E1351

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY PROGRAM

March 15, 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ALBANIA EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY PROGRAM

I. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Education is one of the highest priorities in Albania. The government is committed to improve the quality of education at all level and increase access to secondary education for the poor. The International Development Association (IDA) is one of the largest and longest development partners supporting the education sector in Albania. To date, the IDA has supported two education sector operations. The first project, the School Rehabilitation and Capacity Building Project, was implemented from 1994 and completed in 2000 and aimed to support provision of basic education services through capacity building of key sector institutes and rehabilitation/reconstruction of school facilities. The subsequent project, the Education Reform Project, aimed at assisting the MoES in planning and managing the delivery of educational services and strengthening its accountability to stakeholders for the delivery. This project commenced in 2000 and closed in 2004.

The proposed Education Excellence and Equity Program (EEE-P) would support the implementation of the first phase of the Albania's National Education Strategy (NES) during 2006-2009. ***The objective of EEE-P is improved quality of learning conditions for all students, and increased enrollment in general secondary education especially for the poor.*** The priority areas of the proposed program and anticipated costs are:

(i) Strengthening leadership, management and governance of the education system (US$10 million)
(ii) Improving conditions for teaching and learning (US$26 million);
(iii) Improving and rationalizing education infrastructure (US$32 million); and
(iv) Setting the stage for higher education reform (US$7 million).

1.2 Major Investment Components

The main physical investment component of the proposed program falls under the ***third priority area – improving and rationalizing education infrastructure***, especially in secondary education. Investments would be based on school mapping database, taking into consideration the demographic development in Albania. Because the IDA support will use a sector-wide approach, the actual scope of physical investments and their location will only be ascertained through the Annual Reform Program. It is, however, envisaged that these would consist mainly

of minor works for rehabilitation, renovation of school facilities, and adding new classrooms and/or laboratories to the existing schools. In rare instances, school replacement may be a possibility where the old building may not be worthy of rehabilitation. Science laboratories and ICT facilities would be provided to general secondary schools in line with the new curriculum and teacher training to be supported in priority area two.

1.3 Environmental Category

It is anticipated that environmental risks will be relatively modest in the proposed program. Plans on minor reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation of school facilities are considered in this EMP and form part of the overall program to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts. These potential adverse environmental impacts are summarized below and are restricted in scope and severity:

- Dust and noise due to demolition and construction;
- Dumping of demolition and construction wastes and accidental spillage of machine oil, lubricants, etc.
- Encroachment to private property;
- Risk of damage to historical or cultural property or unknown archaeological sites

These risks can be effectively anticipated in advance of project implementation and addressed by direct mitigation activities in the design, planning and construction supervision process as well as during the operation of the facilities. The project is classified under the Environmental Category B in accordance with World Bank operational policies and requires the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

1.4 Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The first and second education sector projects used a traditional project implementation structure with a stand-alone Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The EEE-P would be implemented by the MoES, using its existing staff and structures. A project implementation unit will not be established. The MoES would be responsible for the prioritization and preparation of the annual reform program, the coordination of various activities in the reform program across different departments of the MoES, specialized institutes, regions, municipalities and communes, and ensure independence and reliability of the handling of complaints and fiduciary and safeguards monitoring mechanisms. Policy oversight and program steering would be the responsibility of a Steering Committee consisting of the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Education and Science, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Interior and Decentralization, and General Secretary of the MoES. The General Secretary of the MoES would be responsible for the coordination and monitoring of activities at the technical level, including environmental planning and management. The directors of relevant departments of the MoES and heads of institutes would be responsible for the implementation of activities. The General Secretary of Education and Science would call for monthly meetings of the director of departments to coordinate and monitor progress of the EEE-P, and the Minister would provide policy guidance to these technical meetings on a quarterly and on demand basis.

1.5 Institutional Structure in Environment Management and Facilities Planning

This section briefly describes existing environmental regulation and standards relevant to the Program and makes reference to institutions at the local and national levels responsible for issuing permits, licenses, and enforcing compliance of environmental standards.

