

Environmental and Social Management Framework

Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (BRUP) P174595



Prepared By

Albanian Road Authority (ARA)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACER	Albanian Center for Economic Research
ARA	Albanian Road Authority
BRUP	Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project
BMS	Bridge Management System
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
GoA	Government of Albania
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IoCM	Institute of the Cultural Monuments
SAC	State Agency of Cadastre
LGC	Local Grievance Committee
LGU	Local Government Unit
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NAPA	National Agency of Protected Areas
NRN	National Road Network
NTDS	National Territorial Development Strategy
MoIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
MoUD	Ministry of Urban Development
OMP	Operational Management Plan
PA	Protected Area
PAN	Protected Area Network
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PMT	Project Management Team
RAMS	Road Asset Management System
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
WB	World Bank

Executive Summary

The Government of Albania through the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy seeks Funding for the Albanian Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (BRUP) from the World Bank (the Bank). The Project for Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (BRUP) aims to finance the rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and structure on the National Road Network (NRN) to modern standards, in order to enhance their reliability, operational performance and resilience to future climate change and geological hazards events. In addition, to ensure sustainability of the investments, the project will finance softer components aimed at strengthening the capacity of Albanian Road Authority at managing the bridge and culvert assets. The BRUP has a necessity to develop the ESMF report to cover the expanded scope.

Based on ARA assessment, it is expected that around 80 priority bridges (with a traffic flow of 100 to 2500 daily) and culverts will require intervention within the next seven years. The priority bridges and culverts will be those with the highest i) socio-economic importance due to their location along key economic and trade corridors, or connecting vulnerable populations to public services, jobs, and market centers; and/or ii) vulnerability and risk of failure due to their deteriorated structural conditions or their location in areas of the country prone to natural disasters or climate change; and iii) requiring intervention within the next seven years period, until the project closing date. Civil works will be designed for new resilience norms to withstand future natural disasters and climate change (especially for Albania, earthquakes, windstorms, floods, extreme temperature events). The works will also be designed to a) increase the road capacity and the needs of pedestrian rural and local populations; and b) improve road safety, including at the approach roads are fully compliant with the Euro-codes, and address the shortcomings identified by the road safety audit. A study will be prepared to select the priority bridges. Once the priority bridges are selected, the project will be able to assess more precisely, and effectively which vulnerable groups use the bridges more frequently both in urban and less urban areas. The exact profile of the beneficiaries will be defined once the selection of bridges is completed.

Chapter 1 presents a brief background of the project and outlines the rationale and purpose of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). It also describes the scope of the framework as it relates to the methods and procedures for E&S assessment. The ESMF detailed data were collected from field-level verification on the E&S parameters/setting, discussion and meetings with the community affected people, the relevant stakeholders, previous Bank studies prepared by Bank and other donors, with the project staff and secondary information (website, reports, and bulletins) and other available desktop data.

Chapter 2 describes project objectives and components and project beneficiaries. The components of the, namely: Component 1: Rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and culverts and associated structures (estimated total cost: US\$ 82 million); Component 2: Institutional capacity building (estimated total cost: US\$ 13 million) consider to change this component for “Modernization of the BMS” including the full support to the ARA to build capacity and to deliver the instruments as BMS adjustments and SLA; Component 3: Project management (estimated total cost: US\$ 5 million); Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (estimated total cost: US\$0)

Chapter 3 presents national and international policies and regulatory frameworks that are relevant in guiding the design and implementation of the project activities, and in managing the potential environmental and social impacts that may be caused by these activities. The first part of the Section reviews the applicable national and international E&S regulatory frameworks concerning project components and activities:

Albania law and regulations on environmental protection include the following:

- National Environmental Legal Framework (Albanian Constitution adopted by Albanian Parliament in 1998)
- Law No. 10431, dated June 9, 2011 on “Environmental Protection”

- Law No. 8906, dated 06.06.2002 on “Protected Areas and Biodiversity”
- Protection of Physical Environment Framework
- Law No.10440/ 2011 on “Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure” and DCM No. 686 dated 29.07.2015 “On the rules, responsibilities, timelines for the EIA procedure and the transfer procedure of the decision for the environmental declaration” amended.
- Law 9048 dated on 7/04/2003 on “Cultural Heritage Act”, (as amended by Law No. 9592, dated 27.07.2006; Law No. 9882, dated 28.02.2008) in the Field of Cultural Heritage

And the second part discusses the world bank’s environmental and social standards (ESSs) that are relevant to the assessment and management of E&S risks and impacts of the project, including the ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social risks and impacts); ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions); ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management); ESS4 (Community Health and Safety); and ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement), ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources), ESS8 (Cultural Heritage) and ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). Moreover, the section also touches upon the international conventions and agreements signed/ratified in Albania gap analysis between the local regulation and World Bank ESS; gap analysis between Albanian framework on assessment and acquisition and WB standards (ESS5).

Chapter 4 provides general information about the baseline E&S conditions and characteristics of the project’s area of influence, such as water resources, air quality, solid waste management, climate, air temperature, solar radiation, rainfalls, physical environment – air quality; hydrology and surface water, lakes and lagunes, groundwater, flooding hazard, soil and groundwater land degradation and soil erosion, seismic hazard, climate change, waste management practices, biological environment – flora, fauna; protected area; socioeconomic and cultural heritage.

Chapter 5 identifies potential E&S risks of the project and the mitigation measures. Based on preliminary assessments, the project presents substantial environmental risks and impacts such as resettlement, the project is closed to natural monument, potential impacts to nature protected areas and cultural heritage cannot be excluded at this point and other likely environmental issues to be encountered are mostly short-term, local, and reversible and include changes in the quality river/stream water, as well as typical construction-related disturbances such as dust, air pollution, waste generation, and soil erosion, disposal of excavated mineral materials, OHS risks, etc. Further, the Section prescribes a range of generic mitigation measures to deal with the identified E&S risks and impacts, at all stages of the project.

Chapter 6 This section of the ESMF provides guidance to the Project on procedures to be followed and standards to be met in implementing the projects in agreement with the national and World Bank ESF provisions. It covers sub-projects environmental and social screening, monitoring and institutional strengthening for implementation of the subprojects. This chapter also provides the information on Environmental Review Process, and screening procedures of the sub-projects

Chapter 7 explains the overall project management and institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of the project. Thus, the Section highlights the roles and responsibilities of Ministry and ARA which is also the principal implementing agency of the project. The Section also analyzes the ESMF implementation capacity of the MoFE and MoIE and recommends several measures, including capacity enhancement activities and management of additional experts to ensure effective arrangements on Land Acquisition and Resettlement Process and implementation of the ESMF.

Chapter 8 details the principles and procedures that will be adopted by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and ARA as implementing agency to carry out stakeholder consultations and public disclosure of information related to the subproject among the project-affected communities and stakeholders. The ESMF adopts strategic approaches to ensure the full and effective participation of vulnerable groups in the E&S assessment and implementation of the

mitigation measures in the subprojects. Similarly, the ESMF proposes functional GRM systems, capable of addressing concerns of local communities through a transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities.

Chapter 9 The Section, which provides procedures for compliance monitoring and reporting. The responsibility for onsite environmental monitoring of contractor activities will rest on ARA PMT with the support from the LGU. Independent consultants hired by the ARA, will be responsible for Environmental and social monitoring with oversight and guidance from the World Bank. The capacity building will include aligning the Albanian bridge design codes with those of the EU (Eurocodes); the upgrade of the bridge management system (BMS); and the training of ARA's staff to properly use it for future monitoring and the maintenance planning of the assets.

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Annex 5: Description of First year Bridges

Annex 6: COVI 19, World Bank ESF/Safeguard Interim Note

1. Introduction

This chapter presents a brief background of the project and outlines the rationale and purpose of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). It also describes the scope of the framework as it relates to the methods and procedures for E&S assessment. The ESMF detailed data were collected from field-level verification on the E&S parameters/setting, discussion and meetings with the community affected people, the relevant stakeholders, previous Bank studies prepared by Bank and other donors, with the project staff and secondary information (website, reports, and bulletins) and other available desktop data.

1.1 Background

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

The Transport sector is expected to play a pivotal role in supporting the Albanian National Strategy for Development and Integration. The development and modernization of Albania's transport infrastructure has been and remains one of the top priorities of the GoA, with the aim to i) create the preconditions for the development of other sectors of the economy, ii) increase the accessibility of freight and passengers in trade and service delivery, and iii) significantly contribute to an inclusive economic growth and a balanced development of the territory. Another priority is to accelerate the integration of Albania's transport system internally and with the EU TEN-T through the establishment of a resilient and integrated multimodal transport system by land (road and rail). However, despite the significant efforts in recent years, the transport sector has yet to become a significant promoter of economic development in Albania. The timely and adequate provision of funding for the priority investment programs and the annual maintenance requirements, remains problematic.

The new National Transport Strategy and Treaty is expected to put further pressure on the road and bridge infrastructure planning and prioritization process and on the level of preparation to cope with market forces, but significant gaps remain compared to regional and European levels. Albania's competitiveness is hindered by lack of entrepreneurial and technological expertise, weak institutional capacity and significant skills gap, and low levels of investment and infrastructure quality. Integration into international value chains and exports remained below potential. Furthermore, the country is lagging in meeting the critical prerequisites for access to finance as well as to achieve competitiveness of the agricultural and tourism sectors.

Roads and highways are the predominant mode of land transport in Albania and provide essential connectivity for freight and passenger transport. The overall length of Albania's road network is about 18,300 km, including 4,000 km of national road network (NRN) and 14,300 km of regional, local, and private access roads. The Albanian Road Authority (ARA) under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, is responsible for managing the national road network, while municipalities are responsible for the regional and local roads.

Although the ongoing World Bank-financed Results-Based Road Maintenance and Safety Project (RRMSP) boosted the road maintenance expenditures in short-term, the sustainable financing of road maintenance practice in the long-term remains questionable. Thanks to the ongoing World Bank RRMSP, out of total ALL 24 billion national road budget, the country spent about ALL 2 billion (8 percent) in routine maintenance and ALL 9.2 billion (39 percent) in rehabilitation and periodic maintenance of national roads¹. The country should however establish a sustainable financing

¹ Albania Roads Rapid Diagnostic Report, May 2019

mechanism for maintenance beyond the project closing date, and expand it to the entire road assets, and continue the performance culture.

Road safety remains a major social and public health issue in Albania. Although the number of accidents has dropped in recent years, Albania still compares unfavorably with countries in the region or EU member states, with a rate of 12.77 fatalities per 100,000 population, well above the 7.8 in Montenegro, 7.35 in Greece, 5.51 in Serbia, 4.02 in France, 3.23 in Germany, and 2.42 in the United Kingdom². In response, the GoA set an objective to reduce the 2009 number of fatalities by 50 percent in 2020, which has increased its attention to road safety reforms, including the adoption of the Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan in 2011 and adoption of a mandatory road safety inspection/audit for all new road investments. The World Bank-financed RRMSF is strengthening the capacity of the Inter-Ministerial Road Safety Council through introduction of road safety audit training and accreditation courses, supporting media campaigns, and enhancing the Accident Information System (AIS).

Bridge Infrastructure in Albania

The construction of bridges and other structures of the Albania National Road Network dates back to 1930 with different design standards. The 4,000 km of national road network (NRN) in Albania includes 730 bridges, hundreds of culvert structures and not-inventoried other related structures. Over the past nine decades (since 1930), those structures were constructed at different stages of Albania's road system development based on different bridge and structures design standards (BDS), including the Soviet's, Italian's and Albanian standards. Following the ongoing reforms, the country is gradually aligning its road and structures design and construction (including bridges) standards with the European Eurocodes standards.

A survey carried by ARA in 2018 on key backbone corridors and connecting roads on the NRN has shown the worrisome conditions of the bridges, and levels of deterioration of their key structure, particularly on the secondary roads. Some of which have already passed their design life span several decades ago, while others did not receive any or limited maintenance during the last two decades. Further, the "Climate resilient road assets in Albania" study carried out by the World Bank in 2019 has confirmed that bridges on the NRN corridors are among the most vulnerable infrastructure assets in Albania to earthquakes, flood hazards and landslides.

Albania's bridge infrastructure is severely disrupted by climate change and natural disasters. The devastating earthquake in November 2019 affected some 1.9 million people (about 66 percent of total population) and the country economy and damaged several road and bridge infrastructure which percentage of the infra was severe damaged. In addition, the intense rainfalls in November 2020 and January 2021 have resulted in floods and landslides, substantial disruption to traffic and damage to the road and bridge infrastructure and have left several parts of the country stranded and vulnerable communities isolated. Those events highlighted the high vulnerability of the Albanian road and bridge assets to natural disasters and climate change (including earthquakes, intense floods and landslides, intense windstorms, extreme temperature, etc.), and their potential heavy impacts on the economy and the populations' livelihood.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives of the ESMF

As outlined in the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework 2018 (ESF), the purpose of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to examine the risks and impacts of a project when the project consists of a program and/or series of works, and the risks cannot be determined until the program or works details have been identified. This is the case for the BRUP Project as the specific works will only be determined after the preparation of detailed design for each subproject.

² <https://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/albania-road-traffic-accidents>

Once the works are defined for the Project and the necessary information becomes available, the framework will be used to develop the projects specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) proportionate to potential risks and impacts for specific works to specific intervention locations.

As set out in Environmental and Social Standard (EES) 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (ESS 1) of the ESF, the ESMF is to set out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts, as well as measures and plans to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts.

2.0 Project Description

This chapter describes project objectives and components and project beneficiaries. The components of the, namely: Component 1: Rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and culverts and associated structures (estimated total cost: US\$ 82 million); Component 2: Institutional capacity building (estimated total cost: US\$ 13 million) consider to change this component for “Modernization of the BMS” including the full support to the ARA to build capacity and to deliver the instruments as BMS adjustments and SLA; Component 3: Project management (estimated total cost: US\$ 5 million); Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (estimated total cost: US\$0)

2.1 Project Objectives and Components

The Government of Albania through the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy seeks Funding for the Albanian Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (BRUP) from the World Bank (the Bank). The Project for Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project (BRUP) aims to finance the rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and structure on the NRN to modern standards, in order to enhance their reliability, operational performance and resilience to future climate change and geological hazards events. In addition, to ensure sustainability of the investments, the project will finance softer components aimed at strengthening the capacity of Albanian Road Authority at managing the bridge and culvert assets.

Based on ARA’s expert knowledge of the national road network, it is expected that around 80 priority bridges (with a traffic flow of 100 to 2500 daily) and culverts will require intervention within the next seven years. The priority bridges and culverts will be those with the highest i) socio-economic importance due to their location along key economic and trade corridors, or connecting vulnerable populations to public services, jobs, and market centers; and/or ii) vulnerability and risk of failure due to their deteriorated structural conditions or their location in areas of the country prone to natural disasters or climate change; and iii) requiring intervention within the next seven years period, until the project closing date. Civil works will be designed for new resilience norms to withstand future natural disasters and climate change (especially for Albania, earthquakes, windstorms, floods, extreme temperature events). The works will also be designed to a) increase the road capacity and the needs of pedestrian rural and local populations; and b) improve road safety, including at the approach roads are fully compliant with the Euro-codes, and address the shortcomings identified by the road safety audit. A study will be prepared to select the priority bridges. Once the priority bridges are selected, the project will be able to assess more precisely and effectively which vulnerable groups use the bridges more frequently both in urban and less urban areas. The exact profile of the beneficiaries will be defined once the selection of bridges is completed.

The Project development objective is to enhance the reliability of the bridges and associated infrastructure along Albania's National Road Network through modernisation and climate resilience.

The projects components are the following:

- Component 1: Rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and culverts and associated structures (estimated total cost: US\$ 82 million)
- Component 2: Institutional capacity building (estimated total cost: US\$ 13 million) consider to change this component for “Modernization of the BMS” including the full support to the ARA to build capacity and to deliver the instruments as BMS adjustments and SLA.
- Component 3: Project management (estimated total cost: US\$ 5 million)
- Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (estimated total cost: US\$0)

Component 1: Rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridges and culverts and associated structures (estimated total cost: US\$ 82 million) This component will finance the rehabilitation or reconstruction of priority bridge and culverts on the NRN. The priority bridges and culverts will be selected based on the following criteria: i) socio-economic importance due to their location along key economic and trade corridors, or connecting vulnerable populations to public services, jobs and market centers; and/or ii) vulnerability and risk of failure due to their deteriorated structural conditions or their location in areas of the country prone to natural disasters or climate change; and iii) requiring intervention within the next seven years period, until the project closing date. The civil works will be designed for new resilience norms to withstand future natural disasters and climate change (especially for Albania, earthquakes, windstorms, floods, extreme temperature events). The works will also be designed to a) increase the road capacity where needed to accommodate the current and future increase in traffic volumes and mix (heavy vehicles), and the needs of pedestrian rural and local populations; and b) improve road safety to ensure that the bridge superstructure, signage and geometrical characterizes, including at the approach roads are fully compliant with the Euro-codes, and address the shortcomings identified by the road safety audit.

Component 2: Institutional capacity building (estimated total cost: US\$ 13 million) consider to change this component for “ Modernization of the BMS” including the full support to the ARA to build capacity and to deliver the instruments as BMS adjustments and SLA. To ensure sustainability of the investments under Component 1, this component will finance softer activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of ARA at managing the bridge and culvert assets. This will include, aligning the Albanian bridge design codes with those of the EU (Eurocodes); the upgrade of the bridge management system (BMS); and the training of ARA’s staff to properly use it for future monitoring and the maintenance planning of the assets.

The upgraded BMS will complement the Road Asset Management System (RAMS) currently being procured under the ongoing RRMSP project. The future usage of both the RAMS and BMS will be conditional to the signing of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between MOIE and ARA, as one of the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) under the RRMSP. This would hold ARA accountable in the future against agreed performance targets and service levels corresponding to the budget provided by the central government.

The procurement and installation of essential remote sensors on approximately 100 key bridges on the NRN will provide continuous monitoring data on the condition of bridges, levels of structural stress, wind speed and water level to enable ARA to optimize the maintenance planning and predict hazards and intervene in a timely manner. The information from the installed remote sensors will be automatically fed into the BMS and used for future planning and decision making.

In addition, to support increased women’s participation in the bridge and structural engineering design and management field, it is proposed as part of this Component to dedicate a two thirds (2/3) of the positions in technical and managerial roles in the newly created bridge and structures unit in ARA to women. The new recruits will benefit under this project of training on the bridge design and management techniques.

Component 3: Project management (estimated total cost: US\$ 5 million) This component will finance the day to day project management activities by the Project Management Team (PMT) including the fiduciary activities of procurement and supervision of civil works and equipment contracts, and

financial management, as well as the collection and analysis of M&E data. Finally, given the weak technical capacity of ARA and PMT on the bridges and culverts, this component will also finance the services of technical assistance of team of bridge experts to support them in the procurement and supervision of civil works as well as in the preparation of the technical specifications, procurement and reception of the office and onsite equipment

Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (estimated total cost: US\$0) This zero-dollar component is designed to provide a rapid response in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, by enabling the GoA to request the World Bank to reallocate project funds to support emergency response and reconstruction where needed. A CERC annex will be prepared during the project preparation, specifying the implementation arrangements for the component, including its activation process, roles and responsibilities of implementing agencies, a list of activities that may be financed, environmental and social aspects, and fiduciary arrangements. When the GoA has determined that an eligible crisis or emergency has occurred and the World Bank agreeing with such determination, the government can request and seek agreement of the Bank to include relevant activities under the Project. In such situations, all environmental and social instruments, as may be required, for the added activities need to be prepared, disclosed and approved by the Bank.

2.2 Project Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the proposed project are the road users (both drivers and pedestrians) and the road freight operators. The improvement in the conditions and the resilience of the bridges will enhance the reliability of the road transport at all times, which will increase mobility and traffic demand particularly in the areas of the country that are most prone to climate change and natural disasters.

ARA will benefit from the enhancement of its capacity in designing, implementing, supervising and maintaining bridge infrastructure. Through the remote sensing and modernized equipment, ARA will also be able to continuously monitor the bridge and culvert assets' conditions and deterioration patterns and preempt disasters and intervene in a timely manner to avoid or limit impacts.

With the activity under Component 2, women engineers and technicians will benefit from increased opportunities for jobs and training in the bridge design, construction and management sub-sector.

3.0 Policy, Legal and Regulatory Framework.

This chapter presents national and international policies and regulatory frameworks that are relevant in guiding the design and implementation of the project activities, and in managing the potential environmental and social impacts that may be caused by these activities. The first part of the Section reviews the applicable national and international E&S regulatory frameworks concerning project components and activities and the second part discusses the world bank's environmental and social standards (ESSs) that are relevant to the assessment and management of E&S risks and impacts of the project, including the ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social risks and impacts); ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions); ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management); ESS4 (Community Health and Safety); and ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement), ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources), ESS8 (Cultural Heritage) and ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). Moreover, the section also touches upon the international conventions and agreements signed/ratified in Albania gap analysis between the local regulation and World Bank ESS; gap analysis between Albanian framework on assessment and acquisition and WB standards (ESS5).

3.1 National Environmental Legal Framework

In general terms, the Albanian Constitution that was adopted by Albanian Parliament in 1998 requires

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

3.2 Law on Environmental Protection

Environmental legislation is governed by the Law on Environmental Protection No. 10431, dated June 9, 2011³. This Law sets out principles, requirements, responsibilities, rules and procedures to ensure a higher level of environmental protection and includes dispositions for environmental impact assessment as a tool for environmental protection, aiming to identify and define the possible direct and indirect effects on the environment mainly to prevent these effects.

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

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

3.3 Law on Protected Areas and Biodiversity protection

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

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

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

The law “For the Protected Areas” states that whilst the primary administrative role lies with the

Ministry of Tourism and Environment and GDFP, the interests of other ministries should be considered. The protected areas of Albania include 15 National Parks, 5 Protected Landscape Areas, 4 Strict Nature Reserves, 26 Managed Nature Reserves, and other protected areas. Main protected areas are being equipped with trail markings, while reforms in administration such as the building of information centers are being gradually implemented⁵. National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is created by the Council of Ministers decision. No. 102, dated 04.02.2015, aimed management, protection, development, expansion and operation of the surfaces of protected areas, which today account about 16% of the territory of Albania. NAPA manages the network of protected areas and other natural networks as Natura 2000.

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

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

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

Table 1 Albanian Legislation on Biodiversity Relevant to the Project

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

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

- Strict Nature Reserve (Category I)
- National Park (Category II)
- Natural Monument (Category III)
- Municipal Natural Park (Category IV)
- Protected Landscape (Category V)
- Protected Area of Managed Resource (Category VI)

- Protected areas of international interest (no specific protection category).

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

- Law No. 5/2016 dated 4.2.2016 On the announcement of the moratorium on forests in the Republic of Albania.
- Law No. 11/2015 dated 19.2.2015 On the accession of the Republic of Albania in the multilateral agreement among Eastern Europe countries for the implementation of the Convention “On Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context”.
- Law No 68/2014 for some amendments to the Law 9587, dated 20.07.2006 “On the protection of the biodiversity”
- Law No 7/2014 “On the announcement of the moratorium on hunting in the Republic of Albania”
- Law No.10234, dated 18.2.2010 on the accession of the Republic of Albania in the Protocol “On integrated management of coastal zone in the Mediterranean”, the Barcelona Convention “On the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution”.
- Law No. 9867 dated 31.01.2008 “On establishing the rules and procedures for the international trading of endangered wildlife species”
- Law No. 10 006 dated 23.10.2008 “On the protection of the wildlife”
- Law No. 9587 dated 20.07.2006 “On the protection of the biodiversity”
- Law No 8905 dated 06.06.2002 “On the protection of marine environment from pollution and damage” • Law No. 8906 dated 06.06.2002 “On protected Areas”
- Law No. 8294 dated 02.03.1998 On the ratification of Bern Convention “On the conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats”
- DCM No. 31, dated 20.1.2016 “On the approval of the Strategic Policy Document for Biodiversity Protection”.
- DCM No. 102, dated 4.2 2015 “On the establishment and the organization and functioning of the National Agency of Protected Areas”.

3.4 Protection of Physical Environment Framework

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

Table 2: Legislation related to protection of the physical environment

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 111/2012, amended with Law No. 6/2018	“On integrated management of water resources” amended with Law No. 6/2018 “On integrated management of water resources” based on Directive 2000/60/EC Water Framework. The aim of the law focuses on: (i) environmental protection and improvement of water, surface water, either temporary or permanent, internal sea waters, territorial waters, exclusive economic zones, continental shelf, trans-boundary waters, groundwater, and their status; (ii) security, protection, development and rational utilization of water resources, protection of water resources from pollution etc. This law provides the definition of water bodies and sets some protection and usage restrictions, and requires others to be approved by several by-laws. The law defines the banks of the water resources, restriction of certain harmful construction activities on the banks ^{3/}

³ Banks” are strips of land adjoining seas, lakes, reservoirs, lagoons, ponds, rivers and streams which comprise a minimum of two areas of land: i. 5 meters at a right angle upper edge of the natural banks on steep banks and 20 meters from the maximum water level over a period of 25 years on flat banks, which can be used, on the basis of special provisions, for public purposes, ii. 100 meters at a right angle from the upper edge of the natural banks on the steep banks, and 200 meters from the maximum water level over a period of 25 years on flat banks, where every activity undertaken will be determined by the water authorities.

Legislation	Overview
	shores and water protection areas.
DCM No. 177 (31.3.2005)	“On the allowed norms of liquid discharges and host water environmental criteria” - provides the allowed norms for effluent discharges on the environment, for the protection water resources.
DCM No. 379 (25.5.2016)	“On the approval of the regulation ⁴ on Drinking Water Quality” - Its objective is to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption, by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. Regulates several issues related to testing of drinking water and protection zones around the water well or community ground water deposit. The regulation sets three protection zones (buffer zones) from ground water well or water deposit places on the ground. The immediate zone of protection ranges from 15 to 100 m from the axe of the well or the deposit. The precise distance is set based on the evaluation of the geological formations by the hydrogeological expert. The second and third buffer zone are circling the first one. For those zones, the regulation does not set any distance criteria, but restricts the activities that can impact the water quality such as disposal or burial of waste, mining, etc.
DCM 416 dated 15/03/2015 (ANNEX C)	"On the approval of general and special conditions, accompanying documents, validity period, application forms for authorization and permit, review and decision-making procedures and authorization and permit formats for the use of water resources"
Law No. 162 (04.12.2014 enforced by the January 2018)	“On protection of ambient air quality”, fully transpose Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, as well as Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. This Law entered into force on 1 st of January 2018 and provides the institutional framework, regulations, roles and penalties to ensure compliance. The law stipulates that natural and legal persons, public or private, native or foreign, have a duty to keep the air clean and protect it from pollution caused by the activities they conduct in the territory of the Republic of Albania.
Guideline No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	Minister of Environment and Minister of Transport “Over the permissible values of the elements of air pollutants from the environment and noise emissions caused through road vehicles and methods to control them” amended by Guideline No. 12, dated 15.6.2010 “On amendments and addenda to Guidelines No. 6527, of 24.12.2004 accompanied by the Manual of Vehicles Control.
Order of Minister of Transport and Infrastructure No. 149 (07.04.2014)	“On the approval of the rules for implementing the airworthiness and environmental certification of aircraft and related products, parts and appliances, as well as for the certification of design and production organizations”, fully aligned with the EU Regulation No. 748/2012 of 3 rd August 2012, laying down implementing rules for the airworthiness and environmental certification of aircraft and related products, parts and appliances, as well as for the certification of design and production organizations.
Instruction No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	“On allowed vehicle air emission, noise generation levels, and control methods” amended - This instruction includes requirements for annual vehicle inspections and allowed air emissions. All vehicles must comply with these norms.
DCM No. 613 (07.9.2011)	“Approval of the technical rules for the assessment of the noise conformity for the equipment installed in open spaces or environment”. Sets noise release norms for certain equipment generating noise, such as electricity generators, tractors, compressors, etc. The regulation lists set thresholds.
Guidance No.10 (30.5.2015)	“Relating to the type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors, their trailers and interchangeable towed machinery, together with their systems, components and separate technical units” based on EU Directive 2003/37/EC dated 26.05.2003.
Law No. 9774,	“On the assessment and administration of ambient noise” – defines the requirements for

⁴ Based on Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption) concerns the quality of water intended for human consumption.

