministry there is an operational Job Inspectorate for employees protection in industry from chemicals), MoH (is responsible for chemicals, as hospital waste and medicines).

B.5 NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION

32. Current Legal Framework

At present, due to a lack of in-country radioactive products and the particularly limited use of radioactive sources for medical or industrial purposes, nuclear safety and radiation protection have not been priorities in Albania. Therefore, this field's legislation has been in the view of Commission for Protection from Radiation. Some Conventions are ratified, but not the Convention for Nuclear Safety and additional protocol with IEAE. The current legislation in this field includes the following:

- Law No. 8095 dated 09.11.1995 “On the Protection from Ionizing Radiation”, based on the Convention for Protection from Radiation. It regulates the management of radioactive residues in Albania;
- Law No. 8934 dated 05.09.2002 “On the Protection of Environment”;
- DCM No. 103 dated 31.03.2002 “On Environmental Monitoring in the Republic of Albania”;
- Law No. 8028, dated 9/11/1995 “On Protection from Radiation”;
- Order No. 78, dated 27/03/2002 “On licensing the radiology cabinets and the centres, which use ionizing radiation resources”, Leading Code for security and safety of radioactive resources No. 1388, dated 14/04/2004;
- Regulation on secure transport of radioactive waste No. 3918/1, dated 3/11/2004;
- Regulation on radioactive waste treatment No. 3918/2, dated 3/11/2004;
- Regulation on licensing and inspection of activities, which use ionizing radiation, No 3918/3, dated 3/11/2004;
- Regulation on secure usage of radioactive materials No. 3918/5, dated 3.11.2004;
- Regulation of the Commission for Protection from Radiation No. 1470, dated 16/05/2005;
- Order No. 37/1, dated 02/02/2006, “On quality certificates, which should be submitted by the subjects/companies which will import generators/equipment with x rays”;
- Code of Practice in radiotherapy No. 804/1, dated 15/03/2005;
- Code of Practice on protection from radiation in roentgen diagnosis No. 804/2, dated 15/03/2005;
- Code of Practice in nuclear medicine No. 1127, dated 13/04/2005;
- Categorization of radioactive substances in RoA No. 4756/2, dated 21/12/2006;
- Guidelines on the import-export of radioactive materials No. 4756/1, dated 21/12/2006;
- Order No. 37 dated 02/02/2006 “On licensing procedures of hospital centres in all prefectures”.

33. Current Institutional Framework

The institutions that are responsible for the Nuclear Safety and Protection from Radiation are: the MoH, the Inter-institutional Committee for Protection from Radiation (ICPR), the Academy of Sciences – the Institute for Nuclear Physics and the MoEFWA.

B.6 SEA and EIA

34. Current Legal Framework

The current legal framework on strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment consists of the following legal and sub-laws:

- Law No. 8934, dated 05.09.2002 “On Environmental Protection” This Law regulates the relationship between people and environment; protect environment components; and environmental processes. It provides for the material conditions on consistent development, completing the necessary legal framework on constituent requirement implementation for an ecologically clean environment.
- Law No. 9700, dated 26. 03. 2007, “On Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context ”; This Law aims at the environment and health protection, preventing sensitive negative impacts, which may be caused by projects or activities that are requires to be developed in transboundary neighboring territories. This Law is implemented in the form of projects or activities, as defined in Annex I of the United Nations Convention “On environment impact assessment, in the transboundary context”. These projects or activities are required to be implemented in neighboring territories.
- Regulation No. 1, dated 17.08.2004, “On public participation in the environment impact assessment process”, This Act defines the requirements, rules and obligatory procedures, assuring public participation in EIA Process, conforming to all environmental legislation requirements
- Law No. 8990, dated 23.01.2003, “On Environmental Impact Assessment” This Law aims to ensure:
 - General assessment; integrated and timely environment impacts; projects or activities which require to be implemented; prevention of environment negative impacts;
 - Open and impartial administrated assessment process; participation of central and local bodies, the public, NGOs for environment, projects’ proposals and legal and natural persons specialized in this field.
- DCM No. 103, dated 31.03.2002, “On environment monitoring in the Republic of Albania”; This Act defines the main index of environment conditions, impact and pressure in air, land and water, coastal areas, seaside, forests and biological diversity
- DCM no. 249, dated 24.04.2003, “On the Approval of the Document on Environmental Permission and its Elements”;
- DCM no. 805 dated 04.12.2003, “On the Approval of Environmental Impact Activities List, which Requires Environmental Permission”;
- Guideline no 2, dated 21.05.2007, “On the Approval of Environmental Impact Activities List, application forms and proceeding rules, in authorization granting and environmental consent from environment regional agencies”;
- Guideline no. 1, dated 30.11.2005, “On service tariffs for environmental permissions”;

- Internal Order no. 159, dated 9.10.2003, “On the tasks of regional environment agencies in renewing environmental permissions”, DCM no. 268, dated 24.04.2003, “On specialists’ certification/licensing on environment impact assessment and environmental audit”;

35. Regarding international documents, the following have been ratified:

- The ESPOO Convention “On Environmental Impact Assessment in the Trans-boundary Context”;
- The strategic environmental assessment protocol of the ESPOO Convention;
- The AARHUS Convention “On the Public Right to Environmental Information, Public Participation in the Decision-taking Process and Access to the Justice System”; The AARHUS Convention implementation strategy has been approved with the aim of implementing its obligations.
- Amendments I and II of the ESPOO Convention “On Environmental Impact Assessment in the Trans-boundary Context”;
- The Protocol of pollutant registers and their transferal, as listed in the AARHUS Convention.

36. Existing Institutional Framework

The Directorate of Environmental Impact Assessment and Permits is in charge at MoEFWA to coordinate activities on an accurate implementation of this legislation, to coordinate all the work with Regional Environment Agencies, and the other MoEFWA departments.

B.7 NATURE PROTECTION

37. Current Legal Framework

- Law “On biodiversity protection”, No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006, which aims to partially approximate the legislation with community environment
- Law No. 7875 dated 23.11.1994, “On Hunting and Protection of Wild Fauna”.
- Law No. 9219 dated 08.04.2004, “On some Additions to Law No. 7875, dated 23.11.1994 “On Hunting and Protection of Wild Fauna”.
- Regulation No 1, dated 23.02.2005 “On wild fauna breeding and hunting development”;
- Instruction No. 3, dated 7.6.2006, “On operable hunting fund for breeding of wild fauna”;
- Minister Order No. 467, dated 7.7.2006, “On composition of the National Council for hunting and wild fauna”;
- Regulation No. 2, dated 7.7.2006 “On the organization and functioning of the Council”;
- Law No. 8906, dated 06.06.2002, “On Protected Areas”;
- DCM No. 267, dated 24.04.2003, “On the Proposal Procedures and the Proclamation of Protected Areas”;
- DCM No. 266, dated 24.04.2003, “On the Protected Areas Management”.

