



GENDER DIFFERENCES AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION



GENDER DIFFERENCES AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

in frame of the project:

**Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring
System Aligned with the Global Reporting**

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Supported by:



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DESIGN AND LAYOUT

The Regional Environmental Center (REC) Albania

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ABBREVIATIONS

APF	Advocacy Policy Framework
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CERN	Climate and Environment Regional Network
CSES	Cross Sector Environment Strategy
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
COP	Conference of Parties
CSES	Cross Sector Environment Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GBR	Global Biodiversity Review
IAM	Integrated Areas Management
IMWGCC	Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
INC	Initial National Communication
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
INSTAT	Albanian Institute of Statistics
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration
MoTI	Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
NCSP	National Communication Support Programme
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental (not for Profit) Organization
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
REC	Regional Environmental Center
SNC	Second National Communication
TNA	Technology Needs Assessment
TNC	Third National Communication
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is prepared in the frame of the project: “Establishing Albania’s Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System aligned with the global environmental reporting”, implemented by UNDP Albania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment.

The project’s final goal is to develop national capacities in Albania to align its national environmental information management and monitoring system with global environmental monitoring and reporting priorities, including the compliance with the Multilateral Environment Agreements’ (MEAs) reporting obligations.

The report aims to present a general overview of the national gender policies and commitments related to the three MEAs. In the meantime, the report aims to make evident women and men’s respective roles in a better-informed decision-making related to the environment at household and community levels.

The recommendations provided try to emphasize the importance of understanding how men’s and women’s roles and gender relations change and may complement each other when coping with climate change, land desertification and biodiversity. The need to ensure participatory planning, implementing and monitoring methods, appropriate to encourage women and men to be engaged in different processes, is also made evident in different parts of this report, as well as through specific recommendations.

Structure of the report

The report contains six chapters. In the *first chapter* is presented a short description of the background situation related to the environmental issues in Albania, as well as the general international views towards the connection between gender and biodiversity loss, desertification and climate change impacts. The international framework on gender and environment is described as part of the *chapter two* of this report, followed by description of the national legislation and policies on gender and environment, as part of the *chapter three*. In this chapter is presented also the gender analyses of some specific policy documents, such as: Draft Cross-Sectorial Strategy of Environment (CSES), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Action Plan on Land Desertification as well as National Air Strategy. While additional information on specific environment’s legislation approved in Albania is presented as part of annexes of this report. *Chapter four* presents a broader view of the international experience regarding the gender dimensions of different climate change impact. Key findings and suggestions/recommendations from the international experience on different issues, including also the discussion about men, masculinities and climate change impact, are part of this chapter, as well. The last part of chapter four contains information on gender and impact of climate change in Albania, as well as progress made and the issues presented in the Third National Communication (TNC). *Chapter five* of the report is focused on encouraging equal participation of women and men in planning, implementation and

monitoring of different environmental issues. The international experience presented in this chapter is followed by specific information or suggestions how it can be implemented in Albanian context. The key conclusions from all these chapters together with specific recommendations to be considered during the next steps of the project implementation, are presented in the *chapter six* of this report.

Report' Methodology

The methodology used during the preparation of the report is based mainly on desk review of existing reports, researches, strategies, legislative framework and different policies related to the environment. Some important materials (especially national strategies and action plans) are analyzed also from gender perspective and key guidelines on how to mainstream gender during their implementation are presented under each document analyzed. The conclusions and recommendations are primarily based on the existing international experience, but they are also validated through different in-depth interviews or information gathered from questionnaires surveys distributed in different institutions especially in Municipalities of Tirana and Kolonja. Findings from the information gathered from in-depth interviews of questionnaire surveys, is presented also as an attachment of this report

The general conclusions, elaborated further in this report, are:

- Albania's presence and accession to different international conventions or multilateral agreements on environment has been strictly formal and very limited prior '90s. But after '90s, the situation has changed and Albania is party to and has ratified a number of international environmental agreements including, but not limited to: Air Pollution, Biodiversity,

Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands, Trans boundary waters, etc. In addition to these conventions and agreements focused specifically on environment, other international conventions and platform for actions focused specifically on women's empowerment and gender equality are also ratified and should be considered during preparation, analysis and reporting for environmental issues.

- Albania has adopted a good Legislative Corpus on Environment and Sustainable Development. As integration into the European Union is the main strategic and political objective of the country, national legislation is developed in line with the Acquis. This framework is very important to ensure that new laws in Albania are compatible with the principles of sustainable development. All the new laws approved in Albania, especially those in the last years, are driven by the principles of the respective EU Directives.
- Albania has introduced the new legislation and has improved the capacity to address environmental challenges in recent years however, the implementation needs more improvement and capacity building. There are also gaps between the NSDI and the Medium-Term Budget Program and between the Medium-Term Expenditure Program and the annual budget.
- In addition to the national legal framework, there are drafted and approved many important national strategies, which also address the issue of environment. But, in many cases, *the language used especially in the narrative description of these strategies is almost gender blind*. This is a big concern, because, when women and girls as well as other different groups of the society are hidden (or simply implied) in a policy document, *it is easier to "forget" about them*

while implementing such policies. Without ownership of assets such as land, forestry and pastures, etc., *women cannot access credits, extensions and technological services* - what in turn affects their ability to sustain their families and manage other natural resources that lay the foundation for sustainable production system, as well as deepens their exclusion from participation in development projects, extension work/ services and policy-making processes.

- The concern of the language used and the implications it might have while implementing different national strategies, *will be further influence and indicate on the monitoring & evaluation system/processes*, as well as in the reporting system used or will be used. Gender analysis of the environmental issues and collection of appropriate sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, have significant influences on these monitoring and evaluation or reporting processes/systems. If specific attention will not be paid to clearly reflect and mainstream gender perspective in different policy documents, a lot of difficulties will be faced in the future, during their implementation, as well as on the preparation of specific reports in accordance with national/international requirements (where gender indicators and measuring of gender impact are considered really important).
- Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies is an issue for both women and men. Therefore, the strategy to encourage their equal participation deliberately addresses men, and makes them – together with women – responsible for a gender approach in environmental work. Also, the focus on gender must exist not only on an abstract and global level, but must evolve within a specific local context, taking into account other elements of social differentiation [such as age, (dis)abilities, ethnicity, etc.].

While some of **the key recommendations** are further elaborated in this report, they include:

- The indicators on climate change and their impact on women must be considered while drafting different policies on environment and climate change.
- Knowledge and understanding of the issue and validation of women's contributions to sustainable development is very important.
- Full participation of women at all levels, particularly in decision-making, must be promoted in different manners.
- Technical and financial support provided to women is very important: natural resource programmes and policies need to be linked to economic initiatives and poverty eradication, while a cross-cutting and internally consistent approach needs to be used.
- Improvement of women's access to information, management processes, training and legal systems is also highly important.
- The engagement of women and men in participatory processes at local level is not a new concept for Albanian context; there are many initiatives undertaken so far especially on engagement of women in planning and decision-making processes. These experiences should guide further efforts to make women's voice stronger on planning, implementing and monitoring different environmental issues. This engagement is crucial not simply on the planning phase (i.e. drafting the local development plans in the frame of decentralization of powers and territorial reforms), but also during the implementation and monitoring phase. Women and men must play a vital role on keeping the state authorities both at national and local level accountable for environmental issues. Specific CSOs focused on environment have also a very

important role to play for community mobilization and specifically for strengthening women's voice and active participation in environmental issues.

1. BACKGROUND

The project “Establishing Albania’s Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System aligned with the global environmental reporting”, aims to strengthen the capacity of responsible institutions in Albania for environmental monitoring and information management, by establishing an operational Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System (EIMMS) with a focus on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. The environmental monitoring system must be integrated throughout relevant government institutions and must use international monitoring standards for indicator development, data collection, analysis, and policy-making. Such system will be established by using also existing technical and institutional capacity in Albania, to align its management and monitoring efforts with global monitoring and reporting priorities. The investment in all these directions, as well as in capacity building and awareness raising activities, will lead to one of the expected results, which is related with the improvement of reporting to the Rio Conventions. In the meantime, this intervention will lay the groundwork for sustainable development through better-informed environmental policy.

Since early 1990, Albania has become a Party to three Rio-Conventions and has continued to adhere and participate in different international agreements on environmental protection. The national development agenda of Albania fully takes into consideration the fact that its development will only proceed by adequately taking into account, global processes and trends. The principles of the conventions, as

well as of the European Union environmental policy, have been established as priority areas in different key national strategies and the legislation is improved trying to address the international requirements. But, the reporting obligations under the existing environmental regulations have been restricted to compliance with environmental quality standards without including any information about policies’ effects and effectiveness. The lack of policy-oriented monitoring and information support tools hinders inter-sectoral collaboration throughout the entire policy process. The national capacity self-assessment process (NCSA) conducted from Albania in 2006, highlighted that *due to many problems existing in information collection and management systems, the government has limited capacity to meet its obligations, which results in uninformed constituency, poor knowledge of existing problems and their extent by the decision makers which in turn results in poor planning practice.*

In addition, in the European Commission Communication Report of 2016 for Albania, (2016 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy) the issue of statistics and reporting related to environment and energy is presented as following: “*...Environment and energy statistics are in line with the EU Acquis to a very limited extent. Energy balances improved. Short-term statistics are produced as volume data for electricity only. Data on air emissions*

1 European Commission “Staff Working Document: Albania 2016 Report” [SWD (2016) 364 final], pg.52. (Brussels, 9.11.2016). See: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

are produced, but only partially in line with the EU standards. Environment-related tax data by economic activity are partially in line with the EU standards and being developed in the framework of the environmental accounts. Data on environmental expenditure is not yet being produced due to lack of information...". While in the same report, chapter 27, there are mentioned specific recommendations related to environment and climate change, as following: *"...Albania has some level of preparation in the fields of environment and climate change. There was some progress in alignment and enforcement. Efforts were made to integrate climate change considerations into other sectoral policies. However, industrial control and monitoring of emissions, water quality and waste management still remain poor. Resources and investments remain limited. In the coming year, the country should in particular: (i) improve the legal and policy framework related to both environment and climate change, in particular by adopting the relevant national sectoral strategies; (ii) strengthen monitoring of the quality of the environment by increasing related administrative and financial capacity, the number of measurement stations, data quality and frequency, transparency and public access to data; (iii) advance financing of major investments, consolidate the national infrastructure pipeline / investment plan and reflect the priorities in the mid-term budget 2017-2019; (iv) establish systematic strategic planning on climate change and pursue implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement..."*

Gender and environment

Environmental science and "the international environmental movement" have been largely cast as the domain of men. In fact, while the dominant and most visible structures of both science and environmentalism may indeed be dominated by men, mostly from the wealthier nations, the women of the world, and many men and children with them, have been hardly involved at work as grassroots

environmental movements. And while it is the same few who may claim to pieces of the living landscape as private and state property throughout the world, women and many men and children have also been busy maintaining and developing their own places on the planet through the daily management of the living landscape².

Women's multiple roles as producers, reproducers and consumers, have required women to develop and maintain their integrative abilities to deal with complex systems of household, community and landscape, and have often brought them into conflict with specialized sciences that focus on only one of these domains. The conflict revolves around the division of domains of knowledge, as well as the division of knowing and doing, and of formal and informal knowledge.

While women throughout the world under various political and economic systems are to some extent involved in commercial activities, they are often responsible for providing or managing the fundamental necessities of daily life (food, water, fuel and clothing) and are most often those charged with healthcare, cleaning and childcare in the home, and in community level. This responsibility puts women in a position to oppose threat to health, life, and vital subsistence resources, regardless of economic incentives and to view environmental issues from the perspective of the home, as well as that of personal and family health.

The increased involvement of women is leading to a sense of agency and empowerment. As a result, there are new perceptions of women's roles. Women's visions of their right, roles and responsibilities have changed. Increasingly, women's voices are being aided in doing so by their participation in groups and organizations.

2 Feminist Political Ecology: Global Issues and Local Experiences edited by Dianne E. Rocheleau, Barbara P. Thomas-Slayer, Esther Wangari. London, 1996.

What is women's relationship with the environment? Is it distinct from that of men's? These were the opening questions of Bina Agarwal at her paper "The gender and environment debate, lesson from India". She suggests and argues that women, especially in rural poor countries, on the one hand are victims of the environmental degradation in quite gender-specific ways. On the other hand, they have been active agents in movements of environmental protection and regeneration, often bringing to them a gender specific perspective, which need to inform our view of alternatives. Women as victims and women as actors, are basic background to the term and link of "feminist environmentalism" or like some people call it ecofeminism³.

It is common knowledge that vulnerability to biodiversity loss, desertification and climate change impacts are deeply connected to gender, and that, conversely, sustainability interventions, responses and solutions need to consider gender issues if they are to fully meet the objectives for which they were established.

The above international experience, as well as findings from key surveys or international best practices, have served as the key guidelines while conducting the analyses for situation in Albania and the engagement of women and men in environmental issues (from getting the information to participation in decision making process), as presented in the following chapters of this report.

3 The gender and Environment debate: Lessons from India, Bina Agarwal, Feminist Studies, 1992

2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK ON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

... "The earth's climate is changing at a rate unprecedented in recent human history and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The impacts and risks associated with this are global, geographically diverse and increasingly being felt across a range of systems and sectors essential for human livelihoods and well-being. The more severe and far-reaching the impacts of climate change are, the greater the loss of species will be, and the greater the deterioration of dry lands and the risk of desertification and land degradation around the world will be. These impacts not only threaten global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development, but for many vulnerable communities, especially the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), these impacts threaten their very survival"⁴...

The Rio Conventions, Action on Adaptation

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) play a critical role in the overall framework of environmental laws and conventions. Complementing national legislation and bilateral or regional agreements, MEAs form the over-arching international legal basis for global efforts to address particular environmental issues.

Albania's presence and accession to different international conventions or multilateral

agreements on environment has been strictly formal and very limited prior '90s. However, after '90s, the situation has changed and Albania is party to and has ratified a number of international environmental agreements including, but not limited to: Air Pollution, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Wetlands, Transboundary waters, etc. Some of these key conventions and MEAs will be shortly described below, but a full list of these documents is attached to this report as Annex 1.

2.1. THE RIO CONVENTIONS

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – address the need for adaptation to climate change through their activities. The Rio Conventions collectively offer a range of tools, services and expertise that assist vulnerable countries and communities in enabling effective adaptation and achieving sustainable development. Through facilitating knowledge-sharing and learning, strengthening technical and institutional capacities, and facilitating access to financial and technological support, the Rio Conventions support Parties in undertaking the full adaptation cycle: from assessing impacts, risks and vulnerability, to planning and implementing adaptation actions, to monitoring and evaluation. A coordinated

4 The Rio Conventions, Action on Adaptation, pg. 5. See: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/rio_20_adaptation_brochure.pdf

approach to responding to climate change can ensure that adaptation activities have multiple benefits, including combating desertification and preventing biodiversity loss, thus catalyzing progress in achieving sustainable development goals⁵. The increasing awareness of gender in the context of sustainability adds a new opportunity to further strengthen cooperation among the three Rio Conventions. In this sense, this is an interesting and exciting time for all three conventions, because gender awareness is at an all-time high in the context in which the conventions function. It is common knowledge that vulnerability to biodiversity loss, desertification and climate change impacts are deeply connected to gender, and that, conversely, sustainability interventions, responses and solutions need to consider gender issues if they are to fully meet the objectives for which they were established. This important and on-going paradigm shift on gender mainstreaming is also increasingly reflected in the respective mandates that Parties have given to the three conventions. The CBD's decision on access and benefits sharing has a clear reference to gender considerations at the policy level and beyond; the UNCCD's Advocacy Policy Framework (APF) on gender and the respective decision of its tenth conference of the Parties became a guiding instrument for gender-sensitive implementation of the convention; and the outcomes of the 2011 Durban United Nations Climate Change Conference contain some 16 mentions of gender across key substantive streams. The integration of gender into actions against biodiversity loss, climate change impacts and desertification will maximize the results of interventions, efforts and resources spent and will hopefully lead to gender-sensitive policy-making with optimal outcomes⁶. Some details related to gender

aspects of each of the Rio Conventions are presented below.