Legislation	Overview
dated 12.07.2007, amended by Law No. 39/2013	environmental protection from noise, how to avoid and prevent, reduce and eliminate the harmful effects of exposure to them, including inconvenience from noise. This Law aims to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects caused by noise emissions and sets general rules, authorities, inspection etc.
DCM No. 587, dated 07.07.2010	“On monitoring and control of noise levels in urban and touristic areas” – sets the rules and regulations on the protection from noise generation and noise level administration in urban and touristic areas.
DCM No. 1063 (23.12.2015)	“On the Approval of the technical rules for the assessment of the noise conformity for the equipment installed in open spaces or environment” sets the noise release norms for certain equipment noise generation such as electricity generators, tractors, compressors etc.
Instruction No. 8 (27.11.2007)	Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Health on “Noise levels in different media”, sets the numerical values of noise in specific zones and aims to ensure adequate noise exposure protection for human health.
Instruction No. 6527 (24.12.2004)	“On allowed vehicle air emission, noise generation levels, and control methods” amended - This includes requirements for annual vehicle inspections and allowed air emissions. All vehicles must comply with these norms.
DCM No. 147 (21.03.2007)	“On the quality of petrol and diesel fuels”.
DCM No. 781 (14.11.2012)	“On the quality of certain liquid fuels for thermal, civil, industrial and water transport use (sea, river and lake)”.
Law No. 10463 (22.09.2011) amended	"On the integrated waste management" (as amended) - aims to protect human health and the environment, and to ensure environmental sound management of waste through integrated management.
DMC No. 99 (18.02.2005) amended	“Albanian waste catalogue” (as amended) - which makes the classification of the waste, based on industry types, and the criteria to assess the hazardousness of the waste. The regulation codifies the waste types based on the European Waste Catalogue.
DCM No. 229 (23.04.2014)	“On the approval of the rules for non-hazardous waste transfer and the data to register in the transferring document” - The newly enforced regulation requires transferring the waste at licensed companies and ensuring final disposal in approved facilities. This act requires documenting the waste transfers and providing the final disposal certificate to the NEA. The regulation requires for all waste generating companies to be registered at NEA and obtain a personal waste generation number.
DCM No. 371 (11.06.2014)	“On the approval of the rules for transferring the hazardous waste and the data to register in the transferring document” - The newly enforced regulation requires transferring the waste at the licensed company and ensuring final disposal in approved facilities. This act requires documenting the waste transfer and delivering the final disposal certificate at the NEA. The regulation requires for all waste generating companies to be registered at NEA and obtain a personal waste generation number.
Law No. 9115/2003 (24/07/2003)	“On the Treatment of polluted water” provides regulations that state the need for treatment of polluted water before it is discharged. Article 6 sets the obligations of physical and legal entities that discharge polluted waters. Physical and legal entities, the activity of which discharges polluted waters, are obligated to take measures to: a) Continuously reduce the amount of used waters they discharge in the receiving environment; b) reduce the degree of pollution in discharging waters, especially such pollution as caused by hazardous substances and waste; c) manage and treat polluted waters. To comply with these obligations, the physical and legal entities whose activities discharge polluted waters must design a program of technical, technological and organizational measures. This program is subject to control by the Environmental Inspectorate, the licensing authority and the local government structures.

3.5 Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and EIA procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

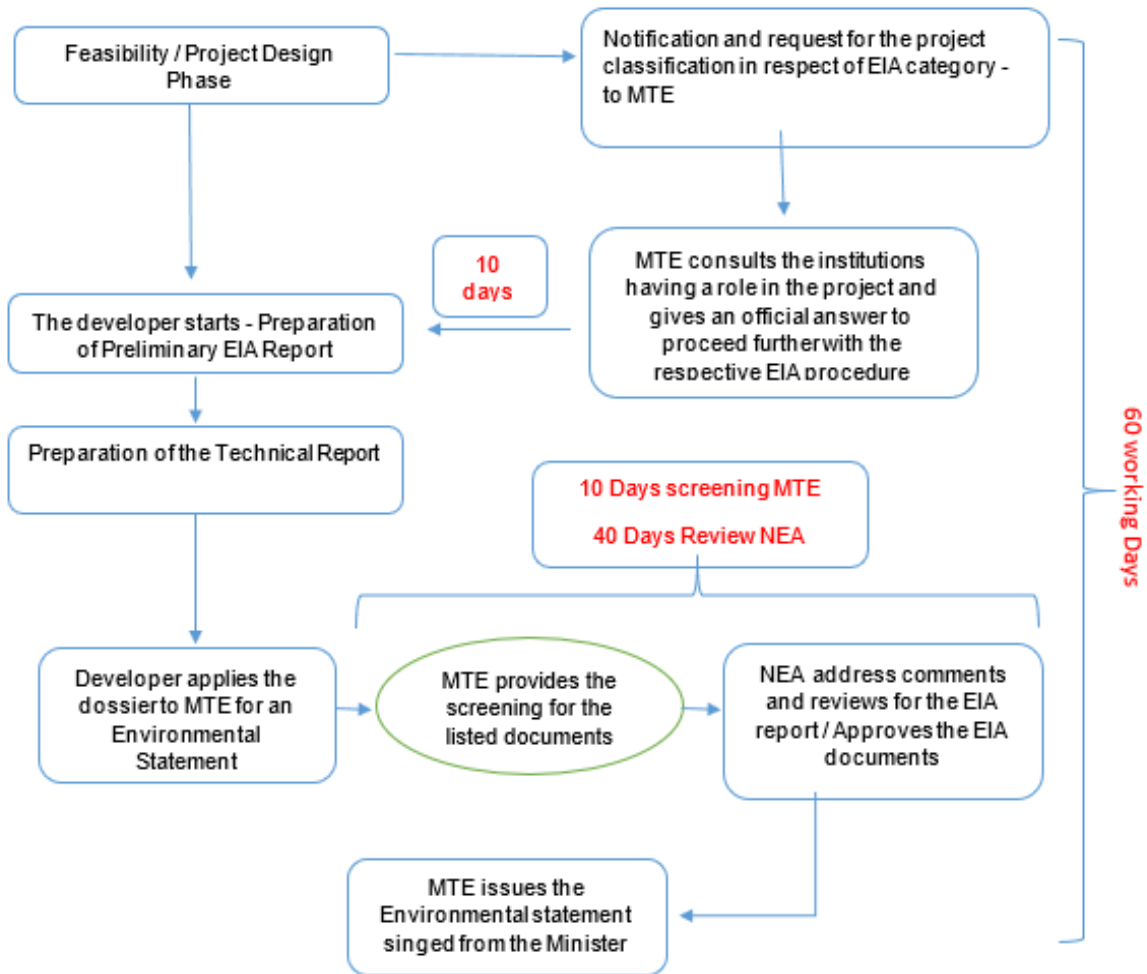


Figure 1 EIA Procedure and Timeline according to Albanian Legislation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 1 . Legislation for the protection of cultural heritage

Legislation	Overview
Cultural Heritage	
Law 27/2018 (17.05.2018)	“On Cultural Heritage and Museums” - All matters relating to cultural heritage in Albania are governed by this law”. The law defines the preservation and chance finds procedures (archaeological objects or items of cultural heritage value which are discovered by chance) to be used during Project implementation.
Article 146	Requires and obliges any person who discovers or excavates objects of cultural heritage value, by chance during construction works, to suspend work immediately and inform the relevant local authorities within three days. The relevant local authorities consist of the local government office (municipality), the Police Department and the Regional Directory of Cultural Heritage (RDCH). The RDCH verifies the situation/findings and reports to the Institute of Cultural Monuments (IoCM). These institutions are responsible for assessing the archaeological value of the objects found, and determining whether work may continue or whether it must remain suspended until further ground investigations have been undertaken.
Article 5, paragraph 64 and article 31	Defines the conservation of non-material cultural heritage by measures that aim of long-lasting preservation of such cultural assets.

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

Republic of Albania

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

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

3.7 Health and Safety Framework

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

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

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

Table 4 Legislation on health and safety

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

Legislation	Overview
DCM No. 842/2014 (3/12/2014)	“For the health and safety and protection of the employee from noise risks in the working places” requires the employer to assess the noise levels at the working place and ensure the protection of its workers

3.8 Other relevant legislation

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

Table 5. Other Relevant National Legislation

Legislation	Overview
Law No. 107/2014	“On Territory Planning and Development” - The law aims to integrate the urban planning legislative framework into a single law, and includes the concept of the protection of natural and cultural heritage, and community’s health and safety for territory planning.
DCM No. 408 (13.5.2015 amended by DCM 231/2017)	The regulation for territorial development.
Law No. 8752/2001 (26/03/2001) amended several times	"On the establishment and functioning of the structures for land administration and protection", amended by Law No. 10257/2010 regulates land uses issues, and their compatibility with Regional Planning.

3.9 International Convention and agreements

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

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

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (1998)	The Convention establishes a number of rights to the public, with regard to the environment; including access to environmental information; public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice ⁵ .	26 October 2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (1992) entered into force in 1994	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been crucial in addressing climate change and the need for a reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent	01 December 1994

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm>

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
	dangerous human interference with the climate system.	
Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015, entered into force on 4 November 2016	The Paris Agreement builds on the Climate Change Convention to combat climate change ⁶ .	21 September 2016
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; signatories commit to setting internationally binding emission reduction targets ⁷ .	01 April 2005
Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects on water resources and water quality.	5 January 1994
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects on important habitats and species, internationally and naturally designated nature conservation sites; conservation, sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity.	5 April 1994
Convention on the Protection of Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats in Europe (Bern Convention) (1976)	The Convention aims to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats. Special attention is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species ⁸ ; to avoid or minimize adverse effects upon important habitats and species, internationally and naturally designated nature conservation sites.	2 March 1998
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) (1979)	Avoid or minimize adverse effects upon migratory species	1 September 2001
Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (1995)	African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds Agreement (AEWA) covers 254 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle. All AEWA species cross international boundaries during their migrations and require good quality habitat for breeding as well as a network of suitable sites to support their annual journeys ⁹ . Avoid or minimize adverse effects upon migratory water bird species.	1 September 2001
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1975)	CITES is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their	27 June 2003

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

7 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-kyoto-protocol/what-is-the-kyoto-protocol>

8 <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/104>

9 <https://www.cms.int/en/legalinstrument/aewa>

Convention/Agreement	Overview	Ratified
	survival ¹⁰	
Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1989)	Avoid adverse effects upon Albanian and World Cultural Heritage sites; minimize adverse effects on unknown and intangible cultural heritage sites, material assets and other infrastructure.	10 July 1989
ILO Convention 29 Forced Labour Convention (1930) and ILO 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957))	Its object and purpose are to suppress the use of forced labour in all its forms, irrespective of the nature of the work or the sector of activity in which it may be performed.	25 June 1957 27 February 1997
ILO Convention 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (1948)	Protects the rights of workers and employers to join organizations of their own choosing without previous authorization.	3 June 1957
ILO Convention 98 Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining	The convention provides for workers to be able to join unions and engage in collective bargaining.	3 June 1957
ILO Convention 100 Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)	Each member shall, by means appropriate to the methods in operation for determining rates of remuneration, promote and, in so far as is consistent with such methods, ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.	03 Jun 1957

3.10 World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

As a condition of WB financing the BRUP Project, ARA has committed to implementing the Project in a manner consistent with the WB Environmental and Social Framework 2018 (ESF). Matters to be addressed include environmental, health and safety, gender, labor, social, land and cultural heritage laws and policies as a minimum.

Based on the present evaluation, these are the ESF Standards which are considered relevant: ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS5, ESS6, ESS8, and ESS10

- ESS1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.
- ESS2 – Labor and Working Conditions.
- ESS3 – Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
- ESS4 – Community Health and Safety.
- ESS5 – Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
- ESS6 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.
- ESS8 – Cultural Heritage.
- ESS10 – Stakeholder Engagement.

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The Project supports the rehabilitation of bridges and culverts while a smaller portion of the financing will be invested in significant upgrade/replacement of bridges (with changed design and dimensions)

¹⁰ <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

and new supporting infrastructure (for protection of bridges). The rehabilitation types of works likely to be financed will be e.g. road/bridge widening for the sidewalks, bridge replacement, culvert replacement, removal of the road surface, waterproofing the superstructure, removal of the loose concrete surface, reprofiling the structural concrete, construction of the parapet and/or traffic barriers, rainwater drainage.

Potential environmental impacts will be mostly moderate, local, and typical for civil works (e.g. generation of significant amounts of construction waste, smaller amounts of hazardous waste, emission of dust and noise, OHS and traffic safety-related risks, water quality, etc.). Significant upgrades of bridges with changes in design, changes in substructure, and construction of new supporting infrastructure may result in substantial risks related to soil erosion, water turbidity, changes in velocity, patterns of silt deposition, etc. All impacts are expected to be addressed in the E&S due diligence appropriate to the project and sub-projects risks. High-risk activities, as defined in the WB E&S Directive and ESF, will not be financed under the Project, this will be set forth in a detailed procedure within the ESMF. Given the scale and geographic scope of the project, contractor/subcontractor performance management could present a significant challenge (e.g. with regards to waste management, community safety, OHS...) therefore the borrower will engage the third-party monitoring/supervision engineers to support the implementation of the works and environmental and social risk management aspects of the project.

As exact locations and scope of the works are not yet defined with certainty, the Borrower will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will define 1) potential impacts on the environment and social impacts and generic mitigation measures; 2) eligible list of activities and social and environmental review (including screening, assessment, GRM, etc.) procedure for the proposed rehabilitation and (re)construction works; 3) will identify whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) vs. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be required for a given subproject; 4) Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the ESMF requirements. Draft ESMF will be prepared and publicly consulted prior to the appraisal and finalized before Project negotiations. Proportional to the sub-projects risks, ESMP Checklists will be prepared for typical rehabilitation activities in addition to ESMP for reconstruction while full-fledged or shortened ESIA will be required for significant upgrades/replacements of bridges with changes in design and dimensions as well as the construction of new supporting infrastructure. Stand-alone CHMP, or one that is annexed to ESA, will be prepared for all installations protected as cultural heritage. Activities in nature-protected areas cannot be ruled out at this point, however, significant and long-term impact on biodiversity is unlikely, therefore, biodiversity protection measures will be carried out as a part of sub-project regular environmental mitigation. Management of environmental impacts will take into consideration relevant Albanian regulations, in particular those tackling issues of waste management, water protection, traffic safety, and OHS, through the application of WBG Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) in these areas. These provisions will be integrated into relevant ESAs in accordance with ESS2 and ESS3.

The most probable social risks for the project will be potential disruptions (ESS4) in the traffic due to rehabilitation of the bridges or certain disruption for the bridges that would need to be replaced. Another risk under this standard would relate to community-level awareness-raising for safety especially for pedestrians and school kids using the new bridges. The social sections of the ESMPs/ESIA among other social risks will address the disruptions and will propose temporary alternative routes or temporary new regimes of the traffic. Other risks are those related to (ESS2) labor and working conditions and thus the implementing agency will be prepared Labor-Management Procedures to manage labor and working conditions for the project workers. The risks related to Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement (ESS5) are unlikely given that works will be carried in the bridges. There is a possibility in some cases that the project will improve the connection between the bridges and access roads and, in this situation, there could be minor impacts on private or public lands. Thus, a precautionary Resettlement Policy Framework will be prepared to guide potential land acquisitions for respective sub-projects. During the social screening of the sub-projects (the process will be defined in the ESMF), it will be defined whether the land acquisition will be needed or not. In case land acquisition is needed for the respective sub-project then site-specific RAPs will be prepared based on the

Resettlement Policy Framework prepared during the preparation of the project (the loan).

The nature of rehabilitation interventions is as such that heavy machinery will be used and thus about 10 to 20 workers per working site for each sub-project will be needed. In rare cases, approximately two to three proposed bridges from the long list the number of the workers in the site could be up to 50-100. The proposed locations are both outside and inside inhabited rural and urban areas all over Albania. Thus, SH/SEA risk could be envisaged, and based on the country assessment tool it is low. However, the project will establish a GRM that will be able to accept and address properly complaints of the SH nature. All the contractors as a part of the contractual obligations will have to ask their employees to sign a code of conduct.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

The standard is relevant. Most of the works would be done with heavy machinery, with about 10 to 20 workers per working site and, in a maximum of two cases, there might be labor-intensive works with about 50-100 workers per site. There would be no cases of labor influx situations in the localities, as the project is engaging local workers. Albanian OHS legislation is harmonized with ILO conventions, while the country is making continuous efforts to align with the relevant EU requirements and standards. Nevertheless, given moderate to substantial OHS risks (including working at height, working under water, working with heavy machinery, etc.), in addition to national regulation, OHS impacts will be mitigated by the application of relevant provisions in the ESAs, as defined in ESF, WB Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines, and good international industry practice. The project workers will be both direct project workers and contracted workers. Direct project workers will be PIU employees and consultants, whereas contracted workers are going to be hired by the contractors and subcontractors to carry out the rehabilitation of the selected bridges. The draft Labor-Management Procedures (LMP) is prepared and will be part of the consultation package before the Appraisal and address the envisaged risks, including Grievance Mechanisms for Project Workers, and define other principles on the employment of Project Workers, so that all requirements of the ESS2 are adequately reflected in tender documents. LMP will manage and oversee the compliance of the project works. The Project Workers GRM will be separate from the project-related GRM. The LMP will also address working terms and conditions, equality of opportunity, workers' associations, and grievance redress. The project will not engage forced or child labor. The LMP will include robust measures to address OHS and SEA/SH risks (though the latter are expected to be low).

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The project implementation phase will produce a significant amount of construction waste from the removal of asphalt, works on superstructure and substructure, removal of deposits, earthworks, etc. Waste management will focus on seeking options for reuse and recycling of removed materials while waste disposal will be considered the last resort. Waste streams, quantities, management procedures, and final disposal/processing will be identified in Waste Management Plans which will be integral parts of ESAs. All envisaged infrastructure works (bridge construction and reconstruction that may require dredging and underwater works, painting, and rehabilitation, works on the substructure, installation, and repair of culverts, etc.) can cause impacts to water such as turbidity, water quality degradation, etc. as well as soil erosion, changes in deposition patterns, etc. Ideally, impacts to water will be avoided/minimized through sub-project design and design of works, while the remaining risks addressed by the application of WBG EHS and GIIPs. Each sub-project site with bridge or culvert rehabilitation will develop site-specific management plans for waste management, hazardous materials management, and pollution prevention as a part of ESMP, ESMP Checklist, or ESIA.

Extensive consumption of energy and water is not expected under this project. A large amount of mineral resources (sand, gravel, etc.) may be used in construction. While there will be no quarrying at sites, and sourcing of such materials often raises significant environmental and/or social risks, therefore the ESMF will provide specific requirements for avoiding and mitigating impacts associated with excavation from riverbeds/riverbanks. As part of preparing the project/ESMF will also be reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness/enforcement of the licensing procedures for quarries/suppliers in Albania.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The Standard is relevant. The Project designs will include necessary measures for the adaptation of climate changes and natural hazards considering safety risks to the community. The community health and safety impacts will be addressed in site-specific ESIA's and ESMPs, in line with the guidelines provided in the ESMF. Project implementation will require the use of heavy vehicles, machinery, frequent transport of people and goods, which can create risks to road safety and pedestrian safety. Mitigation of resulting potential impacts will be defined in the ESMF General Traffic Management Plan. Site-specific Traffic Management Plans (TMP) will be developed based on the General TMP making an integral part of E&S due diligence. As many of the activities are likely to be carried out in populated areas, the ESMF will require contractors' ESMPs and OHS plans to include specific measures for properly restricting public access from work sites. All waste management activities need to also include adequate mitigation and rehabilitation practices, as appropriate. Application and relevance of the standard for the security personnel will be defined during the implementation. Other relevant issues in addition to project-related traffic are 1) interruption of the passage over the bridge because of the rehabilitation activities 2) potential for SEA/SH, though there is a low-level risk of this, and 3) community awareness and safety including for children. For 1), once the sub-project is defined, the bridge to be rehabilitated will be selected; part of the preparation activities between concept designs and the final designs will be analysis, consultation, and selection of the most optimal alternative for passing over the bridge (or rerouting) during the rehabilitation works. This will be especially important if for the selected bridge the rehabilitation works are as such that there should be a temporary closure of the bridge. For 2), to address the potential SEA/SH issues the contractors will be required to ask the employees to sign the code of conduct; the project will also strengthen the project related GRM to process in a confidential and sensitive manner any SEA/SH complaints from the communities using the bridge or the nearby areas. For 3), the project will have ongoing stakeholder engagement to ensure there is community awareness, especially by children using the bridge.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The standard is relevant. Although most of the works will be done on the respective bridges, namely the surfaces and sometimes the foundations, there may be interventions to improve the accessibility connections or any surrounding areas. In case there is a need for land acquisition the implementing agency will prepare an RPF which will guide potential Land Acquisition, Restriction on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement during project implementation. The RPF will cover also situations of potential impacts of resettlement of illegal structures. If for a particular sub-project, there will be a need for land acquisition, site-specific Resettlement Action Plans will be prepared.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

ESS6 is likely to be relevant given that there will be work in and around rivers, which typically involves risks of disturbing natural habitats in riverbeds and riverbanks, runoff/ increased sedimentation which can affect fish and aquatic invertebrates. Therefore, the ESMF should call for preliminary baseline studies particularly of aquatic habitats and species for any such sub-projects, so that appropriate measures can be taken in project design and implementation to avoid and minimize impacts to the extent possible. Likewise, it can already be noted that while some activities may take place in the protected areas, therefore any subprojects located in or near a protected area or sensitive natural habitat will require the preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan. Depending upon the bridge site locations minor implications on the existing vegetation cover (limited to the bridge abutments locations) need to be given due attention from the natural environmental perspective. The ESMF will integrate provisions of this standard in the development of site-specific due diligence to address particular risks to biodiversity, habitats, and species. Site restoration will also be very important. All construction zones and facilities and any other area used/affected due to the project operations will be left clean and tidy, as per the site restoration plan required by site-specific ESMP.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

The standard is not relevant. There are no Indigenous Peoples, as defined by ESS 7, in Albania.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The relevance of this ESS will be further assessed during Project preparation as part of the ESA process. In any case, the ESMF and the site-specific ESIA/ESMPs will include precautionary provisions for chance finds.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The standard is not relevant. No intermediary financing will be used.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The SEP will be prepared by the implementing agency, proportionate to the nature and scale of the Project and its potential risks and impacts. It will describe the different interested and affected parties but also those who are vulnerable. The SEP will provide a strategic framework for the engagement of different stakeholders for each particular bridge and it will propose concrete action plans for stakeholder engagement in Project activities. For every category of the stakeholders, an appropriate method of engagement will be developed. Important issues that will be communicated and for which feedback is sought will be: (i) informing the wider public about the works, timing, forecasts for rehabilitation works for each bridge; (ii) engagement with the stakeholders, from concept design to final technical designs, in the analysis and selection of alternatives for temporary use of the bridge (or other routes) during the rehabilitation of each bridge. The most important stakeholders in the project are the particular users (passengers) of each bridge. The users would be analyzed, according to car users and public transport. Other stakeholders would be institutions in charge of maintenance (depending on the size of the bridge, different institutions would be in charge of bridge maintenance). The SEP also will pay particular attention to community level awareness of traffic and safety, including for schoolchildren using the bridges to walk to school.

- **World Bank Group EHS Guidelines**

The Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). When one or more members of the World Bank Group are involved in a project, these EHS Guidelines are applied as required by their respective policies and standards. These General EHS Guidelines are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS Guidelines which provide guidance to users on EHS issues in specific industry sectors. For complex projects, use of multiple industry-sector guidelines may be necessary. The EHS Guidelines contain the performance levels and measures that are generally considered to be achievable in new facilities by existing technology at reasonable costs. Some relevant World Bank Group Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines that are applicable to this project are Air Emissions and Ambient Air Quality, Hazardous Materials Management, Waste Management, Noise, Worker Health and Safety, Community Health and Safety, Construction Materials Extraction

- ✓ **Environmental - Air Emissions and Ambient Air Quality**

This guideline applies to projects that generate emissions to air and provides an approach to the management of significant sources of emissions including specific guidance for assessment and monitoring of impacts. The key potential source of air emissions associated with the BRUP Project is in relation to potential cement or asphalt plant or dust pollutants emissions generated from construction activities and/or machinery usage. Projects with significant sources of air emissions and potential for significant impacts to ambient air quality should prevent or minimize impacts by ensuring that:

- Emissions do not result in pollutant concentrations that exceed relevant ambient quality guidelines and standards by applying national legislated standards, or in their absence, the current WHO Air Quality Guidelines (see Table below); and
- Emissions do not contribute a significant portion to the attainment of relevant ambient air quality guidelines or standards. As a general rule, this Guideline suggests 25 percent of the applicable air quality standards to allow additional, future sustainable development in the same airshed.

Table X: WHO ambient air quality guidelines (WHO 2005)

Parameter	Averaging Period	Guideline Period in µg/m ³
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	24-hour	125 (Interim target-1) 50 (Interim target-2) 20 (guideline)
	10 minutes	500 (guideline)
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	1-year	40 (guideline)
	1 hour	200 (guideline)
Particular Matter PM ₁₀	1-year	70(Interim target-1) 50(Interim target-2) 30(Interim target-3) 20 (guideline)
	24-hour	150(Interim target-1) 100(Interim target-2) 75 (Interim target-3) 50 (guideline)
Particular Matter PM _{2.5}	1-year	35(Interim target-1) 25(Interim target-2) 15(Interim target-3) 10 (guideline)
	24-hour	75(Interim target-1) 50(Interim target-2) 37.5 (Interim target-3) 25 (guideline)
Ozone	8-hour daily maximum	160 (Interim target-1) 100 (guideline)

Notes: PM 24-hour value is the 99th percentile. Interim targets are provided in recognition of the need for a staged approach to achieving the recommended guidelines.