- DCM No. 86, dated 11.02.2005, “On the establishment of the protected areas management committees”;
 - DCM dated 04.12.2003, “On the Handover Rules for Caves Usage”.
 - Order of the Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration No. 143, dated 24.10.2005 “On the approval of the management plan for protected landscapes in Vjose-Narta”.
 - Order of the Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration No. 144, dated 24.10.2005, “On the approval of the management plan for Dajti National Park”;
 - Order of the Minister of Environment, Forests and Water Administration No. 147, dated 24.10.2005, “On the approval of management plan for Llogara-Rreza e Kanalit-Orikum-Tragjas-Radhime-Karaburun complex”;
 - DCM No. 531, dated 31.10.2002, “On the Proclamation of Butrinti and surrounding areas as Particularly Protected Natural Areas and its Inclusion in the list of Nationally Important Sites, particularly with regards to its Aquatic Life Habitat aspect”.
 - DCM No. 80, dated 18.2.1999, “On the Proclamation of Prespa as a National Park, as well as a ‘Protected Terrestrial/Aquatic Image’ of the Pogradec Lake”.
 - DCM No. 680 dated 22.10.2004, “On the Proclamation of Vjose-Narta as ‘Protected Terrestrial/Aquatic Landscapes’ “.
 - DCM No. 682 dated 02.11.2005, “On the Proclamation of Buna River and Bog areas as ‘Protected Terrestrial/ Aquatic Landscapes’”;
 - DCM No. 683 dated 02.11.2005, “On the Proclamation of Shkodra Lake and Buna River surrounding areas as Particularly Protected Natural Areas and their Inclusion in the List of Nationally Important Sites, particularly with regards to its Aquatic Life Habitat aspect”;
 - DCM No. 684 02.11.2005 “On the Proclamation of the Albanian side of the Shkodra Lake as a Managed Natural Reserve”;
 - DCM No. 693 dated 10.11.2005 “On the Proclamation of the Butrint National Park”;
 - DCM No. 402, dated 21.06.2006 “On the Proclamation of Dajti mountainous natural ecosystem as a National Park” (with extended surface)”;
 - DCM No. 49, dated 31.01.2007 “On the Proclamation of Mali me Gropa - Bize-Martanesh natural ecosystem as: Protected Landscape”;
 - Accession, by Decision of the President of the Republic, dated 05.01.1994 to the Convention “On biological diversity”;
 - DCM No. 532, dated 05.10.2000, “On the study approval on “Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity”;
 - Law No. 9279, dated 23.09.2004 “On the Accession of Republic of Albania in Cartagena Protocol “On biological diversity”;
 - Law No. 8294, dated 02.03.1998 “On Ratification of Convention “On protection of wild fauna and flora and natural European environment (Berne Convention)”;
 - DCM No. 804, dated 04.12.2003 “On the approval of flora species start to be protected”;
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- Law No. 8692, dated 16.11.2000 “On the Accession of Republic of Albania in Bon Convention ‘On protection of migratory species of wild animals’ and understanding of this Convent”;
- Law No. 9021, dated 09.03.2003 “On the Accession of Republic of Albania in Convention “On international trade of species of wild flora and fauna”.

38. Current Institutional Framework

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration through the Directory of Environmental Protection Policies in MoEFWA, covers issues related to the drafting of policies on protection of nature especially in the fauna and protected areas sectors, contributing in drafting the legislation, in cooperation with the Directorate of Services (Legislation Sector) and in drafting strategic documentation in this field. Cooperation is extended to other Directorates in the ministry and to implementing institutions, such as the Environment Agencies in the districts and the Woodland Service Directorates in the regions, which in their composition have included the protected area administration as well. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, as regards the nature protection field, cooperates with: the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection on agricultural biodiversity, with the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication, assuring decision-taking on territorial usage, with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports, which drafts and implements the policies on tourism development and with the Ministry of Interior, in order to manage local natural resources.

B.8 CLIMATE CHANGES

39. Current Legal Framework

The environmental legislation on climate changes includes the following:

- Law “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to EU Framework Convention on Climatic Changes, 1994
 - Law “On the Accession of the Republic of Albania to Kyoto Protocol”, No 9334, dated 16.12.2004
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of Albania and the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy in the framework of implementing Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), referring to the Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, dated 31 May 2005;
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of Albania and the Danish Ministry of Environment, Danish Agency for Environment Protection, on the cooperation for the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) dated 23 February 2007;
 - Annex of Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) field referring to the Article 12 of Kyoto Protocol, dated 17 April 2007.
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40. Current Institutional Framework

The institution that is responsible for climate changes in general and for the UN Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in particular is the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, where the Climate Change Unit was established in 1998. The Climate Change Unit/Program is primarily financed by the GEF through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This unit carries out the following duties, in cooperation with an interdisciplinary and inter-institutional technical team, consisting of representatives from respective ministries and research scientific institutions.

- Drafts a greenhouse gas emission inventory and the long-term emission scenarios;
- Evaluates expected climatic changes and their impact;
- Proposes measures for the adaptation to climatic changes and the reduction of emission/discharges levels;
- Drafts and implements projects, aimed to meet the Convention's Kyoto Protocol main objective;
- Implements activities for increased public awareness regarding climate change and takes measures for climate information distribution;
- Acts as a focal operational point for the UN Convention on Climate Changes and the Kyoto Protocol.

B.9 ENVIRONMENTAL CIVIL EMERGENCIES AND PROTECTION OF POPULATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK

41. Current Legal Framework

- Law No. 8756, dated 26. 03. 2001 "On Civil Emergencies"
- Law No. 8766 dated 02.04.2001 "On Protection and Rescue from Fire";
- The National Civil Emergency Plan, approved with DCM no. 835, dated 3.12.2004. This is a crucial Albanian Government's document on civil emergency policies, which aims at the efficient planning and use of capacities, ensuring the excellent division of responsibilities and duties, inefficiency and overlapping prevention as well.
- Decision of Council of Ministers No. 206 dated 26.03.1998 "On the Criteria for State Involvement in Endurance of Damages in Emergency Situations".