2.1.1. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

Albania is a Party on this Convention since 10.11.1996. Considering the important knowledge and role that women have with regard to biodiversity resources, their use and conservation since the significance of biodiversity to individuals varies according to gender, also, depending on the ease of access to biodiversity resources and the provision of ecosystem services, healthy ecosystems affect the daily lives of many women by limiting their access to education and alternative livelihood options. Women are particularly dependent on biodiversity for their livelihoods, and, in some cases, for their survival⁷. The current rate of biodiversity loss is severe. So, severe, in fact, that humankind is exacerbating the detrimental impacts of climate change and there is a risk of initiating conflicts over limited natural resources and increasing levels of poverty. To address biodiversity loss, the accumulation of gender differentiated biodiversity knowledge and gendered biodiversity related knowledge acquisition and usage are critically important. As to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in particular, the Parties emphasized the relevance of gender equality and equity notably in the 13th preamble paragraph of the Convention. The preamble to the text of the CBD recognizes the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and affirms the need for the full participation of women in the implementation of the convention. ...*Recognizing also the*

5 The Rio Conventions, Action on Adaptation, pg. 5. See: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/rio_20_adaptation_brochure.pdf

6 Ibid, pg.6

7 As one example, according to some estimates women account for 70 per cent of the world's poor, while women farmers are responsible for 60 to 80 per cent of food production in developing countries. The Rio Conventions, Action on Gender, pg. 7. see: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/rio_20_gender_brochure.pdf

*vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation*⁸. The Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity is the main reference document for all stakeholders as regards the mainstreaming of gender into their work on the conservation of biological diversity. The importance of women's role in biodiversity conservation, management and distribution of benefits derived from such use cannot be underestimated. Women play a key role in managing local biodiversity to meet food and health needs. In many countries, they also play a crucial role in managing agriculture and are the primary savers and managers of seeds. Furthermore, they are responsible for the control, development and transmission of significant traditional knowledge. As men are increasingly drawn to seek remunerated work away from their lands and resources, women's role in farming and in the management of family and community biological resources, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge is increasing⁹. Republic of Albania has adhered also into two Protocols of the Conventions of the Biological Diversity: (a) The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits through Law no. 113/2012, 22.11.2012 and (b) The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, adhered to by Law no. 112/2013, of 22.11.2012¹⁰.

2.1.2. UNITED NATION CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Albania is Party to this Convention after the approval of the Law no. 8556, dated 22.12.1999 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the UN Convention "To combat desertification in countries that have passed long draught and/or desertification, especially in Africa", (published in the Official Gazette 37 dated 25.2.2000, page 1471). Women in rural areas, particularly in the dry lands of the developing world, make crucial contributions to their communities, especially through agricultural and other rural processes, including in animal husbandry and as small farm holders, workers and entrepreneurs. Their roles vary across regions, but in all regions women face gender specific constraints that reduce their productivity and limit their potential contributions to agricultural production, economic growth and the well-being of their families, communities and countries. In addition, desertification, land degradation and drought have a disproportionate negative impact on women and children¹¹.

The UNCCD, in its prologue, stresses *"the important role played by women in regions affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, and the importance of ensuring the full participation of both men and women at all levels in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought"*. Article 5, paragraph (d) of the convention calls on affected country Parties to the convention to commit themselves to "promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought". Moreover, according to article 10, paragraph 2(f) of the convention,

8 Preamble of Convention on Biological Diversity

9 Tobin B and Aguilar L (2007)

10 Adherence instruments were deposited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretariat of CBD on January 29, 2013.

11 The Rio Conventions, Action on Gender, pg. 10. See: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/rio_20_gender_brochure.pdf

governance of development, implementation and review of national action programmes to combat desertification must be based on the decision-making processes that men and women adopt at the local level. Paragraphs 1(a) and 3 of article 19 call for the promotion of capacity-building in cooperation with various development actors to ensure the full participation of local people, especially women and youth, in the implementation of the convention. *A central element for the implementation of the convention at the national level is the establishment and implementation of partnerships between national and local authorities and representatives of civil society and any other institutions that support local communities.* A major responsibility of such partnerships is to put in place processes that lead to the implementation of the priorities set forth in the national action programmes to combat desertification and their alignment with the objectives based on the principles of continuous planning and the active involvement of the dry land populations, including women. In this regard, *women have to be fully recognized as a stakeholder group and their contributions taken into account.*

2.1.3. UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

Albania has ratified United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 3 March 1994¹². The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, as stated in its Article 2, is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”. It goes on to state that “such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is

not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.” It is well-known that a gender-sensitive strategy is a precondition for rising to the challenge of sustainable development. This is equally true for climate change, both for dealing with the impacts of climate change (adaptation) and for reducing emissions (mitigation). It is indisputable that climate change impacts, such as droughts, floods and other extreme weather events, affect the poorest the hardest, and that women form an especially vulnerable part of that group.

A disproportionate share of the poorest in developing countries is highly dependent on local natural resources, and thus especially vulnerable to climate change impacts. Climate change often affects the basis of livelihoods, such as nutrition and water and energy supplies, for which women are responsible¹³. The use of environmentally-friendly energy sources would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide better and safer access to energy. The use of efficient energy systems at the household level (e.g. solar cooking stoves and ovens) can reduce emissions and harness the potential of women as actors for mitigation measures.

According to the World Health Organization, exposure to indoor air pollution is responsible for nearly two million excess deaths, primarily of women and children, from cancer, respiratory infections and lung diseases. A large number of the project types under the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), especially those that aim to enhance energy efficiency and make renewable energy technologies available and affordable for households, not only contribute to sustainable development but also have gender-positive

12 See: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/status_of_ratification/items/2631.php

13 For example, as women are responsible for growing the bulk of food staples in developing countries, changes in climate, particularly with regard to growing seasons and precipitation, will have a profound impact on their work and on agricultural productivity.

impacts on the ground. In rural areas, supporting access to renewable energy sources and efficient domestic appliances through the CDM translates into support for rural women, both in terms of health and quality of life. Women should not be regarded solely as victims of climate change, since they have a strong body of knowledge that can be used in both mitigation and adaptation approaches. Notwithstanding their body of knowledge, women tend to be underrepresented in national and local-level decision-making on climate change, including the allocation of resources. This means that their ability to contribute and implement their solutions and expertise is severely limited. And it also means that climate change policies need to be increasingly gender-based¹⁴.

Parties to the UNFCCC have recognized the **importance of involving women and men equally in UNFCCC processes and in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive** by establishing a dedicated agenda item under the Convention addressing issues of gender and climate change and by including overarching text in the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement¹⁵ is an unprecedented climate change accord that provides a broad framework for reducing global warming through international cooperation, adapting to environmental changes already expected, and addressing expected losses by vulnerable nations and people¹⁶. Produced by the Twenty-First Conference of Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement is being hailed as a historic achievement in tackling climate change. The language of the agreement was negotiated by

representatives of 195 countries and adopted by consensus on 12 December 2015. It was opened for signature on 22 April 2016 (Earth Day) at a ceremony in New York. As of April 2017, 195 UNFCCC members have signed the treaty, 143 of which have ratified it. The agreement went into effect on 4 November 2016. Albania has also signed this agreement on 22 April 2016 and has deposited the instruments of ratification on 21 September 2016.

The Paris Agreement's three fundamental aims are to: (a) hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit this to 1.5°C; (b) increase the ability to adapt to climate change impacts, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse-gas emissions development, without threatening food production; and to (c) establish means of finance to achieve these goals¹⁷. **It calls for gender equality and women's empowerment, and its provisions on adaptation and capacity-building efforts urge member states to adopt gender-responsive approaches.**

Under the Paris Agreement (1/CP.21) Parties acknowledge that as climate change is a common concern of humankind: *"Parties should when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity"*¹⁸.

In recognition of the need for women and men to be equally represented in all aspects

14 The Rio Conventions, Action on Gender, pg. 12. See: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/rio_20_gender_brochure.pdf

15 See: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

16 See: <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/us/insights/publications/2015/12/the-unfccc-paris-agreement/>

17 For details kindly refer to the article 2.1 of this agreement

18 See: The text of Paris Agreement, page 2.

of the Convention process and for climate action to respond to the differentiated needs, experiences, priorities and capacities of women and men, Parties have focused on two goals under the dedicated gender and climate change agenda item: (i) Improving gender balance and increasing the participation of women in all UNFCCC processes, including in delegations and in bodies constituted under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol; and (ii) Increasing awareness and support for the development and effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policy at the regional, national and local levels¹⁹.

Climate change is not gender neutral. The poor and marginalized segments in many societies (women, the elderly, immigrants, groups, etc.) are structurally vulnerable. Climate change impacts men and women differently, largely due to their gender-differentiated relative powers, roles and responsibilities at the household and community levels. Women tend to be overly burdened with household work and caring for children, the sick and the elderly. Further, cultural and religious norms on respective gender roles sometimes limit women's abilities to make quick decisions in disaster situations and, in some cases, the clothes they wear and/or their responsibilities in caring for children could hamper their mobility in times of emergency. Disparities in economic opportunities and access to productive resources also render women more vulnerable to climate change because they are often poorer, receive less education, and are not involved in political, community and household decision-making processes that affect their lives. Women do not always enjoy the same rights as men to land, a crucial resource for poverty reduction, food security and rural development. Poverty, along with socio-economic and political marginalization, therefore cumulatively put women in a disadvantaged position in coping with the

19 See: http://unfccc.int/gender_and_climate_change/items/9619.php

adverse impacts of the changing climate. On the other hand, women are powerful agents of change and continue to make increasing and significant contributions to sustainable development, despite existing structural and socio-cultural barriers. There can be no genuine sustainable human development without gender equality²⁰.

2.2. THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

Albania has ratified "The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer"²¹ and "The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" on October 1999. The Vienna Convention is often called a framework convention, because it served as a framework for efforts to protect the globe's ozone layer. In 2009, the Vienna Convention became the first Convention of any kind to achieve universal ratification. The objectives of the Convention were for Parties to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer.

20 See: UNDP Policy Brief "Overview of linkages between gender and climate change" (2016).

21 The Vienna Convention was adopted in 1985 and entered into force on 22 Sep 1988. See: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/vienna-convention-protection-ozone-layer>

2.3. THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

This protocol was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The Montreal Protocol includes a unique adjustment provision that enables the Parties to the Protocol to respond quickly to new scientific information and agree to accelerate the reductions required on chemicals already covered by the Protocol. These adjustments are then automatically applicable to all countries that ratified the Protocol. The Parties to the Montreal Protocol have amended the Protocol to enable, among other things, the control of new chemicals and the creation of a financial mechanism to enable developing countries to comply²².

2.4. BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (BPFA)²³

The Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern: **Women and Environment** is one of these areas. This Platform pinpointed three strategic objectives for government action on the environment. These include: (i) involving women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels; (ii) integrating their concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes; and (iii) establishing ways to assess the impact of development and

environmental policies on women²⁴. The Platform for Action imagines a world where each woman and girl can exercise her freedoms and choices, and realize all her rights, such as to live free from violence, to go to school, to participate in decisions and to earn equal pay for equal work. Human beings are at the center of concern for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. Women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource management. Awareness of resource depletion, the degradation of natural systems and the dangers of polluting substances has increased markedly in the past decade. These worsening conditions are destroying fragile ecosystems and displacing communities, especially women, from productive activities and are an increasing threat to a safe and healthy environment. Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances. Through their management and use of natural resources, women provide sustenance to their families and communities. As consumers and producers, caretakers of their families and educators, women play an important role in promoting sustainable development through their concern for the quality and sustainability of life for present and future generations. Governments have expressed their commitment to creating a new development paradigm that integrates environmental sustainability with gender

22 For details kindly see: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer>

23 Decided in the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995

24 Albania has prepared and submitted the Beijing +20 Review in 2014, but the focus on environmental issues was weak. See: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/publication/Albanian_National_Report_Beijing__20_ENGLISH_30_April_2014.pdf

equality and justice within and between generations. Women remain largely absent at all levels of policy formulation and decision-making in natural resource and environmental management, conservation, protection and rehabilitation, and their experience and skills in advocacy for and monitoring of proper natural resource management too often remain marginalized in policy-making and decision-making bodies, as well as in educational institutions and environment-related agencies at the managerial level. Women are rarely trained as professional natural resource managers with policy-making capacities, such as land-use planners, agriculturalists, foresters, marine scientists and environmental lawyers. Even in cases where women are trained as professional natural resource managers, they are often underrepresented in formal institutions with policy-making capacities at the national, regional and international levels. Often women are not equal participants in the management of financial and corporate institutions while their decision-making most significantly affects environmental quality. Furthermore, there are institutional weaknesses in coordination between women's non-governmental organizations and national institutions dealing with environmental issues, despite the recent rapid growth and visibility of women's non-governmental organizations working on these issues at all levels²⁵.

2.5. THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) is a roadmap for building cities that can serve as engines of prosperity and centers of cultural and social well-being while protecting the environment. The Agenda also provides guidance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and provides the underpinning for actions to

address climate change. The action-oriented outcome document, known as the New Urban Agenda, enshrined now in the "Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All", should be seen as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015²⁶. In the New Urban Agenda, leaders have committed to:

- **Provide basic services for all citizens.** These services include: access to housing, safe drinking water and sanitation, nutritious food, healthcare and family planning, education, culture and access to communication technologies.
- **Ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination.** Everyone has the right to benefit from what their cities offer. The New Urban Agenda calls on city authorities to take into account the needs of women, youth and children, people with disabilities, marginalized groups, older persons, indigenous people, among other groups.
- **Promote measures that support cleaner cities.** Tackling air pollution in cities is good both for people's health and for the planet. In the Agenda, leaders have committed to increase their use of renewable energy, provide better and greener public transport, and sustainably manage their natural resources.
- **Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and the impact of disaster.** Many cities have felt the impact of natural disasters and leaders have now committed to implement mitigation and adaptation measures to minimize these impacts. Some of these measures include: better urban planning, quality infrastructure and improving local responses.

25 See: http://beijing20.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf#page=161

26 See: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55360#.WD3xyNlrKUK>

- **Take action to address climate change by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.** Leaders have committed to involve not just the local government but all actors of society to take climate action taking into account the Paris Agreement on climate change which seeks to limit the increase in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius. Sustainable cities that reduce emissions from energy and build resilience can play a lead role.
- **Fully respect the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons regardless of their migration status.** Leaders have recognized that migration poses challenges but it also brings significant contributions to urban life. Because of this, they have committed to establish measures that help migrants, refugees and IDPs make positive contributions to societies.
- **Improve connectivity and support innovative and green initiatives.** This includes establishing partnerships with businesses and civil society to find sustainable solutions to urban challenges
- **Promote safe, accessible and green public spaces.** Human interaction should be facilitated by urban planning, which is why the Agenda calls for an increase in public spaces such as sidewalks, cycling lanes, gardens, squares and parks. Sustainable urban design plays a key role in ensuring the life ability and prosperity of a city²⁷.

Albania participated in the Habitat III cities conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016 and organized a side event: Albania 2030. The Vision of Albania 2030, was an original platform that aimed to strengthen the natural capabilities for sustainable growth with equity and prosperity on a national and local level.

The aim was to provide the cities of tomorrow with a flexible spatial structure that can support and adapt future economic, social and environmental sustainability. Through this side event, Albanian representatives aimed to get a different perspective from the participants to the way of planning approach as well as to expand the possibilities for improvement of this process through new collaborations. Considering the territory as one and the society living on it equally responsible for the global sustainable development, any country, no matter how small it is, can make a difference on achieving the New Urban Agenda objectives²⁸.

All stakeholders of cities and of all human settlements should be engaged in the implementation of this agenda for sustainable urban development, worldwide. The NUA reflects the ambition of the historic gender equality and women's empowerment compact of the 2030 Agenda. It provides a strategic opportunity to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by improving the spatial configuration of cities and human settlements in a gender-inclusive way and by recognizing the crucial dimensions of women's rights to the city. The New Urban Agenda is an ambitious agenda which aims at paving the way towards making cities and human settlements more inclusive and ensure that everyone can benefit from urbanization, paying particular attention to those in those in vulnerable situations. Among the key provisions are a call for equal opportunities for all; an end to discrimination; cleaner cities; strengthening resilience and reducing carbon emissions; fully respecting the rights of migrants and refugees regardless of their status; improving connectivity and green initiatives, and promoting "safe accessible and green public spaces". The agenda does not bind Member States or city governments to specific targets or goals, but is rather a "shared vision" that set standards for transforming urban areas into safer, resilient and more

27 See: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/10/newurbanagenda/>

28 For details see: <https://habitat3.org/programme/albania-2030/>

sustainable places, based on better planning and development. The Quito Declaration lays out steps for action, and for government accountability to try and ensure that the New Urban Agenda becomes a reality²⁹. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is both an end and a vital means to the achievement of the NUA. To consolidate the transformative power of cities, the NUA promotes increased security of tenure for all with particular attention to security of land tenure for women as key to their empowerment; make information and communications technologies accessible to the public, including women and girls, children and youth; and promoting participatory age- and gender-responsive approaches at all stages of the urban and territorial policy and planning processes, from conceptualization to design, budgeting, implementation, evaluation. The NUA references age- and gender-responsive measures throughout, including in relation to sustainable, safe, and accessible urban mobility for all and resource efficient transport systems; goods, services, and economic opportunities; housing policies, water and sanitation, and climate change. It makes reference to paying special attention to the needs and rights of women in relation to services provision, full and productive employment, decent work, and livelihood opportunities in cities and human settlements. It also commits to promote gender-responsive urban territorial development, budgeting, and tenure security, among others.

2.6. AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

A set of 20 global targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. They are grouped under five strategic goals:

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society.
- Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.
- Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
- Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building³⁰.

