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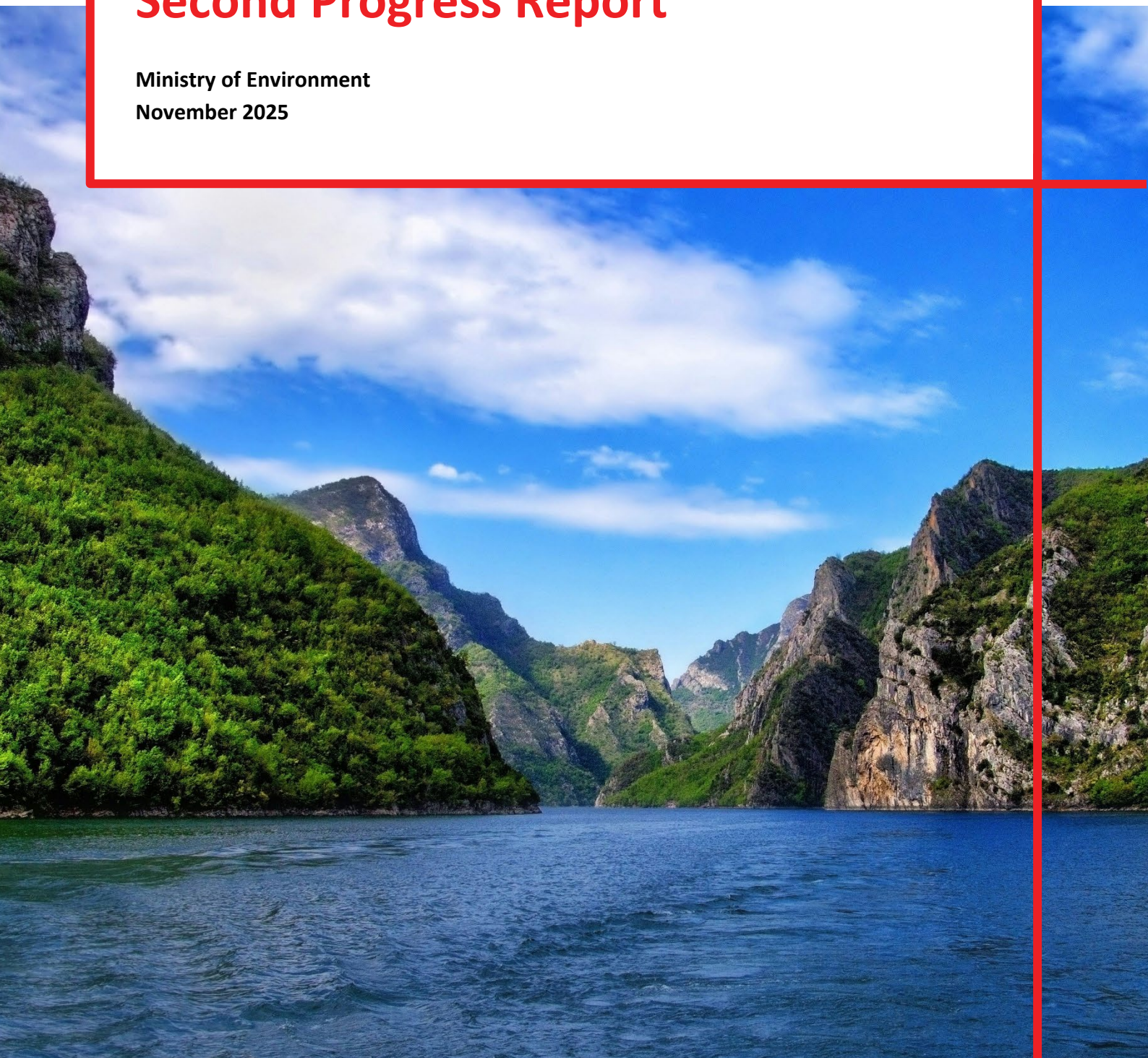
Albania's National Adaptation Plan
Second Progress Report

Ministry of Environment
November 2025



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About NAP Global Network

The NAP Global Network was created in 2014 to support developing countries in advancing their NAP processes, and help accelerate adaptation efforts around the world. To achieve this, the Network facilitates South-South peer learning and exchange, supports national-level action on NAP formulation and implementation, and generates, synthesizes, and shares knowledge. The Network's members include individual participants from more than 170 countries involved in NAP processes. Financial support for the Network has been provided by Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Additional support has been provided by the ClimateWorks Foudnation. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). For more information, visit www.napglobalnetwork.org.

