SFG2276 REV

REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRIA E ZHVILLIMIT URBAN

REPORT

Project for Integrated Urban Tourism Development Environmental and Social Management Framework

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July 2020

Public Disclosure Authorized

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACER	Albanian Center for Economic Research
ADF	Albanian Development Fund
AF	Additional Financing
CMS	Coastal Management Strategy
ESU	Environmental and Social Unit
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
GoA	Government of Albania
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IoCM	Institute of the Cultural Monuments
IPRO	Immovable Properties Registration Office
LGC	Local Grievance Committee
LGU	Local Government Unit
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NAPA	National Agency of Protected Areas
NTDS	National Territorial Development Strategy
MoIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
OMP	Operational Management Plan
PA	Protected Area
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PCU	Project Coordination Unit

PIUTD	Project for Integrated Urban Tourism Development
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
WB	World Bank

Executive Summary

The Government of Albania through the Ministry of Finance and Economy seeks Additional Funding (AF) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) to support the scale up for the current Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (PIUTD) to finance integrated urban and tourism development and to expand the tourism market and product development in new locations in the south Albania. The scale-up investments will be focused on Ksamil and Orikum, both of which are connected to the municipalities participating in the parent Project. The AF has necessitated updating the ESMF report to cover the expanded scope.

The objective of this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is, to provide the basis for assessing, analyzing and evaluating environmental and social impacts of the development related activities under the expanded components of the PIUTD. Subsequently the ESMF defines appropriate mitigation measures by either avoiding, eliminating, or reducing potential adverse environmental and social impacts. The ESMF further establishes provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of any alternate measures as part of the implementation of the mitigation guidelines.

The approach to this ESMF entailed the review and update of the earlier ESMF report for the PIUTD by incorporating the expanded scope. The key activities therefore comprise the review of earlier project documents and various literature as well as additional stakeholder engagements with various other identified project actors. Other activities include the development of environmental and social screening checklist forms.

The Project development objectives are to:

- improve urban infrastructure.
- enhance tourism assets; and
- strengthen institutional capacity to support tourism-related local economic development in selected areas in the south of Albania.

The original Components of the Project are the following:

- Component 1. Urban Upgrading and Infrastructure Improvement – EUR 44.3 million)
- Component 2 (Touristic Sites Upgrading – EUR 8.4 million)
- Component 3 (Tourism Market and Product Development – EUR 7.7 million)
- Component 4 (Implementation Support – EUR 3.2 million)

The AF will be used to support the following activities which respond to the Project development objective and:

- Component 1: Urban Upgrading and Infrastructure Improvement (EUR 27.05 million – USD 30.52 million of the AF). Scaleup of investment on urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement into two new locations in the south of Albania, namely Ksamil and Orikum
- Component 3: Tourism Market and Product Development (EUR 1.3 million – USD 1.46 million of the AF). The AF will also be used to support municipalities to adapt to changing market conditions related to COVID-19 in both the promotion and presentation (considerations of social and physical distancing, personal protective

equipment (PPE) requirements, contactless entry and exit to tourist sites, etc.

- Component 4: Implementation support (Euro 1.5 million USD – USD 1.6 million of the AF). The AF will also be used to add funding to the operating costs, given the extension of the loan closing date of the AF.

The relevant Albania law and regulations on environmental protection include the following:

- National Environmental Legal Framework
- Law on Environmental Protection
- Law on Protected Areas and Biodiversity
- Protection of Physical Environment Framework
- Law on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure
- Law and Regulation in the Field of Cultural Heritage

World Bank Safeguard policies rtriggered to support the project development objectives include the Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01) Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04), Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11) and the Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12); Forestry (OP 4.36); Pest Management (4.09), WB EHS Guidelines.

The potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the specific project component activities and their mitigation measures are listed below.

Environmental, Social and Health Impact	**Proposed Mitigation Measures**
Air Quality	Construction stage • Soil/sand and cement loads in transit to be well covered to reduce dust levels rising above acceptable levels. • Stockpiles of exposed soil and unpaved access roads to be sprinkled with water to regulate dust levels. • Use of good quality fuel and lubricants in vehicles, equipment and machinery. • Ensure that heaped sand delivered for construction works is covered with tarpaulin to prevent wind and water transport of soil particles • Engines of vehicles, machinery, and other equipment to be switched off when not in use. • Regular scheduled maintenance and servicing to be carried out on all vehicles and equipment to minimize exhaust emissions. • Construction and civil works to be phased out or controlled to reduce emissions from equipment and machinery in use. Operational stage • Adequate road signs to be planted on dust roads to limit vehicular speeds • Properly designed and constructed speed ramps on access roads
Vibration and Noise	Construction phase • Excavation and construction activities to be carried out during daylight hours. • Concrete mixer and other construction machines and equipment to be located away from sensitive environmental receptors. • Construction equipment and machinery to be regularly maintained and serviced to reduce noise generation when in use. • Engines of vehicles, equipment and machinery to be turned off when not in use. • Earthworks and other construction activities to be phased out or controlled to reduce noise generation during construction • Neighboring residents and commercial activities to be notified in advance of the project before contractor mobilizes to site • Work will not be carried out during sensitive times/ periods of day/ year to avoid disturbance to fauna Operational phase • Visible signs to be provided at suitable locations to warn tourists of excessive noise which may disturb fauna or other activities
Visual Intrusion	• Public to be well informed of upcoming project using appropriate signages and

	display boards prior to contractor accessing sites; • Construction activities to be done in sections to reduce impacts of change and visual intrusions to the general public. • The construction sites to be hoarded off from public view. • Good housekeeping measures, such as regular cleaning, to be maintained at the construction site. • Ensure an acceptable post-construction site as per provisions in the contract. • Tourist facilities will be properly designed and constructed to blend with the natural environment
Water Resources Pollution	Construction stage • Works not to be executed under aggressive weather conditions such as rains or stormy conditions • No solid waste, fuels, or oils to be discharged into any section of a waterway. • Construction to be done in sections to minimize impacts and exposure of soil. • Excavated materials and silt, which cannot be used will be disposed of at appropriate sites as per the Waste Management Plan prepared by contractor and approved by the Assembly. • Temporary sediment barriers to be installed on slopes to prevent silt from entering water courses. • Maintenance, fueling and cleaning of vehicles and equipment to take place at off-site workshop with adequate leakage prevention measures Operational stage • Adequate sanitary facilities to be provided at tourist sites to avoid discharge of waste into water bodies • Host communities to be provided with sufficient toilet facilities and sensitized to use these to discourage open defecation
Generation and disposal of waste	Apply the principles of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover for waste management through the following actions: Construction phase • Excavated earth materials will, as much as possible, be re-used for back filling purposes to reduce waste • Excavated solid waste from the drain channel that are unsuitable for backfilling will be collected onsite, allowed to drain and collected for disposal at approved landfill sites. • Ensure that the required amounts of construction materials are delivered to site to reduce the possibility of the occurrence of excess material • Provide bins on site for temporary storage of garbage such as lubricant containers, drinking water sachets and carrier bags/packaging materials. • Ensure judicious use of construction materials such as pipes, laterites, sand, etc. to reduce waste. • Contractor to work according to a prepared and agreed Solid Waste Management Plan. Operational phase • Waste collection bins to be sited at vantage points to serve the general public • Warning signs to be posted at suitable locations against littering with possible sanctions • Proper arrangement with waste collection companies through the Assembly to regularly collect and dispose of solid waste
Public Health, Safety and Security	Construction phase • Works on exposed trenches and earth materials will, as much as possible, be completed before new earth dug and trenches are created. • Work areas to be hoarded off adequately to avoid inquisitive trespassers especially children. • Warning signs to be posted around work areas to discourage trespassers • Contractors to maintain adequate security at construction sites to avoid pilfering or vandalizing of property • Visibility to be ensured in the night-time by providing adequate lighting Operational phase • Encourage community leadership to form watch committees to improve security • Work with police force to provide police posts at all major tourist sites • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Occupational Health and Safety	Construction phase • Engage experienced artisans for construction works. • All workers should be given proper induction/orientation on safety.

	• The contractors will have a Health & Safety Policy and procedures to guide the construction activities. • Regularly service all equipment and machinery to ensure they are in good working condition. • Ensure there are first aid kits on site and a trained person to administer first aid provide and enforce the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety boots, reflective jackets, hard hats, hand gloves, earplugs, nose masks, etc. • Proof of competence for all equipment/machine operators will be required and established through inspection of valid drivers or operator's license or documents. • Comply with all site rules and regulations • Apply sanctions where safety procedures are not adhered to. ✓ Site meetings should create awareness on OHS. Operational phase • Park wardens to be provided PPEs for protection against dangerous animals • Park wardens to be suitably armed for protection against poachers • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Land acquisition and compensation issues.	• Consult affected property owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the project development process • Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work • Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF • Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective Assemblies before start of work
Maintaining livelihood	• Ensure appropriate compensations are paid to PAPs as defined in the RPF • Employment and other opportunities to be given to local communities as much as possible.
Natural Hazard	• Project Implementation Unit should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guideline. The EPRP should at a minimum contain information specified in the WB EHS Guideline. • Fire extinguishers should be installed at different locations in the project area • Disaster management arrangements should be made for disaster prone areas
Fire Hazard	• Set up a mustering point in event of fire • Designated bonfire place at the construction camp • Contractor should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guidelines

The overall responsibility for project implementation lies with the ADF. The PCU under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy will provide oversight and guidance to the ADF PIU. The PIU will be responsible for coordinating and supervising the day-to-day implementation of the project.

The responsibility for onsite environmental monitoring of contractor activities will rest on ADF PIU with the support from the LGU. An independent consultant hired by the MoUD will be responsible for social monitoring with oversight and guidance from the World Bank.

The capacity building will include training workshops and production of guidance reports and tools. The proposed training programs to be implemented to build the capacity of the project implementation team are presented in the main report.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Government of Albania (GoA) is currently implementing regional development reforms aimed at achieving greater territorial cohesion by reducing regional disparities in access to services and supporting local economic development building upon existing local and regional assets. The reform is also expected to contribute, in the medium term, to the European Union (EU) accession and the absorption of regional development funds.

Tourism has been identified as one of the key drivers for economic growth and job creation in Albania. The tourism industry has emerged as an important contributor to the economy, contributing directly to an estimated 2.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. This contribution is higher taking into account the indirect effects on tourist spending on other economic activities, which amounted to 21.2% in 2019.[1] Its contribution to employment is significant, directly supporting 58,000 jobs in 2017, and is estimated to grow to 220,000 jobs by 2025.[2]

The GoA has identified the south of the Albania as a priority for regional development, given its tourism potential based on unique natural resources and cultural heritage assets. However, a few obstacles prevent the south of Albania from realizing its full economic and tourism potential. These obstacles include inadequate basic urban infrastructure, uncoordinated management of tourism activities, and tourism activities are not sufficiently diversified.

In the past year, the GoA through the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), developed key strategic instruments for the territorial development of the country including the south of Albania. The strategic instruments include the National Territorial Development Strategy (NTDS) and the Coastal Management Strategy (CMS). These documents provided a sound vision and strategic direction for the development of the country over the next fifteen years (2015-2030). A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) carried out on these two strategies was approved by the Ministry of Environment in its environmental declaration issued on May 9, 2016[3].

The ongoing Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (PIUTD) takes an approach of integrated urban and tourism development with the focus on (i) improving urban infrastructure to enhance the attractiveness and livability of four urban centers in the south of Albania, namely Berat, Gjirokastra, Saranda and Permet; (ii) enhancing the touristic appeal and sustainable management of selected cultural heritage assets in the South of Albania; (iii) strengthening municipal capacity to deliver services and tourism destination management, in cooperation with the national Government.

The GoA seeks additional funding (AF) from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) to support scale-up of the current PIUTD activities to finance integrated urban and tourism development investments and to expand the tourism market and

[1] World Travel and Tourism Council. Economic Report Albania 2019.
[2] INSTAT. Albania. Tourism in figures. 2018, 2019.
[3] http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/al/dokumenta/vleresimi-strategjik-mjedisor-vsm

product development in new locations in the south Albania. The scale-up investments will be focused on Ksamil and Orikum, both of which are connected to the municipalities participating in the parent Project.

The AF will pursue the same approach of integrated urban and tourism development. The scope of the AF will fall within the original project development objectives (PDO) and thus, the PDO will remain unchanged. The AF will be used to support the following components:

- Component 1: Urban Upgrading and Infrastructure Improvement
- Component 3: Tourism Market and Product Development
- Component 4: Implementation Support

The AF will not trigger additional safeguards. The PIUTD project is classified as category B in line with the WB OP/BP 4.01, on Environmental Assessment. It is expected that this classification will also apply to the AF as there will be similar investments as under the parent project.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the ESMF

As the technical evaluation (e.g., feasibility studies, detailed designs) and specific intervention locations under the project will not be completely identified and/or ready and their specific impacts will not be known by project appraisal, the ESMF for the parent Project was revised and updated in accordance with the requirements of the national laws and regulations of Albania and the World Bank safeguard policies. The ESMF sets out principles, guidelines and procedures to assess the potential environmental & social impacts. It defines appropriate measures and plans to avoid, reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse environmental and social impacts as a part of preparation of the sub-projects. It also provides guidelines for health and safety of project staff, labour and beneficiaries.

The ESMF lays down principles and procedures for impact assessment and mitigation, institutional arrangements, grievance redress, consultation, participation, documentation and reporting, disclosure, monitoring and evaluation, training and budget. It also offers sample terms of references (TORs) for carrying out ESIA, ESMP and social assessment of the project. The ESMF serves as an environmental & social safeguard instrument to provide the framework to relevant agencies for preparing and implementing the PIUTD project.

Specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for investments identified during parent project implementation will be used as a good example to be followed. Template for specific ESMP is provided in the Annex. The ESMF and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prepared under the parent PIUTD Project outlined the guidelines and procedures to assess and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts associated with project implementation and this will also be followed under the AF. This ESMF will form an integral part of the Project Operation Manual (PoM) and will be applicable to all linked investments financed in the project areas regardless of their funding source or implementing agency.

2.0 Project Description

2.1 Project Objectives and Components

The proposed PIUTD project will be a catalyst for regional development in the South of Albania, leveraging funds from other development partners and the Regional Development Fund. It will support the Government of Albania's vision to promote regional development by improving urban infrastructure, enhancing cultural assets and strengthening institutional capacity to support local economic development in selected areas in the South of Albania.

The Project will provide a model for replication to other regions to use an integrated approach to leverage their endowments and competitive sectors for sustained economic growth. Given that both the NTDS and the CMS identify tourism and culture (culture-based tourism) as one of the main drivers for economic development in the South of Albania. The Project is expected to finance activities aimed at promoting the development of a sustainable, competitive and diversified local economy leveraging the recognized potential of tourism sector.

The PDOs of the parent Project are to:

- improve urban infrastructure.
- enhance tourism assets; and
- strengthen institutional capacity to support tourism-related local economic development in selected areas in the south of Albania.

The original Components of the Project are the following:

Component 1. Urban Upgrading and Infrastructure Improvement – EUR 44.3 million) finances the upgrading of infrastructure in selected municipalities (Berat, Permet, Saranda and Gjirokastra) including preparation of feasibility studies and designs, restoration of selected heritage buildings and upgrading public spaces, street networks and associated infrastructure. All studies and infrastructure rehabilitation works will consider location-specific climate change risks and address them through a targeted project design. Also, the upgrading of infrastructure will improve energy efficiency. All project-supported interventions will be disclosed and discussed in public to ensure that inputs of beneficiaries and other stakeholders are taken into account in site selection and design, and the citizens will be informed of the outcomes of the consultation process after each stakeholder consultation workshop.

Component 2 (Touristic Sites Upgrading – EUR 8.4 million) finances investments aimed at improving selected touristic sites along the South of the Albania touristic corridor by restoring of selected heritage sites and cultural assets and upgrading the corresponding tourist infrastructure, and includes preparation of the respective feasibility studies, management plans and engineering designs. All studies and site upgrading works will also consider location-specific climate change risks and address them through project design. Also, the upgrading of infrastructure will improve energy efficiency. All project-supported interventions will be disclosed and discussed in public to ensure that inputs of beneficiaries and other stakeholders are taken into account in site selection and design, and the citizens will be informed of the outcomes of the consultation process after each stakeholder consultation workshop.

Component 3 (Tourism Market and Product Development – EUR 7.7 million)is aimed at strengthening the capacity of municipalities to deliver municipal services through provision of asset management systems, geographic information systems and solid waste collection equipment; and establishment of site management capacity to enhance the operation of rehabilitated assets. Capacity building will include trainings on climate change (mitigation and adaptation) relevant for tourism in the targeted areas. Waste management measures will contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions. All project-supported activities will be disclosed and discussed in public to ensure that inputs of beneficiaries and other stakeholders are taken into account in the design, and the citizens will be informed of the outcomes of the consultation process after each stakeholder consultation workshop.

Component 4 (Implementation Support – EUR 3.2 million) provides support to carry out Project implementation, including Project M&E and financing of Incremental Operating Costs.

Additional Finance – July 2020

In response to the official request received from the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) of Albania on May 14, 2020, and based on the technical proposal received from ADF on July 21, 2020 the AF will be used to support scale-up of investments in two new locations in the south of Albania on urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement as well as strengthening the tourism market and product development in light of changes in scope and scale of demand due to the COVID-19 crisis. The scale-up investments will be focused on Ksamil and Orikum, both of which are closely connected to the municipalities which are already participating in the parent Project and their tourism sites. The investments in Ksamil and Orikum would be within the scope of Component 1 and Component 3 under the parent Project, including a combination of upgrading of vehicular, pedestrian and multimodal accesses to the city and tourism attractions, strengthening of pedestrian connections and trails systems, integrated street upgrading, upgrading of recreational areas/parks and adaptive reuse of selected structures as well as tourism market and product development.

The Additional Finance and Restructuring will be used to support the following activities which respond to the Project development objective and rationale and are presented below by the Project Components:

Component 1: Urban Upgrading and Infrastructure Improvement (EUR 27.05 million – USD 30.52 million of the AF). The AF will be used to support scale-up of investments on urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement into two new locations in the south of Albania, namely Ksamil and Orikum, which are closely connected to the municipalities and tourism sites supported by the parent Project. The indicative additional investments in these municipalities will fit the current scope of Component 1 under the parent Project and are similar to the ongoing investments under Component 1 of the Project, including a combination of upgrading of vehicular, pedestrian and multimodal accesses to the city and tourism attractions, strengthening of pedestrian connections and trails systems, integrated street upgrading, upgrading of recreational areas/parks and adaptive reuse of selected structures.

Besides investments in these two new locations, the proposed AF will also potentially support additional investments on urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement in the present Project municipalities, i.e. Berat, Permet, Saranda and Gjirokastra, to meet the demand for additional investments under Component 1 which will contribute to the Project development

objective but cannot be covered under the original loan. These additional investments will be identified based on the results of the ongoing integrated urban upgrading design consultancies for the four municipalities, the originally envisaged financing envelope for each municipality under the original loan, and available budget from the AF after investments in Ksamil and Orikum.

Component 3: Tourism Market and Product Development (EUR 1.3 million – USD 1.46 million of the AF). The AF will also be used to support municipalities to adapt to changing market conditions (related to COVID-19) in both the promotion (more targeted) and presentation (considerations of social and physical distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements, contactless entry and exit to tourist sites, etc.) of tourism experiences. Ksamil and Orikum, the two new locations, are closely connected to the municipalities supported by the parent project. The indicative additional activities in these municipalities will fit the current scope of Component 3 under the parent Project and are similar to the ongoing investments under Component 3, including development of new tourism products, adding value to existing products, strengthening tourism value chains, adapting to COVID-19 protocols, and targeting and connecting products to markets.

Component 4: Implementation support (Euro 1.5 million USD – USD 1.6 million of the AF). The AF will also be used to add funding to the operating costs, given the extension of the loan closing date of the AF. All incremental operating costs in support of the day-to-day management of the project to be carried out by the implementing agency will be financed under the project. These expenses comprise the salaries (including social charges) of the ADF staff in charge of project implementation as well as customary office expenses, including costs for communications and travel.

2.2 Project Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the proposed project are the inhabitants in the selected municipalities (Berat, Gjirokastra, Saranda and Permet) who will benefit from improved infrastructure from the facility upgrade, increased job and economic opportunities due to influx of people to the region, improved health and safety for residents and visitors. Visitors to the south of Albania will also benefit from improved urban infrastructure services and tourism offers. The four municipalities are home to around 84,000 residents and the South of Albania as a whole is visited – on an annual basis - by an estimated 527,000 tourists The Government will benefit from increased overall tourism earnings, increased job creation for both residents and non-residents, improved institutional capacity of the municipalities and selected government agencies

3.0 Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework.

3.1 National Environmental Legal Framework

In general terms, the Albanian Constitution that was adopted by Albanian Parliament in 1998 requires institutions to maintain a healthy environment, ecologically suitable for present and future generations. In the last decade and especially since 2001, number of laws and other legal acts on the environment have been drafted and approved. The Albania national legal framework is largely harmonized with EU legislation. The Albanian legal framework regarding environmental and socioeconomic issues is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania and consists of laws and regulatory acts, such as Decisions of the Council of Ministers (DCM), ministerial acts, regulations, guidelines and standards.

3.2 Law on Environmental Protection

Environmental legislation is governed by the Law on Environmental Protection No. 10431, dated June 9, 2011[3]. This Law sets out principles, requirements, responsibilities, rules and procedures to ensure a higher level of environmental protection and includes dispositions for environmental impact assessment as a tool for environmental protection, aiming to identify and define the possible direct and indirect effects on the environment mainly to prevent these effects.

Article 5 defines the principle of sustainable development:" Public authorities, through the development, adoption and implementation of normative acts, strategies, plans, programs and projects within their competence, promote sustainable economic and social development, using natural resources in order to meet current needs and preserve the environment, without prejudice the possibility of future generations to meet their own needs".

The Law on Environmental Protection establishes national and local policies on environmental protection, requirements for the preparation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, requirements for permitting activities that affect the environment, prevention and reduction of environmental pollution, environmental norms and standards, environmental monitoring and control, duties of the state bodies in relation to environmental issues, role of the public and sanctions imposed for violation of the Law.

3.3 Law on Protected Areas and Biodiversity protection

The law No. 8906, dated 06.06.2002 "on the Protected Areas" laid down the framework for the proclamation, administration, management and sustainable use of protected zones and natural biological resources. The law also provides the basis for the development and mitigation of environmental tourism‟ and other economic benefits and for the provision of information and education to the general public. The primary goal of the law is to provide special protection of the most important components of natural reserves, biodiversity and in general nature, through the implementation of a protected areas network based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)[4] categories system. Furthermore, the law defines the priorities and strategic objectives for the management of each category of protected areas.

Protected Areas in Albania have been for the most part considered as forest areas and they have historically been administered by the Directorate General of Forestry and Pastures (GDFP) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Within the law no 8906 /2002 "For the Protected Areas", the Ministry of Environment has been given the primary supervisory role for protected areas in Albania and is responsible for:

- Proposing areas to be protected.
- Preparing the legal and managerial procedures to propose and declare a protected area.
- Compile management plans for protected areas.
- On-going monitoring / regulation of management.

The law "For the Protected Areas" states that whilst the primary administrative role lies with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and GDFP, the interests of other ministries should be considered. The protected areas of Albania include 15 National Parks, 5 Protected Landscape Areas, 4 Strict Nature Reserves, 26 Managed Nature Reserves, and other protected areas. Main protected areas are being equipped with trail markings, while reforms in administration such as the building of information centers are being gradually implemented[5]. National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is created by the Council of Ministers decision. No. 102, dated 04.02.2015, aimed management, protection, development, expansion and operation of the surfaces of protected areas, which today account about 16% of the territory of Albania. NAPA manages the network of protected areas and other natural networks as Natura 2000.

The Ministry of Environment, through the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas within the General Directorate of Environmental Policy and Delivery of Priorities, covers issues related to the drafting of policies on nature protection as well as strategic documents development in this field. Cooperation is extended with other departments of the Ministry and with the following implementing institutions:

- National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA);
- National Environmental Agency (NEA);
- The Regional Forestry Service Directorates;
- State Inspectorate of the Environment and Forestry.

Albanian legislation for the protection of biodiversity relevant to the Project is summarized in Table 1 below.

[3] This law is harmonized with Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage. Official Journal L 143 , 30/04/2004 P. 0056 - 0075

Table 1 Albanian Legislation on Biodiversity Relevant to the Project

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 9587 (20.07.2006)	"On the Protection of Biodiversity" (as amended) – This law establishes requirements for the preservation and protection of biological diversity, including protected areas, sensitive habitats and species. The law requires a biological assessment as part of the environmental assessment and collection of all relevant data for the decision-making process.
Law No. 81/2017, dated 04.07.2017	"On Protected Areas" – This law governs all matters related to Protected Areas in Albania. It determines the categories of the protected areas in Albania, management rules and roles on the decision-making process. It requires compliance with the specific rules when accessing, working and performing any other related activities nearby and/or within the protected areas.
Ordinance No. 1280, dated 20.11.2013	"On the approval of the Red List of Wild Flora and Fauna" (as amended) - This ordinance lists the status of the conservation of flora and fauna species in Albania.

Law No. 81/2017 "On Protected Areas" defines the different categories of the PA's in Albania, and their management prescriptions. Albanian Law No. 81/2017 on PA's defines 7 categories of PA, each with varying degrees of protection that have been found to be present in the study area:

- Strict Nature Reserve (Category I)
- National Park (Category II)
- Natural Monument (Category III)
- Municipal Natural Park (Category IV)
- Protected Landscape (Category V)
- Protected Area of Managed Resource (Category VI)
- Protected areas of international interest (no specific protection category).

Key laws related to the protection of the environment and protected areas include

- Law No. 5/2016 dated 4.2.2016 On the announcement of the moratorium on forests in the Republic of Albania.
- Law No. 11/2015 dated 19.2.2015 On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the multilateral agreement among Eastern Europe countries for the implementation of the Convention "On Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context".
- Law No 68/2014 for some amendments to the Law 9587, dated 20.07.2006 "On the protection of the biodiversity"
- Law No 7/2014 "On the announcement of the moratorium on hunting in the Republic of Albania"
- Law No.10234, dated 18.2.2010 on the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Protocol "On integrated management of coastal zone in the Mediterranean", the Barcelona Convention "On the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution".
- Law No. 9867 dated 31.01.2008 "On establishing the rules and procedures for the international trading of endangered wildlife species"
- Law No. 10 006 dated 23.10.2008 "On the protection of the wildlife"

- Law No. 9587 dated 20.07.2006 "On the protection of the biodiversity"
- Law No 8905 dated 06.06.2002 "On the protection of marine environment from pollution and damage" • Law No. 8906 dated 06.06.2002 "On protected Areas"
- Law No. 8294 dated 02.03.1998 On the ratification of Bern Convention "On the conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats"
- DCM No. 31, dated 20.1.2016 "On the approval of the Strategic Policy Document for Biodiversity Protection".
- DCM No. 102, dated 4.2 2015 "On the establishment and the organization and functioning of the National Agency of Protected Areas".

3.4 Protection of Physical Environment Framework

Albania has developed legislation for the protection of the physical environment, including guidelines, thresholds and limits for emissions. Legislation related to water, air, noise, vehicle and equipment emissions, fuel quality, waste and wastewater is summarised in the Table below.

