CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY IN ALBANIA 2020-2030

2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring

REC ALBANIA

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAD	Austrian Agency for Development
ADF	Albanian Development Fund
AMWB	Agency for Management of Water Basins
ARDA	Agriculture and Rural Development Agency
CAS	Climate Adaptation Strategy
CC	Climate Change
CCAWB	Climate Change Adaption for Western Balkan Project
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EFAS	European Floods Awareness System
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EUCPM	EU Civil Protection Mechanism
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GES	Green Emission Substances
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HPP	Hydro-Power Plants
ICPC	Integrated Cross-Sectorial Plan for the Coast
IGEO	Institute of Geoscience in Albania
IGEUM	Former Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMWGC	Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Climate Change
IPA II	Pre-Accession Instrument
IPARD	Pre-Accession Instrument for Rural Development
IPGR	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IMWGCC	Inter-ministerial Working Group for Climate Change
IWSM	Integrated water source management
KV	Kune Vain
KVLS	Kune Vain Lagoon System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MoIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
MTBP	Medium-Term Budget Process
NAP	National Adaptation Plan for Albania
NATP	National Agency for Territorial Planning
NC	National Communication
NCLD	National Committee of Large Dams
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency
NDC	National Determined Communication
NEA	National Environmental Agency

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPT	National Inspectorate for Protection of the Territory
NPCE	National Plan for Civil Emergencies
NS	National Strategy
NSCC	National Strategy for Climate Change
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
PA	Priority Actions
PHD	Public Health Directorates
RBMP	River Basin Management Plans
REC	Resource Environmental Center Albania
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SEA	Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment
sHPP	small Hydro-Power Plants
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SNAP	Stocktaking National Adaptation Planning
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNEP	UN Program for Environment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WBAO	Water Basin Administration Office
WBMP	Water Basins Management Plan
WC	Water Council
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WRA	Water Regulatory Authority
WRMA	Water Resource Management Agency
WSIP	Water Source and Irrigation Project

I. SUMMARY OF CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

The Framework of Priority Actions on Climate Change, which is an integrated part of the National Strategy for Climate Change is based almost entirely on a document titled National Adaptation Plan for Albania, NAP.

The development of the National Adaptation Plan for Albania was a process that, lasted two years from 2016 to 2018. The work for development of the document was assisted by PlanAdapt, which in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE), Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE) and the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Climate Change (IWGCC), as well as in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) guided the process. PlanAdapt is an interdisciplinary team of experts engaged in climate risk and resilience issues with members from all over the world. Initial support included drafting of a financing strategy for the National Adaptation Plan, aimed at offering guidelines on ways to finance adaptation activities to climate change in the future.

Also, part of this plan were the proposed strategies for identification of entry points to international financing for climate, as well as an updated summary of national and international, public and private sources of support to adaptation activity. The plan proposed methods for identification and ranking of projects and programmes by level of responsiveness in adaptation financing. PlanAdapt did also initiate the drafting of a guiding document that would ease integration of adaptation planning into the standard budgeting process in various ministries. In 2017 PlanAdapt worked with Albanian Development Fund (ADF) to develop adaptation criteria and indicators for screening, selection and monitoring of ADF projects in infrastructure. The support was offered in frame of Global Network for National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change, coordinated by Network Secretariat based in the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

As an outcome of this project, the team developed guidelines for integrating climate reaction in ADF procedures. The aim was the harmonisation of infrastructure planning with EU regulation in this area, in the future and the review process of infrastructure projects taking into consideration climate risks, where it is possible.

National Action Plan for Albania was conceived as a long-term and inter-sectorial process. It is considered and recognised as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The plan was announced by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment in February 2015. This process was supported by GIZ in frame of Climate Change Adaption for Western Balkan Project (CCAWB) and in close consultation with UN Development Program (UNDP) and the European Union (EU). During 2015 and 2016, the responsible line[1] ministries have cooperated closely under direction of Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) and the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Climate Change (IWGCC) in the development of the NAP document.

The drafting process of NAP for Albania was based on the contribution of the technical group of experts from the agencies that were held responsible for climate change. The monitoring process by way of semi structured interviews involving participants' reflections on the NAP

[1] During that period the ministries involved in the process were the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, Ministry of Finance and Economy.

drafting process, identified few issues that might have influenced the indicated measures in the plan and prioritisation.

- Participation in the process of representatives from the ministries and their contribution has been imbalanced. This fact might have resulted in a disproportionate distribution of measures against identified needs in each sector.
- Level of understanding on typology of adaptation measures has been low due to yet narrow local and global information on the impacts of climate change. Climate impact on specific sectors is based more on reflections and partial data, rather than on studies and deep understanding. This fact might have influenced the design of rather general measures with lacking objectives on results, or the geographic regions where the impact of climate change is more evident.

The establishment of IMWGCC was perceived an expressed commitment by the public authorities to enhance knowledge on climate related risks and the neediness to act. Institutional framework and identified gaps were assisted through utilization of Stocktaking National Adaptation Planning (SNAP). Produced outcome included the following: low and insufficient coordination among the sectors, as well as lack of consolidated structures within institutions for climate. The process identified some opportunities too for integration of climate adaptation in policies, and other potential benefits from available funds for climate in the frame of NAP. The plan was announced in June 2016, in the NAP assembly that was organised in cooperation with NAP Global Network.

After approval of the National Strategy for Climate Change in 2019, no changes or assessments of NAP have been made. Reviews for improvement or changes of measures are viewed as an ongoing need that has been included in the plans of relevant central institutions (the Ministry of Tourism and Environment) and other foreign assistance agencies. As result of this work, development of a new NAP is expected to come off in the frame of a new UNDP project that started in 2021. Activities related to drafting of NAP, such as the discussion of priority measures in strategic sectors and other inter-sectorial related issues, are planned to take place in year 2022.

II. MONITORING METHODOLOGY

This report is the second monitoring document subject to the monitoring process of the National Strategy for Climate Change, NSCC initiated in year 2021[2]. The first phase included an input-based monitoring of the strategy (involved aspects included: legal and policy framework, financing, and institutional capacity development on climate). Monitoring of National Action Plan aims to assess the extent to which measures have been implemented and to assist planners and decisionmakers in reviewing and prioritizing interventions of adaption to climate change. This second monitoring report covers a three-year timespan from the approval in 2019 of NSCC, to the end of 2021. It has reviewed priority measures of the National Action Plan by sectors, based on the relevant institutions responsible for strategy implementation, such as: environment, infrastructure and energy, agriculture, health, etc. To ensure the collection of raw data, the working team designed a series of assessing questions, specific to each measure. Those questions are listed by sectors in chapter IV "Monitoring Implementation of Measures by Sectors". These questions have served as a guideline for collecting data and assessing the progress in the lenses of the interviewed officials. In cases when this process could not proceed due to the absence of a responsible person, questions were regarded as research assumptions for collecting information through the desk review of various sources of information like publications, progress reports, media reports, or other actors and CSO reports.

The method used for collecting information included semi-structured interviews with representatives from the central institutions, implementing agencies and foreign assistance programmes. Timing was focused between the period October – December 2021. *(Annex 1: List of institutions involved in the monitoring process)*. Election of the institutions involved in this phase of the monitoring work was based on NAP indicators framework. Interviews were realised with key people from relevant institutions tasked with climate issues, or with the directors of the respective structure at the responsible agency. Collected information consisted of qualitative data on the progress of implementation, fundraising success stories, involved actors, sources of information on funds committed and funds disbursed, achieved results and on the need to revise measures in the future. Quantitative data was secured through official channels of communication with institutions responsible for implementation of the strategy, webpages of agencies and specific programmes' sources of information.

In the framework of the Paris Agreement, in 2016 Albania drafted and submitted the Nationally Designated Contribution (NDC). The obligations under this agreement require the review of emission reduction targets every five years. The review and presentation of the second NDC report for Albania in 2021, defined a new objective for 20.9% emission reduction by 2030, compared to year 2016. NDC itself involves a plan of measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by sectors. For the first time, adaptation measures in sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forests, and natural ecosystems were included in the NDC. For this reason, NDC review can also be considered a reflection process on the progress in the implementation of the NAP.

Likewise with the 1st Monitoring Report of National Strategy for Climate Change, which was drafted over the summer of 2021, obtaining data for the 2nd Monitoring Report, too, was a real challenge.

[2] https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/monitoring-climate-change-strategy-albania

During October-November 2021, five official requests for information on the progress of strategy implementation were addressed to state institutions, at which point responses with confirmation for meetings, or with advice to refer to webpage institutional information were received. Gathered information was linked to specific projects within certain measures, but in no case, it was made possible to come into possession of complete information on implemented projects at the measures' level by the institutions together or separately. Communication with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment is considered useful in terms of the information provided in relation to actors involved in the implementation process, mostly international agencies, such as: UN Program for Development, German Agency for International Cooperation, UN Program for Environment, UNEP, etc. Lack of integrated information systems with data to reveal progress on climate change projects and programs under implementation by the agencies, and the change of technical staff involved with implementation of measures, hampers the monitoring process, and disables measuring the effectivity of actions listed in the Plan.