The following Albanian Laws define a legal framework for environmental management (see Attachment 1 for details):

- Law on Environmental Protection, No. 8934 dated September 5, 2002
- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, No. 8990, dated January 23, 2003

The key legislative legal framework addressing the full range of environmental policy issues is the new Law on Environmental Protection, No. 8934 dated September 5, 2002. The new law has improved and increased the competencies of the environmental protection institutions, as compared with the first environmental law approved in 1993. The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, No. 8990, dated January 23, 2003 (EIA law) defines the process of assessment of the potential direct or indirect environmental impacts of future projects or activities. In addition, the above-listed Decisions of the Council of Ministers complete the group of laws regulating the processes of environmental impact assessment and the issuance of environmental permist in Albania.

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has the primary responsibility for the environmental impact assessments (EIA) as well as the strategic environmental assessments (SEA). It defines the rules and procedures on activities and assessments, monitors the environmental issues, creates the national database system, publishes the relevant data, maintains a registration on pollutions and controls. It collaborates with several other ministries and institutions for specific issues related to EIAs, and coordinates with local authorities. The Regional Environmental Agencies (REA) in every region are charged with the initial review of EIA reports prior to submission to the MOE for final decision. Post-EIA monitoring are carried out by inspectors of REAs in collaboration with inspectors of the MOE.

Other secondary environmental legislation connected with the new environmental laws are:

- Law on Protected Areas, No. 8906, dated June 6, 2002;
- Law on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Damanage and Pollution, No. 8905, dated June 6, 2002;
- Law on Air Protection, No. 8897 dated May 16, 2002;
- Law on Environmental Management of Solid Wastes, No. 9010, dated February 13, 2003;
- Law on Waste Water Environmental Management, No. 9115, dated July 24, 2003

II ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 Introduction

The Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been prepared in order to integrate environmental concerns into the design and implementation of the proposed Program. The EMP would support:

(a) inclusion of the EMP follow-up procedures in the Operational Manual;
(b) highlighting of EMP follow-up responsibility in the TOR of the designated MoES staff;
(c) training of designated staff from the MoES involved in the implementation of Program activities;
(d) site-specific environmental screening concerning all Program-supported school rehabilitation activities;
(e) monitoring and evaluation of mitigation measures identified in the site-specific reviews
(f) guidelines and requirements on retrofitting buildings that may have historic or Cultural Property value

2.2 Establishment of Environmental Expertise within the MoES structures

A Specialist would be identified within the MoES, who would be responsible for coordination and supervision of the environmental plans and risk mitigation measures undertaken in the Program and cooperate with territorial departments for environment protection. The Specialist would work in close coordination with the General Secretary responsible for coordination of program activities as related to EMP implementation and would:

a) coordinate environmental training for staff, designers and local contractors;
b) disseminate existing environmental management guidelines and develop guidelines in relation to issues not covered by the existing regulations, for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of mitigation measures;
c) ensure contracting for construction and supply of equipment includes reference to appropriate guidelines and standards; and
d) conduct periodic site visits to inspect and approve plans and monitor compliance.

2.3 Site Specific Environmental Screening and Review

As a part of the EMP, all Program-supported activities for rehabilitation/renovation of school facilities would be subjected to a site-specific environmental screening and review process. This process would minimize site-specific environmental impacts and would use a standardized appraisal format that includes, but is not limited to, review of:

a) current environmental problems at the sites (soil erosion, water supply contamination, etc.);

b) potential environmental impacts, if any, due to the project (disposal waste from construction, construction noise and dust, etc);
c) potential impacts on archaeological and historical sites;
d) potential requirements, in any, for involuntary resettlement or temporary relocation of a limited number of affected persons during the construction activities

Reports would be prepared on each of the environmental reviews, specifying mitigation measures and assigning responsibilities for implementation. The findings and recommendations of the reports would be discussed with representatives of the cooperating municipalities and, as appropriate, organizations and neighbors concerned. Annual reports outlining progress in EMP implementation and highlighting environmental issues arising from Program-supported activities, the status of mitigation measures and next steps would be prepared and submitted to IDA for review.