Table 2: Legislation related to protection of the physical environment

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 111/2012, amended with Law No. 6/2018	"On integrated management of water resources" amended with Law No. 6/2018 "On integrated management of water resources" based on Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework. The aim of the law focuses on: (i) environmental protection and improvement of water, surface water, either temporary or permanent, internal sea waters, territorial waters, exclusive economic zones, continental shelf, trans-boundary waters, groundwater, and their status; (ii) security, protection, development and rational utilization of water resources, protection of water resources from pollution etc. This law provides the definition of water bodies and sets some protection and usage restrictions, and requires others to be approved by several by-laws. The law defines the banks of the water resources, restriction of certain harmful construction activities on the banks[4]/ shores and water protection areas.
DCM No. 177 (31.3.2005)	"On the allowed norms of liquid discharges and host water environmental criteria" - provides the allowed norms for effluent discharges on the environment, for the protection water resources.
DCM No. 379 (25.5.2016)	"On the approval of the regulation[5] on Drinking Water Quality" - Its objective is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption, by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. Regulates several issues related to testing of drinking water and protection zones around the water well or community ground water deposit. The regulation sets three protection zones (buffer zones) from ground water well or water deposit places on the ground. The immediate zone of protection ranges from 15 to 100 m from the axe of the well or the deposit. The precise distance is set based on the evaluation of the geological formations by the hydrogeological expert. The second and third buffer zone are circling the first one. For those zones, the regulation does not set any distance criteria, but restricts the activities that can impact the water quality such as disposal or burial of waste, mining, etc.

4 Banks" are strips of land adjoining seas, lakes, reservoirs, lagoons, ponds, rivers and streams which comprise a minimum of two areas of land: i. 5 meters at a right angle upper edge of the natural banks on steep banks and 20 meters from the maximum water level over a period of 25 years on flat banks, which can be used, on the basis of special provisions, for public purposes, ii. 100 meters at a right angle from the upper edge of the natural banks on the steep banks, and 200 meters from the maximum water level over a period of 25 years on flat banks, where every activity undertaken will be determined by the water authorities.

5 Based on Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption) concerns the quality of water intended for human consumption.

Legislation	Overview
DCM 416 dated 15/03/2015 (ANNEX C)	"On the approval of general and special conditions, accompanying documents, validity period, application forms for authorization and permit, review and decision-making procedures and authorization and permit formats for the use of water resources"
Law No. 162 (04.12.2014 enforced by the January 2018)	"On protection of ambient air quality", fully transpose Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, as well as Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. This Law entered into force on 1st of January 2018 and provides the institutional framework, regulations, roles and penalties to ensure compliance. The law stipulates that natural and legal persons, public or private, native or foreign, have a duty to keep the air clean and protect it from pollution caused by the activities they conduct in the territory of the Republic of Albania.
Guideline No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	Minister of Environment and Minister of Transport "Over the permissible values of the elements of air pollutants from the environment and noise emissions caused through road vehicles and methods to control them" amended by Guideline No. 12, dated 15.6.2010 "On amendments and addenda to Guidelines No. 6527, of 24.12.2004 accompanied by the Manual of Vehicles Control.
Order of Minister of Transport and Infrastructure No. 149 (07.04.2014)	"On the approval of the rules for implementing the airworthiness and environmental certification of aircraft and related products, parts and appliances, as well as for the certification of design and production organizations", fully aligned with the EU Regulation No. 748/2012 of 3rd August 2012, laying down implementing rules for the airworthiness and environmental certification of aircraft and related products, parts and appliances, as well as for the certification of design and production organizations.
Instruction No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	"On allowed vehicle air emission, noise generation levels, and control methods" amended - This instruction includes requirements for annual vehicle inspections and allowed air emissions. All vehicles must comply with these norms.
DCM No. 613 (07.9.2011)	"Approval of the technical rules for the assessment of the noise conformity for the equipment installed in open spaces or environment". Sets noise release norms for certain equipment generating noise, such as electricity generators, tractors, compressors, etc. The regulation lists set thresholds.
Guidance No.10 (30.5.2015)	"Relating to the type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units" based on EU Directive 2003/37/EC dated 26.05.2003.
Law No. 9774, dated 12.07.2007, amended by Law No. 39/2013	"On the assessment and administration of ambient noise" – defines the requirements for environmental protection from noise, how to avoid and prevent, reduce and eliminate the harmful effects of exposure to them, including inconvenience from noise. This Law aims to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects caused by noise emissions and sets general rules, authorities, inspection etc.
DCM No. 587, dated 07.07.2010	"On monitoring and control of noise levels in urban and touristic areas" – sets the rules and regulations on the protection from noise generation and noise level administration in urban and touristic areas.
DCM No. 1063 (23.12.2015)	"On the Approval of the technical rules for the assessment of the noise conformity for the equipment installed in open spaces or environment" sets the noise release norms for certain equipment noise generation such as electricity generators, tractors, compressors etc.
Instruction No. 8 (27.11.2007)	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health on "Noise levels in different media", sets the numerical values of noise in specific zones and aims to ensure adequate noise exposure protection for human health.
Instruction No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	"On allowed vehicle air emission, noise generation levels, and control methods" amended - This includes requirements for annual vehicle inspections and allowed air emissions. All vehicles must comply with these norms.

Legislation	Overview
DCM No. 147 (21.03.2007)	"On the quality of petrol and diesel fuels".
DCM No. 781 (14.11.2012)	"On the quality of certain liquid fuels for thermal, civil, industrial and water transport use (sea, river and lake)".
Law No. 10463 (22.09.2011) amended	"On the integrated waste management" (as amended) - aims to protect human health and the environment, and to ensure environmental sound management of waste through integrated management.
DMC No. 99 (18.02.2005) amended	"Albanian waste catalogue" (as amended) - which makes the classification of the waste, based on industry types, and the criteria to assess the hazardousness of the waste. The regulation codifies the waste types based on the European Waste Catalogue.
DCM No. 229 (23.04.2014)	"On the approval of the rules for non-hazardous waste transfer and the data to register in the transferring document" - The newly enforced regulation requires transferring the waste at licensed companies and ensuring final disposal in approved facilities. This act requires documenting the waste transfers and providing the final disposal certificate to the NEA. The regulation requires for all waste generating companies to be registered at NEA and obtain a personal waste generation number.
DCM No. 371 (11.06.2014)	"On the approval of the rules for transferring the hazardous waste and the data to register in the transferring document" - The newly enforced regulation requires transferring the waste at the licensed company and ensuring final disposal in approved facilities. This act requires documenting the waste transfer and delivering the final disposal certificate at the NEA. The regulation requires for all waste generating companies to be registered at NEA and obtain a personal waste generation number.
Law No. 9115/2003 (24/07/2003)	"On the Treatment of polluted water" provides regulations that state the need for treatment of polluted water before it is discharged. Article 6 sets the obligations of physical and legal entities that discharge polluted waters. Physical and legal entities, the activity of which discharges polluted waters, are obligated to take measures to: a) Continuously reduce the amount of used waters they discharge in the receiving environment; b) reduce the degree of pollution in discharging waters, especially such pollution as caused by hazardous substances and waste; c) manage and treat polluted waters. To comply with these obligations, the physical and legal entities whose activities discharge polluted waters must design a program of technical, technological and organizational measures. This program is subject to control by the Environmental Inspectorate, the licensing authority and the local government structures.

3.5 Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and EIA procedure

All projects associated with potential impacts on the environment, shall be subjected to an EIA prior to starting the implementation. The EIA report and other necessary documents will be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) who will transfer the project files to the NEA for review. The project shall be approved with Environmental Decision/ Declaration of the NEA and MoTE. The procedure of EIA is detailed in the DCM No. 686 dated 29.07.2015 "On the rules, responsibilities, timelines for the EIA procedure and the transfer procedure of the decision for the environmental declaration" amended.

The EIA procedure flowchart is illustrated in Figure 1 below. Based on the legal requirements of Law No.10440/ 2011, "On Environmental Impact Assessment" amended, Annex II Point 10. Infrastructure Projects, b) Urban development projects, including the construction of shopping centers and car parks.

According to Law No.10440/ 2011 (Article 11), at the conclusion of the EIA process, NEA will decide if an Environmental Declaration will be issued or if further studies are required (i.e. and 'in depth' EIA is required). It has been anticipated that at the end of the EIA process, an Environmental Declaration will be issued by the MoTE, through an online application process; hence an application to MoTE will be made for an Environmental Declaration. The main documents required by the legal framework to be submitted to MTE to obtain the Environmental Declaration consist of:

- Preliminary EIA report (digitally Signed from a licensed Environmental Expert)
- Technical Summary and DWG (Digitally signed from the licensed Architect);
- Legal documentation regarding the property status of the project area
- Full dossier of official documents of the licensed Environmental Expert engaged to conduct the procedure of EIA
- A scanned copy of the service fee, as defined in the respective legislation.

National, Regional and Municipal unit and agencies representing a role during the EIA process consist of:

- The Ministry of Tourism and Environment
- The National Environmental Agency
- Regional Directory of Environment
- National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)
- Regional Administration of Protected Areas
- Municipalities

In addition to the legislation specifically pertaining to the need for an EIA, there are national policies, laws, and regulations applicable to the proposed Project and its environmental and social aspects. Furthermore, Albania has developed environmental standards that are mainly based on the European Commission Directives. Existing standards include protection of the biodiversity, cultural heritage, air emissions, noise levels, water quality and discharge, and waste management.

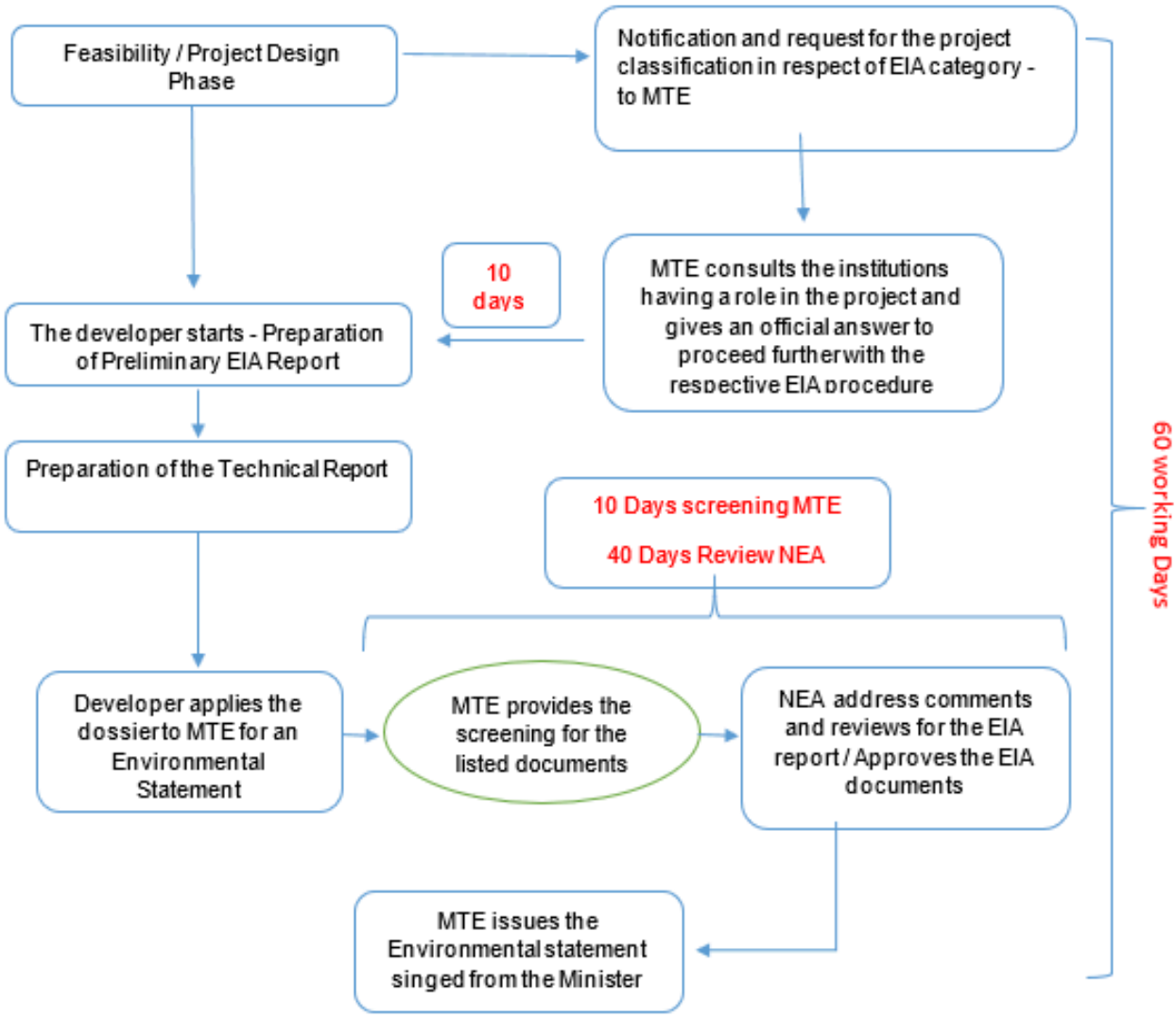

Figure 1 EIA Procedure and Timeline according to Albanian Legislation

3.6 Laws and Regulations in the Field of Cultural Heritage and Chance Finds

Projects for all types of building above ground and underground and engineering infrastructure projects across the entire country are based on standards and technical requirements of legal acts in force. Law No. 10119/09 "On Territory Planning," amended by Law No. 10258, dated 21.04.2010 and Law No. 10315 dated 16.09.2010, is the main legislative tool in Albania relating to urban planning, and aims to integrate the urban planning legislative framework into a single law.

Law No. 10119/09 entered into force on 30 September 2011. The main purpose of this law is to provide a sustainable development of the territory through the rational use of land and natural resources. This law includes the concepts of natural and cultural heritage protection and of the community's health and safety protection. Additionally, the law mentions integrated planning instruments to be designed for Coastal areas, for cultural, natural and environmental heritage and landscapes, as well as for other areas of common importance or interest.

The protection of cultural heritage in Albania is addressed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and several specialized institutions within the Ministry of Education and Science. Within the Ministry, the Department of Cultural Heritage oversees the Institute of Monuments, the nine National Museums, and the Centre of Registration of Cultural Property. Cultural heritage includes archaeological sites, historic buildings (isolated and in districts), graveyards and places invested with traditional meaning of a historical, cultural or religious nature.

Law 9048 ("Cultural Heritage Act") approved on April 7th, 2003 (as amended by Law No. 9592, dated 27.07.2006; Law No. 9882, dated 28.02.2008) is the primary legal framework governing the management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in Albania. Law 9048 represents the first effort to extend legal protection to material within the field of intangible cultural heritage. Its contents include: Categories of Albanian cultural heritage to be protected (i.e. tangible, intangible, movable, immovable); definitions and examples of tangible and intangible heritage; responsibilities of relevant institutions and government bodies; penalties for those who damage cultural heritage; and mitigation procedures.

Article 4 lists the tangible, immovable values that are to be protected, which include, but are not limited to: Archaeological sites; Historic structures (including places of worship); Historic towns and neighborhoods; Cemeteries and graves; and Historic landscapes. Law 9048 was amended by Law 9592 dated 27.07.2006. Amendments included 1) the introduction of the National Committee of National Heritage as an advisory body and 2) the creation of the National Committee for Intangible Heritage (NCIH). Law 9048 was amended again by Law No. 9882, dated 28.02.2008. The 2008 amendments incorporated articles reconstructing the network of specialized cultural heritage institutions and articles dealing with the creation of the National Council of Archaeology and specialized institutions such as the Albanian Archaeological Service.

According to the law, if anything unusual will be found during the digging and excavation process the contractor must stop works immediately, urgently inform the local authorities, the Culture Monuments Institute and, also the Ministry of Culture. They will send archaeologists and field specialists in order to check and evaluate the supposed archaeological objects and the works will restart only after the official permit given by the Culture Monuments Institute. Also, Albanian respects the international obligations provided under international conventions and agreements ratified by Albania in the framework of cultural heritage.

Table 1 . Legislation for the protection of cultural heritage

Legislation	Overview
Cultural Heritage	
Law 27/2018 (17.05.2018)	"On Cultural Heritage and Museums" - All matters relating to cultural heritage in Albania are governed by this law". The law defines the preservation and chance finds procedures (archaeological objects or items of cultural heritage value which are discovered by chance) to be used during Project implementation.
Article 146	Requires and obliges any person who discovers or excavates objects of cultural heritage value, by chance during construction works, to suspend work immediately and inform the relevant local authorities within three days. The relevant local authorities consist of

	the local government office (municipality), the Police Department and the Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage (RDCH). The RDCH verifies the situation/findings and reports to the Institute of Cultural Monuments (IoCM). These institutions are responsible for assessing the archaeological value of the objects found, and determining whether work may continue or whether it must remain suspended until further ground investigations have been undertaken.
Article 5, paragraph 64 and article 31	Defines the conservation of non-material cultural heritage by measures that aim of long-lasting preservation of such cultural assets.

Table 3. Laws adopted after the ratification of international conventions by the Republic of Albania

Convention name	Ratified by Albania
Law no. 9490, dated 13.03.2006 "On the Ratification of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage", Paris 2003	2006
Law nr.9806, dated 17.09.2007 On the Ratification of the European Convention "On Protection of the Archaeological Heritage"	2007
Law No. 10 027, dated 11.12.2008 "On accession of the Republic of Albania to the Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage", Paris 2001	2008

Source: http://www.kultura.gov.al/al/baza-ligjore

3.7 Health and Safety Framework

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

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

Albanian legislation on health and safety and the relevance to the project are highlighted in the table below.

Table 4 Legislation on health and safety

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 10237/2010 (18/02/2010)	"On Safety and Health at Work" - This law regulates the framework of health and safety in the workplace and determines the roles of each party subject to the law.
Law No. 9863/2008	The State Sanitary Inspectorate aims to protect workers from the impacts of adverse working conditions, such as exposure to toxic substances, radiation, unworkable noise, vibrations, unfavorable microclimate, and controls the level of occupational diseases and accidents as a result of adverse conditions.
Law No. 9863/2008 (28/01/2008)	"On food" specifies the rules of food safety in Albania
Law No. 10433/2011 (16/06/2011)	"On Inspection in the Republic of Albania"
DCM No. 562/2013 (3/07/2013)	Decision of the Council of Ministers concerning the approval of the regulation on minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace.
DCM No. 312/2010 (5/5/2010)	"On safety in site construction" sets the rules of safety for construction activities.
Decision No. 692/2001 (13/12/2001)	"On special measures on safety and health protection at work"
DCM No. 842/2014 (3/12/2014)	"For the health and safety and protection of the employee from noise risks in the working places" requires the employer to assess the noise levels at the working place and ensure the protection of its workers

3.8 Other relevant legislation

Other national regulations relevant to the PIUTD is presented in Table 6 below.

Table 5. Other Relevant National Legislation

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 107/2014	"On Territory Planning and Development" - The law aims to integrate the urban planning legislative framework into a single law, and includes the concept of the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and community's health and safety for territory planning.

Legislation	Overview
DCM No. 408 (13.5.2015 amended by DCM 231/2017)	The regulation for territorial development.
Law No. 9244/2004	“On Agricultural Land Protection” determines the protection status of given agricultural fields.
Law No. 8752/2001 (26/03/2001) amended several times	"On the establishment and functioning of the structures for land administration and protection", amended by Law No. 10257/2010 regulates land uses issues, and their compatibility with Regional Planning.

3.9 International Convention and agreements

Albania is signatory to several international conventions and agreements on biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development. The major conventions and agreements that are relevant to the project are the following:

Table 6: International Conventions and Agreements Signed/Ratified in Albania

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (1998)	The Convention establishes a number of rights to the public, with regard to the environment; including access to environmental information; public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice6.	26 October 2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992) entered into force in 1994	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been crucial in addressing climate change and the need for a reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.	01 December 1994
Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015, entered into force on 4 November 2016	The Paris Agreement builds on the Climate Change Convention to combat climate change7.	21 September 2016
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; signatories commit to setting internationally binding emission reduction targets8.	01 April 2005

6 http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm

7 http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/qa_paris_agreement_entry_into_force.pdf

8 https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-kyoto-protocol/what-is-the-kyoto-protocol

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects on water resources and water quality.	5 January 1994
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects on important habitats and species, internationally and naturally designated nature conservation sites; conservation, sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity.	5 April 1994
Convention on the Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats in Europe (Bern Convention) (1976)	The Convention aims to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species9; to avoid or minimize adverse effects upon important habitats and species, internationally and naturally designated nature conservation sites.	2 March 1998
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) (1979)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects upon migratory species	1 September 2001
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (1995)	African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds Agreement (AEWA) covers 254 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle. All AEWA species cross international boundaries during their migrations and require good quality habitat for breeding as well as a network of suitable sites to support their annual journeys10. Avoid or minimize adverse effects upon migratory water bird species.	1 September 2001
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1975)	CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival11.	27 June 2003
Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1989)	Avoid adverse effects upon Albanian and World Cultural Heritage sites; minimize adverse effects on unknown and intangible cultural heritage sites, material assets and other infrastructure.	10 July 1989
ILO Convention 29 Forced Labour Convention (1930) and ILO 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957))	Its object and purpose are to suppress the use of forced labour in all its forms, irrespective of the nature of the work or the sector of activity in which it may be performed.	25 June 1957 27 February 1997

9 https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104

10 https://www.cms.int/en/legalinstrument/aewa

11 https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
ILO Convention 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (1948)	Protects the rights of workers and employers to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization.	3 June 1957
ILO Convention 98 Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining	The convention provides for workers to be able to join unions and engage in collective bargaining.	3 June 1957
ILO Convention 100 Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)	Each member shall, by means appropriate to the methods in operation for determining rates of remuneration, promote and, in so far as is consistent with such methods, ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.	03 Jun 1957

3.10 World Bank Safeguard Policies

This section presents the Safeguard Policies that are relevant to the PIUTD project and briefly describe their contents.

- **OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment**

The World Bank requires environmental assessment (EA) of projects proposed for Bank financing to help ensure that they are environmentally sound and sustainable, and thus to improve decision making. The OP defines the EA process and various types of the EA instruments. This PIUTD project is classified as “Category B” in line with the with the WB OP/BP 4.01, on Environmental Assessment. The impacts are likely to be small scale, localized, and irreversible in nature. Since the exact nature and locations of the proposed sub-projects are not identified, therefore an ESMF has been prepared in accordance with OP 4.01 The OP 4.01 also defines ESMF as “An instrument that examines the issues and impacts associated when a project consists of a program and/or series of sub-projects, and the impacts cannot be determined until the program or sub-project details have been identified

The ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the environmental and social impacts. It contains measures and plans to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse impacts and enhance positive impacts, provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of such measures, and information on the agency or agencies responsible for addressing project impacts. If project screening used by implementing agencies finds that more detailed planning work is required, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) may be prepared.

- *Projects Involving Subprojects*

For projects involving the preparation and implementation of annual investment plans or subprojects, identified and developed over the course of the project period during the preparation of each proposed subproject, the project coordinating entity or implementing institution carries out appropriate EA according to country requirements and the requirements of this policy. The Bank appraises and, if necessary, includes in the SIL components to strengthen, the capabilities of the coordinating entity or the implementing institution to

a) screen subprojects,
b) obtain the necessary expertise to carry out EA,
c) review all findings and results of EA for individual subprojects,
d) ensure implementation of mitigation measures (including, where applicable, an EMP), and
e) monitor environmental conditions during project implementation.

If the Bank is not satisfied that adequate capacity exists for carrying out EA, all Category A subprojects and, as appropriate, Category B subprojects--including any EA reports--are subject to prior review and approval by the Bank.

- **OP 4.04 Natural Habitats**

The conservation of natural habitats, like other measures that protect and enhance the environment, is essential for long-term sustainable development. The Bank therefore supports the protection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their functions. This OP is triggered to support the protection, maintenance and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their functions.

- **OP 4.09 Pest Management:**

The objective of this OP is to support a strategy that promotes the use of biological or environmental control methods and reduces reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides.

- Reduce human exposure and health risks
- Reduce environmental contamination
- Help develop national capacity for IPM and pesticide regulation/ monitoring.

- **OP 4.11 Physical and Cultural Resources**

This policy safeguards archaeological, physical or cultural heritage sites and assists in their preservation and avoids their elimination. This OP is triggered as some of the project interventions will be carried out in or near notified archaeological, physical or cultural heritage sites and monuments of Swat.

- **OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement**

OP 4.12 – Involuntary Resettlement covers direct economic and social impacts that results from land acquisition for project development, relocation or loss of shelter, loss of assets or access

to assets, and loss of income sources or means of livelihood. The Policy applies to all affected persons, regardless of titles/ownership and the severity of impacts – direct or indirect. The policy requires particular attention to be given to the needs of vulnerable groups especially those below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly, women and children, indigenous groups, ethnic minorities, orphans, and other disadvantaged persons. The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will address any possible land acquisition. This OP is triggered as project interventions may require land from public or private land holders.

- **OP 4.36 Forestry**

The objective of this policy is to assist borrowers to harness the potential of forests to reduce poverty in a sustainable manner, integrate forests effectively into sustainable economic development, and protect the vital local and global environmental services and values of forests. Where forest restoration and plantation development are necessary to meet these objectives, the Bank assists borrowers with forest restoration activities that maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functionality. The Bank also assists borrowers with the establishment and sustainable management of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable forest plantations to help meet growing demands for forest goods and services

- **Safety of Dams (OP 4.37)**

The Policy seeks to ensure that appropriate measures are taken, and sufficient resources provided for the safety of dams on the WB finance project. This OP is triggered when WB projects finances dam construction and rehabilitation and when performance of a WB financed project is dependent on an existing dam. The policy seeks to protect downstream populations and ecosystems from consequences of dam failure. The policy requires dam independent panel to assess design/construction; detailed plans for construction/quality assurance; instrumentation, operation & maintenance, emergency preparedness due diligence requirements.

- **World Bank Group EHS Guidelines**

The Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). When one or more members of the World Bank Group are involved in a project, these EHS Guidelines are applied as required by their respective policies and standards. These General EHS Guidelines are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS Guidelines which provide guidance to users on EHS issues in specific industry sectors. For complex projects, use of multiple industry-sector guidelines may be necessary.

4.0 Description of Existing Environment

4.1 Introduction

Albania is situated in the south-western region of the Balkan Peninsula. The country has a total area of 28,748 km2 which makes it one of the smallest countries in Europe. The neighboring countries are Montenegro to the northwest, Serbia to the north-east, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the north and east, and Greece to the south and south-east. Albania has a 487 km-long coastline divided between the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

The climate varies with the topography. The main climatic regions of the country are the coastal lowlands with typically Mediterranean weather and the highlands with a Mediterranean-continental climate. These general climatic patterns are markedly affected by the geographic latitude and by variations in altitude. Over 70 per cent of the country is vary rugged and largely inaccessible mountains. Due to the convergence of the airflow from the Mediterranean Sea and the continental air mass, the average precipitation is heavy. Average annual rainfall in the mountains can be as high as 3,000 mm, while on the coast, it averages 1,000 mm. Most of the precipitation drains into the rivers and flows into the Adriatic Sea. The average temperatures in August, the hottest month, range from 17° to 31°C. In January, the coldest month, they range from 2° to 12°C. Albania is administratively divided into 12 prefectures (or counties), under which there are 36 districts.