Point sources are characterized by the release of air pollutants typically associated with the combustion of fossil fuels such as nitrogen oxides (NOX), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM) as well as other air pollutants including certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Emissions from point sources should be avoided and controlled according to good international industry practice (GIIP) through the combined application of process modifications and emissions controls, such as regular engine maintenance and repair, use of modern vehicle fleet with emissions control devices such as catalytic converters and driver education programs.

Fugitive source air emissions refer to emissions that are distributed spatially over a wide area and not confined to a specific discharge point. The most common pollutant involved in fugitive emissions is dust or particulate matter (PM). This is released during certain operations such as transport and open storage of solid materials and from exposed soil surfaces including unpaved roads. Recommended prevention and control of these emissions sources include:

- Use of dust control methods such as covers, water suppression, or increased moisture content for open materials storage piles; and
- Use of water suppression for control of loose materials on paved or unpaved road surfaces.

Consideration to both point source (from an asphalt or cement plants) and fugitive (e.g. dust from stockpiles, exposed soils) will need to be given for the BRUP Project.

✓ Environmental - Hazardous Materials Management

This guideline applies to projects that use, store, or handle any quantity of hazardous materials defined as materials that represent a risk to human health, property or the environment due to their physical or chemical characteristics.

The guideline provides guidance in relation to both General Hazardous Materials Management: (where hazardous materials are handled or stored) and Management of Major Hazards (storage or handling hazardous materials at, or above, threshold quantities thus requiring special treatment to prevent accidents such as fire, explosions, leaks or spills and to prepare and respond to emergencies).

The overall objective of hazardous materials management is to avoid or, when avoidance is not feasible, minimize uncontrolled releases of hazardous materials or accidents during handling, storage and use. This objective can be achieved by:

- Establishing hazardous materials management priorities based on hazard analysis of risky operations identified through ESA;
- Where practicable, avoiding or minimizing the use of hazardous materials;
- Preventing uncontrolled releases of hazardous materials to the environment or uncontrolled reactions that might result in fire or explosion; ·
- Using engineering controls (containment, automatic alarms and shut-off systems) commensurate with the nature of hazard; and
- Implementing management controls (procedures, inspections, communications, training, and drills) to address residual risks that have not been prevented or controlled through engineering measures.

A Waste Minimization and Management Plan (WMMP) and Spill Management Plan (SMP) are to be prepared by the Contractor which sets out strategies and actions required to reduce potential health and environmental risks associated with waste generation and disposal, including hazardous materials, management to avoid spills and other environmental releases, and identify opportunities for construction waste reuse.

✓ Environmental - Waste Management

These guidelines apply to projects that generate, store, or handle any quantity of waste. Solid (non-hazardous) wastes generally include any garbage, refuse. Hazardous waste shares the properties of a hazardous material (e.g. ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity), or other physical, chemical, or biological characteristics that may pose a potential risk to human health or the environment if improperly managed.

Waste management should be addressed through a Waste management system that addresses issues linked to waste minimization, generation, transport, disposal, and monitoring.

BRUP Project will generate a range of solid waste types including non-hazardous and potentially hazardous wastes including waste material generated from removal of existing road surfaces, bridges, causeways etc. Consideration to the management of hazardous materials will be required for the BRUP Project.

A WMMP is to be prepared by the Contractor which sets out strategies and actions required to reduce potential health and environmental risks associated with waste generation and disposal, as well as identify opportunities for material recycling or reuse.

Environmental - Noise

Noise prevention and mitigation measures should be applied where there is the potential for noise levels to exceed applicable guidelines at sensitive receptors.

The preferred method for controlling noise from stationary sources is to implement noise control measures at source. Methods for prevention and control of sources of noise emissions depend on the source and proximity of receptors. Noise reduction options that should be considered include: Selecting equipment with lower sound power levels; mandatory mufflers on engine exhausts and compressor components; limiting hours of operation for specific pieces of equipment or operations, especially mobile sources operating through community areas; Re-locating noise sources to less sensitive areas to take advantage of distance and shielding; Taking advantage of the natural topography as a noise buffer

during facility design; and developing a mechanism to record and respond to complaints through the Grievance Mechanism (GM) established for the BRUP Project. Noise impacts should not exceed the levels presented in [Table below](#), or result in a maximum increase in background levels of 3 dB at the nearest receptor location off-site.

Table x: WHO noise level guidelines (WHO 1999)

Receptor	One Hour L _{Aeq} (dBA)	
	Daytime (07:00 – 22:00)	Daytime (22:00 – 07:00)
Residential; industrial; educational	55	45
Industrial; commercial	70	70

✓ Worker Health and Safety

The fundamental premise for OHS under the EHS Guidelines is that “Employers and supervisors are obliged to implement all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of workers” and that “Companies should hire contractors that have the technical capability to manage the occupational health and safety issues of their employees...”.

The OHS philosophy in the EHS Guidelines is that preventive and protective measures should be introduced according to the following order of priority:

- a. Eliminating the hazard by removing the activity from the work process.
- b. Controlling the hazard at its source through use of engineering controls.
- c. Minimizing the hazard through design of safe work systems and administrative or institutional control measures.
- d. Providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in conjunction with training, use, and maintenance of the PPE.

All workers engaged in the BRUP Project will need to be covered under the terms of the EHS Guidelines. The Contractor will be required to provide a Worker H&S Plan that addresses key project requirements in relation to worker health and safety. All other Project workers will work under the OHS controls to be prepared in the LMP.

✓ Community Health and Safety

This guidance specifically addresses some aspects of project activities taking place outside of the traditional project boundaries but nonetheless related to the project operations. These issues may arise at any stage of a project life cycle and can have an impact beyond the life of the project and includes issues such as:

- Water Quality - Groundwater and surface water represent essential sources of drinking water which may be impacted by project activities involving discharges.
- Traffic Safety - Prevention and control of traffic related injuries and fatalities should include the adoption of safety measures that protect project workers and road users.

Road safety initiatives proportional to the scope and nature of project activities should include measures such as:

- Adoption of best transport safety practices (e.g., emphasizing safety aspects among drivers, improving driving skills);
- Use of speed control devices (governors) on trucks;
- Regular maintenance of vehicles;
- Employing safe traffic control measures, including road signs and flag persons to warn of dangerous conditions; and
- Planning and timing of road use for Project activities (such as delivery of equipment or material).
- Disease prevention - Health hazards typically include those relating to poor sanitation and living conditions, sexual transmission and vector-borne infections associated with imported

labor. Communicable diseases of most concern are sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS. Recommended interventions include: Providing surveillance and active screening and treatment of workers; Undertaking health awareness and education initiatives.

Consideration to community health and safety will be required for the BRUP Project in relation to water quality, traffic safety, SEA/SH and disease prevention, will also be required, particularly if imported labor is used. The Generic ESMP and works specific ESMP will include controls to protect the community from road works incidents and nuisances, vehicle incidents and nuisances and harm from workers. A Community Health and Safety Plan is to be prepared by the Contractor which sets out strategies and actions required to prevent and/or minimize any negative health or safety impacts on the community arising from the physical works).

✓ **Construction Materials Extraction**

The construction materials extraction guidance document includes information relevant to construction materials extraction activities such as aggregates, sand, gravel, etc. It addresses stand-alone projects and extraction activities supporting construction, civil works, and cement projects.

Potential issues during the operational, construction, and decommissioning phases of construction materials extraction primarily include the following:

- **Environmental issues** – including air emissions, noise and vibrations, water, waste and land conversion.
- **Occupational health and safety hazards** – including respiratory hazards, noise and physical hazards
- **Community health and safety issues** – including land instability, water, explosives safety and decommissioning.

3.11 GAP ANALYSIS BETWEEN EIA LOCAL REGULATION AND WORLD BANK ESS

ESS No	GAP	Measures for Bridging the Gaps
ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;	EIA according to National Standards, needs some additional clarifications to bring data and analysis in line with international standards. ESMP and ESMS according to National Standards – Major Gap. National Legislation requires only Rehabilitation Plans at the end of the project but no ESMP or ESMS is required. Need to be created/developed to fulfil ESS requirements. Identification of Risks and Significance of Impacts according to National Standards – Major Gap. National Legislation has a list of parameters to be monitored but it requires upgrading, in documentation but also in baseline data analysis. Particularly important for the process waste areas, residues, tailing and spoil areas. Management processes and definitions for the ESMP need to be developed to meet ESS requirements. Existing legal framework and Labor Inspectorate of Albanian Authorities provide foundation of assurance for this ESS. It has ratified 53 International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, of which 48 are in force, including the eight fundamental Conventions.	Specific ESMP will be prepared for each Project under the Project in line with the requirements of the present ESMF
ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions;	Current Permits and Approvals underpin the response to this ESS. Permits create a valid and robust base for anticipated development under future implementation of EU requirements. Some technical details and modelling and analysis will need to be in line with ESS requirements in line with what is appropriate for the Projects sites with particular reference to process emissions and waste residues, tailings and spoil areas.	Not applicable
ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Existing legal framework, including Labor and Environment Inspectorate of Albanian Authorities, provides foundation for some basic consideration on this ESS. Need to define approach and integrate it within respective ESMP and ESIA. Elements need to be defined and documented in the Projects Social Management Plan.	Following the indications of the present ESMF, specific Project ESIA and ESMP will assess the impacts generated by the Project on the main environmental components and will identify measures for reducing or avoiding such impacts
ESS 4 Community Health and Safety	National Legal Framework only recognizes affected persons who have formal legal rights. Major Gap. The key gap is that Albanian legislation does not recognize loss of livelihoods associated to land acquisition. Restrictions that result in people experiencing loss of access to physical assets or natural resources are not addressed explicitly by Albanian legislation.	the present ESMF defines the approach for Community health and safety which shall be integrated within respective ESMP and ESIA.
ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement		the Present ESMF - along with the RPF -includes requirements for land acquisition and compensation process. Specific ESIA and ESMP shall be aligned with these documents. Although impacts generated by the Project on biodiversity may be considered as negligible in consideration that most of the works will be constructed in urban areas, however a proper baseline study shall be prepared within each ESMP/ESIA indicating any protected areas in the vicinity, presence of sensitive habitats and terrestrial biodiversity,
ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Existing legal framework, provide foundation for some basic consideration on this ESS. Major Gap. Usually there is a lack of data to create a proper baseline and some extra investigation effort is required to meet ESS requirements. The needed data should support the proper assessment of impact and significance.	

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ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Su b-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not applicable	ecosystem, etc. This will allow to better assess the impacts and identify relevant mitigation measures.
ESS 8 Cultural Heritage	existing Approval and Permit from the Albanian Authorities provide foundation of assurance for this ESS.	Not Applicable
ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Existing legal framework provide foundation of assurance for this ESS. It has ratified Aarhus Convention Conventions, which is in force and there are several laws and institutions that monitor the right for information.	Not applicable

3.12 Gap Analysis between Albanian Framework on Easement and Acquisition and WB Standards (ESS 5)

Topic / Issue	WB International Standards	Albanian Law Provisions	Gaps	Measures for bridging the gaps
Involuntary resettlement – Physical and economic displacement	“Involuntary resettlement” as per the ESS5 refers to resettlement, physical displacement (loss of shelter) and economic displacement (loss of livelihood). The ESS5 covers both: 1. Land acquisition, which includes: (a) resettlement of PAPs (b) purchases of property; (c) purchases of property rights (i.e. easements; rights of way) 2. Imposition of restrictions that result in people experiencing loss of access to physical assets or natural resources.	Albanian legislation, including the Expropriation Law, does not recognize “involuntary resettlement”. Issues related to land acquisition in the public interest are regulated by Expropriation Law. The law regulates the right of the state to expropriate properties of natural or juridical persons in the public interest versus compensation. In addition, compensation is to be provided for the devaluation of properties which are not the object of expropriation. The law regulates temporary occupation of land (e.g. for construction works, setting up construction sites, etc.), for up to 2 years, against compensation.	The key gap is that Albanian legislation does not recognize resettlement or loss of livelihoods associated to land acquisition. The law recognizes affected persons who have formal legal rights only. Restrictions that result in people experiencing loss of access to physical assets or natural resources are not addressed explicitly by Albanian legislation.	Conducting, site specific RAP/ARAP which shall include measures and design adequate support and assistance commensurate to the impact, as a way to bridge the gap. PAPs informal owners of buildings shall receive cash compensation. PAP is entitled to cash compensation at replacement cost for construction of similar quality construction with additional moving and transitional allowances
Planning process	Standards requires to prepare a Resettlement Action Plan (or Livelihood Restoration Framework if no physical displacement is anticipated). The RAP includes a census and detailed socioeconomic baseline. Affected	The application for expropriation in the public interest should include a detailed list of properties to be expropriated, based on the ACA register. However, it does not deal with socioeconomic issues. Affected owners are to be notified of the	No requirement for any participatory planning process as per Albanian legislation. Albanian legislation does not set out any requirements for the preparation of resettlement or	RAPs, Census Survey and Socio-economic impact assessments shall be prepared in addition to national requirements

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	persons are to be informed and consulted during the planning process. Special provisions have to be made in respect of consultation with vulnerable groups.	application for expropriation	livelihood restoration plans. In addition, there are no requirements in respect of consultation with persons affected or for special attention to vulnerable groups.	
Public consultations	Meaningful consultations with affected persons and communities, local authorities, and, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations needs to be carried out	The PAPs are contacted in the very process of expropriation, but there is no public discussion.	Consultation and disclosure process is not defined and there are no specific requirements in the Albanian legislation; National legislation does not require public consultation with affected persons and communities.	The Project promoter shall consult publicly on this and every other individual resettlement instrument
Cut-off date	in the absence of national government procedures, the date of completion of the census and assets inventory represents the cut-off date for eligibility. Individuals who move into the project affected area after the cut-off date are not eligible for compensation and other types of assistance. Information regarding the cut-off date should be well-documented and disseminated throughout the project area.	It is understood that the date of the Council of Ministers decision on expropriation is the cutoff date.	No gap	The Project promoter shall consult publicly on this topic and explain its importance.
Negotiated settlements	Negotiated settlements are encouraged to help avoid expropriation and eliminate the need to use governmental authority to remove people forcibly.	Negotiated settlements are encouraged by the Expropriation Law. Art. 6 of the Expropriation Law provides that when the owner agrees to transfer his/her property to the state, under conditions (compensation) offered by the competent ministry, expropriation is considered completed. The owner has to inform the competent ministry within 15 days from being notified (publication) whether accepts the offer (art.16). If an agreement is not reached, after a decision on expropriation is passed by the Council of Ministers, the affected owner has the right to appeal to the court regarding the amount of	No gap	

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		compensation (art.24)		
Compensation Value and Timing	Compensation for lost assets to be provided at replacement cost, usually calculated as the market value of the assets plus transaction costs related to restoring such assets (registration and transfer taxes). Depreciation of structures and assets should not be taken into account. Compensation (alternative housing and/or cash compensation) has to be provided prior to relocation.	Per Expropriation Law, compensation value to be based on assessment of affected properties by the Expropriation Committee and confirmed by COM Decision. This provision explicitly states that depreciation of structures and assets is to be taken into account. If agreement on compensation is reached, transfer of property and payment of compensation to take place within 15 days from notification by affected owner that he/she accepts the offer (art.16). If not, compensation is provided based on a decision on expropriation of the Council of Ministers, within a period of three months, or after the court decision (art.23).	Compensation value during expropriation is not defined according to a specific study on compensation values that takes into account the replacement cost at market value; Albanian legislation does not take account of transaction cost, and provides that depreciation is to be taken into account, which does not meet the Standards "replacement value" requirement	The Project promoter shall calculate the transaction cost in the total budget
Provision of adequate housing / shelter with security of tenure	Adequate housing is measured by quality, safety, affordability, habitability, cultural appropriateness, accessibility and location characteristics, including access to infrastructure and services. Security of tenure means that resettled persons are protected from forced evictions, to the greatest extent possible. New resettlement sites built for displaced persons should offer improved living conditions with security of tenure.	Law on Social Programmes for the Housing of Inhabitants of Urban Zones sets out the criteria for housing requirements (minimum living areas in sqm/person)	The Expropriation Law does not foresee compensation in kind and therefore there are no provisions of adequate housing with security of tenure. The Expropriation Law does not include any provisions about resettlement requirements.	Physical displacement is not anticipated, and this requirement is therefore unlikely to apply. However, for each individual RAP, refereeing to the specific project, this shall be take in consideration if there will be foreseen physical displacement.
Vulnerable groups	Specific assistance for vulnerable groups.	According to law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005 "On social assistance and services", vulnerable persons are entitled to various forms of social welfare payments or a range of community-based services.	Specific assistance for vulnerable groups is not part of the expropriation process in Albania. However, legal tools exist outside of the expropriation process to provide assistance.	The Project promoter shall provide legal and resettlement assistance
Eligibility for compensation / resettlement and entitlements in case of physical	ESS5 distinguishes three main categories of affected people: 1- those who have formal legal rights to affected assets are eligible to full compensation at replacement cost for land and structures	The Expropriation Law addresses people in Category 1. The Cadaster Law addresses people in Category 2. The law no. 9232, dated 13.05.2004 "On social programs for the housing of inhabitants	Informal or unregistered ownership and usufruct rights - legislation does not recognize the rights of informal possessors, owners/users therefore not	Specific measures to be devised in RAPs

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displacement	as applicable; 2- those who have no formal rights to affected assets at the time of the census, but who have a claim to land that is recognized or recognizable under national laws, are eligible to similar compensation as those in Category 1; 3- those who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they occupy are not necessarily eligible to compensation for land but should receive: (i) compensation for structures that they own and occupy and for any other improvements to land at full replacement cost; and (ii) in case of physical displacement, a choice of options for adequate housing with security of tenure and resettlement assistance.	of urban areas” establishes a legal framework for the development of social housing programs in Albanian municipalities, which may apply to people in Category 3. The law defines the administrative regulations and procedures that will ensure the planning, management and distribution of social housing to vulnerable people, in line with their income and the level of state support.	eligible for resettlement and livelihood restoration support.	
Grievance mechanism	A grievance mechanism should be set up as early as possible in the process, to receive and address in a timely fashion specific concerns about compensation and relocation that are raised by displaced persons and/or members of host communities, including a recourse mechanism designed to resolve disputes in an impartial manner. The grievance mechanism, process, or procedure should address concerns promptly and effectively, using an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities, at no cost and without retribution.	Expropriation Law provides for the right of the affected persons to bring actions before the courts for seeking higher compensation from that defined in the decision on expropriation enacted by the Council of Ministers, but affected people cannot challenge the expropriation process per se. Claims do not cause suspension of the expropriation process, though they may result in a higher compensation to be paid if so decided by the competent court.	Grievance management and resolution is applicable only during the two-week public notice of the expropriated file. While there is no requirement in Albanian law to establish an extra-judicial grievance mechanism, this does not contradict the process outlined in Albanian law as long as affected people can keep on enjoying their constitutional right to address any claim to the competent court as they see fit.	The Project promoter shall set up a grievance mechanism for two tiers, including internal one and external, before PAPs resort to Justice, the last resort of the grievance mechanism.
Additional assistance to PAPs	It is necessary to provide assistance either during construction. Particular attention is to be paid to the needs of poor and vulnerable individuals and groups. Either for the expropriated PAPs the client should support technically the	No particular legal provision	It is necessary to provide assistance either during construction. Particular attention to vulnerable individuals and groups	Support during construction. Support after expropriation

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<p>Information disclosure and public information</p>	<p>PAPs in order to take the compensation.</p> <p>The client should summarize the information contained in the Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihood Restoration Framework for public disclosure to ensure that affected people understand the compensation procedures and know what to expect at the various stages of the project (for example, when an offer will be made to them, how long they will have to respond, grievance procedures, legal procedures to be followed if negotiations fail). Consultations will continue during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of compensation payment and resettlement</p>	<p>The Expropriation Law obliges the Ministry to notify persons affected directly (either by registered mail or other means of notification having confirmation that notice is received by the addressee; in case the addressee resides abroad, the notification will be made through publication in the administrative unit/municipality where the land subject to expropriation is located) and to publish during an entire week the application for expropriation in the Official Journal as well as in national and local newspapers. Within fifteen days after the last date of the publication, the persons subject to expropriation should inform the ministry on their claims related to the properties affected by the expropriation.</p>	<p>Apart from notifications to affected people, there is no requirement in Albanian law to consult and to disclose documentation publicly. However, such consultation and disclosure are not prohibited and can be accommodated as a specific measure.</p>	<p>Such consultation and disclosure are not prohibited and can/should be accommodated as a specific measure.</p>
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4.0 Description of Existing Environment

This chapter provides general information about the baseline E&S conditions and characteristics of the project's area of influence, such as water resources, air quality, solid waste management, climate, air temperature, solar radiation, rainfalls, physical environment – air quality; hydrology and surface water, lakes and lagunes, groundwater, flooding hazard, soil and groundwater land degradation and soil erosion, seismic hazard, climate change, waste management practices, biological environment – flora, fauna; protected area; socioeconomic and cultural heritage.

4.1 Introduction baseline data

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

Climate

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

As far as the Albanian territory is concerned, it has been noticed that there is a considerable increase from the sea level and removal towards the inner part of the territory. The inner part of the country is basically mountainous. The influences of the before-mentioned factors have brought out a great number of indicators and climate parameters in different regions of Albania.

The territory of Albania is divided in four main climate areas. Whole its elements are basically stable. These areas are name as following: The Field Mediterranean Area, The Hilly Mediterranean Area, The Pre-mountainous Mediterranean Area and Mountainous Mediterranean Area.

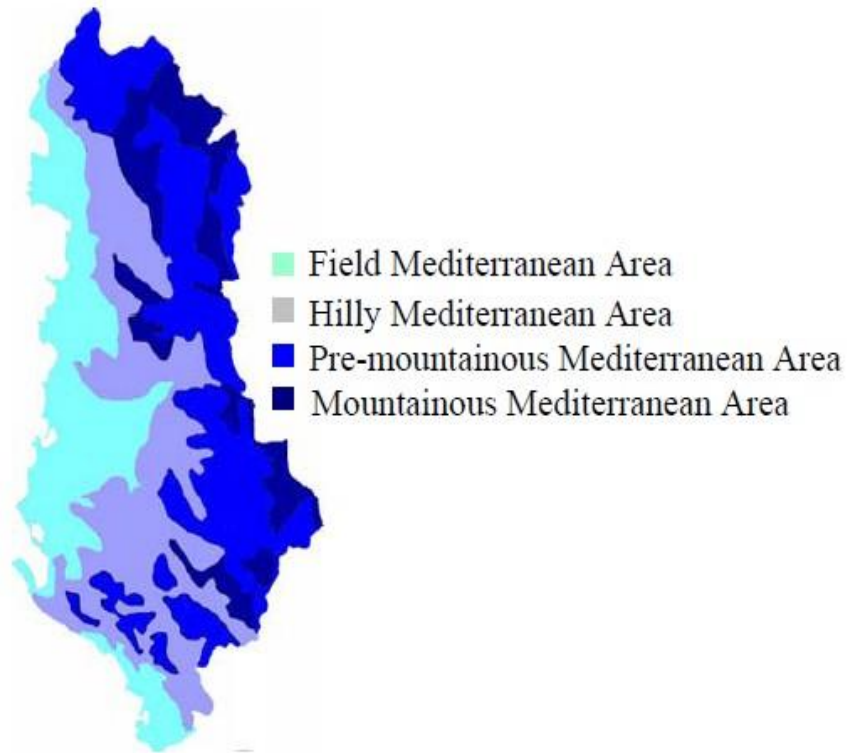


Figure 1: The climate division in Albania (source: [AEA_12.jpg \(580x505\) \(aea-al.org\)](#))

Air Temperature

The distribution of the temperatures in Albania presents a considerable variability. The annual average temperature is 8-9 °C in the mountainous area up to 17 °C in the seaside south-west area. During the year, the curb of the temperatures in the whole country is quite regular with a maximum in the summer months and the minimum in the winter months. The period of the average of these calculations is during the years 1961-2000.

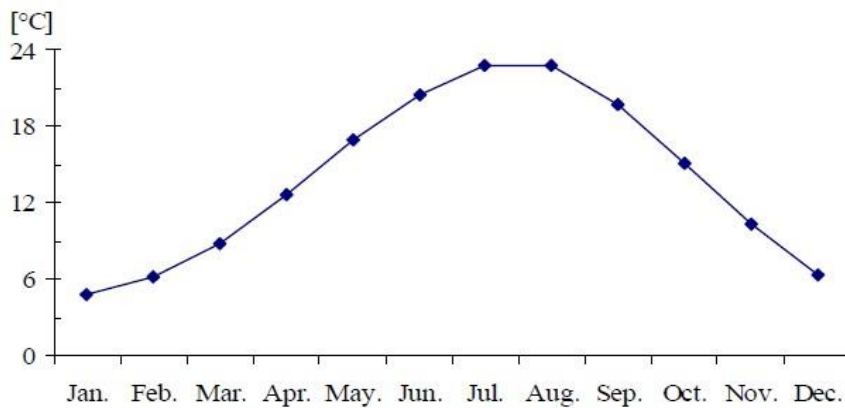


Figure 2: Mean average air temperature in the main cities of Albania for the period 1961 – 2000. (source: [AEA_12.jpg \(580x505\) \(aea-al.org\)](#))

Solar radiation

The figure above presents the daily mean average solar radiation according to the months for 3 main meteorological stations in Albania. It shows, as well, the existence of huge differences between the different seasons and stations in the country. According to these data, Peshkopia station, located in

North-East shows a difference from a minimum of 1,5 kWh/m² in December to a maximum of 6.25 kWh/m² in July. The same phenomenon happens in the other stations as well. The ratio between the month of the highest solar radiation and the one of the minimal solar radiation varies from the smallest values of 4 for the stations of Erseka and Saranda to the values of 5 kWh/m² for Fier and Peshkopi.