42. Current Institutional Framework

At the ministerial level, the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies at the Ministry of the Interior operates for civil emergencies. It has the following subdivisions:

- The Directorate of Civil Emergency Planning and Coordination. This Directorate controls 12 civil emergency offices in prefecture level, carries out risks assessments, gives opinions to the Ministry of Interior directors, and through the latter conveys those to the Council of Ministers, mainly on the funds approval for emergencies. The other aspect of its work is the cooperation with the line ministries, central institutions, regional governmental bodies, civil society and foreign
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institutions. This Directorate develops planning strategies and strategies for civil emergency prevention programs, drafts and revises existing legislation, which subsequently passes for approval to the Council of Ministers.

- The Directorate of Police and Protection from Fire. It manages the system for protection and rescue from fire in 12 prefectures and exercises control in Protection and Rescue from Fire Police Stations.
- The Directorate of Pollution Prevention Policies (DPPP) (part of the MoEFWA), and has a specialist, who covers environmental civil emergency matters/issues.
- The Ministry of Interior cooperates with the Line Ministries and their structures in central and local level, District or Prefecture Bodies, and local governmental units of the two levels.

C. Comparison of the Albanian regulatory and assessment system with European Standards and best international practices.

C.1 Introduction

43. The well-reported lack of resources in Albania is reflected in the level of implementation of MEAs and transposition with *acquis communautaire*, and is significant in meeting other important obligations under MEA and EU directives regimes such as reporting. The lack of administrative capacity and the need for strengthening institutions, in particular related to implementation and enforcement, is particularly clear where there are unclear areas of responsibility, sometimes overlapping responsibilities (which can result in gridlock). These continue to impede proper implementation and enforcement of obligations under chemicals/waste and biodiversity MEAs and EU related Directives.
44. EU membership presents opportunities as well as challenges for MEA acceptance and implementation in Albania as well as the SEE region. Whereas, there is general accordance between the EU *acquis communautaire* and obligations under MEAs, the differences that there are may lead to difficult choices with respect to the allocation of scarce resources. As MEAs form the basis for significant parts of the EU's Environmental Acquis, MEA implementation is particularly relevant to a number of new EU member states and even more so to those seeking EU membership. The new EU member states have acceded to and ratified a large number of global and regional MEAs over the past as part of their EU membership and future accession countries will be expected to do the same.

Current situation

45. According to Progress report (Nov 2007) Albania has made some progress in approximating its environmental legislation to EU standards. However, there is a tendency to concentrate efforts on adopting new legislation, with the consequence that implementation of already transposed legislation is falling behind. Further efforts are needed towards ratification and implementation of international conventions.
 46. Albania has in place a system that requires consultation among governmental agencies that will be involved in the implementation of the national legislation implementing the MEAs. But most of the time this procedure is not sufficient to provide in-depth information on the legal, institutional and financial implications for Albania.
 47. While much progress has been made in adoption of legislation, there is still a question concerning the quality of the legislation adopted. Much of it is of too general and declaratory a nature, and it is doubtful whether it establishes a
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clear regulatory framework with the necessary specificity to be enforceable². Albania has adopted an approach whereby it enact general framework legislation establishing principles, followed by a large number of secondary laws or regulations setting forth the specifics. The general legislation has come into force, however, with some of these secondary laws being adopted. Apart from an obvious legal gap, this situation also presents the danger of perpetuating a general disregard for environmental legislation. The failure to translate general requirements into specific requirements, and to adopt concrete management plans, is especially important in some specific areas. So gaps in legislation, missing management plans, and incomplete coordination among authorities can have serious negative consequences.

48. Most of the persons interviewed (Annex no.3) have pointed out an overall lack of resources in the Albania. This has its greatest reflection in the level of implementation of MEAs, but is also significant in meeting other important obligations under MEA regimes such as reporting. Most MEAs require their parties to report on national measures for implementation with a certain periodicity. Very often the information required is very detailed and presupposes the existence of a good environmental information system and effective monitoring framework, necessary to collect all the needed data.
49. The is very limited (frequently also lacking) information and knowledge on the scope and deriving obligations for most of MEAs at regional and local level institutions. There is hardly found even a single case of reference to Action Plans for implementation of specific MEAs at this level.

Recommendations

50. ⑩ Due to limited resources, national coordination bodies are a good mechanism for ensuring coordination of all efforts for implementation of MEAs. Some best practices from other countries of similar level of development as Albania might be used for matching the country needs for implementation of MEAs and limited resources.
51. ⑩ National implementation plans that identify policies, programs and plans in related sectors through which specific measures may need to be taken in order for an MEA and EU related Directives to be effectively implemented may prove to be a useful tool for ensuring a strategic approach to compliance with MEAs and /or EU requirements.
52. In the case of the POPs Convention, the drafted National Action Plan (2006) is the primary tool for Albania to prepare compliance with the agreement. Assessments of the situation shows the most pressing problem in any field related to environmental law is the lack of administrative capacity and the need for strengthening institutions, in particular related to implementation and enforcement. ⑩ Concrete steps on clarifying the areas of responsibility to avoid the existing overlapping are of short term priority.
53. ⑩ Specific capacity development programs should be designed with specialists of the regional and local level on those MEAs of interest for the given Hot Spot or the geographical region. ⑩ Special emphasizes should be given to the

² *Bridging the Gaps: Enhancing MEA Implementation in the Balkans: Project Phase I Meeting* Background Report 26-27 June 2006, Vienna, Austria

know-how and information programs in cross border areas, where Hot spots might affect the quality of nature resources such as Shkodra Lake, Ohrid Lake, Prespa Lake, Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, etc.

C.2 Law enforcement and transposing

54. Current situation

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1. Law No. 8934, dated 05.09.2002 “On Environmental Protection” This Law regulates the relationship between people and environment; protect environment components; and environmental processes. It provides for the material conditions on consistent development, completing the necessary legal framework on constituent requirement implementation for an ecologically clean environment.

- Directive 85/337/EEC, “On impact assessment”, related to the impact of private and public activities in environment, amended by Council Directive 97/11/EEC. Directive 90/313/EEC, Council Directive 90/313/EEC of 7 June 1990 on the freedom of access to information on the environment
 - Council Directive 91/692/EEC of 23 December 1991 standardizing and rationalizing reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment Council Directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management
 - IPPC 96/61/EC, “On the prevention and control of integrated pollution”;
 - Directive 75/442/EEC, “On waste”;
 - Directive 91/689/EEC, “On hazardous waste”;
 - Directive 92/43/EEC, “On the protection of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna”;
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3. Approximation level: partial The Act refers to the above-mentioned Directives, but it also reflects the requirements of some conventions ratified by Albania, taking from each convention the main requirements, and the EU requirements and principles, as following.