2.4 Supervision

The environmental issues including mitigation measures would be supervised periodically by IDA and the MoES.

No major environmental impacts are anticipated under the proposed program given the relatively small size of most of the investments. These investments are expected to be environmentally beneficial (such as the introduction of energy-conserving technology) and none of the units to be financed is expected to have any large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts. No new structures of works of significant size are envisaged under the Program. The potential negative environmental impacts are expected to be localized or able to be mitigated during the implantation stage.

Contracts and bill of quantities will include clauses for appropriate disposal of unacceptable construction material and disposal of construction waste. Procurement documents will specify that no environmentally unacceptable materials will be used. Bidding documents will include rehabilitation of adequate sanitary facilities, including appropriate disposal of wastewater and sewerage. The environmental management guidelines included in Attachment 2 should be provided to contractors engaged in civil works under the Program, and should be made an integral part of the civil works contracts.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

3.1 Introduction

The Environmental Guidelines section details the specifics to be addressed in the ecological/biologic concept, design and planning of small-scale projects for the upgrading of school infrastructure. The guidelines cover the handling of construction debris generated, selection of construction materials and construction methods with limited impact on the environment, energy saving methods as well as the handling of construction wastes under Program-supported activities. The guidelines are a base for training, programming, research,

discussions and workshops. However, in selecting suitable construction methods and materials, great attention should be paid to locally available traditions, skills and resources in the project sites.

3.2 The Site

The site specific screening and review should carefully assess the following issues:

- Dust and noise due to the demolition and construction;
- Encroachment into private property;
- Risk of damage to unknown historical and archaeological sites;
- Dumping of construction wastes and accidental spillage of machine oil, lubricants, etc.
- Risk from inadequate handling of waste.
- Potential requirements, if any, for involuntary resettlement or temporary relocation of a limited number of affected persons during construction activities.

Dust from transportation and handling of construction works will be minimized by water and other means such as enclosure of construction sites. To reduce noise, construction will be restricted during certain hours. All debris, construction and wood waste will be stored within the work site. Wood waste will be stored separately and arranged to be recycled instead of disposing it. Open burning and illegal dumping will not be permitted. Proper sites for earth/clay and sand disposal will be determined and prior approval from relevant authority for disposal will be obtained. Stockpiling of construction debris on site will be avoided and waste will be disposed of on a regular basis at the authorized government dumping ground. Debris chutes will be provided to transfer debris from higher floors to the ground.

It is necessary to arrange transport and make agreements with relevant organizations involved in waste and construction debris discharge.

It is also required to create necessary conditions for safe removal of sewage during the rehabilitation and renovation and observe the ecological and sanitary regulations during the rehabilitation of sanitary and technical equipment, sewage pipes and purifying constructions.

3.3 Energy Efficiency, Insulation and Ventilation

Insulation should be tailored to the seasonal impacts of climate, internal thermal load, and characteristics of exposure. Vapor berries should prevent moisture intrusion in the roof insulation and outer wall cavities and using damp course.

Window location should be determined on view, ventilation, light, thermal gain, privacy control and interior space functions.

High-efficiency systems for heating domestic water (including solar systems) and for interior space heating should be selected with maintenance and long term running costs in mind. Plumbing should be coordinated to minimize plumbing and also water service to toilets, kitchen and utility rooms. Water-saving faucets, ring mains and other devices also require consideration.

All plumbing lines should preferably be copper, with waste lines in cast iron to avoid PVC outgassing. Exposed plumbing and pipe insulation should be of nontoxic material.

All materials and equipment (to be used) should have a security certificate.

3.4 Electrical Systems

Ground fault wiring near any plumbing fixture is a precaution. Selecting the most energy-efficient light fixtures, lamps, appliances and equipment will reduce energy demand but can introduce undesirable electromagnetic fields. Be aware that close proximity to table, floor and desk halogen, fluorescent and other high-efficiency fixtures and lamps can cause an exposure to harmful electromagnetic fields.