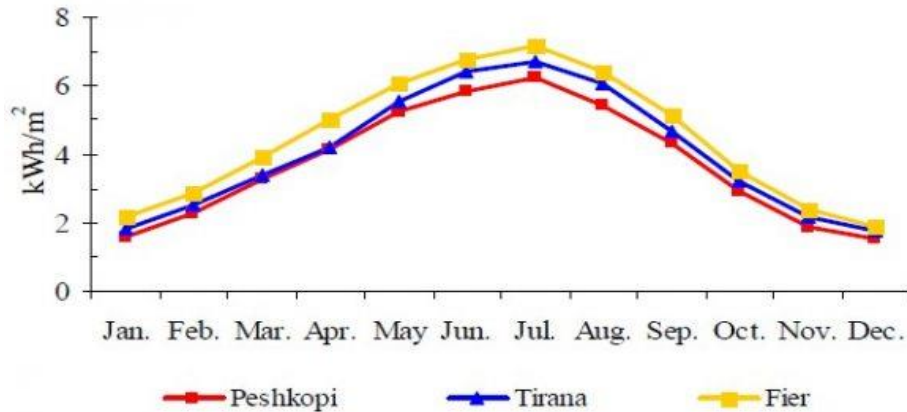


Figure 3: Daily mean average solar radiation for the 3 meteorological stations in Albania (source: [AEA_12.jpg \(580x505\) \(aea-al.org\)](#))

Rainfalls

The rainfalls in Albania have a Mediterranean regime. They are mainly active during winter months (65-75 % of the annual quantity) and less during the summer ones. Albania is characterized from a huge variation as far as the territorial distribution is concerned. The annual amount varies from 650 mm in the South-East to 2800 mm in the Alps of Albania. The average amount of falls for the whole territory is approximately 1400 mm annually. Below there is a graphic of the average amount of falls for the period of 40 years: 1961 – 2000. Compared to the temperatures, the falls’ regime in the last 10 years can be easily distinguished from previous one.

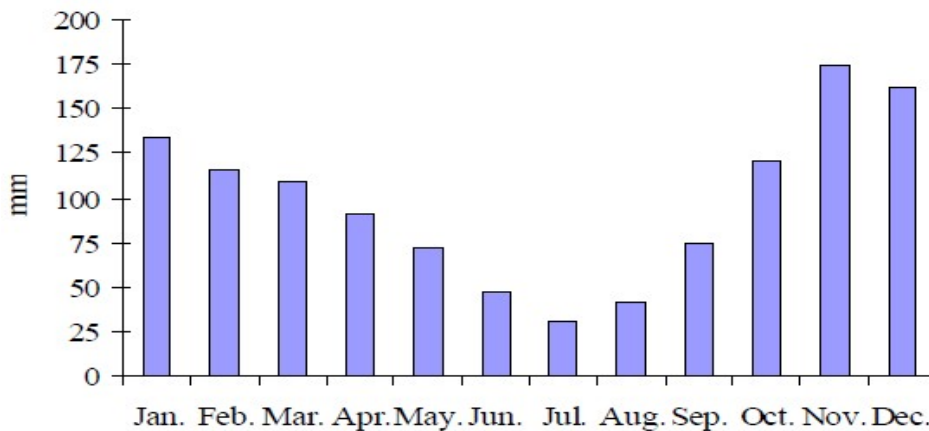


Figure 4: Average quantity of the monthly falls in the main cities of Albania during period of 1961 – 2000)

4.2 Physical Environment

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

Hydrology and surface waters. Albania has abundant water resources, including six large rivers (Drin-Buna, Mat, Ishëm, Erzeni, Shkumbini and Vjosa). The catchments of the Drin and Vjosa are transboundary and are shared with four other countries Montenegro, Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia (RONM) and Greece for Drin; and Greece only for Vjosa.

Table x: The main river basins in Albania

River	Maximum Length km	Catchments area, km ²	Average flow m ³ /s
Drin	285	14,173	352.0
Buna	41	5,187	320.0
Mat	115	2,441	103.0
Ishëm	74	673	20.9
Erzeni	109	760	18.1
Shkumbini	181	2,441	61.5
Seman	281	5,649	95.7
Vjosa	272	6,706	195.0

Drin /Buna Basin are viewed as one unit - The hydrographic catchment of the Drin has a total area of 19,360 km² from which 14,173 km² belong to the Drin itself and 5,187 km² to the Buna River. The Drin is formed by two main tributaries: the Drin i Zi, with a catchment area of 5,885 km², flowing from RONM, and the Drin i Bardhe, from Kosovo. They are sometimes referred to as the White and the Black Drin rivers. The Buna River drains from Lake Shkoder (shared with Montenegro) which is fed by rivers originating from Montenegro and Albania; its larger tributary is the Morača River in Montenegro. At times of low levels in Lake Shkoder the flows on the Buna River can be reversed.

Mat Basin – The overall length of the river is 115 km, while its catchment surface is 2,441 km². The main tributary is Fani River, flowing from the northeast, while the Mat flows from west to the confluence with Fani and then towards the Adriatic Sea. The Fani river originates from two sources, Fani I Vogel and Fani Madh.

The Ishëm/Erzeni Basins are usually viewed together and comprise the following:

- The Ishëm has a drainage basin of 673 km² and an average discharge at the mouth of the river of 20.9 m³/s. The length of the river is 74km. The Ishëm is formed from several rivers which rise to the northeast of Tirana in the Skanderbeg Mountains beyond the Kruja range. The most important of these are: The Tirana River which has its source to the northeast of Dajti Mountain; the Tërkuzë meets the Tirana River a little further north. It also has its source to the east of the mountain chain and crosses it through a canyon, called Shkalle e Bovillës, which has been dammed in order to create the Bovilla Reservoir a source of drinking water for Tirana since December 1998; and the Zezë River that rises east of Kruja. The Ishëm flows in a westerly direction until it reaches the edge of the Tirana Plain, then turns to the northwest and discharges into the Adriatic to the southwest of Laç in the Rodon Bay.
- The Erzeni has a length of 109 km and a catchment area of 760 km². The river has its origin in the Mali me Gropa 1,200 m asl and is some 25 km east of Tirana near Shëngjergj, flowing northwest through Petrelë and Sukth to the Adriatic Sea 12 km (north of Durres). The principal tributaries of Erzeni include Lake Farkë, Korrë, Lanë, Murdhar, Shtërmën and Zhëllimë. The river passes through the city of Tirana, only a few kilometres from its southern end. Only a small range of hills separates the valley of the Ersen river with the Lana, Tirana, Zeza and Tërkuza rivers that form the Ishëm river. The mouth of the Erzeni is between Durres and the headland of Cape of Rodon at Lalzi bay. The average discharge rate at the mouth is 18.1 m³/s.

Shkumbini Basin - The Shkumbini is 181 km long and has a drainage area of 2,444 km². Its average discharge is 61.5 m³/s. The river originates in the eastern Valamara Mountains between Maja e Valamarës and Gur i Topit in South-eastern Albania. After descending from the Valamaras, it flows northwards through Proptisht and Qukës with many deep gorges and canyons and passes the Gora

Mountains. A significant inflow comes from Gur i Kamjës southwest of Pogradec. Close to Librazhd the river turns some 50 km westwards of its origin and joins the Rapun stream before crossing the Myzeqe Plain forming a small delta at the Karavasta Lagoon adjacent to the Adriatic Sea.

Seman Basin – The Seman River is formed by the confluence of the rivers Devoll and Osum, a few km west of Kuçove. The river reach of the Seman is 85 km long, but when combined with the longest source river (Devoll) it is 281 km long with a total drainage basin is 5,649 km². Its average discharge is 95.7 m³/s. It meanders generally westwards through a flat lowland. The river Gjanica also flows into the Seman River near to Fier. The Seman then flows into the Adriatic Sea at the southern margin of the Divjake-Karavasta National Park.

Vjosa Basin – The Vjosa (called River Aoös in north-western Greece) has a total length of about 272 kilometres, of which the first 80 kilometres are in Greece, and the remaining 192 kilometres are in Albania. Its drainage basin is 6,706 km² and its average discharge is 195 m³/s. The river's mouth is within the boundaries of the Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape. In December 2020, the Albanian portion of the river was designated a "Managed Nature Reserve" by the Albanian government.

Lakes and Lagoons

Albania is home to three major natural lakes (Ohrid, Prespa and Shkodra) as well as around 250 smaller natural lakes and 630 artificial reservoirs. The country has access to the Adriatic and Ionian Seas in the west, with a coastline of 427 km.

There are several lagoons/wetland areas along the coast, with the main ones being Kune Vain Tale Wetland, Patok Lagoon, Karavasta Lagoon, Narta Lagoon and Butrint Lagoon. Territory approaching 20% of the land area is presently designated as “protected” under six categories (as per International Union for the Conservation of Nature – (IUCN) criteria). Many of these protected areas occupy all of part of the above-mentioned lakes, lagoons and coastline.

Groundwater

Groundwater resources are widespread throughout the country and estimated at between 9 billion m³/y and 13 billion m³/y. There are three main types of aquifers in Albania:

Porous aquifers that are highly productive and developed mainly on alluvial and gravel deposits, principally confined to the plains and broad rivers that flow to the Adriatic Sea on the west of Albania; Karst and fissured rock aquifers comprising mainly of carbonates. They exhibit classic karst characteristics such as sinkholes, poljes, plateau and caves and can be highly productive (e.g. The Blue Eye); and Aquifers in fissured magmatic rocks which are less productive and originate from fractured intrusive rocks.

The following map provides an overview of the main aquifers.

There are also three important transboundary aquifers that Albania shares with its neighbors).

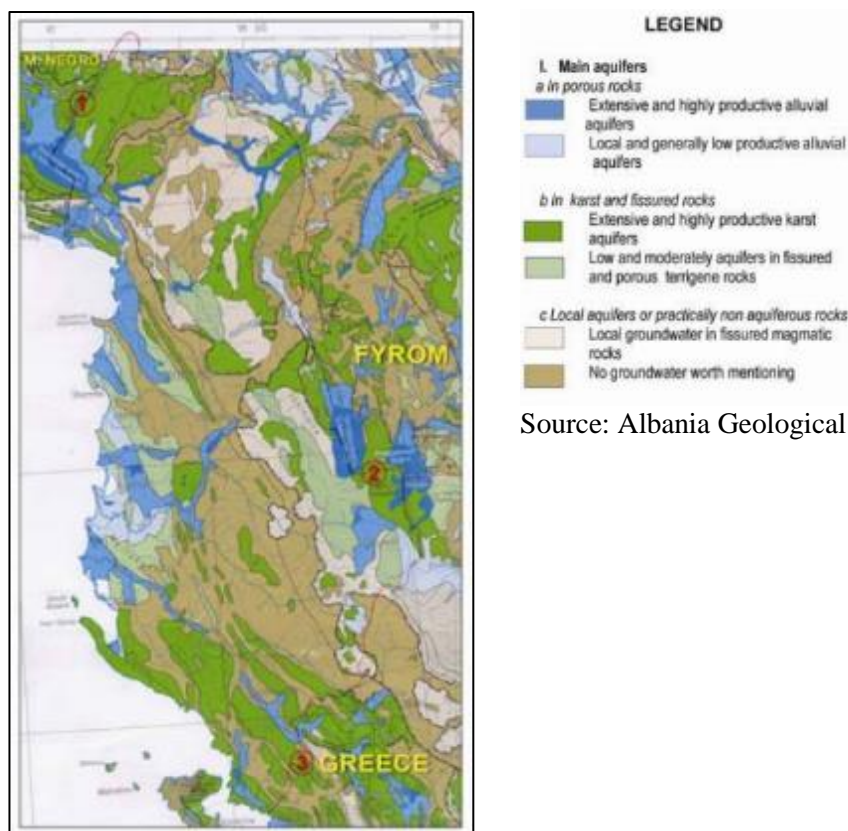
Karst aquifer of Shkodra lake shared between Albania and Montenegro,

Karst aquifer of Prespa-Ohrid lakes shared between Albania, RONM and Greece; and

Karst aquifer of Vjosa River shared between Albania and Greece.



RON



Source: Albania Geological Survey

Albania is a country rich in freshwater resources, both surface and ground waters, but the water quality has deteriorated significantly over the last several decades. The quality of surface water is not well known due to very limited ongoing monitoring of both wastewater emissions and water quality. In general, the quality of water is often a problem due to pollution arising from the discharge of untreated wastewater from urban settlements, as well as from industries with obsolete technology. The discharge of sewage in water bodies, especially in coastal tourist areas and delicate ecosystems, is a major environmental concern for the Government, the business community and the public.

Flooding hazard

Coastal flooding

The coastal flooding does not pose a major risk to the primary road network. However, note that areas in the North of Albania (Shkoder area) could be vulnerable to flooding from the rivers in times of high rainfalls. Moreover, the Durres harbour also seems prone to coastal flooding.

Fluvial flooding

The peak flow depends on the rainfall intensity and duration, the size of the catchment area and its characteristics and the conditions (already wet or dry) of the catchment at the start of the event.

At locations where the peak flow is larger than the capacity of the bridge or culvert, problems are likely to occur. However, there is no specific information available to determine how strong the increase of damages will be.

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

close to 8-24 tons/ha per year are transported by river water.

Seismic Hazard

Based on the assessment showed in the report “Climate resilient roads assets in Albania“, there is very little impact to be expected for culverts, tunnels and roads from seismic hazards in Albania. The bridges have some vulnerability to seismic events. Bridges may experience (significant) damage due to seismic hazards, only at relatively high return periods. The seismic hazard is independent of weather and climate change.

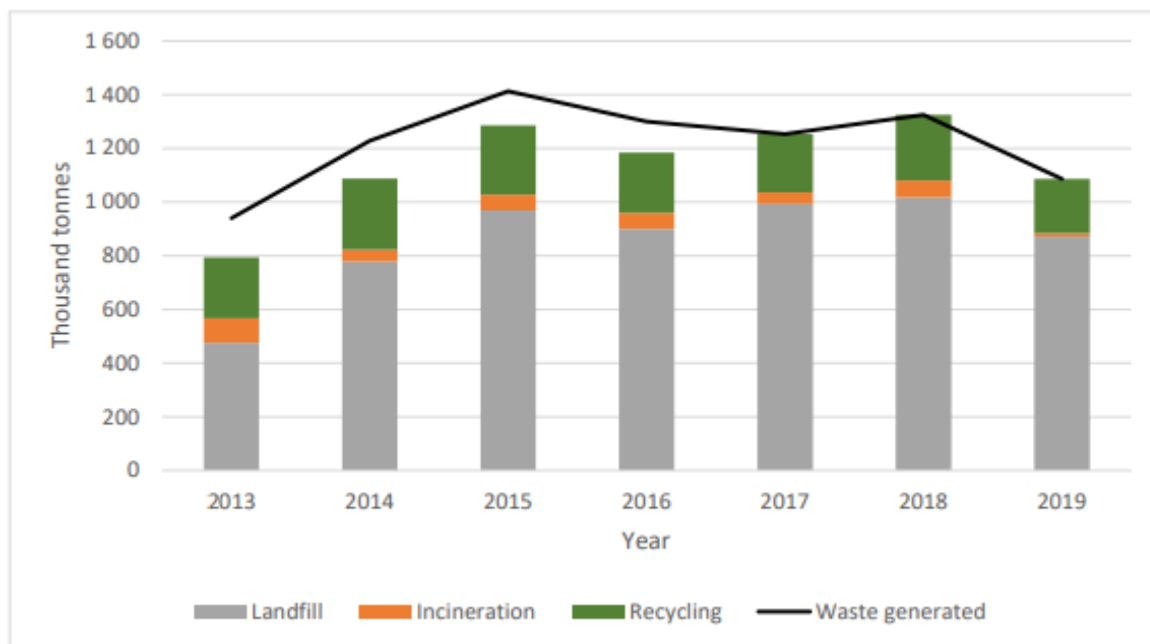
Climate Change. Literature review indicates that climate change effects in Albania include season characteristics and duration (winters are milder and shorter, summers are longer and hotter); droughts in summer and sometimes even in autumn, and then sudden floods, coastal erosion all along the Adriatic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

For flooding and landslides, weather and climate change may impact the probability of occurrence and extent of the hazard. The following can be concluded concerning weather, climate change and the relevant hazards:

- Climate change predictions show that higher temperatures should be expected. Increased temperature will most likely affect the snow accumulation and melt and hence might have an impact on flood hazard resulting from (rapid) snow melt.
- Due to climate change, the predicted changes in monthly average precipitation show a strong pattern of reduced precipitation amounts in the dryer months of the year and of increasing precipitation (up to 30%) in the wetter period of the year.
- The average annual precipitation is expected to decrease in the future. However, over the country there are small differences: a decrease in the North and an increase in the centre and the South.
- As such, higher discharges at the locations of culverts and bridges are to be expected in the future.

Waste management practices.

Albania has a quite low recycling rate and a high reliance on landfilling. The main system for waste collection in Albania consists of bring points with containers for residual waste collection. The arrangement of waste management is the responsibility of municipalities, but to date only 70 % of the population is covered by waste collection services. Figure below illustrates the development of municipal waste generation and management between 2013 and 2019 in Albania. It shows that municipal waste generation in Albania has somewhat decreased since the peak in 2015, with a clear drop in 2019. The generated waste was 1 413 thousand tones in 2015 (corresponding to 491 kg per capita), which dropped to 1 087 thousand tones in 2019 (corresponding to 381 kg per capita) (Eurostat, 2021). The decreasing trend is a result of an improvement in the quality of data and a better understanding of the municipal waste data reporting; it can thus not be interpreted as a reducing trend per se. Although there has been a reported improvement in data quality, the data are still not considered of high quality (Albanian Environment Agency, 2021).



Source: Eurostat (2021).

Figure X: Municipal waste generation and treatment in thousand tones in Albania, 2013-2019

4.3 Biological Environment

Few countries in the world in proportion to their size, have such a variety of plants, as Albania. Climate diversity, geological composition and geographical position allow the flora and fauna of Albania to be as unique as they are. After the fall of the communist regime, the Albanian government aware of the rich heritage of the flora and fauna, has taken precautions in order to ensure the conservation and rational use for the benefit of both: people and nature. It includes fishing and uncontrolled hunting which can lead to the extinction of certain endangered species. The legislation against these two practices needs to be monitored.

- **Flora**

In the Albanian soil grows about 3,200 species of plants that not only account for most of the Balkan flora, but also include plants from more distant regions.

The most typical plants in Albania are the same as in the Mediterranean region. These are olive trees, vineyards and fruit trees, including fig, orange and lemon trees. However, the landscape offers more or less different fruits according to the seasons: cherry trees bloom in May, persimmon (persimmon tree) line the roads throughout the north of the country in November, and the nuts are widespread in the Albanian highlands.

Another example is the heather, oak aegilops, broom and cypress. The Llogara national park on the coast and that of Divjaka offer wonderful walks through wild pine forests and you will probably see lynx.

The interior reminds more broadly Central Europe with its mountains and evergreen forests. Depending on the altitude at which you are located, the vegetation will be more or less dense.

The flora of Albania also includes nearly 300 medicinal plants still used to cure and relieve pain. This rich and varied flora made Albanian specialists' study many and different cases.

- **Fauna**

The mild climate, abundant forests, hydrography and topography of the country and the mountainous nature of the terrain are all factors that contributed to the Albanian fauna richness and remarkable variety. The animal world in Albania, as well as vegetation, is highly similar to that of the Mediterranean countries and Central Europe. You meet many species of wild animals: wolves, foxes, bears, hares, deer, ibex, and many others. Albania also has a great ornithological wealth. In addition to all domestic birds, it is populated by many wild birds, particularly observable in the lagoon of

Karavasita in the National Park of Divjaka.

Albanian seas, lakes and rivers are home to about 110 families of all species of fish in the Mediterranean Sea : mullet, bar and trout are some of the fish found in Albania. If you go through the Pogradec region, or if you decide to cross the border with Macedonia, you are sure to hear about the koran, a fish that lives only in Lake Ohrid and the River Drin Black. His crossover taste quite similar to that of salmon is popular with people living near this area.

- **Protected Areas**

Until early 2015, Protected Area Network (PAN) management was the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and was part of the structure and tasks of the Regional Forest Service Directorates (FSD). Upon the establishment of the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA), on February 4, 2015, PAN management took a completely new approach. NAPA and its local structures have a great responsibility and challenge in dealing with the current and future situations, and in leading the protected areas and their management. This is also due to the fact that the protected areas, in Albania, are found in various forms and sizes (terrestrial, aquatic, marine, local and transboundary); under public, municipal and private ownership; in six administration categories; Ramsar wetlands of international importance; Biosphere Reserves (BR) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Sites.

The Government of Albania has approved a Network of Protected Areas (PAS). Currently, the surface area of the Protected Areas Network (PAN) of Albania is 504,826.3 hectares or 17.56% of the total area of the country. The Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MCPA) consist of 119,224.7 hectares or 23.6% of the country's total PAN area, of which only 13,261.2 hectares are marine surface area. In addition, 98,180.6 hectares are under the Ramsar site status covering 3.42% of the total area of the country. As defined in Law 81/2017 “On Protected Areas”, the national system of protected areas consists of six categories of protected areas as designated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Table 7. Surface area of the PA Network, by Region (Source: NAPA 2019).

No.	REGION	Surf.in hectares/ PA	%/Tot PA	Surf.in hectares/ Region	%PA/in the Region
1	BERAT	25,487.3	5.05%	179,793	14.18%
2	DIBRA	63,282.6	12.55%	248,503	25.47%
3	DURRESI	6,563.4	1.30%	76,442	8.59%
4	ELBASAN	40,284.0	7.99%	329,994	12.21%
5	FIER	23,185.6	4.60%	189,069	12.26%
6	GJIROKASTRA	61,295.6	12.14%	288,426	21.25%
7	KORÇA	66,688.8	13.22%	371,032	17.97%
8	KUKESI	45,916.8	9.10%	237,348	19.35%
9	LEZHA	15,018.9	2.98%	161,910	9.28%
10	TIRANA	40,730.9	8.08%	165,463	24.62%
11	SHKODRA	52,192.0	10.35%	356,199	14.65%
12	VLORA	64,180.4	12.73%	270,621	23.72%
	TOTAL	504,826.3	100.00%	2,874,800	

Table 9: PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK IN ALBANIA

Nr.	CATEGORY	Region	Name of PA	IUCN Category	Approval	No. PA Surface	Area in hectares
1	STRICT NATURE RESERVE/SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RESERVE (SNR)–CATEGORY I, IUCN	KUKESI	Gashi River	I SNR	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	3,000.00
2	STRICT NATURE RESERVE/SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RESERVE (SNR)–CATEGORY I, IUCN	GJIROKASTR A	Kardhiqi	I SNR	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	1,800.00
1	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	SHKODRA	Thethi	II NP	DCM No.96, dated 21.11.1966	1	2,630.00
2	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	Dibra	Lurë–Deja Mountain	II NP	DCM No.661, dated 31.10.2018	1	20,242.80
3	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	VLORA	Llogora	II NP	DCM No.96, dated 21.11.1966	1	1,010.00
4	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	KORÇA	Bredhi i Drenovës	II NP	DCM No.96, dated 21.11.1966	1	1,380.00
5	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	KUKESI	Valbona Valley	II NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	8,000.00
6	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	DURRESI	Qafë Shtamë	II NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	2,000.00
7	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	KORÇA	Prespa	II NP	DCM No.80, dated 18.02.1999	1	27,750.00
8	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	VLORA	Butrinti	II NP	DCM No. 134, dated 20.02.2013	1	9,424.40
9	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	TIRANA, DURRESI	Dajti Mountain	II NP	DCM No. 402, dated 21.06.2006	1	29,216.00
10	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	Fier, TIRANA	Divjakë–Karavasta	II NP	DCM No. 687, dated 19.10.2007	1	22,230.20
11	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	Elbasan, Dibra	Shebenik–Jabllanice	II NP	DCM No. 640, dated 21.05.2008	1	33,927.70
12	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	GJIROKASTR A, KORÇA, Berat	Bredhi i Hotovës–Dangëlli	II NP	DCM No. 1631, dated 17.12.2008	1	34,361.10
13	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	VLORA	Karaburun–Sazan	II NP	DCM No. 289, dated 28.04.2010	1	12,428.00

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14	NATIONAL PARK (NP)–CATEGORY II, IUCN	Berat, Elbasan	Tomor Mountain	II NP	DCM No. 467, dated 26.07.2018	1	26,106.20
1	NATURAL MONUMENT (NM)–CATEGORY III, IUCN	Albania	Bio–Monument	III NM	DCM No. 303, dated 10.05.2019	295	0
2	NATURAL MONUMENT (NM)–CATEGORY III, IUCN	Albania	Geo–Monument	III NM	DCM No. 303, dated 10.05.2019	423	0
3	NATURAL MONUMENT (NM)–CATEGORY III, IUCN	GJIROKASTR A	Bredhi i Sotirës	III NM	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	1,740.00
4	NATURAL MONUMENT (NM)–CATEGORY III, IUCN	VLORA	Syri i Kaltër (Blu Eye)	III NM	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	180
5	NATURAL MONUMENT (NM)–CATEGORY III, IUCN	Dibra	Vlashaj	III NM	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	50
1	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	VLORA	Karaburun	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	20,000.00
2	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	KORÇA	Cangonj	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	250
3	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Berat	Bogovë	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	330
4	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	KORÇA	Krastafillak	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	250
5	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Kuturman	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA no.1, dated 27.7.1977	1	3,600.00
6	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Fier	Pishë Poro	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	1,500.00
7	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	LEZHA	Berzanë	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	880
8	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Fier	Levan	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	200
9	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Berat	Balloll	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	330
10	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Qafë Bushi	IV MNR/NP	Reg. MA No. 1, dated 27.7.1977	1	500
11	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	DURRESI	Rrushkull	IV MNR/NP	Order MA No. 2, dated 26.12.1995	1	650
12	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	VLORA	Rrëzomë	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	1,400.00

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13	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	KUKESI	Tej Drini Bardhë	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	30
14	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	KORÇA	Gërmenj–Shelegur	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	430
15	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Polis	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	45
16	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Stravaj	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	400
17	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Sopot	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	300
18	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Elbasan	Dardhë–Xhyrë	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	400
19	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	SHKODRA	Lake Shkodra	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 684, dated 02.11.2005	1	26,535.00
20	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	LEZHA	Kune–Vain–Tale	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 432, dated 28.04.2010	1	4,393.20
21	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	LEZHA	Patok–Fushëkuqe– Ishëm	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 995, dated 03.11.2010	1	5,000.70
22	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Dibra, KUKESI	Korab–Koritnik	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 898, dated 21.12.2011	1	55,550.20
23	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	GJIROKASTR A	Zagori	IV MNR/NP	DCM No. 354, dated 02.05.2018	1	24,590.30
24	MANAGED NATURE RESERVE/NATURE PARK (MNR/NP)– CATEGORY IV, IUCN	Dibra	Lake Ulza and the surrounding area	IV Mun.NP	DRC No.16, dated 03.04.2013	1	4,206.00
1	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	KORÇA	Nikolicë	V PL/S	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	510
2	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	KORÇA	Pogradec	V PL/S	DCM No. 80, dated 18.02.1999	1	27,323.00
3	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	VLORA	Vjosë–Nartë	V PL/S	DCM No. 680, dated 22.10.2004	1	19,738.00
4	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	SHKODRA	Buna River– Velipojë	V PL/S	DCM No. 682, dated 02.11.2005	1	23,027.00
5	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	TIRANA, Dibra	M.Gropa–Bizë– Martanesh	V PL/S	DCM No. 49, dated 31.01.2007	1	25,266.40

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6	PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE (PL/S)–CATEGORY V, IUCN	DURRESI	Krastë–Verjon	V PL/S	DCM No. 468, date 26.07.2018	1	1,469.20
1	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	KORÇA	Nikolicë	V PL/S	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	510
2	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	KORÇA	Pogradec	V PL/S	DCM No. 80, dated 18.02.1999	1	27,323.00
3	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	VLORA	Vjosë–Nartë	V PL/S	DCM No. 680, dated 22.10.2004	1	19,738.00
4	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	SHKODRA	Buna River–Velipojë	V PL/S	DCM No. 682, dated 02.11.2005	1	23,027.00
5	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	TIRANA, Dibra	M.Gropa–Bizë–Martanesh	V PL/S	DCM No. 49, dated 31.01.2007	1	25,266.40
6	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	DURRESI	Krastë–Verjon	V PL/S	DCM No. 468, date 26.07.2018	1	1,469.20
1	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	Dibra	Luzni–Bulaç	VI NRPA	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	5,900.00
2	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	KORÇA	Piskal–Shqeri	VI NRPA	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	5,400.00
3	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	LEZHA	Bjeshka e Oroshit	VI NRPA	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	4,745.00
4	PROTECTED AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES (MNRPA) –CATEGORY VI, IUCN	KORÇA	Guri i Nikës	VI NRPA	DCM No. 102, dated 15.01.1996	1	2,200.00

LISTOF UNAPPROVED MUNICIPAL PROTECTED AREAS (MUNICIPAL NATURE PARK –Mun.NP)

No.	Region	Name of PA	IUCN Category	Approval	Surface area in hectares
1	KUKESI	Nikaj–Mërtur	IV Mun. NP	DRC No. 32, dated 13.10.2014	17,505.00
2	SHKODRA	Shkrel	IV Mun. NP	DRC No.....	20,282.00
3	LEZHA	Kthellë	IV Mun. NP	DRC No. 16, dated 30.01.2015	9,395.80

A detailed analyse on possible intersection between PA and subprojects footprint, should be provided under the stage of EIA/ESMP preparation, after the detailed design for each subproject will be determined.