The proposed project is expected to focus on the south of Albania comprising the area between Vlora and Saranda and covering both the Coast and hinterland (including Berat, Permet and Gjirokaster). The Albanian Ionian Coast is considered the most important resource upon which depends the future development of the country.

The landscape of Southern Coastal region is characterized by a dramatic topography, which sets the frame for the natural development of habitats and the human influence on these habitats over time. The result is a region, which is visually influenced by two sets of landscape types, specifically the natural landscapes (reliefs, natural catchment areas and naturally developed habitats); and the cultural landscapes (traditional settlements and buildings and their settings, other heritage assets and settings, together with customary tree- crops, agriculture and other land use forms).

The AF will be used to support scale-up of investments on urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement into two new locations in the south of Albania, namely Ksamil and Orikum, which are closely connected to the municipalities and tourism sites supported by the parent Project

Ksamil is a coastal town in the south of Albania which falls under the administration of the municipality of Saranda. Located on the south shore of the Mediterranean Sea close to the Greek border and close to the UNESCO site of Butrint, Ksamil is a popular destination of summer tourism as it combines both cultural and natural attractions. The National Park of Butrint, the Ksamil islands, the Lake of Butrint and the Vivar Channel are the main assets in and around Ksamil. The town of Ksamil has around 10,000 registered inhabitants, but only 3,141 are estimated to live in the settlement all year round, and in summer the amount of people in the town can go up to 70,000 including tourists, which puts significant stress on the

infrastructure.

The town of Orikum is located in the southern part of the Albanian Riviera and in close vicinity to the City of Vlora. Orikum is known for its pristine coastline and hilly olive groves, as well as its proximity to Llogara National Park, the Karaburuni peninsula and the Orikum Lagoon. At the same time, the town which is situated on a continuous sandy beach next to a calm lagoon, offers archaeological, historical and cultural richness, given its proximity to Orik Ancient City archaeological part, the Pashaliman military base as well as the church of Marmiroi.

Figure 2. Map of Albania based on UN Cartographic Section
Source: UN Cartographic Section

(Map of Albania based on UN Cartographic Section: Coastal and inland areas that will be affected by the project)

4.2 Physical Environment

Air Quality. Very limited air monitoring is presently conducted in the country. According to its First National Communication (FNC), Albania is a relatively low net emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs), with relatively low carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita, mainly due to the fact that over 90% of its power generation is hydroelectrical.

Hydrology and surface waters. The quality of surface water is not well known due to very limited ongoing monitoring of both wastewater emissions and water quality. In general, the quality of water is often a problem due to pollution arising from the discharge of untreated wastewater from urban settlements, as well as from industries with obsolete technology. The discharge of sewage in water bodies, especially in coastal tourist areas and delicate ecosystems, is a major environmental concern for the Government, the business community and the public.

Water quality, based on measurements performed by the National Environmental Agency, reported in the National State of Environment Report, 2015, appears to have improved 50% in Saranda beach. In 2015, a new water treatment plant for Saranda is being installed, which will further improve the quality of water in the Saranda coastline.

Soil and Groundwater Land degradation and soil erosion is one of the main environmental issues in the country. High pollution load in surface water is leading to a deterioration of groundwater quality and especially concerns low-lying areas, where most of the population lives and most industrial and agricultural activities take place. Uncontrolled grazing on pasture lands and wood cutting for heating are some of the main factors that lead to land degradation and to soil erosion. The 2009-2010 State of the Environment Report indicates that soil erosion continues to be significant and quantities of sediment close to 8-24 tons/ha per year are transported by river water.

Climate Change. Literature review indicates that climate change effects in Albania include season characteristics and duration (winters are milder and shorter, summers are longer and hotter); droughts in summer and sometimes even in autumn, and then sudden floods, coastal erosion all along the Adriatic coast due to sea level rise; destruction of the coastal forests and vegetation; increasing the salinity in the lagoons and fields near the coast; and increased forest fires.

4.3 Meteorology

The project site is situated in the low central Mediterranean area, which covers almost all the coastal lowland of Albania. This Mediterranean climate is characterized by hot and dry summers, and cold and wet winters. The rainfall annual average is between 950 - 1,200 mm/yr, where most of the rain falls during October-March (70-80%). Due to the convergence of the airflow from the Mediterranean Sea and the continental air mass, the average precipitation is heavy. The annual average temperature is measured between 15° -18° C. The highest 29 temperatures are measured during June-August, with a maximum of 30°-35° C. The lowest temperatures registered in the month of January, reaching the values between 6.5°-7.5° C. The factors defining the climate in this area are: a) Geographical position (closeness to the sea); b) Impact of cyclones and anti-cyclones which regulate it, and c) Morphology of the region (from Preliminary EIA for Naim Frashëri 2016).

4.4 Biological Environment

- **Flora**

The Southern Albanian Coastal Region is characterized by a significant diversity of flora, habitats and plant associations of national importance. A number of plant species in the area appear on the national list of rare species, a considerable number of plants are distinguished for their specific scientific interest, while many of them are of particular economic values as medicinal plants, oil-bearing plants, industrial or decorative plants, etc. The Southern Coast of Albania represents an important cross of migration routes of the flora of the Balkan Region. The area is very rich with almost 1,400 vascular plant species (representing more than 40% of the total flora of Albania). The main habitat types of natural vegetation found in the Southern Coastal areas are[10]:

- Vegetation of lowlands or evergreen forests andshrubs,
- Mediterranean pine forests (Assoc. *Pistacio- Pinetum halepensis*), that are not indigenous for thearea,
- Plant communities dominated by *Euphorbia dendroides*, *Pistacialentiscus– Allianca oleo*
- *Ceratonion* (Assoc. *Pistacxio – Euphorbietumdendroides*),
- Phrygana vegetation (Assoc. *Chrysopogono – Phlometumfruticosae*, Assoc. *Ericetummanipuliflorae*),
- Pseudo–steppe vegetation dominated by *Brachypodiumramosum*(Assoc. *Brachypodiumramosi*),
- Oak deciduous woodlands (Assoc. *Quercetumfrainetto*),
- *Quercus ithaburensis subsp.macrolepsis*,
- Mountain coniferous forests (Assoc. *Pineto – Abietetumborissi-regis*),and
- Forests dominated by *Pinus leucodermis*(Assoc. *Pinetum leucodermistypicum*).

A large number of rare and endangered species of Albania are found in the area. Many endemic and relict plant species are found inside the study area.

- **Fauna**

The South Coast of Albania has a rich fauna diversity. In particular, the area holds a very rich fauna of insects (invertebrates). Furthermore, 11 species of amphibians (out of the 15 species known in the country) and 30 species of reptiles (out of 37 species known in the country) can be found in the area. Some 250 bird species are reported from the area, out of 330 species known in the country, which makes the Southern Coastal region a very important area for birds. The area is an important site for birds of prey, with the rare lesser kestrel and Egyptian vulture among a range of notable raptors. Passerines occur with a very large diversity, owing to the significant variation in topography and habitats. Aquatic birds are important in the Southern part of the area, where Butrinti Lake has recently been designated as a Ramsar site, owing to its richness in water birds.

The study area is very rich in mammals. Some 55 species out of 71 species known in Albania are expected to appear along the Southern Coast of Albania. 17 mammal species belong to the Red List of Globally Threatened Mammals.

[10] from: MedWedCoast 2005: Management Plan. Complex: Llogara - Rrëza e Kanalit - Dukat - Orikum - Tragjas - Radhimë - Karaburun. Final Draft. GEF/UNDP-MoE Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystem in the Mediterranean Region.

- **Protected Areas**

A wide range of habitats are found in the study area, such as: high mountain ecosystems (up to 2,000 m); alpine and sub-alpine grasslands; different types of forests (mixed conifers and broadleaved, mixed broadleaved dominated by deciduous trees, broadleaved dominated by evergreen trees, shrubs and maquis, alluvial forests); lowland pastures; sandy and rocky Coastal habitats; Coastal wetlands such as Butrinti lake, Bufi (Rreza) lake and Orikumi lagoon; streams, torrents and karstic springs; caves, etc.

The summary in the Annex No 3 indicate the status and geographical data of natural protected areas which are in the project area of influence. A table of protected areas in the project area is listed in the table below referring to the Agency of Protected Areas http://akzm.gov.al/qgis2web_2019_05_13-09_58_25_161000/index.html.

Table 7. Protected Areas in the Region

No	Name of Protected Area	Location	Notes
1	Vjosë-Nartë	Vlora	Protected Land scapes
2	Karaburun	Vlora	Nature Reserve Protected and Nature Park
3	Karaburun-Sazan	Vlora	Nacional Park
4	Llogara	Vlora	Nacional Park
5	Porto Palermo	Vlora	Protected Landscapes
6	Butrinti	Saranda	National Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ramsar site

4.5 Socioeconomic

Overall, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in Southern Albania where the project including the AF will be implemented include elderly, disabled, chronically diseased, migrants, single parent headed households, residents in mountainous areas with limited access, and Roma and Egyptian communities. Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who may be affected by or potentially benefit from the project interventions will be identified as part of subproject level E&S assessment process, and measures will be taken to ensure that they would not face negative impacts disproportionately and would receive benefits them the subproject.

Based on the 2011 Census, the population of Saranda municipality has shown a slight increase of 18% over the last 10 years. There is also a small male dominance in this municipality. Key economic sectors include public services, education, construction, financial services and business, transport, telecommunication, production, tourism and recreation, cultural industries, agriculture and livestock. The municipality has within its territory the lake of Butrint (approximately 14 km away), which is an important area for mussels' production and fisheries in the lagoon.

Unemployment is a problem in Saranda, as it is in the whole country. The official number of unemployed is large but it should be mentioned that an important part of the labor force is working informally, although steps forward have been taken by the central government to reduce the informality. Most of the population are employed in private enterprises, but also at state offices.

4.6 Cultural Heritage

Saranda urban center is considered and approved as an archaeological zone category A and B. Category A zone presents higher protection. Important areas identified in the municipality include

- segment from the start of "Hasan Tahsini Promenade to the Limani zone where the most valuable found and saved ruin is the "Onhezmit's Entrance Gate"
- Area around Republika Hotel where are the ruins of Roman Deposits
- Area around Staircase E where are thought to be laid the hypothetical walls of Onhezmit Castle.

Other sites in the municipality that are of special interest in regard to archaeological heritage, are the archaeological park of Butrint and other important objects such as monastery of 40 saints, castle of Lëkurësi, monastery of Shën Gjergj, city fortress remaining's (from Preliminary EIA for Naim Frashëri 2016).

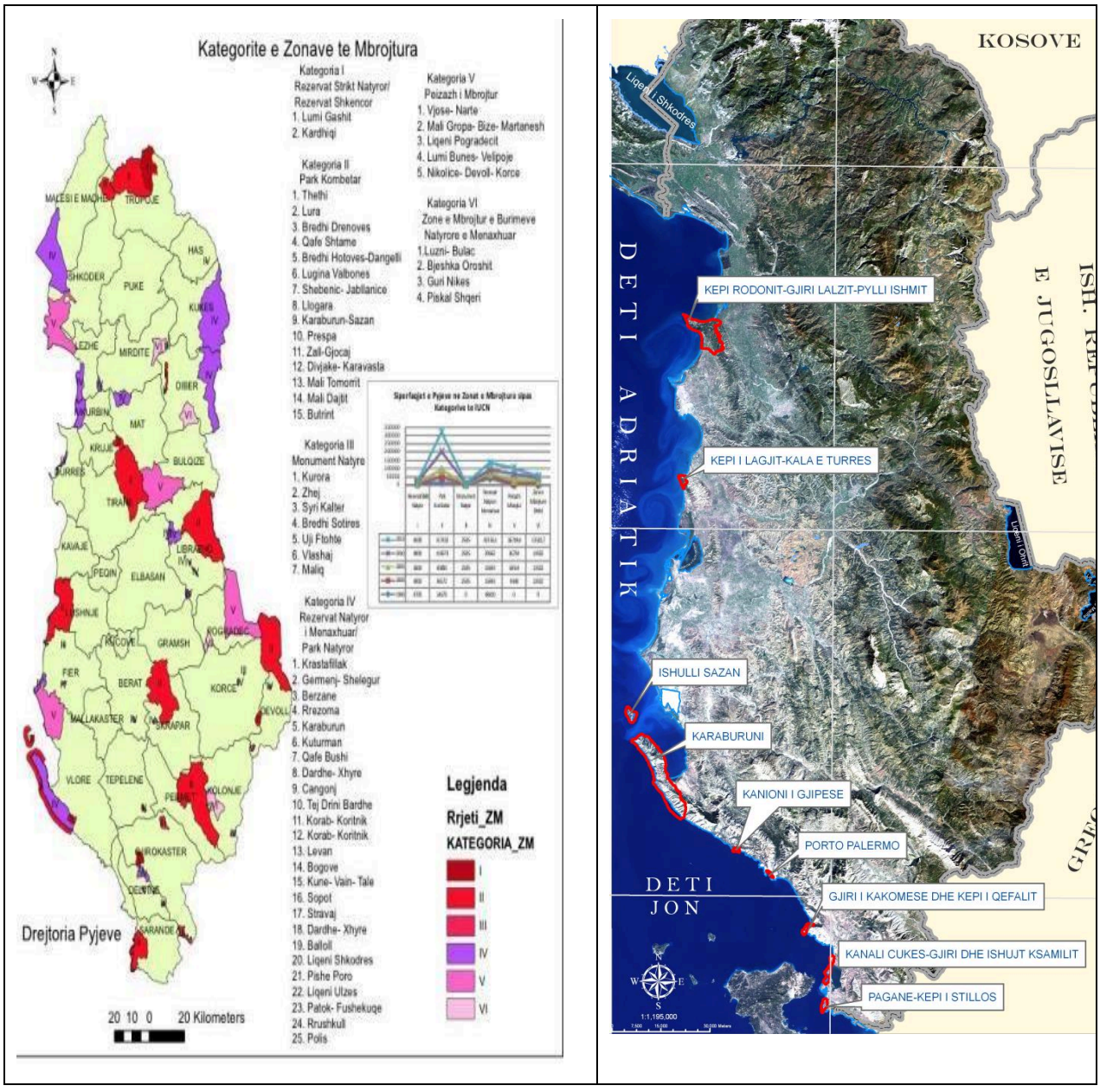

Figure 3. Map of Albania Protected Areas

5.0 Anticipated Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section presents the anticipated environmental and social impacts of proposed project and also provides generic mitigation measures to minimize if not eliminate the potentially negative impacts, in order to ensure that the interventions under the proposed project do not cause environmental and/or social impacts beyond the acceptable level.

5.1 Generic Environmental and Social Risks

The ongoing PIUTD focus on improving urban infrastructure to enhance the attractiveness and livability of four urban centers in the south of Albania, namely Berat, Gjirokastra, Saranda and Permet; enhancing the touristic appeal and sustainable management of selected cultural heritage assets in the South of Albania; strengthening municipal capacity to deliver services and tourism destination management, in cooperation with the national Government. The AF will pursue the same approach of the ongoing PIUTD and scale up the investment in two new locations in the in the south of Albania (Ksamil and Orikum).

The activities in Components 1, 2 and 3 will involve upgrading of infrastructural services (civil works, rehabilitation and construction activities) in these selected cities.

5.2 Positive Impacts of the Project

The proposed project is envisaged to have positive impacts on economy and social fabric of the project areas and the country. Some of the positive impact include the following

- Easier access to tourist destinations
- Increased tourists' influx
- Enhanced tourist facilities.
- Empowerment of tourism sector.
- Economic growth.
- Employment/Business opportunities.
- Improvement in lifestyles of local community.
- Environmental protection of tourist/ heritage sites.
- Participation of women in tourism industry can lead to more opportunities for female tourist

5.3 Anticipated Impacts of the Project

This ESMF has been prepared to frame the guidelines for the ADF implementing agency to further prepare EMPs/RAP to mitigate potential environmental and social impacts due to sub-projects, during execution stage. The following are the possible environmental and social impacts of proposed project activities:

➢ Soil Erosion and Contamination

The following impacts on soil quality are envisaged due to proposed project interventions:

- Excavation of earth/cutting operations, clearing of vegetation and land levelling activities can destabilize the surrounding land surface.
- The unspent materials and debris produced from consumed up materials, if left as such and allowed to mix with soil underneath, can degrade the quality of receiving soils.
- Leakages of oils, lubricants, chemicals, and other similar substances from their storage sites and from engines of the generators, machines, equipment and vehicles can spoil the receiving soils and may undermine ability of the spoiled soils to support growth of vegetation and plants.

Mitigations

- The excavations should be kept limited as per approved engineering drawings and the top fertile layer of soil should be separated and reploughed after the completion of tasks.
- All spoils will be disposed of at designated site and the site will be restored back to its original conditions.
- Avoid use of heavy machinery on wet soil to prevent damage to soil structure.
- Oils, lubricants, chemicals, and other listed hazardous materials should be stored safely at their designated spots, enclosures or storerooms, which should be safe from rainfall and away from any potential source of fire. The WB EHS guideline on Chemical Hazards should be followed.
- All the unspent and left-over materials be completely removed offsite upon completion of construction and the site be restored to original or near to original condition.

➢ **Air Pollution**

- Air quality will be affected by fugitive emissions from construction site through machinery, asphalt plants, rough tracks, quarry areas and vehicular traffic etc.
- Emissions may be carried over longer distances depending upon the wind speed, direction, temperature of surrounding air and atmospheric stability. Air pollution can cause respiratory diseases.

Mitigations:

- Emissions and ambient air quality will be managed as national and WB EHS Guidelines for Air Emissions and Ambient Air Quality.
- Dust suppression techniques i.e. regular water sprinkling should be carried out to suppress excessive dust emissions.
- Vehicles used for construction should be tuned properly and regularly to control emission of exhaust gases.
- Construction workers should be provided with masks for protection against the inhalation of dust.
- Vehicle speed in the project area should be prescribed not more than 20 km/ hr and controlled accordingly.

➢ **Noise Pollution**

- Noise is envisaged to be generated from construction camps, heavy machinery such as

bulldozers, excavators, stabilizers, concrete mixing plant, pneumatic drills and other equipment.

- Noise generated by construction machinery is likely to affect sensitive receptors located within 500 meters of the project area.
- Health risks associated with exposure to continuous noise levels includes increase in blood pressure, hypertension, annoyance and sleep disturbances etc.

Mitigations

- Provide construction workers with suitable hearing protection like ear cap, or earmuffs and training workers in their use.
- Use equipment with lower sound power levels
- Install silencers for fans
- Installing suitable mufflers on engine exhausts and compressor components
- Limit the hours of operation for specific pieces of equipment or operations, especially mobile sources operating through community areas
- Locate the concrete mixing, and materials shipment yards at least 2 km from residential areas, particularly schools and health centers.
- Selection of up-to-date and well-maintained plant or equipment with reduced noise levels ensured by suitable in-built damping techniques or appropriate muffling devices;
- Heavy machinery like percussion hammers and pneumatic drills should not be used during the night
- Follow WB EHS Guideline on Noise management

➢ **Contamination of Surface Water Resources**

- The activities involved in this project may damage and contaminate important water resources in the project areas. The sources of surface water pollution include
- run-off from construction sites with heavy sediments loads, spillage of fuels, chemicals & lubricants and construction wastewater.
- However, the impact will be temporary and restricted to the duration of construction and rehabilitation.

Mitigations:

- Avoid disposal of construction wastewater into water bodies
- Soil erosion should be avoided in watershed areas to protect water resources
- Surface run off from construction site should be diverted to contained area.
- Provision of septic tanks for construction camps.
- Prevent dumping of hazardous materials especially near Rivers and seasonal nullah.
- Contractor to prepare Emergency Response Plan to address the accidental spillage of fuels and hazardous goods.
- Follow WB EHS Guideline for any effluent generated from the project related activities

➢ **Removal of Vegetation/Tree Cutting**

- Some aspects of the subprojects may require trees to be cut, affecting the aesthetics of the areas and reducing the carbon sinks.

- Cutting of trees may lead to loss of habitats for some of the wildlife species. Some of the trees in the area may be of ecological importance and the identification of that particular ecosystem.

Mitigations:

- Alignments and site design to minimize the cutting of trees.
- The critical areas of animal breeding should be avoided.
- Compensatory number of trees should be planted of same species, in lieu of 1 affected tree.
- The WB OP on Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04) and Forests (OP/BP 4.36) should be strictly followed for compliance.

➢ **Disturbance to Natural Habitat**

The project interventions will be undertaken in areas with presence of biodiversity and natural habitats. Project activities might create disturbance to these natural habitats during construction and operations. Care must be taken to protect the key natural features including trees and plants.

Mitigations:

- Site specific management plan of any protected area should be developed
- WB OP on Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04) and Forests (OP/BP 4.36) should be strictly followed.

➢ **Occupational Health and Safety**

- Worksite related accidents can result in injuries and casualties.
- Workers may be exposed to unsafe and/or unfavorable working environment due to storage, handling and transport of hazardous construction material.
- The construction activities and vehicular movement at construction sites and access service roads may also result in roadside accidents particularly inflicting local communities who are not familiar with presence of heavy equipment and machinery.

Mitigations:

- Contractor should strictly follow WB EHS Guidelines
- Provide OHS services (first aid, eye-wash station)
- Written emergency procedure for remote site
- Provide basic OHS training to workers
- Use of PPEs by workers must be ensured by the contractors.
- Timely public notification on planned construction works.

➢ **Fire Hazards**

- Fires may be resulted from bonfires and other sources or activities and this can lead to serious health and safety hazards.

Mitigations:

- Set up a mustering point in event of fire
- Designated bonfire place at the construction camp
- Contractor should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guidelines

- **Traffic Issues**

- The project is envisaged to increase the tourist influx into the selected areas, therefore, traffic will increase after the implementation of the project
- Possible increase in traffic related injuries and fatalities

Mitigations

- Ensure provision of adequate parking facilities
- Adopt best transport safety options to prevent traffic accident
- Use speed control devices (breakers)
- Maintain vehicles and equipment regularly
- Follow WB EHS guidelines

- **Natural Hazards**

- Natural hazards such as floods, fires, earthquakes, collapse of building structures, old monumental structures may prove to be fatal and can cause serious injuries to the workforce or the tourists.

Mitigations:

- Project Implementation Unit should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guideline. The EPRP should at a minimum contain information specified in the WB EHS Guideline.
- Fire extinguishers should be installed at different locations in the project area
- Disaster management arrangements should be made for disaster prone areas

- **Land Acquisition and Resettlement**

- The subprojects interventions may require land which can result in social disturbances, loss of livelihoods and may exaggerate the social and cultural conflicts among the people.

Mitigations

- Land Acquisition and Resettlement issues should be dealt with in accordance national regulations and the WB policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)
- Re-design project where possible to minimize the land acquisition.
- Consult affected property owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the

project development process
- Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work
- Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF
- Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective Assemblies before start of work

- **Indirect Impacts**

- The project may have some indirect impacts on the sensitive environmental and social features of the project areas.

Mitigations

- If any project activity is located close to any waterbody, especially lake, a management plan should be developed to protect lakes in the project areas
- Management plan should be developed and implemented for the sub-projects that may affective sensitive habitat.

The generic impact and the proposed mitigation guidelines to address significant impact are presented in table 8.

Table 8: Environmental and Social Impact and Mitigation

Environmental, Social and Health Impact	Proposed Mitigation Measures
Air Quality	Construction stage • Soil/sand and cement loads in transit to be well covered to reduce dust levels rising above acceptable levels. • Stockpiles of exposed soil and unpaved access roads to be sprinkled with water to regulate dust levels. • Use of good quality fuel and lubricants in vehicles, equipment and machinery. • Ensure that heaped sand delivered for construction works is covered with tarpaulin to prevent wind and water transport of soil particles • Engines of vehicles, machinery, and other equipment to be switched off when not in use. • Regular scheduled maintenance and servicing to be carried out on all vehicles and equipment to minimize exhaust emissions. • Construction and civil works to be phased out or controlled to reduce emissions from equipment and machinery in use. Operational stage • Adequate road signs to be planted on dust roads to limit vehicular speeds • Properly designed and constructed speed ramps on access roads
Vibration and Noise	Construction phase • Excavation and construction activities to be carried out during daylight hours. • Concrete mixer and other construction machines and equipment to be located away from sensitive environmental receptors. • Construction equipment and machinery to be regularly maintained and serviced to reduce noise generation when in use. • Engines of vehicles, equipment and machinery to be turned off when not in use. • Earthworks and other construction activities to be phased out or controlled to reduce noise generation during construction • Neighboring residents and commercial activities to be notified in advance of the project before contractor mobilizes to site

	• Work will not be carried out during sensitive times/ periods of day/ year to avoid disturbance to fauna Operational phase • Visible signs to be provided at suitable locations to warn tourists of excessive noise which may disturb fauna or other activities
Visual Intrusion	• Public to be well informed of upcoming project using appropriate signages and display boards prior to contractor accessing sites; • Construction activities to be done in sections to reduce impacts of change and visual intrusions to the general public. • The construction sites to be hoarded off from public view. • Good housekeeping measures, such as regular cleaning, to be maintained at the construction site. • Ensure an acceptable post-construction site as per provisions in the contract. • Tourist facilities will be properly designed and constructed to blend with the natural environment
Water Resources Pollution	Construction stage • Works not to be executed under aggressive weather conditions such as rains or stormy conditions • No solid waste, fuels, or oils to be discharged into any section of a waterway. • Construction to be done in sections to minimize impacts and exposure of soil. • Excavated materials and silt, which cannot be used will be disposed of at appropriate sites as per the Waste Management Plan prepared by contractor and approved by the Assembly. • Temporary sediment barriers to be installed on slopes to prevent silt from entering water courses. • Maintenance, fueling and cleaning of vehicles and equipment to take place at off-site workshop with adequate leakage prevention measures Operational stage • Adequate sanitary facilities to be provided at tourist sites to avoid discharge of waste into water bodies • Host communities to be provided with sufficient toilet facilities and sensitized to use these to discourage open defecation
Generation and disposal of waste	Apply the principles of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover for waste management through the following actions: Construction phase • Excavated earth materials will, as much as possible, be re-used for back filling purposes to reduce waste • Excavated solid waste from the drain channel that are unsuitable for backfilling will be collected onsite, allowed to drain and collected for disposal at approved landfill sites. • Ensure that the required amounts of construction materials are delivered to site to reduce the possibility of the occurrence of excess material • Provide bins on site for temporary storage of garbage such as lubricant containers, drinking water sachets and carrier bags/packaging materials. • Ensure judicious use of construction materials such as pipes, laterites, sand, etc. to reduce waste. • Contractor to work according to a prepared and agreed Solid Waste Management Plan. Operational phase • Waste collection bins to be sited at vantage points to serve the general public • Warning signs to be posted at suitable locations against littering with possible sanctions • Proper arrangement with waste collection companies through the Assembly to regularly collect and dispose of solid waste
Public Health, Safety and Security	Construction phase • Works on exposed trenches and earth materials will, as much as possible, be completed before new earth dug and trenches are created. • Work areas to be hoarded off adequately to avoid inquisitive trespassers especially children. • Warning signs to be posted around work areas to discourage trespassers • Contractors to maintain adequate security at construction sites to avoid

	pilfering or vandalizing of property • Visibility to be ensured in the night-time by providing adequate lighting Operational phase • Encourage community leadership to form watch committees to improve security • Work with police force to provide police posts at all major tourist sites • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Occupational Health and Safety	Construction phase • Engage experienced artisans for construction works. • All workers should be given proper induction/orientation on safety. • The contractors will have a Health & Safety Policy and procedures to guide the construction activities. • Regularly service all equipment and machinery to ensure they are in good working condition. • Ensure there are first aid kits on site and a trained person to administer first aid provide and enforce the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety boots, reflective jackets, hard hats, hand gloves, earplugs, nose masks, etc. • Proof of competence for all equipment/machine operators will be required and established through inspection of valid drivers or operator's license or documents. • Comply with all site rules and regulations • Apply sanctions where safety procedures are not adhered to. ✓ Site meetings should create awareness on OHS. Operational phase • Park wardens to be provided PPEs for protection against dangerous animals • Park wardens to be suitably armed for protection against poachers • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Land acquisition and compensation issues.	• Consult affected property owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the project development process • Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work • Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF • Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective Assemblies before start of work
Maintaining livelihood	• Ensure appropriate compensations are paid to PAPs as defined in the RPF • Employment and other opportunities to be given to local communities as much as possible.
Natural Hazards	• Project Implementation Unit should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guideline. The EPRP should at a minimum contain information specified in the WB EHS Guideline. • Fire extinguishers should be installed at different locations in the project area • Disaster management arrangements should be made for disaster prone areas
• Fire Accident	• Set up a mustering point in event of fire • Designated bonfire place at the construction camp • Contractor should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guidelines

5.4 Gender Based Violence (GBV) Mitigation Strategy

Manifestations of GBV include, but are not limited to:

- Physical violence (such as slapping, kicking, hitting, or the use of weapons);
- Emotional abuse (such as systematic humiliation, controlling behavior, degrading

treatment, insults, and threats);
- Sexual violence, which includes any form of non-consensual sexual contact, including rape;
- Early/forced marriage, which is the marriage of an individual against her or his will often occurring before the age of 18, also referred to as child marriage;
- Economic abuse and the denial of resources, services, and opportunities (such as restricting access to financial, health, educational, or other resources with the purpose of controlling or subjugating a person); and,
- Trafficking and abduction for exploitation.
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) violence perpetrated by a former or current partner, includes a range of acts of violence.