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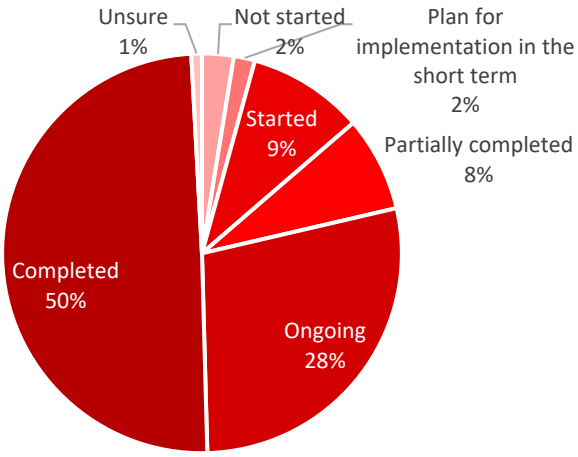
Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

This second progress report reviews Albania's progress in implementing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) during the 2023 to 2025 period. It supports policy-makers and stakeholders in assessing the country's ongoing efforts to adapt to climate change, highlighting progress made, lessons learned, and outstanding gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen resilience. The assessment builds on the first review (2019 to 2023) and provides input for the forthcoming revision of the NAP.

The NAP serves as the core adaptation component of the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS), adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 466 on July 3, 2019. The NAP outlines 15 priority actions (PAs), 23 goals, and 118 adaptation measures to be implemented by 2035. Its overarching aim is to ensure that Albania's development is climate-resilient and risk-informed.

Figure ES1. Albania's progress in implementing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) during the 2023 to 2025



Key Achievements (2023 to 2025)

- **Implementation accelerated**: The proportion of completed measures rose from 15% to 50%, reflecting progress, particularly in local adaptation planning, early warning systems, and nature-based solutions.
- **Local adaptation mainstreamed**: seven out of eight municipalities developed and integrated local adaptation plans (LAPs) into their municipal development programs and budgets.
- **Institutional leadership strengthened**: The establishment of the Ministry of Environment (2024) enhanced coordination across sectors and levels of government.
- **Transparency and reporting advanced**: Albania submitted its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), which includes adaptation reporting in line with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement. Progress was also made in aligning adaptation objectives with the revised National Determined Contribution (NDC).

- **Disaster risk management and early warning systems strengthened**: National systems and local preparedness were upgraded with international and domestic support.
- **MEL system established**: The MEL system under the second NAP project operationalizes monitoring, evaluation, and learning, aligned with the national MEL mandate and informed by the first NAP Progress Report.
- **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP)**: Finalized in 2025 through a participatory process, establishing a framework for structured consultation, information flow, and coordination across national and subnational actors.
- **Capacity building**: A six-module National Training Programme (January to December 2024) reached over 520 participants, enhancing national capacity for adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring.

While PAs 4, 7, and 9 continue to show slower progress, renewed efforts are underway to mobilize investment financing and clarify institutional responsibilities to support their implementation.

Main Challenges

- **Mainstreaming and capacities**: Adaptation remains insufficiently integrated into strategies; local institutions face limited technical and financial capacity, human resources are scarce with irregular training and knowledge loss due to turnover.
- **Cross-sectoral coordination**: Although the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and other institutions have mandates for adaptation, coordination is still developing, and roles are not fully clarified. Misalignment between national and local priorities, coupled with weak inter-institutional coordination, reduces the effectiveness of planning and implementation.
- **Data and monitoring**: Data collection, quality, and reporting are fragmented and largely dependent on international projects, creating gaps in climate knowledge, risk assessments, cost analyses, and monitoring and evaluation. Limited data sharing at subnational levels further constrains the effectiveness of the MEL system and MoE oversight.
- **Disaster risk management and early warning systems (DRM/EWS)**: Sustaining DRM/EWS upgrades is challenged by limited funding, and community preparedness remains uneven across regions.
- **Stakeholder engagement**: Engagement is inconsistent across regions, with varying levels of awareness of adaptation priorities, limiting meaningful participation and effective decision-making.
- **Financing**: Adaptation funding relies heavily on donors, with minimal domestic contributions and reactive financing.