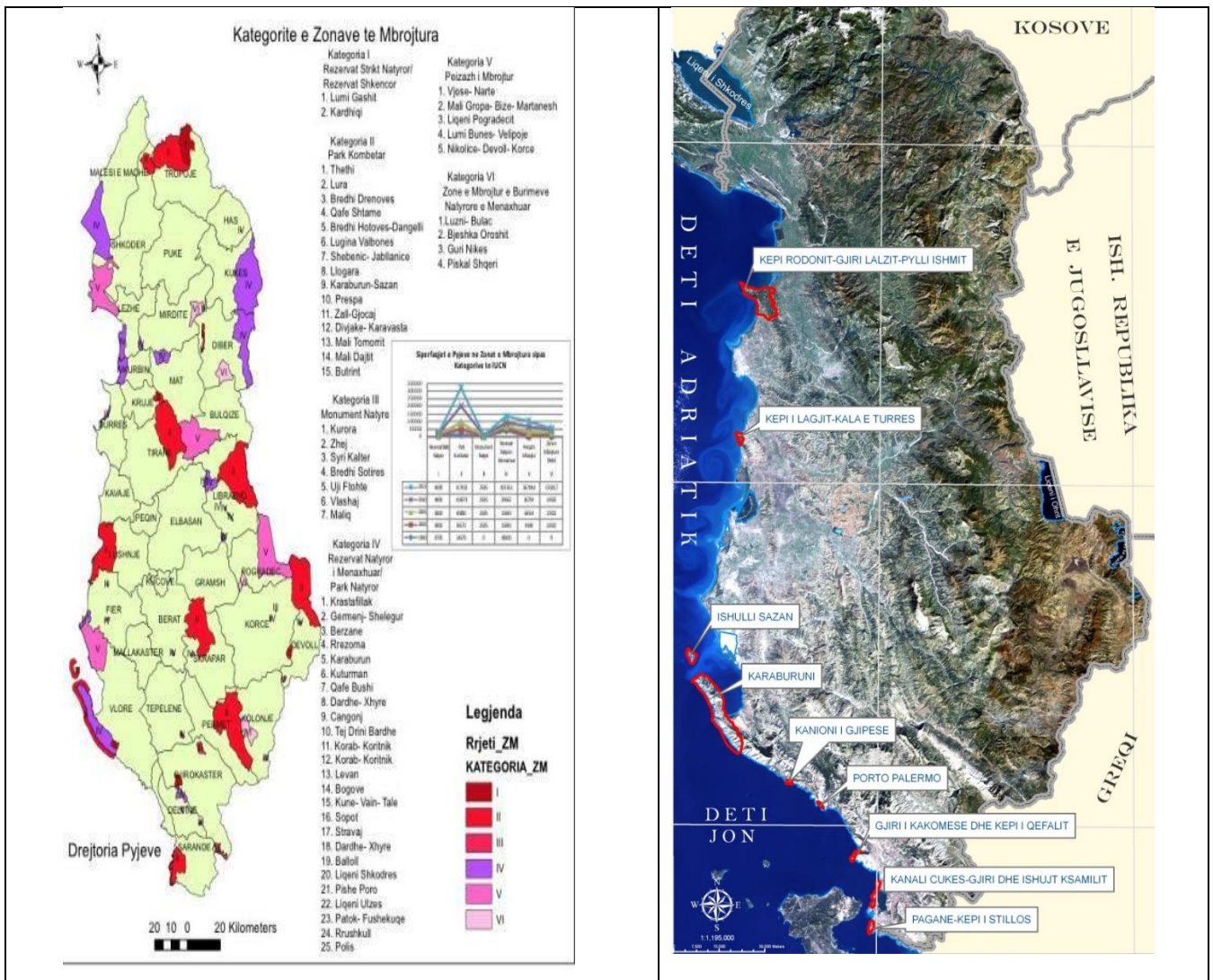


Figure 5. Map of Albania Protected Areas

4.4 Socioeconomic

Socio-economic indicators shed light on the context in which the Gender Equality Index is analyzed. Albania has made considerable progress in terms of economic development, which has resulted in poverty reduction and increased economic growth. The global financial crisis hit Albania after 2008 and resulted in reduced economic growth, reaching its lowest rate in 2013 with 1.0 percent real GDP growth. The economic growth started to bounce back in the later years and reached 3.8 percent in 2017, surpassing the 2.4 percent for the EU-28. Nonetheless, per capita GDP is much lower in Albania than EU-28. In 2017, the per capita GDP of Albania was EUR 4,024 compared to EUR 27,780 for the EU-28. The main economic sectors contributing to economic growth are services, industry and construction, and agriculture. Services account for 48 percent of GDP in Albania and they grew at 6.6 percent in 2017 in real terms. Industry and construction account for 20.4 percent of GDP with a real growth rate of 1.8 percent for industry and 7.0 percent for construction in 2017. In this same year, agriculture accounts for 19.0 percent of GDP and a real growth rate of less than one percent. (Table 3).

Demographic trends show that the Albanian population is projected to decrease, mainly due to low fertility rates and continuous migration abroad. The Albanian population as of January 1, 2019 is

estimated at 2.9 million, and it is projected to reach 2.7 million by 2031. Continuously falling fertility since 2013 has also contributed to population decline. In 2018, the fertility rate was 1.37 live births per woman in reproductive age, which is the lowest rate since 2013 (1.73). The fertility rate is below the replacement rate and the EU-28 average (1.59 live births per woman). Furthermore, Albania has continued to experience emigration, although at a much lower rate than the largest migration waves of the 1990s. In recent years, emigration is driven by jobs and education opportunities abroad. In 2018, 38,703 people emigrated.⁶ The high emigration along with declining fertility rates may further contribute to the population decline, as well as changes to the labor supply. Furthermore, as a result of high emigration rates, Albania received in the past large amounts of remittances, which accounted for about 28 percent of GDP in 1993. However, as family ties to the home country start to weaken so do remittances, which have gradually declined since 2000. In 2018, they accounted for about 9.7 percent of GDP⁷.

Education attainment in Albania shows a large gap with the EU-28 average for both men and women, while the gender gap favors boys in lower grades and then reverses in tertiary education, in favor of girls. Attainment for adults 25 years and older is close to two years below the average for the EU-28. Men have 0.5 years higher attainment than women (10.25 against 9.75 years), although the situation is reversed for the younger cohort aged 20-39 (10.6 against 11 years on average). Indeed, the percentage of women with tertiary education is higher than for men.⁸ Enrolment in preschool education shows a wide gap between Albania, with 76.3 percent, and the EU-28, where 95.4 percent of children are enrolled in preschool. And while enrolment of boys and girls is virtually identical in the EU-28, in Albania boys have higher enrollment.

The labor market shows disparities between women and men in Albania, which are greater than in the EU-28. Women have lower labor force participation rates and employment rates, and higher inactivity rates due to household responsibilities. Labor market indicators for Albania fall behind those of the EU-28. Youth in Albania has the lowest labor force participation rates and employment rates, and the highest unemployment rates compared to the rest of the population⁹. The largest difference in labor market indicators between women and men is in the labor force participation rate, with a gap of 17.2 percent. The unemployment rate in Albania is about double that of the EU-28. Although men have a slightly higher unemployment rate than women in Albania, unemployment statistics mainly capture underemployment for women, since a large percentage are counted as employed in unpaid family labor. Lastly, the gender wage gap is 10.7 percent in Albania and 16.0 percent in the EU-28. It should be noted that the gender wage gap in Albania is calculated from wages declared at the tax office. As a result of informality, wages are often underreported, especially the higher wages, which pertain to men. Consequently, the gender wage gap is reduced. The gender wage gap calculated through survey data is around 15.2 percent¹⁰.

Despite the differences in the labor market women also face a double burden, since they are primarily responsible for the unpaid labor within the household, which is mainly focused in household chores and child-care. Regardless Socio-economic indicators for Albania and EU-28 of their employment status, women are by far the largest participants of unpaid care work. The data from the 2011 Time Use Survey show that over 90 percent of women regardless of their employment status participate in unpaid work compared to less than 50 percent of men. Furthermore, employed women devote about 4 hours to unpaid work compared to less than one hour for their men counterparts. The difference is much larger for women who are not in employment. Women who are not employed spend about 6 hours in unpaid work compared to about one hour spent by men who are not employed.

Lastly, representations of women in decision-making has increased at the legislative and executive level. Women represent 29.3 percent of the members of the parliament, with a total of 41 women members out of 140 members in total.¹¹ During the 2013-2017 legislation, women represented 23.5 percent of the members of the parliament. There is also an increase in the representation of women in the government. Currently, 57 percent of the government is represented by women ministers, which has increased from 42 percent representation in the 2013 government.¹¹

¹¹ https://eurogender.eige.europa.eu/system/files/events-files/gender_equality_index_albania.pdf

4.5 Cultural Heritage

The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\) World Heritage Sites](#) are places of importance to [cultural](#) or [natural heritage](#) as described in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, established in 1972. Cultural heritage consists of monuments (such as architectural works, monumental sculptures, or inscriptions), groups of buildings, and sites (including archaeological sites). Natural features (consisting of physical and biological formations), geological and physiographical formations (including habitats of threatened species of animals and plants), and natural sites which are important from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty, are defined as natural heritage. [Albania](#) ratified the [Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#) on 10 July 1989, making its historical sites eligible for inclusion on the list.

As of 2021, there are four sites in Albania inscribed on the list and further four sites on the tentative list. The first site in Albania to be added to the list was the ancient city of [Butrint](#) which was inscribed at the 16th UNESCO [session](#) in 1992. The historic centre of [Gjirokaštër](#) was inscribed in 2005 as Museum-City of Gjirokastra. In 2008, the historic centre of [Berat](#) was added to the site, to form the [Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokaštër](#). In 2017, the [Gashi River](#) and [Rrajcë](#) regions were listed as part of the [Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe](#) that is shared with 17 other countries. In 2019, the site Natural and Cultural Heritage of the [Ohrid region](#), a World Heritage Site in [North Macedonia](#) since 1979, was expanded to include the Albanian part of the coast.





Site	Image	Location (county)	Year listed	UNESCO data	Description
Butrint		Vlorë	1992	570; iii (cultural)	Butrint (Latin: <i>Buthrōtium</i>) was an ancient Greek city, then a Roman one and the seat of a late Roman bishopric. After a period of abandonment it was occupied by the Byzantines, the Angevins and the Venetians. It was finally abandoned in the late Middle Ages. Prominent archaeological sites include a Greek theater, a late-antique baptistery, a ninth-century basilica, and fortifications from the period of the Greek colony to the Middle Ages. ^[5]
Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokaštër		Berat, Gjirokaštër	2005	569; iii, iv (cultural)	Berat and Gjirokaštër are inscribed as rare examples of an architecture typical of the Ottoman period. Berat bears witness to the coexistence of various religious and cultural communities down the centuries. It features a castle, most of which was built in the 13th century, although its origins date back to the 4th century BC. The citadel area has many Byzantine churches, mainly from the 13th century, as well as several mosques built in the 15th century. Gjirokaštër features a series of two-storey houses which were built in the 17th century. The town also retains a bazaar, an 18th-century mosque, and two churches of the same period. Gjirokaštër was originally listed individually in 2005, Berat was added to the site in 2008. ^[7]
Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region*		Korçë	2019	i, iii, iv, vii (mixed)	This is the extension of the site that has been inscribed in North Macedonia since 1979. ^[10] The area around the town of Pogradec at the shores of Lake Ohrid was inhabited by the Illyrians in the 5th century BC, followed by the Romans and the Slavs. Traces of the Roman road <i>Via Egnatia</i> are evidence of an important passage route in the region. The ruins of the paleo-Christian church of Lin together with its floor mosaics reveal the presence of Christianity. The historical centre of Pogradec represents an example of 19th to 20th century Albanian vernacular architecture. ^[12]
Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe*		Kukës, Elbasan	2017	1133; ix (natural)	This transnational site (shared among 18 European countries) encompasses the <i>Gashi River</i> in Tropojë, northeastern Albania, and the ancient beech forests of <i>Rrajcë</i> in Perrenjas, in central Albania. They demonstrate the postglacial expansion process of such forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. The site was originally listed in 2007 and expanded three times, the forests in Albania were listed in 2017. ^[9]

Table 10: List of Albanian Cultural Heritage Sites

5.0 Anticipated Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation Measures

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

5.1 Generic Environmental and Social Risks

Environmental risk rating

The environmental risk is rated Substantial given the civil works in the Project. This project will rehabilitate and reconstruct about 80 priority bridges and culverts across Albania and other supporting infrastructure (bridge widening for the sidewalks, culvert replacement, waterproofing the superstructure, removal of the loose concrete surface, reprofiling the structural concrete, rainwater drainage bridge), that might generate moderate to significant adverse environmental impacts. Likely environmental issues to be encountered are mostly short-term, local, and reversible and include changes in the quality river/stream water, as well as typical construction-related disturbances such as dust, air pollution, waste generation, and soil erosion, disposal of excavated mineral materials, OHS risks, etc. As the project will be implemented at various (currently first year Bridges) locations in Albania, potential impacts to nature protected areas and cultural heritage cannot be excluded at this point. Although there is a scope for large engagement in rehabilitation or reconstruction activities, the project will not support any investments and TA of high safeguard risks. The works will be carried out mostly on existing bridges and culverts, with the exception of very few: i) off-site reconstruction of existing bridges, including existing bridges that will be replaced potentially with the changed design; ii) additional (new) structures, mostly upstream for bridge protection; and/or iii) significant upgraded reconstruction of bridges on existing road routes - key feeder/rural roads connecting vulnerable populations to the NRN road network. The latter, as well as construction of new culverts and supporting infrastructure, may produce impacts such as a change in flow regimes rivers resulting in changes of velocity, depth, depositions, channel morphology as well as flooding and erosion.

Social Risk Rating

The proposed risk rating for the project is moderate. The types of intervention for the most priority projects – about 25 out of a long list of 80 bridges – are mostly related to total replacement of the superstructure and major repair of the substructure. There are some bridges that have pathways to be widened and one bridge needs total replacement. Out of the long list, there are a total of 18 locations where significant upgrade/replacement of bridges (with changed designs and sizes) on the existing road routes is proposed. Most of the works would be done with heavy machinery with about 10 to 20 workers per working site and, in a maximum of two cases, there might be labor-intensive works with about 50-100 workers per site, which means that labor influx cases with labor from outside of the country or broader region to be set in labor camps is not expected. Labor camps will most probably not be used also for the rarely one to two cases whereby about 80-100 workers at a time could be present. ESS2 is relevant for the project but there are not expected to be any cases of labor influx situations in the localities as elaborated above. ESS4 is relevant and would represent the most important social risk if the proposed works would cause temporary transportation disconnections. Thus new routes would have to be found and enabled for temporary use. During project preparation, the list of interventions that will cause disconnections will be prepared and respective temporary connection solutions will be assessed. ESS5 is relevant though the chances of physical or economic displacement due to land acquisition are very small. Most probably there will be no need for land acquisition or displacement of dwellings or any facility, but there could be some land acquisition of fractions of land. There might also be potential land acquisition if, as a part of the bridge reconstruction, access roads in the vicinity of the bridges are rehabilitated or constructed to improve the access/connection with the bridges. However, at present, the government has asked that the project finance only bridge rehabilitation and there is no plan for works on access roads in parallel. In Albania, there are no cases of improvising dwellings under the bridges. The illegal dwellings are existent but mostly in suburban spaces of the urban areas but not under the bridges. SEA/SH (Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment) risk is low, given that there

will be no labor influx or labor camps. All the labor will come from the local municipality or neighboring municipalities and thus the workers are well-established in the project area. This in combination with the country risk level makes the SEA/SH risk low. However, the project will establish a robust GRM that will be able to respond also to SEA/SH-related complaints. In addition, extra measures will be taken with the contractors to ensure that employees sign the Code of Conduct related to SEA/SH.

5.2 Positive Impacts of the Project

During preconstruction and construction phase:

- ✓ **Creation of employment opportunities.** Opportunities for communities are expected to be in the form of temporary employment and business opportunities during the Pre-construction (design studios) and construction phase (construction companies). It is expected that during the construction phase, several jobs will be available to the local population, mainly for casual workers (non-skilled) and semi-skilled labor. However, these employment opportunities are expected to be temporary and benefit the community in the short term.
- ✓ **Income to material suppliers and contractors.** Road works will require sourcing of materials including earth materials such as gravel, rock, and sand among others which can only be sourced from the project area. The project will provide opportunities for local people to generate income through the supply of materials and subcontracting.

During operation phase:

- ✓ **Connectivity and alleviation of transport challenges.** Improving and maintaining access roads will provide improve connectivity, and the wider communities thereby enhancing trade, delivery, and access to social services like schools, hospitals, and markets. Consequentially, the project is anticipated to spur socio-economic development in the area due to enhance connectivity.
- ✓ Overall impacts are expected to be positive, as the Project will help to counter the risks of future hazards, will enhance bridges safety and resilience to future Climate Change and Geological hazard events and to increase social and economic benefits through improved and more resilient infrastructure.

5.3 Anticipated Impacts of the Project Construction Stage

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

➤ Soil Erosion and Contamination

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

Mitigations

- The excavations should be kept limited as per approved engineering drawings and the top fertile layer of soil should be separated and reploughed after the completion of tasks.

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

➤ **Air Pollution**

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

Mitigations:

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

➤ **Noise Pollution**

- Noise is envisaged to be generated from construction camps, heavy machinery such as bulldozers, excavators, stabilizers, concrete mixing plant, pneumatic drills and other equipment.
- Noise generated by construction machinery is likely to affect sensitive receptors located within 500 meters of the project area.
- Health risks associated with exposure to continuous noise levels includes increase in blood pressure, hypertension, annoyance and sleep disturbances etc.

Mitigations

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

➤ **Contamination of Surface Water Resources**

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

Mitigations:

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

➤ **Removal of Vegetation/Tree Cutting**

- Some aspects of the subprojects may require trees to be cut, affecting the aesthetics of the areas and reducing the carbon sinks.
- Cutting of trees may lead to loss of habitats for some of the wildlife species. Some of the trees in the area may be of ecological importance and the identification of that particular ecosystem.

Mitigations:

- Alignments and site design to minimize the cutting of trees.
- The critical areas of animal breeding should be avoided.
- Compensatory number of trees should be planted of same species, in lieu of 1 affected tree.

➤ **Disturbance to Natural Habitat**

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

Mitigations:

- Site specific management plan of any protected area should be developed

➤ **Occupational Health and Safety**

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

Mitigations:

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

- Timely public notification on planned construction works.

➤ **Fire Hazards**

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

Mitigations:

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

➤ **Traffic Issues**

- Traffic disruption during construction activity

Mitigations

- Follow WB EHS guidelines
- Traffic management plan has to be provided from the consultancy

➤ **Natural Hazards**

- Weather and climate change
- Flooding hazard
- Seismic Hazard
- Landslide hazard

Mitigations:

- Project Implementation Unit should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guideline. The EPRP should at a minimum contain information specified in the WB EHS Guideline.
- Disaster management arrangements should be made for disaster prone areas identified measures for flooding hazard

➤ **Land Acquisition and Resettlement**

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

Mitigations

- Land Acquisition and Resettlement issues should be dealt with in accordance national regulations and the WB ESS 5 on – Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
- Re-design project where possible to minimize the land acquisition.
- Consult affected property owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the project development process
- Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work
- Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF
- Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective Assemblies before start of work

Indirect Impacts

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

of the project areas.

Mitigations

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

Anticipated Impacts of the Project Operation Stage

➤ **Air Pollution**

- Air quality will be affected due to increased vehicular traffic etc.
- Emissions may be carried over longer distances depending upon the wind speed, direction, temperature of surrounding air and atmospheric stability. Air pollution can cause respiratory diseases.

Mitigations:

- Vehicle speed in the project area should be controlled accordingly.
- Adequate road signs to be planted on dust roads to limit vehicular speeds
- Properly designed and constructed speed ramps on access roads

➤ **Vibration and Noise**

- Increased vehicular traffic may be associated with increased noise

Mitigations:

- Visible signs to be provided at suitable locations to warn of excessive noise which may disturb fauna or other activities

➤ **Leftover materials**

- Construction materials leftover from the civil works
- Excavated earth materials

Mitigations:

- Apply the principles of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover whenever feasible through the following actions:
- Excavated earth materials will, as much as possible, be re-used for back filling purposes to reduce waste
- The incineration of all waste at site or unlicensed plants and locations is prohibited
- Ensure that the required amounts of construction materials are delivered to site to reduce the possibility of the occurrence of excess material
- According to the regulations, this should be done by licensed entities

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

Table 8: Environmental and Social Impact and Mitigation

Environmental, Social and Health Impact	Proposed Mitigation Measures
Air Quality	<p>Construction stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil/sand and cement loads in transit to be well covered to reduce dust levels rising above acceptable levels. • Stockpiles of exposed soil and unpaved access roads to be sprinkled with water to regulate dust levels. • Use of good quality fuel and lubricants in vehicles, equipment and machinery. • Ensure that heaped sand delivered for construction works is covered with tarpaulin to prevent wind and water transport of soil particles • Engines of vehicles, machinery, and other equipment to be switched off when not in use. • Regular scheduled maintenance and servicing to be carried out on all vehicles and equipment to minimize exhaust emissions. • Construction and civil works to be phased out or controlled to reduce emissions from equipment and machinery in use. <p>Operational stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate road signs to be planted on dust roads to limit vehicular speeds • Properly designed and constructed speed ramps on access roads
Vibration and Noise	<p>Construction phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation and construction activities to be carried out during daylight hours. • Concrete mixer and other construction machines and equipment to be located away from sensitive environmental receptors. • Construction equipment and machinery to be regularly maintained and serviced to reduce noise generation when in use. • Engines of vehicles, equipment and machinery to be turned off when not in use. • Earthworks and other construction activities to be phased out or controlled to reduce noise generation during construction • Neighboring residents and commercial activities to be notified in advance of the project before contractor mobilizes to site • Work will not be carried out during sensitive times/ periods of day/ year to avoid disturbance to fauna or water regime. <p>Operational phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible signs to be provided at suitable locations to warn of excessive noise which may disturb fauna or other activities
Visual Intrusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public to be well informed of upcoming project using appropriate signages and display boards prior to contractor accessing sites; • Construction activities to be done in sections to reduce impacts of change and visual intrusions to the general public. • The construction sites to be hoarded off from public view. • Good housekeeping measures, such as regular cleaning, to be maintained at the construction site. • Ensure an acceptable post-construction site as per provisions in the contract. • Associated facilities will be properly designed and constructed to blend with the natural environment
Water Resources Pollution	<p>Construction stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works not to be executed under aggressive weather conditions such as rains or stormy conditions • No solid waste, fuels, or oils to be discharged into any section of a waterway. • Construction to be done in sections to minimize impacts and exposure of soil. • Excavated materials and silt, which cannot be used will be disposed of at appropriate sites as per the Waste Management Plan prepared by contractor and approved by the municipality. • Temporary sediment barriers to be installed on slopes to prevent silt from entering water courses. • Maintenance, fueling and cleaning of vehicles and equipment to take place at off-site workshop with adequate leakage prevention measures <p>Operational stage</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate sanitary facilities to be provided at sites to avoid discharge of waste into water bodies • Host communities to be provided with sufficient toilet facilities and sensitized to use these to discourage open defecation
Generation and disposal of waste	<p>Apply the principles of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse and Recover for waste management through the following actions:</p> <p>Construction phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavated earth materials will, as much as possible, be re-used for back filling purposes to reduce waste • Excavated solid waste from the drain channel that are unsuitable for backfilling will be collected onsite, allowed to drain and collected for disposal at approved landfill sites. • Ensure that the required amounts of construction materials are delivered to site to reduce the possibility of the occurrence of excess material • Provide bins on site for temporary storage of garbage such as lubricant containers, drinking water sachets and carrier bags/packaging materials. • Ensure judicious use of construction materials such as pipes, laterites, sand, etc. to reduce waste. • Contractor to work according to a prepared and agreed Solid Waste Management Plan. <p>Operational phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste collection bins to be sited at vantage points to serve the general public • Warning signs to be posted at suitable locations against littering with possible sanctions • Proper arrangement with waste collection companies through the municipality to regularly collect and dispose of solid waste
Public Health, Safety and Security	<p>Construction phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on exposed trenches and earth materials will, as much as possible, be completed before new earth dug and trenches are created. • Work areas to be hoarded off adequately to avoid inquisitive trespassers especially children. • Warning signs to be posted around work areas to discourage trespassers • Contractors to maintain adequate security at construction sites to avoid pilfering or vandalizing of property • Visibility to be ensured in the night-time by providing adequate lighting <p>Operational phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community leadership to form watch committees to improve security • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Occupational Health and Safety	<p>Construction phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage experienced artisans for construction works. • All workers should be given proper induction/orientation on safety. • The contractors will have a Health & Safety Policy and procedures to guide the construction activities. • Regularly service all equipment and machinery to ensure they are in good working condition. • Ensure there are first aid kits on site and a trained person to administer first aid provide and enforce the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety boots, reflective jackets, hard hats, hand gloves, earplugs, nose masks, etc. • Proof of competence for all equipment/machine operators will be required and established through inspection of valid drivers or operator's license or documents. • Comply with all site rules and regulations • Apply sanctions where safety procedures are not adhered to. ✓ Site meetings should create awareness on OHS. <p>Operational phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid facilities to be available at all sites with suitable arrangements with local health facilities to deal with emergencies
Land acquisition and compensation issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult affected property owners/users/ communities and seek their consent early in the project development process • Allow affected persons to salvage their properties (including crops) before mobilizing to site to start work • Ensure fair and adequate compensation is paid to all affected persons prior to commencement of construction activities as per the provisions of the RPF

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain the required developmental permits from the respective Assemblies before start of work
Maintaining livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate compensations are paid to PAPs as defined in the RPF • Employment and other opportunities to be given to local communities as much as possible.
Natural Hazard such as: Weather and climate change Flooding hazard Seismic Hazard Landslide hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMT/Contractor should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guideline. The EPRP should at a minimum contain information specified in the WB EHS Guideline. • Disaster management arrangements should be made for disaster prone areas
Fire Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a mustering point in event of fire • Designated bonfire place at the construction camp • Contractor should develop an emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) following the WB EHS Guidelines • Fire extinguishers should be installed at different locations in the project area

5.4 Gender Based Violence (GBV) Mitigation Strategy

Manifestations of GBV include, but are not limited to:

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

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

- **GBV Risk Assessment**

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

- **Design of GBV sensitive GRM**

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

6.0 Environmental and Social Management Framework

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

6.1 Environmental and Social Screening Process

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

- This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is prepared prior the approval of the BRUP Project, to inform the overall environmental and social performance of the Project.
- Two ESMPs for activities to be initiated in the first year that have been identified at the time of appraisal: (i) Viroi Bridge, Municipality of Gjirokastra; and (ii) Beshiri Bridge, part of the section Tirane-Ndroq-Plepa;
- An initial screening of identified sub-projects (for first year and subsequent years of project implementation) selected in line with specific set of criteria will identify issues to be included in the Terms of reference of Feasibility Studies and detailed designs. The ToRs for the Feasibility Studies will include provisions for environmental and social standards, including long-term impacts, so that the products (FS, design) will be prepared taking in consideration possible impacts on environment.
- During or after the Feasibility Studies (FS) are completed, additional screening of proposed sub-projects will be carried out by ARA / PMT to determine if Site Specific Environmental and social Management Plans or ESIA's are needed.
- Specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and/or Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), and other instruments as required (e.g. environmental checklists, Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) etc.) will be prepared by consultants hired by the PMT, for all investments once the Feasibility Studies are completed and technical details will be available during project implementation following the guidance established in this ESMF.
- The basic instrument will be ESMP to manage all construction related impacts. Additional screening of the project will determine whether additional instruments are needed.