1. Law No. 9700, dated 26. 03. 2007, “On Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context ”; This Law aims at the environment and health protection, preventing sensitive negative impacts, which may be caused by projects or activities that are requires to be developed in transboundary neighboring territories. This Law is implemented in the form of projects or activities, as defined in Annex I of the United Nations Convention “On environment impact assessment, in the transboundary context”. These projects or activities are required to be implemented in neighboring territories.

2. UNECE (Espoos) Convention, “On impact assessment in the transboundary context”;

3. Approximation level: full

1. Regulation No. 1, dated 17.08.2004, “On public participation in the environment impact assessment process”, This Act defines the requirements, rules and obligatory procedures, assuring public participation in VNM Process, conforming to all environmental legislation requirements.

Directive 85/337/EEC: On environmental impact assessment by public and private activities”, amended by Council Directive 97/11/EEC. Council Directive 90/313/EEC of 7 June 1990 on the freedom of access to information on the environment

Aarhus Convention on Environment, as regards the right to be informed and the public

participation in decision-taking (1998);

3. Approximation level: partial

Law No. 8990, dated 23.01.2003, "On Environmental Impact Assessment" This Law aims to ensure:

1. General assessment; integrated and timely environment impacts; projects or activities which require to be implemented; prevention of environment negative impacts;
 2. Open and impartial administrated assessment process; participation of central and local bodies, the public, NGOs for environment, projects' proposals and legal and natural persons specialized in this field.
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Directive 85/337/EEC, "On the environment impact assessment by public and private activities, amended by Council Directive 97/11/EEC.

UNECE (Espoos) Convention, "On impact assessment in the transboundary context".

Aarhus Convention on Environment, as regards the right to be informed and the public participation in decision-taking (1998)

3. Approximation level: partial

1. DCM No. 103, dated 31.03.2002, "On environment monitoring in the Republic of Albania"; This Act defines the main index of environment conditions, impact and pressure in air, land and water, coastal areas, seaside, forests and biological diversity.

2. Aarhus Convention on Environment, as regards the right to be informed and the public participation in decision-taking (1998)

3. Approximation level: partial

55. Although the process of transposing is progressing, the general opinion of the experts, interviewed in the frame of this assignment, confirm the slow speed of it. Some of the limiting factors rely at the limited human resources at the responsible institutions, mainly at MoEFWA, but also on the limited knowledge, experiences and even language barriers.
 56. Frequent changes of the staff and recruitment of low profile experts for the above mentioned process limits the speed of transposition and quality of the process. ® For that reason the administrative capacity of bodies in charge of environment protection needs to be strengthened and coordination of work between them improved.
 57. Albania has made no progress on IPPC Directive 96/61/EC, "On the prevention and control of integrated pollution". On the other hand, the PRTR protocol of Aarhus Convention is ratified. This situation limits structured and planned actions towards the involvement of businesses on PRTR activities. ® It will help on preventing risks for industrial accidents and promote access to information for the general and interested public.
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D. The legal and institutional gaps at the national and local level

D.1 Current legal framework

58. While decentralizing the government and gearing up for possible EU accession, Albania is in need for new laws and regulations; not only to deal with the newly privatized economy, but also to safeguard the environment. The country is moving towards framework laws and integrated approaches. This means a slow process of adjustment from a single-media approach to a multimedia approach in administering and management of hotspot areas. Different ways of managing and operating them are required for sector specialists, as well as generalists. Regulators are trying to broaden their tasks from ad-hoc and emergency reactions to systematic and planned management and enforcement.
 59. Framework law such the Law on Environmental Protection (2002) has been introduced and scrutinized for its applicability. Some of the environmental related legislation is still being drafted. Most of the other laws and bylaws are reviewed their laws since 2000. Such laws normally take one to two years to develop. Assistance is required with amendments to the framework law, especially in the implementation phase and the development of standards. Most standards are nowadays derived from EU directives.
 60. Further need for modernization of the legal framework is evident in such trends as the movement from sectoral monitoring, inspection and management of specific hotspot areas goes to a more integrated approach. This requires the framework law and other specific laws to be fine-tuned and implemented.
 61. There are plans on drafting a new framework Law on Environmental Protection (due 2009), where the special focus will be given to Environmental Management Plans. Technical assistance is expected to be given by the on-going MoEFWA project (CARDS 2006)
 62. ® The new draft law on solid waste management (due 2009), should transpose the new EU Directive on Solid Waste (2008). This drafting process is assisted by the on-going MoEFWA project (CARDS 2006). The new draft law should consider both waste and hazardous waste.
 63. ® Plans are to follow on drafting new laws with full transposing of the EU directives rather than partial transposing processes such on landfills, incineration, polluted waters, floods, etc. It is expected the completed legal framework will result in proper management of waste and prevention of environmental hot spots.
 64. ® The National Plan of Hazardous Waste (due on 2009) to be approved after drafting and adopting drafting and adopting the new framework law and the solid waste (tentatively 2010).
 65. ® The rapid development processes in the country raise the need for integration of policies, strategies and action plans at national, regional and local level. The vertical integration is absent, frequently justified by very generalist approaches and statements. Such approaches are resulting frequently
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on conflicting interests between national and local institutions. Landfills, waste water treatment installation are among the common examples.

66. Regional and Local Environmental (Development) Strategies are rare documents in the country. Besides the positive examples of developing Local Environmental Action Plans for Korca Region, Lezha Region, the number did not reach the critical mass for considering them of country-wide coverage. In addition, the lack of the environmental component in regional development strategies, limits the synergy among different sectors at regional and local level.

D.2 Assessment of the institution framework at the national level

67. The institutional framework managing the hot spots and preventing hotspots at the national level is shared between different ministries. MoEFWA, MoPWTT, MoH, MoETE, MoLSAEO and MoAFCP through their inspectorates manage the existing hotspots, control and prevent pollution and issue permits in respect to the type of activity. The communication and cooperation between institutions is regulated with specific Orders and Agreements.
68. The centralized administration for the hotspot monitoring and management is still function of central governmental institutions or ministries, as directly accountable to them. The existing hotspot list³, are managed by the respective Ministries based on their activity.
69. **Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration:** Albania has reviewed and defined the function and organization of the MoEFWA few times since its establishment in 2001. The same happened with other in-line Ministries, directly accountable for hotspot management or intervention actions. The Law on Environmental Protection (No. 8934, 2002) and the updated National Environmental Action Plan followed. In 2005, the Ministry was expanded and strengthened with the incorporation of forestry and fisheries management matters and the management of environmentally protected areas into the Ministry's areas of competence.
70. The MoEFWA has no "property" on the existing Hot Spot sites. The role of MoEFWA is to prepare base laws and to coordinate work for remediation of these sites as well as enforce regulations for pollution prevention.
71. Although strengthened, the MoEFWA suffers from two major difficulties, inadequate staff to cover its expanding workload, and a population that often does not understand why environmental protection constraints are placed upon its activities. The key institutional problems of the Ministry are⁴:
- Poor capacity to legislate effectively
 - Insufficient resources to ensure implementation of legislation