3.5 Cabinetry and Wood

Nontoxic finishes are available but expensive. Selecting the least toxic finishes is advised. All materials should have appropriate permissions on quality and safety (appropriateness certificate and sanitary-epidemiologic conclusion).

3.6 Finishes

Water-based interior nontoxic, no allergenic paint for drywall or plaster surfaces is preferable to latex or oil-based paints from a respiratory standpoint. Any enamel coating for doors or other surfaces that require a more durable finish is advised to be applied away from interior spaces and be fully aired for over a month before installation. Indoor space should not be occupied until odor and toxins of the paint or finish has been adequately aired.

3.7 Demolition work

Existing building elements (walls, foundations, ground cement slabs etc.) should be carefully demolished and the debris should be sorted and removed as directed by the EMP (to be determined during the preparation phase of the project). All valuable materials (doors, windows, sanitary fixtures, etc) should be carefully dismantled and transported to the storage area assigned for the purpose. Valuable materials should be recycled within the project or sold.

3.8 Selection of Construction Materials and Construction Methods

Environmentally sound goods and services should be selected. Priority should be given to products meeting standards for recognized international or national symbols. Traditionally well-tried materials and methods should be chosen before new and unknown techniques. Construction sites should be fenced off in order to prevent entry of public, and general safety measures would be imposed. Temporary inconveniences due to construction works should be minimized through planning and coordination with contractors, neighbors and authorities. In densely populated areas, noisy or vibration generating activities should be strictly confined to the daytime.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A. MITIGATION PLAN

			Cost		Institutional Responsibility	
Phase	**Issue**	**Mitigating Measure**	**Install**	**Operate**	**Install**	**Operate**
Construction	• Insulation materials – asbestos wool: Some schools had been equipped with heating systems. Asbestos wool may have been used as insulation material in some industrial facilities, but schools were never insulated. Asbestos roofing sheets were not used.	NA			NA	NA
	• Paints – walls and ceilings are painted with white wash. Wooden windows, exposed roofing timber, doors and all other woodwork was most probably painted with lead based paints	• Because schools have practically never been maintained, little paint is left. Bills of quantities would nevertheless include a clause for appropriate disposal of painted wood. Procurement documents would specify that no lead based paints would be used.		Minor costs		Architectural -firms/ Supervision-engineers

			Cost		Institutional Responsibility	
Phase	**Issue**	**Mitigating Measure**	**Install**	**Operate**	**Install**	**Operate**
	• Disposal of construction waste: except for paint of wood, all other building materials are non hazards (lime, cement and sand plaster, concrete, glass, ceramics –electrical and sanitary, fabric insulated copper wiring, cast iron sanitary pipes, galvanized water pipes, etc).	• The building site would be cleaned and all debris and waste materials would be disposed of in accordance with clauses specified in the bills of quantities. The sites for disposal of construction waste would be government approved sites.		Minor costs		Architectural -firms/ Supervision-engineers
	• Landscape:	• The rehabilitation contract would include for site works and the planting of trees. One of the community involvement measure built in the project would be to get commitments from families and local businesses to look after those trees. This commitment would be one of the aspects of the school opening ceremony.		Minor costs		Schools Communities /Families
	• Sanitation:	• The project includes the rehabilitation of adequate sanitary facilities, including appropriate disposal of waste water and sewerage.		Minor costs		Architectural firms/ Supervision-engineers

			Cost		Institutional Responsibility	
Phase	**Issue**	**Mitigating Measure**	**Install**	**Operate**	**Install**	**Operate**
	• Cultural Property – is it in a historic building, district or in close connection with other physical cultural resources	• If so, ensure that reconstruction, design of extensions and materials used are appropriate. In the case of excavation on a historic site, liaise with local authority regarding precautions and institution of 'chance f-finds' procedure.				Architectural Firms/ monitored by Local Authority
	• Community awareness:	• The contracts with the architectural firms (hired to design and supervise these rehabilitation projects), would include for two open forums with the community. Environmental issues would be raised and addressed during those forums with the community.		Minor costs		Architectural firms/ Supervision-engineers