The PIUTD may therefore have potential adverse impacts on some community members and it is important to identify any such incidents early and ensure timely interventions. These issues may be addressed within the framework of the GRM for the project. However, due to the sensitive nature of sexual abuse cases and the need to respect the privacy and wishes of survivors, the redress techniques may be considered differently from the general GRM methods.

- **GBV Risk Assessment**

In view of the multiple project sites which may have varying GBV concerns, it is proposed that at the onset of the project implementation, a GBV specialist is hired by the PIU to carry out GBV risk assessments to determine the level of attention and the mitigation options and techniques required at each project site.

- **Design of GBV sensitive GRM**

The GRM prepared for the project will form the basis for the design and implementation of mechanisms to address GBV issues. The sensitive and confidential nature of GBV will require that trained outreach staff are stationed at project sites and who will identify and report all cases to the appropriate authorities.

6.0 Environmental and Social Management Framework

This section of the ESMF provides guidance to the Project on procedures to be followed and standards to be met in implementing the projects in agreement with the national and World Bank safeguard provisions. It covers sub-projects environmental and social screening, monitoring and institutional strengthening for implementation of the subprojects.

6.1 Environmental and Social Screening Process

According to the World Bank OP 4.01 all potential adverse impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas including wetlands, forests, grasslands, and other natural habitats are site-specific; reversible; and mitigation measures can be readily designed.

Screening is the first step in the process of thorough analysis of sub-projects, and its purpose is to identify potential impacts of the proposed sub-projects and define measures aimed to prevent or minimize negative impacts. Specifically, the screening would identify environmental and social risks related to the proposed sub-project and determine type of impact assessment documentation needed for sub-project implementation. Sub-project screened as Category A by the ADF or the World Bank will not be ineligible for financing.

All the project activities of PIUTD will be subject to an environmental screening in order to prevent execution of projects with significant negative environmental impacts. An environmental impact is an estimate or judgment of the significance and value of environmental effects on physical, biological, social or economic environment. Low, medium and high representing impact or level of importance associated with a factor. The impact level depends on duration, reversibility, magnitude, benefit, significance etc. The project will have the following proposed approach for addressing environmental and social issues and will include the following safeguard instruments:

- This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared prior to appraisal and approval of the PIUTD Project, to inform the overall environmental and social performance of the Project.
- Two ESMPs for activities to be initiated in the first year that have been identified at the time of appraisal: (i) Berat Castle cobblestone road rehabilitation; and (ii) the rehabilitation of stairways in the city of Saranda;
- An initial screening of identified sub-projects (for first year and subsequent years of project implementation) selected in line with specific set of criteria will identify issues to be included in the Terms of reference of Feasibility Studies and detailed designs. The ToRs for the Feasibility Studies will include provisions for environmental and social safeguards, including long-term impacts, so that the products (FS, design) will be prepared taking in consideration possible impacts on environment.
- During or after the Feasibility Studies (FS) are completed, additional screening of proposed sub-projects will be carried out by ADF to determine if Site Specific Environmental and social Management Plans or ESIAs are needed.
- Specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and/or Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), and other safeguard instruments as required (e.g. environmental checklists, Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) etc.) will be prepared by consultants selected by the designer for all investments once the Feasibility Studies

are completed and technical details will be available during project implementation following the guidance established in this ESMF.

- The basic instrument will be ESMP to manage all construction related impacts. Additional screening of the project will determine whether additional instruments are needed.

The Albanian Development Fund (ADF) will be responsible for all safeguard activities and will therefore carry out the foremost preliminary environmental and social screening of the proposed subproject by using the checklist suggested in **Annex 1**. The PCU under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoTE) will provide oversight and guidance to the PIU.

On the base of the preliminary assessment of the proposed activities, the beneficiary will complete a screening form and submit to the ADF. Based on screening form, ADF environmental specialist will assign the category to the sub projects (Category A, B, or C) to identify the type of environmental due diligence document for each sub – project. More precisely, during determining the risk, it should be considered:

a. the type, location, sensitivity and scale of the Project including the physical considerations of the Project; type of infrastructure, volume of hazardous waste management and disposal.
b. the capacity and commitment of the Borrower to manage such risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the Safeguard Policies, including the country's policy, legal and institutional framework; laws, regulations, rules and procedures applicable to the Project sector, including regional and local requirements; the technical and institutional capacity of the Borrower; the Borrower's track record of past Project implementation; and the financial and human resources available for management of the Project;
c. other areas of risk that may be relevant to the delivery of environmental and social mitigation measures and outcomes, depending on the specific Project and the context in which it is being developed, including the nature of the mitigation and technology being proposed, considerations relating to domestic and/or regional stability, conflict or security.

6.2 Environmental Review Process

The following steps indicate how the process preparation of environmental due diligence documents will flow

Step 1: **Screening**: The beneficiary (Municipality or designer company) prepares sub-project concept (this might include preliminary design). Following informal discussion with the ADF environmental specialist, in which the ADF alerts the beneficiary of its environmental assessment requirements, ADF will assists beneficiary or designer in finalizing the environmental screening form based on which the ADF environmental specialist concludes if project is eligible for financing according to ESMF.

Step 2: **Scoping**: Following the approved environmental screening form, the ADF environmental specialists assigns environmental category to sub project (B1, B2, B3 which are considered parallel to the WB category A, B, and C) and fills the Screening Report and informs beneficiary on the required due diligence. However, the beneficiary does not prepare the environmental due diligence document, rather, it is a part of design contract with the ADF, but

the preparation is coordinated with the beneficiary.

Within this contract, the ADF may need to prepare the following: preliminary ESIA and ESMP, or request MoET opinion if preliminary ESIA is required. It will be the responsibility of the beneficiary to obtain the appropriate permits and licenses as required by national law in order to facilitate the clearance process with the MoET or other relevant authorities. These requirements are considered separate, but parallel, to those presented here (as part of the OP 4.01 and other triggered policies) and complying with those is the responsibility of the beneficiary.

Step 3: Preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports/Environmental and Social Management Plans: Drafting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports will be a part of each ADF design contract and will be prepared in line with national legislative requirements for receiving an environmental permit/authorization. ESIA will be prepared by a licensed expert on Environmental Impact Assessment (including NLC licensee and NRC extract). The preliminary ESIAs will also comply with World Bank OP 4.01, OP 4.04 and Environmental, Health and Safety guidelines.

In case of B3, the beneficiary will in timely manner request MoET opinion if preliminary ESIA is required and inform ADF on decision. The ADF or ADF consultant will proceed with preparation of the preliminary ESIA. For any ESIA required, the MoET shall inspect the ESIA report and the data presented and shall consult with its experts and other appropriate bodies, e.g. cultural heritage, Agency of Protected Areas, etc. It will then prepare in writing, a recommended decision in favor of approval or refusal of the sub-project, with justification(s). In the case of approval of the

Step 4: Clearances: The World Bank Environmental Specialist will priory review all B1 and several B2 until it is assured that quality of review is adequate in ADF. Majority of B3 sub projects will be post reviewed.

Step 4: Public disclosure and consultation: The beneficiary and ADF (including designer) will carry out public disclosure and consultation (meeting) for ESIA and/or ESMP, prior to bidding of works (and after the approval from the MoET for ESIAs). The documents will be disclosed on the website of ADF as well on the municipality website. Upon finalization, the designer will send finalized documents to ADF, for re-disclosure, with the minutes of consultation. Finalized ESIA will be re-disclosed at both sites.

Step 5: Application for the Environmental Permit/Authorization: Upon clearance from WB and public consultation, yet prior to publication of the Bid Notification, an Investment Agreement will be signed with the beneficiary of the subproject. ESIA and/or ESMP is an integral part of sub-project bidding and contracting documentation. Depending on the type of ESIA required (or none at all), the beneficiary will pay the tariff for environmental permit/authorization to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism/National Environmental Agency, as well as apply for receiving the environmental permit27 .The environmental permit must be issued before the works contract signing. . Any required modifications/improvements required by the permitting authority, will be the responsibility of the design contractor to reflect.

7.0 Institutional Framework and Arrangements

7.1 Institutional Arrangement

Project implementation will be mainstreamed within the existing institutional structures. The Albanian Development Fund (ADF) will continue to be the primary Project Implementing Unit (PIU) of the Project with responsibilities including fiduciary aspects, with financial management (FM) of loan proceeds and procurement of goods, works, and services for the project; compliance with social and environmental safeguards; and ensuring citizen communication and consultation, as well as routine communication with the World Bank The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE) will provide oversight and guidance to the PIU.

Other important stakeholders will remain the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE), the Ministry of Culture (MoC) as well as selected municipalities in the south of Albania. The MoTE will review the environmental assessments of infrastructure activities which require an environmental permit. The MoC will be responsible for supporting the ADF in reviewing activity concepts and approving designs that involve restoration or upgrading of cultural heritage sites

The selected municipalities supported the MoUD in identifying specific areas and activities for project support and provided, among others. They will continue to be responsible for holding periodic citizen engagement meetings together with providing information for citizens' campaigns which explain, to all stakeholders, the project goals, benefits, and implementation progress and disseminating and addressing feedback from community as well as grievance redress mechanisms. The selected municipalities should also ensure participation of women in all community engagement processes.

7.2 ADF Implementation Capacity

ADF will need to strengthen its internal capacity to implement and monitor the performance of the ESMF and its provisions and build the capacity of the dedicated environment and social safeguard specialists assigned to specific tasks such as: (i) Coordinating preparation of environmental due diligence documents with the beneficiary; (ii) Reviewing the environmental due diligence documents, (iii) Preparing, together with the implementing entities, of annual work programs and budgets linked to ESMPs; (iv) Monitoring project progress as it relates to compliance with the ESMF guidelines and ensuring that overall project implementation proceeds smoothly; (v) Conducting construction site supervision, (vi) Collecting and managing information relevant to the project and accounts (i.e., environmental and social monitoring and reports, environmental and social screening); and (vii) Organizing and providing training sessions.

The ADF implementation unit include an Environmental Specialist, a Citizen Engagement Specialist and a Social specialist, with a minimum 5 years' experience with relevant issues. In addition, the ADF may hire or make available supporting staff and consultants who will work on an on-call basis, depending on the specific needs of project activities.

7.3 Institutional Arrangements Land Acquisition and Resettlement Process

The Ministry of Urban Development has ultimate responsibility for the implementation of all project components along with the ADF. A committee composed of PAP-Project Authorities will be constituted to be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Resettlement Procedure. The ADF will cooperate will all local institutions to provide a successful implementation of the Resettlement Procedure (RAP/ARAP). **The LGUs (Municipalities, Administrative Units)** are the final beneficiaries of the project implementation. From the institution, it is required continuous assistance and presence during project progress. **Immovable Property Registration Office** for each District in the Project area, under the authority of the Central Registration Office, which are responsible for identifying and verifying property boundaries and ownership. **Land Administration and Protection Offices** (formerly Cadaster Offices) under the Region, which will clarify land allotment certificates for agricultural land that has not been formally registered and transferred to the Immovable Property Registration Offices. The Regions and the **Municipalities** will be responsible for the coordination of the implementing procedures and execution of the compensation.

The specifications of a RAP that will be undertaken for the project are subject to further updates, by the ADF, in accordance with the project activities developments and approvals by the World Bank.

7.4 Capacity Building and Training Plan

The implementation of the PIUTD requires specific knowledge for beneficiaries and operators engaged in the different phases of the project implementation. Several trainings will be delivered to the working staff. The identified staff will be equipped with the training, skills and knowledge needed to enable them to perform effectively as safeguard persons. The capacity building will include training workshops such as the ESMF implementation, ESMF/ESMP reporting, World Bank Guidelines etc.

The ADF environmental and social staff as well as consultants who prepared and supervise subprojects will continue to receive dedicated environmental and social training from the World Bank environmental and social specialists. The first such training was conducted during the preparation of the Additional Financing, and similar training will continue to be conducted on a regular basis. The workshops will be conducted by an external consultant with knowledge on the environmental management requirements for Albania, including substantial knowledge on the Bank safeguard policies and requirements. A tentative capacity building and training plan for the PIUTD is presented below

Table 9. Proposed Capacity Building Plan to be implemented before December 2020

Description of training	Training module	Responsibility	Participation	Frequency	Cost Lumpsum (EUR)
Training o Safeguard Policies	– Community mobilization/participation and social inclusion – Grievance Redress Mechanism/Social Accountability – Cultural Heritage	External Consultant	ADF Staff, LGUs Staff, IoCM Staff, all levels engineers in these institutions, MoUD etc	2 days	800

	– Social Safeguards (Land/asset acquisition Environmental Safeguards				
Training on ESMF Implementation	– Basic Concepts of ESMF – Basic Concepts on Resettlement and Participation Framework – Provisions of Resettlement and Participation Framework – Profile of PAPs and identification of eligible PAPs – Roles and Responsibilities – Monitoring Mechanisms – Identification of Social and Environmental Concerns – Redressal Mechanisms – Methodology for compensation or land transfer and respective disbursement – Institutional Setup – Reporting Requirements	External consultant	ADF Staff, LGUs Staff, IoCM Staff, all levels engineers in these institutions, MoUD	3 days	1,200
Guidance and Tools	– Guidance Documents, Checklists, Forms, – TORs, Technical Planning Tips	External Consultant	ADF PIU, PCU MoIT, MoTE	1	400
Communication	– Radio, TV discussions, Newspaper adverts on issues relating to ESMF/ RPF ia	External consultant		1 day	400
Refresher Training	– Basic Concepts of ESMF – Basic Concepts on Resettlement and Participation Framework – Provisions of Resettlement and Participation Framework – Profile of PAPs and identification of eligible PAPs – Roles and Responsibilities – Monitoring Mechanisms – Identification of Social and Environmental Concerns – Redressal Mechanisms – Methodology for compensation or land transfer and respective disbursement – Institutional Setup Reporting Requirements	Environmental Specialist Social Specialist	ADF Staff, LGUs Staff, IoCM Staff, all levels engineers in these institutions, MoUD	Annual	800
	Total				**3,600**

8.0 Consultation Process on the ESMF and PIUTD[34]

8.1 Consultation Process on the ESMF

The World Bank policies require that environmental reports for projects are made available to project affected groups, local NGOs, and the public at large. The results of the Project environmental and social due diligence will be available to the public; thus all the stakeholders will be consulted on project safeguard documents at least once (for category B projects) during the process. This is in line with World Bank Access to Information Policy and Environmental Assessment OP 4.01. The Public Consultation is required to take place for the documents related to the due diligence of the overall project. Regarding the PIUTD project, the ESMF, as well as site specific ESMPs or ESIAs that will be prepared for each activity (sub-project) during project implementation will be disclosed.

The public consultation meeting minutes will be published on ADF website, but also other electronic and printed media are used to ensure wide participation of stakeholders, including local newspapers, ADF official email, etc. The objectives of the public consultations were:

- To inform the public and stakeholders about the objectives and project developments and the expected of environmental and social effects.
- To collect information and data from the public and/or the communities that will be affected by the project
- To ensure participation of the public and local communities in process and support for the project

Meetings were held with key officials and opinion leaders to gauge level of awareness and involvement with the project, concerns of project implementation, and to obtain relevant documents or baseline information. The minutes of the Consultation Meeting can be found in **Annex 8**. As a summary the main discussions points of the meeting were focused on the presentation of the draft document and information in the Annexes of the ESMF.

8.2 Consultation with Affected Populations

Consultation is the process by which information is gathered to make decisions that impact the community. Community members are informed, connected and participated in services and activities relevant to them, and feel they have a role to play. For effective consultation to occur, communities need to be informed and engaged. This occurs when there is equal access to information, good ongoing information flow, consultation and participation among the stakeholders.

To ensure effective engagement of the citizens and ensure the interests of the affected persons are fully included in the process, a set of activities focused on citizen engagement will be carried out. The level of consultation that will be employed on the project is discussed below. Others include participatory needs assessment, stakeholders' consultation workshop, participatory monitoring and a grievance redress mechanism.

[34] *(This section is subject to final review after the consultation process during the meeting. The Annex No. 10 is planned to cover the Minutes of Meeting, which will be completed after the consultation meeting.)*

Inform: The project will provide information to the community with balanced and objective information to assist them in their understanding of the PIUTD project, alternatives and opportunities.

Consult: The project implementation unit will obtain feedback from the community on analysis, alternatives and decisions. Usually involves developing a preliminary or preferred position before releasing it for community input.

Involve: This may involve the community in various stages of the project in seeking specific answers to issues as opposed to broad general feedback sessions. Methods may include focus groups, workshops, advisory committees and online consultations.

Collaborate: Community collaboration may be fostered through steering committees, negotiation tables, online consultations, policy roundtables, citizen panels, search conferences and formal and informal partnerships.

Communication with the affected persons, as well as with other community members who will express interest in the project, will be maintained throughout the process from project design, implementation to closure. The community will be informed of grievance management arrangements and given contacts of persons assigned to manage issues and grievances. Also, an up-to-date information needed to ensure public awareness and engagement on project activities will be provided through the ADF website and social media

8.3 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) provides a mechanism to address concerns and grievances, mediate conflicts and cut down lengthy litigations which delays such infrastructural projects. This mechanism serves as a way to meet requirements, prevent and address community concerns, reduce risks, and assist larger processes that create positive social change. The major objective of GRM is to implement and maintain a procedure for handling environmental and social concerns of the project stakeholders. This procedure will include a redress mechanism scaled to the project's identified risks and adverse impacts, focusing on stakeholders.

The GRM has been established under the parent project which comprises Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) at the ADF PIU with representative of the selected municipalities and a representative of the PAPs. The GRC is headed by the Project Director at the ADF PIU. The functioning of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) must be maintained and monitored by the ADF PIU during project implementation. The general steps of the grievance process comprise the following which will include a feedback process for complainants to get responses within agreed time frames:

- Registration/receipt of Complaints.
- Determining and Implementing the Redress Action.
- Verifying the Redress Action.
- Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- Dissatisfaction and Alternative Action

Registration/receipt of Complaint. The PIU will establish a GRM center at the community/town as part of the consultation undertaken for the project. The GRM center will be accessible to project affected persons and tourists and other stakeholders. The GRM will

outline clear roles, timelines, procedures and responsibilities. It will have an in-built monitoring mechanism to check on responsiveness to complaints or grievances lodged. The different forms of receiving complaints will be clearly described together with the different stages of going through the process. The GRM will work with Local Grievance Committee (LGC) to resolve solutions.

Determining and implementing the redress action. When a grievance/dispute is recorded, the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be called into action, and mediation meetings will be organized with interested parties. Minutes of meetings will be recorded. The GRC will first investigate the foundation of the grievance and then determine the redress action in consultation with the complainant and concerned party if necessary. Otherwise, the grievance redress team will communicate to the complainant on the acknowledgement of the grievance, the redress action proposed and the timeframe for implementation

Verifying the redress action. The grievance redress team will visit the affected property site or get in touch with the complainant to confirm that the redress action is carried out. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome of the redress proposal or action, additional steps may be taken to resolve the issue or reach an amicable agreement. Verification should be completed within one week of execution of the redress action.

The GRC will maintain a record of grievances received and the result of attempts to resolve the grievances and include this information in the monitoring and evaluation report. The Expropriation Law provides for an appeals process against the proposed award for compensation. In addition, the Urban Planning and Construction Police laws allow for administrative appeals against a decision for demolitions of illegal construction. Further appeals can be made to the district courts. The Office of the Ombudsman in Tirana receives complaints from citizens against government actions that affect their rights. The project staff will also play a role in resolving grievances. Albania has passed a transition period in its local government, due to the changes coming from the Administrative-Territorial Reform, which brought radical changes to the functioning of the LGUs. Considering the changes of the local government and the steps explained above, the grievance committee will be created within the Relevant Municipality or any other chosen local institution.

Under the parent project, those who have grievances or inquiries about subprojects had not used the GRM center, and the formal GRM set up for the project had not been activated. Local population typically complain directly to the contractor for construction related issues. The ADF staff in charge of the subproject including environmental and social staff are typically informed about the complaints directly from complainants or from the contractor, and may mediate between the contractor and complainants if and as necessary. For the demolition of three informal cafés in Blue Eye, affected café owners resorted to court system instead of using the project GRM. Grievance log had not been prepared to track the complaints submitted under the parent project. The ADF is stepping up its GRM for the AF by establishing the grievance log, and assigning the grievance officer who will record grievances submitted and how they are resolved, under the guidance of the World Bank' environmental and social specialists.

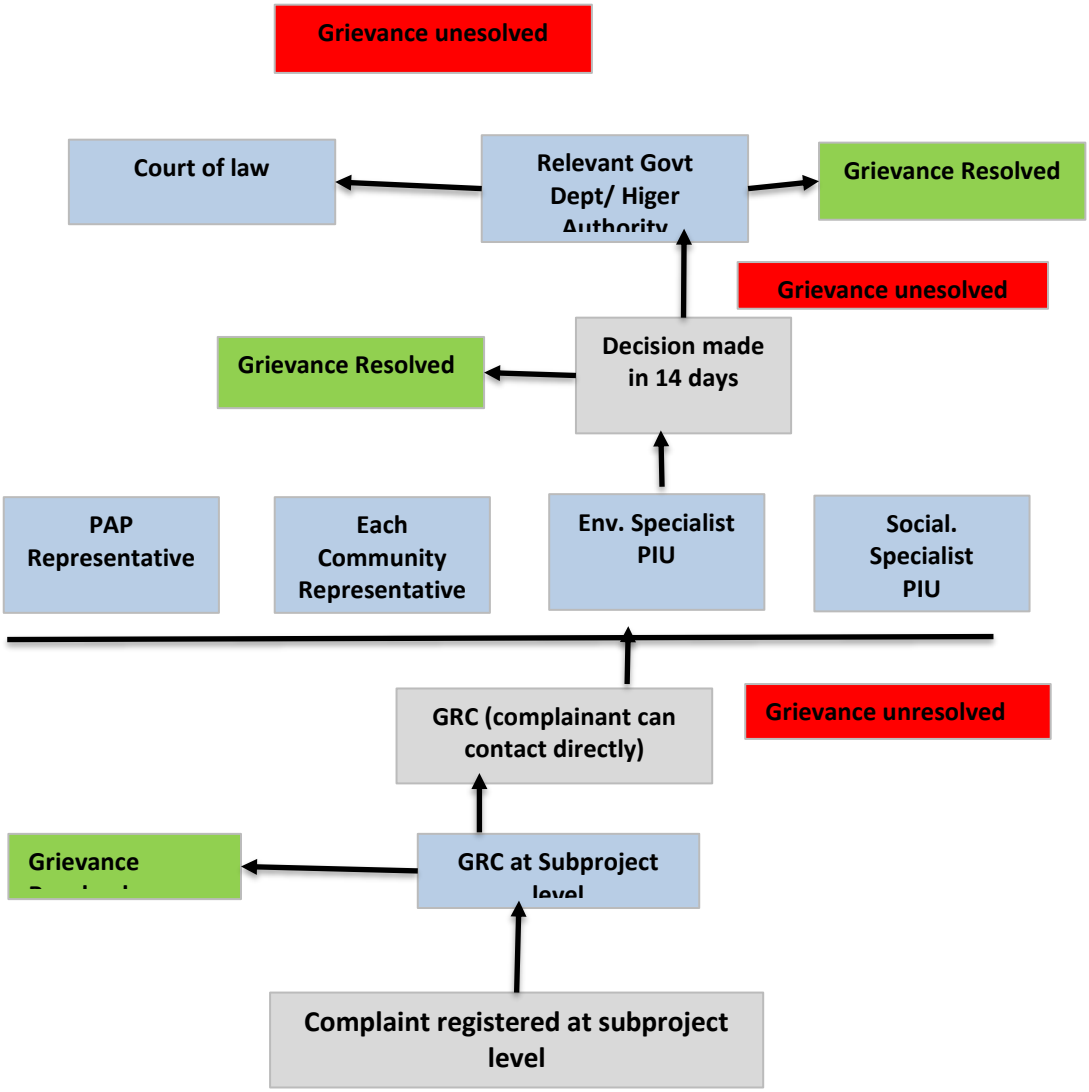

Figure 4: Flow chart for the GRM Process

9.0 Environmental and Social Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring plans will be developed to track safeguard progress at both the ESMF and subproject activity level. The proposed plans are presented in the table below. The table confirms the verifiable indicators as well as responsibilities for the various monitoring actions. The monitoring issues at the ESMF level include confirmation of the dissemination of the ESMF document as well as capacity building and training activities.

The responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation are shared between the ADF and the Ministry of Urban Development. The ADF is responsible for record-keeping, management and internal monitoring of the GRM as the committee will report directly to the Head of ADF or to an assigned specialist. The Ministry of Urban Development is responsible for external monitoring and evaluation of the project implementation through the creation of an Independent Monitoring Unit.

9.1 Internal monitoring

- **Environmental Monitoring**

The physical environmental monitoring should be carried out at different stages of project to ensure compliance with physical environmental standards and to avoid any damage to the physical environment due to project activities. The monitoring will identify any discrepancies with the environmental standards and will urge the responsible institutions/authorities to take necessary actions to control/avoid environmental damage. The results of analysis should be compared with the national and WB guidelines and standards.