Key Recommendations

- **Mainstreaming**: Integrate climate adaptation into priority sectors of the post-2030 National Strategy, applying Rio markers to evaluate policy integration.

- **Local capacities and human resources**: Strengthen local capacities, provide dedicated staff, and implement regular training programs through institutions like the Albanian School of Public Administration.
- **Cross-sectoral coordination**: Clarify roles, promote inter-ministerial coordination, and ensure active engagement of the IMWGCC to align national and local priorities.
- **Data and MEL systems**: Establish systematic data collection and sharing platforms; strengthen MEL operations for evidence-based decision-making.
- **Financing**: Increase domestic funding, complement with international and private sector resources, and plan proactively according to the NAP financing strategy.
- **DRM/EWS**: Secure long-term financing, conduct regular preparedness drills, and enhance community awareness and engagement.
- **Stakeholder engagement**: Expand outreach, implement feedback mechanisms, and periodically evaluate engagement to ensure meaningful participation.
- **Monitoring and evaluation**: Apply the NAP M&E framework to assess relevance, cost-effectiveness, and lessons learned, supporting replication and scaling of effective adaptation measures.

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1.0 Introduction and Context

The Republic of Albania, located in Southeast Europe along the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, continues to face increasing climate-related vulnerabilities that affect both its population and key economic sectors. As of 2025, Albania has a population of approximately 2.8 million, with a significant share living in coastal, riverine, and rural areas where livelihoods depend heavily on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, hydropower generation, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and public health services.

Albania's climate is characterized by Mediterranean and continental influences, with marked seasonal variability in temperature and precipitation. However, observed climate trends over recent decades show a clear pattern of rising average temperatures, more frequent and prolonged heatwaves, changes in precipitation timing and intensity, and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events. These trends align with regional projections for the Western Balkans, which is recognized as a climate vulnerability hotspot.

The impacts of climate change in Albania are becoming more evident, including:

- more frequent and intense flooding, particularly in the Drin, Shkodra, and Vjosa river basins, affecting agriculture, transport infrastructure, and settlements,
- extended drought periods and reduced seasonal water availability affecting irrigation, drinking water supply systems, and hydropower production, which supplies the majority of the national electricity mix,
- accelerated coastal erosion and saline intrusion along the Adriatic coast, impacting ecosystems, tourism infrastructure, and agricultural land, and
- increased land degradation, soil erosion, and wildfire risk in hilly and mountainous regions, with consequences for biodiversity, forests, and rural communities.

These impacts underscore the urgency of systematic and coordinated adaptation planning across national and local institutions.

1.1 Albania's NAP Process

The Government of Albania initiated the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in 2015 to address increasing climate risks and to strengthen the country's long-term climate resilience. The process was designed in line with the UNFCCC NAP technical guidelines, emphasizing a systematic, participatory, and iterative approach that supports the integration of adaptation into national, sectoral, and local planning and budgeting frameworks.

The initial phase of the NAP process focused on vulnerability and risk assessments, stakeholder consultations, and defining adaptation priorities across key climate-sensitive sectors. This work culminated in the approval of the National Climate Change Strategy and its NAP component in 2019, through Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 466.

Box 1. NAP – Albania, 15 PAs

PA 1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania

PA 2: Overarching mainstreaming initiative

PA 3: Climate finance readiness

PA 4: Implementation monitoring system

PA 5: Public information and involvement initiative

PA 6: Initiative for capacity building on climate change adaptation

PA 7: Climate resilient irrigation, drainage, and flood protection

PA 8: Integrated water resources management

PA 9: Adaptation in agricultural sector

PA 10: Promote implementation of adaptation strategy for health sector

PA 11: Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coast (ICPC)

PA 12: Initiative for municipal adaptation

PA 13: Adaptation in tourism

PA 14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and disaster risk reduction

PA 15: Building the resilience of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS) through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)

Since 2019, the NAP process has evolved into an operational framework that guides the implementation of adaptation measures at multiple governance levels. The Ministry of Environment, in 2023, with a dedicated Directorate in Climate Change, has further strengthened institutional leadership for adaptation, facilitating improved coordination among line ministries, local government units, technical agencies, academia, civil society, and development partners.