III. INTRODUCTION ON TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL ACTION/ (ADAPTATION) PLAN

The National Action Plan, in the frame of the National Strategy for Climate Change (NSCC), 2020-2030 was developed in accordance with the "Technical Guidelines for the NAPs" and drafted by a group of experts for less-developed countries in the context of the Nationally Designated Contributions for Climate Change. 'Technical Guidelines for the NAP Processes' were developed by the UNFCCC in December 2012. The Technical Guidelines characterize the NAP process as:

- **Nonprescriptive**: The Technical Guidelines propose sequences and steps for action. Each country should flexibly select, which of these make sense to ensure effective adaptation, taking into consideration its level of progress within adaptation as well as concrete framework conditions.

- **Country-owned, country-driven action:** It is important that the process is fully country-driven and owned, to enhance compatibility with other national planning processes and to ensure a high degree of political buy-in. The NAP process seeks to harness and build upon national level capacity, with support from various partners, as appropriate.

- **Coherence of adaptation and development planning:** Mainstreaming adaptation becomes a key issue, rather than duplicating efforts and establishing parallel structures. This integration also includes the reflection of adaptation needs in all relevant budgeting sources.

- **Improved climate risk management:** The NAP process should identify a pipeline of interventions to reduce climate risks, identify entry points into existing national processes and align funding from public, private, national and international financial sources.

- **Regular monitoring and review**: Systematic learning processes should support updating the NAP in an iterative manner.

Technical Guidelines define the NAP as going beyond the mere development of a formal plan. Rather, they emphasize the process character of NAP, for which they specify the following elements and steps:

- **1. Lay the groundwork and address gaps:** (a) identify and assess institutional arrangements, programs, policies, and capacities for overall coordination, (b) assess existing climate change information including impacts, vulnerability and measures taken and (c) assess development needs.

- **2. NAP formulation**: (a) design of plans, policies, and programs to address the gaps and needs identified in element A, (b) assess medium and long-term adaptation needs, (c) promote activities to integrate climate change adaptation into national and regional development planning, (d) stakeholder consultations, (e) communication, awareness-raising and education.

- **3. Implementation Strategy:** (a) prioritize climate change risks and vulnerabilities, (b) strengthen institutional and legal framework to enable adaptation, (c) trainings at regional and sectoral levels, (d) publication of information on the NAP process, (e) and involvement of and liaison with other international initiatives.
- **4. Reporting, Monitoring and Reviewing**: (a) address inefficiencies by taking into account lessons learnt and scientific results of climate change adaptation measures and (b) provide information in the national communications on the progress made.

IV. STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION BY SECTORS

This chapter will describe to a more explicated degree the progress made with the implementation of the NSCC action plan, by the sectors of tourism and environment, agriculture, health, civil protection, etc., for 2019-2021.

4.1 General Assessment

1.1 The NSCC was approved in July 2019, although The Action Plan which is integral part of the strategy prompts in year 2017, creating a confusion with the sub-activities of the plan falling under the 2017-2019 period.

Reviewing strategic documents and updating them is already an absorbed concern in Albania, due to a lack of capacities and expertise needed for making the update.

The National Strategy for Climate Change announced by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) in 2017 welcomed a series of comments, the discussion of which lasted for about 1.5 years. In year 2019, when MoTE resubmitted the document for approval, responsible staff within the climate unit could not make financial and calendar reviews of the actions. Currently, there is only one person at the MoTE charged to work with climate on a part-time basis.

1.2 NSCC objectives and baseline/(otherwise the reference year the progress is measured against)

In November 2015, Albania submitted its first NDC with the commitment to reduce CO_2 emissions by 11.5%, by 2030 starting from 2016. As the process was ongoing, the 2021 NDC update increased the objective at 20.9% against the baseline scenario, which aimed at reducing 708 kT CO_2 by 2030[3]. Development of the strategic documents, namely the NSCC and NDC is based on the assessment of emissions reported in the 4th NC (Fourth National Communication). The reference level for these documents belongs to the Third National Communication[4], which was published in October 2016. Currently, work for the Fourth National Communication is ongoing[5].

With respect to adaption, in 2016 GIZ initiated a process known as '*Stocktaking of National Adaptation Plan'* (SNAP[6]), assisted by a group of experts to draw up an assessment on the situation in Albania. Baseline year was calibrated in accordance with the National GES Inventory for year 2016. Based on the principles outlined in the "Technical Guidelines of NAP", the plan would be of added value if based on existing structures and processes. In accordance with that, inventorying of the *'status quo'* was seen as the first important step for the design of the NDC process and the identification of gaps in an adapted way.

1.3 The inventory analyses of the situation

[3] National Determined Contribution, (NDC) update for Albania, 2021.
[4] Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2016, https://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/environment_energy/third-national-communication-to-the-united-nations-framework-con/
[5] https://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/projects/development-of-albania-fourth-national-communication-to-the-unfc.html
[6] GIZ: Guidance on applying the Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning (SNAP) tool. Eschborn, 2014.

As mentioned above, for the analyses was used the analytical tool "Stocktaking for National Adaptation Planning" (SNAP). It was developed by GIZ and was first utilized during a workshop organised on 19 February 2015. The tool provided a snapshot of the adaptation capacities that were available at the time and helped to develop the country objectives. The core element of the SNAP tool was the assessment of country needs and capacities, to allow for a strategic perspective on the overall NAP process. Applying the SNAP tool helped to identify a common point of departure, from which stakeholders could begin formulating a roadmap for the NAP process. The tool was implemented through participatory involvement of stakeholders relevant to adaptation process.

The stocktaking workshop included joint analysis and debate, as well as a questionnaire-based analysis on 'silent work'. The questionnaire was designed based on 20 success factors, which proved to be crucial in similar processes in other countries. The factors were clustered to 7 success areas: Climate Information; Human and Institutional capacities; Long-term Vision and Mandate; Implementation; Mainstreaming; Participation; Monitoring and Evaluation.

All in all, the analyses came to the following conclusions:

- A considerable gap between the existing situation and the strategic goal was noticed. Overcoming this gap would require the design of quite an ambitious NAP.
- The situation regarding the success area 'long-term vision and mandate' received e peak above average. This was owing to the (already, then-existing) mandate provided through the decision of the Council of Ministers no. 155, dated February 19, 2015. Quite in contrast, the other two success factors on long-term vision (the existence of a coherent adaptation plan and the consideration of climate change in the official plan) were ranked as weak.
- The SNAP tool ranked the situation on climate information far below the necessary level[7]. From the discussion with relevant institutions: The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration[8] - it was revealed that even though there were existing studies, assessments and projections, they were not known or accessible to sector experts. Therefore, access to information was deemed to be a stronger challenge than the information itself.
- Significantly below average was rated the monitoring and evaluation success area. This was not surprising since the NAP process was still premature and had not embarked on the monitoring questions of NAP progress.

[7] National Adaptation Plan for Albania https://www.plan-adapt.org/projects/albania/#:~:text=How%20to%20Finance%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20in%20a%20Country%20That%20is%20at%20the%20Doorstep%20of%20the%20EURopean%20Union

[8] Names of Ministries in year 2016

The National Adaptation Plan includes a list of 15 Priority Actions (PA):

Priority Action 1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania;

Priority Action 2: Overarching mainstream initiative. Establishing a package of mainstream instruments to climate change adaptation;

Priority Action 3: Climate Finance Readiness;

Priority Action 4: Implementation of a Monitoring System for the NAP;

Priority Action 5: Communication and outreach Initiatives;

Priority Action 6: Initiative for capacity development on climate change adaptation[9];

Priority Action 7: Climate Resilient Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Protection;

Priority Action 8: Integrated Water Resources Management;

Priority Action 9: Adaptation in the agricultural sector;

Priority Action 10: Promote implementation of Adaptation Strategy for Health Sector;

Priority Action 11: Integrated Cross-Sectorial Plan for the Coast (ICPC);

Priority Action 12: Initiative for Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plans;

Priority Action 13: Adaptation in Tourism;

Priority Action 14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and disaster risk reduction;

Priority Action 15: Building the Resilience of KVLS through EbA adaptation.

[9] Priority Actions (PA) 5 & 6 are addressed in the Input Based I-st Monitoring Report of SKNK (P.A.5 pg.57 & P.A. 6 pg. 51) https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/monitoring-climate-change-strategy-albania

4.2 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in the Environmental Sector

Priority Action 1: Steering of the adaption Process in Albania

Responsible Lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Albania has developed and implemented a large number of policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects and measures related to adaptation, as listed below:

- National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020;
- Third National Communication;
- National Policy on Climate Change and the NSCC;
- Its National Adaptation Plan; Adaptation Plan for Tirana;
- National Strategy for Tourism 2019-2023;
- National Policy on Forests 2019-2030;
- Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for Tirana-Durres area;
- The National Program for (GCF) Green Climate Fund, which was drafted based on participatory method and previous documents.