Albania has 7 (seven) National Objectives, 4 (four) of which can nevertheless be linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2020 implementation framework³¹. These national objectives, together with national targets and reference to Aichi targets, are presented in the below table:

29 See: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55360#.WD3xyNlrKUK>

30 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat) (2014). See: <http://biodiversitya-z.org/content/aichi-biodiversity-targets>

31 For details see: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/default.shtml>

REFERENCE	TARGET	RELATED STRATEGIC GOALS / AICHI TARGETS
National Objective	By 2020, to ensure approximation and implementation of EU Acquis in the area of natural protection.	
National Objective	By the end of 2015, there should be a strategic document on biodiversity (DSPEP), revised and adopted – in line with target 17, Aichi;	17
National Objective	By 2020, 17 % of terrestrial areas and 6% of marine and coastal areas to be designated as Protected Areas and to be managed in a sustainable integrated approach. Introduction of the ecological national network of Albania, as an integral part of the Pan European Ecological Network (PEEN) – in line with target 11 of Aichi;	11
National Objective	Rehabilitation of at least 15 % of the degraded areas through conservation and restoration activities – in line with Aichi biodiversity targets – this will be attained through implementation of management plans for protected areas and through implementation of action plans for species, and especially for habitats;	
National Objective	More sustainable Agriculture and forestry activities in line with biodiversity objectives;	
National Objective	Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on access and sharing of genetic resources and profits from their use – in line with target 16 of Aichi;	16
National Objective	Raising awareness on biodiversity - in line with target 1, Aichi.	1

2.7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

SDGs are a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda, adopted on September 25th, 2015. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. The proposed Sustainable Development Goals offer major improvements on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDG framework addresses key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity, and environmental degradation that the MDGs neglected. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 goals and 169 targets. Environment domain is expanded in the SDGs: environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully fleshed out in the goals on oceans and marine resources, ecosystems and biodiversity, land degradation and desertification, and are also mainstreamed/ embedded under all other goals³². Almost half of the SDG targets require environment statistics in order to be able to compile its indicators and enable regular monitoring of progress. If we continue to analyze the SDGs, we will find out that in 4 goals (respectively 2, 3, 8 and 9) the selected targets are environmental, while 7 goals (respectively: 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) are entirely environmental. The selected targets are as follows:

- **SDG Tg 2.4:** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production ... implement resilient agriculture... that help maintain ecosystems ... strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and improve land and soil quality.
- **SDG Tg 3.9:** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from

hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

- **SDG Tg 8.4:** Improve...resource efficiency in consumption and production and ... decouple economic growth from environmental degradation...
- **SDG Tg 9.4:** By 2030 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and ... clean and environmentally sound technologies...

It is important to mention also the clear linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda. The links between the achievement of SDG 11 and its targets on making cities and human settlements sustainable, inclusive, safe and resilient, and SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and commits to overall deliver for all women and girls are inextricable, as well recognized in the NUA. The NUA draws on SDG 5 and the gender equality component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for example, by committing to promoting safety and eliminating discrimination and all forms of violence; ensuring public participation providing safe and equal access for all (SDG 5.1); eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence, and harassment against women and girls in private and public spaces (SDG 5.2); eliminating harmful practices against women and girls, including child, early, and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (SDG 5.3); recognize the contribution of the working poor in the informal economy, particularly women, including the unpaid, domestic, and migrant workers to the urban economies (SDG 5.4); ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments (SDG 5.5); promoting access to adequate, inclusive, and quality public services, social infrastructure and facilities, such as health-care services, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services to reduce new-born child and maternal mortality (SDG 5.6).

32 See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/side-events/documents/20160308-1M-ReenaShah.pdf>

3. NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES ON GENDER AND ENVIRONMENT

The process for the formulation of national environmental legislation and policies is based on the approximation of EU environmental directives. This is a methodological principle for the preparation and adoption of normative environmental legislation³³.

3.1. THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA

Legislation on protection of nature is based on the **Constitution of the Republic of Albania, 1998**³⁴. Article 59 of the Constitution points out that: "The State aims at ensuring a healthy and ecologically appropriate environment for the current and future generations, and the rational use of natural resources based on the principle of sustainable development", while aiming at: (a) Ensuring a healthy and ecologically sustainable environment for the current and future generations; (b) Rational use of forests, water, pastures and other natural resources on the bases of the principle of

sustainable development. Article 56 of the Constitution points out that: "...everyone is entitled to information about the status of environment and its protection". Constitutional provisions point out that: (i) Environment and its protection are deemed as the main goals of the State; (ii) The essence of environmental protection is continuous conservation of a healthy environment and ecological appropriate environment; (iii) Protection of the environment represents a permanent duty, and at any time, and under any circumstance and directly affects the life and health of the population.

As it can be seen from the above description, the language used in the Constitution of the Republic of Albania regarding the legislation on protection of nature is **gender-neutral** (as made evident from the words in italic such as "generations", "everyone", "population", etc.). But while in the article 18, point 2 of the Constitution (Principles of Equality), gender is mentioned among the different causes which should not create the base for discrimination, the gender-sensitive language is not a characteristic of this document³⁵. Furthermore,

33 Every draft-law and draft DCM has as attachment a "Table of concordance of the normative project with EU Acquis that identifies which EU directive or part of the directive may be transposed, and the level of transposition of directives in the Albanian legislation. The proposed legislation gets verified in detail by the Ministry of Integration before it is revised by the Council of Ministers and the Parliament". Ministry of Environment (2015): "Document of Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity in Albania" pg. 40. See: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/al/al-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

34 "Constitution of the Republic of Albania" adopted by law no. 8417, 21.10.1998 and published in the Official Gazette, no. 28, date 07.12.1998, pg. 1073.

35 The discussion on engendering constitutional language is a long discussion and a common concern for many countries, not simply for Albania. Some reasons why such discussion is globally opened, are: (1) Constitutional language expresses the principles and values of the society. (2) Historically, constitutional language has reflected male interests and norms, excluding women. A gender sensitive constitutional language can correct this. (3) The constitution's gender sensitive language can send a strong signal to current and future law-makers that they should consider the gender implications of legislation. (4) The constitution is more difficult to amend and sexist

the national legislation and different national policies on environment which are based in the Albanian Constitution, as well as in other international conventions or multilateral agreements, seem to have a gender-neutral or sometimes even gender-blind language. This is the first indicator that warns us on the implications that the gender-neutral or gender-blind language used in a law or policy document, might have while speaking for the implementation of such law or policy. An extended analysis of such indication is presented in this report, in the sections where key national strategies are presented³⁶.

3.1.1. LAWS INTEGRATING PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Albania has adopted a good Legislative Corpus on Environment and Sustainable Development. As integration into the European Union is the main strategic and political objective of the country, national legislation has been developed in line with the Acquis. This framework is very important to ensure that new laws in Albania are compatible with the principles of sustainable development. The new laws approved in Albania, especially the last years, are in line with the respective EU Directives. Albania has introduced new legislation and improved the capacity to address environmental challenges in recent years but implementation is weak. There are also gaps between the NSDI and the Medium-Term Budget Program and between the Medium Term Expenditure program and the annual budget³⁷.

The main Albanian laws in the field of environment are as follows³⁸:

- The first national Environmental Law “Law on Environmental Protection”, approved right after 1992 Rio Conference. For almost 10 years, this was the only law on environment until a new “Law on Environmental Protection” was approved in 2002. The main EU Environmental Directives were fully transposed by the new “Law on Environmental Protection” in 2011.
- The Law on the Environment Impact

language may thus be more difficult to change once the constitutional text is ratified.

Considering these points, there are some general guidelines/recommendations for techniques to be used for a constitutional language, but not all of them are valid for Albanian language. This because one of these recommendations is to use certain gender neutral terms such as “person” or “individual”. But we know that in Albanian these terms are in masculine so the problem is not fully addressed. Or another suggestion is to use gender neutral alternatives for masculine-based nouns, such as chairperson instead of chairman. Still this is not valid for Albanian language, because we do not have such options in our language and if we use “kryetari” this is again in masculine. Or using the plural they instead of the singular pronouns he/she, again is not something that can apply in Albanian language, because “they” in Albanian is masculine “ata”.

So the suggestion for Albanian Constitution and other legislation is to consider the general recommendations and to make them specifically working for our own language (meaning instead of using “Kryetari” to use Kryetari/e”. And while using “person” and “individ” to add “ai/ajo” and “ata/ato” as pronouns.

Some examples on how to engender the constitutional language can be found at: Handbook for engendering constitution making: “ABC for a gender sensitive constitution” (2015), produced by Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI with the financial support of the European Union and Sweden.

<http://www.efi-ife.org/sites/default/files/ABC%20for%20a%20Gender%20Sensitive%20Constitution.pdf>

36 For details, kindly refer to the pg.17 this report.

37 Sida Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change “Albania - Environment and Climate Change Policy Brief”. See: <http://sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se/wordpress3/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Albania-ECCPB-Alb-Nov-2011.pdf>

38 Legislation and specific details on the key laws are also presented in the Third National Communication Report of the Republic of Albania on Climate Change (2016), pg. 127, prepared from Ministry of Environment. See: http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/application/pdf/albania_nc3_13_october_2016.pdf

Assessment (EIA), approved in 2003. The law filled serious gaps in the field of the environmental permits, which had previously experienced significant problems. The “Law on EIA” has been very important for regulating the role of all the stakeholders on this field. A new “Law on EIA” was approved in 2011, partially transposing the EU Directives in this field. In addition, a very important law, the Law no. 91/2013, date 28.02.2013 “On Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)”, is adopted. The law is in full compliance with EU Directive 2001/42/EC of European Parliament and the Council “On assessment of environmental impacts of defined plans and programs”³⁹.

- Law No. 9108 dated 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and preparations”. This law aims to regulate the administration of substances and chemical preparations for the protection of life, health of humans and animals and for the protection of the environment from hazards that may cause hazardous substances. It has foreseen duties and responsibilities of state institutions regarding the protection of environment and of health from the hazards that may cause hazardous substances (i.e. inspectorates for environment and for health). While in its article no.5 there is mentioned the classification of chemical substances and preparations, and among others, in point 5.14 there is mentioned also the damage that chemical substances and preparations can cause in the reproductive health of females and males.
- In 2006 the Law “On Concessions” was approved, focused mostly on Renewable Energy concessions (small hydro power wind energy, etc.). It aims also at facilitating the development of the Renewable

Energies especially by involving private initiative.

- Law No 9587, dated 20.07.2006 “On protection of Biodiversity”, recently amended by law no. 68/2014, of 03.07.2014 “Law on Biodiversity Conservation”. The Law on Biodiversity Protection established the legal basis for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and for achieving targets, of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The law is based on the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions to which Albania is a Party, as well on related EU directives (e.g. Habitat and Wild Bird Directive). The law identifies the instruments for biodiversity planning (Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, biodiversity inventorying and monitoring network, emergency plans and trans boundary impact assessments), as well as three protection categories: protected, specially protected and degraded ecosystems, habitats and landscapes. This Law emphasis particularly the need for the state bodies, local and central, to secure public support to maintain biological diversity and to use its components in a sustainable way. Also state authorities need to ensure that the public and civil society are widely known to biological diversity and its components through the publication of information and awareness programs and education and to be included in decision-making on biological diversity and its components, which includes the evaluation processes of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessment. State authorities ensure that the documents and instruments related to biodiversity, as defined in this law or other laws, be available to the public. The law on “On Protection of Biodiversity”, provides several duties for the State authorities to collaborate and coordinate the integration of biodiversity conservation principles into

³⁹ For details see: http://www.moe.gov.al/index.php?option=com_content

school curricula, education and preparation of pupils and students.

- Law No. 9867, dated 31.1.2008 “On rules and procedures for international trade of endangered species of flora and fauna” , (amended).
- Law no. 9868 of 04.02.2008 “On some changes and amendments to Law no. 8906, of 06.06.2002 “On protected areas” establishes the criteria for proclamation of protected areas, as well as recognize particular protected areas of interest for the European Community, by guaranteeing initially the possibility for evaluation of habitats with interest for the European Community, included in the Annex of Directive for Habitats, and then make proposals for these areas in line with criteria established in the law, in line with the Directive for Habitats.
- Law No. 10006, dated 23.10.2008 “On protection of wild fauna” , (amended). The main aim of this law is to protect, manage and control the wild fauna, with a view to preserving the types, populations, habitats where they live, the migration routes, and to ensure their food, shelter and propagation requirements. This is planned to be in accordance with all respective international conventions where Albania adheres. The provisions in this law influences in the lives of women and men, especially when it comes for protecting, breeding and caring for wild fauna.
- In 2009 the Law “On Land Use Planning” was approved. It aims at ensuring the rational and sustainable use of land and natural resources.
- Law no. 10.253 dated 11.03. 2010 “On hunting”. The aim of this law (as presented in its Article no.1) is to:
 - a) determine the rules and requirements for hunting development as a traditional, sporting, recreational and tourist activity;
 - b) sustainable hunting management, assessing wild fauna as a national asset that is administered and protected by law;
 - c) ensure that the principles of hunting are strictly enforced, while maintaining the ecosystem’s totality and ecological balance;
 - d) non-injurious nature of wild fauna and their habitats during hunting;
 - e) respect for hunting and hunting rights, trophies and hunting products and their trading. The law is prepared based on the principles of the sustainable developments as reflected in many respective international conventions where Albania adheres.
- The new “Law on Environmental Permitting” was approved in 2011. This Law aims at “the prevention and control of pollution arising from certain categories of activities in order to achieve a high level of protection for the environment as a whole and for human health and for improving the quality of life”. This Law establishes “measures for permitting the operation of certain groups of polluting activities, measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to the air, water and land from such activities, including measures concerning waste, in the Republic of Albania”.
- The new “Law on Integrated Waste Management” of 2011 transposes the Framework Directive of EU for the Wastes. The purpose of this law is “to protect human health and the environment by preventing or reducing the negative impacts from waste generation and from the management of waste and by reducing the overall impacts of the use of resources and by improving the efficiency of such use, and to ensure the environmentally sound management of waste”.
- Law No. 7 date 30.01.2014 “On prohibition of hunting in the Republic of Albania” . In line with the provisions of this law, hunting activity in the country is frozen for a period of two years. For the

implementation in practice of this law, the Minister of Environment, on July 2, 2014, drafted and adopted the action plan on the implementation of a moratorium on hunting.

3.2. KEY NATIONAL STRATEGIES⁴⁰

3.2.1. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION 2015-2020

NSDI II represents the fundamental strategic document that combines the integration agenda in the European Union's sustainable economic development and social progress of the country, including liaison with Sustainable Development Goals. NSDI II presents the vision of democracy, social and economic development of the country during the period 2015-2020, while outlining aspirations for integration into the European Union. NSDI 2015-2020 shows how this vision will be achieved through policies and priorities aimed, as follows:

- Encouraging the development rates of the country, generating sustainable economic growth through macroeconomic and financial stability;
- Achieve standards that serve citizens, increase welfare and ensuring protection of their rights;
- Transformation of Albania in a standard, enabling membership in the European Union;
- Construction of policies that enhance competitiveness and economic growth, compared with the region and beyond.

40 A list with additional information on the strategies and action plans on the environment is attached to this report as annex 3.

Protection of the environment through the promotion of production and sustainable consumption, prevention of environmental degradation and draining of water resources, integration of environmental issues into all sectorial strategies, and to the notion of Corporate Social Responsibility and the use of precautionary principle in planned activities, is one of the principles of national development and integration. Environmental issues are further treated in the fourth pillar of this NSDI, respectively: Sustainable growth through the use of resources and territorial development. Vision and NSDI II priorities in terms of economic growth consider the vision of the European Union, to ensure the development of a competitive economy based on the use of balanced and sustainable resources. More attention should be paid to developing the country's infrastructure, provide more access to the population, in parallel with the countries further integration into the European systems. Special attention will be paid to the protection of nature, national resources and sustainable use of the environment. Specifically, important is also the fact that the benefits of economic growth are distributed across the country, including less developed regions, with the goal of balanced development and strengthening of territorial cohesion. Specific indicators for development or sectorial indicators are also part of this key document.