³ UNEP (2001)

⁴ MoEFWA 2007: Strategy for Environment and Integration

- Lack of information and systems with which to implement the environmental management cycle and
 - Low programming, design and assessment capacity to identify and develop the environmental infrastructure projects necessary to provide an adequate level of service to the population, and compliance with *acquis* obligations.
72. The present administrative structure cannot meet its current or future demands. Reinforcement is a high priority. On the basis of experience in countries of a similar size in similar conditions, the number of people directly involved in environmental management will need to be *trebled at least* by 2015 in order to fulfill the practical requirements of the law necessary to apply the *acquis*.
73. **The Directorate of Pollution Prevention Policies** is responsible for supervising the implementation of the legal and sub-laws, related to the pollution.
- Drafting horizontal legislation in the frame of completing the legal background and the SAA implementation;
 - Establishment and completion of the database on pollution sources and industrial activities;
 - Cooperation in programs and drafting of country development strategies;
74. This Directorate is focused on the management of Hot Spot, mainly the ones inherited by the communist regime. The main activities were on organising consultation processes, drafting the regulatory framework, and stimulate the cooperation with other institutions. Besides this engagement, the Hot Spot task, remains of secondary importance.
75. The challenges, this Directorate is facing, might be summarised as follows:
- Lack of human resources. There only 3 specialists working mainly on other fields than their background/expertise. Due to the workload and gaps on the level of required expertise, the overall performance of the staff is not satisfactory. Negative impact on the contribution this Directorate should give for Hot Spot management is lack of one specialist on industrial pollution.
 © Therefore such position should be open and filled in as short term priority.
 - Lack of proper coordination and communication with other structures within MoEFWA. The communication channels within the institution need considerable improvement, in order to reach the required level of efficiency and impact that different structures should have on policy design and/or supervision on the enforcement.

Box no.1 What are the challenges observed in your institutions regarding hotspot management?

MoEFWA (*Interview 1*): My opinion is that REA and Inspectorate of Environment should have clearly divided responsibilities. At the moment one inspector does cover two functions (as specialist and as inspector). Due to lack of human resource, the REA personnel can not implement qualitative these two functions

- This Directorate and the Agency on Environment and Forestry have some common tasks which do overlap and create confusion.
Ⓜ Develop clear responsibilities between both units regarding tasks Hot spot issues.
76. **The Directorate of Environmental Impact Assessment and Permits**, which supervises the implementation of the legal and sub-laws, related to the strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment. In this framework, the Directorate of EIA & Permits cooperates with local and central decision taking structures. Among the main tasks of this Directorate the following can be mentioned:
- Drafting horizontal legislation in the frame of completing the legal background and the SAA implementation;
 - Administration of the process for environmental permission granting and procedural approval aspects;
 - Establishment and completion of the data base on environment impact activities and environmental permission;
 - Certification of environmental experts, who prepare the EIA Reports and offer environmental expertise;
 - Drafting acts (regulations, guidelines, documents, application forms), which regulate the work of REA in the frame of environmental permission granting and public participation;
 - Preparation of environmental permissions documents and environmental declarations; Administration of procedures for trans-boundary impact activity;
 - Cooperation in programs and drafting of country development strategies;
 - Following and supervising the field's legislation implementation by REA and the environmental certified experts;
77. Ⓜ Stronger cooperation is required to be developed by this Directorate and other units, especially on evaluating EIA related to activities within or nearby Hot Spot areas.
78. **The Agency of Environment and Forest**
The Agency of Environment and Forest is established by the DCM, No. 579, date 23.8.2006, with the main objective to:
- Ensure technical support, services and advice the Ministry of Environment Forest and Water Administration;
 - Collection, processing and informing the public on monitoring results, in the field of environment and forest
79. Structure and capacities of the AEF related to the Hotspots
The AEF has 4 Directorates, 11 Sectors and 2 Laboratories. The main focus of the sectors of the Agency is monitoring and reporting on the status of the environment. The staff of the Agency is based on specialists, qualified mainly on monitoring protocols. Regarding hot spots, the Agency is able to perform monitoring of the existing ones and provide necessary support to the MoEFWA.
80. There is no separate sector or specialist dealing specifically with hotspots. The AEF has one specialist engaged more with hotspot related issues. He participates in national committees on environmental emergencies.
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Ⓜ There is a need for further qualification of the existing staff on specifics of different types of Hot Spots.

Besides the received support by STEMA project (CARDS) and the twining project (supported by NL Government), AEF reports lack of monitoring and measurement equipment. Their need consists on having several movable monitoring stations, which can be used either in emergency situation or routine checking.

D.3 Cooperation with other Ministries and Institutions

81. The in line Ministries and respective inspectorates coordinate and regulate their work based on common Minister Orders and Regulations. The parameters, objectives, plans and manners on controlling are prepared by the Agency of Environment and Forestry (AEF) and REAs. They are approved by the chief inspector of IE, based on an Order approved by MoEFWA.
 82. In Albania, the combination of the environment with forestry and water administration issues at MoEFWA, easy some of the management issues for the identified hotspot areas. Although, some important aspects of physical planning are at the responsibility of other bodies.
 83. Cooperation between MoEFAW (and REAs) with other ministries (and agencies) with an interest in the environment, and more direct links to hot spot, is extremely important. In all semi-structured interviews, it is clearly indicated as a need the improvement of the exiting level of cooperation. Most coordination takes place on an ad-hoc basis and seems to be based on personal contacts rather than institutional or formal contacts. In many cases this cooperation seems to function, although such systems are difficult to maintain, due to frequent changes in personnel and responsibilities.

Ⓜ It becomes increasingly important to develop the lines of cooperation and communication once systematic management, monitoring and enforcement programs are developed for each identified hotspot area.
 84. The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Public Works, etc, are not much involved in the environmental planning or management. There is a common phenomena of changing focal point for environmental issues, making it very difficult to maintain the continuity of work and processes. The newly appointed personnel usually does not have strong environmental expertise.