These documents identify a very large number of adaptation measures. Measures are categorized and summarized in the revised Nationally Designated Contributions (NDC) for Albania[10]. Implementing these measures, in the spirit of the adaptation objectives to the Paris Agreement, is esteemed to increase adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce climate change impacts. Implementing measures would also contribute to sustainable development in ensuring proper response to climate change adaptation in the context of the temperature target referred to in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement[11].

Prioritizing adaptation measures in the framework of the work for the NDC update 2021, highlights the "light measures" in terms of adaptation; which ones if adopted would create substantial benefits. The government has also recognized the importance of planning, budgeting, and implementing of more complex, specific, and costly measures.

Despite the existing barriers on effective NAP planning, the integration of CC (climate change) indicators is mainly set at climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, energy, tourism and health. In 2017, GIZ worked with the Ministry of Finance and Economy to integrate Climate Change Adaptation (CC) measures into the Medium-Term Budget Process (MTBP) 2018-2020 as part of a pilot programme. It would be very useful if progressive reporting on the implementation performance of these measures, accessible to stakeholders had been issued. Concerning the apprise of climate in the government vision for development, there has been an early integration of indicators in the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI), but the planning on adaptation requires further integration into government policies and programs. For example, the NSDI makes a mention of NAP, but does not include standards to reassess weaknesses and measure NDC progress on a regular basis[12]. The NAP process, expanding to the NAP Framework Document, is intended to build and strengthen the capacity of central and local government

[10] Nationally Designated Contribution, (NDC) update for Albania, Tables 19-25, pg. 70. http://turizmi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/3.-Kontributi-Komb%C3%ABtar-i-Percaktuar-KKP-i-rishikuar-p%C3%ABr-Shqip%C3%ABrin%C3%AB-1.pdf

[11] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/parisagreement_publication.pdf

[12] National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change (NDC) for Albania. Frame for country process, June 2016.

in integrating CC into the development of strategies, to promote sustainable management of natural resources threatened by CC, as well as to boost climate investment and implement climate-sensitive sectoral policies. Current efforts to integrate climate are based on the budget planning practice and monitoring framework existing in Albania. However, as noted in the findings of the 1st "Monitoring Report of the National Strategy for Climate Change"[13], efficient and structured integration of CC indicators is needed, to allow for more efficient budgeting between the sectors.

The **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** was drafted by GIZ as a stand-alone document in the form of a Climate Adaptation Strategy (CAS), together with the **Adaptation Plan** of Measures. The working process expanded in two years, 2015-2017. The Adaptation Plan (or The **Plan of Priority Actions**) was removed from this document, to wholly integrate into the NSCC document. In the meantime, the 'Readiness and Preparatory Support Proposal' developed by UNDP in Tirana and submitted for approval to Green Climate Fund (GCF) in October 2019 – regards the implementation of adaptation measures, as if CAS would be approved in the proposed form, which did not happen. Albania has not adopted a National Adaptation Strategy on climate that stands as a separate document.

Priority Action 2: Overarching mainstream initiative. Establishing a package of mainstream instruments to climate change adaptation

Responsible Lead Agency / Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

This priority action leading the NS's action plan would have to include:
- The Climate lens;
- Climate Sustainability;
- Climate sensitive SEA, Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Climate expenditure indicators.

1. Drafting of instruments to integrate climate change adaptation: progress and institutions involved

No drafting process of climate instruments for Albania has occurred. In fact, out of 15 measures, the first five – are already delayed ones, with MoTE being the responsible lead ministry for implementation. Through these measures was aimed to achieve involvement of various actors and institutions in fulfilment of country framework obligations under the Paris Agreement. In such context, it is important that the above-mentioned instruments be established, but as a matter of fact this is something that is looking forward to the future. Due to the organizational structure and the institutional representation in the drafting process of the NAP, as previously described in this document, it is assumed that the NAP does not necessarily represent the best and most complete exposure of country priorities. It is worth noting that there is a disconnection between the strategy context and the country's real needs, taking into consideration that some of NAP's priority measures/actions were decided based on areas of priority where some of the donors already had ongoing projects and funding. It is already a well-known practice for these processes to be guided by donors. Among the most active ministries in that period was the Ministry of Urban Planning, whose representatives brought forward a series of concrete measures that were aimed at increasing the capacity to cope with climate

[13] https://www.wfd.org/what-we-do/resources/monitoring-climate-change-strategy-albania

change at the local level. With the restructuring of the government and the closure of this ministry, these tasks were assigned to the Ministry of Interior, which ones have *'de-facto'* not been pursued any further by the latter. Ever since then, and up to the end of the monitoring period reported through this document, no assessment or review has been made to improve the NAP.

The strategy states existence of a steering body (IMWGC) at the central level, assigned with the responsibility to implement the National Strategy for Climate Change.

2. Based on what functioning principles or regulation is the work of the inter-ministerial group carried out? What are the decisions made and the means to ensure accountability of its work?

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Climate Change, IMWGC was established by Order of the Prime Minister, no. 155, dated February 19th, 2015. According to NDC 2016-2020, approved by DCM no. 762 (in 2015), the IMWGC would have to undergo a restructuring process to align with government structure, pursuant to the territorial reform. The group's configuration consists of 15 experts at the technical level, representing the main agencies and line ministries with the aim of coordinating all the institutions involved in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Also, IMWGC's role is to facilitate integration of climate change into relevant plans, policies, programs, and existing activities. The IMWGC is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, given that MoTE is the focal point in exercising its pertinent duties under the frame of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Although a formal body at the central level, such as the Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Climate Change has already been established, its mandate to adaptation has not been clear[14].

Despite the inquiries addressed to official sources of information, no evidence of any type could be found on the functioning of this inter-governmental unit. The Resource Environmental Center Albania (REC Albania) submitted several requests to Official Publishing Center (QBZ.al, acronym in Alb) to obtain a copy of the decisions on establishment of IMWGC, but the Prime Minister's decision no.155 (mentioned in various foreign assistance reports), could not be found. From communications with the MoTE, the group had not been functional from 2018 onwards, and the necessity to reactivate it for the purpose of assisting the implementation of priority measures outlined in the NDC update (November 2021) was raised at the institutional level.

3. **Implementation of three pilot projects on climate (in compliance with indicated projection – 1 pilot project/year), three-year post-approval of the NS for CC.**

1. The KUNE-VAIN Project carried out by the UN Program for Environment (UNEP) has been completed.

2. GIZ is in the process of drafting a project proposal worth of $40,000,000 USD on adaptation measures, which as of yet is in the concept-idea stage. The proposal will be submitted to the GCF and is envisaged to develop information and services in terms of climate adaptation. The concept focuses on two main components:

[14] Nationally Designated Contribution (NDC), 2016.

The first component is related to the collection of climate data (on adaptation) such as: temperature, precipitation, river flows, etc., to support the early warning system on extreme weather events.

The second component is related to ecosystem-based approach: it is expected to extend to the local government level through the development of local strategies and pilot investment projects in terms of adaptation to climate change.
The implementation of GIZ's project is expected to start in 2023, and is regarded as one of the first pilot projects to kick off work following the approval of NS for CC.

3. Financed projects from the Civil Emergencies sector, during 2019-2021 include:

"**To Be Ready – Floods and forest fires, risk assessment and risk management**", funded in the frame of Interreg Program IPA CBC Italy – Albania – Montenegro.
The budget: 5,009,633 EUR. **Timeline:** September 2019 – June 2022.
Scope: The project aims to address a joint challenge among three countries sharing an Adriatic Sea coastline (Italy, Albania, and Montenegro), whose regions have significantly been affected by natural disasters and human activity in the latest years.

Contracting Authority: Co-financed by European Union through Pre-Accession Instrument (IPA II)
"Resilience Strengthening in Albania" – RESEAL-UNDP
The budget: 820,595 USD. **Timeline:** July 2020 – April 2024
Scope: To speed up structural transformation and alleviate poverty in all forms and dimensions of its existence.
Partners: UNDP. **Financed by:** Portuguese Government /Swiss Cooperation for International Development (SIDA)

"Strengthening the capacities of civil protection operational structures with equipment and human resources"
The budget: 30,000,000 EUR. **Financed by:** Italian Government/type of support: loan.

Priority Action 3: Climate finance readiness

Responsible lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

1. Has Albania been able to access the 3,000,000 USD fund for climate, expected to be released upon restructuring of Green Climate Fund (GCF)?

This fund is considered accessible with the "Readiness" Project that GCF endorsed for UNDP Albania. The project was approved by DCM No. 762, in 2019. The Green Climate Fund is a new global fund created by the countries party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support the efforts of developing countries, and to respond to the challenge of climate change. The GCF seeks to promote the transition to a climate-resistant, low-emission development model, taking into account the needs of countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

GCF uses public investment to stimulate private finance in promoting climate-friendly investment. The Fund plays an important role in serving to Paris Agreement and in supporting developing countries on the implementation of Designated National Contributions. The GCF is accountable to the United Nations and is guided by the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC.