3.2.2. DRAFT CROSS-SECTORIAL STRATEGY OF ENVIRONMENT (CSES) 2015-2020⁴¹

CSES is a key policy document, prepared from an inter-ministerial working group (IMWG) led by the Minister of Environment

41 This draft Cross-sectorial Strategy will replace the previous Cross-Sectorial Strategy on Environment 2007-2014 which was adopted via DCM no. 847, of 29.11.2007 (Official Gazette 174/2007, pg. 5349, date 22.12.2007). Its full text in Albanian can be found at: http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/files/userfiles/Strategjia_Ndersektoriale_e_Mjedisit_2007.pdf

(MoE), with senior members from line ministries. CSES establishes the main objectives for the sustainable national development, while protecting to the best degree possible all natural resources from pollution and degradation, and promotion of environmental assets to the benefit of national prosperity. Sustainable development is led by the Government vision and policies through integrated development of rural and urban areas, in line with the protection of environment. This should be achieved through effective convergence of sector policies in one single integrated approach. The effective implementation of CSES is a legal obligation for all institutions, the majority of which have been part of the consultations process⁴². A short analyze of this document, from gender perspective, made evident the below aspects:

- *The narrative description of this draft-strategy is gender blind*, although there are many priorities, objectives, products or indicators which may turn easily to gender-sensitive ones. In overall text, the language used is gender-neutral and when it comes for the specifications related to the inhabitants: women and men, boys and girls of different communities, the generally used terms are almost gender-blind and in some cases may also stimulate the revival of typical gender stereotypes related to women's and men's access and control over resources and their traditional gender roles. The text of this draft strategy is full of terms such as: "population", "public", "all age-groups", "human health", "the traditional right of use/ownership of forests", "farmers", industrialists", "different group of professionals", "technical staff", "consumers", etc., while in Albanian language there exist a clear grammatical gender division (female/male). This division

is not evident in the text and the use of masculine grammatical gender (which refers in all cases to "he/him" and not to "she/her") made the women and girls' rights, inclusion, influence, power, access and control as well as their benefits, *almost invisible*. Furthermore, the usage of terminology referring to "tradition" (as used i.e. in the mid-term objective 2015-2017 for Forest and Pastures: 1. "Ensuring of the traditional right of use/ownership of forests....etc.⁴³"), may easily *reinforce the typical gender stereotypes* when it comes for property rights/the right to use/ownership, etc. (Traditionally men have had the status to gain the property rights, ownership and control over resources, while women's position/status towards these properties has been always linked with traditional gender roles - women may contribute to clean, maintain, work and care in these areas but traditionally they are not considered as owners or will full rights to control these properties). Even when it comes for "application of different programmes/projects", "training of staff", "public awareness", "the percentage of the population that undergoes exposure to air pollution above the permitted norms", etc., *women and girl are never mentioned as a specific targeted group* and this is valid also for different other categories/groups in need, such as: people with disabilities, Roma& Egyptians, other minority groups, elderly women/men, etc.

- The concern related to the language used is not the only one, because what the language reflects (in terms of gender-neutral, gender-blind or masculinity), *will be further translated to the concrete/specific actions* that will be undertaken as part of the Action Plan of this Strategy. This means

42 Ministry of Environment (2015): "Document of Strategic Policies for the Protection of Biodiversity in Albania" pg. 41-42. See: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/al/al-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

43 Ministry of Environment: "Draft Cross-sectorial Strategy of Environment 2015-2020", pg21. See: http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/files/userfiles/Transparence_dhe_Pjesmarrje/draft_SNM_2015_-_2020.pdf

that we seriously risk a misuse of the resources that will be dedicated, projects that will be undertaken or decisions that will be taken in the frame of the implementation of this Cross-sectorial Strategy, as well as on the documentation of all actions according to the number of beneficiaries (divided from gender and other characteristics).

- The key mid-term or long-term products, as well as the indicators presented in this Inter-Sectorial Strategy, or the division of the resources, do not provide any information related to women, and the gender-sensitive language in their formulation is completely missing. In addition, the tables which present the expenditures foreseen from the Ministry of Environment for each budgetary program for big cross-sectorial policies for the period 2015-2020, do not contain specific information/data to orient their further translation to specific budgetary programs with gender perspective' mainstreamed (as requested in the respective Council of Ministers Decision and Instruction on mainstreaming gender into budgetary programs)⁴⁴.

When women and girls as well as other different groups of the society are hidden (or simply implied) in a policy document, it is easier to "forget" about them while implementing such policy. Without ownership of assets such as land, forestry and pastures, etc., women cannot access credits, extensions and technological services - what in turn affects their ability to sustain their families and manage other

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44 Respectively: Council of Ministers' Decision No. 465 date 16.7.2012 "On Gender Mainstreaming in Medium-term Budgeting Programmes" and Joint Instruction No. 21/21.06.2013 of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (actually MSWY) and the Ministry of Finance "On Establishing Gender Mainstreaming Procedures in Medium-Term Budget Programmes (MTBP)". These bylaws stipulate that line ministries shall define minimum objectives, indicators and outcomes for achieving gender mainstreaming in their budgeting processes and programmes.

natural resources that lay the foundation for sustainable production system, as well as deepens their exclusion from participation in development projects, extension work/services and policy making processes.

The concern of the language used and the implications it might have while implementing this Cross-sectorial Strategy, will be further influence and indicate on the monitoring & evaluation system/processes, as well as in the reporting system used/that will be used. If we do not pay specific attention since the beginning to clearly reflect and mainstream gender perspective in this policy document, we will face many difficulties in the future, during its implementation, as well as on the preparation of specific reports in accordance with national/international requirements (where gender indicators and measuring of gender impact are considered really important).

3.2.3. NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP), 2015⁴⁵

Prepared in the form of a Document of Strategic Policies for Protection of Biodiversity (DSPPB), this Strategy is based on the respective Convention on Biodiversity. The National Strategy on Biodiversity and its action plans are the key instruments for the implementation of the Convention (CBD) at the national level. The Convention requires from the member states to draft a national Strategy on Biodiversity (or any other equivalent instrument) and asks them to make sure that this strategy is an integral part of the planning and activities of all the sectors whose activities may have a (favorable or adverse) impact on biodiversity. The Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) decided that the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Action Plans (NBSAP) should form

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45 Delivered to the respective Committee of the Convention on Biological Diversity on June 2016. See: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/>

the main instruments for the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan. The Document of Strategic Policies for Protection of Biodiversity (DSPPB) serves as a guide for the way the country aims to achieve the objectives of the Convention, in the context of its international obligations. The action plans rank the steps that need to be taken, in order to accomplish the goals of the strategy. Development of DSPPB in line with Article 6 (a) is the foundation of meeting the requirements of Article 6 (b) for biodiversity and the three objectives of CBD. This should happen in all sectors of the government, economic sectors, and with the involvement of all stakeholders that have an impact on biological diversity, through relevant sectorial or cross-sectorial plans, programs and policies. DSPPB cannot happen in isolation from other sector policies and programs since it would not have the desired effect on protection of biodiversity and in ensuring the integrity of critical functions of the ecosystem. The document clearly specifies the legal framework on which is based (international instruments as well as national legislation). **But although based on CBD, gender language and gender perspective do not seem to be very clear. The vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the need for the full participation of women in the implementation of the convention, although part of the preamble of CBD, are not clearly reflected in the Strategy. Attention should be paid to reflect the gender perspective and to mainstream it during the implementation of this strategy.**

3.2.4. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON LAND DEGRADATION

In 2007, the Conference of Parties (COP) held in Madrid, approved the “10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)⁴⁶”. This document underlines **the importance of the efficient implementation of the Convention (UNCCD)** as an instrument to prevent, control and reverse desertification/land degradation and also to contribute to the reduction of poverty while promoting sustainable development. It also emphasizes that the implementation of this 10-year strategic plan requires **efforts from all Parties**, taking into account the different obligations within the Convention. As previously mentioned, Albania became a Party of the UNCCD since 2000, so it is obliged to follow the requirements of COPs, as well. In this frame, in 2014 the Government of Albania initiated the preparation of the **National Action Programme (NAP) to Protect Land and Combat Land Degradation** and preparation of a 10-year strategy. The NAP evaluates general environmental conditions and sets priorities regarding the country's efforts to meet obligations under UNCCD. The platform on which the NAP is based, aims to be in coherence with principles of the UNCCD, having as important approach participation, awareness raising partnership, methods of planning, etc. The Action Plan objective was to develop a comprehensive strategy for complex environmental management addressing the need for evaluation and improvement of national policies and programs relating to the protection of soil from erosion and degradation. It's understandable that the national objectives of this Action Plan are naturally defined on the basis of status and trends of the phenomenon in Albania. While analyzing this NAP, we need to consider the vision, strategic objectives as well as expected

46 Decision 3/COP.8. See: <http://www.unccd.int/Documents/18%20COP8.pdf>

impact of the 10-years strategic plan, as approved in COP. The vision of this 10-years strategic plan is to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. This strategic plan contains a set of objectives which reflect the global and international context, but it contains also other objectives and measures to be undertaken at national level. Some of these key objectives, expected results and specific indicators⁴⁷ are presented in the table below:

47 As presented in the original document: "10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)", see: <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/10YearStrategy/Decision%203COP8%20adoption%20of%20The%20Strategy.pdf>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED IMPACT	INDICATORS	OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS MEASURED FOR ALBANIA ⁴⁸
1. To improve the living conditions of affected populations	1.1. People living in areas affected by desertification/ land degradation and drought to have an improved and more diversified livelihood base and to benefit from income generated from sustainable land management	1. Decrease in numbers of people negatively impacted by the processes of desertification / land degradation and drought.	1. Advocacy, awareness raising and education. To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors' in adequately addressing desertification/ land degradation and drought-related issues.	1.1. Desertification / land degradation and drought issues and the synergies with climate change adaptation/ mitigation and biodiversity conservation are effectively communicated among key constituencies at the international, national and local levels.	1.1 The number of families who are under the influence of erosion for a basin or specific region or for a certain local unit. Important: The number of families affected; the average number of members per family; the amount of land in ha which affects the entire basin and for each family; as well as economic damage and lost that families have from this damage – are key information and data to be gathered, monitored and reported. Specific measures how to address findings from the monitoring of these data (and of the first indicator) must also be presented in all reports and the action plans prepared in this frame. It is very important to gather sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, in order to effectively address the issue of land desertification and its impact on lives of women and men of the society.
	1.2. Affected populations' socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and drought are reduced.	2. Increase in the proportion of households living above the poverty line in affected areas.		1.2. Desertification/ land degradation and drought issues are addressed in relevant international forums, including those pertaining to agricultural trade, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, rural development, sustainable development and poverty reduction	

⁴⁸ As presented in the Report "Harmonization of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification in Albania and Preparation of National Report", prepared from Center for Community Development, chapter IV, pg. 40 (working document made available from UNDP&REC as the official version of NAP of Land Desertification in Albania)

		3. Reduction in the proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption in affected areas		1.3. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and the scientific community in the North and the South are increasingly engaged as stakeholders in the Convention processes and desertification/land degradation and drought are addressed in their advocacy, awareness-raising and education initiatives.	
2. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems	2.1. Land productivity and other ecosystem goods and services in affected areas are enhanced in a sustainable manner contributing to improved livelihoods.	4. Reduction in the total area affected by desertification / land degradation and drought.	2. Policy framework. To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought	2.1. Policy, institutional, financial and socio-economic drivers of desertification/land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management are assessed, and appropriate measures to remove these barriers are recommended.	

	<p>2.2. The vulnerability of affected ecosystems to climate change, climate variability and drought is reduced</p>	<p>5. Increase in net primary productivity in affected areas</p>		<p>2.2. Affected country Parties revise their national action programmes (NAPs) into strategic documents supported by biophysical and socio-economic baseline information and include them in integrated investment frameworks.</p>	<p>Surface of soil under influence of erosion.</p> <p>This indicator, except of a quantitative indicator, aims to determine the incidence and the consequences that brings this phenomenon.</p> <p>It provides information on the endangered land as one of the most important natural renewable resources.</p>
				<p>2.3. Affected country Parties integrate their NAPs and sustainable land management and land degradation issues into development planning and relevant sectorial and investment plans and policies</p>	<p>Information that can be used for this purpose are data secured through national monitoring system but it must be interpreted and accompanied with other data.</p> <p>This system is primarily based on the case indicated soil removed or the amount of lost soil in tones per year, which can be converted into the surface of soil under the effect of erosion.</p>
				<p>2.4. Developed country Parties mainstream UNCCD objectives and sustainable land management interventions into their development cooperation programmes/ projects in line with their support to national sectorial and investment plans</p>	<p>However, it is necessary that the responsible structures to create a system of evaluation and reporting for the soil surface under erosion, in order to address concrete measures and actions for its protection.</p>

				2.5. Mutually reinforcing measures among desertification/land degradation action programmes and biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation are introduced or strengthened so as to enhance the impact of interventions	
3. To generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD	3.1. Sustainable land management and combating desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change.	6. Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) in affected areas	3. Science, technology and knowledge To become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.	3.1. National monitoring and vulnerability assessment on biophysical and socio economic trends in affected countries are supported.	3. Land (soil) covers (meadow, farmland, forests, bushes, etc.) The land cover indicator is an important indicator that should be monitored and reported regularly. The recommendations regarding this indicator should be integrated into national, regional and local programs and strategies. Keeping this evaluation and reporting system on land cover is linked with statistics which are available from the institutions responsible for land, forest and pastures, management of urban areas, etc.
		7. Areas of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management.		3.2. A baseline based on the most robust data available on biophysical and socio economic trends are developed and relevant scientific approaches are gradually harmonized	

				3.3. Knowledge on biophysical and socio-economic factors and on their interactions in affected areas are improved to enable better decision-making.	
				3.4. Knowledge of the interactions between climate change adaptation, drought mitigation and restoration of degraded land in affected areas is improved to develop tools to assist decision-making.	
				3.5. Effective knowledge-sharing systems, including traditional knowledge, are in place at the global, regional, sub regional and national levels to support policymakers and end users, including through the identification and sharing of best practices and success stories.	

				3.6. Science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification/ land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation	
4. To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors	4.1. Increased financial, technical and technological resources are made available to affected developing country Parties, and where appropriate Central and Eastern European countries, to implement the Convention.	8. Increase in the level and diversity of available funding for combating desertification/ land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought	4. Capacity-building To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/ land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.	4.1. Countries which have carried out the national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) implement the resulting action plans to develop the necessary capacity at the individual, institutional and systemic levels to tackle desertification/land degradation and drought issues at the national and local levels	4.4. The quantity of the eroded soil from a region referred to data from the monitoring stations This is a quantitative indicator which may turns also into a qualitative one. Its monitoring and reporting is made through the national system (which must be consolidated) but these indicators should be interpreted and followed by specific measures and concrete recommendations for minimizing or avoiding them in the future. ("GIS based –soil erosion model" is one of the system that can be used, together with "Model soil erosion by overland flow")

	<p>4.2. Enabling policy environments are improved for UNCCD implementation at all levels.</p>	<p>9. Development policies and measures address desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.</p>		<p>4.2. Those countries which have not previously undertaken capacity needs assessments engage in relevant assessments processes to identify capacity needs for tackling desertification/land degradation and drought at the national and local levels.</p>	
			<p>5. Financing and technology transfer</p> <p>To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.</p>	<p>5.1. Affected country Parties develop integrated investment frameworks for leveraging national, bilateral and multilateral resources with a view to increasing the effectiveness and impact of interventions.</p>	<p>4.5. The economic structure of an area (number of inhabitants, employment, composition gender, age group, etc.) These indicators can serve and interpreted as impact indicators for the erosion in a place. It is important also to analyze and monitor indicators that affect or inhibit the phenomenon of erosion such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conditions of relief and land-use manner; - The degradation of vegetative cover (fires, overgrazing, etc.); - Modifying the topography (i.e. construction of roads, urban centers, etc.); - Water management policy (sewerage, hydro works, etc.).

				<p>5.2. Developed country Parties provide substantial, adequate, timely and predictable financial resources to support domestic initiatives to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.</p>	
				<p>5.3. Parties increase their efforts to mobilize financial resources from international financial institutions, facilities and funds, including the GEF, by promoting the UNCCD/ Sustainable land management (SLM) agenda within the governing bodies of these institutions.</p>	

				<p>5.4. Innovative sources of finance and financing mechanisms are identified to combat desertification/ land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including from the private sector, market-based mechanisms, trade, foundations and CSOs, and other financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and for hunger and poverty reduction</p>	
				<p>5.5. Access to technology by affected country Parties is facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation</p>	

3.2.5. NATIONAL STRATEGY ON AIR QUALITY

This is a long-term document approved in 2014 . Albanian government's main priority is to provide all citizens with environmental air without serious risks for their health. The priority is to meet the requirements of the EU, including the limit values of air quality anywhere in Albania, and finally, monitoring of air pollution coming from different sources such as stationary sources (industrial plants), tools motor etc., and take measures to avoid the causes of exceeding the permissible limits for various pollutants, thus protecting human health and the environment. The main priorities to achieve European standards of air quality as follows:

- Proceed with the establishment of a clear policy framework, including, where appropriate, legislation and / or non-regulatory measures such as financial incentives;
- Ensure a better planning, better management and better ways of using technological progress in industry and transport;
- Continue investment in education and public awareness to influence individual behavior toward this purpose.

Similarly, with the other strategies analyzed and presented above, this strategy is based on the appropriate legal framework and tries to pay attention to the specific norms and indicators as required from this legal framework. But the gender-sensitive language and mainstreaming of gender perspective do not seems to be part of the narrative description or specific actions planned through this strategy. So, measures that will be undertaken during the implementation of this strategy must pay specific attention to clearly involve and reflect the gender perspective. The actions on gender and the description made so far while analyzing Rio Conventions and other MEAs,

as presented in above pages, may guide the correct implementation of this strategy from gender perspective.