ARA will be responsible for all E&S activities and will therefore carry out the foremost preliminary environmental and social screening of the proposed subproject by using the checklist suggested in **Annex 1**.

Based on screening form, ARA/PMT environmental specialist will assign the category to the sub projects (Category A, B, or C) to identify the type of environmental due diligence document for each sub – project. More precisely, during determining the risk, it should be considered:

- a. the type, location, sensitivity and scale of the Project including the physical considerations of the Project; type of infrastructure, volume of hazardous waste management and disposal.
- b. the capacity and commitment of the Borrower to manage such risks and impacts in a manner consistent with the WB ESF, including the country's policy, legal and institutional framework; laws, regulations, rules and procedures applicable to the Project sector, including regional and local requirements; the technical and institutional capacity of the Borrower; the Borrower's

track record of past Project implementation; and the financial and human resources available for management of the Project;

- c. other areas of risk that may be relevant to the delivery of environmental and social mitigation measures and outcomes, depending on the specific Project and the context in which it is being developed, including the nature of the mitigation and technology being proposed, considerations relating to domestic and/or regional stability, conflict or security.

6.2 Environmental Review Process

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

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

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

Within this contract, ARA may need to prepare the following: preliminary ESIA and ESMP. It will be the responsibility of the beneficiary to obtain the appropriate permits and licenses as required by national law in order to facilitate the clearance process with the MoET or other relevant authorities.

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

Step 3: Clearances: The World Bank Environmental Specialist will priority review until it is assured that quality of review is adequate in ARA. The ESMP will be incorporated as part of the contract between the Borrower and the contractor, together with appropriate monitoring and enforcement provisions.

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

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

design contractor to reflect.

7.0 Institutional Framework and Arrangements

This chapter explains the overall project management and institutional arrangements required for the effective implementation of the project. Thus, the Section highlights the roles and responsibilities of Ministry and ARA which is also the principal implementing agency of the project. The Section also analyzes the ESMF implementation capacity of the MoFE and MoIE and recommends several measures, including capacity enhancement activities and management of additional experts to ensure effective arrangements on Land Acquisition and Resettlement Process and implementation of the ESMF.

7.1 Institutional Arrangement

Project implementation will be mainstreamed within the existing institutional structures. The Albanian Road Authority (ARA) will continue to be the primary Project Management Team (PMT) of the Project with responsibilities including fiduciary aspects, with financial management (FM) of loan proceeds and procurement of goods, works, and services for the project; compliance with social and environmental ESF; and ensuring citizen communication and consultation, as well as routine communication with the World Bank.

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

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

7.2 ARA Implementation Capacity

ARA is an experienced client of the World Bank and has successfully implemented a number of World Bank projects. The most recent project is the World Bank Result Based Maintenance and Road Safety Project (RBMSP) that will come to an end on December 31, 2022. The Project Management Team (PMT) currently implementing the RBMSP is well experienced with the World Bank procedures, including the fiduciary, ESF, and monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), but they do not have experience in E&S risk management under the ESF. The focus of the RBMRS is to improve road maintenance on the NRN through the implementation of Output and Performance-Based Contracts (OPRC) as well as building ARA's capacity in road maintenance planning through the modernization of the road assets management system (RMS). However, ARA has limited technical experience on bridge infrastructure, hence to mitigate this risk and ensure smooth implementation of the project, ARA will require technical assistance to enhance its capacity in the bridge works design, procurement, and implementation under Component 1, as well as in the definition of technical specifications, procurement and reception of additional modules for the BMS and the onsite equipment for remote sensing of bridge and surroundings' condition, under Component 2. The technical assistance will be delivered under Component 3 with the recruitment of a team of experts in this field.

It is envisaged that the Project Management Team (PMT) of the RBMRS will provide the day-to-day project management activities for the Albania Bridge Rehabilitation and Upgrade, including the

fiduciary activities of procurement, supervision of civil works and equipment contracts, financial management, as well as the collection and analysis of M&E data. The current project is very low risk in terms of land acquisition (there have been no displacement cases); there has been only one negligible lane acquisition impact. The same applies to environmental impacts, as the project is financing maintenance of the roads mostly. The current capacity for E&S under the ESF in both ARA and RBMRS PMT is not sufficient. It is therefore proposed that for the purpose of the project, at least one environmental and one social expert will be hired by the PMT on a full-time basis. In addition, given the scale of the project and the potentially significant OHS risks associated with these works, and the intention to use mainly local workers, the dedicated OHS specialist will be considered to be hired by the PMT (either as regular staff or as a consultant).

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

7.3 Institutional Arrangements Land Acquisition and Resettlement Process

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

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

7.4 Capacity Building and Training Plan

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

Preliminary training on World Bank's ESF and procedural requirements will be provided by the World Bank's Environment and Social Specialists and other team members. Subsequent trainings on the ESMF, ESMPs, and other E&S instruments, including on how to monitor and report on environmental and social requirements, use of GRM, consultations, etc., will be provided by PMU's E&S Specialists.

In order to develop the E&S capacities for ARA/PMT, the external consultant with knowledge of national and WB E&S requirements, will be hired by ARA to provide training on E&S. The proposed E&S capacity building plan is shown in the table below.

Table 9. Proposed Capacity Building Plan to be implemented

Description of training	Training module	Responsibility	Participation	Frequency	Cost Lumpsum (EUR)
Training on ESF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community mobilization/participation and social inclusion - Grievance Redress Mechanism/Social Accountability - Cultural Heritage - (Land/asset acquisition Environmental Safeguards 	External Consultant	ARA/PMT Staff, LGUs Staff,	2 days	800
Training on ESMF Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Concepts of ESMF - Basic Concepts on Resettlement and Participation Framework - Provisions of Resettlement and Participation Framework - Profile of PAPs and identification of eligible PAPs - Roles and Responsibilities - Monitoring Mechanisms - Identification of Social and Environmental Concerns - Redressal Mechanisms - Methodology for compensation or land transfer and respective disbursement - Institutional Setup - Reporting Requirements 	External consultant	ARA Staff, LGUs Staff, all levels engineers in these institutions ,	3 days	1,200
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radio, TV discussions, Newspaper adverts on issues relating to ESMF/RPF 	External consultant		1 day	400
Refresher Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Concepts of ESMF - Basic Concepts on Resettlement and Participation Framework - Provisions of Resettlement and Participation Framework - Profile of PAPs and identification of eligible PAPs - Roles and Responsibilities - Monitoring Mechanisms - Identification of Social and Environmental Concerns - Redressal Mechanisms - Methodology for compensation or land transfer and respective disbursement - Institutional Setup - Reporting Requirements 	Environmental Specialist Social Specialist	ARA Staff, LGUs Staff, all levels engineers in these institutions ,	Annual	800
	Total				3,200

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8.0 Consultation Process on the ESMF, BRUP Project.

This chapter details the principles and procedures that will be adopted by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and ARA as implementing agency to carry out stakeholder consultations and public disclosure of information related to the subproject among the project-affected communities and stakeholders. The ESMF adopts strategic approaches to ensure the full and effective participation of vulnerable groups in the E&S assessment and implementation of the mitigation measures in the subprojects. Similarly, the ESMF proposes functional GRM systems, capable of addressing concerns of local communities through a transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities.

8.1 Consultation Process on the ESMF

For all activities affected communities will be consulted within a structured and culturally appropriate manner according to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). If project activities or subproject activities are assessed to have significant adverse impacts on communities, all PAPs will be consulted as a means to establish whether those activities have adequately incorporated affected communities' concerns. In order to accomplish this, this framework as well as all other E&S instruments will be made available to the public for a reasonable minimum period, with active efforts made to reach out to and engage the stakeholders in sub-projects' preparation and implementation process. The Borrower will engage with stakeholders as an integral part of the project's environmental and social assessment and project design and implementation, as outlined in ESS1.

The Public Consultation is required to take place for the documents related to the due diligence of the overall project. Regarding the BRUP project, the ESMF, as well as site specific ESMPs or EIAs that will be prepared for each activity (sub-project) during project implementation will be disclosed.

The Borrower will maintain, and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account, or the reasons why it was not.

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

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

8.2 Consultation with Affected Populations

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.3 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

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

Registration/receipt of Complaint. The PMT will establish a GRM center at the community/town as part of the consultation undertaken for the project. The GRM center will be accessible to project affected persons and tourists and other stakeholders. The GRM will outline clear roles, timelines, procedures and responsibilities. It will have an in-built monitoring mechanism to check on responsiveness to complaints or grievances lodged. The different forms of receiving complaints will be clearly described together with the different stages of going through the process. The GRM will work with Local Grievance Committee (LGC) to resolve solutions.

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

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

The GRC will maintain a record of grievances received and the result of attempts to resolve the grievances and include this information in the monitoring and evaluation report. The Expropriation

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

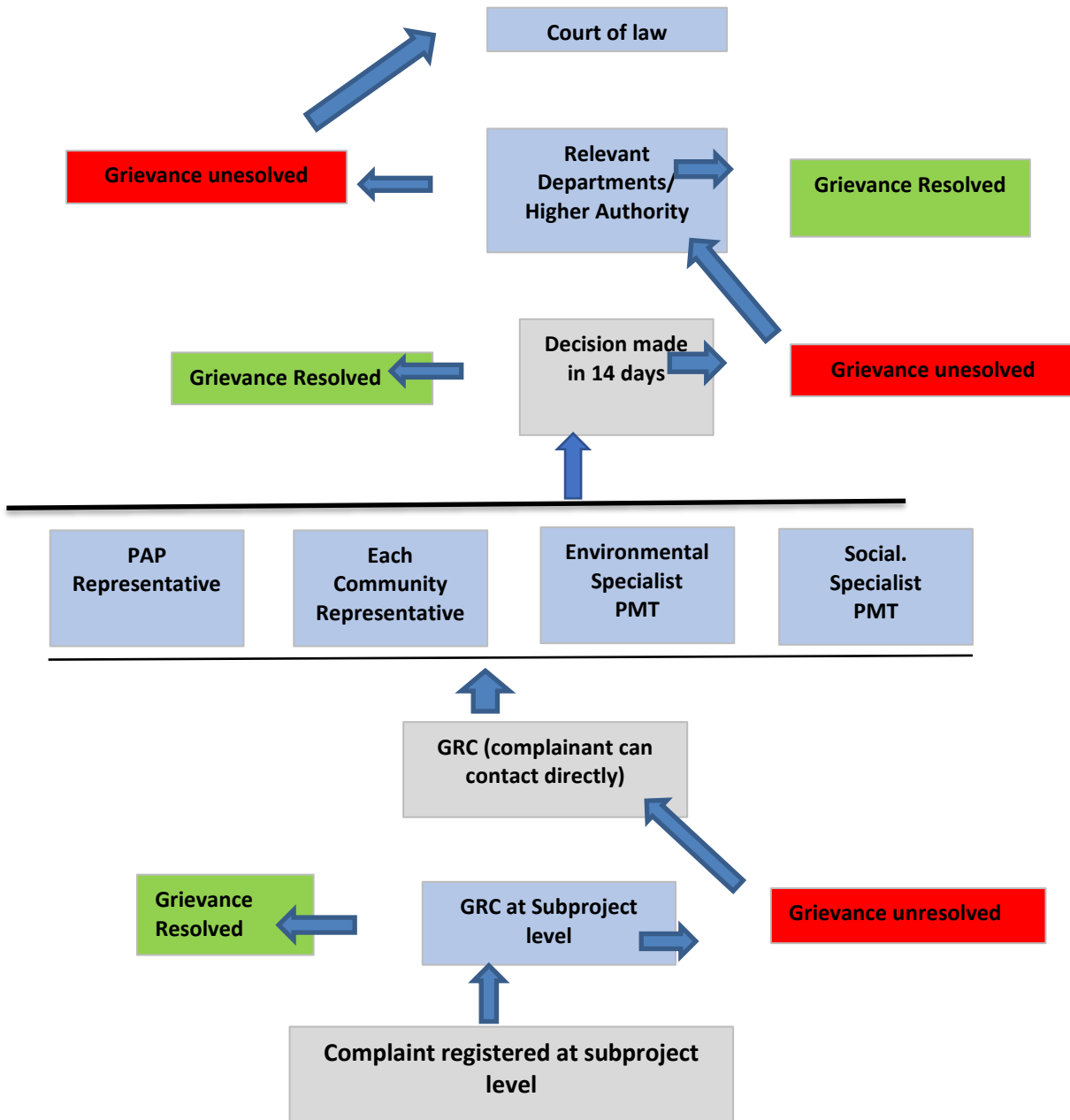


Figure 6: Flow chart for the GRM Process

9.0 Environmental and Social Monitoring and Evaluation

The chapter 9 provides information about procedures for compliance monitoring and reporting. The responsibility for onsite environmental monitoring of contractor activities will rest on ARA PMT with the support from the LGU. Independent consultants hired by the ARA, will be responsible for Environmental and social monitoring with oversight and guidance from the World Bank.

The capacity building will include aligning the Albanian bridge design codes with those of the EU (Eurocodes); the upgrade of the bridge management system (BMS); and the training of ARA's staff to properly use it for future monitoring and the maintenance planning of the assets.

Monitoring is the continuous and systematic collection of data in order to assess whether the environmental objectives of the project have been achieved. Good practice demands that procedures for monitoring the environmental performance of proposed projects are incorporated in all relevant environmental management instruments. Monitoring provides information on the occurrence of impacts. It helps identify how well mitigation measures are working, and where better mitigation may be needed. Each respective EA instrument prepared will require a monitoring program to be included for the respective activities. The monitoring plan should identify what information will be collected, how, where and how often. It should also indicate at what level of effect there will be a need for further mitigation. How environmental impacts are monitored is discussed below.

- Responsibilities in terms of the people, groups, or organizations that will carry out the monitoring activities be defined, as well as to whom they report amongst others. In some instances, there may be a need to train people to carry out these responsibilities, and to provide them with equipment and supplies;
- Implementation Schedule, covers the timing, frequency and duration of monitoring are specified in an implementation schedule, and linked to the overall sub project schedule;
- Cost Estimates and source of resources for monitoring need to be specified in the monitoring plan;
- Monitoring methods need to be as simple as possible, consistent with collecting useful information, so that the sub project implementer can apply them.
- The data collected during monitoring is analyzed with the aim of:
 - Assessing any changes in baseline conditions;
 - Assessing whether recommended mitigation measures have been successfully implemented;
 - Determining reasons for unsuccessful mitigation.
 - Developing and recommending alternative mitigation measures or plans to replace unsatisfactory ones; and
 - Identifying and explaining trends in environment improvement or degradation.

Monitoring plans will be developed to track E&S progress at both the ESMF and subproject activity level. The proposed plans are presented in the respective table under Annex 3. The table confirms the verifiable indicators as well as responsibilities for the various monitoring actions. The monitoring issues at the ESMF level include confirmation of the dissemination of the ESMF document as well as capacity building and training activities.

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

9.1 Internal monitoring

- **Environmental Monitoring**

The physical environmental monitoring should be carried out at different stages of project to ensure compliance with physical environmental standards and to avoid any damage to the physical environment due to project activities. The monitoring will identify any discrepancies with the

environmental standards and will urge the responsible institutions/authorities to take necessary actions to control/avoid environmental damage. The results of analysis should be compared with the national and WB guidelines and standards.

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

Where in addition, there will be a supervision consultancy firm appointed for overall supervision of project construction activities on ground, the recruitment of environment and social experts will be a requirement under the contract of the supervision consultant. The supervision consultants will be responsible for all aspects of the project including environment and social compliance and reporting to the ARA PMT, while the overarching monitoring responsibility and reporting to the World Bank will remain with the ARA PMT.

The ARA PMT team will confirm the performance of the supervision consultants by regularly visiting the project site during the implementation stage and providing guidance on corrective measures on any lapses as required.

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

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

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment role as the national authority partnering this project with regards to environmental issues, will be to monitor the implementation of the environmental statement for each subproject when it is needed. In cases when the project is located with a protected area, the National agency of Protected areas (NAPA) within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, will monitor the implementation of the works that will maintain upon completion.

- **Social Monitoring**

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

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

The internal monitoring procedures are related to:

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

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

9.2 External Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

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

9.3 Evaluation of ARA/LGU Monitoring Capacities

ARA is an experienced client of the World Bank and has successfully implemented a number of World Bank projects. The most recent project is the World Bank Result Based Maintenance and Road Safety Project (RBMSP) that will come to an end on December 31, 2022. The Project Management Team (PMT) currently implementing the RBMSP is well experienced with the World Bank procedures, including the fiduciary, safeguards, and monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), but they do not have experience in E&S risk management under the ESF. For the BRUP project ARA has hired under the PMT, an environmental and a social expert which have been trained and will be responsible to follow up environmental and social monitoring activities.

LGU is mainly not experienced with World Bank projects and they have lack of capacities. They do not have experience in E&S risk management under the ESF.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Screening Checklist for Environmental and Social Issues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annex 2. Content of an Environmental Assessment Report for a Category

A Project

Indicative outline of ESIA

Where an environmental and social impact assessment is prepared as part of the environmental and social assessment, it will include the following:

(a) *Executive Summary*

- Concisely discusses significant findings and recommended actions.

(b) *Legal and Institutional Framework*

- Analyzes the legal and institutional framework for the project, within which the environmental and social assessment is carried out, including the issues set out in ESS1, paragraph 26.

- Compares the Borrower’s existing environmental and social framework and the ESSs and identifies the gaps between them.
- Identifies and assesses the environmental and social requirements of any co-financiers.

(c) Project Description

- Concisely describes the proposed project and its geographic, environmental, social, and temporal context, including any offsite investments that may be required (e.g., dedicated pipelines, access roads, power supply, water supply, housing, and raw material and product storage facilities), as well as the project’s primary suppliers.
- Through consideration of the details of the project, indicates the need for any plan to meet the requirements of ESS1 through 10.
- Includes a map of sufficient detail, showing the project site and the area that may be affected by the project’s direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

(d) Baseline Data

- Sets out in detail the baseline data that is relevant to decisions about project location, design, operation, or mitigation measures. This should include a discussion of the accuracy, reliability, and sources of the data as well as information about dates surrounding project identification, planning and implementation.
- Identifies and estimates the extent and quality of available data, key data gaps, and uncertainties associated with predictions.
- Based on current information, assesses the scope of the area to be studied and describes relevant physical, biological, and socioeconomic conditions, including any changes anticipated before the project commences.
- Takes into account current and proposed development activities within the project area but not directly connected to the project.

(e) Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

- Takes into account all relevant environmental and social risks and impacts of the project. This will include the environmental and social risks and impacts specifically identified in ESS2–8, and any other environmental and social risks and impacts arising as a consequence of the specific nature and context of the project, including the risks and impacts identified in ESS1, paragraph 28.

(f) Mitigation Measures

- Identifies mitigation measures and significant residual negative impacts that cannot be mitigated and, to the extent possible, assesses the acceptability of those residual negative impacts.
- Identifies differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable.
- Assesses the feasibility of mitigating the environmental and social impacts; the capital and recurrent costs of proposed mitigation measures, and their suitability under local conditions; and the institutional, training, and monitoring requirements for the proposed mitigation measures.
- Specifies issues that do not require further attention, providing the basis for this determination.

(g) Analysis of Alternatives

- Systematically compares feasible alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation—including the “without project” situation—in terms of their potential environmental and social impacts.

- Assesses the alternatives' feasibility of mitigating the environmental and social impacts; the capital and recurrent costs of alternative mitigation measures, and their suitability under local conditions; and the institutional, training, and monitoring requirements for the alternative mitigation measures.
- For each of the alternatives, quantifies the environmental and social impacts to the extent possible, and attaches economic values where feasible.

(h) *Design Measures*

- Sets out the basis for selecting the particular project design proposed and specifies the applicable ESHGs or if the ESHGs are determined to be inapplicable, justifies recommended emission levels and approaches to pollution prevention and abatement that are consistent with GIIP.

(i) *Key Measures and Actions for the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)*

- Summarizes key measures and actions and the timeframe required for the project to meet the requirements of the ESSs. This will be used in developing the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

(j) *Appendices*

- List of the individuals or organizations that prepared or contributed to the environmental and social assessment.
- References—setting out the written materials both published and unpublished, that have been used.
- Record of meetings, consultations and surveys with stakeholders, including those with affected people and other interested parties. The record specifies the means of such stakeholder engagement that were used to obtain the views of affected people and other interested parties.
- Tables presenting the relevant data referred to or summarized in the main text.
- List of associated reports or plans.

Annex 3: The required content for ESMP:

Indicative outline of ESMP

An ESMP consists of the set of mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation of a project to eliminate adverse environmental and social risks and impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The ESMP also includes the measures and actions needed to implement these measures. The Borrower will :

- (a) identify the set of responses to potentially adverse impacts;
- (b) determine requirements for ensuring that those responses are made effectively and in a timely manner; and
- (c) describe the means for meeting those requirements.

Depending on the project, an ESMP may be prepared as a stand-alone document or the content may be incorporated directly into the ESCP. The content of the ESMP will include the following:

(a) *Mitigation*

- The ESMP identifies measures and actions in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy that reduce potentially adverse environmental and social impacts to acceptable levels.

The plan will include compensatory measures, if applicable.

Specifically, the ESMP:

- (i) identifies and summarizes all anticipated adverse environmental and social impacts (including those involving indigenous people or involuntary resettlement);
- (ii) describes—with technical details—each mitigation measure, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (e.g., continuously or in the

event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate;

(iii) estimates any potential environmental and social impacts of these measures; and

(iv) takes into account, and is consistent with, other mitigation plans required for the project (e.g., for involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, or cultural heritage).

(b) Monitoring

• The ESMP identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the impacts assessed in the environmental

and social assessment and the mitigation measures described in the ESMP.⁴⁸ Specifically, the monitoring section of the ESMP provides (a) a specific description, and technical details, of monitoring measures, including the parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits (where appropriate), and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and (b) monitoring and reporting procedures to (i) ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures, and (ii) furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation.

(c) Capacity Development and Training

• To support timely and effective implementation of environmental and social project components and mitigation measures, the ESMP draws on the environmental and social assessment of the existence, role, and capability of responsible parties on site or at the agency and ministry level.

• Specifically, the ESMP provides a specific description of institutional arrangements, identifying which party is responsible for carrying out the mitigation and monitoring measures (e.g., for operation, supervision, enforcement, monitoring of implementation, remedial action, financing, reporting, and staff training).

• To strengthen environmental and social management capability in the agencies responsible for implementation, the ESMP recommends the establishment or expansion of the parties responsible, the training of staff and any additional measures that may be necessary to support implementation of mitigation measures and any other recommendations of the environmental and social assessment.

(d) Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates

• For all three aspects (mitigation, monitoring, and capacity development), the ESMP provides (a) an implementation schedule for measures that must be carried out as part of the project, showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation plans; and (b) the capital and recurrent cost estimates and sources of funds for implementing the ESMP. These figures are also integrated into the total project cost tables.

(e) Integration of ESMP with Project

• The Borrower's decision to proceed with a project, and the Bank's decision to support that the ESMP (either stand alone or as incorporated into the ESCP) will be executed effectively. Consequently, each of the measures and actions to be implemented will be clearly specified, including the individual mitigation and monitoring measures and actions and the institutional responsibilities relating to each, and the costs of so doing will be integrated into the project's overall planning, design, budget, and implementation.