The goal of Readiness Project is to promote a short-term and long-term adaptation planning process to climate change through the National Adaptation Plan. The project was designed with the purpose to help the Government of Albania increase the capacity to address vulnerability issues arising from climate change.

Expected outcomes include:[15]

Outcome 1: Strengthen the mandate, strategy and coordination mechanism with a focus on assessing and addressing capacity gaps in priority sectors, such as tourism, urban development, agriculture, transport, and energy;

Outcome 2: Development of National Adaptation Plan and Strategy;

Outcome 3: Development of financing, monitoring and evaluation strategies to ensure long-term institutionalization of funding capacities and opportunities for adaptation beyond the project's implementation timeline.

The main beneficiaries are the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Albanian Institute of Geosciences, formerly known as the Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment, (IGEO). Indirect beneficiaries are other ministries and local governments receiving capacity development support within the priority sectors, as well as other sectors involved with the NS, such as: the academic community, CSOs, and private companies.

Amount: 2,297,907 USD **Timeline:** 48 Months (4 years) 2021-2024

The project is in the initial stage of implementation. In December 2021, a launching activity of the project with the participation of various actors was organized, and the work plan with the expected actions per priority sectors was discussed. Moreover, the project management structure (Steering Committee) with wide involvement of institutions and agencies, and representatives from civil society sector, was established. Work for the drafting of the principal document linked to different sectors is expected to start by early 2022. Gender and public outreach components are set to be important for the ongoing process of project implementation.

2. Performance of the indicator related to capacity building at the National Designated Authority.

The National Designated Authority was established in 2012. It is not a unit, but a functional task assigned to a defined position within the MoTE structure. By the time the strategy was approved, the person charged with this responsibility was the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mrs. Ornela Çuçi. Upon changes in the new

[15] https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/readiness-proposals-albania-undp-adaptation-planning.pdf

government, the person in charge of serving as GCF focal point at the MoTE is Mr. Sofjan Jaupaj.

3. Actualizations against the three-year commitment of 37,500,000 ALL stated in the strategy.

During the three-year monitoring period on the implementation progress of the strategy, MoTE had no funds allocated from state budget to projects defined as actions for implementation of the NS for CC. MoTE's financial contribution is bounded to reallocation of the VAT collected from foreign assistance approved projects. As it is not possible to trace down funds aligned to climate, it can be merely stated as an approximate assessment that such a commitment is coated by foreign assistance support. In terms of government commitment, the available fund (of around 310,000 EUR.) is regarded as significantly small to address climate issues through adaptation measures.

Priority Action 4: Implementation of a monitoring system for the NAP

Responsible lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

1. Has any attempt been made to conceive and set up a NAP monitoring system?

No attempt to set up a monitoring system for implementation of the action plan for climate has been made so far. UNDP Readiness project is expected to contribute to this issue. Establishing such systems that guide the identification of priorities, action plans, division of responsibilities, and enable the absorption of investments in the climate sector is considered by the UNDP Project as essential. Currently, there are no monitoring and evaluation protocols to trace down climate-related projects and programs implemented at the national level. A demand for coordinated and results-based monitoring is identified for the purpose of understanding the overall progress, not just at the project level.

One of the achievements expected from this project is the development of a Financing, Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy for NAP. Drafting of this document is expected to happen in the last period of project implementation.

Availability of updated and quality data has a significant impact on the ability to make informed decisions and on the effectiveness of CC management. Currently, there is no harmonized platform for collecting and disseminating CC data. In general, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is assessed at a limited level and there is need for climate-specific and climate-focused M&E – on both, adaptation and mitigation to CC. Effectuation of the monitoring plan would complement ongoing capacity development within existing projects and initiatives, keeping in focus the development of gender and climate indicators, and their integration into the national environmental monitoring system.

Priority Action 15: Building the resilience of KVLS through EbA adaptation

Lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

A GEF (Global Environmental Fund) and UNDP supported project aimed at raising KVLS adaptation capacities based on ecosystem services has been implemented by MoTE. A group of integrated adaptation interventions has been identified to address needs in the protected area, including the ecosystem-based monitoring.

1. Have any interventions been staged in ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)?

"Building the Resilience of Kune Vain Lagoon System through ecosystem-based adaptation EbA in Albania" is a project funded by (Special Climate Change Fund, SCCF) through a grant totalling to the amount of 1,903,000 USD. The project started officially in June 2016. The initial implementation timeline was 36 months, but the timeframe was extended to cover several extra months in 2020 as well.

KVLS is faced with several challenges that might create a degrading effect and damage the capacity of KVLS in offering goods and services, which are essential for the local community as a consequence of climate change. The aim of the project was to raise the capacities of the local governance, and for the community living in the area to better adapt to climate change through a group of integrated adaptation interventions, including EbA. The project had three components:

- Component 1: Technical and institutional capacities to address climate change risks through EbA;
- Component 2: Minimization of climate impacts through demonstration of best practices and concrete EbA adaptation interventions in the KVLS; and
- Component 3: Awareness raising and knowledge building on EbA effective practice.

The project was implemented by the Environmental Unit of UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

2. Have EbA technical guidelines been developed?

Concerning the integration of the EbA approach into the KVLS, the project has developed guidelines and protocols that were presented in various training activities. EbA technical guidelines were developed by an international EbA expert, which were then introduced and disseminated in various training activities organised between October and November 2018.

That being the case, a Strategy for upscaling EbA in other areas was developed during 2018-2019, to further contribute to the EbA integration. In the effort to substantiate the process, the project should continue to share and communicate results in relevant forums considered strategic for this pursuit.

3. Has any strategic document been drafted to monitor interventions in the lagoon?

Part of the monitoring process on the state of the lagoon was the ecological assessment of environmental indicators, such as measuring the physical-chemical parameters of lagoon waters, phytoplankton[16], zooplankton[17] and birds, consorted in collaboration with

[16] Phytoplankton are a type of microscopic plankton capable of photosynthesis found in oceans, seas and freshwater and freshwater.
[17] Zooplankton are small, aquatic microorganisms in the water column that include crustaceans, rotifers, open water insect larvae and aquatic mites.

the University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences. This monitoring[18] work was performed during 2018-2019. It produced a series of scientific conclusions and a reference monitoring document to be accustomed as a monitoring standard for the KV lagoon. Similarly, this standard can be also applied to the entire lagoon system of the Albanian coast.

4. Have any awareness-raising campaigns been organized on advantages of ecosystem-based adaptation?

A series of awareness-raising activities were carried out in the frame of this project. The implementing partner for the public awareness component was REC Albania. Activities included as follows:

- Celebrating 'World Wetlands Day' with schools, CSOs and local partners;
- Printing promotional materials (bags, pens, folders and notebooks);
- Earth Day: 22nd of April – School activities onto BioBlitz;
- Celebrating World Biodiversity with schools at the KVLS, under the slogan "Celebrating the 25th anniversary of biodiversity"
- Organizing birdwatching activities;
- European Parks Day – Promoting EbA and KLVS Project on the national TV and media;
- Travelling exhibition: Finalizing 30 photoshoots on KVLS for the activities;
- Participation to a training activity focused on EbA Communication and Visibility Plan.

These activities have supported the outreach of local communities and awareness-raising processes on the impact of climate change in highly sensitive ecosystems such as wetlands. About 100 locals, over 300 students, and 30 businesses from the Kune-Vain and Shengjin areas participated in these activities. Protection and conservation of biodiversity and habitats from erosion disturbance, changes in water quality, and alien species that have moved from warmer areas are important to maintain and enhance ecosystem productivity for many other species that are fed, reproduced, and nested there – like birds, fish, arthropods, aquatic plants, etc. Community involvement in conservation and management practice is essential to avoid added pressures on these ecosystems.

4.3 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in Tourism Sector

Priority action 13: Adaptation in tourism

Lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

1. Has a climate compatible adaptation strategy for the tourism sector been drafted? What support is provided to the local sector on climate?

No tools, practices, or frameworks have been developed for climate adaptation in the tourism sector in Albania. Starting in 2022, the Swedish International Development

[18] www.kunevain.com

Cooperation Agency (Sida) has recognised the drafting of a national environmental strategy in its l support plan for Albania, with climate anticipated to be an important component of it. However, there is no published information yet about eventual progress, or the timing when the drafting process of this strategic document will occur. Meanwhile, at the sectoral plans level, GIZ in cooperation with the National Agency for Territorial Planning (NATP) has made a series of reviews and has contributed to national territorial plans. These sectoral documents have been developed under the initiative "Albania 2020-2030"[19]. They are referred to as The Coastal Plan[20] and The National Territorial Plan[21].

4.4 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector

Priority Action 7: Irrigation, drainage, and flood protection

Lead Agency/Ministry: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

1. Modernization and reformation of infrastructure in two areas: a) irrigation and drainage, and b) floods. Reliable financial procedures. How does the operation of financial procedures appear?