Key developments since 2023 include:

- advancements in local adaptation planning, with eight municipalities developing and costing local adaptation plans (LAPs) and integrating them into municipal development programs, and 14 municipalities starting to draft their LAPs in 2025,
- the preparation of Albania's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Paris Agreement, which includes structured reporting on adaptation progress and priorities and reporting to energy community,
- strengthening institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms, including a revision of the Order of Prime Minister of 2014 that established inter-ministerial working group and multi-stakeholder platforms, and
- improved access to international support, particularly through the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The NAP process remains iterative and adaptive, reflecting evolving climate risks, socio-economic priorities, and lessons learned across implementation cycles. This second progress report contributes to the ongoing refinement of the NAP framework and informs the next phase of its revision and investment planning.

1.2 Policy Context

With Albania's signing of the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016, the country affirmed its commitment to the global effort to limit the increase in average global temperature to well below 2°C, with efforts to pursue 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This commitment signaled a shift toward a more strategic and structured approach to both climate change mitigation and adaptation across national, sectoral, and local governance levels.

In July 2019, Albania adopted the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) through Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 466/2019. The NCCS provides the overarching framework for transitioning to a climate-resilient and low-emission economy, while safeguarding sustainable development and social well-being. The strategy is structured around three core pillars:

- mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions,
- adaptation to climate impacts, and
- sustainable development and green growth.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) constitutes the adaptation pillar of the NCCS and outlines 15 priority actions, accompanied by strategic goals and measures to be implemented progressively through 2035. The NAP directly supports the achievement of strategic priorities three through six of the NCCS, which focus on increasing climate resilience, reducing vulnerability in key sectors, enhancing risk-informed planning, and strengthening adaptive capacity.

A central mechanism supporting the advancement of Albania's adaptation planning has been the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, "Advancing Albania's Planning for Medium- and Long-Term Adaptation Through the Development of a National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Process." The project has played a key role in operationalizing the NAP framework.

Through these developments, Albania is progressively mainstreaming climate adaptation into national strategic planning, local governance, and investment decision-making. However, continued efforts are required to scale financing, strengthen institutional capacity, and ensure systematic implementation of adaptation measures across all priority sectors and regions.

1.3 Progress Reporting Context

The National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) emphasize the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track adaptation progress, assess the effectiveness of measures, and enable informed and evidence-based policy-making. Such an M&E system is essential for equipping line ministries, municipalities, public agencies, the private sector, civil society, and research institutions with reliable information to support climate-resilient planning and investment.

The NCCS foresees the establishment of a national M&E framework and requires the preparation of periodic progress reports submitted to the Council of Ministers. These reports are intended to:

- monitor the implementation of adaptation measures,
- evaluate progress and identify barriers, including institutional, financial, and technical constraints,
- assess effectiveness in reducing climate vulnerability and exposure,
- capture lessons learned to support adaptive management,
- provide recommendations to strengthen next phases of implementation, and
- fulfill national, regional, and international reporting obligations.

This approach aligns with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, which stipulates that parties should monitor, evaluate, and learn from adaptation policies and actions. In this context, Albania has strengthened its reporting processes through the preparation of its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), which includes a dedicated chapter on adaptation. The revised National Adaptation Plan establishes the basis for a more systematic national MEL system for adaptation and supports Albania's obligations under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

In parallel, Albania's commitments under the Energy Community Treaty and the process of approximation to EU climate acquis, including the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, require the integration of adaptation considerations into national planning instruments such as the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and sectoral development strategies. The alignment of adaptation monitoring with EU and Energy Community requirements has therefore been a central principle in designing this progress review.

Additionally, in 2025, the State Supreme Audit Institution (KLSH) issued recommendations emphasizing the need to:

- strengthen the institutional mandate and coordination mechanisms for climate adaptation,
- ensure systematic data collection and regular progress reporting on NAP implementation, and
- enhance the budgetary allocation and financial planning for adaptation measures.

These findings reinforced the importance of the NAP progress reporting cycle and informed the development of recommendations in this second progress report.

This report therefore:

- builds upon the first NAP Progress Report (2019 to 2023),
- covers the latest implementation period, 2023 to 2025,
- assesses progress in mainstreaming adaptation across national and local governance,
- provides inputs for ongoing NAP revision and future investment and financing planning, and
- supports Albania's adaptation reporting under the BTR and EU accession frameworks.