The responsibility for onsite environmental monitoring of contractor activities will be the beneficiary (LGUs) and the ADF. The LGUs and ADF designated responsible person will conduct regular monthly on- site monitoring of civil works to verify contractors' adherence to the requirements set out in ESMPs, to identify any outstanding environmental issues or risks, and to ensure proper application of the prescribed remedial actions. In case of recorded non-compliance with ESMPs, the ADF will instruct contractors on the corrective measures and closely monitor their further progress.

The municipalities will also monitor that the environmental conditionality during implementation are met, based on the legislative requirements arising from the environmental permit. They will need to report to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism/National Environmental Agency as requested in the permit as well to ADF.

The World Bank teams will oversee the implementation of the environmental and social safeguards for the overall project and each subproject. They will perform periodic monitoring missions as well as ad-hoc site visit as necessary. The World Bank teams will approve Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and follow up on its implementation as per ESMF.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism's role as the national authority partnering this project with regards to environmental issues will be to monitor the implementation of the environmental permit for each subproject when it is needed. In cases when the project is

located with a protected area, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism will monitor the implementation of the works that will maintain upon completion.

- **Social Monitoring**

The ADF will be charged with the task of monitoring and evaluation of the PAPs, procedures related to their needs and grievance. As mentioned above ADF will be final responsible for two procedures:

- Monitoring the Grievance Committee
- Overall Internal Monitoring of RAPS or ARAPS for project activities.

The internal monitoring procedures are related to:

- Public consultation meetings.
- Census, assets inventories, assessments and socio-economic studies completed.
- Grievances filed and their status.
- Compensation payments disbursed; and
- Monitoring report submitted.

Internal Monitoring Actions are not limited, and they can include participation in the processes etc. Reports of internal monitoring will be prepared and submitted to ADF representative and shared with other specialists and partners.

9.2 External Monitoring and Evaluation

An Independent Monitoring Consultant (IMC) shall be appointed to monitor the expropriation and compensation process and implementation of requirements to verify that compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation will be implemented in accordance with the agreed RAP. The IMC will also be involved in the complaints and grievance procedures to ensure concerns raised by PAPs are addressed. More specifically, the IMC will carry out the following:

- Review the results of the RAP internal monitoring and review overall compliance.
- Random field checks to ensure payment of compensation and timing of payments.
- Interviews with random samples of affected people from different sites to assess their knowledge and concerns regarding the expropriation process and their entitlements.
- Check on the type of grievance issues and the effective functioning of the grievance redress mechanisms by interviewing aggrieved affected people and reviewing grievance and the flow of the process.
- Assess general efficiency of expropriation and formulate lessons for future guidance.
- Determine overall adequacy of entitlements to meet the objectives.

Progress and performance monitoring of RAPs / ARAPS will cover all phases from preparation, through implementation, to closure. Using the information compiled through RAP monitoring, the MoUD in collaboration with ADF will be able to note changes that may have occurred before and after expropriation.

Table 10: Environmental and Social Monitoring

Identified negative impact	Recommended mitigation measure	Performance indicator	Responsibility for monitoring	Monitoring Means	Recommended frequency for monitoring
Air Quality, noise and vibration	• The working times and construction schedule will be coordinated rationally for all the various construction and engineering companies which will be on site • Neighboring offices and communities will be duly informed early of all demolition/constructional activities. • The construction and other engineering firms will be selected for the project based on their ability to adopt acceptable engineering practices and their possession of suitable equipment holdings to ensure low noise and air quality emission. • Loading and transportation of demolition debris shall be done during daytime and will avoid relatively noisy equipment operating during the night; • Stockpiles of debris will be covered to prevent resuspension of dust into the air; • On-site mixing of cement, sandstone and other constructional materials will be done in an enclosed space and these materials shall be stored in an enclosed yard or covered tightly; • Speed limit shall be set for construction and transportation vehicle both within and outside the project site to avoid re- entrainment of dust; and • A water bowser will be available on site for frequent dousing or sprinkling to suppress dust from earthworks. • Adequate road signs to be planted on dust roads to limit vehicular speeds • Properly designed and constructed speed ramps on access road	Schedule prepared for construction activities on site Neighbouring offices and communities informed Firms selected based on clearly defined criteria Loading and transportation of debris in daytime Covered stockpiles of debris Enclosed spaces for cement mixing Project drivers duly informed of applicable speed limits Frequent dousing to suppress dust Road signs on dust roads Speed ramps	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Reporting	Beginning of construction monthly during construction
Water Resources and Pollution	• Works not to be executed under aggressive weather conditions such as rains or stormy conditions. • No solid waste, fuels, or oils to be discharged into any section of a waterway. • Construction to be done in phases to minimize impacts and exposure of soil. • Excavated materials and silt, which cannot be used will be disposed of at appropriate sites as per the Waste Management Plan prepared by contractor and approved by the relevant authority. • Temporary sediment barriers to be installed on slopes to prevent silt from entering water courses. • Maintenance, fueling and cleaning of vehicles and equipment to take place at off-site workshop with adequate leakage prevention measures • Waste collection and disposal facilities to be provided for community, tourists and SME Solution Centers to minimize waste and pollution of water	No work done during aggressive weather Waste not discharged in waterways Construction work executed in phases Unusable material disposed of at appropriate sites per Waste Management Plan Constructed temporary barriers at appropriate locations Off- site workshops for maintenance of vehicles Waste collection and disposal facilities provide	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Field inspection	Daily Daily Monthly Daily Weekly Quarterly
Visual Intrusion	• Community to be well informed of upcoming project using appropriate signages and display boards prior to contractor accessing sites; • Construction activities to be done in sections to reduce impacts of change and visual intrusions to the general public. • The construction sites to be hoarded off from public view. • Good housekeeping measures, such as regular cleaning, to be maintained at the construction site. • Ensure an acceptable post-construction site as per provisions in the contract. • Facilities will be properly designed and constructed to blend with the existing environment	Signages and display boards Construction sectioned appropriately Hoarded sites Tidy construction sites Acceptable post construction site Facilities blending with existing environment	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Field Inspection	Pre-Construction Weekly
Land acquisition Resettlement and compensation	• Avoid displacement or resettlement to the extent possible by exploring alternative locations, rerouting and feasible design options. • Where displacement or resettlement is unavoidable, Consult affected property	Minimum displacement / resettlement Early consultations in accordance with project engagement plan	PIU, IMC, WB	Reports	Design Phase Pre-Construction

issues	owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the project development process. • Develop a resettlement action plan to guide compensation of impacts • Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work. • Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF. • Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective authorities before start of work • A formal grievance redress mechanism to be established and implemented	Compensation in accordance with RAP Affected persons' properties salvaged Affected persons received fair and adequate compensation Permits acquired Grievance redress mechanism in place			
Livelihood Issues	• Ensure appropriate compensations are paid to PAPs as defined in the RPF; • Employment and other opportunities to be given to local communities as much as possible. • Frequent on-the job training on hospitality courses for tourism workers to enhance tourist visits and business • Staff will be trained to become trainers in safeguards for beneficiaries	Compensation paid Local community members in employment Trained workers Trained staff	PIU, IMC, WB	Reports /interview	Bi-annual
Community health and safety	Construction phase • Works on exposed trenches and earth materials will, as much as possible, be completed before new earth dug and trenches are created. • Work areas to be hoarded off adequately to avoid inquisitive trespassers especially children • Warning signs to be posted around work areas to discourage trespassers • Contractors to maintain adequate security at construction sites to avoid pilfering or vandalizing of property • Visibility to be ensured in the nighttime by providing adequate lighting • Construction workers educated on personal and community health issues. Protection eg., condoms provided against sexually transmitted diseases and particularly sexual violence against women and minors in the community • Contractor to provide procedures to identify and report gender-based violence perpetuated by workers and mechanisms to deal with perpetuators and survivors as part of a GBV action plan. • On completion of the works, all temporary installations will be dismantled, all plant and equipment de-mobilized, waste and leftover materials and debris removed by the contractor, and the site left clean and tidy • Bulldozer, hydraulic excavator, pumps, generator, vehicles and other equipment and machinery used for the project will be relocated to new or other project sites in the country managed by the contractor. • Encourage community leadership to form watch committees to improve security • Institute procedures to avoid/ mitigate incidences of sexual violence against women and minors and also procedures to support survivors	No overdue exposed trenches Work areas adequately hoarded Warning signs posted Security provided Adequate lighting at night Workers educated on health issues Procedures available to identify and report GBV Temporary installations dismantled and removed after construction Equipment relocated after construction Watch committees formed. Procedures in place to avoid sexual violence	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Field Inspection / Report	Monthly
Traffic Management	• Contractors to provide traffic management plans to be approved by relevant authorities and client, if deemed necessary • Adequate alternative arrangements to be made to minimize impact on motorist and pedestrians within existing tourist sites • Works to be completed on time to minimize inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians • Adequate road signs to be planted on access roads to limit vehicular speeds • Construct properly designed speed ramps on access roads	Approved traffic management plans Alternative transport arrangements Timely completion of works Road signs with speed limits Speed ramps	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Visual / Report	Pre-construction, Quarterly
Gender based Violence (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment)	• Staff to be given regular training on Hospitality and self- protection against violence particularly for the women/ girls • Due to the sensitive nature of sexual abuse cases and the need to respect the privacy and wishes of survivors, the redress techniques should be considered differently from the general GRM methods.	Trained staff on hospitality Different redress mechanism established for GBV cases GBV specialist hired	PIU, WB, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Reports / Interviews	Quarterly

	• A GBV specialist may be hired by the PIU to carryout GBV risk assessments to determine the level of attention and the mitigation options and techniques required at each project site through the development of a GBV action plan. GBV action plan will include a service provider mapping, establishment of clear referral pathway for GBV response, GBV sensitization and outreach plans, code of conduct for project workers etc. • The contractor will implement the GBV Action Plan with support from the GBV specialist or an identified service provider. • If required, trained outreach staff will be stationed within each project community and will be required to identify and report all cases to the appropriate authorities	Action plan implemented Trained outreach staff in project communities			
Occupational health and safety	• All workers should be given proper induction/orientation on safety. • The contractors will have a Health & Safety Policy and procedures to guide the construction activities. • Regularly service all equipment and machinery to ensure they are in good working condition. • Ensure there are first aid kits on site and a trained person to administer first aid. • Provide and enforce the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety boots, reflective jackets, hard hats, hand gloves, earplugs, nose masks, etc • Proof of competence for all equipment/machine operators will be required and established through inspection of valid drivers or operator's license or documents. • Comply with all site rules and regulations. • Apply sanctions where safety procedures are not adhered to. • Site meetings should create awareness on OHS. • Construction workers educated on personal and public health issues. Protection eg., condoms provided against sexually transmitted diseases and consequences of abuses (especially sexual) against host community members	Workers given training on safety Health and safety policy in place Equipment in good working conditions First aid kits on site PPEs provided and in use Proof of competence for operators. Compliance with rules Sanctions applied when required Awareness on OHS Workers educated on health issues	PIU, LGU, Supervising Engineer	Reports	Weekly / Quarterly
Cultural heritage	• Traditional authority responsible for sanctity of local shrines and heritage places properly identified and consulted • Necessary cultural rites agreed with community and performed prior to access to sites and at predetermined time periods	Traditional Authority known Rites performed	PIU	Reports	Pre-construction

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5. Rehabilitation of the Saranda staircases ESMP City of Saranda July 2016

6. Trans Adriatic Pipeline ESIA Albania Annex 5 – Baseline and Impact Assessment Methodology

7. World Bank: Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development Additional Financing. Report No: PAD3782. July 2020

Annexes:

Annex 1: Screening Checklist for Environmental and Social Safeguard Issues

Project Information and Contact details	Location		
Name of lead screener		Date of screening	
Name of lead reviewer		Date of reviewing	

Subproject Details: Attach location map (longitude – latitude coordinates (GPS reading) if available):	
Type of activity: What will be done, who will do it, what are the objectives and outcomes	
Estimated Cost:	
Proposed Date of Commencement of Work:	
Expected Completion of Work	
Technical Drawing/Specifications Reviewed:	Yes/No

Physical Data	
Subproject Site area in ha	
Extension of or changes to existing land use	
Any existing property?	
Any plans for construction, movement of earth, changes in land cover	

Preliminary Environmental Information	**Yes/No**	**Unknown**	**Detail Notes**
Does the proposed activity include new construction and extension of activity?			
Does the proposed activity include rehabilitation activities?			
Does the proposed activity belong in Annex I of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (list of Projects for which full EIA is mandatory)?			
Does the proposed activity require other type of EA under the national legislation?			

Does the project will use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, particularly any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?			
Does the project activities will be performed in or potentially affects archaeological or cultural heritage site?			
Does the project activity generate dust, pollutants or some hazardous, toxic or harmful substances in the air?			
Does the project will be source of noise and vibration?			
Will the project generate significant quantities of waste (hazardous, nonhazardous, inert waste)?			
Does the project will generate additional releases of wastewater?			
Are there any activities which will lead to physical changes of the water body?			
Are there any risks of physical changes of the terrain, soil pollution, sediment loads, erosion, etc.?			
Are there any areas on or around the location that are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the Project?			
Will the project be located in or near some sensitive or protected area?			
Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the Project?			
Will this project affect some critical habitats (forest, wetlands, marshlands, aquatic ecosystems)?			

Preliminary Social and Land Information	**Yes/No**	**Not Known**	**Detail Notes**
Will the intervention include new physical construction work?			
Does the intervention include upgrading or rehabilitation of existing physical facilities?			
Is the intervention likely to cause any permanent damage to or loss of housing, other assets, resource use, including those that may exist on pubic/ state land?			

Is the site chosen for this work free from encumbrances and is in possession of the government/community land?Is there any prior use of lands by private entities including public/ state land? If so, please describe them			
Is this sub project intervention requiring private land acquisitions?			
If the site is privately owned, can this land be purchased through negotiated settlement?			
If the land parcel has to be acquired, is the actual plot size and ownership status known?			
Whether the affected land owners likely to lose more than 20% of their land/structure area because of donation?			
Are there any non-titled people who are living/doing business/ owning non-land assets (e.g. buildings, fences, etc.) on the proposed site/project locations that use for civil work? Is any temporary impact likely?			
Does anyone need to move out, or close businesses, commercial/livelihood activities permanently, or temporarily (during constructions)?			
Will there be loss of /damage to agricultural lands, standing crops, trees?			
Will there be loss of incomes and livelihoods?			
Are there any previous land acquisitions happened and the identified land has been already acquired?			

If an answer is yes to any of the questions above, refer to the Project Resettlement Policy Framework for mitigation measures, and immediately inform the Bank task team

Annex 2. Terms of Reference for the ESMF

Draft

Republic of Albania

Proposed Project for Integrated Urban Economic Development (PIUED)
(P155875)

Environmental and Social Management

Framework Terms of Reference (TORs)

Background

The **Government of Albania (GoA)** is currently implementing an ambitious reform program aiming at accelerating growth, creating jobs, restoring trust in government and furthering progress toward the EU accession. As part of this effort the **GoA** is moving towards a regional approach to development. The proposed Regional Development Law is at the final stage of approval and aims to establish four Regional Development Areas (RDAs) and specific Regional Development Agencies. The reform aims to achieve (i) greater impact through an integrated approach and alignment among programs in a given territory; (ii) greater cohesion in territorial development, through the implementation of regional development strategy for the country, and in the medium term (iii) the establishment of mechanisms to channel EU Structural Funds and other development funds. This reform is in early stages with associated regional mechanisms requiring further development.

During the past year the GoA, through the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), has developed key strategic instruments for the territorial development of the country including the South of Albania. The MoUD has recently completed the preparation of the National Territorial Development Strategy (NTDS) and the Coastal Management Strategy (CMS). These strategic documents provide a sound vision and strategic direction for the development of the country over the next fifteen years (2015-2030).

In the current national context of territorial reform and increased selectivity in borrowing funds to maintain fiscal space, the GoA has made a strategic decision that the World Bank-supported Project for Integrated Urban Economic Development (PIUED) would focus on the South of Albania. This region is considered a priority given its impressive natural and cultural endowments and development pressures that may negatively shape these landscapes if sustainable urban planning considering integration of environmental and social aspects is not implemented. Consequently, the proposed Project is viewed as an opportunity to demonstrate the value of having both a regional and an integrated approach, particularly with regards to the potential for leveraging private sector capital. The PIUED is expected to play a critical role to pilot and demonstrate an innovative and integrated approach to implement regional development in line with the new NTDS and the CMS**.**

1. Project Background

Project objectives

The proposed PIUED project will be a catalyst for regional development in the South of Albania, leveraging funds from other development partners and the Regional Development Fund. It will support the Government of Albania‟s vision to promote regional development *by* ***improving urban infrastructure, enhancing cultural assets and strengthening institutional capacity to support local economic development in selected areas in the south of Albania.*** The Project will provide a model for replication to other regions to use an integrated approach to leverage their endowments and competitive sectors for sustained economic growth. Given that both the NTDS and the CMS identify tourism and culture (culture based tourism) as one of the main drivers for economic development in the South of Albania, the Project is expected to finance activities aimed at promoting the development of a sustainable, competitive and diversified local economy leveraging the recognized potential of tourismsector.

Project Components

Component 1. Urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement (US$50 million). This component is expected to finance design and implementation of urban upgrading and municipal infrastructure improvements in selected primary, specialized urban centers and their surrounding areas. This component is divided in two complementary subcomponents: Subcomponent 1A, which will focus on selected *primary* and *specialized* centers with urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement investments; and Subcomponent 2A, which will focus on enhancing cultural heritage assets and touristic sites along corridors connecting *primary* and *specialized* centers. Urban upgrading and infrastructure improvement investments (Subcomponent 1A) are expected to include the upgrading of public spaces (i.e. parks), street networks and associated infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, streetlights), the rehabilitation of basic municipal infrastructure (i.e. water supply networks), and the restoration of facades and roofs of historical buildings. Subcomponent A2 is expected to finance the enhancement of cultural assets through the restoration of selected assets (i.e. museums, bazaars, touristic sites) and the improvement of supporting infrastructure such as last mile access, visitor centers and signage. This component will also finance preparation of required feasibility studies, engineering designs, construction supervision and monitoring and evaluation activities of the project.

Component 2. Institutional capacity building (US$8.0 million). This component is expected to finance capacity building activities for improved municipal management, service delivery and local economic development. These activities will build upon assessments carried out under the Bank-managed and Austrian Government- financed Urban Partnership Program[36] in the proposed project area. In addition, in recognition of the role that local government units play in supporting economic development this component will also finance activities aimed at leveraging local growth drivers such as tourism. These could include the design and implementation of destination planning and management, promotion, local outreach and awareness raising campaigns; marketing and promotion activities; skilled work-force development; and performance monitoring & evaluation activities. This component could also support activities aimed at strengthening the product and market linkages between the tourism sector and the local economy. The Project is not expected to include activities affecting land use planning such as the development of local territorial plans or investments that have significant environmental impacts.

Component 3: Implementation Support (US$2.0 million). This component will support overall project implementation including: (i) contracting of local experts to assist the implementation unit and participating municipalities in the implementation of sub-projects; (ii) the maintenance of the project Monitoring and Evaluation System M&E; (iii) the project related operating costs of the implementing unit including consulting fees, in-country travel expenditure; (iv) training of staff and other persons associated with project implementation; and (v) annual audit of project accounts.

Proposed project area

The proposed project is expected to focus on the south of Albania comprising the area between Vlora and Saranda and covering both the Coast and hinterland (Including Berat, Permet and Gjirokaster). This area is highlighted in the CMS for its tourism and cultural economic development potential. The proposed project is expected to support *primary, specialized urban centers* – as defined in the CMS and NTDS - in the south of Albania and their surrounding areas. Investments are expected to focus on urban infrastructure upgrading in selected urban areas in the south of Albania and on selected cultural heritage and touristic sites enhancement along connecting corridors. According to additional financing, two more sites are added, Ksamil and Orikum, which are part of Saranda and Vlora Municipality.

5. Proposed Project Implementation arrangements.

The PIUTD project is prepared by the Ministry of Urban Development. In addition, a Working Group has been set-up with key stakeholders including the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Economy and local government units in proposed project area. The experience of MOUD on Bank‟s operational policies and safeguards implementation is rather limited and requires selected capacity building program throughout project preparation and implementation. The project implementation arrangements have not been confirmed.

Proposed assessment of project environmental and social impacts. The proposed project activities might generate a series of various environmental and social impacts. These impacts would be associated with biodiversity degradation, noise, dust, air and water pollution, health hazards and labor safety issues, etc. All of them are expected to be typical for small scale construction/rehabilitation works, temporary by nature and site specific, which are expected to be easily mitigated by applying best construction and relevant practical mitigation measures.

To address possible project impacts the implementation agency will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) in line with the Bank operational policy OP 4.01 on *Environmental Assessment* and the relevant national laws, which will be aimed at describing the process of how environmental and social impacts will be assessed, addressed and managed during project implementation when subprojects proposed for investment will be defined in terms of technical aspects as well as location; as well as the set of mitigation, monitoring measures, and institutional responsibility measures to be taken during the project implementation to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset, or reduce them to acceptable levels.

A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) is developed and updated in June 2020 and will be used together with ESMF to assess and mitigate potential social impacts associated to land

acquisition and economic or physical displacement of population required for the project.

Objectives of the assignment. In line with these ToRs, the selected consultant will assist the Government of Republic of Albania in preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework and Resettlement Policy Framework for the PIUTD project that should be revised by the key stakeholders (MoIE; MoTE), and it should also be disclosed and consulted in the South Region of Albania with all interested parties. The outline of the ESMF is presented in the Attachment 1 below.

The scope and objectives of the ESMF. The ESMF would guide the Environmental and Social Assessment process relevant to the proposed project activities and cover the following: rules and procedures for environmental and social screening of investments/subprojects; guidance for conducting subprojects Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and/or preparing simple Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) as well as the related ESMP Checklists (as applicable); mitigation measures for possible impacts of different proposed activities and types of matching grants and subprojects to be supported by the project; requirements for monitoring and supervision of implementing of ESIA/ESMPs requirements, implementation arrangements for project environmental and social aspects, and relevant capacity building activities. The ESMF should also specify capacity building activities that would include strengthening of MoIE‟s capacity as well as of participating financial institutions on mitigating potential environmental and social risks and conducting subproject-level ESIA.

Basic documents for conducting Environmental Assessment. In conducting the ESMF and the relevant ESIA and ESMPs, the following national and World Bank documents should be taken into consideration as applicable:

- National law and/or regulations on environmental assessments and public consultation.
- World Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies[37]
- World Bank Disclosure Handbook (December,2002)[38];
- European Directives on Environment Assessment.
- World Bank Group's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines.[39]
- Relevant documents prepared for World Bank Projects conducted in Albania, specifically in the South Region.

[36] The Urban Partnership Program (UPP) – funded by the Austrian Government and managed by the Bank - aims to strengthen the capacity of local governments in the South Eastern Europe region – including Albania -, and to equip local city administrators with practical tools for decision-making. As part of the UPP, and in support to the proposed project, Municipal Finance Self-Assessments (MFSA) and Urban Audits (UA) are already being conducted in Berat and Fier. A second cohort of municipalities to be included as part of the UPP include Gjirokaster, Vlora, Saranda and Himara. The MFSA helps local governments to assess their financial health and identify specific actions to improve mobilization of local resources. UA provides a snapshot of the level of services and infrastructure in the municipality, identifies and quantifies gaps, and defines a coherent set of priority sub-projects that fits the demand as expressed at the local level.

[37] WB Safeguards
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/EXTPOLICIES/EXTSAFEPOL/0,,menuPK:584441~pagePK:64168427~piPK:64168435~theSitePK:584435,00.html

[38] http://siteresources.worldbank.org/OPSMANUAL/Resources/DisclosureHandbook.pdf

[39] http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/ifc+sustainability/our+approach/risk+management/ehsguidelines

The purpose of the assignment/work

The objective of this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to ensure that adverse environmental and social impacts and appropriate mitigation measures are integrated in the proposed project design. A key principle is to prevent and mitigate any harm to the environment and to people by incorporating environmental and social concerns as an intrinsic part of project cycle management. Environmental and social issues will be considered during all stages of the sub-project cycle to ensure that supported activities comply with the policies and guidelines laid out in the ESMF is a systematic process, which evaluates the environmental and social consequences of a proposed plan for implementation in order to ensure that impacts are fully addressed from the early stages of decision making in addition to economic and social considerations. The ESMF will provide an overview of relevant World Bank safeguard policies and will describe the process concerning management of environmental and social issues, including for screening, preparation, implementation, and monitoring of sub-projects. The ESMF specifically includes procedures to address environmental and social safeguard issues.

7. **Specific tasks.** As part of the ESMF preparation, the consultant shall assist the GoA in conducting the following tasks:

- Provide a general assessment on the type of impact that might be associated with the different potential subprojects proposed for investment;
- Provide procedures and rules for sub-project level ESA process, including criteria for environmental and social screening for identifying those matching grants and sub-projects that require a simple ESMP, and ESMP Checklist, or more detailed ESIA study and an ESMP;
- Specify Environmental Guidelines for ESIA of the proposed grants and subprojects that would provide an assessment of potential impacts and generic mitigation measures to be undertaken for identified subprojects in all stages, - from identification and selection, through the design and implementation phase, to the monitoring and evaluation of results;
- Prepare the summary of the ESMF and disseminate it to other involved ministries and state institutions, NGOs, and academia, for review and comment;

Public Consultation The Consultant will assist in carrying-out the public consultation and disclosure process for the ESMF (with annexes including the Resettlement Policy Framework) to allow public awareness of the selected project investments and the envisaged related environmental and social impacts. Minutes including questions and answers from the meeting will be included in the final report. The public meeting should be announced in mass-media 2-weeks ahead of the meeting. Active NGOs, potential community representatives as well as local authorities that may be affected by the project activities should be invited. The draft documents should be made publicly accessible by posting it on the website of the relevant institution in local languages before the date of the public meeting.

The summary of the consultation meeting(s) might be in the following format:

Location	*Objective*	*Invitees*	*Participants*	*Summary conclusions and*	*Responsibility*
Project Location	To describe project including and Environmental Guidelines and solicit feedback				

- Revise the ESMF after the meetings to take into account inputs from the consultations as appropriate and document the consultation process in the finalESMF.

Detailed tasks: The assignment includes the following main tasks as part of ESMF preparation:

Task 1 Brief outline of project location(s) and description of proposed project activities
The Consultant will provide a brief description of typical features of the geographical area of the South of Albania in terms of current population, social and economic activities - particularly issues related to livelihoods as well as social and public recreational assets, geography, and environment.

Task 2 Brief descriptions of Existing Environmental and Social Conditions in the project area. The Consultant will review, evaluate and present available baseline data on the relevant environmental, social, economic and physical cultural heritage characteristics within the project area of impact taking into account the present activities relevant to the project investments. Specifically, the baseline conditions should include general information on:

a. Physical environment: geology, topography, sediments/soils, surface and ground water hydrology, land pollution, water quality, air quality and sources of air/noise emissions, integration of the irrigation schemes in the overall rural environment(e.g., existing dams, water supply systems ,sanitation ,climate change aspects);

b. Meteorology: wind patterns, monthly average temperatures, rainfall, snowfall and runoff characteristics; extreme storm and precipitation events;

c. Biological environment: existing terrestrial and river flora and fauna at the sites particular are and endangered species; sensitive habitats, including wetlands, parks or reserves in areas likely to be affected by works species of commercial importance;

d. Social economic impacts: community structure; inventory of community activities and production systems (e.g. fishing, industry, farming, small businesses); level of income, any public infrastructure and social services (goods and services); and a description of any direct, indirect and induced impacts on livelihoods;

e. Information on disadvantaged groups, ethnic minorities or persons for whom special provisions may have to be made, if affected, and in the context of developing mitigation measures;

f. Assesswhethertherewillbeanydisplacementsasaresultofthephysicalworks;

g. Physical cultural property: Cultural heritage assets such as cultural, religious, historical or archaeological sites, including sacred sites, graveyards and burial places, that might be affected during proposed civil works;

Other data relevant to the project investments as required by the existing national environmental conservation laws, regulations and standards.