The responsible ministry for irrigation and drainage is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, having in its organizational set-up a special directorate for land and water administration comprised of two sectors, with one of the sectors being held responsible for irrigation and drainage. Right now, there is no assigned structure for floods within MARD. Flooding is regarded as a functional task of the above-mentioned sector. During 2021 the restructuring of the current structure was discussed, but the process seems to be associated with significant uncertainty as to how these changes would impact the sector on strengthening or further reforming it.

All the financing delivered by the ministry, that could eventually be also related to climate adaptation in the agriculture and livestock sectors is channelled through the Agency for Rural and Agricultural Development[22]. It should, however, be emphasized here that there is no direct funding for flood prevention and control. In the meantime, interventions for irrigation and drainage are viewed as part of broader-scope financing, in particular for projects that fall under the frame of Pre-Accession for Rural Development (IPARD) and its call for proposals on physical investment in farms, where 75% of funding is provided by the EU and 25% by the state budget.

Calls for proposals and the selection procedure are announced on the webpage of the Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA) together with the application forms. In the same page, also information about previous beneficiaries of the support schemes[23].

It is worth noting that it is quite impossible to quantify the direct support provided for climate adaptation projects, or to assess the effectiveness of the procedures for climate

[19] http://planifikimi.gov.al/index.php?id=akpt_about
[20] http://planifikimi.gov.al/index.php?id=pins_bregdeti
[21] http://planifikimi.gov.al/index.php?id=ppk_shqiperia
[22] http://www.azhbr.gov.al/
[23] http://www.azhbr.gov.al/thirrja-2/

compatibility infrastructure projects in the agriculture sector, given that no monitoring report has ever been made available or referred to during the meetings with responsible institutions.

2. Development of *erosion reduction plan and a feasibility study for water resources. Has any feasibility study on water resource been drafted in 2019-2021?*

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has established a land protection sector which is responsible for the design of anti-erosion measures. Up to now, no plan or strategic document to address erosion protection and control measures has been developed. Impact on erosion-induced changes has been referred to only in the documents dealing with forest management and reforestation measures, for instance "the Forest Policy Document for Albania – 2030", as developed by the MoTE in 2018[24].

As for the water source sector, Albania has developed a National Strategy for Integrated Water Source Management (IWSM) 2018, developed by MARD. Meanwhile, in the frame of the 'Albania 2020-2030' initiative, a National Sectoral Programme for Integrated Water Management for the 2018-2030 period has been developed. This document is aimed at guaranteeing the coordination of financial planning processes in the water sector for the funds received from the state budget and development partners to forecast investment in the sector, in close cooperation with local governments. During the period screened, no legal developments aiming to improve the implementation and monitoring of these documents were introduced.

3. Where does cooperation with IGEO and the exchange of hydrological data stand?

The Institute of Geoscience in Albania is the responsible institution for collecting and analysing rainfall and river waterflow data. Various institutions (including foreign partners and implementing agencies) advert the exchange of hydrological information with IGEO (the Former Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment) before year 2020, as problematic. With the new changes taking place in the executive structures of the institution, a more open and collaborative approach on the side of IGEO has been noticed. Some of the programmes in the field of climate that are supported by GIZ, UNDP, etc., have introduced into their plans the forecasting of concrete activities aimed at strengthening the early warning system for floods in Albania.

4. Establishment of flood control and technical management arrangement - How is the technical control carried, and what is the performance?

The technical control for flooding is considered a joint task between several institutions, including the Civil Emergency Agency, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, etc.
In September 2020, the National Committee for Large Dams (NCLD), a structure already established by DCM in 1993, was reactivated.

5. Flood Map - Is there a flood map? How is it updated?
The flood map is drafted by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) in the frame of the support provided by the foreign assistance for Albania. It is part of the National Plan for Civil Emergencies (NPCE), which is the main document in the field of civil

[24] https://turizmi.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/DPP-17.12.2018.pdf

emergencies. Maps are found at the county level, for counties that are most affected by river floods such as Shkodra, Lezha, Fier, and Vlora. In case of floods, data on the degree of inundation (surface under water, duration, degree of damage according to different categories of damage, etc.) are collected at the county level.
Meanwhile, the National Committee for Large Dams, (NCLD Eng./KKDM Alb.) drafts and maintains the "Civil Emergency Preparedness Plans and the Flood Map", which is also published on the AKMC website. However, it should be noted that KKDM preparedness plans refer only to dams (which are mainly related to the country's energy works) and floods that can be caused by them in extreme weather cases, where we have increased rainfall and large inflows of rivers.

4. Establishment of technical control structures for flood protection - How is technical control carried out, and what is the structure?

The technical control for flooding is considered a joint task between several institutions, including the Civil Emergency Agency, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, etc.
In September 2020, the National Committee for Large Dams (NCLD) a structure already established by DCM in 1993, was reactivated.

5. Flood Map - Is there a flood map? How is it updated?
The flood map is drafted by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) with the support of foreign assistance in Albania. The map is part of the National Plan for Civil Emergencies (NPCE), which is the central document of government policy in the field of civil emergencies. Maps are available at the county level, as might be expected in the counties most affected by river flooding, such as Shkodra, Lezha, Fieri, and Vlora. In case of flood emergencies, data on the severity of floods (surface of land under water, duration of rainfall, degree of damages by categories, etc.) is collected at the county level.
In the meantime, the NCLD drafts and maintains the "Civil Emergency Preparedness Plans and the Flood Map" which is also published on the NCPA website. It should, however, be noted that NCLD preparedness plans refer only to dams (which are mainly used to confine and control water for energy works) and floods created under extreme weather conditions (extreme rainfall and large river water flows).

6. Training and certification of employees working on the irrigation sector. Rehabilitation and increase of dams. What rehabilitation work is engaged in the last three years?

There are 650 dams in total, out of which 362 are large dams over 15 meters high. Except for 5-6 new dams, most of them are more than 30-40 years old that require maintenance, monitoring and careful use. Albania is ranked among the first countries in the world for the number of large dams / per 1000 km^2, and also for the number of large dams / per 1 million people. Dams are divided into two groups: hydropower and irrigation dams[25].
The 2020 NCLD annual report highlights a number of issues. 5 (five) years after the transfer process of operations, maintenance and administration of large dams has produced no improvements in use, monitoring and safety. In 90% of cases the transfer was performed without a release of technical files to new users and trainings delivered to

[25] https://fjala.al/2020/09/22/prezantohet-komiteti-kombetar-i-digave-te-medha-dhe-keshilli-teknik-flet-balluku/

the team of engineers; without handing over any monitoring systems; without installing any alarm system, and with no deliverance of flood maps and civil emergency preparedness plans. These requirements were legally binding obligations, which MARD had the responsibility to complete in conformity with the requirement for a professional and lawful implementation process.

Currently, according to NCLD information part of technical files on irrigation dams is kept in MARD archives. According to a preliminary information obtained from the archive, the number of projects for big dams is not bigger than 50. The quality of these projects is very weak, meaning that a technical process to make the drawings in conformity with the technical standards, is required. This process should be twisted with a training process of the technical staff held responsible for project monitoring and safety[26].

7. Strengthen intervening capacities in riverbeds and water catchment installations - What is the situation like with the riverbed interventions?

When it comes to water quality and HPP impact in river-basins, main concern relates to Hydro-Power Plants (HPP). During these last years, there has been a considerable increase on the number of small concessionaire hydropower installations - already built or planned to build in river basins. From year 2008, there have been 197 concessionaire contracts approved for building up 555 small hydropower plants/installations (sHPP), with 17 contracts already completed by the ministry. While for the other 180 active contracts, it is been envisaged construction of 486 small hydropower plants. Also, in accordance with the DCM no. 822, there are other 119 HPSs not subject of concessions. Some studies were made to question the impact of sHPP-in the water quality, for example of the Drini–Buna basin and its water life. However, some important concerns on socio-environmental impacts of HPPs in water basins, include:

- HPP potential spotting. If the site is defined in the boundaries of protected area, or site selection is made in compliance with architectural and environmental features;
- Insufficient riverbed flow, as a potential threat that could unsettle standards of ecological flow;
- Quality of environmental impact assessments, is linked to the lack of unbiased reviews and unavailability of critical reports;
- Need to prepare social and environmental impact assessment under specific loan agreements
- Compensation of landowners and local communities affected by lack of water or floods**;**
- HPP Impact on sea erosion.

As regarding hydropower impacts in the view of EU legislation for Nature, European Commission has published in 2018 a guiding document[27], highlighting the range of impacts that HPPs may create in habitats and species in the framework of Water and Nature Directives, such as:

- Changes in river morphology and river habitats;
- Barriers against migration of endangered species;

[26] http://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/1-Raporti-vjetor-2020-per-digat-dhe-dambat.pdf
[27] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/hydro_final_june_2018_en.pdf

- Interruption of sediment dynamics;
- Changes in regime of ecological flow;
- Changes in river flow direction due to HPP intakes;
- Changes in seasonal flooding cycles;
- Presence of chemicals in water and changes in temperature;
- Injury and killing of animals;
- Removal and distress;
- Impacts on species and terrestrial habitats.