4. GENDER DIMENSIONS OF DIFFERENT CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Ulrike Röhr – Focal Point Gender, Environment, Sustainability, has prepared a Background Paper “Gender, climate change and adaptation. Introduction to the gender dimensions” (August 2007), aiming at introducing why gender is an important factor in climate change debates and particularly in adaptation to climate change. Some of the key aspects analyzed and treated in her paper are presented below⁴⁸:

The United Nations are formally committed to gender mainstreaming within all policies and programmes. However, gender equality is not yet realized in any society, in any part of the world. Men and women have different roles, responsibilities and decision-making power, leading to disadvantages for women. It is therefore not surprising that gender also plays a role in relation to climate change. Yet the topic has not been explored sufficiently, and many people still find it difficult to comprehend the ways in which gender might be a factor in climate change, or how it should be politically addressed. Gender aspects are rarely addressed in climate change policy. This applies – with few exceptions – to the national as well as the international level. Various reasons account for this neglect: gender aspects in climate change are often not self-evident, and there is little data, research, or case studies clarifying and exemplifying the linkages between gender

education etc.) to adapt to climate change and to prepare for the effects. Whereas both women and men in the global North need to adapt their consumption behavior and daily life routines in order to mitigate climate change, they are differently affected by natural disasters and changing weather conditions too. Research about extreme weather conditions show that women and elderly people are most sensitive to hot summer weather in terms of mortality, and that women perceive hot and dry summer weather more unfavorably than men and are more likely to change their behavior (PIK 2000).

Most of the key areas of the negative consequences of climate change are strongly connected to gender equality issues. “Women in developing (and developed) countries are generally considered part of the vulnerable groups. High dependence from agriculture, forest resources, fisheries and bio-fuels can increase the vulnerability and the risk of environmental depletion. (...) Moreover, the problems relating to the management of the environmental common assets can become worse under the pressure of global warming” (Lambrou and Piana 2005:20). These problems include food security, freshwater supply, rural and urban settlements and their infrastructures. The impact on women’s lives varies between regions and cultures, thus planning for adaptation to climate change need to take a close look at each individual and concrete situation. However, there are some general subjects, which are effected throughout regions and cultures⁵⁰:

48 Ulrike Röhr, *genanet – Focal Point Gender, Environment, Sustainability*, “Gender, climate change and adaptation. Introduction to the gender dimensions” (August 2007). Full version of this paper can be found at: http://www.unep.org/roa/amcen/Projects_Programme/climate_change/PreCop15/Proceedings/Gender-and-climate-change/Roehr_Gender_climate.pdf

50 Ulrike Röhr, *genanet – Focal Point Gender*,

justice and climate change. Nevertheless, there are a number of issues that point to the crucial role of gender when understanding the causes of climate change, aiming to mitigate it, and working towards successful adaptation to inevitable climate change:

- Women and men – in their respective social roles – are differently affected by the effects of climate change. Reasons are inter alia to be found in different responsibilities for care work and income generating work, in dependency on natural resources because of lacking access to environmental services, or in knowledge and capacities to cope with the effects because of differences in the access to education and information systems.
- Women and men – in their respective social roles – are differently affected by climate protection and adaptation instruments and measures. If these mechanisms and measures are developed in a non-gender-sensitive way – which most often is the case – they again do not take into account different responsibilities and financial options.
- Women and men differ with regard to their respective perceptions of and reactions to climate change. It is well known, especially in industrialized countries, that women have a higher risk perception than men, and thus also recognize climate change as a more serious problem than men do. Gender differences are crucial when it comes to assessing adequate measures, too. While men trust in technical solutions, women vote stronger for lifestyle changes and reduction of energy consumption.
- Women's and men's contribution to climate change differs, especially with regard to their respective CO₂ emissions⁴⁹. This is especially proven in regard to transport

systems. Difference results mostly from gendered car use and mobility patterns.

- Social roles and responsibilities of women and men lead to different degrees of dependency on the natural environment. Women are usually the ones engaged in household subsistence activities, thus degradation of forests, watersheds, foreshores and agricultural land in developing countries can have a severe effect on their ability to perform the daily household maintenance tasks.
- As the male perspective is dominating, climate protection and climate adaptation measures often fail to take into account the practical and strategic needs of large parts of the population (e.g. infrastructure, energy supply);
- The participation of women in decision-making regarding climate policy – mitigation and adaptation – and its implementation in instruments and measures is very low. Thus, in general it is men's perspectives which are taken into account in planning processes.

Women and men are not homogenous groups but include people of various age, ethnicity, education, income. These social categories also relate to differences in influence, attitude and in contribution to climate change, to how people are affected by it and which possibilities they possess to adapt to climate change. This applies to developing as well as to developed countries. Principally, however, the situation of women in the global South differs significantly from the situation in the global North. While women in the South are more dramatically affected by climate change, women in the North are expected to play a significant role as consumers without having appreciable influence on decision-making as it relates to emission reduction (Röhr/Hemmati 2007). The same holds true for the adaptation to climate change: women in the South suffer most and have least capacities (economic, information,

49 For example, in Sweden men consume up to double amounts of energy compared to women.

- **Care work, poverty reduction, income generating activities.** In most societies, women are responsible for household tasks and care for children and the elderly. They have to secure food, provide clean water and household energy, and care for the sick. At the same time, due to the need for poverty reduction, they have to run income generating activities. Climate change may put additional burdens to the double and triple burdened women.
 - Depletion of natural resources and agricultural productivity could place additional burdens on women who will have to spend more time for collecting plants and cultivating their crops for subsistence and local markets. In many regions of the world women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce. Due to patrilineal inheritance, women's access to and control over land is often limited, and if they own or control land, it is often the less fertile ones. Thus, additional depletion of soil productivity forces women to spend more time providing food for their families and thus have limited time to participate in decision-making and income-generation activities. So, climate change might lead to a vicious cycle aggravating injustice.
 - Decreased availability of water in quantity and quality as well as heavy rainfalls and more frequent floods will have the same negative impacts on workloads and economic resource base. In general, it is women who are responsible for collecting and storing the water for drinking/household needs, while men are responsible for irrigation. Often the norm is that irrigation water should only serve men's businesses. Because of a lack of participation of women in water related decision making and planning, it is often men's interests that are served in such planning. Additionally, droughts and floods can be particularly detrimental to women who keep livestock as a source of income and food security (Lambrou and Piana 2005; Women's Statement at COP10/2004).
 - A similar situation is to be found where energy consumption/use is concerned. Decreased availability of firewood to provide household energy has the same negative impact as water scarcity in terms of time to be spent for collection of biomass, of workloads and income generating activities. In addition, indoor air pollution by burning biomass in inefficient ovens causes heavy respiratory diseases, accounting for about 2 Mio deaths a year worldwide, most of them women and children.
 - **Health impacts.** Climate change will also place additional burdens on women's health and have a triple effect on women. First, they are affected because of special physical vulnerabilities, second because of their caring roles in families, and third because the additional work which is required due to depletion of environmental conditions may lead to health damage.
 - Climate change may put additional work on women. More work, heavier loads to carry, longer ways to find water or biomass in a sufficient amount - this all has a negative impact on women's health. Additionally, due to the gendered division of labor, women have to take care of sick family members, which is again contributing to time constraints.

Environment, Sustainability, "Gender, climate change and adaptation. Introduction to the gender dimensions" (August 2007). Full version of this paper can be found at: http://www.unep.org/roa/amcen/Projects_Programme/climate_change/PreCop15/Proceedings/Gender-and-climate-change/Roehr_Gender_climate.pdf

- **Climate change related natural disasters.**

Natural disasters like floods or droughts, hurricanes or heavy rains, are already impacting livelihoods in many regions of the world. There are clear gender differences in the prevention of disasters (e.g. early warning systems don't get through to women), in emergency response (e.g. different risk reduction strategies and different needs), and in the reconstruction phase (e.g. gender differences in migration). It is often reported that women's workloads double or triple in the aftermath of disasters, while their income generating conditions deteriorate.

- Because of gender differences in property rights, access to information and in cultural, social and economic roles, natural disasters are likely to affect men and women differently⁵¹. Women are at risk mostly during the disaster (and often in post-disaster situations), when they find themselves thrown into situations where they are unable to decide whether to stay or leave. Men on the contrary are most at risk in the search for survivors and clean up after disasters and are more likely to be able to decide for themselves how to act.
- Men and women also have different needs and priorities following a disaster. Some women have clear physical needs such as obstetric-gynecological care or feminine hygiene products. More broadly, they also tend to prioritize different activities from their male counterparts. "Men tend to

focus almost exclusively on productive activity, including agriculture and waged income. Women tend to prioritize physical and psychological health, economic opportunities, and their children's welfare" (Delaney et al. 2000:15).

- While women are known as experts in post-disaster management, their involvement in institutionalized disaster mitigation and response efforts is often lacking.

The effects of climate change on gender inequality are not limited to immediate impacts and needs for changing behavior patterns but may also lead to subsequent changes in gender relations. The shortfall of resources like water and fuel wood or the role of care-giver in post-disaster-situations may increase women's workloads. Due to increased burdens, a negative cycle is starting: if time for information and income-generating measures is lacking, girls have to take on more tasks in the household and don't have time to attend schools. Poor education of girls results in high number of children and marginal participation in community planning, and then the poverty-cycle starts all over – chances to break it are diminished in the long run. Spending more time on traditional reproductive tasks additionally re-enforces traditional work roles and works against a change in which women might begin to play other roles or take up non-traditional activities. Each of the issues mentioned before is highlighting women's vulnerability due to gendered roles in society and the impacts of climate change on daily live. Nevertheless, that's only half of the picture: On the other side, these special situations sometimes bear opportunities for women and men to change their gendered status in society and to go beyond traditional roles. "As destructive as they are, natural disasters clearly offer rich opportunities for social change. But, too often, opportunities to address gender inequalities are overlooked in the rush to return

51 I.e.: Following the cyclone and flood of 1991 in Bangladesh, the death rate was almost five times as high for women as for men. Warning information was transmitted to men by men in public spaces, but rarely communicated to the rest of the family. As many women are not allowed to leave the house without a male relative they perished while waiting for their relatives to return home and take them to a safe place (Aguilar 2004).

to “normal” life, including normal or routine gender norms” (Enarson 2004:14). But there is also ample evidence that long-established rules lose force when people are forced to respond to emergency conditions produced by natural disasters.

4.1. FIVE INDICATORS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THEIR IMPACT ON WOMEN⁵²

1. Increased droughts are causing water and foods shortage. Women and girls are forced to walk long distances to bring these resources at home. They not only became vulnerable to sexual violence and harassment, but girls often have to quit schools to carry out these households’ duties.
2. Agricultural and livelihood crises caused by frequent torrential rains and warmer weather are leading to poverty and food insecurity. Women and girls due to their social stature, suffer severe malnutrition which compromises their health and leads to poor reproductive health outcome, such as low weight birth, miscarriages and prenatal mortality.
3. Rising sea levels are intruding fresh water sources with deleterious effects on agriculture and coastal life. Water contamination also poses serious risks to all, particularly to children and pregnant women.
4. Climate change is leading to acute natural disasters, such as typhoons and cyclones, forcing large population to migrate. Climate-induced migration leads to feminization of poverty, as it limits income generations for women and negatively

52 For details kindly see: <http://arrow.org.my/five-indicators-of-climate-change-and-their-impact-on-women/>

impacts their coping mechanisms. Further, migrant status of women impedes their access to sexual and reproductive health services.

5. Socially constructed gender inequalities together with socio-economic patterns, lead to higher female mortality rates in natural disasters like floods. During relief efforts women are often overlooked or they are not able to receive help, due to their limited mobility. Further, violence against women also increases particularly when living in emergency accommodations.

4.2. IMPORTANT FUTURE DISCUSSION: MEN, MASCULINITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE⁵³

An understanding of boys’ and men’s multiple roles in climate change have remained almost invisible, except in certain areas of research. And in areas where there is research, boys and men have mostly been analyzed as a monolithic group responsible for the negative effects of climate change due to their patterns of consumption and the association between modern industrialization and key aspects of hegemonic masculinities. Few studies look at the diverse and nuanced ways in which boys and men also impact and are impacted by climate change, including as heads of large corporate sector organizations that are the drivers of climate change, as energy consumers, as victims of environmental degradation, and as agents of change alongside women and girls. There is little recognition that men’s diversity – according to social class, ethnic group, sexuality and other factors – also affects not only the way that they live their lives, but the way that they drive or respond to climate

53 For detailed information kindly refer to the discussion paper: “Men, masculinities and climate change”, prepared from Men Engage Alliance. See: <http://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Men-Masculinities-Climate-Change.pdf>

Patriarchy is harmful to our climate. Efforts are needed to advance this perspective by engaging men as human beings who are also vulnerable to disasters brought on by climate change and as actors with agency to enact change alongside women activist allies. The challenge lies in having boys and men engage in this process as a transformative step that leads away from rigid ideas of masculinity too often based on conquest, control and domination. Indeed, experts have highlighted the need to better understand how harmful ideals of masculinity that include the need to have power over others – ‘others’ being understood as women, other men, children and nature – perpetuate environmental degradation.

A gender-equitable response to climate change must not only be sensitive to gender differences in roles and needs, but must also address social and economic power imbalances between and among women and men. However, it must be noted that carrying out a gender sensitive analysis and engagement on climate change and masculinities is not a magical silver bullet. It is not the key piece to shift action on climate change. A major challenge of climate change is, in fact, that there are no easy single-step solutions. Working with men and women on gender transformative approaches to responding to climate change is, therefore, not presented here as the only answer, but a valuable opportunity to synchronize different voices towards the shared concern of addressing harmful climate change.

4.3. GENDER AND IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALBANIA

In Albania, the nexus between gender inequality, energy, the environment, and climate change has remained relatively unexplored. In the public perception of modern life in urban centers, women do not walk long hours to collect firewood or fetch water, are only moderately affected by droughts and

floods, and cook over smoking stoves only in remote areas⁵⁴. In general, the impact of the energy crisis on women is far subtler and, as a result, less visible.

Yet, it is widely acknowledged that current modes of energy governance do have a gendered impact in the countries of the Western Balkans. This impact is primarily felt within households as an increase of expenditures and concomitantly poverty, and a drop in the quality of life for those who are traditionally responsible for household chores – women. Dynamics are further exacerbated by limited economic opportunities for women, the low representation of women in decision-making and low levels of women’s political participation. However, since these aspects are considered common (or ‘traditional’) characteristics in all economies in the Western Balkans, the gender component that is specifically related to energy has remained largely unexplored.

4.3.1. THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATION REPORT (TNC) THIRD NATIONAL COMMUNICATION REPORT (TNC)

Albania has finished and presented recently **TNC** on United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where for the first time a specific chapter is dedicated to gender mainstreaming. The Guidelines to mainstreaming gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and plans in Albania, are based on a UNDP initiative to support Albania abide by UNFCCC’s reporting requirements regarding gender equality issues. The guidelines were developed on the basis of a small desk research analysis carried-out on Albania’s gender situation, and on information acquired during the process of

54 A recent cross-national Gender Gap review undertaken by EBRD identified a disproportional burden faced by rural women in Albania due to limited access to and use of non-solid fuels (predominantly fire wood), resulting in women’s high

drafting the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. The aim of these guidelines is to establish an understanding of the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and plans in Albania, and to highlight key principles and prerequisites for its effective implementation.

The links between climate change and gender are revealed by analyzing gender dimensions as part of the social context and conditions of various human activity fields being affected by/or contributing to climate change. This list of dimensions helps to identify the key topics to look at in more detail during subsequent further stages:

- Socio-economic dimension
- Socio-cultural dimension
- Legal dimension
- Political dimension
- Physiological and biological dimension

Applying gender mainstreaming is a step by step approach based on the principles of equality and equity, non-discrimination, participation, empowerment and accountability. Mapping and analyses of stakeholders, stocktaking through gender analyses and dedicated efforts to monitoring and evaluation are also extremely important if we want to mainstream gender perspective⁵⁵.

4.3.2. GENDER INEQUALITY AND FLOOD IMPACTS IN ALBANIA⁵⁶

During January- February 2015, the southeast Albania was affected by extensive rainfall,

55 For additional details on this chapter, kindly refer to the full TNC report, chapter 9. See: http://unfccc.int/files/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/application/pdf/albania_nc3_13_october_2016.pdf

56 A report prepared from UN Women, 2015 (not published). Data presented under this section are taken from the Executive Summary- Gender PDNA Report, Albania (not published)

the resulting flooding, damaged houses, businesses, and agricultural and led to extensive loss of livestock. A disaster needs assessment (DNA) report was prepared by the Government of Albania. 15,000 farms and households were affected, 1,400 farmhouses flooded. Since DNA templates that take GE fully into account were not used by the government, UN Women undertook a rapid gender assessment of post disaster affects to complement the work conducted.