2.0 Objectives of the Progress Report

Regular monitoring of implementation progress is essential to ensure that Albania's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) remains effective, relevant, and sustainable over time.

Accordingly, this progress report supports the Ministry of Environment (formerly Ministry of Tourism and Environment) in achieving six key objectives:

1. Monitor the implementation of the NAP priority actions and associated adaptation measures during the 2023 to 2025 implementation period
2. Track the mainstreaming of climate adaptation into sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks, including national and municipal planning processes
3. Evaluate the NAP process, including institutional arrangements, coordination mechanisms, and enabling conditions
4. Identify lessons learned to support adaptive management and inform the next revision of the NAP
5. Strengthen alignment with national, regional, and international climate reporting frameworks (UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Energy Community, EU accession processes)
6. Support evidence-based planning and financing, including prioritization of measures for national budget allocation and climate finance mobilization.

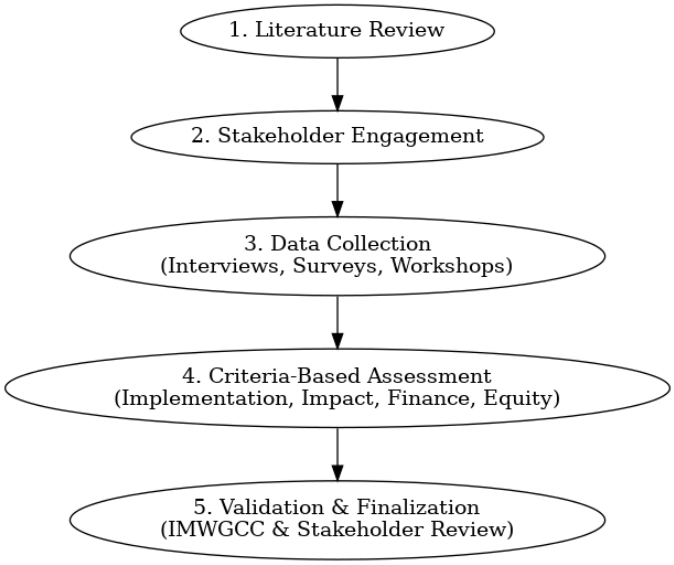
This progress report also contributes to Albania's national and international reporting obligations, ensuring alignment with:

- the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement,
- the Energy Community acquis and EU requirements under the Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, particularly as they relate to the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), and
- the recommendations issued in 2025 by the State Supreme Audit Institution (KLSH) regarding the need for stronger monitoring, coordination, and budgeting for climate adaptation.

3.0 Methodology

The methodology for preparing the second National Adaptation Plan (NAP) progress report builds directly on the approach applied during the first progress report (2019 to 2023) to ensure comparability and continuity across reporting cycles. The methods were adjusted to reflect new institutional developments, enhanced reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and the Energy Community, as well as recommendations from the 2025 State Supreme Audit Report regarding the need for strengthened monitoring, coordination, and data systems.

Figure 1. Methodology for preparing the second National Adaptation Plan (NAP) progress report



Source: Consultant.

The methodology is based on four main components:

- literature and document review,
- stakeholder engagement,
- structured data collection, and
- application of standardized criteria for assessing implementation status, progress, and effectiveness.

The methodology will also build in the recommendations of the first NAP progress report, which include:

- strengthening governance and institutional frameworks,
- developing a resource mobilization plan,
- creating a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework,
- enhancing adaptation education and communication, and
- engaging the private sector.

3.1 Literature Review

An extensive review of national and sectoral policy documents and reporting outputs was conducted. This included:

- the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and first NAP progress report,
- the revised National Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021 to 2030,
- the First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Enhanced Transparency Framework,
- sectoral strategies (agriculture, energy, health, civil protection, tourism, forestry, water), and
- regional and EU alignment documents, including Energy Community reporting requirements.

International and technical resources consulted include European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET), UNDP, FAO, World Bank, OECD, UNEP, and GIZ.

A full reference list is provided in the appendix.

3.2 Stakeholder Engagement Approach

Stakeholder engagement was expanded to ensure inclusive, multi-level participation, including national institutions, municipalities preparing local adaptation plans (LAPs), the private sector, academia, civil society, youth and women's groups.