Ⓜ Some of the personnel of these other in-line Ministries would need to be trained in environmental matters.
 85. The existing legal framework is considered as appropriate, but it is sometimes neglected. There is a lack of coordination between MoD and MoEFWA on military activities. Those activities pose e very high risk to the nature and create the bases of new hotspots. The demounting activities, which are carried in different areas in the country, are not monitored by REAs or other ad-hoc structures. The recent disaster in Gerdec (March 16, 2008) clearly indicated the lack of enforcement and cooperation between these two institutions.
 86. Considering the industry, agriculture and health system institutions are significant polluters and new hotspot establishments, METE, MoAFCP, MoH rarely cooperate with environmental counterparts and inspectorates. The above mentioned activities contribute to soil and water pollution through leaks and
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by dumping waste – some of it hazardous – which, in turn, poses risks to aquifers. This necessity becomes more visible in those areas, where the given hotspot has implications and impacts on the nearby population's health and their family economy.

Ⓢ Establishment of permanent working groups of experts (and/or focal points for environmental issues), facilitated and moderated by MoEFWA/Directorate for Pollution Prevention Policies.

87. The cooperation the Ministry of Interior, the Commission of Civil Emergencies remains weak. There is one specialist of the Directorate on Pollution Prevention representing the MoEFWA in the meetings. Due to several factors, the role of the environmental specialist remains mostly inactive. The Council of Ministers might establish special commissions/ ad-hoc group on environmental experts of different institutions, in case of an emergency with critical environmental impacts such as the case of Gerdec.
88. The recent reorganization of the Academy of Sciences (2007) redefined roles and structures of the remaining research and academia institutions. Universities do play an important role on environmental monitoring of some parameters and/or natural resources (for example Shkodra Lake, Adriatic sea, wetlands/lagoons)

Ⓢ Although at early stages of the new structure functioning (integration of ex-research institutes within the University structure), well definition of tasks related to hot spot areas is needed mainly focusing on studies and monitoring.

D.4 Assessment of the institution framework at regional/local level

89. The use of territory is controlled by the respective Regional Council through its Territory Adjustment Council and Municipal Territory Council. The council is composed by different representatives, where one place was for the representative of REA. The new composition of this Council has not representative of REA. In this respect there is no active voice in decision making in this level to prevent activities which are considered harmful to environment.
90. **The Regional Environmental Agencies:** Based on the current level of development of the Regional and Local authorities, the most important body at the regional and local level is the Regional Environmental Agency. REAs are agencies of the MoEFWA in each Qark (delegated structure at regional and local level). The role of REAs is to implement the environmental legislation in local level. Their duty is to support Regional

BOX no.2: What are the challenges observed in your institutions regarding hotspot management?

REA (Interview 1): The legal framework is quite broad, therefore the REAs are not covering the environmental monitoring. In addition, the cooperation with the local authorities is very weak and mainly held on ad-hoc bases and upon their request for specific information. The contribution of REAs on public awareness campaigns regarding the pollution (including hotspots) should be significantly bigger

REA (Interview 2): The big number of REA's competencies (permitting and compliance of the small business) should be given to local authorities. It is expected it will increase the responsiveness of local authorities towards the activities they are licensing and their environmental impacts. It will decrease the workload of REAs, as specialized agencies, to deal with more important issues.

and Local Governments for the administration and protection of the environment, promote cleaner technologies, participate in permitting process and environmental declaration, undertake awareness campaigns, etc.

91. Critical limitation on REA human resources. There are only 1 to 2 inspectors for one Region, which not able to cover the whole area and do not have the expertise in all fields of activities. In addition, the changes of personnel are very frequent. Therefore the efficiency of training programs of donors for them often shows little results.
92. Single-media inspections to Hot Spot areas executed mainly by REAs are common. Respective Ministries have their regional inspectorates, which are responsible for implementing and monitoring the laws and regulations. Other inspectorates such as sanitation inspection occur in case direct health impact is observed.
93. Regional and Local authorities do not have “ownership” over Hot spot. They lack competencies and capacities regarding Hot spot management. The perception by the interviewed central authorities is that (quote) ... *they are without any role. They not seriously engaged in environmental processes. In addition, the level of professionalism is very low*”. The Regional Authorities have within their structure the Directorate of Development and Planning with capacities for stronger involvement in such processes. These Directorates are crucial units for reference at regional related to development plans. But the overall position of the Regional Authorities remains weak and without much influence either at National or Local level.
94. At the level of big municipalities, as result of to decentralization processes, recently is observed a stronger motivation for considering environmental issues and processes. This is mainly n the big municipalities such as Tirana, Korca, Durres, etc. But regarding the Hot spot management, these competences are still lacking. In most of the cases, environmental issues are tasks of one person, position within Public Services Departments/Directorates.
95. For the small municipalities and communes, the situation is very difficult with very limited staff and other resources, no knowledge and experience to dealt with environmental planning and management.
® Training programs should be design for local authorities on topic of their interest for environmental planning and management.
96. Beside the good legislation and institutional framework the concrete communication in regional and local level is considered very weak and not concretely coordinated. There is a lack in communication between local institutions to setup a regular monitoring procedure for the permits given to the business of construction works. It is not harmonized cooperation between Inspectorate of Environment and REAs, REAs with Local Government and other Regional and Local Institutions.
97. In the area of improving cooperation, the deepest need is for coordinating bodies for programmatic enforcement. In addition, criminal investigations into

fraud, illegal dumping and activities within the territory of declared hotspot area require high levels of cooperation between authorities.

98. The public institutions at local level (schools, hospitals, libraries) have very limited information and knowledge on the presence and risk of the near by Hot spot. This is a general observation for all environmental issues. There is no literature, pamphlets, leaflets explaining the type of Hot spot and eventual health risks. Combined with the poverty, the lack of information is the main factor that individuals use contaminated materials as working tools and family needs. In addition, the lack of signals, information plates, fencing, etc makes the Hot spot area the daily yard for children or transit walking paths.

® Public information and awareness program to be designed and delivered the earliest possible.

® Local authorities take pro-active role on preventing the usage of Hot spot territory by inhabitants, not only by using different education means, but also prohibit entering physically the site and take/use the contaminated materials.

® School masters and teachers get specific trainings how to deal with children and communities nearby the hot spot area. Teachers and pupils organize outdoor events to activate the community responsiveness and sensitivity for environmental remediation.

99. The list of identified capacity building needs for the involved institutions and their personnel would be rather complete if being drafted based on the bottom up approach. In the course of this project the respective beneficiaries is expected to be more proactive on planning and program design for the given technical assistance. As result of it the efficiency will increase both at planning and investing on demonstration projects for environmental remediation and rehabilitation.