Traditional approach for development of a plan or project, be it for the hydropower plants or another field, is to primary establish the scope and later give a thought to the wider environment and other issues. Anyway, this is often supplemented with conflicts, if we get to account delays with the planning process, which narrow the timing to manoeuvre. Whereas the design technology has advanced, environmental impact assessment of consequences likely to arise due to a major project is often performed as a damage reduction exercise. Acceptance of these difficulties induces the infrastructure planners to increasingly follow an integrated approach in facility planning and design. Integrated approach takes into consideration facility needs and the ecological ones in the site and factors them into the initial concept of the project, along with the needs of river other users. Construction of small hydropower plants with the drive to reduce country needs for power has produced considerable pressure on river flows, especially in their ecosystems, but also on the communities where these HPPs are built, due to the many conflicts arising between local people and developers. In most cases local people have not been asked. Given such occurrences, it is important that a review on procedures, especially on laws and regulations on river basin management be made.

Assessment of river ecosystem services during the permitting process is not always performed taking into consideration other downstream users of the small hydropower plant. Sometimes, certain users get neglected, especially those from the agriculture sector that rely on irrigation.

Building the capacities on Water Basin Administration Office (WBAO) is a necessity not only to understand and interpret hydrological elements of water stream, but also to bounce them with opportunities on water use and the needs for ecological water flow, which is indispensable for an ecologically sustainable environment in time and space. Water basin offices should be capable to make a general assessment of water balance in river water flaw sections during different seasons of the year to estimate in appropriate way the demand for water and freshwater, by maintaining a permanent ecological waterflow, which is essential for the environment and necessary to ensure ecological status of the waterflow itself, in compliance with law 111/2012, “On integrated management of water resources”.

In the light of the above, the currently insufficient monitoring network, the limited data (lacking approval and validity) together with the technical and financial limited capacity make it very difficult for the law to be enforced.

Priority Action 9: Adaptation in the Agricultural Sector

Lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

1. Farm protection infrastructure and the use of alternative ways in agricultural practice (greenhouses, plant tunnels, plant barriers, hail protection barriers). Have any public or private investment been made in farm protection infrastructure?

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has supported farmers through ARDA's (Agriculture and Rural Development Agency) subvention programmes, be it the national beekeeping scheme, organic farms, greenhouses, medicinal plants, or livestock. The open calls for applications together with the priorities and financing limits are published every year in the internet page of ARDA[28]. State budget contribution to the scheme is 25%, and the remaining 75% is funded through IPARD.

During 2019-2020 IPARD Programme has launched four calls for applications:

- **First call** – for agriculture machinery. These projects were implemented between 2019-2020. Financing amount: 5,200,000,000 ALL or equivalent of 41,200,000 EUR;
- **Second call** – for farm diversification, agri-processing and physical investment were implemented between 2020-2021. Financing amount: 6,400,000,000 ALL or the equivalent of 53,300,000 EUR;
- **Third call** – for agri-processing and physical investment in farms. These projects were implemented between 2021-2022. Financing amount: 3,150,000,000 ALL or the equivalent of 26,000,000 EUR;
- **Forth call** – for farm diversification. This scheme will open in 2022 and will include agricultural protection.

It is worth noting that climate within those programmes is impossible to be estimated.

2. Agricultural technology, seed varieties with high adaptability to the climate. What are the new technologies introduced in the sector in the past three years?

Information on this measure is limited or very scattered through specific projects of the national support scheme. Therefore, it can be said that there is no proper program to support new agricultural technologies, or seed variety adaptation to climate change. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has supported a program aimed at evaluating indigenous plant varieties, which will continue its implementation throughout 2022.

Several research programs have been prompted by the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (IPGR) [29], which is the head unit at the Agricultural University of Tirana, and a national institution to coordinate activities in plant genetic resource conservation. IPGR is a relatively new institution, set up by the restructuring of the Genetic Resource Centre, where the National Genetic Bank also operates. The purpose is to promote conservation and sustainable utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Albania.

[28] http://www.azhbr.gov.al/skema-kombetare/
[29] http://qrgj.org/

3. Is there any programmatic information (hydrometeorological and geospatial data) delivered to support farmers?

IGEO publishes its Climate Bulletins on the website on a monthly basis[30].

The data is collected through 24 stations. They are presented in the form of graphs and maps, in pdf format. A careful assessment on the usefulness of such data to farmers should be carried out to ease their utilisation, especially in terms of planning for interventions and the type of varieties to be cultivated based on the climatic conditions experienced.

4. Establishing standardized environments for livestock, to control the vector-borne transmission of diseases. What are the measures taken to reduce livestock morbidity due to parasites?

For the monitoring period 2019-2021, there were several MARD support programs funded by FAO, such as the drafting of the Action Plan for Plant Protection 2022-2030, which is still ongoing. Another support program on capacity development has assisted livestock specialists with training on integrated pest management. These activities were attended by representatives from all levels of central institutions, as well as farmers. However, it should be emphasised, that there is a complete lack of data on the interventions made within this measure.

4.5 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in the Water Management Sector

Priority action 8: Integrated Management of Water Sources

Leading Agency: Agency for Management of Water Basins

1. Plans for water basin management in the frame of pre-accession support instrument (IPA). The NAP document points out to the development of four management plans for the river basins of Vjosa, Mat, Shkumbin and Seman. What is the progress made?

Although NS for CC was approved later compared to the establishment of the Agency for Management of Water Basins (AMWB), the priority action preceded in 2017. The establishment and operationalization of AMWB enabled a faster progress on the implementation of water basin management plans. The obligation for developing the plans comes from the need to comply with Water Framework Directive, which is viewed the main contributor to the better progress made to this priority action. Out of seven river basins in Albania, there are five water basin management plans already in place for rivers Seman, Ishem-Erzen, Drini-Buna[31], Mat and Shkumbin, Vjosa river does not yet have a management plan. AMWB has planned to develop a needs assessment document, which will set the grounds for drafting its management plan next year.

Water Basins Management Plan (WBMP) is assisted by EU bilateral support. Thus, the Management Plan for the Drin–Buna water basin is part of the institutional support on the

[30] https://www.geo.edu.al/newweb/?fq=brenda&gj=gj1&kid=42
[31] DCM 849, dt. 04.11.2020 on approval of Drini-Buna water basin Management Plan.

component: Integrated water source management in the frame of 'Water Source and Irrigation Project', WSIP. It is funded by the World Bank, Swedish Agency for International Development and Albanian Government, and is set up to lay the bases for a responsible and rational water source management. The other plans were supported by EU and implemented by Austrian Agency for Development (AAD).

As Albania moves towards EU membership, the legal and institutional framework, and the knowledge needed to address policy preparation, planning, implementation, and evaluation are constantly evolving, with a goal to bring off clear accountability and transparency on implementation of the EU Acquis. Full transposition of relevant EU directives has not yet been achieved. Water management legislation and regulations are divided into four main sections: primary legislation, secondary legislation, cross-sectoral legislation, and EU directives.

It is clear that the effective implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), as required by European law, is not entirely possible to happen in none of the water basins in Albania. Effective implementation of the WFD requires further development of central and regional capacities to meet WFD specific requirements, although it is already provisioned in the national laws and reflected in the institutional structure, which corresponds to the goal set for the implementation of the WFD in the future. Currently, Albania does not have the technical capacity to meet the specific requirements of the WFD. Water Basin Planning has also included the development of an appropriate water basin model as a tool for evaluating different development scenarios. Aspects of water quality have received a great deal of attention in the plans, as the deteriorating water quality is a problem of growing concern. There is progress in AMWB work in drafting standards for River Basin Management Plans, in the light of the Directive. The first phase of these plans will be 2022-2027, to be afterwards harmonized with the second phase linked to implementation of the Directive.
Hence, WRMA has made progress with development of the methodology approved in 2020 by a DCM with the intention to make it a legally binding procedure for scaling up its implementation in seven river basins in Albania. There is progress in the development of RBMP through a detailed data analysis process, including many thematic fields required by the Directive. However, defining most sensitive areas within each RBMP remains an issue with impact on protection and conservation measures. Environmental experts and CSOs have voiced out the urgency of defining sensitive areas within each river basin, to identify nature protection and conservation measures and regulate the utilization of water.

Nevertheless, the slow progress in the development of plans is damaging some of the rivers with habitats undergoing intense changes due to gravel extraction activity and construction of HPP. CSOs are concerned about the lack of proper Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted for more than 530 small hydro-power units sited all over the country.

Institutions should be informed on water quality monitoring instruments, as well as on the capacities and resources available to the National Environmental Agency. A water quality monitoring plan should subsist and be strictly followed in every comprising parameter. Unclear roles and responsibilities in water quality monitoring is associated with the risk of not being able to act: according to the law, NEA is the responsible institution, even though the Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA Eng./AMBU Alb.) is seeking to obtain

responsibilities over water quality. Given the resources required for this process and the recently allocated funds, shifting the responsibilities on water quality monitoring to the WRMA will neither guarantee resource optimisation efficiency, nor will satisfy the problem of insufficient monitoring of the plan in the short-term. The Water Council (WC) at the regional level should have a wider field of play in terms of the responsibilities in water management, rather than just granting water-use permits, which fail to be considered regulated due to the lack of River Basin Management Plans. A more active role is expected from the WC with regards to the hotspots along water streams and the need to support action at both local and regional levels, and also for the protection of rivers from erosion, pollution and the illegal activity affecting water quality.