Task 3 Brief review of the existing Legislative Framework, institutional assessment and capacity building. The Consultant will review existing legislation in Albania, decisions and/or guidance notes relevant to the environment quality, health and safety, waste management, hazardous substance/pesticide storage and handling; noise emissions; protection of sensitive areas and endangered species, land-use planning, involuntary resettlement and expropriation; public information; environmental liability, etc. determining their relevance to the project. The Consultant should also include a gap analysis in reference of the national law in reference to OP 4.11 (Physical Cultural Resources) and review existing treated in relationship to international waterways (Op 7.50). The Consultant will assess the institutional arrangements for project management (preparation and implementation) including the mechanisms and responsibilities for environmental and social screening and the review of ESMP results. This includes a review of institutional capacity for the supervision and enforcement of ESMPs during construction and operation phases. The consultant will reference any international relevant legislation applicable to the project investments.

Task 4 Brief assessment of potential environmental and social impacts and related mitigation measures The Consultant will identify general significant positive and negative impacts, direct, indirect and associated impacts, and immediate and long-term effects related to the construction phase of the proposed works as well as once the works are finalized (operational phase).As part of Task 4 the Consultant should review potential project impacts, if any ,in regards to international waterways making reference to existing treaties among riparian countries andthewaterwaysandwaterbasinswithintheproposedprojectarea(OP7.50).

Task 5 Brief analysis of Alternatives to the Proposed Project. The Consultant will review the proposed project interventions and summarize any possible alternatives.

Task 6 ESMF process – The Consultant will describe the framework process to be followed once the location of the project investments will be identified during project implementation. The framework should have the following essential elements:

- Typology of subproject/investment types expected in the project
- Preliminary identification of subproject eligibility (e.g., negative list)
- Screening process for subproject types – based on potential size/scale of subproject in conjunction with potential environmental and social impacts and risks
- Screening of potential environmental and social impacts and risk mitigation approach,

including determination of safeguards instruments; for example, ESMF will include screening procedure to (i) determine whether the subproject is in a critical or non-critical natural habitat, and (ii) avoid any significant conversion or degradation of any critical natural habitat as well as guidelines to develop mitigation measures to minimize or avoid damage to the natural habitats; similarly, screening procedure will consider safety of dams; pest management; and cultural resources.

- Development of appropriate safeguards documents;
- Clear definition of roles and responsibilities of project staff and associated agencies in subproject implementation and application of environmental and social review, implementation of safeguard documents, monitoring and evaluation.

Task 7 Preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plan Framework (ESMPF)

The Consultant will prepare the project Framework ESMP including Mitigation Plan and a Monitoring Plan according to the Bank requirements on the OP 4.01 (see Annex 2 of OP 4.01). The Framework ESMP should include proposed mitigation and monitoring actions as well as the institutions responsible for the ESMP implementation. Also, the ESMPF should present proposed staffing and training requirements related to ESMP implementation, institutional needs (based on a capacity assessment, and other necessary support, and estimated costs for proper ESMP implementation.

(a) The Mitigation Plan will include general mitigation measures related to preventing or reducing the possible project environmental and social impacts as well as the approximate costs for these measures;

(b) The Monitoring Plan will propose a general plan of feasible actions to monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures and the impacts of the project during the construction and operation. The Monitoring Plan should include an estimate of costs required to successfully implement such plans well as the parties responsible to carry out this plan.

Task 8 Preparation of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The Consultant should prepare as part of the ESMF a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) as outlined in Annex 3 and 4. The RPF should be included as an Annex to the ESMF and disclosed in-country along with the ESMF.

8. Reporting

It is anticipated that the Consultant would complete the work over a maximum duration of 3 months for a total ofabout45 workdays. The expected outputs of this assignment are as suggested in the following schedule:

- Inception Report (no later than 2 weeks from the signed contract)
- Draft ESMF – including draft RPF Annex (no later than 6 weeks from the signed contract and before public consultation takes place)
- One public consultation on the draft ESMF (no later than 8 weeks from the signed contract);
- Final ESMF – including RPF Annex (no later than 9 weeks from the signed contract) including results of public consultation outcome.

The Consultant shall organizing a meeting at the start of ESMF-RPF preparation with appropriate members of the project preparation team and provide a draft ESMF – including draft RPF Annex for review to the Ministry of Urban Development and the World Bank

Project Task Team for review and comment. A final ESMF - including RPF Annex will be prepared taking account of comments provided by the implementation team and World Bank Task Team. The final ESMF - RFP will be submitted to the World Bank Regional Safeguards Secretariat (RSS - ECA) for approval / clearance. The estimated time for submission of the final ESMF- RFP is 9 weeks. The Ministry of Urban Development will provide to the Consultant all available documents that would facilitate completion of the RPF, including any studies on environmental and social impacts.

The final ESMF and RPF will be made available in English and Albanian languages; working drafts shall be provided in English.

Consultant skills

The Consultant will report to MoUD and should have skills and relevant experience, including experience in similar projects, required to carry out the described tasks.

- He/she must have University Degree (or equivalent of master level) in Environmental Sciences, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Environmental Policy, Natural Resource Management or in a related field.
- Knowledge of social safeguards/and knowledge of WB social safeguards
- At least 10 years work experience on related assignments
- At least 5 years (out of 5 years‟ experience) of practical experience in environmental (and social) safeguards practice acquired with the public authority/ies or with international project/s
- Working experience on the World Bank of other international organizations / projects, at the positions which are similar to this ToR.

The consultant will propose the experts in disciplines that he considers necessary in order to cover the whole scope of work described in this document and to prepare the delivery materials. The consultant will ensure that suitably qualified experts are identified and organized, as required for each of the various tasks outlined above.

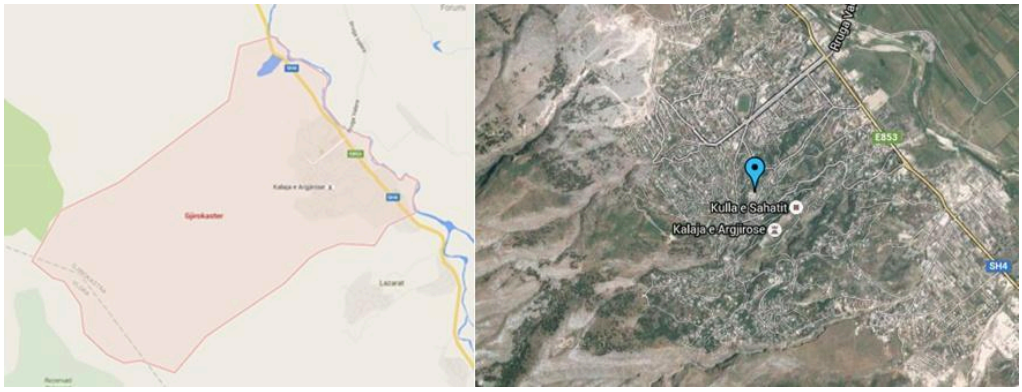
Annex 3. Description of Potential Project Areas

A Description of urban centers that will benefit from integrated urban implementation activities project

Gjirokaster "City of Stone" (40°04′33″N;20°08′20″E)

Gjirokastra is a town and a municipality in Southern Albania. Lying in the historical region of Epirus, it is the capital of Gjirokastra County. Its old town of Gjirokastra was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2005, as a rare example of an architectural character typical of the Ottoman period.
Gjirokastra is situated in a valley between the Gjerë Mountains and the Drino, at 300 metres above sea level. The city is overlooked by Gjirokastra Fortress. Gjirokastra is the birthplace of notable writer Ismail Kadare. The present total of municipality population is 25,301 (2011 census), in a total area of 469.25 square kilometers. The city's walls date from the third century. The high stone walls of the Citadel were built from the sixth to the twelfth century. During this period, Gjirokastër developed into a major commercial center known as "Silver City" or "Silver Castle".

The novel Chronicle in Stone by Albanian writer Ismail Kadare tells the history of this city during the Italian and Greek occupation in World War I and II, and expands on the customs of the people of Gjirokastra. The city is built on the slope surrounding the citadel, located on a dominating plateau. Although the city's walls were built in the third century and the city itself was first mentioned in the 12th century, the majority of the existing buildings date from 17th and 18th centuries. Typical houses consist of a tall stone block structure which can be up to five stories high.



Maps of Gjirokastra

There are external and internal staircases that surround the house. It is thought that such design stems from fortified country houses typical in Southern Albania. The lower storey of the building contains a cistern and the stable. The upper storey is composed of a guest room and a family room containing a fireplace. Further upper stories are to accommodate extended families and are connected by internal stairs. Since Gjirokastëra's membership to UNESCO,

a number of houses have been restored, though others continue to degrade.

Many houses in Gjirokastër have a distinctive local style that has earned the city the nickname "City of Stone", because most of the old houses have roofs covered with flat dressed stones. The city, along with Berat, was among the few Albanian cities preserved in the 1960s and 1970s from modernizing building programs. Both cities gained the status of "museum town" and are UNESCO World Heritagesites.

Photo: View from old town of Gjirokastra

Gjirokastër features an old Ottoman bazaar which was originally built in the 17th century; it was rebuilt in the 19th century after a fire. There are more than 500 homes preserved as "cultural monuments" in Gjirokastër today. The Gjirokastër Mosque, built in 1757, dominates the bazaar.

Gjirokastër is situated between the lowlands of western Albania and the highlands of the interior, and has thus a hot-summer Mediterranean climate, though, (as is normal for Albania), much heavier rainfall than usual for this climate ype
The city historic areas (both core and buffer) suffers from disparities in level of standard of urban infrastructures, quality of urban environment and tourism pedestrian accessibility between the more developed and touristic part of the Bazar, north of the castle, and the settlements perched on the hills South of the castle.

Berati, “Town of a Thousand Windows” (41°19′N;19°27′E)

Berati is located in central Albania and was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2005. It features a castle, locally known as the Kala, most of which was built in the 13th century, although its origins date back to the 4th century BC. The citadel area numbers many

Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built under the Ottoman era which began in 1417.

Photo: View from Berati, “Town of a Thousand Windows” (source; www.google.al)

Berat was a fortified but open town, and was over a long period inhabited by craftsmen and merchants. Its urban center reflects a vernacular housing tradition of the Balkans, examples of which date mainly from the late 18th and the 19th centuries. This tradition has been adapted to suit the town's life styles, with tiers of houses on the slopes, which are predominantly horizontal in layout, to make abundant use of the entering daylight.

The Citadel overlooks the river and the modern city as well as the old Christian quarter across the river. It is a well-preserved area containing narrow streets, Turkish houses and Orthodox churches. The town is still renowned for its historic architecture and scenic beauty and is known as the "Town of a Thousand Windows", due to the many large windows of the old decorated houses overlooking the town.

The Citadel of Berat in its present state, even though considerably damaged, remains a magnificent sight. The surface that it encompasses made it possible to house a considerable portion of the town's inhabitants. The buildings inside the fortress were built during the 13th century and because of their characteristic architecture are preserved as cultural monuments. The population of the fortress was Christian, and it had about 20 churches (most built during the 13th century) and only one mosque, for the use of the Muslim garrison.

Contextual description (see map): The protected historic core is composed by three distinct areas: (i) the Castle, well preserved and attracting large number of tourists. The vehicular access to the Castle is narrow and of poor-quality asphalt, ending in a dead-end with unorganized and insufficient parking. (ii) Mangalam: at the foothill of the castle, easily

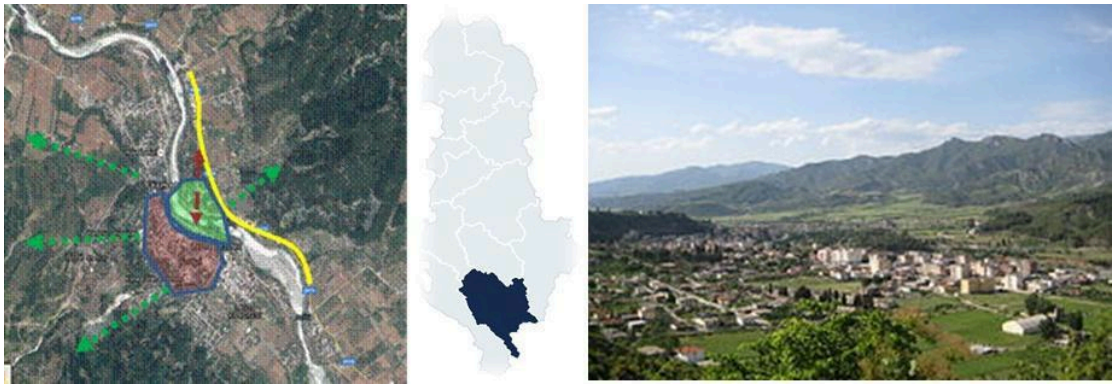
accessible by foot from the promenade of more modern Berat, it is characterized by narrow streets in need of upgrading; and (iii) Gorica, on the South bank of the river Osumit, is located in a more isolated and detached area and characterized by a high level of urban decay (both streets and historic buildings). The buffer areas on the hills on the east and west of the castle are characterized by modern, mostly illegal buildings of poor visual value, affecting the views form the castle. The lower historic expansion of the city center to the west is characterized by a transition area with a mix of vernacular/historic and modern building, hinged around a system of public open spaces that include the “Square of religious coexistence”.

Maps of Berati

Berati experiences a Mediterranean climate. Due to its location in a rain shadow of Mount Tomorrow the summer in Berati is much warmer than the rest of Mediterranean.

Permeti (40°14′0″N, 20°21′0″E)

Permeti is a small municipality of a 10,600 people and the entry point to the heart of Balkans. Among all visited towns, it showed a better prospect of becoming a sub-hub. There are many excursion opportunities, including a hot spring, waterfalls and villages.



View from Përmeti

It also has a good potential for trail development. In addition, it could provide an important support for tourism diversification towards eco-tourism. There is also potential for it to consolidate as an anchor for the cross-border tourism from Zagoria in the future.

Photo from Përmeti region

Saranda, Albanian tourism Gate (39°52′30″N, 20°0′36″E)

Saranda is a town and municipality in Vlora County, Southern Albania. It is one of the most important tourist attractions of the Albanian Riviera.It is situated on an open sea gulf of the Ionian Sea in the central Mediterranean, about 14 km east of the north end of the Greek island of Corfu. The total population is 20,227 (2011 census), in a total area of 58.96 km^2. However the population according to the civil offices is 41,173. Near Sarandë are the remains of the ancient city of Butrint, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Ksamili (39°46′0″N,20°0′0″E)

Ksamil is a village in the riviera of Southern Albania, and part of Butrinti National Park. The Coastal village, built in 1966 and is located South of the city of a Saranda.The population at the 2011 census was 2,994.

Photo: View of Ksamili village

Ksamili is one of the most frequented Coastal resorts by both domestic and foreign tourists. Ksamil Beach and Albania's Jonian Coast further north was included in the Guardian's 20 of the best bargain beach holidays for 2013[40]. The main attractions are the nearby Ksamil Islands. The mainland beach is small but clean. Ksamil is a town with a strong strategic position with direct connection with Saranda and Butrint. It has the size of approximately 1,7 km2 and is located on the south shore of the Mediterranean Sea close to the Greek island Corfu. There are 10,000 registered inhabitants, though only 3,141 are estimated to live in the settlement all year

round. Ksamil is a popular destination for summer tourism with 128,850 tourists per year. In this regard, Ksamil is one of the main urban centers in the southern Albania which is populated throughout the year, with a high presence of settlements, economic activities and touristic accommodations. It is a fact that the entrepreneurs are investing in the area more and more, and inhabitants have started to reinvest in their properties.


Ksamil is an area where sea, lake and cultural assets are combined together; National Park of Butrint, Ksamili Islands, Lake of Butrint, and Vivar Channel are the main assets of this area. The ruins of the ancient town of Butrint in the south of the peninsula are part of the UNESCO world cultural heritage. Ksamili administrative unit is one of the priorities in the National Development Strategy in terms of tourism. Thus, given that the tourism sector is one of the main sources of development of the area, residents consider it important or very important for the provision of family income and the development of the entire area in general. The economic activity of the administrative unit of Ksamil is focused mainly on tourism as well as on construction, fishing and in fruit-growing. Fishing is mainly based on mussels farming in Butrint Lake.

However, the tourism nowadays is characterized by informal development patterns, hence resulting in lack of proper urban development, public spaces, parking etc. Ksamili's chaotic urbanism, with illegal construction, lack of infrastructure and architectural standards, negatively affects the upcoming tourism and recreational developments of Ksamili itself and the entire Butrint Park. Over the last two decades, Ksamili has developed without a proper urban planning, resulting in heavily built areas characterized by lack of green and open spaces, and problems of traffic congestions and missing parking facilities and poor road and underground infrastructure. Ksamil has no plaza or main square where people cangather for public events. Also, the cultural and sportive activities are missing in the area. In addition, Ksamil has not adequate marketing and branding of the town.


[40] http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2013/jan/04/20-best-beach-bargain-holidays-2013

Butrinti (39°44′46″N, 20°1′13″E)

Butrint National Park (Albanian: Parku Kombëtari Butrintit) is a national park created in November 2000 and located in Southern Albania.

Photo: Amphitheatre and lagoon of Butrinti

It protects 94.24 square kilometres of historic landscape, archaeology and environment. The park's boundary includes the seaside municipality of Ksamil.
The park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the most important archaeological sites in the country containing different artifacts and structures which date from the Bronze Age up until the 19thcentury.

A number of major monuments are still extant including the city walls, late-antique baptistery, great basilica, and theatre and Venetian castles. In addition to archaeological remains the site is robed by natural woodland with a complex ecosystem which depends on the nearby freshwater Lake Butrint and Vivari Channel which drains the lake into the IonianSea.It is this combination of historic monuments and natural environment that makes Butrint such a unique place, a 'landscape with monuments' as beloved of the Grand Tourists of the 18th and 19thcenturies.

The Albanian Government established the Butrint National Park in 2000. The National Park was also made a UNESCO World Heritage Site during these years as well as a Ramsar Site[41].

Touristic sites pre-selected that will benefit from project implementation activities

Narta Lagoon (40°29′57″N, 19°27′26″E)

Narta Lagoon is located near the Narta village with geographic coordinates 40°29′57″N; and19°27′26″E. It is the second largest lagoon in Albania referring to size and is located a few kilometres north of the city of Vlora. The lagoon is part of the Narta-Vjosa Protected Landscape and is connected by two short canals to the Adriatic Sea. In the lagoon are two islands. The larger one is named Zvërnec Island. A wooden footbridge connects Narta to the island, where a 13th-century monastery is located. The Narta lagoon, located in the north of village, home a unique ecosystem.

[41] Ramsar (August 4, 2010). "The list of wetlands of international importance"

Photo: Zverneci Island and Narta Lagoon (*source: www.google.al*)

Figure: Vlora Bay and Narta lagoon and Orikum

The Lagoon of Narta has an area of 4180 ha and is one natural ecosystem with possibilities for development of eco-tourism, poultries observation, fishing etc. It represents the second campus in Albania for seabirds. In Narta there are 195 kinds of poultries. During the winter there nest about 48.700 seabirds, 23% of wintrily poultries that come in Albania[42]. In the same time there arrive white tailed eagles, flamingos, peregrines, black kitesetc.

The area of Narta is known for its handicraft produce of high quality wine. In lagoon's waters live different types of fish, but the typical ones are such as eel and Narta's bass. The beauty of Narta Lagoon consists of its rich marine life, the diversity of plant species, the remarkable sand dunes created by the wind, VjosaRiver‟s delta and the 195 kinds of poultries counted in the area. Narta Lagoon (Laguna e Nartës) is also important for eco-tourism.

Zvërnec Island is an island within the Narta Lagoon in Southern Albania. The island is nearly all covered with tall pine trees and is just east of a much smaller island. It is 430m in length and has a maximum width of 300m. Zvërnec Island is connected to the mainland by a 270m long wooden bridge. The island is a tourist attraction because it contains the well preserved 13th-14th century Byzantine Zvërnec Monastery. Near the island lies the village that bears the same name. The island has an area about 9hectares.

[42] http://www.albania.al

Monastery of Saint Mary, also known as the Monastery of Zvernec, is an important cultural monument on the Zvernec Island in the Narta Lagoon. The Byzantine church, build in the 13th century is a spiritual oasis for Christians in the area. The Church of holy Mary is a beautiful place of worship, peaceful and surrounded by evergreens.

Vjosë-Nartë is protected landscape areas, rich in wetlands and aquatic birds, situated in Vlora District with current size 19,738.00 hectares. The geographic bordersare:

a) North: River Estuary Vjosë (4357230.70L / 4503383.01V), follows the flow of river Vjosa to the point with coordinates (4374598.35L / 4497984.40V);
b) East: point with coordinates (4374598.35L / 4497984.40V), follows the back hills Three Brotherhood quota 105.0 m, pedestrian path, and the top Cipllakuit (235.1 m), quotes 246.0 m, 221.0 m, 227.6 m, passes near the village Kërkovë, yeast Mutrevës (222.6 m), quotas 196.0- m, village Bestrove, quotes 204.0 m, 202.0 m, 164.0 m, 160.8 m, crossing the roadway Well of the Muezzin (4371353.76L / 4484988.27V);
c) South: Crucifix of roadway Well of the Muezzin (4371353.76L / 4484988.27V), passing near the salt mine, the Kavallonës well to the point of meeting with the Adriatic Sea (4367602.48L / 4484771.87V);
d) West: The point of meeting with the Adriatic Sea (4367602.48L / 4484771.87V) and continues along the Coastline to the mouth of the RiverVjosa.

Orikumi (40°20′0″N, 19°28′0″E)

Orikumi (Orikos) is a former municipality in the Vlora County. At the 2015 local government reform it became a subdivision of the municipality of Vlora. It was named after the ancient city Oricum, which was located 4 km west of modern Orikum. The population at the 2011 census was 5,503. Nearby the modern city is located the only marina in Albania.

Photo. Orikum: The archaeological park and the cave of Haxhi Ali

Its geographical position made it an important harbor and a trading center on the Adriatic Coast. Orikum was important to military as well. It was used by the Romans as a defensive base in the wars against the Illyrians as well as in the 3rd century BCE against the Macedonians, who later occupied it in 214 BCE. Julius Caesar used the area as a troop

encampment for several months until Pompeius Magnus took them. Being subject to such varied cultural influences, Orikum became a thriving urban center. This is evident by various archaeological ruins, such as part of an orchestra platform and a small theater with the capacity to hold 400 spectators.

Orikumi is an archaeological site of prime importance. According to some specialists, it may even surpass Butrinti in significance. Orikumi lagoon is located at the Southern end of Dukati (Vlora) bay, in a restricted military zone and is connected to the sea by a canal. Only about 130 ha of the former larger Orikumi (Pasha-Limani) Lagoon remained in the present days. Some 25 years ago drainage works and the construction of a dike dried up approximately 400 ha of the former lagoon. Many agricultural polders are currently abandoned or used for non-intensive grazing and natural vegetation has invaded considerable part of the formerly cultivated lands.

Orikum is the second most important urban center in the Vlora Municipality (and third of the southern coast Albania), classified as a tourism strategic hub, located on the coastal landscape road connecting the southern coast locations. The administrative Orikum unit, 165 km south of the capital, is part of region number 4- the Southern Gateway of the Albanian Riviera. Orikumi is an administrative unit with 12.000 registered residents and 5.503 inhabitants only in Orikum town, and it is the only town in the Vlora Municipality having residents throughout the entire year.

Orikum, located in the Southern part of Albanian Riviera and in close vicinity with Vlora town and Llogara National Park, represents high potentials for sustainable tourism (both summer and winter season) and cultural development. Orikum has about 60,000 visitors a year and due to its diverse tourist offer, the numbers are increasing. The relief of the Orikum area is diverse where coastal seas, hilly areas and deep mountain areas are intertwined.

Orikumi is distinguished for its natural resources, biodiversity and ecological corridors and also for its archaeological, historical and cultural richness. Touristic potentials are well preserved, there is no degradation of the landscape despite the presence of informality in some areas, and the possibilities for improvement are high.

In the Orikum administrative unit there are about 430 active business activities throughout the year and 150 other seasonal businesses. Most of them are mainly concentrated in Orikum, Dukat and Radhima. The Radhimë-Marina Orikum area is one of the most developed business poles regarding tourism services. The local economy relies on the tourism sector and other components such as emigration, livestock, fisheries and agriculture. Also, agriculture remains the main economic activity, as opportunities for the development of this sector are good, especially in Dukat and Tragjas. Cultivation of viticulture, horticulture, citrus have grown year by year.

Despite the presence of the sea, the Orikum Lagoon located between Karaburun and the city of Orikum is a great potential for the area. Most importantly, Orikumi is located in a natural protected area of the National Park of Llogara and the Karaburuni peninsula. The Marmiroi Church and Orik are the two main cultural sites of Orikum. Orik ancient settlement is situated in the south-western shore of Orikum bay, in a low rocky hill, near a wood scaffold that separated a small lagoon with Pasha-Liman bay. In the 5th century, Byzantine Church of Marmiroi was built. The project area has the status of a Managed Nature Reserve, category IV, and is characterized by a biological and landscape diversity, because of the geographical

position, landscaping, hydrography, earth conditions and various climates. Several important archaeological objects have been found in the city, but the archaeological search has been always limited due to the importance of this center that continues even nowadays to be used as a naval base. Numerous of the ancient objects found in the city are exposed at the Vlora museum.


As mentioned above, Orikumi is distinguished for numerous natural resources, biodiversity and ecological corridors and also for its archaeological, historical and cultural richness. Orikumi together with the surrounding villages make up a wealthy treasury, including the Managed Nature Reserve of Karaburun (20,000ha), the Llogara National Park (1,010ha) and the Karaburun-Sazan National Park (12,428ha). Orikum's lagoon of about 130ha is another tourist attraction that connects to the sea through the canal.
As a sum up, the role that Orikumi has in the Albanian tourism and its potential are enormous, but it still faces huge infrastructure problems.

The area today faces increased traffic burden during the seasonal time. The main boulevard and the main road which goes to the seaside are in good conditions but the road that goes to Marmiroi Church is in bad conditions. Despite the presence of two public spaces not satisfactory in terms of urban design, attractiveness and functionality, there is a lack of public spaces in this area. Also, the main boulevard "Princess Rugjine" can be considered as a huge public space, but in terms of urban design and functionality it is not suitable.In addition, there is a total absence of the green zones inside the urban area.

There is a lack of dedicated public parking inside the urban area and mostly in the summer period, the issue of parking lots turns into a real problem for visitors and the inhabitants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Karaburuni Peninsula

The northern and western Coasts are 14 km in length from Cape Karloveci to Cape of Gjuheza, extending up to Bristani Bay. The slopes of Karaburuni Peninsula are very steep on the western side, culminating in the central part. The western side is characterized by high vertical

cliffs diving underwater to great depths, deeply incised by canyons with intermittent sandy beaches. These cliffs are highly subjected to erosion and numerous caves can be seen where freshwater springs often percolate.