Box. No. 3
What is the perception of the population on the presence of the Hot Spot nearby your village?
 Teacher 1: Most of people know about it from the discussions with friends, neighbors, etc. There is bad smell nearby the storage area, so people tend not to go there. But, no body visited us and explain what materials are there, Some poor families do use containers for carring waters.

How do you see the role of the school on the education activities?
 Very crucial. Children should be educated, so they will educate their families.

D.5 Other gaps identified at all levels

100. The composition of personnel dealing with hotspot areas is almost unknown, which may indicate that management does not place much emphasis on the quality of workers or the specific knowledge required for their jobs. It is surprising that the Ministries and other institutions in all level (national, regional and local) have no personnel with law degrees specialized on dealing with hotspot area and their related problems. In general, the management is not concerned with cost-effectiveness; a symptom of centralized governmental structures. Human-resource management that concerns itself with required skills, training of managers, training in law and optimizing the field activity efficiency is in high demand.
101. There is lack of knowledge and referential case studies on developing SEA, public participation procedures for the planned investment in environmental remediation of the given hotspots.
- ® Good case studies specific literature to hot spot areas should be developed and distributed at all levels.
102. The socio-economic aspects of hotspots are frequently considered only in cases where families are living within the hotspot area or next to it. In addition, there is no reference of social support by the government for the most effected families. MoLSAO and MoH and their inspectorates at regional and local level, do not have specific trained personnel on dealing with environmental issues, including the hotspot areas, too.
- ® Any training program, either of general prospective or specific ones on social and health related issues would be useful for effective support and intervention.
103. Data storage and retrieval systems for hotspot status are essential to any involved institution of national, regional and local level. This system is very much scattered and based on paper archives, which nowadays are being partly replaced by electronic archiving. The latest enables fast recovery of data and easy recording. Reporting on the hotspot status and environmental remediation progress are impossible without such systems. Data on hotspot inventories, industries, national inventories of chemicals and information about permits are either non-existent or difficult to acquire. By the same token, public access to such information is very limited.
- ® Functional data systems are of major importance to programmes for capacity and capability strengthening in all involved institutions.
104. The state of the environment is monitored by the inspectorates and several institutes as defined by the Law on Environmental monitoring. Some scrutiny of these records occurs because data storage and retrieval systems cannot provide sufficient back-up on reporting. There small regional laboratories (Health Directorates and some Universities like Luigj Gurakuqi in Shkodra) and larger national laboratories (PHI, Agency of Environment and Forestry, Institute of Energy, Water and Environment, Faculty of Natural Sciences), with properly defined methods of sampling and analyses prescription.
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® The needs as indicated by several interviews are for training in sampling techniques, quality assurance and the use of small monitoring equipment. The last item is of importance for rapid responses to emergency situations.

D.6 Role of NGOs

105. Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are key actors in the development and implementation of environmental policy and have the possibility to complement government agencies with appropriate levels of transparency and participation. In this way NGOs can ensure transparency and civil society participation contributing in turn to good governance structure and mechanisms. Specifically in terms of the environmental remediation and pollution prevention investments,

® NGOs should have an important role to play not only in the identification of pilot demonstration projects and confirmation of related data but also in terms of informing about the potential impact of the projects.

106. The existence of the necessary legal and policy framework in this context, such as the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) required for major infrastructure projects, is a prerequisite to ensuring smooth implementation. The EIA with its public participation components is a powerful tool to guarantee timely, transparent and full consultation with all parties. National and local NGOs in this context mobilize actors at the grass root level and develop a better understanding of the effective implementation of the respective projects.

® NGOs to be able to add a dimension of ownership to the project cycle through civil society participation and provide added value by raising the visibility of this de-pollution initiative within the region.

107. The NGO representatives often provide complementary information on the potential hotspot areas and assist in identifying key stakeholders to meet. They provide additional information and underline their role in facilitating environmental awareness raising activities, monitoring pollution caused by public sector or private sector activities, initiating de-pollution related activities and the like.

® NGOs and public to be stimulated through various means on providing complementary information by well design tools and processes at national and local level.

Box. No. 4

What support an NGO would contribute to a local community nearby the Hot Spot area?

NGO (*Interview 1*): Most of the NGOs work on awareness and education activities. These type of activities can be easily adjusted for Hot Spot area. We might publish information in our newsletter prepare and distribute information materials, organize public discussion events.

What needs would you articulate for you in such circumstances?

NGO (*Interview 1*): First of all access to information by the governmental authorities, transparency and easily reading materials by the public. Special training might be needed in fields expertise related to respective Hot Spot

E. Guidelines for a strategy on capacity building

for safe management of hazardous chemicals/waste, contaminated sites.

108. The following points represent recommendation for drafting the strategy on Capacity Building:

i. Formation of Stakeholders Committee:

Various stakeholder committees to be established for each hot spot area

ii. Review of the Existing System on Hot spots and Chemical and Waste Management:

Revision of the chemical and waste management in the country through the resources of stakeholders and their departments, the existing system. The various documents, reports, information and proposals be collected, scrutinized and evaluated.

iii. Assessment of Chemical Risks and Waste Impacts:

The chemical risks posed in the country due to chemicals import, storage, transportation, utilization, waste products generated, un-utilized chemicals etc. to be assessed. The impacts of solid and liquid hazardous waste to be studied highlighted to assess their impacts on the human health and the environmental resources.

iv. Identification of Shortcomings and Constraints:

The existing deficiencies in the existing and prevailing chemical and waste management system to be identified and elaborated. The shortcomings and constraints also to be elaborated and identified.

v. Review of Existing Legislation:

The current legislation pertaining the chemicals and waste management will be review to assess their viability and effectiveness in tackling with the problems encountered.

vi. Review and Updating of National Database:

The available national base to be prepared and updated regarding chemicals and waste quantities, composition, hazardousness, risks etc.

vii. Updating of National Profile:

Based on the information collected, the National Profile on chemical and waste management to be updated and improved.

viii. Preparation of National Action Program and Improvement Plans:

Based on the deficiencies in the existing system, a National Action Program and Improvement plan to be prepared in consultation with all the stakeholders.

ix. Enhancing the Capacity Building:

The capacity building measures to be proposed and highlighted and include but not limited to:

- the strengthen of the national legislation and enforcement capacity;
- development of SEA and EIA for hot spot areas
- improvement of technical capacity to minimize unintended by-products releases by adopting improved or alternate technology;
- training of technical staff to control and monitor the chemicals and waste;
- establishment of inventories and proper databases and,
- identification of specific weakness in administrative, legal and monitoring systems.