B. MONITORING PLAN

						Cost		Responsibility	
Phase	**What** *parameter is to be monitored?*	**Where** *is the parameter to be monitored?*	**How** *is the parameter to be monitored/ type of monitoring equipment?*	**When** *is the parameter to be monitored- frequency of measurement or continuous?*	**Why** *Is the parameter to be monitored (optional)?*	**Install**	**Operate**	**Install**	**Operate**
Construction	Appropriate disposal of paint wood. No lead based painted would be used during rehabilitation.	In the Bills of Quantities in the bidding documents, these clauses would be specified.	MoES would ensure that the site supervisors/ supervision engineers enforce these clauses.	During the rehabilitation process.			Minor costs		Supervision engineers
Construction	Appropriate disposal of construction waste other than painted wood	In the Bills of Quantities in the bidding documents, these clauses would be specified	MoES would ensure that the site supervisors/ supervision engineers enforce these clauses.	During the rehabilitation process.			Minor Costs		Supervision engineers
Construction	Satisfactory arrangements for sanitation and disposal of waste water and sewage, with suitable where-how-when-why guidance	In the Bills of Quantities in the bidding documents, these clauses would be specified	MoES would ensure that the site supervisors/ supervision engineers enforce these clauses.	During the rehabilitation process.			Minor costs		Architectural firm/ Supervision engineers

						Cost		Responsibility	
Phase	**What** *parameter is to be monitored?*	**Where** *is the parameter to be monitored?*	**How** *is the parameter to be monitored/ type of monitoring equipment?*	**When** *is the parameter to be monitored- frequency of measurement or continuous?*	**Why** *Is the parameter to be monitored (optional)?*	**Install**	**Operate**	**Install**	**Operate**
Construction	Appropriate procedures adopted for historic buildings or sites	Local Authority and on site	Check on status of site at Local Authority; check on issues on site	Before work commences and during rehabilitation .					Local Authority

C. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1. Training

Training related to environmental management would be arranged as required.

2. Consultant Services

An architectural/firm(s) would be selected to ensure the quality of the rehabilitation of the schools. It would also involve communities in the rehabilitation of each school.

D. SCHEDULE

Present (preferably in Chart Form) Start Dates and Finish Dates for:

- **Mitigation Activities**
- **Monitoring Activities**
- **Training Activities**

Rehabilitation activities could only be decided and start after the proposal is agreed on, and the detailed methodology is developed in selecting schools and allocating funds using the school mapping database. Therefore, activities on mitigation, monitoring and training would be carried out throughout the project.

E. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The MoES would be responsible to hire and oversee the required architects, engineers and contractors. In the context of the rehabilitation of schools, the MoES's role is to manage the design, bidding, supervision of projects (including civil works, goods and services). The MoES's responsibility includes the following activities:

- ③ hire the services of private architectural/engineering firms capable of providing comprehensive services, i.e. architectural, all required engineering, preparation of tender documents and site supervision;
- ③ supervise the work performed by the architectural/engineering firms to ensure that they are applying adequate standards and are following agreed procedures, as well as the agreed environmental plan.
- ③ organize tendering procedures, review tender evaluation performed by the architectural/ engineering firms, and arrange for the contracts to be signed in accordance with agreed procedures.
- ③ ensure that the architectural/engineering firms are providing adequate site supervision, particularly the supervision of carrying out the environmental plan (monitoring the disposal of paint for woods, disposal of waste water and sewage, and procurement documents specify that no lead based painted would be used).

ATTACHMENT 1
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ALBANIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Albania is making progress with adopting and enforcing a legal framework harmonized with the European Union *acquis* in the field of the environment. The Albanian Government is becoming increasingly aware of the important role of the environment in the economic development of the country. Completion of the environmental legal framework and approximation with EU directives is considered to be one of the priorities of the country's obligations towards the environment, and as an important step towards European integration.