The water basin planning process suggests clarifications on the effectiveness of the current water management structure and describes the future mandate of management bodies in compliance with entire basin management needs. The administrative capacity for water management is weak and insufficient. It is a fact that women in rural areas are often excluded from the decision-making processes related to management in general, even though they work and manage resources jointly with men. Young people, especially girls tend to be excluded from decisions as well. This mindset is common with men and women, which leads to fewer decision-making discussions and a disregard of women priorities, needs, or business ideas.

The most important legal developments in the sector include the following:

- **July 2019:** Decision of National Water Council no. 6, date 12.6.2019: On approval of the regulation of Water Basin Council;
- **December 2020:** Decision No. 1122, date 30.12.2020: On approval of requests, conditions, procedures and necessary funds for establishment, maintenance and update of water resource national cadastre;
- **December 2020:** Decision No. 1015, date 16.12.2020: On content, development, and implementation of the national strategy for water source management, water source management plans, water basin management plans and flood risk management plan.

2. Have any new legal acts on water distribution system been developed?

The Water Resources Management Agency was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 221 dated 26.4.2018 "On the organization and functioning of the Water Resources Management Agency". The mission of the agency is to ensure that good governance practice is sustained in the area of water resource management to meet vital needs, by keeping in mind ecosystem sustainability and promoting competitiveness in water source utilization and prioritization of economic profitability.

The establishment of this agency has given impetus to the drafting of legal acts and other strategic documents in the water sector. Few highlights: the Law on Water Management (2012, amended) is being revised and discussions are planned for 2022. The National Strategy for Integrated Water Resources Management (2017) drafted by MARD, has not gone through any changes or assessments during the review period (2019-2021). Water Regulatory Authority (WRA) remains the only regulatory body whose mission is to ensure

that water supply and sewerage service provide the best possible quality, at a reasonable price, in a financially sustainable manner to all consumers in Albania.

Within the institution's scope of work, there are several decisions linked to the management of drinking water and wastewater, including the performance monitoring elements of water supply companies. It can be emphasized that these acts have little to no connection to climate adaptation measures, although they embrace a natural resource with a direct impact on the availability of freshwater and service quality.

Approved legislation in the water sector during 2019 – 2021.

Year	WRA	DCM	Instructions of the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy	Resolution of the Assembly
2019	24	2	1	1
2020	6	4	1	1
2021	18	-	-	-

4.6 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in the Territory, Infrastructure, and Energy Sectors

Priority Action 11: Intersectoral plan for coastal area

Lead Agency/Ministry: Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

1. Strengthen legislation on construction in the coastal area. Recent developments.

Although the coastal area has obtained a status of special importance; in terms of development potential, it is also the most severely affected by climate change impacts. So far, there have been no legal developments aimed at strengthening construction criteria for the coast. A number of interventions were carried by the National Inspectorate for Protection of the Territory (NIPT) against illegal constructions, which are not to be considered as related to climate change adaptation.

2. Capacity development in the municipalities of coastal areas. Have activities been conducted to instruct local employees on climate issues during (2019-2021)?

No specific program targeting a main objective on capacity development of local authorities in climate change was identified. However, some pilot projects implemented at the local level, namely in Lezhe, Durres, Vlora and Orikum have organized several climate-related training and awareness-raising activities. These activities were mostly encouraged by the foreign assistance support for Albania and implemented by GIZ, UNDP, UNEP, national and local NGOs, etc.

***3.* Pilot projects relevant to climate change. What are the pilot projects developed at the municipal level in the last three years? What is the climate adaptation expenditure?**

During the monitoring process, a number of projects that were part of a larger program component were implemented at the local level, with several local government units selected to develop climate change adaptation interventions.

GIZ is implementing a "Work for the Community" project as part of a long-term intervention to mitigate climate impacts by adapting to this phenomenon and at the same time assisting the preparedness process at central- and local-government level on a floods early warning system for the Drin Basin. Due to the diverse impacts that the pandemic has created across the globe, the German government has come up with a support alternative by bringing together:

- climate change adaptation measures, and
- a support package for people or families adversely affected by the pandemic.

In 2021 the project provided increased support to municipalities most affected by floods, such as: the Municipality of Shkodra, Fier, Dimal, Berat, Elbasan and Tepelene. Meanwhile, in the Protected Areas, some work has been done to clean the drainage canals, so that the water coming from the floods is removed as quickly as possible, reducing the impact on agricultural land. In 2018, 265 individuals were employed thanks to the project. The campaign was repeated in 2020 with 370 individuals involved; while in 2021, there were 811 individuals employed, injecting around 1,200,000 EUR to the economy, not only due to provided employments, but also because of the equipment that beneficiary municipalities had received. The most important community impact achieved in same year was the cleaning of about 286 km drainage canals, serving 7,800 ha of agricultural land. In 2021 about 31,800 seedlings were also planted.

4.7 Assessment of Adaptation Measures in the Health Sector

Priority action 10: Promote implementation of Adaptation Strategy for Health Sector;

Lead Agency/Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Health and Social Protection

1. Have public outreaching campaigns been delivered and has the community received a timely information on heat waves?

Even though no awareness raising program dedicated to heat waves has been identified, a series of measures were taken by Ministry of Health and Social Protection, through Directories of Public Health to inform public during the summer of 2021, when heat waves hit Albania. Basic information was delivered to the public in the most affected regions of the country. Public awareness campaigns took place in coastal cities and the lowlands of Albania, including Lezhe, Durres, Vlora, Saranda, etc., consisting in the dissemination of information tools to citizens and visitors during the warmest days. Along with it, larger municipalities such as Tirana, in cooperation with the health authorities carried on with the opening of water-cooling and shading centres.

2. Adaptation to climate change in the health sector. Has any climate adaptation policy for the health sector been developed during the past three years?

No adaptation measure dedicated to heat waves was identified over the monitored period.

3. Is there any training support provided to Directories of Public Health (DPH) and municipalities on adaptation of existing vector disease monitoring systems?

The Institute of Public Health, through the Department of Epidemiology and Infectious Disease Control, is the central institution responsible for the ongoing monitoring of Zoonoses[32] and vector-transmitted deceases. Before the pandemic of COVID-19, the Institute of Public Health (IPH) carried out periodic reporting on infectious disease[33] alerts and updates.

4. Infrastructure capacities of IPH for vectoral diseases. Latest investments

The Institute of Public health, (IPH) has dedicated entomological laboratories and qualified personnel to cover the territory with specific and usual observations depending on needs and country dynamics.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drifted new priorities of support in the field; therefore, it has been impossible to identify special projects tied to this measure.

4.8 Assessment of Adaptation Measures at the Local Level

Priority Action 12: Initiatives for adaptation at the local level

Lead Agency/Responsible Ministry: Ministry of Interior

1. Are there adaption plans at the local level?

Adaptation planning on CC at the local level is a process that has not started yet. Currently, there are no plans developed in any of the municipalities of Albania. Development of the plans is anticipated to start with the 'Readiness' Project of UNDP-Tirana, with 8 pilot municipalities selected for the piloting phase.

In the drafting period of NSCC, PA12 was assigned under the responsibility of the Ministry for Urban Development, which later resolved, and its functions were transferred to the Ministry of Interior.

Priority Action 14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Lead Agency/Responsible Ministry: National Agency for Civil Protection

National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)[34] is an integral part of the Ministry of Defence structure. NACP was established and operates based on Law no. 45, dated 18.7.2019 "For civil Protection"; DCM no. 747, dated 20.11.2019 "on organization and functioning of National Agency for Civil Protection"; and the Prime Minister's Order no. 27, dated 3.2.2020 "on approval of structure and personnel for the National Civil Protection Agency", as the responsible body for disaster risk reduction and civil protection in Albania.

[32] Zoonoses is an infectious disease that has jumped from a non-human animal to humans.
[33] http://www.ishp.gov.al/departamenti-i-kontrollit-te-semundjeve-infektive/zoonozat-dhe-semundjet-qe-transmetohen-nga-vektoret/
[34] https://www.mod.gov.al/index.php/ministria/strukturat-vartese/akmc

1. Development of flood risk maps for regions in line with EU Directives.

The flood map is developed by the National Civil Protection Agency, as part of the National Plan for Civil Emergencies (NPCE). Maps are available at the county level, for counties most affected by river floods.

The EU Floods Directive is not transposed yet. Kicking-off this transition process has been assessed a priority that needs to get addressed quickly.

2. Flood early warning system and information exchange with the European Flood Awareness System (EFAS). Has Albania adopted an early warning system in line with EFAS?