The vegetation is dominated by low and sparse shrubs on both sides of the ridge, with some loose patches of conifers and other tree species. The underwater Coastal environment along the western side is quite diversified and relatively abundant and is organized into various descending marine ecological zones. The peninsula‟s canyons and caves, often inaccessible by land, are ideal habitats for monk seals. The area holds some interests for fishery.
Karaburun-Sazan is a Marine National Park situated in Vlora. The total area of this park is 12 428.00 ha, divided as follows:

The offshore section of the Karaburun peninsula has an area of 9 848.95 hectares. The offshore area near the Karaburun Peninsula, the Cape of St. Basil to the site Langadhës, and about Sazan Island, at a distance of 1 nautical mile, the Coastline has been identified by local experts and foreign as areas high value natural heritage.

This region is rich with variety of underwater landscapes, habitats and species of marine flora and fauna; as shelter, food and breeding a large number of species of national, regional and global. They are also a suitable substrate for the growth of many plant and animal organisms underwater, beginning with marine algae, sponges, molluscs, crustaceans, coral red, reptiles, mammals and habitats possible for the Mediterranean monk seal. One of the hallmarks of the biodiversity of this area are underwater meadows of Posidonia (*Posidonia Oceanica*), which qualify as the kind of deteriorated, and the Mediterranean Sea. Their scope depends on the nature and composition of the seabed, the water features, such as transparency, cleanliness, etc. which best met around the Karaburun Peninsula and Sazan Island.

This area is inhabited or visited by species globally endangered, critically, which are listed in the international conventions to which adheres Albania, such as some types of fish, sharks, sea turtles, dolphins and monk seal (*Monachusmonachus*).
Digitized boundaries include:

a. North: Count 1 (offshore), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from Cape Gjuhezes, coordinates 4353018.48 V 4478005.72 L, to the point 2 (sea), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from Cape St. Basil, coordinates 4477378.71 4363780.19 V L;
b. North: Count 1 (offshore), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from Cape Gjuhezes, coordinates 4353018.48 V 4478005.72 L, to the point 2 (sea), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from Cape St. Basil, coordinates 4477378.71 4363780.19 VL;
c. East: Point 2 (sea), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from the bay of St. Basil, coordinates 4363780.19 V 4477378.71 L and then continues along the Coastline from Cape St. Basil, Cape Dim Kushtës, cape and breast of St. John, Cape Gjuhezes, follows the western Coastal mountain Karaburun, Gjinarës Coast, on the tail of Mali, the radius of the Channel, the website Langadhës to point 3, coordinates 4449696.28 4379221.15 VL;
d. South: Count 3, coordinates 4449696.28 4379221.15 V L, to point 4 (offshore), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from the Langadhës, coordinates 4448193.75 4378104.94 ofL;
e. West: Point 4 (offshore), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from the Langadhës, coordinates 4378104.94 and 4448193.75 L and follow izobatin to point 1 (offshore), with distance 1 nautical mile (1852m) from the bay The Gjuhezes, coordinates V 4478005.72 4353018.48L.

Karaburuni to Dhermi

The Coastline along Rreza e Kanalit stretches for 30 km, and extends from Bristani Bay to Dhermi. Rreza e Kanalit area is similar to the Karaburuni Peninsula in terms of marine flora and fauna. The area is defined by the considerable height of the Mount Cikes Ridge running directly parallel to the shoreline, with series of coves, cliffs and mixed sand/pebble beaches at the seashore. The Llogara National Park is included in the area. Further along the Coast is Palasa valley, which is an erosion valley and delta created by spring fed rivulets; and Dhermi, characterised by two streams, one intermittent and one spring fed, that have carved two small valleys on the South side of the larger Palasa valley near the sea. The Dhermi stream is spring fed and has cut deeply into the landscape producing a canyon and many cliffs up stream.

On the sea-facing slopes the vegetation is in most places like on the Karaburun peninsula, low, sparse and shrubby, whereas further inland there are areas with maquis-like vegetation and conifers stands. The Coastal shoreline along the bay area has cultural heritage sites of significant value including: sculpted frescoes from early Christian period, inscriptions from Hellenistic period, and the Gama Bay ancient quarries and inscriptions.

Dhermi village to Porto Palermo

The Coastal profile from Dhermi to Porto Palermo encompasses several different environments. The Coastal relief is more gentle, sloping to the sea bed, with the exception of few rocky outcrops. The underwater environment is characterized by an important swell adjacent to the Coast composed of alternating pebbles, gravel rock with sand. *Posidonia oceanica*sea grass meadows dominate the shallow areas. Vunoi Canyon is very impressive; its special habitat has a potentially high biodiversity and prehistoric remains (Iron Age) have been found in a grotto along the canyon. The canyon extends to the sea and into a narrow gorge, culminating in a beautiful secluded pocket beach.

Porto Palermo *is protected landscape areas*, highly attractive as a potential site for tourism and nautical sports. It is a naturally well-sheltered area, where the ancient settlement of Panormis was located, and has a potential as nautical base; Ali Pasha‟s castle, a museum and some military buildings could be used as information and educational centers. The submarine base with its 800-m long tunnel could be attractive for tourists, as well as the archaeological remains (amphoras) of the II century BC that can be found in this bay.

Cape Qeparo to Cape Qefali

Cape Qeparo to Cape Qefali encompasses 20 km of shoreline divided between the districts of Vlora and that of Saranda. This part of the Coastline is characterized by the succession of different geological ages producing seven landscapes: (1) The rocky cape of Qeparo; (2) Qeparo; (3) Borshi Plain with the large olive plantations; (4) the narrow Coast of Lukova, with large slanted limestone layers; (5) the wide Coast of Cape Qefali; (6) the beaches of Kakome; (7) and the vertical folded cliffs of the Bay of Pogajetes, north to Cape Qefali. The white sandy beaches are prominent throughout the region and extend well into the marine environment up to 20m indepth.

Cape Qefali to CapeStillo

The Coastline profile from Cape Qefali to Cape Stillo is not as spectacular as the adjacent regions. The Coastline can be divided into several sections: (from Cape Qefali to Saranda, the

cliffs are low and inclined enclosing small gravel beaches; (2) the area including the town of Saranda; (3) the area South of the town of Saranda; (4) the abandoned citrus plantations and deforested areas in the vicinity of Ksamil; (5) Ksamili Islands, with small sandy beaches, wind sculpted maquis forests; (6) the cape of Shkalla with low rocky cliffs and small pocket beaches; (7) the area of Lake Butrinti and the delta plain is one of the richest nurseries and breeding habitats along the Southern Coast; (8) the rolling hills South of Lake Butrint, with small river beds, pocket beaches and wetlands; and (9) the pristine and rocky island of Stillo.

The Blue Eye (39°55′25″N,20°11′34″E)

The Blue Eye is a water spring and natural phenomenon occurring near Muzinë in VloraCounty,Albania. A popular tourist attraction, the clear blue water of the river bubbles forth from a stunning, more than fifty-metre-deep pool. Divers have descended to fifty metres, but it is still unclear what the actual depth of the karst hole is[43]. This is the initial water source of Bistrica river, 25km long, which ends in the Ionian Sea South of Saranda. The source is a natyre monument and it has a discharge rate of 18400 l/s. The immediate area (180 ha) *is a nature reserve* and is characterized by oak and sycamore trees. In summer 2004, the source was temporarily dried up.

[43] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Eye,_Albania

Annex 4. Environmental and Social Mitigation Plan for Berat Cobblestone road

Phase	Issues	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g.
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
Pre-construction	*Cleaning up of the work site from inert materials, dirt; Removal of existing antenna and abandoned building*	In consultation with the Municipality of Berat, provide an appropriate method for recycling construction materials and scrap metal materials.	NA	**7,413**	ADF/Municipality of Berat	Contractor	As provided in BOQ
Pre-Construction	*Materials supplied* from illegal or unauthorized sites may exert pressure on the natural resources	use existing and licensed stones quarries; requirement for official approval or valid operating license	NA	NA	stone quarry	Contractor to obtain all permits	No asphalt will be used during the reconstruction activity
Construction	*Dust generated* during transport of stone or aggregate materials	wet or covered truck load	NA	70/month	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	To be specified in bid documents
Construction	*Dust* generated during construction works	water construction site and material storage sites as appropriate	NA	100/month	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	To be specified in
Construction	*Air pollution and noise* from machinery on site, transport and combustion on site	Do not allow vehicles or machinery to idle on site Use attested and properequipment No open burning or combustion of any sort allowed onsite	Minimal	Minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction	*Noise disturbance* to humans and animals	Check that noise emitted during rehabilitation of the pedestrian road does not exceed the national norms set out in regulations (85 dB for urban environment, outside)	minimal	50/month	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	To be specified in bid documents

Construction	*Traffic* that may create noise, vehicle exhaust, road congestion on and around the site	Arrange for material transport at hours of minimum traffic. Use alternative routes to minimize traffic congestion. Works to be performed alternatively on half of the road length in order to allow pedestrians to pass	NA	minimal	Construction Contractor: Transport manager and Truck operator	Construction Contractor: Transport manager and Truck operator	

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
Construction	*Traffic disruption* during construction activity	Traffic management plan with appropriate measures to redirect traffic and is easy to follow; in cooperation with the local authorities, include traffic police	as specified in bidding documents	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	Measures to be included inthe Traffic management Plan (Bid documents)
Construction	*Vehicle and pedestrian safety*	Appropriate lighting and well defined safety signs. Timely announcement in the media when construction will take place	as specified in bidding documents	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction	*Water and soil pollution* from improper material storage, management and usage of construction machines	organize and cover material storage areas; reuse soil for covering up the drainage system, isolate wash down areas of concrete and other equipment from watercourse by selecting areas for washing that are not free draining directly or indirectly into watercourse; Install leak control equipment Ensure proper waste management on site in order to prevent pollution Have a leak control mechanism in place and emergency interventions to control spills	as specified in bid documents	50 / month	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	It is recommended that stones and other materials that will be removed, to be reused and recycled at the advice of the Institute of Cultural Monuments and the municipality.
Construction	*Water and soil pollution* from improper disposal of waste materials	Dispose waste material at appropriate designated location protected from runoff, in cooperation with the municipality of Berat. For temporary, short storage of wastes, select an area on impermeable surface, away from	minimal	100/month of the additional 3,840 EUR foreseen in BOQ	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	Most of the waste generated can be recycled.

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
		any potential leaking into the watercourse. Collect and adequately manage all wastes in a timely manner, including dredged material that can only be disposed of at locations approved by the municipality					
Construction	*Potential contamination of soil and water* from improper maintenance and fueling of equipment	proper handling of lubricants, fuel and solvents by secured storage; ensure proper loading of fuel and maintenance of equipment; collect all waste and dispose to permitted waste recovery facility. In the case of leakage the contaminated soil should be collected and as hazardous waste disposed. The waste should be collected in separate containers. Have a leak control mechanism in place and emergency interventions to control spills	minimal	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	The municipality of Berat must provide a written permission for an appropriate waste disposal site before the construction works may commence
Construction	Interruption of surface and underground drainage patterns during construction, creating of standing water.	In line with approved design, maintain natural drainage pattern.	minimal	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction	Workers health and occupational safety	provide workers with safety instructions and protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, et ; safe organization of bypassing traffic; medical kit present at the site		minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction		The clearing of vegetation shall be	NA	According	Construction		

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary impacts)
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
	Impacts on vegetation, trees, meadows, etc.	kept to a minimum, with replacement planting planned and conducted, and shall be done in coordination with the measures for protection of habitats and river banks.		to the national environmental regulations, for 1 tree that is cut. 3 must be planted	Contractor; Forestry Directorate,		
Construction	Chance finds items of cultural/historical interest.	In case of any chance finds during excavation and general works, the works will cease immediately, the area will be secured and the relevant authorities will be informed within three days of said finds. The authorities will have fifteen days to respond and indicate what measures to be taken	NA	In case of chance finds, the project owner will pay for all required investigation i	Construction Contractor, ADF, municipality of Berat		Albanian legislation details necessary actions in case of chance find items.
Construction	**Labour and working conditions**	a) Preventative health examinations for workers, training	As specified	minimal	Contractor, ADF	Contractor	It is a legal requirement to provide protective equipment for

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary impacts)
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
	a)Disease prevention and health examinations b)Creation of additional workplaces c)Workforce accommodation d)Workers safety on site	a) on disease prevention, provision of education/ information and health related to reduce sexually related disease. b) Informing of local population on vacancies. Maximum Possible involvement of local labour c) Accommodation needs will be assessed in all worker camps. Ensure standard for accommodation d) provide workers with safety instructions and protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, etc); b)Provision of construction workers training c) Grievance mechanism for workers to raise reasonable workplace Concerns (comments or complaints)	in BOQ				safety at work
Operation / Maintenance	*Noise disturbance to local population* and workers caused by regular and scheduled maintenance works on the road, the lighting system and the panoramic point.	Limit activities to daylight working hours (as agreed with local authorities.)	Minimal	minimal	Maintenance Contractor/LGU	Maintenance Contractor/LGU	to be specified in maintenance contract documents-Technical Specifications for realization of maintenance works, in cooperation with the Institute of Cultural Monuments. It is recommended that maintenance works by authorities in charge, as decided in cooperation with the ICM, to commence after the heavy rain period

Annex 5: Example of an Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan for Berat Cobblestone road to castle, Mihal Komneno

Phase	e What activity/impact *is to be monitored?*	Where *will be monitored?*	How *is to be monitored?/ type of monitoring equipment*	When *is to be* t*monitored? (frequency of measurement or continuous)*	Why *is the parameter to be monitored? (optional*	Indicators	Cost		Institutional responsibility	
							Install	Operate	Install	Operate
Pre- Construction	possession of official approval or valid operating license for stone quarries and other material supply subjects	on location of stone quarry	inspection of all necessary documents	before work begins	to ensure sustainable use of materials	possession of official approval or valid operating license	NA	NA	Quarry Operator	Quarry Operator
Construction	Covering or wetting down transported materials that can generate dust, such as stone, sand or gravel	job site – each vehicle	supervision	continuously	ensure minimal disruption to air quality	Covered truck load Report from the supervising engineer	NA	minimal	ADF	Supervision Contractor Supervision Contractor
Construction	Congestion on site, disruptions to traffic patterns, complaints on traffic management	On the site	Visual supervision	regularly by supervision	To ensure minimal disruptions to the local traffic	Number of complaints received		minimal	a) ADF	Supervision Contractor
Construction	Damage to soil structure, landslides and slips, embankments	job site	supervision	unannounced inspections during work after heavy rain	To ensure minimal impacts on soil	land slips, erosion, damaged embankments	NA	minimal	ADF	minimal
Construction	Noise disturbance to human and animal population, and workers on site	job site; nearest homes	noise meter and analyzer, inspection	once for each machine and equipment when works start and on complaint	b- assure compliance of performance with environment, health and	Nr of grievances recorded	minimal	minimal	ADF	Supervision Contractor
Construction	Air pollution parameters of dust, particulate matter	At and near job site	Sampling by authorized agency	Upon complaint	To ensure no excessive emissions during works	Nr of grievances recorded, reports of REA	minimal	100/month	ADF	Supervision Contractor

Construction	water and soil quality (suspended solids, oil and grease	At and near job site (upstream and downstream)	Sampling by authorized agency Visual inspection of leaks or runoff	Upon complaint or spill/leak into the river	To ensure no excessive emissions during works	Nr of grievances recorded, reports of REA	minimal	minimal	ADF	Supervision Contractor
Construction	Safety signage in place	At and near job site	Visually by supervisor	Regularly	To ensure clear posting of safety signs	Number of signs	minimal	ADF	Supervision Contractor	minimal

Construction	Disposal of waste materials at authorized site	On site for timely collection and disposal on	Through official designation of the commune,	Before start of works and	To ensure proper waste management	Designation from municipality, amounts of	minimal	ADF	Supervision Contractor	minimal
Construction / *Workers safety*	Protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, et ; organization of bypassing traffic.	job site	inspection	unannounced inspections during work		number of on-job accidents recorded	NA	minimal	Supervision, ADF	Supervision Contractor
Construction/ *Destruction crops, trees meadows etc*	loss of/impact on vegetation	job site	Supervision, photographic reports	during material delivery and construction		Reports of frequent visits site by the Expert	NA NA	minimal minimal	Supervision Contractor, ADF	
Construction/ *Chance find items*	*Cultural properties*	Job site	Expert visits from Institute for Monuments, regular supervision	continuous		Catalogue of items found, including photographic and textual documentation	Should be part of regularly scheduled activities	minimal	Supervision Contractor, ADF, ICM	Supervision Contractor, Directorate, ADF
Operation *Vehicle and pedestrian when there is construction activity*	visibility and appropriateness	at and near job site	observation	once per week in the evening		Number of warning signs installed, of accidents recorded	minimal	minimal	LGU	maintenacne Contractor

Increase of domestic solid waste due to increased number of visitors to	Visual impact	At or near job site	visits on site and communication with local authorities	Once per every two days by the LGU for maintenance reasons	For aesthetical reasons	Lack of waste on the ground, empty waste bins	Should be part of the regularly scheduled activities by the		LGU	LGU
a)Disease prevention and health examinations *b)Creation of additional workplaces* *c)Workforce accommodation* *d)Workers on site*	1) Health workers, 2) training on disease prevention, including 1)Informing of local population on 2)Involvement of labour 1)Accommodation will be asessed for accomodation 1)safety instructions protective equipment (glasses, masks, boots, etc); safe 2)organization of bypassing traffic 3)Availability of grievance mechanism grievance focal point	At or near job	visits on site and communication workers and community	Once a week by ADF	To ensure proper implementation of health safety requirements	Knowledgeable workforce on procedures, Equipped with safety	Should be part of the regularly scheduled activities	Minimal	ADF, supervisor, contractor	supervisor,

Annex 6. Content of an Environmental Assessment Report for a Category A Project

The EA report should include the following items (not necessarily in the order shown):

- **Executive summary**. Concisely discusses significant findings and recommended actions.

- **Policy, legal, and administrative framework**. Discusses the policy, legal, and administrative framework within which the EA is carried out. Explains the environmental requirements of any co-financiers. Identifies relevant international environmental agreements to which the country is a party.

- **Project description.** Concisely describes the proposed project and its geographic, ecological, social, and temporal context, including any offsite investments that may be required (e.g., dedicated pipelines, access roads, power plants, water supply, housing, and raw material and product storage facilities). Indicates the need for any resettlement plan or indigenous peoples development plan[2] (see also subpara. (h)(v) below). Normally includes a map showing the project site and the project's area of influence.

- **Baseline data.** Assesses the dimensions of the study area and describes relevant physical, biological, and socioeconomic conditions, including any changes anticipated before the project commences. Also takes into account current and proposed development activities within the project area but not directly connected to the project. Data should be relevant to decisions about project location, design, operation, or mitigatory measures. The section indicates the accuracy, reliability, and sources of the data.

- **Environmental impacts**. Predicts and assesses the project's likely positive and negative impacts, in quantitative terms to the extent possible. Identifies mitigation measures and any residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated. Explores opportunities for environmental enhancement. Identifies and estimates the extent and quality of available data, key data gaps, and uncertainties associated with predictions, and specifies topics that do not require further attention.

- **Analysis of alternatives**.[3] Systematically compares feasible alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation--including the "without project" situation--in terms of their potential environmental impacts; the feasibility of mitigating these impacts; their capital and recurrent costs; their suitability under local conditions; and their institutional, training, and monitoring requirements. For each of the alternatives, quantifies the environmental impacts to the extent possible, and attaches economic values where feasible. States the basis for selecting the particular project design proposed and justifies recommended emission levels and approaches to pollution prevention and abatement.

- **Environmental management plan (EMP)**. Covers mitigation measures, monitoring, and institutional strengthening.

- **Appendixes**

(i) List of EA report preparers--individuals and organizations,
(ii) References--written materials both published and unpublished, used in study preparation,
(iii) Record of interagency and consultation meetings, including consultations for obtaining the informed views of the affected people and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The record specifies any means other than consultations (e.g., surveys) that were used to obtain the views of affected groups and local NGOs,
(iv) Tables presenting the relevant data referred to or summarized in the main text,
(v) List of associated reports (e.g., resettlement plan or indigenous peoples' development plan).

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1. The EA report for a Category A project is normally an environmental impact assessment, with elements of other instruments included as appropriate. Any report for a Category A operation uses the components described in this annex, but Category A sectoral and regional EA require a different perspective and emphasis among the components. The Environment Sector Board can provide detailed guidance on the focus and components of the various EA instruments.
2. See OP/BP 4.12, *Involuntary Resettlement*, and OP/BP 4.10, *Indigenous Peoples*.
3. Environmental implications of broad development options for a sector (e.g., alternative ways of meeting projected electric power demand) are best analyzed in least-cost planning or sectoral EA. Environmental implications of broad development options for a region (e.g., alternative strategies for improving standards of living an a rural area) are best addressed through a regional development plan or a regional EA. EIA is normally best suited to the analysis of alternatives within a given project concept (e.g., a geothermal power plant, or a project aimed at meeting local energy demand), including detailed site, technology, design, and operational alternatives.

Annex 7- Content of an Environmental Management Plan

1. A project's environmental management plan (EMP) consists of the set of mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation to eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The plan also includes the actions needed to implement these measures[1] Management plans are essential elements of EA reports for Category A projects; for many Category B projects, the EA may result in a management plan only. To prepare a management plan, the borrower and its EA design team (a) identify the set of responses to potentially adverse impacts; (b) determine requirements for ensuring that those responses are made effectively and in a timely manner; and (c) describe the means for meeting those requirements.[2] More specifically, the EMP includes the following components.

Mitigation

2. The EMP identifies feasible and cost-effective measures that may reduce potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to acceptable levels. The plan includes compensatory measures if mitigation measures are not feasible, cost-effective, or sufficient. Specifically, the EMP

   a. identifies and summarizes all anticipated significant adverse environmental impacts (including those involving indigenous people or involuntary resettlement);
   b. describes--with technical details--each mitigation measure, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (e.g., continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate;
   c. estimates any potential environmental impacts of these measures; and
   d. provides linkage with any other mitigation plans (e.g., for involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, or cultural property) required for the project.

Monitoring

3 Environmental monitoring during project implementation provides information about key environmental aspects of the project, particularly the environmental impacts of the project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Such information enables the borrower and the Bank to evaluate the success of mitigation as part of project supervision and allows corrective action to be taken when needed. Therefore, the EMP identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the impacts assessed in the EA report and the mitigation measures described in the EMP. Specifically, the monitoring section of the EMP provides

   a. a specific description, and technical details, of monitoring measures, including the parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and
   b. monitoring and reporting procedures to

      i. ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures, and
      ii. furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation.

Capacity Development and Training

4. To support timely and effective implementation of environmental project components and mitigation measures, the EMP draws on the EA's assessment of the existence, role, and capability of environmental units on site or at the agency and ministry level.[3] If necessary, the

EMP recommends the establishment or expansion of such units, and the training of staff, to allow implementation of EA recommendations. Specifically, the EMP provides a specific description of institutional arrangements--who is responsible for carrying out the mitigatory and monitoring measures (e.g., for operation, supervision, enforcement, monitoring of implementation, remedial action, financing, reporting, and staff training). To strengthen environmental management capability in the agencies responsible for implementation, most EMPs cover one or more of the following additional topics:

(a) technical assistance programs,
(b) procurement of equipment and supplies, and
(c) organizational changes. Implementation

Schedule and Cost Estimates

5. For all three aspects (mitigation, monitoring, and capacity development), the EMP provides

(a) an implementation schedule for measures that must be carried out as part of the project, showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation plans; and
(b) the capital and recurrent cost estimates and sources of funds for implementing the EMP. These figures are also integrated into the total project cost tables.

Integration of EMP with Project

6. The borrower's decision to proceed with a project, and the Bank's decision to support it, are predicated in part on the expectation that the EMP will be executed effectively. Consequently, the Bank expects the plan to be specific in its description of the individual mitigation and monitoring measures and its assignment of institutional responsibilities, and it must be integrated into the project's overall planning, design, budget, and implementation. Such integration is achieved by establishing the EMP within the project so that the plan will receive funding and supervision along with the other components.

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1. The management plan is sometimes known as an "action plan." The EMP may be presented as two or three separate plans covering mitigation, monitoring, and institutional aspects, depending on borrowing country requirements. 2. For projects involving rehabilitation, upgrading, expansion, or privatization of existing facilities, remediation of existing environmental problems may be more important than mitigation and monitoring of expected impacts. For such projects, the management plan focuses on cost-effective measures to remediate and manage these problems. 3. For projects having significant environmental implications, it is particularly important that there be in the implementing ministry or agency an in-house environmental unit with adequate budget and professional staffing strong in expertise relevant to the project (for projects involving dams and reservoirs, see BP 4.01, Annex B).

Annex 8. ESMF Public Consultation Meeting – Minutes of Meeting

Annex 9: COVI 19, World Bank ESF/Safeguard Interim Note

This note was issued on April 7, 2020 and includes links to the latest guidance as of this date (e.g. from WHO). Given the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, when using this note it is important to check whether any updates to these external resources have been issued.

1. INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic presents Governments with unprecedented challenges. Addressing COVID-19 related issues in both existing and new operations starts with recognizing that this is not business as usual and that circumstances require a highly adaptive responsive management design to avoid, minimize and manage what may be a rapidly evolving situation. In many cases, we will ask Borrowers to use reasonable efforts in the circumstances, recognizing that what may be possible today may be different next week (both positively, because more supplies and guidance may be available, and negatively, because the spread of the virus may have accelerated).

This interim note is intended to provide guidance to teams on how to support Borrowers in addressing key issues associated with COVID-19 and consolidates the advice that has already been provided over the past month. As such, it should be used in place of other guidance that has been provided to date. This note will be developed as the global situation and the Bank's learning (and that of others) develops. This is not a time when 'one size fits all'. More than ever, teams will need to work with Borrowers and projects to understand the activities being carried out and the risks that these activities may entail. Support will be needed in designing mitigation measures that are implementable in the context of the project. These measures will need to take into account capacity of the Government agencies, availability of supplies and the practical challenges of operations on-the-ground, including stakeholder engagement, supervision and monitoring. In many circumstances, communication itself may be challenging, where face-to-face meetings are restricted or prohibited, and where IT solutions are limited or unreliable.

This note emphasizes the importance of careful scenario planning, clear procedures and protocols, management systems, effective communication and coordination, and the need for high levels of responsiveness in a changing environment. It recommends assessing the current situation of the project, putting in place mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the chance of infection, and planning what to do if either project workers become infected or the work force includes workers from proximate communities affected by COVID-19. In many projects, measures to avoid or minimize will need to be implemented at the same time as dealing with sick workers and relations with the community, some of whom may also be ill or concerned about infection. Borrowers should understand the obligations that contractors have under their existing contracts (see Section 3), require contractors to put in place appropriate organizational structures (see Section 4) and develop procedures to address different aspects of COVID-19 (see Section 5).