Official data show that less than 5% women are registered as owners of agriculture land, however 60% of unpaid informal workers in agriculture sector are women, and 7% of women are owners of business farmhouses. The floods have inevitably had a different impact on the lives of women and men. This information is designed to ensure that women's disadvantaged and marginalized roles in the flooded areas is taken into account and enable gender sensitive compensation and recovery.

Gender assessment of disaster effects.

Damage to crops and land are a major concern to women, they have clearly suffered significant losses of products for both personal consumption and sale, including loss of livestock and animal feed, damage to barns have further exacerbated the situation. Damages to house, furniture, household equipment and persistent humidity are a major concern. Domestic violence increased after the floods according to 64% of respondents, surprisingly women as 'head of household' report a higher incidence of violence, (73.1%) than women spouses. Clearly women are affected not only by domestic violence but also violence outside the home. Women report having been treated differently to men regarding the distribution of aid from commune officials, men had easier access to commune staff and benefited more from the support by the state. Half of the respondents do not expect that a woman head of household will be treated equally to a man head of household, 35% confessing a very low level of

trust. 27% believe that a woman head will be treated equally with a male head of household. Distribution of funds by donors or private sector should be informed by gender analysis and pay particular attention to gender roles, ownership and labor patterns with a view to increasing equality and productivity.

Recommendations from gender perspective on funds allocation of the recovery plan:

- Ensure equal access of women to the cash transfer, social security schemes and other kinds of contributions to the communities.
- Ensure access to information for women farmers by the agriculture extension services based at communes. Ensuring women's systematic participation in ad-hoc teams on agriculture initiatives and promoting women-focused projects to reduce the unpaid burden.
- Ensure houses benefiting from reconstruction funds are registered in the names of both spouses (or eligible female and male members of family).
- Establishing the recovery of schools, social & children's services and safe houses to enable women to remain in employment.
- Inclusion of Roma women in all activities given that typically Roma families lack agriculture land properties. Roma women rent the agriculture land as compared to other women.
- Prepare gender-responsive disaster plans, including mapping of vulnerable groups.
- Ensure compliance with existing requirements for disaggregated statistics at all levels of government.
- Ensure participation of women in the disaster risk management plans.

4.4. SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTIC IN ALBANIA (FOCUS: TIRANA AND KOLONJA)

The Republic of Albania has a land surface area of 28,750 km², located in the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. Albania consists of 24.4% agricultural land, 36.6% forest, 14.8% pasture and meadows, and remaining 24.2% is classified as other, including lakes and waterways areas, rocky and mountainous land, and urban areas.

About one quarter of Albania's land is arable; of this, 19% is located in the mountains, 37% in the hills and 44% in the plains. In general, the arable soils situated in the hilly and mountain areas are characterized by thin soil profiles, high acidity, low fertility and a high degree of susceptibility to erosion. Sustainable management of natural resources in upland areas is critical to improving livelihoods, conserving ecosystem services, and ensuring reliable erosion and flood control to benefit lowland areas of Albania where the population is rising rapidly.

Although a small country, Albania is distinguished for its rich biological and landscape diversity. This diversity is attributable to the country's geographic position as well as geological, hydrological, climatic, and soil and relief factors. The mountainous terrain combined with steep cliffs creates ideal conditions for maintaining and protecting a large number of ancient species, which are both endemic and sub-endemic.

Albania is rich in forest and pasture resources. The forests cover around 1,041,000 ha or 33% of the country's territory, and the pastures about 400,000 ha or 15%. Approximately 60% (244,000 ha) of the pastures are alpine and sub-alpine pastures and meadows. The forests and the pastures have a diversity of types, formations, and plant and animal communities. Forests are critical for the residents of rural and

upland areas, providing nearly 70% of fuel in winters, building materials, and income from non-timber products such as medicinal plants.

Earth is the greatest asset of every country, the mother of prosperity of the population, which provide many indispensable functions. Long observations resulting from the care of the Albanian attitude towards the environment, in particular soil is not at the right level. The last 25 years have reduced 8-10% of the forest area, cutting, fires; abandonment, fallow, inappropriate occupation of arable land in various type of construction, etc., have spurred add processes of degradation (over 140 thousand ha, are threatened by mudslides, around the cities of Tirana, Durres, Lezha, Vlora, Gramsh, Pogradec, Vlora, Corovoda, etc.), soil pollution, loss of productivity, diversity and biodiversity. Erosion remains the main factor of degradation.

Soil erosion is one of the major problems in Albania due to irreversible soil losses in great amounts. It affects almost all territory of Albania because of climatic conditions and topography. However, soil erosion has been exacerbated by human activities, leading to one of the major and most widespread forms of land degradation. Major causes are deforesting, overgrazing, cultivation of sloping soils, poor water and irrigation management and unsustainable agricultural practices. All these factors have led to the increase of soil erosion and decrease of soil fertility. In the past years, the increase of deforest has had a significant impact on soil erosion. Furthermore, the use of solid materials around the rivers from building industry has led to the increase of the soil erosion around these areas. The data show that soil losses in Albania due to the erosion are very high and they vary from 20 to 30 t/ha/year, but in some areas this value reaches 150/ton/ha/year, when the acceptable values is only 1 t/ha/year.

These values are also higher than soil losses values by erosion in Mediterranean area which are up to 15/t/ha/year. According to the studies done, it results that the higher values of erosion (60t/ha/year) have municipalities like: Tepelena, Saranda, Delvina, Lezha, Shkodra, Gjirokastra; value of 40t/ha/year is in the municipalities of Lushnja, Fier, Elbasan, Durres, Tirana, Gramsh; value of 20t/ha/year with municipalities: Kolonja, Librazhd, Bajram Curri, Kukes, Pogradec.

Tirana' municipality overview

A high percentage of the Albanian population is concentrated on the coastal zone and the capital Tirana. Albania's coastal zone has a population density of 181.1 inhabitants/km², and this is growing. Population density is expected to increase until 2030, then it will decrease due to the reduction of the population's natural growth and also a reduction of emigrants⁵⁷.

The Tirana area, the biggest generator of waste in the country, has an operating landfill since 2009. This was built on an old dumpsite and some basic operations were functional from 2009 to 2014 mainly focused on waterproofing its floor and sides. The used section of the landfill is also covered with a layer of soil. A new cell, operational since 2012, is a proper impermeable cell. However, it does not have in place any leachate treatment facility or a landfill gas capturing system. The emissions from the existing landfill are relatively high due to the high percentage of biodegradable waste mass. There is a new project for an additional section of the landfill, to be executed by the Municipality, which was planned to be operational by the end of 2016, but that it still in process. The project foresees a proper engineered landfill cell and also includes a leachate treatment system and a landfill gas capturing system⁵⁸.

57 TNC, pg. 26

58 Third Communication Report, pg.227

Data for Tirana indicates that temperatures of 38°C that are reached once every 50 years might occur every 3 years (RCP8.5, 4°C world) or every 7 years (RCP2.6, 2°C world). Taking also into account the simultaneous increase in minimum temperatures, an increase in intensity of heat waves is expected⁵⁹.

Albania is not linked with international gas networks, and the local production of natural gas is very low. The consumption of Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) has significantly increased and is playing an increasingly large role in the domestic market, being used in both food industry and construction and as an alternative energy source to replace electricity in the housing and services sector. Currently, the capacities of coal mines are at their minimum, producing around 7,000 - 9,000 tons, compared to 2 million tons produced during the 1990s. 70% of the reserves are found in the Tirana-Durres basin, 10 % in Korçe-Pogradec, and four percent in Memaliaj. Biomass is the most widely used energy resource in Albania, predominantly in the form of firewood combined with many shrubs and agricultural residual plants. Residues from tree felling and low-quality wood are mainly used. Biomass waste from agriculture is not used to a great extent and is usually destroyed on the spot. The use of biogas is underdeveloped despite the available resources⁶⁰.

GIZ has initiated and supported the participation of Tirana Municipality at the Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)-cities-network of the EU. GIZ supported the participation at the first meeting held in Brussels 29-30 January 2014⁶¹.

Kolonja' municipality overview

Albania's UNCCD NAP and the National Strategy on Rural Development 2014-2020 identified the areas most affected by soil erosion, one of which is Kolonja Municipality, where extensive erosion has taken place, related to topographic and geological factors as well as deforestation, overgrazing and unsustainable agricultural practices. Kolonja Municipality is a part of the Korça region which covers an area of 90,909 ha agricultural land, out of which 47,100 ha is arable land.

Kolonja has a population of 22,261 as of 2015 residing in two towns and over 76 villages; the primary economic activities are agriculture and forestry production. Compared to other areas in the country, Kolonja is a poor, mostly rural area with minimal infrastructure. The existing infrastructure is rather low with no adequate roads in rural areas, lacking efficient water supply and proper irrigation and drainage systems.

The main source of income for the inhabitants is agriculture and orchards. Agricultural land is highly fragmented and lacking cooperation between local farmers and the common policy for agricultural production and the trading is very ad-hoc where production is collected by private entrepreneurs in refrigerators and arrives at the local and regional markets, but is not processed any further. These issues of no sustainability are due to the low productivity of land and hence low utilization of its potential with a lack of strategic area development plan in agriculture, forestry and other natural resource use i.e. water sector.

Forests in the area are highly degraded, and although a partial forest management plan has been developed, it only includes 26 out of the 75 villages. About 3,000 ha of land in the municipality of Kolonja are under pressure of soil erosion and landslides (300 ha of agricultural land, 1,700 ha of pasture land and 1,000 ha of forest). The average rate of soil erosion is about 20 ton/ha/year but

⁵⁹ Ibid, pg. 23

⁶⁰ Ibid, pg.63

⁶¹ Ibid, pg.236

in some areas the figure is higher, especially when soil erosion is combined with landslides. Land degradation impacts directly the local population in Kolonja Municipality because of reduction of soil fertility and plant productivity, reducing grazing capacity and forested area. Furthermore, land degradation, especially landslides can destroy water irrigation and drainage system, including local and national roads.

In 2016 the Municipality has received a grant of ALL 400 mill from the National Development Fund for reforestation and increase of green areas in the public spaces whereas the municipal budget has taken into account, investment in public services (roads, revitalization of the city, water irrigation systems, sanitation, educational facilities, etc.). The Municipality is also an important component of Albania's overall agricultural production, yet at the same time it is part of the Vjosa and Seman river basins where the Osumi river flows through, which have the highest levels of erosion in the country as a result of large-scale deforestation and extensive overgrazing of pasture areas, making Kolonja an ideal area in which to evaluate, understand and address the impacts of erosion on Albanian agriculture.

Soil Erosion: Soil erosion has been recently increased and appears as surface erosion, coastal erosion, and riverbank erosion, transportation of silt and impoverishment of soil fertility. More than 20% of Albanian soil is at risk of being eroded at a rate of more than 5 t/ha/year; 70% of territory is eroding at 20/ha/year; only 10% of the soil area is less affected by this phenomenon. Average annual intensity of water erosion process varies according to the land use, but the soil losses are estimated to be at an average of 16.4 t/ha annually (2010). An evaluation of the potential erosion risk in Albania estimated that 24% of land is under high risk of erosion, 59% is moderate and 17% is under low risk of erosion, with approximately 100,000 ha of agricultural land in the process

of desertification caused by poor vegetation cover.

Kolonja Municipality is particularly affected by soil erosion due to its topography, intensive agriculture and forestry production, and vulnerability to water erosion as a result of poor water management system for irrigation and drainage.

The flooding of Osumi river, part of the Vjosa-Seman river basin contributes to high levels of erosion, poor forestry management practices and inadequate capacities of the newly established municipal forestry management staff, lead to widespread deforestation.

The forests around villages in rural areas of Kolonja municipality are the most damaged and degraded as villagers are using forest wood for heating and cooking due to the lack of other energy sources for heating. Nearly all forests in the area are affected by unsustainable harvesting practices, pests and disease, forest fires, and other activities. In Kolonja Municipality, illegal logging over the past 20 years has had very negative impacts on forest ecosystems, due to two primary causes: 1) harvesting of wood by the rural population as it is their main fuel source for cooking and heating, as well as for agricultural purposes and construction materials; and 2) illegal logging driven by commercial interests. Wood harvesting is carried out according to immediate needs, without any planning or sustainability. According to the UNCCD NAP, the overexploitation of forest resources in Kolonja Municipality has led to increased deforestation and land degradation, which needs to be urgently addressed.

5. ENCOURAGING EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies is an issue for both women and men. Therefore, the strategy to encourage their equal participation deliberately addresses men, and makes them – together with women – responsible for a gender approach in environmental work. Also, the focus on gender must exist not only on an abstract and global level, but must evolve within a specific local context, taking into account other elements of social differentiation such as class, caste, religion and age (Davids and Van Driel, 2002)⁶².

Embarking on a gender-mainstreaming strategy calls for simultaneous steps in several fundamental domains :

- **Knowledge and understanding of the issue and validation of women’s contributions to sustainable development:**

- Ensure that women’s knowledge is preserved. Prevent and avoid pirating and commercialization of local and traditional knowledge.
- Support the systematic documentation of traditional health and agrobiodiversity knowledge, and the bottom-up development of locally owned, traditional environmental knowledge.

- Document women’s knowledge and survival strategies in dry land areas and their expertise in integrated water management.

- **Full participation of women at all levels, particularly in decision-making:**

- Ensure full and active participation of women together with gender equity in natural resource management, research, planning and decision-making at all levels. In this context also consider active participation of different social classes.
- Promote the use of participatory methodologies (Guijt, 1996).
- Address issues of power.
- Mobilize additional resources to support women’s full involvement in natural resource planning and management.
- Ensure that benefits from interventions accrue to both women and men.

- **Technical and financial support:**

- Assist women in their role as local natural resource managers and identify strategies to help rural women achieve sustainable livelihoods.
- Allocate adequate technical and financial resources to support women directly in natural resource

62 For details kindly refer to the full publication: *Towards gender mainstreaming in environmental policies*. See: <http://www.unep.org/PDF/Women/ChapterSix.pdf>

management and the control of environmental degradation, and ensure sustainability of finances.

- Enhance women's access to education, extension services, training, finances and appropriate technologies.
- Create more jobs for women but also account for their nature and terms, including whether they offer sustainable livelihoods.
- Link natural resource programmes and policies to economic initiatives and poverty eradication, and use a cross-cutting and internally consistent approach.

- **Women's empowerment:**

- Create environments that empower women and engage them as full partners in efforts to preserve land, water and natural resources.
- Empower women as resource managers through capacity-building of individuals and organizations, and increased access to educational opportunities
- Improve women's access to information, management processes, training and legal systems.
- Support, strengthen and involve women's organizations and networks working on environmental issues. Facilitate a dialogue with these organizations and gender experts.
- Promote leadership and guarantee political participation of women in decision-making. Engage young women in leadership-building and leadership practices.
- Raise women's visibility in positions of authority and decision-making at all levels.

- **Identifying the impact of the macro context on women and their environment:**

- Analyze the impacts of macro level policies and institutions, including trade liberalization and privatization, on gender differentiation in environment and sustainable development.
- International partners, organizations and civil-society should ensure the promotion of women's access to natural resources and environmental services, including land, water and biodiversity;.
- Promote institutional changes that guarantee a pro-poor approach in terms of the results and impacts of international institutions

Gender mainstreaming and institutionalization in the Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) process⁶³ is key to ensuring efficient use of resources and sustainability. The process ensures that the gender dimension is fully considered and that gender sensitivity and responsiveness are part of the process right from conceptualization through to realization of the final outcome of EPM activities.

- **Gender responsive stakeholder involvement is key in gender responsive EPM.** It provides the opportunity through different forums for women and men to participate fully in environmental planning and management. The forums create an opportunity for participants to identify the different needs and opinions of women and men, and to discuss, understand, clarify

⁶³ For additional details kindly refer to The EPM Source Book Series Integrating Gender Responsiveness in Environmental Planning and Management, Prepared and written by the staff and consultants of the Sustainable Cities Programme. See: http://www.unep.org/pcm/pcmu/project_reference/docs/SCP_Source_Book_Series.pdf

and resolve conflicts relating to urban environmental planning and management. Gender responsive EPM ensures that women and men drawn from public sector officials, community based organizations (CBOs), non- governmental organizations (NGOs), and private organizations effectively participate in environmental planning and management. It also contributes to better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a cross section of potential actors and collaborators. In turn, planned tasks aimed at addressing environmental planning and management have a higher chance of being 'owned' and addressed by all stakeholders. The capacity of all stakeholders to participate in decision-making should not be automatically assumed. Cities have observed that women's participation in decision-making is hindered by inadequate employment opportunities, multiple responsibilities, and low levels of education, cultural attitudes and inferiority complexes. These factors limit the participation of women in environmental planning and must be addressed by cities and urban managers. In order to ensure the full participation of women in EPM, the timing, day and venue of meetings and/or training have to be considered, as well as the language in which the meeting will be held and the provision of relevant services, such as childcare have to be taken into consideration in order to ensure the full participation of women. In cases where gender disaggregated data shows that participatory capacity is lacking, especially among women, city managers have to facilitate training and empowerment of stakeholders to enable their participation in issues affecting them. In some cities women-centered discussions and demonstrations are held to sensitive women on environmental issues before any serious planning takes place, and in some cases where men dominate discussions, separate women's and men's workshops are

conducted. Urban managers should bear in mind that stakeholders do not only need to be identified and mobilized but also trained and empowered in cases where capacity is lacking. In some cases, legislation has to be reviewed to allow informed, constructive and effective participation.