Key engagement mechanisms included:

- confirmation or nomination of institutional focal points,
- bilateral consultations (virtual and in-person),
- workshops with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IMWGCC), and
- a dedicated validation workshop to review preliminary findings.

Participating entities included Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, National Civil Protection Agency, INSTAT, IGEO, NAWRM, NEA, municipalities of Durrës, Vlora, Elbasan, and others, private sector associations (energy, tourism, construction), and academic institutions.

This broadened process responds to KLSH recommendations to improve data sharing and ownership of adaptation monitoring.

3.3 Data Collection

Data collection occurred in two phases:

1. Interviews and questionnaires with institutions responsible for implementation of NAP measures, focusing on progress, barriers, financing needs, and institutional capacity

2. A multi-stakeholder consultative workshop with IMWGCC members to validate findings and collect input for the upcoming NAP update (2025 revision).

3.4 Criteria for the Implementation Status of NAP Measures

The same seven implementation status categories used in the first progress report were retained to ensure comparability.

Table 1. Criteria for the implementation status of NAP measures

Status	Definition
Not started	No action taken to implement the measure
Planned for implementation in the short term	Implementation is scheduled to start within 6 months to 1 year
Started	Activities have commenced but without significant progress toward achievement
Partially completed	Considerable progress has been made in attainment of the measure/action
Ongoing	Activities are carried out routinely as part of the agencies' annual work program
Completed	Measure attained
Unsure	Information not available on the status of implementation

Source: Consultant.

3.5 Criteria for the Evaluation of NAP Measures

To evaluate progress, four factors will be considered, as described in Table 2.

Table 2. Criteria for the Evaluation of NAP measures

Criteria	Definition	Categories
Complexity	Refers to the intricacies of implementing a measure, including expertise, novelty, and number of actors involved	Low, medium, high
Financial resources	Represents the financing gap between estimated costs of each PA and available financial sources	Low, medium, high
Impact	Evaluates the potential of measures to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance adaptive capacity	Scale 1–10
Equity and inclusiveness	Evaluates the inclusiveness of the stakeholders and the distribution of benefits and know-how among different social groups and regions	Scale 1–10

Source: Consultant.

The equity and inclusiveness criteria is newly added to reflect ETF and BTR guidance as well as Albania's social inclusion priorities.

3.6 Criteria for the Assessment of the Effectiveness of NAP Implementation

The effectiveness of NAP implementation will be assessed based on the criteria below (updated and consolidated):

- clearly defined roles and responsibilities,
- access to relevant data and information,
- coordinated efforts across sectors,
- clear implementation measures,
- adequate technical capacity within implementing agencies,
- sufficient funding,
- meaningful stakeholder involvement,
- integration in policies, plans, and budgets, and
- integration of gender and social inclusion considerations.

3.7 Key Informant Interviews to Prepare Case Studies

Based on the training workshops and expert knowledge, a few stakeholders will be identified for interviews for the purposes of preparing case studies. Those selected as key informants will prepare case studies to provide examples of climate action implemented by the government, private sector, or civil society.

Short story boxes that highlight the context, results, and lessons of climate change adaptation actions will provide useful lessons that could be scaled.

3.8 Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Development Policies, Plans, Strategies, and Budgets Across Sectors and Levels of Government

To demonstrate policy coherence and mainstreaming efforts:

1. Define integration criteria (e.g., no integration, little integration, strong integration)
2. Develop table with three columns:
    - column 1: List of plans, strategies, or budgets (title + year)
    - column 2: Qualifier criteria
    - column 3: Evidence of integration (link, page, budget code)
3. Populate matrix via desk review and key-informant checks.

3.9 Data Analysis and Comparative Assessment

The data analysis will combine both quantitative and qualitative methods to ensure a robust evaluation of adaptation progress. Collected data will be organized by sector and type of adaptation measure, allowing for consistency and comparability with the baseline established in the first NAP progress report (2019 to 2023).