The environmental principles are introduced in the new Constitution promulgated in November 1998, recognizing a *"healthy and ecologically suitable environment for the present and future generations"* and *"rational exploitation of forests, waters, pastures based on the principle of sustainable development"*, as well as *"the right of the public to have access to information on the state of the environment"*.

Law on Environmental Protection

The new Law on Environmental Protection, No.8934, dated 5.09. 2002, is the basic law, which defines general principles and procedures of environmental management. The new law has improved and increased the competencies of the environmental protection institutions, as compared with the first environmental law approved in 1993.

The law on environmental protection provides for the:

Rational use of the environment, reduction of discharges into and pollution of the environment, and the prevention of and where necessary rehabilitation and restoration of environmental damage;
Improvement of environmental conditions related to quality of life and protection of public health;
Preservation and maintenance of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and rational and efficient management to ensure regeneration;
Coordination of state activities to meet environmental protection requirements;
International cooperation in the field of environmental protection;
Promotion of public participation in environmental protection activities;
Coordination of the economic and social development of the country with the requirements of environmental protection and sustainable development;
Establishment and strengthening of the institutional system of environmental protection at the national and local level.

According to this law, all activities that affect the environment should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment and licensing system, which are developed in more detail in the specific law "On Environmental Impact Assessment" (the Law on EIA) approved on 2003.

Law on EIA

The EIA law No. 8990, dated 23.01.2003 provides for the assessment of environmental impacts of future projects or activities, thereby preventing negative impacts on the environment through the participation of central and local institutions, civil society, NGOs, etc. The law on EIA defines the rules, procedures, deadlines, rights and duties on the process of the assessment of the potential direct/indirect impacts of the activity on the environment.

Based on the type of the activity, projects are required to undergo two levels of review to assess environmental impact: (a) profound process of impact assessment on environment; (b) summary process of impact assessment on environment.

In addition to the above laws, the Decisions of the Council of Ministers "On Certification of Experts for Compilation of the Impact Assessment Report on Environment and Environmental Auditing", "On Activities with Impact on Environment that must be provided with Environmental Permit", "On Rules and Procedures of Environmental Permit Issuance", etc. complete the group of laws that regulate the processes of environmental impact assessment and the issuing of environmental permits in Albania.

The procedures of EIA as provided for in the law include:

1. The developer should submit the request (i.e. name, legal status of the company) for the approval of a project and the documentation (complete report of EIA or summary report of the EIA depending on the type of project) on the project to the Regional Environmental Agency (REA), where the project will be implemented.
2. The EIA reports are prepared by natural or legal persons, selected, contracted and paid by the developer.
3. Within five days of receipt of the request, REA carries out the initial review and either accepts the documentation for review or rejects it in writing and asks the proposer about the changes and adjustments to be made.
4. After the site inspection, the REA shall consult with the local government units the proposal and then prepare in writing its reasoned opinion in favor of approval or rejection of the proposed development project. This opinion is forwarded to the Ministry of Environment within 20 days from the day the request for review was accepted.
5. For projects requiring a full EIA, the review shall be conducted within 3 months from the date the REA forwards the request tot eh MoE, while for projects that fall under partial EIA requirements, the deadline is 2 months.
6. The review is performed by a special commission of the MOE who will make the final decision on the request of the developer. Besides the staff of the MOE, experts from other institutions or private consultants can be invited in the meetings of the commission before the decision is taken.
7. Public hearings on the proposed project and EIA are organized and led by the local government where it will be located and implemented. The proposer should notify the public and environmental NGOs and also make available the EIA report for a period of 1 month.
8. The report of the public hearing is submitted to the MOE for review. The commission at the MOE after reviewing the documentation and the public consultation report issues the

final report in the form of a declaration (partial EIA) or permit (full EIA). The Minister of Environment issues the final decision. The proposer may appeal against the Minister's decision within 30 days from its publication at the district court.