- **Importance of gender disaggregated information and qualitative data from women and men.** Gender disaggregated information provides the necessary basis for gender analysis and gender responsive EPM. This issue specific information is collected and presented along gender lines; where applicable, making clear the impact of environmental issues and development activities on women and men. Gender disaggregated data is collected where issues affect men and women differently, and is also important in assessing if issues affect men and women differently. Gender disaggregated data and qualitative data include diagnosis of roles, access to and control over resources, constraints and needs. It includes information on households, household types and composition, and who does what within the household. Gender considerations in EPM have to start at the data collection stage, for example during the development of an environmental profile. The collected data has to be connective, well organized and easily accessible. For efficient environmental planning, information has to be updated as new information becomes available. Gender disaggregated information is important for planning and greatly contributes to stakeholders identifying with the projects and programmes. Through gender disaggregated information, different perceptions regarding environmental resources and hazards versus development activities, infrastructure needs and facilities are recorded, compiled, analyzed and used

for gender responsive planning. Effective collection of gender disaggregated data uses methodologies which capture the situation of women. While both quantitative and qualitative methods can be used, the latter is more appropriate for ensuring that women's thinking and needs are integrated in environmental planning and management. Information gathering and dissemination takes place through a number of channels: participant observation; participatory rapid appraisals (PRA); bulletins; workshops; surveys and/or monitoring of particular local situations; exchange visits among cities; the promotion of networks of users; and sharing city experiences, methodologies and training skills. It is important to be aware of how cities are addressing the issue of information availability, its form and how it is shared. Experiences from cities show many different levels of information availability and usage. In some cities information is available but is not disaggregated nor made available from one unit to another. In others, available information is not in a form which can be readily or effectively utilized, while in other cities adequate information does not exist.

- **Facilitating gender sensitive strategy formulation and decision making.** Once cities have identified their environmental issues, they must take a number of steps. They must clarify issue-specific policy options, consider implementation options and resources, build broad-based consensus on issue-specific objectives and strategies, and coordinate environmental and other development strategies. Facilitating gender responsive strategy formulation and decision-making entails making sure that both women and men are effectively involved in identifying the major environmental problems, their causes, effects, and the selected action aimed at

bringing change. Since women and men are responsible for different tasks, gender responsive strategy formulation and decision-making takes into consideration the social, economic and political needs of both women and men during the process. Education and exposure to gender issues and analysis, including use of the media, has to be undertaken to enable the formulation of strategies and informed decisions. Alternatively, external gender sensitive experts can be included in the strategy formulation and decision-making process. Gender responsive EPM recognizes that women are traditionally not involved in the planning stage of projects. Instead women largely participate at the implementation level of the project cycle. Over the years this lack of involvement at the planning stage has meant that women's interests, especially their multiple roles and contributions to development activities, have not being adequately planned and catered for. Such planning processes tend to ignore that women, as producers and managers, are key stakeholders in all aspects of urban development policy and practice. To a large extent women and men have different views on urban issues and on how to address these issues. For example, in most urban informal settlement, while men would suggest an extension of the water systems, women would be more concerned about the number of taps and the number of households that would be served by the water system. Indeed, if given a chance, women tend to highlight women-specific issues such as the aforementioned or the effect of uncollected garbage on children. In order to ensure equity, gender interests have to be incorporated into the strategic planning and gender responsive measures put into practice. Gender responsive strategy formulation has to address urban deficiencies, especially time-consuming, household related urban activities which limit women's effective participation in other economic areas.

An effective strategy formulation should identify and modify structures in order to enhance general productivity in the areas of income earning, reproductive activities, the organization of the household, and daily life. Overall, greater productivity is achieved in the urban planning process if it responds to both women's and men's needs and if these needs are incorporated right from the beginning of the planning process. This also ensures the process leads to user-friendly areas and a more sustainable environment.

- **Gender responsive action planning and resource mobilization for effective implementation.** Action planning and resource mobilization for effective implementation calls for the active participation and coordination of all stakeholders. During the action planning stage, the stakeholders are invited to contribute and make commitments for providing necessary resources such as time, finance and materials. During this stage, stakeholders are also asked to clarify their environmental planning and management goals and objectives. Working groups are expected to lobby various identified stakeholders to mobilize resources. Women and men play a role in identifying the right structures for planning and implementation and have to be well represented in such structures. Once structures are in place, tasks and roles have to be synchronized with time plans. These must suit women. In doing this, the interests of actors have to be defined in order to avoid duplication and also resolve and/or manage conflict. In effective gender responsive EPM action planning and resource mobilization, women take an active role. Gender responsiveness in action planning and resource mobilization aims to reverse the trend of passive gender participation and ensure that women

have inputs in establishing structures for planning and implementation, and that they contribute and participate directly in designing action plans, mobilizing resources and implementation. The mere inclusion of some women in planning and implementation structures does not amount to gender responsive EPM. It is the actual contribution and participation which counts and which results in the interests of both sexes being addressed in planning and implementation. In some societies, it is better for women and men to develop separate action plans based on their priorities and then negotiate to merge them in a common forum. Otherwise women's priorities can be suppressed.

- **Institutionalizing gender responsive EPM and measuring progress.** Institutionalizing gender responsive EPM means building long-term, system-wide EPM capacities that are intrinsically gender responsive. It involves mainstreaming gender in all issues relating to gender responsive EPM: gathering gender disaggregated information, involving stakeholders, gender responsive strategy formulation and decision making, as well as gender responsive action planning and resource mobilization for effective planning and implementation. Institutionalization needs political will for putting in place good policies, regulations and procedures which are relevant for effective gender responsive EPM. The process is best incorporated into all the organizations and institutions of a city and into its daily activities and routines. Community structures and a legislative framework which encourages gender participation have to be put in place to ensure the efficient handling of gender responsive EPM issues. In addition, stakeholders have to be mobilized, and personnel handling gender issues trained in gender

responsive EPM. Conventional methods of planning and management have been observed to marginalize women. Institutionalization of gender responsive EPM ensures that both women and men are given equal consideration in EPM and related programmes and projects. In some cities, city dialogues on environmental issues, which include gender responsive EPM, have supported community-based organizations and city authorities. This has created a pool of people equipped with the necessary skills to work across institutions and stakeholder groups, and to carry out training workshops both within communities and related organizations. In turn, the skills acquired contribute to a clear understanding and build cross-sectorial capacities for gender responsive EPM.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMENDATIONS

6.1. CONCLUSIONS

- Establishment of an operational environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMMS) with a focus on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, is extremely important on strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring and information management in Albania.
- This environmental monitoring system needs to be integrated throughout relevant government institutions and to use international monitoring standards for indicator development, data collection, analysis, and policy-making. It also will need to be built on existing technical and institutional capacity in Albania to align its management and monitoring efforts with global monitoring and reporting priorities.
- Clear understanding and a deeper knowledge on the Rio Conventions and other MEAs lead to better fulfilment of the requirements to reporting to these international obligations and lay the groundwork for sustainable development through better-informed environmental policy.
- Reports prepared for such purpose must contain also information on about policies' effects and effectiveness, as well as gender analyses of their impact to lives of women, men, boys and girls, all members of the society. This information needs to be supported by clear sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics.
- The three Rio Conventions have a clear dimension of gender mainstreaming, and synergies may apply in different actions to implement them. Translating such MEAs in national policies, must definitely include also the same gender perspective in a very clear and easy way to be understood from all stakeholders.
- In terms of legal framework, Albania has undertaken good steps and is also comply the duty to report on different Conventions ratified. Different important laws and policy documents are drafted recently. But the language used in these key documents is mainly gender-neutral and even gender-blind in some of them. This is the first indicator that should draw our attention on the way how these policy documents are implemented, how resources are divided, etc. Analyzing on gender impact in different environmental policies and strategies, is key to ensure a better distribution of measures, resources and benefits for all members of a society, despite of their gender and other characteristic (such as age, ethnicity, ability, etc.)
- Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies is an issue for both women and men. Therefore, the strategy to encourage their equal participation deliberately addresses men, and makes them – together with women – responsible for a gender approach in environmental work. Also, the focus on gender must exist not only on an abstract and global level, but must evolve within a specific local context, taking into account other elements of social

differentiation such as class, caste, religion and age.

- Women and men are not homogenous groups but include people of various age, ethnicity, education, income. These social categories also relate to differences in influence, attitude and in contribution to climate change, to how people are affected by it and which possibilities they possess to adapt to climate change. This applies to developing as well as to developed countries and it should be taken into consideration also from Albania, especially while drafting specific reporting systems and tools in accordance with MEAs requirements.
- Women and men – in their respective social roles – are differently affected by the effects of climate change. Reasons are inter alia to be found in different responsibilities for care work and income generating work, in dependency on natural resources because of lacking access to environmental services, or in knowledge and capacities to cope with the effects because of differences in the access to education and information systems.
- The participation of women in decision-making regarding climate policy – mitigation and adaptation – and its implementation in instruments and measures is very low. Thus, in general it is men's perspectives which are taken into account in planning processes

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

While drafting different policies on environment and climate change, the indicators on climate change and their impact on women must be taken into consideration. In addition, the below point need to be taken into consideration:

- **Knowledge and understanding of the issue** and validation of women's contributions to sustainable development:
 - Ensure that women's knowledge is preserved. Prevent and avoid pirating and commercialization of local and traditional knowledge.
 - Support the systematic documentation of traditional health and agrobiodiversity knowledge, and the bottom-up development of locally owned, traditional environmental knowledge.
 - Document women's knowledge and survival strategies in dry land areas and their expertise in integrated water management.
- **Full participation of women at all levels, particularly in decision-making:**
 - Ensure full and active participation of women together with gender equity in natural resource management, research, planning and decision-making at all levels. In this context also consider active participation of different social classes.
 - Promote the use of participatory methodologies (Guijt, 1996).
 - Address issues of power.
 - Mobilize additional resources to support women's full involvement in natural resource planning and management.
 - Ensure that benefits from interventions accrue to both women and men.

- **Technical and financial support:**

- Assist women in their role as local natural resource managers and identify strategies to help rural women achieve sustainable livelihoods.
- Allocate adequate technical and financial resources to support women directly in natural resource management and the control of environmental degradation, and ensure sustainability of finances.
- Enhance women's access to education, extension services, training, finances and appropriate technologies.
- Create more jobs for women but also account for their nature and terms, including whether they offer sustainable livelihoods.
- Link natural resource programmes and policies to economic initiatives and poverty eradication, and use a cross-cutting and internally consistent approach.

- **Women's empowerment:**

- Create environments that empower women and engage them as full partners in efforts to preserve land, water and natural resources.
- Empower women as resource managers through capacity-building of individuals and organizations, and increased access to educational opportunities
- Improve women's access to information, management processes, training and legal systems.
- Support, strengthen and involve women's organizations and networks working on environmental issues. Facilitate a dialogue with these organizations and gender experts.
- Promote leadership and guarantee political participation of women in

decision-making. Engage young women in leadership-building and leadership practices.

- Raise women's visibility in positions of authority and decision-making at all levels.

- **Identifying the impact of the macro context on women and their environment:**

- Analyze the impacts of macro level policies and institutions, including trade liberalization and privatization, on gender differentiation in environment and sustainable development.
- International partners, organizations and civil-society should ensure the promotion of women's access to natural resources and environmental services, including land, water and biodiversity.
- Promote institutional changes that guarantee a pro-poor approach in terms of the results and impacts of international institutions

In addition to above general recommendations, the below specific recommendations are very important to be taken into consideration from responsible institutions at central government as well as from local self-government units in Albania.

- The work for establishment of an operational environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMMS) with a focus on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, should be done **in parallel with capacity building, informative and awareness activities to be organized with respective central and local government structures responsible to deal with environmental issues** in Albania.

- The responsible institutions in charge to be engaged in monitoring process for environmental issues **must be fully aware of the international monitoring standards** for indicator development, data collection, analysis, and policy-making. This means that **Albanian technical and institutional capacities must be improved and its management and monitoring efforts must be aligned with global monitoring and reporting priorities**. The specific state authorities responsible for environmental issues must be prepared and more actively involved also on monitoring and reporting processes under specific relevant conventions, platforms or national strategies related with gender equality and women's empowerment. Environmental issues in such types of reports must have their specific attention and must present with clear gender and environment indicators.
- Monitoring reports **should be drafted according to specific formats** containing also information about policies' effects and effectiveness, as well as **gender analyses of their impact to lives of women, men, boys and girls, all members of the society**. This information needs to be supported by clear sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics.
- **National policies and national legal framework on environment must be in line with the three Rio Conventions** and this is valid also for the **same level of gender perspective** included in this legal and policy framework. **The language used in these key documents must be gender sensitive**. There is **a need to undertake a deeper gender analyses on the impact of different environmental policies and strategies**, in order to ensure a better distribution of measures, resources and benefits for all members of a society, despite of their gender and other characteristic (such as age, ethnicity, ability, etc.)
- **Gender mainstreaming** in environmental policies **does not simply mean adding some women in an environmental activity**. Women and men are not homogenous groups but include people of various age, ethnicity, education, income. **These characteristics must be taken into consideration while drafting specific reporting systems and monitoring tools** in accordance with MEAs requirements.
- Gender and environment are linked with each other. This means that the **state structures (at central and local level) responsible to deal with gender issues must be equipped with the needed knowledge and must be informed to actively participate in all discussions and activities organized on environment and environmental issues**. It is true that the Gender Equality Employees (especially the ones at local self-government units) are extremely work loaded because they have to deal with many other duties related to violence against women, minorities, disabilities, etc. However, the state structures must find a balance and must employ additional specialist to deal with legislation on domestic violence, anti-discrimination, minorities, etc., in order to create to Gender Equality Employees, the opportunity of dealing specifically with all gender issues, including gender and environment.
- **The process of drafting any new policy or action plan focused on environment issues must be a participatory one** and women's voice must be taken into consideration on decision-making processes. There exist good experiences of women's engagement into participatory processes (including experiences of gender participatory budgeting) at local level. These experiences should be guiding also the processes related to environmental issues.
- **Information and data on environment**

must be updated regularly. All responsible institutions must have their own informative system on environmental issues, with data disaggregated at least by sex. In this frame, it is very important to use the appropriate informative tools for gathering and distributing the needed environmental information from/to women and girls in specific communities.

- **Women and men must have equal voices and equal power on decision making processes related to environmental issues.** Working specifically with women to empower them in this direction is one approach in addition to awareness raising activities with entre community members. State structures may be more effective on engagement of women in decision-making issues if they do collaborate with women's organizations at local level. **The number of women appointed in decision-making structures must be increased** and they should not be excluded from processes related to environmental issues.

6.3. SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

In parallel to the efforts done at national level, at Kolonja region, the following measures are recommended in increase women participation and contribution to above mentioned topics:

- Knowledge and understanding of the issue and validation of women's contributions to sustainable development:
 - Organize women discussion forums with expert involvement on local development plans and alternatives.
 - Establish a database at Municipality level with information on women initiatives and women experts (gender segregated data).
 - At Municipal Council ensure full and active participation of women together with gender equity in natural resource management, research, planning and decision-making at local level.
 - Mobilize local civil society resources such women-rights NGOs, community based groups to support Kolonja women's full involvement in natural resource planning and management.
 - Ensure participation of women from the rural areas in discussion agricultural development alternatives, promotion and development of local business initiative which are based on usage of local products (handcrafting, food processing, etc.). Typical products of the region are attractive to wide range of touristic and visitors should be further promoted by local tourism/ travel agencies in the region.
- Technical and financial support:
 - Either at Kolonja Municipality or Korca region level, various environmental, forestry and agricultural experts such as Forestry Directorate, Environmental

Agency and Extension Service of Agricultural Department should assist women in their role as local natural resource managers and identify strategies to help rural women achieve sustainable livelihoods.

- Through local projects financed by the Municipality, Central budget Grant or different donors, Central Governmental authorities, Municipality and other local actors should allocate adequate technical and financial resources to support women directly in natural resource management and the control of environmental degradation, and ensure sustainability of finances.
 - Enhance women's access to education, extension services, training, finances and appropriate technologies.
-
- Women's empowerment:
 - Kolonja region has the opportunities to create environments that empower women and engage them as full partners in efforts to preserve land, water and natural resources. Through local trainings and workshops women should be empowered as resource managers through capacity-building of individuals and organizations, and increased access to educational opportunities
 - As general effort at the Municipality level, it should be further improved women's access to information, management processes, training and legal systems.
 - Support from various donors and Agency for Support of the Civil Society should continue to support, strengthen and involve women's organizations and networks working on environmental issues in Kolonja.

7. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS SIGNED AND SUPPORTED BY ALBANIA⁶⁴

Albania has signed a large number of international conventions and committed to obligations deriving by them. Some of these key Conventions and Protocols are listed below:

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona Convention, Barcelona, 1976.

Convention on Long-Range Trans boundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), Geneva, 1979.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn, 1979.

Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Trans boundary Air Pollution on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Trans boundary Fluxes by at Least 30 Per Cent

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Rotterdam, 1998.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna, 1985, including the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Montreal 1987.

Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Basel, 1989.

Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Montreal, 1989.

Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Tran's boundary Context, Espoo, 1991.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Nairobi, 1992

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 1992.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1992

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), 1995

Convention "On Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats" (Ramsar Convention), in which Albania is a Party since 29.2.1996;

Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC, Kyoto, 1997

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Aarhus

64 Ministry of Environment (2012): "Stock taking Albanian Rio+20 Report", pg. 28-30. The years mentioned are the ones when the Conventions have been approved or entered into force (not the ones when Albania has ratified them, unless the ratification date is clearly mentioned).

See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1014albanianationalreport.pdf>

Convention, Aarhus, 1998

Convention "On the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats" (Bern Convention), ratified by the Albanian Parliament by the law "On the ratification of the "Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern Convention)"" (published in the Official Gazette no.7, dated 4.4.1998. page 251)

Convention "On the conservation of migratory species of wild animals" (Bonn Convention) and its Agreements for Cetaceans (ACCOBAMS), European populations of bats (Eurobats) and conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (AEWA), in which Albania has acceded by the law no. 8692, dated 16.11.2000 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Bonn Convention "On the conservation of migratory species of wild animals" and agreements of this Convention" (published in the Official Gazette 43, dated 13.11.2000, page 1936)

UN Convention "To combat desertification in countries that have passed long draught and/or desertification, especially in Africa", (published in the Official Gazette 37, 25.2.2000, page 1471)

Convention "On the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution" the protocol on Specially Protected Areas, in which Albania is a Party after the approval of the law "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the convention "On the protection of marine environment and coastal area of the Mediterranean Sea as well as its 6 accompanying protocols"" (published in the Official Journal 43, dated 13.12.2000, pg. 1935)

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Stockholm, 2001.

Convention "On International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES), in which Albania has acceded after the approval of the Law no.9021, dated 6.3.2002 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania to the "Convention on international trade of

endangered species of wild fauna and flora" (published in the Official Journal no.22, dated 2.4.2003, page 665)

Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration at Sea

Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities

Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea

Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

Protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil.

Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats

Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; ratified by the Albanian Parliament through the Law No. 9279, dated 23.9.2004 "On the accession of the Republic of Albania at Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety of the Convention "On biological diversity" (published at Official Gazette No.74, dated 27.10.2004, pg. 5136)

International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS)

Energy Community (Energy Community South East Europe Treaty - ECSEE)⁶⁵

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2009

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, ratified by Albania in 2010⁶⁶

ANNEX 2. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION, MINISTER'S ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS

CoM Decision No.147, dated 21.03.2007 "On the quality of fuels, petrol and diesel"

DCM. 1189 dated 18.11.2009 "On the rules and procedures for the design and implementation of the national program of environmental monitoring"

DCM. 643, dated 14.09.2011 "On the approval of the National Strategy of the Services Sector Water Supply and Sewerage, Water and Sanitation"

Instruction Nr. 2, dated 11.02.2010 "On the technical control of road vehicles" (the degree

of opacity of emissions as the average indicator of diesel fumes in tools and content of CO / HC for vehicles with gasoline). Based on this instruction the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure monitor emissions from vehicles passing through technical inspection⁶⁷.

Instruction Nr. 2, dated 11.02.2010 "On the technical control of road vehicles" (the degree of opacity of emissions as the average indicator of diesel fumes in tools and content of CO / HC for vehicles with gasoline). Based on this instruction the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure monitor emissions from vehicles passing through technical inspection⁶⁸.

CoM Decision No.781, dated 14.11.2012 "On the quality of certain liquid fuel for thermal use civil and industrial, as well as for use in water transport (marine, river and lake)"

Minister's Order no. 1280, of 20.11.2013 "Protected species of Albania that are part of the Red List of wild fauna and flora" (based on this Order the specific list is adopted on December 2013)

Decision 175, dated 19.01.2011 "On the approval of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Solid Waste Management"

Decision no. 705, dated 10.10.2012 "On waste management at the end of life vehicles"

Decision no. 177, dated 6.3.2012 "On their packaging and waste."

Decision no. 178, dated 6.3.2012 "For the incineration of waste."

Decision no. 452, dated 07.11.2012 "On waste landfills."

65 Albania signed the Treaty of the Energy Community in 2005. This Treaty is also referred as Energy Community of South East Europe (ECSEE) is a community established between the European Union (EU) and a number of third countries in order to extend the EU internal energy market to Southeast Europe and beyond. The Treaty establishing the Energy Community was signed in Athens, Greece, on 25 October 2005, and entered into force on 1 July 2006.

66 In 2011, FAO has supported the creation of a "National Program on Protection and Management of the Genetic Resources", accompanied by an Action Plan and the respective costing.

67 Ministry of Environment: "Draft Cross-sectorial Strategy of Environment 2015-2020", pg. 2. See: http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/files/userfiles/Transparence_dhe_Pjesmarrje/draft_SNM_2015_-_2020.pdf

68 Ministry of Environment: "Draft Cross-sectorial Strategy of Environment 2015-2020", pg. 2. See: http://www.mjedisi.gov.al/files/userfiles/Transparence_dhe_Pjesmarrje/draft_SNM_2015_-_2020.pdf

Decision no. 765, dated 7.11.2012 "On approval of rules for separate collection and treatment of used oils."

Decision no. 866, dated 04.12.2012 "On the batteries, accumulators and their waste"

Decision nr.957, dated 19.12.2012 "On the waste electrical and electronic equipment"

Decision No. 117, dated 13.02.2013 "On the basis of criteria which determine when certain types of scrap metal cease to be waste".

Decision no. 52 dated 05.02.2014 "On some amendments to the Decision No. 117, dated 13.2.2013 of the Council of Ministers" On the criteria that define when certain types of scrap metal cease to be waste ".

Decision no. 798, dated 29.09.2010 "On the management of medical waste."

Decision no. 229, dated 23.04.2014 "On approval of rules for the transfer of non-hazardous waste and information to be included in the transfer document."

Decision nr.371, dated 11.06.2014 "On approval of rules for hazardous waste delivery and document their delivery."

Decision nr.418, dated 25.06.2014 "On the separate collection of waste at source"

Decision nr.608, dated 17.09.2014 "On establishing the necessary measures required for the collection of and bio-waste treatment and the criteria and deadlines for reducing them.

Decision no. 641, dated 01.10.2014 "On approval of rules for waste export and transit of non-hazardous waste and inert waste."

ANNEX 3. LIST WITH NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS ON ENVIRONMENT⁶⁹

National Energy Strategy adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no. 424, dated 26.06.2003 (published in the Official Gazette 54/2003, pg.2196)

Cross-sectorial Strategy for Rural and Agricultural Development adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no 709, dated 29.10.2014 (published in the Official Gazette 169/2014)

Business and Investments Development Strategy, adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no 795, dated 11.07.2007 (published in the Official Gazette 170/2007, pg. 5109)

Transport Sector Strategy, adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no. 1214, dated 03.09.2008 (published in Official Gazette 145/2008, pg. 7183)

Tourism Sector Strategy, adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no. 844, 06.11.2008 (published in the Official Gazette 107/2008, pg. 4732)

Cross-sector Strategy for Rural Development, adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no 924, dated 14.11.2007 (published in the Official Gazette 192/2007, pg.6149)

Cross-Sector Strategy for Regional Development, adopted by Council of Ministers' Decision no. 773, 14.11.2007 (published in the Official Gazette 161/2007, pg. 4715)

Ministry of Health with the support of the World Health Organization has developed a strategic document "Health system to adapt to climate change 2011-2021", which includes

⁶⁹ A full list with strategies and action plans prepared and approved from Albanian Government can be found at the "Stock taking Albania Rio+20 report (2012), pg. 12-18. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1014albanianationalreport.pdf>

strategic directions and action plan for the period 2011-2021. This strategy aims: (i) Strengthening of health services and cross-sectorial systems to adequately improve their response to climate change impacts, and (ii) Encourage healthy behaviour and energy-efficient in all areas and to provide information and access to the mitigation and adaptation interventions, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups through public awareness campaigns

Climate Change Adaptation in the Drin-Mati River Delta and Beyond-Policy Paper

Draft Action Plan of Tourism Development Strategy 2015-2020 in the framework of coordination of measures for sustainable development.

In compliance with the obligations that the Republic of Albania is a party to the Montreal Protocol, the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the implementing agencies of the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO) and the United Nations Program for Environment (UNEP), drafted in August 2011, the National Plan for the disposal of HCFCs. This plan aims at reducing to zero of HCFCs by the end of 2040.

ANNEX 4: THE PROGRESS MADE FROM ALBANIA IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AS ANALYSED ON THE EU PROGRESS REPORT 2016)⁷⁰

Alignment to the Directive on environmental impact assessments (EIA) is at an early stage. Quality and implementation of EIAs need to

be improved, especially in the hydropower and mining sectors. Strategic environmental assessment requirements are not applied in the energy sector and shall be expanded to cover all relevant plans and programmes. Alignment and implementation of the Directive on Environmental Liability are at an early stage. The INSPIRE Directive⁷¹ and the Directive on Environmental Crime are not transposed yet.

Legislative alignment with the Acquis on air quality is relatively advanced. The Council Directive relating to the Sulphur Content of Certain Liquid Fuels has been recently transposed, rectifying breaches due to late transposition. The Directive on National Emission Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants has yet to be transposed. A national strategy for air quality was adopted in 2014, but not yet implemented. A national action plan on air quality is being prepared. Monitoring of air quality does not fully meet the standards established by the relevant EU directives. There are no local ambient air quality plans and no activities have been initiated to prevent known breaches of the limit values.

Legislative alignment with the acquis on waste management is advanced except for the acquis on ship recycling, mining and electronic waste. In September 2016, an amendment of the 2011 law on integrated management of waste was adopted. It aims at further aligning with the acquis as it allows also for the import of waste, albeit only for recycling purposes. Its implementation requires that Albania develops the necessary infrastructure, institutions and a system for monitoring control and reporting of waste movements. Waste dumping sites are mapped throughout the country, pending their closure and reclaiming. Rules on the control of ship-generated waste from marine transport need to be enforced. Waste segregation is non-existent and waste collection for recycling

70 European Commission "Staff Working Document: Albania 2016 Report" [SWD (2016) 364 final] chapter 27 (Brussels, 911.2016). See: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2016/20161109_report_albania.pdf

71 Directive 2007/2/EC of March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

purposes is largely informal. The institutional capacity to manage waste still remains weak at all levels. Waste disposal remains largely non-compliant with environmental protection standards. Industrial waste management is poor due to lack of investments and weak law enforcement. The national waste management strategy and action plan, approved in 2011 and currently under revision, as well as the regional plans have not been implemented yet. The construction of a regional landfill in the Korça region and a feasibility study for Vlora have started. Albania has approved the construction of two incinerators in Elbasan and Fier.

Legislative alignment with the Acquis on water quality and administrative capacity for water management are weak. The Water Framework and Bathing Water Directives have been largely transposed, and responsibilities partly clarified in the 2015 local government law. However, alignment with the directives on urban waste water treatment, drinking water and groundwater is insufficient and regulations to strengthen implementation are lacking. The strategic framework is partly in place, including the 2011-2017 national strategy on water supply and wastewater treatment plants, which is currently being updated, a master plan on water supply and wastewater treatment plants, and a first pipeline of priority projects under the Western Balkans Investment Framework (2015). Only one river basin management plan exists (for the Mat river) but it is not implemented. However, the elaboration of water river basins management plans for three other rivers (Drin-Buna, Semani and Shkumbin) is ongoing and expected to be completed by 2018.

Policy, strategic and action documents as well as a consolidated national investment plan relevant to integrated water management are lacking, apart from a few programmes. Water quality monitoring is in place under the National Environment Agency, including annual reporting on bathing waters to the EU Environment Agency since 2013. However, drinking water and groundwater quality

remains unreported. Bathing water quality is not satisfactory, with about 40 % of coastal water quality stations classified as poor under the revised EU Bathing Water Directive based on 2012-2015 data. The number of operational waste water treatment plants increased from 5 to 7, serving only 13 % of the population. Their capacity needs to be substantially increased, notably in coastal, urban and touristic areas. Mapping of flood hazards and risks was done for the Shkodra region and is expected to start for the Vlora region in 2016.

On nature protection, there is only partial alignment with the acquis, including the Birds and Habitats Directives. The 2016-2020 strategic policy document on protecting biodiversity was adopted in January. The recognition of five Natura 2000 sites by 2017 is under preparation. Since the previous ban on hunting showed progress in protecting fauna, the ban has been extended for a further 5 years. The ecological impacts of hydropower plants and projects are not properly assessed to ensure compliance with relevant EU nature legislation. Some 44 of 71 hydropower stations are still under construction within protected areas. The National Agency of Protected Areas has developed a database on hydropower constructions. Albania needs also to consider the cumulative impact of investments such as hydropower on the landscape, water resources, fauna and flora. In February, the parliament adopted a 10-year moratorium on forest timber exploitation for business purposes. There was some progress in strengthening inspection capacity. Regulations on timber and on forest law enforcement, governance and trade are yet to be transposed.

On industrial pollution and risk management, large-scale investment will be needed to ensure full compliance with the Industrial Emissions Directive. The Large Combustion Plants and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directives are transposed. There is no progress on monitoring of implementation. The Saves III Directive has not been transposed.

There has been some progress in strengthening inspection capacity, but more efforts are needed to establish a solid inspection system. Compliance with IPPC/industrial emissions remains a concern. No progress has been made on integrated permits and the authorities are still issuing multiple permits for a single technical installation. There is no progress on the quality of permits. Many permits have been issued which do not comply with the legal requirements.

About chemicals, Albania is partially aligned with EU requirements on REACH; export and import of dangerous chemicals; on the regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures; persistent organic pollutants; animal experiments; asbestos; biocides; and mercury. The framework law on chemicals management was adopted in March, but several pieces of secondary legislation are pending. A center for the collection and treatment of hazardous chemicals was established in October 2015 in Elbasan. Work needs to progress for the adoption of secondary legislation. Environmental protection policies and practices for the use of chemicals in agriculture are yet to be developed. Data on the implementation of chemicals legislation is neither reported nor made public. Albania has ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Alignment with the Acquis on environmental noise is at an early stage. Noise level standards for outdoor use of equipment were adopted in December, but by-laws are yet to be adopted and enforcement capacity is weak. Breaches of noise limits are persistent in several cities. Noise is not covered by spatial planning. There are no specific programmes and statistics on the health effects of noise. Reporting on the implementation of the national noise plan

did not progress as regard civil protection, Albania is not a participating state to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism but will soon start preparations. The rules for cooperation by institutions in civil emergency situations were established in December 2015. The national strategy for disaster risk reduction and civil protection is awaiting adoption. There is some progress with line ministries establishing information and civil emergency management and crisis offices, but no progress at local or regional level. Installations located in river flood plains still receive construction permits despite evidence of recent flooding. Albania is gradually implementing the emergency communication system, in accordance with the single European emergency number 112. The institutional capacity and cooperation between monitoring institutions need to be strengthened to ensure effective responses to emergency situations.

Climate change. The level of alignment and administrative capacity is still limited despite some progress on the policy level and on increasing climate awareness. Work has started on a national strategy for climate change, a national action plan for mitigation and a specific law on climate change. The strategy reviews inter alia the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution - INDC (2030 and 2050 targets). The Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change coordinated the integration of climate change considerations including INDC targets into other sectorial strategies, especially in the areas of energy, industry, transport and infrastructure. Albania also needs to ensure coherence of the Climate Strategy with the EU 2030 Framework on Climate and Energy Policies. Climate change adaptation also forms part of several horizontal and cross-sectorial strategies in the area of environment and at regional and local level. Albania participates in the Global Network for Adaptation.

Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Albania is has finalized 3rd

National communication report as well as the national adaption plan, which assesses climate related risks and adaptation scenarios for the coastal region. Albania ratified the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. An inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change established by the Ministry of Environment coordinates the work between line ministries, particularly on energy and transport issues.

In the area of transparency of climate action, Albania is currently finalizing a decision on Monitoring Mechanism Regulation. As for emission reductions from transport, draft sustainable transport plan has been prepared. Further efforts are required to align with the regulations on ozone depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases, as well as directives on emissions trading and geological storage of CO₂.