2. CHALLENGES WITH CONSTRUCTION/CIVIL WORKS

Projects involving construction/civil works frequently involve a large work force, together with suppliers and supporting functions and services. The work force may comprise workers from international, national, regional, and local labor markets. They may need to live in on-site accommodation, lodge within communities close to work sites or return to their homes after work. There may be different contractors permanently present on site, carrying out different activities, each with their own dedicated workers. Supply chains may involve international, regional and national suppliers facilitating the regular flow of goods and services to the project (including supplies essential to the project such as fuel, food, and water). As such there will also be regular flow of parties entering and exiting the site; support services, such as catering, cleaning services, equipment, material and supply deliveries, and specialist sub-contractors, brought in to deliver specific elements of the works.

Given the complexity and the concentrated number of workers, the potential for the spread of infectious disease in projects involving construction is extremely serious, as are the implications of such a spread. Projects may experience large numbers of the work force becoming ill, which will strain the project's health facilities, have implications for local emergency and health services and may jeopardize the progress of the construction work and the schedule of the project. Such impacts will be exacerbated where a work force is large and/or the project is in remote or under-serviced areas. In such circumstances, relationships with the community can be strained or

difficult and conflict can arise, particularly if people feel they are being exposed to disease by the project or are having to compete for scarce resources. The project must also exercise appropriate precautions against introducing the infection to local communities.

3. DOES THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT COVER THIS SITUATION?

Given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is unlikely that the existing construction/civil works contracts will cover all the things that a prudent contractor will need to do. Nevertheless, the first place for a Borrower to start is with the contract, determining what a contractor's existing obligations are, and how these relate to the current situation.

The obligations on health and safety will depend on what kind of contract exists (between the Borrower and the main contractor; between the main contractors and the sub-contractors). It will differ if the Borrower used the World Bank's standard procurement documents (SPDs) or used national bidding documents. If a FIDIC document has been used, there will be general provisions relating to health and safety. For example, the standard FIDIC, Conditions of Contract for Construction (Second Edition 2017), which contains no 'ESF enhancements', states (in the General Conditions, clause 6.7) that the Contractor will be required:

- to take all necessary precautions to maintain the health and safety of the Contractor's Personnel
- to appoint a health and safety officer at site, who will have the authority to issue directives for the purpose of maintaining the health and safety of all personnel authorized to enter and or work on the site and to take protective measures to prevent accidents
- to ensure, in collaboration with local health authorities, that medical staff, first aid facilities, sick bay, ambulance services and any other medical services specified are available at all times at the site and at any accommodation
- to ensure suitable arrangements are made for all necessary welfare and hygiene requirements and for the prevention of epidemics

These requirements have been enhanced through the introduction of the ESF into the SPDs (edition dated July 2019). The general FIDIC clause referred to above has been strengthened to reflect the requirements of the ESF. Beyond FIDIC's general requirements discussed above, the Bank's Particular Conditions include a number of relevant requirements on the Contractor, including:

- to provide health and safety training for Contractor's Personnel (which include project workers and all personnel that the Contractor uses on site, including staff and other employees of the Contractor and Subcontractors and any other personnel assisting the Contractor in carrying out project activities)
- to put in place workplace processes for Contractor's Personnel to report work situations that are not safe or healthy
- gives Contractor's Personnel the right to report work situations which they believe are not safe or healthy, and to remove themselves from a work situation which they have a reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to their life or health (with no reprisal for reporting or removing themselves)
- requires measures to be in place to avoid or minimize the spread of diseases including measures to avoid or minimize the transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent contract-related labor
- to provide an easily accessible grievance mechanism to raise workplace concerns

Where the contract form used is FIDIC, the Borrower (as the Employer) will be represented by the Engineer (also referred to in this note as the Supervising Engineer). The Engineer will be authorized to exercise authority specified in or necessarily implied from the construction contract. In such cases, the Engineer (through its staff on site) will be the interface between the PMU and the Contractor. It is important therefore to understand the scope of the Engineer's responsibilities. It is also important to recognize that in the case of infectious diseases such as COVID-19, project management – through the Contractor/subcontractor hierarchy – is only as effective as the weakest link. A thorough review of management procedures/plans as they will be implemented through the entire contractor hierarchy is important. Existing contracts provide the outline of this structure; they form the basis for the Borrower to understand how proposed mitigation measures will be designed and how adaptive management will be

implemented, and to start a conversation with the Contractor on measures to address COVID-19 in the project.

4. WHAT PLANNING SHOULD THE BORROWER BE DOING?

Task teams should work with Borrowers (PMUs) to confirm that projects (i) are taking adequate precautions to prevent or minimize an outbreak of COVID-19, and (ii) have identified what to do in the event of an outbreak. Suggestions on how to do this are set out below:

- The PMU, either directly or through the Supervising Engineer, should request details in writing from the main Contractor of the measures being taken to address the risks. As stated in Section 3, the construction contract should include health and safety requirements, and these can be used as the basis for identification of, and requirements to implement, COVID-19 specific measures. The measures may be presented as a contingency plan, as an extension of the existing project emergency and preparedness plan or as standalone procedures. The measures may be reflected in revisions to the project's health and safety manual. This request should be made in writing (following any relevant procedure set out in the contract between the Borrower and the contractor).

- In making the request, it may be helpful for the PMU to specify the areas that should be covered. This should include the items set out in Section 5 below and take into account current and relevant guidance provided by national authorities, WHO and other organizations. See the list of references in the Annex to this note.

- The PMU should require the Contractor to convene regular meetings with the project health and safety specialists and medical staff (and where appropriate the local health authorities), and to take their advice in designing and implementing the agreed measures.

- Where possible, a senior person should be identified as a focal point to deal with COVID-19 issues. This can be a work supervisor or a health and safety specialist. This person can be responsible for coordinating preparation of the site and making sure that the measures taken are communicated to the workers, those entering the site and the local community. It is also advisable to designate at least one back-up person; in case the focal point becomes ill; that person should be aware of the arrangements that are in place.

- On sites where there are a number of contractors and therefore (in effect) different work forces, the request should emphasize the importance of coordination and communication between the different parties. Where necessary, the PMU should request the main contractor to put in place a protocol for regular meetings of the different contractors, requiring each to appoint a designated staff member (with back up) to attend such meetings. If meetings cannot be held in person, they should be conducted using whatever IT is available. The effectiveness of mitigation measures will depend on the weakest implementation, and therefore it is important that all contractors and sub-contractors understand the risks and the procedure to be followed.

- The PMU, either directly or through the Supervising Engineer, may provide support to projects in identifying appropriate mitigation measures, particularly where these will involve interface with local services, in particular health and emergency services. In many cases, the PMU can play a valuable role in connecting project representatives with local Government agencies, and helping coordinate a strategic response, which takes into account the availability of resources. To be most effective, projects should consult and coordinate with relevant Government agencies and other projects in the vicinity.

- Workers should be encouraged to use the existing project grievance mechanism to report concerns relating to COVID-19, preparations being made by the project to address COVID-19 related issues, how procedures are being implemented, and concerns about the health of their co-workers and other staff.

5. WHAT SHOULD THE CONTRACTOR COVER?

The Contractor should identify measures to address the COVID-19 situation. What will be possible will depend on the context of the project: the location, existing project resources, availability of supplies, capacity of local

emergency/health services, the extent to which the virus already exist in the area. A systematic approach to planning, recognizing the challenges associated with rapidly changing circumstances, will help the project put in place the best measures possible to address the situation. As discussed above, measures to address COVID-19 may be presented in different ways (as a contingency plan, as an extension of the existing project emergency and preparedness plan or as standalone procedures). PMUs and contractors should refer to guidance issued by relevant authorities, both national and international (e.g. WHO), which is regularly updated (see sample References and links provided in the Annex 10).

Addressing COVID-19 at a project site goes beyond occupational health and safety, and is a broader project issue which will require the involvement of different members of a project management team. In many cases, the most effective approach will be to establish procedures to address the issues, and then to ensure that these procedures are implemented systematically. Where appropriate given the project context, a designated team should be established to address COVID-19 issues, including PMU representatives, the Supervising Engineer, management (e.g. the project manager) of the contractor and sub-contractors, security, and medical and OHS professionals. Procedures should be clear and straightforward, improved as necessary, and supervised and monitored by the COVID-19 focal point(s). Procedures should be documented, distributed to all contractors, and discussed at regular meetings to facilitate adaptive management. The issues set out below include a number that represent expected good workplace management but are especially pertinent in preparing the project response to COVID-19.

(a) ASSESSING WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Many construction sites will have a mix of workers e.g. workers from the local communities; workers from a different part of the country; workers from another country. Workers will be employed under different terms and conditions and be accommodated in different ways. Assessing these different aspects of the workforce will help in identifying appropriate mitigation measures:

- The Contractor should prepare a detailed profile of the project work force, key work activities, schedule for carrying out such activities, different durations of contract and rotations (e.g. 4 weeks on, 4 weeks off).
- This should include a breakdown of workers who reside at home (i.e. workers from the community), workers who lodge within the local community and workers in on-site accommodation. Where possible, it should also identify workers that may be more at risk from COVID-19, those with underlying health issues or who may be otherwise at risk.
- Consideration should be given to ways in which to minimize movement in and out of site. This could include lengthening the term of existing contracts, to avoid workers returning home to affected areas, or returning to site from affected areas.
- Workers accommodated on site should be required to minimize contact with people near the site, and in certain cases be prohibited from leaving the site for the duration of their contract, so that contact with local communities is avoided.
- Consideration should be given to requiring workers lodging in the local community to move to site accommodation (subject to availability) where they would be subject to the same restrictions.
- Workers from local communities, who return home daily, weekly or monthly, will be more difficult to manage. They should be subject to health checks at entry to the site (as set out above) and at some point, circumstances may make it necessary to require them to either use accommodation on site or not to come to work.

(b) ENTRY/EXIT TO THE WORK SITE AND CHECKS ON COMMENCEMENT OF WORK

Entry/exit to the work site should be controlled and documented for both workers and other parties, including support staff and suppliers. Possible measures may include:
Establishing a system for controlling entry/exit to the site, securing the boundaries of the site, and establishing designating entry/exit points (if they do not already exist). Entry/exit to the site should be documented.

- Training security staff on the (enhanced) system that has been put in place for securing the site and controlling entry and exit, the behaviors required of them in enforcing such system and any COVID 19 specific considerations.
- Training staff who will be monitoring entry to the site, providing them with the resources they need to document entry of workers, conducting temperature checks and recording details of any worker that is denied entry.

- Confirming that workers are fit for work before they enter the site or start work. While procedures should already be in place for this, special attention should be paid to workers with underlying health issues or who may be otherwise at risk. Consideration should be given to demobilization of staff with underlying health issues.
- Checking and recording temperatures of workers and other people entering the site or requiring self-reporting prior to or on entering the site.
- Providing daily briefings to workers prior to commencing work, focusing on COVID-19 specific considerations including cough etiquette, hand hygiene and distancing measures, using demonstrations and participatory methods.
- During the daily briefings, reminding workers to self-monitor for possible symptoms (fever, cough) and to report to their supervisor or the COVID-19 focal point if they have symptoms or are feeling unwell.
- Preventing a worker from an affected area or who has been in contact with an infected person from returning to the site for 14 days or (if that is not possible) isolating such worker for 14 days.
- Preventing a sick worker from entering the site, referring them to local health facilities if necessary or requiring them to isolate at home for 14 days.

(c) GENERAL HYGIENE

Requirements on general hygiene should be communicated and monitored, to include:

- Training workers and staff on site on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread, how to protect themselves (including regular handwashing and social distancing) and what to do if they or other people have symptoms (for further information see WHO COVID-19 advice for the public).
- Placing posters and signs around the site, with images and text in local languages.
- Ensuring handwashing facilities supplied with soap, disposable paper towels and closed waste bins exist at key places throughout site, including at entrances/exits to work areas; where there is a toilet, canteen or food distribution, or provision of drinking water; in worker accommodation; at waste stations; at stores; and in common spaces. Where handwashing facilities do not exist or are not adequate, arrangements should be made to set them up. Alcohol based sanitizer (if available, 60-95% alcohol) can also be used.
- Review worker accommodations, and assess them in light of the requirements set out in IFC/EBRD guidance on Workers' Accommodation: processes and standards, which provides valuable guidance as to good practice for accommodation.
- Setting aside part of worker accommodation for precautionary self-quarantine as well as more formal isolation of staff who may be infected (see paragraph (f)).

(d) CLEANING AND WASTE DISPOSAL

Conduct regular and thorough cleaning of all site facilities, including offices, accommodation, canteens, common spaces. Review cleaning protocols for key construction equipment (particularly if it is being operated by different workers). This should include:

- Providing cleaning staff with adequate cleaning equipment, materials and disinfectant.
- Review general cleaning systems, training cleaning staff on appropriate cleaning procedures and appropriate frequency in high use or high-risk areas.
- Where it is anticipated that cleaners will be required to clean areas that have been or are suspected to have been contaminated with COVID-19, providing them with appropriate PPE: gowns or aprons, gloves, eye protection (masks, goggles or face screens) and boots or closed work shoes. If appropriate PPE is not available, cleaners should be provided with best available alternatives.
- Training cleaners in proper hygiene (including handwashing) prior to, during and after conducting cleaning activities; how to safely use PPE (where required); in waste control (including for used PPE and cleaning materials).
- Any medical waste produced during the care of ill workers should be collected safely in designated containers or bags and treated and disposed of following relevant requirements (e.g., national, WHO). If open burning

and incineration of medical wastes is necessary, this should be for as limited a duration as possible. Waste should be reduced and segregated, so that only the smallest amount of waste is incinerated (for further information see WHO interim guidance on water, sanitation and waste management for COVID-19).

(e) ADJUSTING WORK PRACTICES

Consider changes to work processes and timings to reduce or minimize contact between workers, recognizing that this is likely to impact the project schedule. Such measures could include:

- Decreasing the size of work teams.
- Limiting the number of workers on site at any one time.
- Changing to a 24-hour work rotation.
- Adapting or redesigning work processes for specific work activities and tasks to enable social distancing, and training workers on these processes.
- Continuing with the usual safety trainings, adding COVID-19 specific considerations. Training should include proper use of normal PPE. While as of the date of this note, general advice is that construction workers do not require COVID-19 specific PPE, this should be kept under review (for further information see WHO interim guidance on rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19).
- Reviewing work methods to reduce use of construction PPE, in case supplies become scarce or the PPE is needed for medical workers or cleaners. This could include, e.g. trying to reduce the need for dust masks by checking that water sprinkling systems are in good working order and are maintained or reducing the speed limit for haul trucks.
- Arranging (where possible) for work breaks to be taken in outdoor areas within the site.
- Consider changing canteen layouts and phasing mealtimes to allow for social distancing and phasing access to and/or temporarily restricting access to leisure facilities that may exist on site, including gyms.

  At some point, it may be necessary to review the overall project schedule, to assess the extent to which it needs to be adjusted (or work stopped completely) to reflect prudent work practices, potential exposure of both workers and the community and availability of supplies, taking into account Government advice and instructions.

(f) PROJECT MEDICAL SERVICES

Consider whether existing project medical services are adequate, taking into account existing infrastructure (size of clinic/medical post, number of beds, isolation facilities), medical staff, equipment and supplies, procedures and training. Where these are not adequate, consider upgrading services where possible, including:

- Expanding medical infrastructure and preparing areas where patients can be isolated. Guidance on setting up isolation facilities is set out in WHO interim guidance on considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for COVID-19). Isolation facilities should be located away from worker accommodation and ongoing work activities. Where possible, workers should be provided with a single well-ventilated room (open windows and door). Where this is not possible, isolation facilities should allow at least 1 meter between workers in the same room, separating workers with curtains, if possible. Sick workers should limit their movements, avoiding common areas and facilities and not be allowed visitors until they have been clear of symptoms for 14 days. If they need to use common areas and facilities (e.g. kitchens or canteens), they should only do so when unaffected workers are not present and the area/facilities should be cleaned prior to and after such use.
- Training medical staff, which should include current WHO advice on COVID-19 and recommendations on the specifics of COVID-19. Where COVID-19 infection is suspected, medical providers on site should follow WHO interim guidance on infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected.
- Training medical staff in testing, if testing is available.
- Assessing the current stock of equipment, supplies and medicines on site, and obtaining additional stock, where required and possible. This could include medical PPE, such as gowns, aprons, medical masks, gloves,

and eye protection. Refer to WHO guidance as to what is advised (for further information see WHO interim guidance on rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19).

- If PPE items are unavailable due to world-wide shortages, medical staff on the project should agree on alternatives and try to procure them. Alternatives that may commonly be found on constructions sites include dust masks, construction gloves and eye goggles. While these items are not recommended, they should be used as a last resort if no medical PPE is available.
- Ventilators will not normally be available on work sites, and in any event, intubation should only be conducted by experienced medical staff. If a worker is extremely ill and unable to breathe properly on his or her own, they should be referred immediately to the local hospital (see (g) below).
- Review existing methods for dealing with medical waste, including systems for storage and disposal (for further information see WHO interim guidance on water, sanitation and waste management for COVID-19, and WHO guidance on safe management of wastes from health-care activities).

(g) LOCAL MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES

Given the limited scope of project medical services, the project may need to refer sick workers to local medical services. Preparation for this includes:

- Obtaining information as to the resources and capacity of local medical services (e.g. number of beds, availability of trained staff and essential supplies).
- Conducting preliminary discussions with specific medical facilities, to agree what should be done in the event of ill workers needing to be referred.
- Considering ways in which the project may be able to support local medical services in preparing for members of the community becoming ill, recognizing that the elderly or those with pre-existing medical conditions require additional support to access appropriate treatment if they become ill.
- Clarifying the way in which an ill worker will be transported to the medical facility, and checking availability of such transportation.
- Establishing an agreed protocol for communications with local emergency/medical services.
- Agreeing with the local medical services/specific medical facilities the scope of services to be provided, the procedure for in-take of patients and (where relevant) any costs or payments that may be involved.
- A procedure should also be prepared so that project management knows what to do in the unfortunate event that a worker ill with COVID-19 dies. While normal project procedures will continue to apply, COVID-19 may raise other issues because of the infectious nature of the disease. The project should liaise with the relevant local authorities to coordinate what should be done, including any reporting or other requirements under national law.

(h) INSTANCES OR SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

WHO provides detailed advice on what should be done to treat a person who becomes sick or displays symptoms that could be associated with the COVID-19 virus (for further information see WHO interim guidance on infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected). The project should set out risk-based procedures to be followed, with differentiated approaches based on case severity (mild, moderate, severe, critical) and risk factors (such as age, hypertension, diabetes) (for further information see WHO interim guidance on operational considerations for case management of COVID-19 in health facility and community). These may include the following:

- If a worker has symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, dry cough, fatigue) the worker should be removed immediately from work activities and isolated on site.
- If testing is available on site, the worker should be tested on site. If a test is not available at site, the worker should be transported to the local health facilities to be tested (if testing is available).
- If the test is positive for COVID-19 or no testing is available, the worker should continue to be isolated. This will either be at the work site or at home. If at home, the worker should be transported to their home in transportation provided by the project.

- Extensive cleaning procedures with high-alcohol content disinfectant should be undertaken in the area where the worker was present, prior to any further work being undertaken in that area. Tools used by the worker should be cleaned using disinfectant and PPE disposed of.
- Co-workers (i.e. workers with whom the sick worker was in close contact) should be required to stop work, and be required to quarantine themselves for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.

  Family and other close contacts of the worker should be required to quarantine themselves for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.
- If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a worker on the site, visitors should be restricted from entering the site and worker groups should be isolated from each other as much as possible.
- If workers live at home and has a family member who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID19, the worker should quarantine themselves and not be allowed on the project site for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.
- Workers should continue to be paid throughout periods of illness, isolation or quarantine, or if they are required to stop work, in accordance with national law.
- Medical care (whether on site or in a local hospital or clinic) required by a worker should be paid for by the employer.

(i) CONTINUITY OF SUPPLIES AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Where COVID-19 occurs, either in the project site or the community, access to the project site may be restricted, and movement of supplies may be affected.

- Identify back-up individuals, in case key people within the project management team (PMU, Supervising Engineer, Contractor, sub-contractors) become ill, and communicate who these are so that people are aware of the arrangements that have been put in place.
- Document procedures, so that people know what they are, and are not reliant on one person's knowledge.
- Understand the supply chain for necessary supplies of energy, water, food, medical supplies and cleaning equipment, consider how it could be impacted, and what alternatives are available. Early pro-active review of international, regional and national supply chains, especially for those supplies that are critical for the project, is important (e.g. fuel, food, medical, cleaning and other essential supplies). Planning for a 1-2 month interruption of critical goods may be appropriate for projects in more remote areas.
- Place orders for/procure critical supplies. If not available, consider alternatives (where feasible).
- Consider existing security arrangements, and whether these will be adequate in the event of interruption to normal project operations.
- Consider at what point it may become necessary for the project to significantly reduce activities or to stop work completely, and what should be done to prepare for this, and to re-start work when it becomes possible or feasible.

(j) TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION WITH WORKERS

Workers need to be provided with regular opportunities to understand their situation, and how they can best protect themselves, their families and the community. They should be made aware of the procedures that have been put in place by the project, and their own responsibilities in implementing them.

- It is important to be aware that in communities close to the site and amongst workers without access to project management, social media is likely to be a major source of information. This raises the importance of regular information and engagement with workers (e.g. through training, town halls, toolboxes) that emphasizes what management is doing to deal with the risks of COVID-19. Allaying fear is an important aspect of work force peace of mind and business continuity. Workers should be given an opportunity to ask questions, express their concerns, and make suggestions.
- Training of workers should be conducted regularly, as discussed in the sections above, providing workers with a clear understanding of how they are expected to behave and carry out their work duties.

- Training should address issues of discrimination or prejudice if a worker becomes ill and provide an understanding of the trajectory of the virus, where workers return to work.
- Training should cover all issues that would normally be required on the work site, including use of safety procedures, use of construction PPE, occupational health and safety issues, and code of conduct, taking into account that work practices may have been adjusted.
- Communications should be clear, based on fact and designed to be easily understood by workers, for example by displaying posters on handwashing and social distancing, and what to do if a worker displays symptoms.

(k) COMMUNICATION AND CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Relations with the community should be carefully managed, with a focus on measures that are being implemented to safeguard both workers and the community. The community may be concerned about the presence of non-local workers, or the risks posed to the community by local workers presence on the project site. The project should set out risk-based procedures to be followed , which may reflect WHO guidance (for further information see WHO Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance COVID-19 Preparedness and Response). The following good practice should be considered:

- Communications should be clear, regular, based on fact and designed to be easily understood by community members.
- Communications should utilize available means. In most cases, face-to-face meetings with the community or community representatives will not be possible. Other forms of communication should be used; posters, pamphlets, radio, text message, electronic meetings. The means used should take into account the ability of different members of the community to access them, to make sure that communication reaches these groups.
- The community should be made aware of procedures put in place at site to address issues related to COVID-19. This should include all measures being implemented to limit or prohibit contact between workers and the community. These need to be communicated clearly, as some measures will have financial implications for the community (e.g. if workers are paying for lodging or using local facilities). The community should be made aware of the procedure for entry/exit to the site, the training being given to workers and the procedure that will be followed by the project if a worker becomes sick.
- If project representatives, contractors or workers are interacting with the community, they should practice social distancing and follow other COVID-19 guidance issued by relevant authorities, both national and international (e.g. WHO).

6. EMERGENCY POWERS AND LEGISLATION

Many Borrowers are enacting emergency legislation. The scope of such legislation, and the way it interacts with other legal requirements, will vary from country to country. Such legislation can cover a range of issues, for example:

- Declaring a public health emergency

  Authorizing the use of police or military in certain activities (e.g. enforcing curfews or restrictions on movement)
- Ordering certain categories of employees to work longer hours, not to take holiday or not to leave their job (e.g. health workers)
- Ordering non-essential workers to stay at home, for reduced pay or compulsory holiday

Except in exceptional circumstances (after referral to the World Bank's Operations Environmental and Social Review Committee (OESRC)), projects will need to follow emergency legislation to the extent that these are mandatory or advisable. It is important that the Borrower understands how mandatory requirements of the legislation will impact the project. Teams should require Borrowers (and in turn, Borrowers should request Contractors) to consider how the emergency legislation will impact the obligations of the Borrower set out in the legal agreement and the obligations set out in the construction contracts. Where the legislation requires a material departure from existing contractual obligations, this should be documented, setting out the relevant provisions.

Resource List: COVID-19 Guidance

Given the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, a version of this resource list will be regularly updated and

made available on the World Bank COVID-19 operations intranet page (http://covidoperations/).

WHO Guidance

Advice for the public

- WHO advice for the public, including on social distancing, respiratory hygiene, self-quarantine, and seeking medical advice, can be consulted on this WHO website: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

Technical guidance

- Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected, issued on March 19, 2020
- Recommendations to Member States to Improve Hygiene Practices, issued on April 1, 2020
- Severe Acute Respiratory Infections Treatment Center, issued on March 28, 2020
- Infection prevention and control at health care facilities (with a focus on settings with limited resources), issued in 2018
- Laboratory biosafety guidance related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), issued on March 18, 2020
- Laboratory Biosafety Manual, 3rd edition, issued in 2014
- Laboratory testing for COVID-19, including specimen collection and shipment, issued on March 19, 2020
- Prioritized Laboratory Testing Strategy According to 4Cs Transmission Scenarios, issued on March 21, 2020
- Infection Prevention and Control for the safe management of a dead body in the context of COVID-19, issued on March 24, 2020
- Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak COVID-19, issued on February 11, 2020
- Preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 for refugees and migrants in non-camp settings, issued on April 17, 2020
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak: rights, roles and responsibilities of health workers, including key considerations for occupational safety and health, issued on March 18, 2020
- Oxygen sources and distribution for COVID-19 treatment centers, issued on April 4, 2020
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance COVID-19 Preparedness and Response, issued on March 16, 2020
- Considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19), issued on March 19, 2020
- Operational considerations for case management of COVID-19 in health facility and community, issued on March 19, 2020
- Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), issued on February 27, 2020
- Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19, issued on March 19, 2020
- Water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management for COVID-19, issued on March 19, 2020
- Safe management of wastes from health-care activities, issued in 2014
- Advice on the use of masks in the community, during home care and in healthcare settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, issued on March 19, 2020
- Disability Considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak, issued on March 26, 2020

WORLD BANK GROUP GUIDANCE

- Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, issued on March 20, 2020
- Technical Note: Use of Military Forces to Assist in COVID-19 Operations, issued on March 25, 2020
- ESF/Safeguards Interim Note: COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects, issued on April 7, 2020
- Technical Note on SEA/H for HNP COVID Response Operations, issued in March 2020
- Interim Advice for IFC Clients on Preventing and Managing Health Risks of COVID-19 in the Workplace, issued on April 6, 2020
- Interim Advice for IFC Clients on Supporting Workers in the Context of COVID-19, issued on April 6, 2020
- IFC Tip Sheet for Company Leadership on Crisis Response: Facing the COVID-19 Pandemic, issued on April 6, 2020
- WBG EHS Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities, issued on April 30, 2007

ILO GUIDANCE

- ILO Standards and COVID-19 FAQ, issued on March 23, 2020 (provides a compilation of answers to most frequently asked questions related to international labor standards and COVID-19)

MFI GUIDANCE

- ADB Managing Infectious Medical Waste during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- IDB Invest Guidance for Infrastructure Projects on COVID-19: A Rapid Risk Profile and Decision Framework
- KfW DEG COVID-19 Guidance for employers, issued on March 31, 2020
- CDC Group COVID-19 Guidance for Employers, issued on March 23, 2020