The early warning system installed at the IGEO, with the support of GIZ has initially covered with data the region of Drini river, including regional data (for Kosovo and Montenegro) and the installation of thirteen weather monitoring stations. At a later stage, the PRONEWS project funded by the EU providing support to the National Protection Agency, involved a special component for the modernization and operationalization of flood monitoring stations. The project ended in September 2021. Its aim was the approximation of Albania's early warning system with EFAS. However, no assessment has been made on the work of this recently closed project.

Poor maintenance and the damages in the system over the past 30 years have resulted in degraded monitoring capacities and an inferior quality of data.

3. Have flood risk education and public awareness programmes been implemented?

Awareness-raising activities have been part of bigger projects, such as the PRONEWS, GIZ, etc. There have been certain education activities organized with the local communities in Shkoder and Vlore (May, October 2019) in the cities and squares to demonstrate disaster behavioural health interventions and other elements. Activities were led by National Civil Protection Agency.

4. Albania's request for membership in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). Has Albania become a member of EUCPM?

The PRONEWS programme which ended in September 2021 aspired to succeed in receiving EUCPM financial assistance for membership. There is no information available on the progress made in this direction.

5. Have IGEO institutional capacities improved?

Given its fundamental importance for interactions with other agencies in preparations for disasters, IGEO is a beneficiary partner in all climate-related projects. No data on the number of trainings and capacity development of staff is available but some specific data sporadically delivered by certain projects.

6. Have the roles of the task force on adaptation to clime change at the reginal level increased?

There is no development at all in this direction.

V. MAIN FINDINGS

At the global level, Albania is ranked among the countries committed to emission reduction targets and climate adaptation. Despite the fact that Albania has no obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our national contribution was articulated and announced through an important global event, such as the 2021 UNCCC in Glasgow (November 2021).

It is apparent that Albania is significantly vulnerable to climate change. Public awareness on the high risks has increased gradually, and is substantiated through various initiatives, such as the approval of the Climate Change Law (2020), the implementation of adaptation programmes, and capacity-development and community involvement in awareness-raising activities.

Monitoring work has coincided with a series of important events, particularly the November 2019 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, even during 2021, the climate discussion caught the attention of decision-makers' and the public, along with the other exhausting challenges. The review of the National Plan for Climate Change highlights several important findings:

General findings

1. **The National Action Plan appears merely as an Adaptation Plan of Actions. NSCC does not include the mitigation plan of actions**, in contrast to NDC 2016, which is entirely based on these actions. NSCC and NDC documents should have demonstrated consistence in targeting both categories of climate actions (mitigation and adaptations). It is viewed positively that the revised NDC (2021) includes both the adaptation and mitigation categories. The objective to reduce emissions by 20.9% in 2030 requires the mainstreaming of mitigation measures into the NSCC, which would however need to be revised.

2. The Action Plan comes up with measures on adaptation that were identified long time ago. Some of them had either already expired or needed to be reviewed by the time the NSCC document was going to be approved. This **irrelevance creates confusion** with the monitoring of implementation and often turns some of them into parasitic measures, diverting the priority actions away from the real needs indicated in the NSCC for the given period.

3. **Three years from the approval of NSCC**, **monitoring instruments are still lacking**. Most likely the same is anticipated for several more years to come, rendering the monitoring of the progress on the implementation of the strategy and its priority actions impossible. Having been recognized as a short-term priority, this measure is a necessity for the periodic assessment and review of the plan, based on the implementation process' progress and the country's needs.

4. **The Inter-Ministerial Group for Climate Change, a coordinating intergovernmental body has not functioned**. The lack of such coordinating structure leads to the fragmentation of interventions. Inadequate information exchange on the progress of strategy implementation between various institutions has made the interventions chaotic, disconnected, and non-functional to climate adaptation. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is viewed as the foremost responsible institution for legal and strategic climate-

related processes, but the inter-institutional communication at the technical level to enable harmonized and efficient processes has been insufficient (often ad-hock).

Specific findings

5. **There is progress at different speeds on the implementation of priority measures** during the three-year implementation period of the National Adaptation Plan 2019-2021. For some of the priority actions, no developments have been reported. The lack of reflection and inexistent assessment on absent progress for some of these measures makes it impossible to analyse the causes**.**

6. Priority Actions (PAs) of the first group (Actions 1 - 6), which are mostly composed of general planning, and involve institutional, legal, and financial development in climate adaptation, demonstrate insufficient levels of progress delivered during their implementation. Although development of legislation framework has accelerated during the years 2020-2021, progress in terms of adaptation has been slow. The main emphasis is put on mitigation measures, such as the legal framework for the energy sector (which are not included in the NSCC action plan). Thus far, planning on adaptation has not undergone any evaluation processes or procedures for the review of actions. The government's underlying concern during the reviewed period has been the development of capacities to meet the needs of this particular process.

- Although MoTE has played a recognizable role, **no institutional progress is noticed in steering the adaptation processes.** (PA. 1) There has been **no progress on establishment of climate change adaptation instruments, such as "Climate Lens; Climate Sustainability; Climate sensitive SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment); Climate expenditure indicators**. Unavailability of this entire setting disables monitoring efforts of the various institutions to measure the effectiveness of interventions. (PA.2)
- **The release of GCF funding and support of priority projects from the state budget** (typically through VAT refund schemes) demonstrates the achievement of the objective is set under this priority action. However, the available funds from foreign support and state budget are deemed as insufficient compared to country adaptation needs. (PA. 3)
- **There has been no progress on the establishment of a monitoring system for the National Adaptation Plan**. The lack of such a system makes it impossible to assess the effectiveness of the measures and financial resources made available to each measure. The monitoring system should take into account not only the progress towards achieving the targets for mitigation actions, but also the course of climate change impacts in different sectors. This data would assist the periodic review of priority actions on adaptation. (VP. 4)
- **During the period 2019-2021, public information and awareness-raising was carried out as part of interventions in the frame of PA implementation**. Such activities were mostly organised by CSOs. Lack of data on these events hinders quantitative assessment of interventions. However, an elevated level of public awareness on climate is to be acknowledged, which is demonstrated through their increased participation in campaigns, public concerns that are reported by the media, etc. (PA.5)

- **Human capacities dealing with climate issues remain inadequate** and inefectuate in coping with the very dynamic EU climate legislation framework and the inter-institutional communication between central institutions and relevant agencies. Capacities at the local level are entirely insufficient. Training and capacity-building has been fully driven by foreign support agencies. **Frequent changes of the technical staff lower effectivity** of support to capacity development programmes. (PA. 6)

7. **The second group of measures (Priority Actions 7-15)** is outlined by the specific sector and for specific areas of intervention upon being viewed as prone to sharper climate change impacts and consequences.

- **Priority actions falling under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development were implemented in the context of adaptation to climate change**. (PA.7). The distinguished progress on measures related to integrated water resources management relays on the drafting of Water Basin Management Plans, whereas **their implementation is a real challenge for local governments**. (PA.8)
- Priority actions falling under the responsibility of the **Ministry of Tourism and Environment display a rather distinctive performance than other actions**, due to the support received from foreign sources. **Priority action no.15** on EbA adaptation method in Kune-Vain **was fully attained**, which has opened the way for similar projects to get replicated in other areas of similar importance. Little progress is noticed in priority actions linked to tourism and the coastal area. The **absence of a Master Plan for this area impedes the integration of adaptation components within it.**
- Priority actions that **attained incomplete** status of implementation were those related to the **health sector, mostly related to the prevention of heat wave impact (PA. 10) and civil emergencies (PA. 14).** Increased technical capacities in early warning has minimized the loss of human lives and reduced economic damage. The establishment of a Civil Protection Agency has helped to reveal local issues and patronize immediate response, but the domestic capacities remain deficient.
- Priority actions linked to **adaptation at the local level remain almost completely unfulfilled**. Capacities at the local level are very limited and knowledge on adaptation actions is missing and unassisted by technical studies and needs-based analyses for specific areas.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY ACTIONS (PA) IN THE METRIC OF COLORS

1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania	
2**:** Overarching mainstreaming initiative. Establishing a package of mainstream instruments to climate change adaptation	
3: Climate Finance Readiness	
4: Implementation of a Monitoring System for the NAP	
5: Communication and outreach Initiatives	
6: Initiative for capacity development on climate change adaptation	
7: Climate Resilient Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Protection	
8: Integrated Water Resources Management	
9**:** Adaptation in the agricultural sector	
10: Promote implementation of Adaptation Strategy for Health Sector	
11**:** Integrated Cross-Sectorial Plan for the Coast (ICPC)	
12**:** Initiative for Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Plans	
13**:** Adaptation in Tourism	
14**:** Upgrading civil defence preparedness and disaster risk reduction	
15**:** Building the Resilience of KVLS through EbA adaptation	

Annex 1: List of Monitored Institutions

Agriculture and Rural Development Agency (ARDA)

Energy Efficiency Agency (EEA)

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)

Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE)

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MHSW)

Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE)

National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)

National Agency of Natural Recourses (NANR)

National Environmental Agency (NEA)

National Council of Large Dams (NCLD)

National Inspectorate for Protection of the Territory (NIPT)

Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA)

Water Basin Administration Office (WBAO)

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