The technical capacity on control of the importation of chemicals to be improved.

x. Preparation and Identification of Alternatives:

Environmental and feasible alternatives for chemical and waste treatment and management to be studied, proposed and selected.

xi. Awareness Raising:

The practical and pragmatic awareness raising mechanisms to be selected to provide information to the workers and the public concerning the potential risks associated with chemicals and waste management its production, generation, import, export, handling, use and disposal.

Special attention to be given to increase awareness in the political and public communities and making all stakeholders actively involved.

xii. Preparation of Feasibility for Establishing a Poison Control Center:

Based on the data and information, feasibility to be made regarding the establishment of a 'Poison Control Center' for the country. In addition, a reference system for correlation of the health and environmental effects with the exposure to chemical hazards or waste related pollution to be developed.

ANNEXES

- Annex no. 01:

List of reviewed reports and documents

- Annex. no.02:

“Sample of questions in conducted semi-structured interviews

- Annex no. 03:

List of identified/interviewed persons/Institutions

Annex no. 01:
List of reviewed reports and documents

- ECENA**, Countries Situation with Regard to EU Legislation (Transposition and Implementation) Part of the ECENA Multi-annual Work Programme 2007-2009
- ELPA**, Project, Final Project Report, 2006
- European Commission, DG ENV** - Progress Monitoring for the countries of South East Europe ("pre-candidates") Progress Monitoring Report, Year 10 – 2007
- European Commission, REC** - Progress Monitoring for the countries of South East Europe ("pre-candidates") Progress Monitoring Report, Year 11 – 2008
- Government of Albania**, "The National plan for the Implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement 2007 – 2012"
- MoEFAW**, "Inter-sectoral Strategy on Environment", 200XX
- MoEFAW**, "National Environmental Strategy" (draft), 2002xxx
- REC**, Compendium of Environmental Legislation in Albania 2004-2006
- REC**, Compendium of Environmental Legislation in Albania 2002-2003, (Albanian Law on Environmental Protection, Albanian Legislation on Waste and Hazardous Waste)
- REC**, Compendium of Environmental Legislation in Albania 2000
- REC**, The Regional Environmental Action Plan for Drini River Delta, 2006
- REC**, The Local Environmental Action Plan for Koplík Municipality, 2007
- UNDP**, Millennium Development Report for Shkodra Region, 2005
- UNEP**, Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment – Albania, 2000

Internet links:

- MoEFAW**, www.moe.gov.al
- REC**, www.rec.org
- REC Albania**, <http://albania.rec.org>
- UNEP**, <http://enrin.grida.no/htmls/albania/reports/postcon/eng/report.htm>
- UNDP**, www.undp.org.al
- Ministry of European Integration**, www.moi.gov.al

Projects:

- Implementation of the National Plan for approximation of environmental legislation**
Strengthening of Environmental Monitoring System in Albania (STEMA)

Annex. no.02:

“Sample of questions in conducted semi-structured interviews

Pyetësor mbi vlerësimin e kapaciteteve dhe nevojave në menaxhimin e territorit
(të gjithë teritorit në nivel qarku, tokën, pyjet, ujrat, etj) dhe specifikisht të pikave të nxehta mjedisore

Programi i Kombeve të Bashkuara për Zhvillimin (PNUD/UNDP) ka filluar zbatimin e një projekti të ri lidhur me menaxhimin e zonave të nxehta mjedisore, me fokus të veçantë në Bajzë.

Në kuadër të zbatimit të njërës prej komponenteve të tij “Vlerësimi të nevojave për ndërtimin e kapaciteteve të institucioneve përgjegjëse për menaxhimin e zonave të nxehta mjedisore” Qendrës Rajonale të Mjedisit i është kërkuar të hartojë një raport vlerësimi mbi gjendjen e institucioneve dhe kapaciteteve të tyre në menaxhimin e teritorit dhe zonave të nxehta mjedisore.

Duke vlerësuar rëndësinë e institucionit tuaj në këtë fushë, lutemi të jepni kontributin tuaj në plotësimin e pyetësorit të mëposhtëm.

1. Cili është roli i institucionit tuaj në menaxhimin e territorit dhe mbrojtjes së mjedisit?

1.1 Baza ligjore dhe rregullorja e funksionimit

1.2 Cilat janë institucionet e tjera që kanë rol në menaxhimin e territorit dhe natyrës?

1.3 Bashkëpunimi me institucione të tjera në nivel Qarku dhe Kombëtare për menaxhimin e territorit dhe si e vlerësoni këtë marrdhënie.

2. Cilat janë kapacitetet njerëzore dhe financiare të institucionit tuaj në menaxhimin e territorit?

3. Çfarë problemesh vëreni në funksionimin e institucionit tuaj, përsa i përket mangësive të mundshme ligjore apo mungesës së kompetencave në lidhje me këtë fushë?

4. A respektohet nga biznesi vendas kërkesa për Vlerësim Mjedisor dhe e marrjes së lejes mjediorë?

4. Cilat janë pikat e nxehta mjedisore në rajonin tuaj?

5. Si menaxhohen pikat e nxehta mjedisore. A është stafi që merret direkt me to i kualifikuar dhe i mjaftueshëm? A ka kushte të ruajtjes mjedisore për këto zona dhe a respektohen ato?

6. A paraqesin rrezik dhe cili është roli i institucionit tuaj në përgjigje të një emergjence të mundshme dhe si e vlerësoni?

Ju faleminderit për angazhimin tuaj!

Annex no. 03:
List of identified/interviewed persons/Institutions

No.	Name	Institution
1	Laureta Dibra	Environmental Inspectorate
2	Gani Deliu	Regional Environmental Agency of Tirana
3	Bajram Mejdiaj	MEFWA
4	Narin Panariti	Environmental Experts
5	Etleva Canaj	National Environmental Agency
6	Alqi Çullaj,	Faculty of Natural Sciences
7	Thoma Rusha	METE
8	Vladimir Bezhani	MPWTT
9	Luljeta Leno	Institute of Public Health
10	Alfred Olli	Directorate of Civil Emergencies
11	Xhemal Mato	Ekolevizja NGO group
12	Gjovalin Kolombi	Head of Regional Council of Shkodra
13	Merita Kazazi	Regional Council of Shkodra
14	Xhovalin Veshti	Commune of Kastrat
15	Arben Ceni	Commune of Ana e Malit
16	Gezim Hardodhi	Commune of Rrethina
17	Fredi Sterkaj	Commune of Shkrel
18	Isa Rama	Commune of Koplík
19	Silvana Rama	Teacher Koplík