Annex 4: Environmental and Social Management Plan template:

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary impacts)
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	
<u>Pre-construction</u>	<i>Cleaning up of the work site from inert materials, dirt;</i>	Prepare Waste Management Plan In consultation with the Municipality, provide an appropriate method for recycling construction materials and scrap metal materials.	NA		ARA/ Municipality	Contractor	As provided in BOQ
<u>Pre-Construction</u>	<i>Materials supplied from illegal or unauthorized sites may exert pressure on the natural resources</i>	Use existing and licensed stones quarries; Requirement for official approval or valid operating license; Producer of asphalt, concrete and the stone aggregate quarry has to present a proof of conformity with all national environmental and H&S legislation.	NA	NA	stone quarry	Contractor to obtain all permits	
<u>Pre-Construction</u>	<i>Working in line with national regulation</i>	Obtaining operating, construction and other licenses required by the national, regional or local regulation. Ensure all workers have been educated and trained appropriately to their working positions and	Included to project cost	Included to project cost	Contractor	Contractor	

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		<p>working tasks.</p> <p>Safe organization of bypassing traffic.</p> <p>Contractor and subcontractors have valid operating licenses. The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities.</p> <p>All legally required permits have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation and are kept on site.</p>					
<u>Pre-Construction</u>	<i>Working in line with national regulation, prevent injuries and accidents</i>	<p>Provide appropriate Health and Safety (H&S) and fire protection training and equipment in sufficient quantity.</p>	Included to project cost	Included to project cost	Contractor	Contractor	
<u>Pre-Construction</u>	<i>Deterioration of habitats and fragmentation of land</i>	<p>Use existing infrastructure and routes as much as possible.</p> <p>No new construction in protected and areas with sensitive habitats.</p>	Included to project cost	Included to project cost	Contractor	Contractor	

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<p><u>Pre-Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Water pollution in sensitive areas. Negative impact to aquatic life.</i></p>	<p>In the areas near the water bodies (coastal and riparian areas, water bodies, significant drinking water catchment, etc.) the design takes into account need for management of contaminated surface runoff from road surfaces – these waters should be captured and treated in the grease and oil separator (at minimum). The water will not enter natural recipient untreated.</p> <p>Precautionary measures designed and in place to prevent a wash off of bituminous materials (primer or primer binder);</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	
<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Dust generated during transport of stone or aggregate materials</i></p>	<p>Wet or covered truck load.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>70/month</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	

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<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Dust</i> generated during construction works</p>	<p>Water construction site and material storage sites as appropriate.</p> <p>Use of water with all land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land levelling, grading, cut and fill and demolition activities which may cause dusting and particles emissions.</p> <p>Apply wind fences/shields/protection whenever appropriate.</p> <p>Apply time and quantity management to dust-prone materials. Do not keep large quantities on the site, or for a long period of time.</p> <p>Limit equipment/machinery and transportation vehicles operation speed at site (to 40 km/h).</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	
<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Depletion of non-renewable resources</i> - Apply supply chain management</p>	<p>Use existing licensed asphalt plants and stone quarries.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	

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Construction	<i>Odors and fumes</i>	When transporting asphalt, the truck load must be covered.	NA	Included to project cost	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction	<i>Air pollution and noise from machinery on site, transport and combustion on site</i>	Do not allow vehicles or machinery to idle on site. Use attested and proper equipment. No open burning or combustion of any sort allowed on site	Minimal	Minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	

Phase	Issue	Mitigating measure	Cost (in EUR)		Institutional responsibility		Comments (e.g. secondary impacts)
			Install	Operate	Install	Operate	

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<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Air pollution</i></p>	<p>Ensure all transportation vehicles and machinery have been equipped with appropriate emission control equipment, regularly maintained and attested.</p> <p>Ensure all vehicles and machinery use petrol from official sources (licensed gas stations) and on fuel determined by the machinery and vehicles producer.</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Included to project cost</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	
<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Noise disturbance to humans and animals</i></p>	<p>Check that noise emitted during rehabilitation of the pedestrian road does not exceed the national norms set out in regulations (85 dB for urban environment, outside)</p> <p>Working hours are between 6 h and 19 h. In the case for need for night work necessary permits need to be obtained. In the protected and sensitive areas the nature protection competent authority must be consulted (and permit</p>	<p>minimal</p>	<p>50/month</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	

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		obtained).					
<u>Construction</u>	<i>Risk of biodiversity depletion, disturbance of wildlife</i>	<p>For works in the protected areas: nature protection expert must be engaged. The expert must approve work plan (keeping in mind sensitive seasons e.g. nesting).</p> <p>Permits form competent authorities must be obtained in line with the national legislation.</p> <p>The site should be inspected for wildlife before commencement and recommencement of works. For all findings (dens, young, nests, and similar) the works should stop/be limited not to cause damage and nature protection expert must be consulted.</p> <p>Poaching, disturbance of animals, plant and forest products collection, capturing animals is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>Open fire on the site is prohibited. The work site should take only space necessary.</p>	Included to project cost	Included to project cost	Municipality, ARA	Municipality, ARA	

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<u>Construction</u>	<i>Traffic</i> that may create noise, vehicle exhaust, road congestion on and around the site	Arrange for material transport at hours of minimum traffic. Use alternative routes to minimize traffic congestion. Works to be performed alternatively on half of the road length in order to allow pedestrians to pass	NA	minimal	Construction Contractor: Transport manager and Truck operator	Construction Contractor: Transport manager and Truck operator	
<u>Construction</u>	<i>Accidental situations</i>	Develop emergency plan and procedures. All workers are acquainted with					
		<p>emergency/accidental situation procedures. Procedures are easily available at the site.</p> <p>Firefighting equipment is available at the site and employees are trained to use it.</p> <p>First aid kit is available at the site.</p>					
<u>Construction</u>	<i>Soil and water pollution</i> from improper management of chemicals and hazardous materials	<p>Temporarily storage on site of all hazardous or toxic substances will be in safe containers labelled with details of composition, properties and handling information. Only authorized and trained personnel can handle the hazardous substances.</p> <p>The containers with hazardous</p>	Minimal	Minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	

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		<p>substances should be kept in a leak- proof container to prevent spillage and leaking. This container should possess secondary containment system such as bunds (e.g. bunded-container), double walls, or similar. Secondary containment system must be free of cracks, able to contain the spill, and be emptied quickly.</p> <p>The containers with hazardous substances must be kept closed, except when adding or removing materials/waste. They must not be handled, opened, or stored in a manner that may cause them to leak.</p> <p>The containers holding ignitable, hazardous or reactive wastes must be located at least 15 meters from the facility's property line and at least 30 meters from the water line.</p> <p>The wastes are transported by specially licensed carriers and disposed in a licensed facility. Paints with toxic ingredients or solvents or lead-based paints will not be used.</p>					
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Construction	<i>Traffic disruption</i> during construction activity	Traffic management plan with appropriate measures to redirect traffic and is easy to follow; in cooperation with the local authorities, include traffic police	as specified in bidding documents	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	Measures to be included in the Traffic management Plan (Bid documents)
Construction	<i>Vehicle and pedestrian safety</i>	Appropriate lighting and well defined safety signs. Timely announcement in the media when construction will take place. Safe pedestrian passages are available.	as specified in bidding documents	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
Construction	<i>Generation of waste</i>	Waste collection and disposal pathways and licensed sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from site cleanup, demolition and construction activities. All waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors and on the licensed landfills. Various types of wastes (recyclables, construction, hazardous, special types of wastes, packaging, electronics, etc.) will be collected separately. The records of waste disposal will be regularly updated and kept as proof for proper management, as designed.					

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		<p>Existing waste from the location should be removed prior to the construction works start</p> <p>Containers for each identified waste category are provided in sufficient quantities and positioned conveniently.</p> <p>Mineral (natural) construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and temporarily stored in appropriate containers. Depending of its origin and content, mineral waste will be reapplied to its original location or reused.</p> <p>Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials.</p>					
<u>Construction</u>	<i>Water and soil pollution from improper material storage, management and usage of construction machines</i>	<p>Organize and cover material storage areas; isolate wash down areas of concrete and other equipment from watercourse by selecting areas for washing that are not free draining directly or indirectly into watercourse;</p> <p>Install leak control equipment (secondary containment</p>	as specified in bid documents	50 / month	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	

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		<p>system, e.g. double walled or banded containers).</p> <p>Isolate concrete, asphalt and other works from watercourses.</p> <p>Wash trucks, other vehicles and machinery only in predefined suitable areas with water management and treatment (minimally oil and grease separators followed by the sedimentation or retention tank).</p> <p>Machinery and vehicles can be parked only on asphalted or concrete surfaces with surface runoff water collecting system. This water can then be either collected to retention basins and transported to a proper water treatment facility, or the water collecting system has to include oil separator and sedimentation tank.</p> <p>Polluted water should be collected to retention basins and transported to a proper water treatment.</p> <p>Ensure proper handling of lubricants, fuel and solvents by secured storage and following MSDS.</p>					
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<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Water and soil pollution</i> from improper disposal of waste materials</p>	<p>Ensure proper waste management on site in order to prevent pollution Have a leak control mechanism in place and emergency interventions to control spills.</p> <p>Dispose waste material at containers that are sufficiently provided at the site. Waste types are collected separately. Waste is disposed at approved and licensed landfill. Temporary waste storage is protected from runoff..</p> <p>For temporary, short storage of wastes, select an area on impermeable surface, away from any potential leaking into the watercourse.</p> <p>Collect and adequately manage all wastes in a timely manner.</p> <p>Discarding any kind of waste (including organic waste) or waste water to the surrounding (especially to the sea and river) is strictly forbidden.</p> <p>The containers with hazardous liquid waste should be kept in a leak-proof container to prevent spillage and leaking. This container should possess secondary containment system such as bunds (e.g. banded-</p>	<p>minimal</p>	<p>100/month</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	<p>Construction Contractor</p>	
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		container), double walls, or similar. Secondary containment system must be free of cracks and able to detain the spill.					
Construction	<i>Potential contamination of soil and water from improper maintenance and fueling of equipment</i>	<p>Proper handling of lubricants, fuel and solvents by secured storage; ensure proper loading of fuel and maintenance of equipment; collect all waste and dispose to permitted waste recovery facility. In the case of leakage the contaminated soil should be collected and as hazardous waste disposed. This waste should be collected in separate containers.</p> <p>Have a leak control mechanism in place and emergency interventions to control spills Prevent hazardous spillage coming from tanks (mandatory secondary containment system, e.g. double walled or bunded containers), construction equipment and vehicles (regular maintenance and check-ups of oil and gas tanks.</p> <p>Parking site has to be respected following the defined place.</p>	minimal	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	The municipality must provide a written permission for an appropriate waste disposal site before the construction works may commence

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<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Potential contamination of soil and water from earthworks</i></p>	<p>Protect and restore non-construction areas. Design slopes and retaining structures to minimize risk, provide appropriate drainage and vegetation cover.</p> <p>Carry out surface drainage works to divert the rainwater that would erode the soil.</p> <p>Apply storm water management to minimize erosion and offsite sediment delivery to receiving waters.</p> <p>Erosion protection measures are applied at the suspected sites such as hey-bales geotextile and other. Landslide prevention, approved by the geotechnical study, is applied where necessary</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Included in project cost</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	
<p><u>Construction</u></p>	<p><i>Potential contamination of soil and water from asphalt laying</i></p>	<p>Use of antifreeze and/or accelerator compounds is not allowed.</p> <p>Asphalt and bitumen emulsion application will take into account metrological data and conditions when planned and carried out (raining periods, overcast, cooler and wet weather, etc.)</p> <p>Positioning of the emulsion</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Included in project cost</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	<p>Contractor</p>	

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		<p>sprayer should be such so spaying beyond the area to be primed or primer sealed.</p> <p>Ensure that emulsion sprayers are well maintained, operated by trained crew and spray nozzles are operating correctly.</p> <p>Avoid windy conditions when spraying.</p> <p>Equipment should be cleaned in areas where there will be no impact to the environment or danger of surface run-off (e.g. areas where water is collected to retention basins and transported to proper water treatment, and waste is separated and appropriately disposed</p>					
<u>Construction</u>	Interruption of surface and underground drainage patterns during construction, creating of standing water.	In line with approved design, maintain natural drainage pattern.	minimal	minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	
<u>Construction</u>	Workers health and occupational safety	Provide workers with safety instructions and protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, etc.) in sufficient quantities; safe organization of bypassing traffic; medical kit present at the site		minimal	Construction Contractor	Construction Contractor	

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		<p>All work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment. The site will be clearly marked and fenced off.</p> <p>Workers' personal protective equipment will comply with international good practice (obligatory wearing of hardhats at all times, masks and safety glasses as needed and prescribed, harnesses and safety boots). Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.</p>					
<u>Construction</u>	Impacts on vegetation, trees, meadows, etc.	<p>The clearing of vegetation shall be kept to a minimum, with replacement planting planned and conducted, and shall be done in coordination with the additional measures for protection of sensitive habitats and river banks.</p> <p>In general, tree felling is prohibited. Individual trees can be removed only with the approval of Forestry Directorate.</p> <p>Rehabilitation planting will be done with native species only.</p>	NA	According to the national environmental regulations, for 1 tree that is cut, 3 must be planted	Construction Contractor; Forestry Directorate,		

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Construction	Chance finds items of cultural/historical interest.	In case of any chance finds during excavation and general works, the works will cease immediately, the area will be secured and the relevant authorities will be informed within 24 hours of said finds. The instructions received from the authorities and national law will be followed.	NA	In case of chance finds, the project owner will pay for all required investigations	Construction Contractor, ARA, municipality		Albanian legislation details necessary actions in case of chance find items.
Construction	<p>Labour and working conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Disease prevention and health examinations b) Creation of additional workplaces c) Workforce accommodation <p>Workers safety on site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preventative health examinations for workers, training on disease prevention, provision of education/ information and health related to reduce sexually related disease. b) Informing of local population on vacancies. Maximum possible involvement of local labour c) Accommodation needs will be assessed in all worker camps. Ensure standard for accommodation d) provide workers with safety instructions and protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, etc); b)Provision of construction workers training c) Grievance mechanism for 	As specified in BOQ	minimal	Contractor, ARA	Contractor	It is a legal requirement to provide protective equipment for safety at work

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		<p>workers to raise reasonable workplace concerns (comments or complaints)</p> <p>Install appropriate traffic signs, posts, equipment (signaling, convex mirrors, etc.) and speed limits</p> <p>Install appropriate warning signs (animal or pedestrian crossing, etc.)</p>					

Phase	What activity/impact is to be monitored?	Where will be monitored?	How is to be monitored?/ type of monitoring equipment	When is to be monitored? (frequency of measurement or continuous)	Why is the parameter to be monitored? (optional)	Indicators	Cost		Responsibility
							Install	Operate	
Pre-Construction	Possession of official approval or valid operating licenses and Environmental and H&S conformity proof for stone quarries and other material supply subjects (asphalt	on location of stone quarry	inspection of all necessary documents	before work begins	to ensure sustainable use of materials	possession of official approval or valid operating license	NA	NA	LGU, ARA

Annex 5: Example of an Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan

Construction	Covering or wetting down transported and stored materials that can generate dust, such as stone, sand or gravel. Dust prone materials (sand, gravel, stone, cement) are stored in minimal quantities and for minimal amount of time. Speed of motorized vehicles at the site is limited to 40kmph.	at site	Supervision, visual	continuously	ensure minimal disruption to air quality	Covered truck load Report from the supervising engineer Speed limit signage	NA	minimal	ARA Supervision Contractor, ARAARA
Construction	Congestion on site, disruptions to traffic patterns, complaints on traffic management	On the site	Visual supervision	regularly by supervision	To ensure minimal disruptions to the local traffic	Number of complaints received		minimal	LGU, ARA Supervision Contractor
Construction, design	Damage to soil structure, landslides and slips, embankments, erosion	job site	Supervision	unannounced inspections during work, after heavy raining	To ensure minimal impacts on soil	land slips, erosion, damaged embankments	NA	minimal	LGU, ARA
Construction	Noise disturbance to human and animal population, and workers on site	job site; nearest homes	noise meter and analyzer, inspection	once for each machine and equipment	b- assure compliance of performance with	Nr of grievances recorded	minimal	minimal	ARA Supervision Contractor, LGU

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				when works start and on complaint	environment, health and				
Construction	Air pollution- dust	At and near job site	Visual	Regularly	To ensure no excessive dust emissions during works		Included	Included	Municipality, ARA, Supervision Contractor
Construction	Air pollution parameters of dust, particulate matter	At and near job site	Sampling by authorized agency	Upon complaint or negative inspection finding	To ensure no excessive emissions during works	Nr of grievances recorded, reports of REA	minimal	100/month	ARA, LGU, Supervision Contractor
Construction	Vehicles/machinery/equipment are have been attested and equipped with emissions control equipment and use prescribed fuel. Fuel is purchased at licensed gas stations	At site	Visual, documentation check	Regularly	To ensure no excessive air and noise emissions during works		NA	NA	ARA, LGU, Supervision Contractor
Construction	Use of antifreeze and/or accelerator compounds. Asphalt and bitumen emulsion application only at favourable weather. No spaying beyond the area to be primed or primer sealed. Emulsion sprayers are well maintained, operated by trained crew and spray	At site	Visual, documentation check	Regularly	To ensure no excessive air and noise emissions during works		NA	NA	ARA, LGU, Supervision Contractor

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	nozzles are operating correctly. No equipment cleaning at site.								
Construction	Water and soil quality (suspended solids, oil, and grease, BOD, COD).	At and near job site (upstream and downstream)	Sampling by authorized agency Visual inspection of leaks or runoff	Upon complaint or spill/leak into the river or surrounding area	To ensure no excessive emissions during works	Nr of grievances recorded, reports of REA	minimal	minimal	ARA, LGU, Supervision Contractor
Construction	Trucks are parked, washed or repaired only at sites with impermeable floors and equipped with surface runoff collecting system and oil and grease separators. Watercourses are protected from works.	At the site	Visual	Regularly	To manage soil and water pollution risk		included	included	ARA, Supervision Contractor, LGU
Construction	Safety signage in place	At and near job site	Visually by supervisor	Regularly	To ensure clear posting of safety signs	Number of signs	minimal	ARA	Supervision Contractor, LGU, ARA
Construction Waste	Separate collection of waste. Transport and disposal of waste materials (including hazardous) at authorized site.	On site for timely collection and disposal on final disposal site	Through official designation of the commune, visually, documentation check, including licenses, waste manifests	Before start of works and regularly	To ensure proper waste management	Designation from municipality, amounts of waste removed	minimal	ARA	LGU, ARA, Supervision Contractor

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Construction <i>/ Workers safety</i>	Protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, et) are available at site and in sufficient quantities; organization of bypassing traffic. Fire-protecting equipment is available at site and personnel is trained to use it. No burning of waste took place at site.	job site	Inspection, training records	unannounced inspections during work		number of on-job accidents recorded	NA	minimal	LGU, ARA, Supervision Contractor
Construction/ Destruction of crops, trees meadows etc	Loss of/impact on vegetation. Rehabilitation of site using native species only.	job site	Supervision, photographic reports	during material delivery and construction		Reports of frequent visits on site by the Env. Expert	NA NA	minimal minimal	Supervision Contractor, ARA, LGU
Construction/ Chance find items	<i>Cultural properties</i> – if there were chance findings and the competent authorities were informed and procedures obeyed.	Job site	Expert visits from Institute for Cultural Monuments, regular supervision, documentation check	continuous		Catalogue of items found, including photographic and textual documentation	Should be part of the regularly scheduled activities	minimal	Supervision Contractor, Cultural Directorate, ARA, LGU
Construction Nature protection	The nature protection expert is engaged for supervision of works in the protected areas. Permits for works in protected areas obtained. Recommendations and	At the site	Expert visit, regular supervision, documented approvals, visual inspection	Regular		Documented communication and reports.	Included in the project cost	Included in the project cost	ARA

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	<p>measures made by the nature protection expert have been implemented.</p> <p>For works in the protected or sensitive areas: timeframe and working plan has been approved by the nature protection expert.</p> <p>The working site and operating site is minimal.</p>								
<p>Construction</p> <p><i>a) Disease prevention and health examinations</i></p> <p><i>b) Creation of additional workplaces</i></p> <p><i>c) Workforce accommodation</i></p> <p><i>Workers safety on site</i></p>	<p>1) Health examinations for workers, training on disease prevention, including STD</p> <p>1) Informing of local population on vacancies</p> <p>2) Involvement of local labour</p> <p>1) Accommodation needs will be assessed</p> <p>2) standard for accommodation</p> <p>1) safety instructions and protective equipment (glasses, masks, helmets, boots, etc); adequate training and education (certificates) for working positions and working scope; safe</p> <p>2) organization of bypassing traffic.</p> <p>3) Availability of grievance mechanism and grievance focal point</p>	<p>At or near job site</p>	<p>visits on site and communication with workers and community</p>	<p>Once a week by ARA</p>	<p>To ensure proper implementation of health and safety requirements</p>	<p>Knowledgeable workforce on procedures, Equipped with safety equipment</p>	<p>Should be part of the regular y scheduled activities</p>	<p>Minimal</p>	<p>ARA, contractor supervisor, contractor, LGU</p>

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<p>Operation <i>Vehicle and pedestrian safety when there is no construction activity</i></p>	<p>Visibility and appropriateness, safe pedestrian passages established</p>	<p>at and near job site</p>	<p>Observation</p>	<p>Once before the works, once per week in the evening</p>		<p>Number of warning signs installed, number of accidents recorded</p>	<p>minimal</p>	<p>minimal</p>	<p>LGU, maintenance contractor</p>
<p>Operation <i>Increase of domestic solid waste due to increased number of visitors to the site</i></p>	<p>Visual impact, no littering is present, no burning of waste took place</p>	<p>At or near job site</p>	<p>visits on site and communication with local authorities</p>	<p>Once per every two days by the LGU for maintenance reasons</p>	<p>For aesthetical reasons</p>	<p>Lack of waste on the ground, empty waste bins</p>	<p>Should be part of the regularly scheduled activities by the LGU</p>		<p>LGU</p>

Annex 6: Grievance form

Reference No: _____

Full Name _____

Note: you can remain anonymous if you prefer, or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent. In case of anonymous grievances, the decision will be disclosed at the Projects website

First name _____

Last name _____

I wish to raise my grievance anonymously

I request not to disclose my identity without my consent Contact Information Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).

By Post: Please provide mailing address:

By Telephone: _____

By E-mail _____

I will follow up the resolution at the website as I want to remain anonymous

Preferred Language for communication Albanian Other (*indicate*)

Description of Incident or Grievance (*What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem? Date of Incident/ Grievance*)

One-time incident/grievance (date _____)

Happened more than once (how many times? _____)

On-going (currently experiencing problem) What would you like to see happen to resolve the problem?

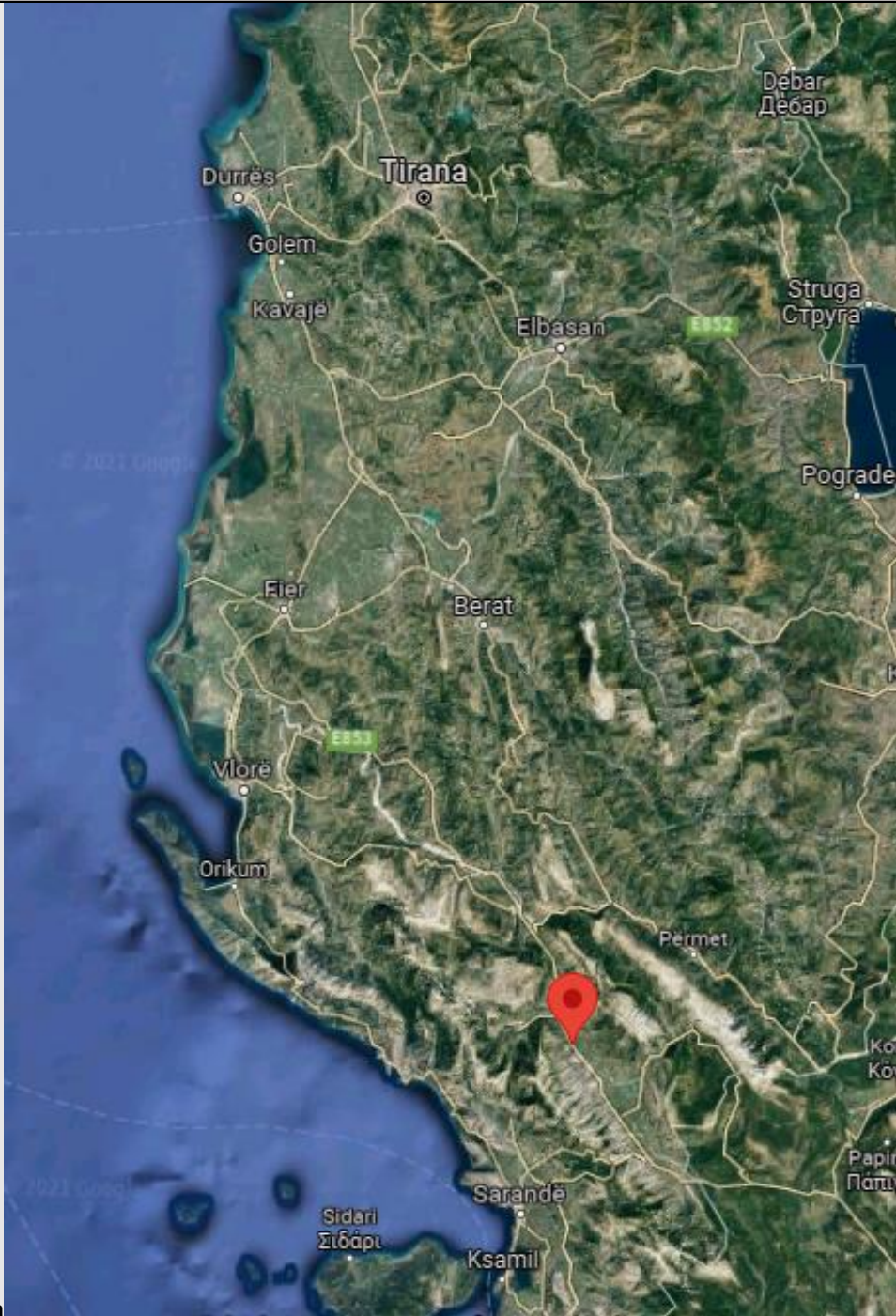
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to: The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy.

Annex 7. Description of First year Bridges

BRIDGES IDENTIFICATION: VIROI BRIDGE AND CULVERT AND TIRANE-NDROQ

PLEPA ROAD BRIDGE (AT PK3 +233)

VIROI BRIDGE AND CULVERT	
Location	
Description	<p>– Viroi is an artificial lake near Gjirokastra where the national road of Tepelene – Gjirokaster – Kakavije crosses. The road follows the crown of the dam that created the lake and one of the greatest problems this section presents is the elevation of the dam crown. Due to harsh climate changes across all the region and major changes in the amount of rain / snow in the area, this 350-m section is subject to flooding every year. One of the causes of the floods, despite the elevation of the dam, is also the discharge</p>

capacity of the existing culvert and bridge. ARA has taken measures to complete the design for a proper solution to the situation, which involves creating a new alignment in this road section by constructing one new box culvert battery (4x4m) and one new bridge (2x17m).

- This bridge and road section is very important to the national network because of the connection with the Kakavija border crossing point, which is the main road connection corridor to Greece. A considerable amount of goods is traded through Kakavija and crosses this particular road section. From the experience of previous years, the area is flooded very frequently (sometimes twice a year) due to heavy rain, causing the blockage of the traffic for several hours, which translates into significant additional charges and financial costs. Despite this, being one of the busiest segments in the national network (approx. 5000 vpd), the interventions will result in a huge impact to road users and the transport of goods.

The current proposal includes:

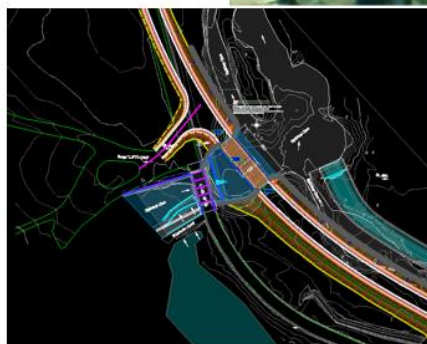
- The existing culvert/bridge is planned for total reconstruction,
- The existing road is straightened and a new bridge is planned for this purpose.

The objectives of the works according to the ARA's FS and Designs are:

- to reconstruct approx. 400 m of road while creating engineering measures to protect the new road from the river floods;
- to increase the width of the road to 2x3.5m of asphalt pavements, 2x1.5 paved shoulders and 2x1.5 unpaved shoulders;
- to increase traffic safety and divert non motorized traffic, pedestrians and cyclists to the existing road section;
- to create better conditions for people to visit the lake.

Viroi culvert

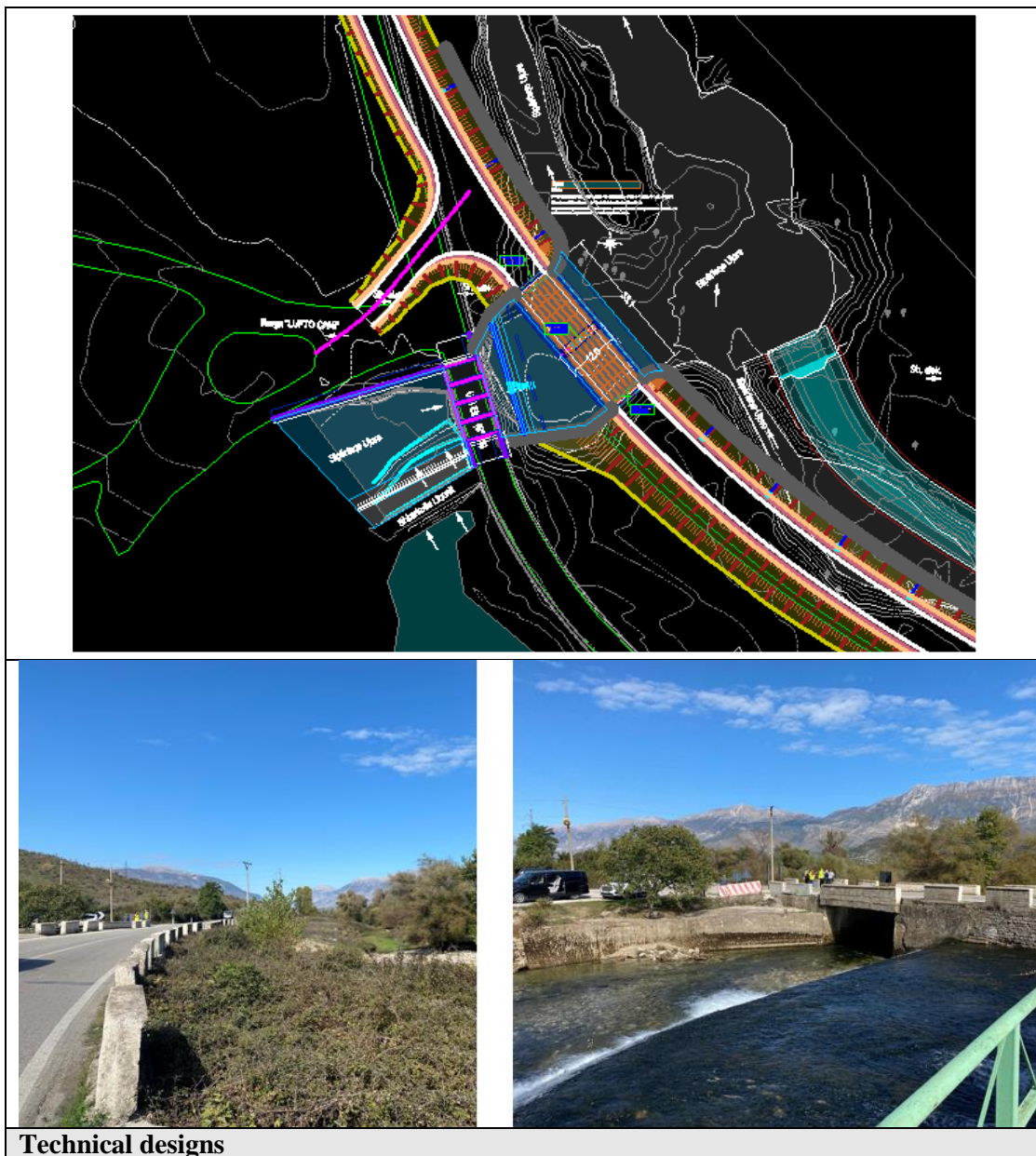
- total length: 26.6 m,
- 4 openings 4x3 m,
- total width 8 m,
- level of details indicate the completion of design for construction.

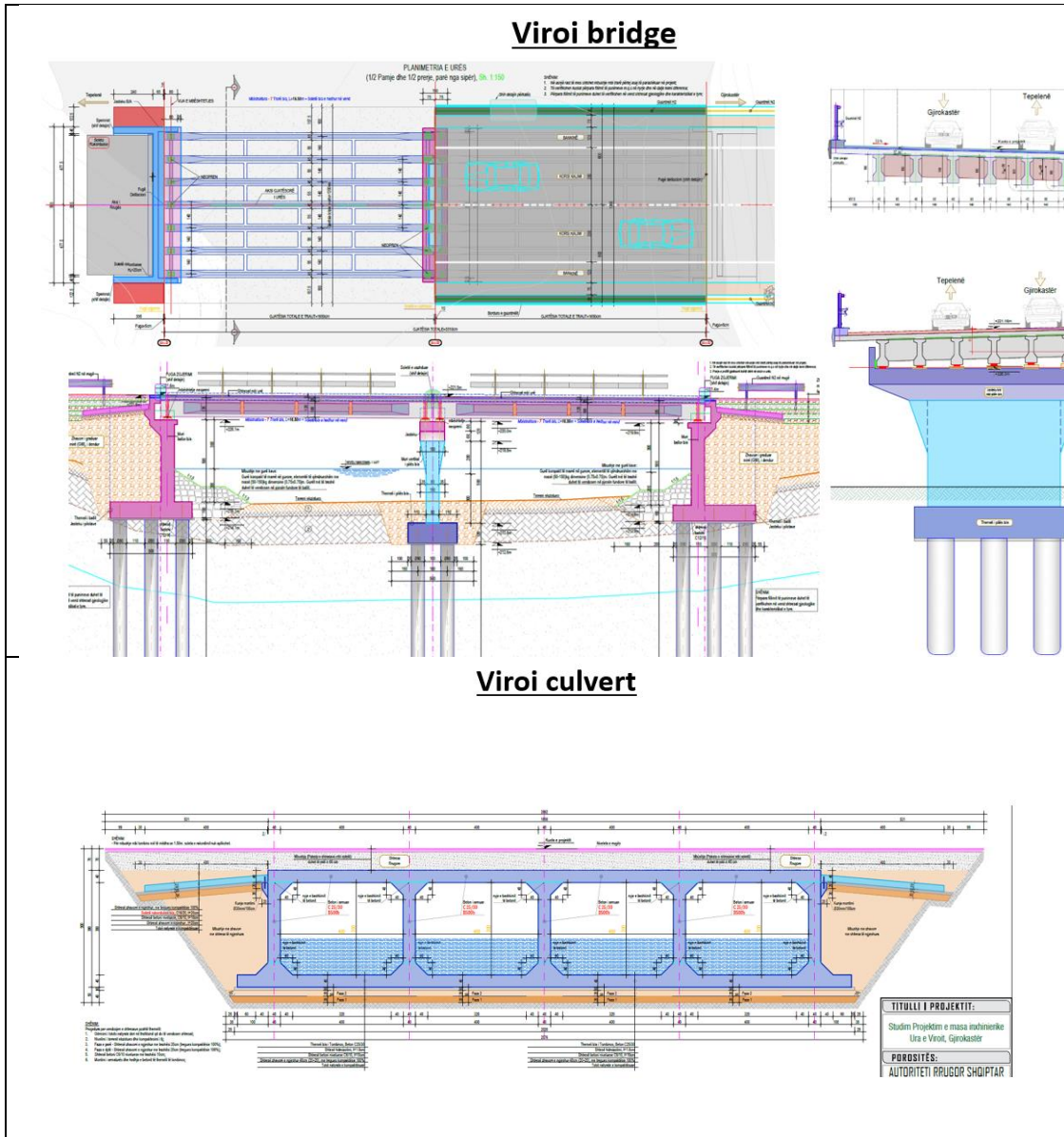


Viroi bridge

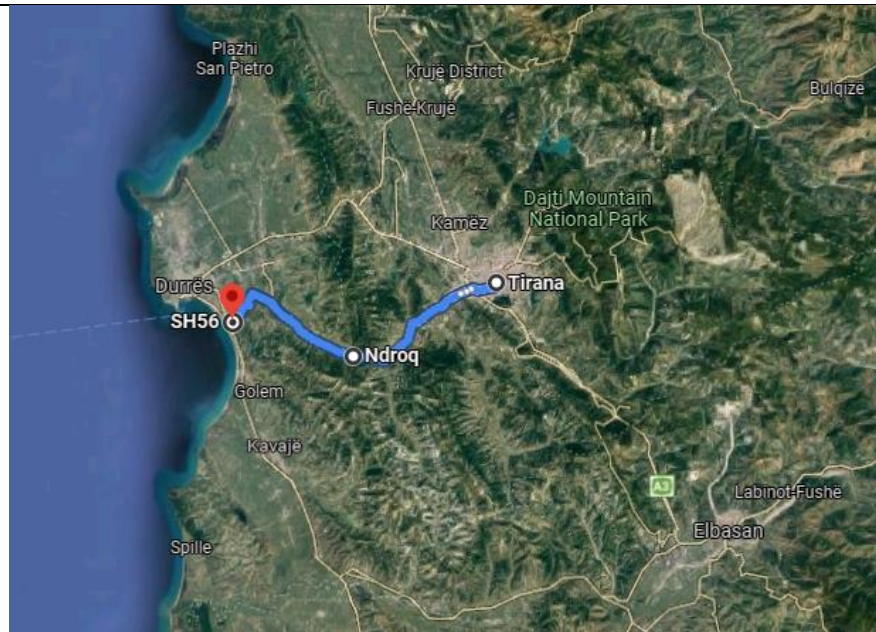
- total length: 33.1 m,
- 2 spans of ~16.5 m,
- total width 12 m,
- 2 sidewalks, 2x1.0 m,
- level of details indicate the completion of design for construction.

Traffic and connections





BESHIRI BRIDGE AT THE TIRANE – NDROQ – PLEPA ROAD (PK 3+233)
Location



Description

Beshiri Bridge km 3+233

This bridge is located in the Tirane-Ndroq-Plaži road segment and crosses the Erzeni River. The new structure will significantly improve the existing road alignment and safety of non-motorized traffic and pedestrians. The new bridge is also crucial, as the existing one and the road itself are very old (constructed before WWII and reconstructed in the 1960s) and with heavy damage due to age, traffic and poor maintenance. The regulation of river banks and interventions related to climate change risks would provide protection to the

new structure and the facilities on both sides of the river.

According to the hydrological study, the Erzeni River, in this crossing, turns out to have a flow of 1270 m³ / sec for 1% safety. Then, a geological study was conducted at the crossing, where it was found that the riverbed of Erzeni on both sides of Tirana and Ndroq was narrowed because of land reclamation and construction waste dumped in the riverbanks at both sides of the existing bridge.

The basic formation in the riverbed is located at a depth of about 4 m and consists of gray to blue marl (semi-rock formation). Layers of gravel are placed on the base formation.

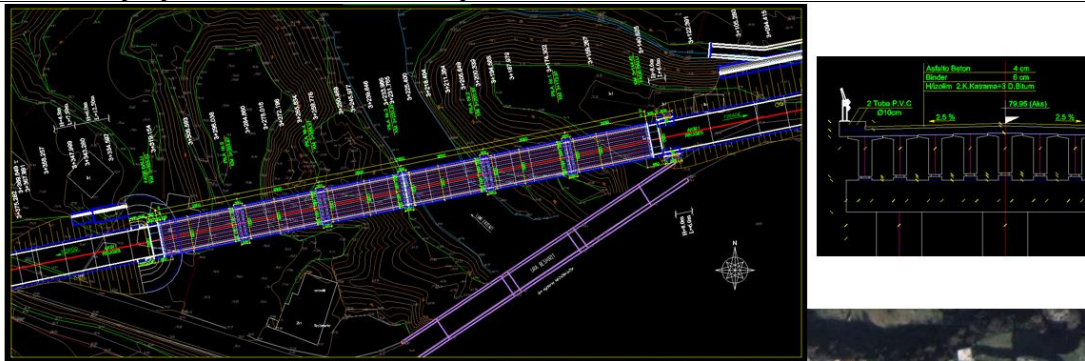
Main characteristics:

- Bridge substructure: the piles are built with foundations with poured reinforced concrete pillars with a diameter of Φ 1.2 m, 6 pieces for each pile with a length of 12.0 m, which are inserted in the basic semi-rock formation.
- On the pillars of the foundation, the concrete cushion is built of connecting weapons on which three round columns are erected, with a diameter $D = 170$ cm on which the superstructure supporting cushion is placed.
- Both fronts of the bridge are made of reinforced concrete with massive foundations placed in the basic formation.
- The superstructure of the bridge is foreseen to be realized with a pretensioned beam with a length $L = 29.0$ m, T-section and pretensioning before concreting, weighing about 38 Tons.
- After placing the beams on the piles and the fronts, a monolithic slab with a thickness of 25 cm will be constructed.

Construction of the bridge 01, km 3+233.97, total length: 179 m,

The objectives of the works according to the FS are:

- to construct a road at the closest possible distance to the existing road, also using its segments, as well as taking into account the contemporary interventions and other projects,
- to achieve an optimal techno-economic project and the road that is in accordance with the modern technical standards of road construction,
- to minimize the environmental impact of the works, land occupation, possible expropriations and/or social impacts of the road construction.



Bridge 01, km 3+233.97

- total length: 179 m,
- 7 spans of 29 m,
- road width 10.5 m,
- 2 sidewalks, width 2x1.0 m,
- level of details indicate the completion of design for construction.



Traffic and connections



Annex 8: COVI 19, World Bank ESF/Safeguard Interim Note

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

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

2. CHALLENGES WITH CONSTRUCTION/CIVIL WORKS

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

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

scarce resources. The project must also exercise appropriate precautions against introducing the infection to local communities.

3. DOES THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT COVER THIS SITUATION?

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

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

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

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

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

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

the project.

4. WHAT PLANNING SHOULD THE BORROWER BE DOING?

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

- The PMU, either directly or through the Supervising Engineer, should request details in writing from the main Contractor of the measures being taken to address the risks. As stated in Section 3, the construction contract should include health and safety requirements, and these can be used as the basis for identification of, and requirements to implement, COVID-19 specific measures. The measures may be presented as a contingency plan, as an extension of the existing project emergency and preparedness plan or as standalone procedures. The measures may be reflected in revisions to the project's health and safety manual. This request should be made in writing (following any relevant procedure set out in the contract between the Borrower and the contractor).
- In making the request, it may be helpful for the PMU to specify the areas that should be covered. This should include the items set out in Section 5 below and take into account current and relevant guidance provided by national authorities, WHO and other organizations. See the list of references in the Annex to this note.
- The PMU should require the Contractor to convene regular meetings with the project health and safety specialists and medical staff (and where appropriate the local health authorities), and to take their advice in designing and implementing the agreed measures.
- Where possible, a senior person should be identified as a focal point to deal with COVID-19 issues. This can be a work supervisor or a health and safety specialist. This person can be responsible for coordinating preparation of the site and making sure that the measures taken are communicated to the workers, those entering the site and the local community. It is also advisable to designate at least one back-up person; in case the focal point becomes ill; that person should be aware of the arrangements that are in place.
- On sites where there are a number of contractors and therefore (in effect) different work forces, the request should emphasize the importance of coordination and communication between the different parties. Where necessary, the PMU should request the main contractor to put in place a protocol for regular meetings of the different contractors, requiring each to appoint a designated staff member (with back up) to attend such meetings. If meetings cannot be held in person, they should be conducted using whatever IT is available. The effectiveness of mitigation measures will depend on the weakest implementation, and therefore it is important that all contractors and sub-contractors understand the risks and the procedure to be followed.
- The PMU, either directly or through the Supervising Engineer, may provide support to projects in identifying appropriate mitigation measures, particularly where these will involve interface with local services, in particular health and emergency services. In many cases, the PMU can play a valuable role in connecting project representatives with local Government agencies, and helping coordinate a strategic response, which takes into account the availability of resources. To be most effective, projects should consult and coordinate with relevant Government agencies and other projects in the vicinity.

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

5. WHAT SHOULD THE CONTRACTOR COVER?

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

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

(a) ASSESSING WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS

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

- The Contractor should prepare a detailed profile of the project work force, key work activities, schedule for carrying out such activities, different durations of contract and rotations (e.g. 4 weeks on, 4 weeks off).
- This should include a breakdown of workers who reside at home (i.e. workers from the community), workers who lodge within the local community and workers in on-site accommodation. Where possible, it should also identify workers that may be more at risk from COVID-19, those with underlying health issues or who may be otherwise at risk.
- Consideration should be given to ways in which to minimize movement in and out of site. This could include lengthening the term of existing contracts, to avoid workers returning home to affected areas, or returning to site from affected areas.
- Workers accommodated on site should be required to minimize contact with people near the site, and in certain cases be prohibited from leaving the site for the duration of their contract, so that contact with local communities is avoided.
- Consideration should be given to requiring workers lodging in the local community to move to site accommodation (subject to availability) where they would be subject to the same restrictions.

- Workers from local communities, who return home daily, weekly or monthly, will be more difficult to manage. They should be subject to health checks at entry to the site (as set out above) and at some point, circumstances may make it necessary to require them to either use accommodation on site or not to come to work.

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

Entry/exit to the work site should be controlled and documented for both workers and other parties, including support staff and suppliers. Possible measures may include:

Establishing a system for controlling entry/exit to the site, securing the boundaries of the site, and establishing designating entry/exit points (if they do not already exist). Entry/exit to the site should be documented.

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

(c) GENERAL HYGIENE

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

- Training workers and staff on site on the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread, how to protect themselves (including regular handwashing and social distancing) and what to do if they or other people have symptoms (for further information see [WHO COVID-19 advice for the public](#)).
- Placing posters and signs around the site, with images and text in local languages.
- Ensuring handwashing facilities supplied with soap, disposable paper towels and closed waste bins exist at key places throughout site, including at entrances/exits to work areas; where there is a toilet, canteen or food distribution, or provision of drinking water; in worker accommodation; at waste stations; at stores; and in common spaces. Where handwashing facilities do not exist or are not adequate, arrangements should be made to set them up. Alcohol based sanitizer (if available, 60-95% alcohol) can also be used.

- Review worker accommodations, and assess them in light of the requirements set out in [IFC/EBRD guidance on Workers' Accommodation: processes and standards](#), which provides valuable guidance as to good practice for accommodation.
- Setting aside part of worker accommodation for precautionary self-quarantine as well as more formal isolation of staff who may be infected (see paragraph (f)).

(d) CLEANING AND WASTE DISPOSAL

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

- Providing cleaning staff with adequate cleaning equipment, materials and disinfectant.
- Review general cleaning systems, training cleaning staff on appropriate cleaning procedures and appropriate frequency in high use or high-risk areas.
- Where it is anticipated that cleaners will be required to clean areas that have been or are suspected to have been contaminated with COVID-19, providing them with appropriate PPE: gowns or aprons, gloves, eye protection (masks, goggles or face screens) and boots or closed work shoes. If appropriate PPE is not available, cleaners should be provided with best available alternatives.
- Training cleaners in proper hygiene (including handwashing) prior to, during and after conducting cleaning activities; how to safely use PPE (where required); in waste control (including for used PPE and cleaning materials).
- Any medical waste produced during the care of ill workers should be collected safely in designated containers or bags and treated and disposed of following relevant requirements (e.g., national, WHO). If open burning and incineration of medical wastes is necessary, this should be for as limited a duration as possible. Waste should be reduced and segregated, so that only the smallest amount of waste is incinerated (for further information [see WHO interim guidance on water, sanitation and waste management for COVID-19](#)).

(e) ADJUSTING WORK PRACTICES

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

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

- Consider changing canteen layouts and phasing mealtimes to allow for social distancing and phasing access to and/or temporarily restricting access to leisure facilities that may exist on site, including gyms.

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

(f) PROJECT MEDICAL SERVICES

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

- Expanding medical infrastructure and preparing areas where patients can be isolated. Guidance on setting up isolation facilities is set out in [WHO interim guidance on considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for COVID-19](#). Isolation facilities should be located away from worker accommodation and ongoing work activities. Where possible, workers should be provided with a single well-ventilated room (open windows and door). Where this is not possible, isolation facilities should allow at least 1 meter between workers in the same room, separating workers with curtains, if possible. Sick workers should limit their movements, avoiding common areas and facilities and not be allowed visitors until they have been clear of symptoms for 14 days. If they need to use common areas and facilities (e.g. kitchens or canteens), they should only do so when unaffected workers are not present and the area/facilities should be cleaned prior to and after such use.
- Training medical staff, which should include current WHO advice on COVID-19 and recommendations on the specifics of COVID-19. Where COVID-19 infection is suspected, medical providers on site should follow [WHO interim guidance on infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus \(nCoV\) infection is suspected](#).
- Training medical staff in testing, if testing is available.
- Assessing the current stock of equipment, supplies and medicines on site, and obtaining additional stock, where required and possible. This could include medical PPE, such as gowns, aprons, medical masks, gloves, and eye protection. Refer to WHO guidance as to what is advised (for further information see [WHO interim guidance on rational use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) for COVID-19](#)).
- If PPE items are unavailable due to world-wide shortages, medical staff on the project should agree on alternatives and try to procure them. Alternatives that may commonly be found on construction sites include dust masks, construction gloves and eye goggles. While these items are not recommended, they should be used as a last resort if no medical PPE is available.
- Ventilators will not normally be available on work sites, and in any event, intubation should only be conducted by experienced medical staff. If a worker is extremely ill and unable to breathe properly on his or her own, they should be referred immediately to the local hospital (see (g) below).
- Review existing methods for dealing with medical waste, including systems for storage and disposal (for further information see [WHO interim guidance on water, sanitation and waste management for COVID-19](#), and [WHO guidance on safe management of wastes from health-care activities](#)).

(g) LOCAL MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES

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

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

(h) INSTANCES OR SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

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

- If a worker has symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, dry cough, fatigue) the worker should be removed immediately from work activities and isolated on site.
- If testing is available on site, the worker should be tested on site. If a test is not available at site, the worker should be transported to the local health facilities to be tested (if testing is available).
- If the test is positive for COVID-19 or no testing is available, the worker should continue to be isolated. This will either be at the work site or at home. If at home, the worker should be transported to their home in transportation provided by the project.
- Extensive cleaning procedures with high-alcohol content disinfectant should be undertaken in the area where the worker was present, prior to any further work being undertaken in that area. Tools used by the worker should be cleaned using disinfectant and PPE disposed of.
- Co-workers (i.e. workers with whom the sick worker was in close contact) should be required to stop work, and be required to quarantine themselves for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms. Family and other close contacts of the worker should be required to quarantine themselves for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.
- If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a worker on the site, visitors should be restricted from entering the site and worker groups should be isolated from each other as much as possible.
- If workers live at home and has a family member who has a confirmed or suspected case of COVID19, the worker should quarantine themselves and not be allowed on the project site for 14 days, even if they have no symptoms.

- Workers should continue to be paid throughout periods of illness, isolation or quarantine, or if they are required to stop work, in accordance with national law.
- Medical care (whether on site or in a local hospital or clinic) required by a worker should be paid for by the employer.

(i) CONTINUITY OF SUPPLIES AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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

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

(j) TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION WITH WORKERS

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

- It is important to be aware that in communities close to the site and amongst workers without access to project management, social media is likely to be a major source of information. This raises the importance of regular information and engagement with workers (e.g. through training, town halls, toolboxes) that emphasizes what management is doing to deal with the risks of COVID-19. Allaying fear is an important aspect of work force peace of mind and business continuity. Workers should be given an opportunity to ask questions, express their concerns, and make suggestions.
- Training of workers should be conducted regularly, as discussed in the sections above, providing workers with a clear understanding of how they are expected to behave and carry out their work duties.
- Training should address issues of discrimination or prejudice if a worker becomes ill and provide an understanding of the trajectory of the virus, where workers return to work.
- Training should cover all issues that would normally be required on the work site, including use of safety procedures, use of construction PPE, occupational health and safety issues, and code of conduct, taking into account that work practices may have been adjusted.

- Communications should be clear, based on fact and designed to be easily understood by workers, for example by displaying posters on handwashing and social distancing, and what to do if a worker displays symptoms.

(k) COMMUNICATION AND CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY

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

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

6. EMERGENCY POWERS AND LEGISLATION

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

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

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

should be documented, setting out the relevant provisions.

Resource List: COVID-19 Guidance

Given the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, a version of this resource list will be regularly updated and made available on the World Bank COVID-19 operations intranet page (<http://covidoperations/>).

WHO Guidance

Advice for the public

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

Technical guidance

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

WORLD BANK GROUP GUIDANCE

- [Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings](#), issued on March 20, 2020

- [Technical Note: Use of Military Forces to Assist in COVID-19 Operations](#), issued on March 25, 2020
- [ESF/Safeguards Interim Note: COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects](#), issued on April 7, 2020
- [Technical Note on SEA/H for HNP COVID Response Operations](#), issued in March 2020
- [Interim Advice for IFC Clients on Preventing and Managing Health Risks of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#), issued on April 6, 2020
- [Interim Advice for IFC Clients on Supporting Workers in the Context of COVID-19](#), issued on April 6, 2020
- [IFC Tip Sheet for Company Leadership on Crisis Response: Facing the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), issued on April 6, 2020
- [WBG EHS Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities](#), issued on April 30, 2007

ILO GUIDANCE

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

MFI GUIDANCE

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