A comparative analysis will be undertaken to:

- measure progress against the baseline by assessing the status of the 118 adaptation measures identified in the NAP, using the same implementation criteria (e.g., not started, ongoing, completed),
- compare sector-specific achievements, barriers, and enabling factors with those highlighted in the first report, identifying trends and shifts over time,
- evaluate how new institutional developments, financing arrangements, and monitoring tools—such as the NAP MEL framework—have influenced implementation outcomes since 2023, and
- analyze cross-cutting dimensions (gender, youth, and vulnerable groups) to determine whether inclusivity has improved relative to the first progress report.

3.10 Limitations of the Progress Report and the Next Phase of the MEL System

This second progress report provides an important overview of institutional, policy, and implementation progress under Albania's National Adaptation Plan. It reflects the first phase of operationalization of the national monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) system, which has focused primarily on establishing structures, processes, and reporting mechanisms. As such, the report should be understood as a baseline for future performance-based monitoring.

At this stage, the report mainly captures inputs, activities, and outputs, such as policies adopted, plans developed, coordination mechanisms established, capacity-building actions undertaken, and adaptation measures initiated or completed. These indicators are essential for assessing whether the foundations for effective adaptation action are being put in place, but they do not yet provide evidence of long-term adaptation outcomes or impacts.

The current availability of data, methodologies, and sectoral monitoring systems does not yet allow for systematic measurement of reduced vulnerability, enhanced adaptive capacity, increased resilience, or avoided climate impacts at national scale. Outcome- and impact-level indicators require longer time horizons, consistent baseline data, and integrated climate risk and socio-economic datasets that are still under development.

For this reason, tracking real adaptation results, learning from implementation, and assessing effectiveness will constitute the next phase of the national MEL system. Future progress reports will progressively shift from process-based monitoring toward results-based monitoring, integrating

outcome and impact indicators, strengthening data collection at sectoral and local levels, and linking adaptation actions to observed changes in vulnerability and resilience.

4.0 Results

4.1 Implementation Status of Albania's 15 NAP PAs and 118 Adaptation Measures

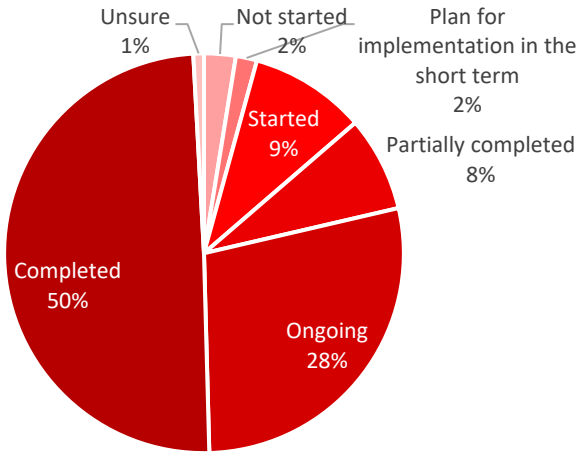
This section presents key findings from the 2023 to 2025 implementation of each PA in Albania's NAP. All data provided by focal points underwent thorough analysis, with each measure receiving equal attention.

Table 3. Implementation status of 118 adaptation measures in Albania's NAP, 2023 to 2025, across all 15 PAs

PA	Not started	Plan for implementation in the short term	Started	Partially completed	Ongoing	Completed	Unsure	Total
1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania	0	0		0		4	0	4
2: Overarching mainstreaming initiative		0	0		0	4	0	4
3: Climate finance readiness – capacity development for NAP financing and implementation in Albania	0	0		0		6	0	6
4: Implementation monitoring system		0		0	3	3	0	6
5: Communication and outreach initiative		0		2	2	10	0	14
6: Initiative for capacity development on climate change adaptation	0		0	0		3	0	3
7: Climate-resilient irrigation, drainage, and flood protection		1	0	4	5	2	0	12
8: Integrated water resources management	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
9: Adaptation in the agricultural sector	0	0	6	0	8	10	1	25
10: Promote implementation of adaptation strategy for health sector	1		2	0	6	2	0	11
11: Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coast	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	6
12: Initiative for municipal climate change adaptation plans	0	0	1	0		2	0	3
13: Adaptation in tourism	1		1	2	0	2	0	6
14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and DRR	0	0		1	3	3	0	7
15: Building the resilience of the Kune-Vaini Lagoon System (KVLS) through ecosystem-based adaptation	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Total 2023 to 2025	**3**	**2**	**11**	**9**	**33**	**58**	**1**	**118**

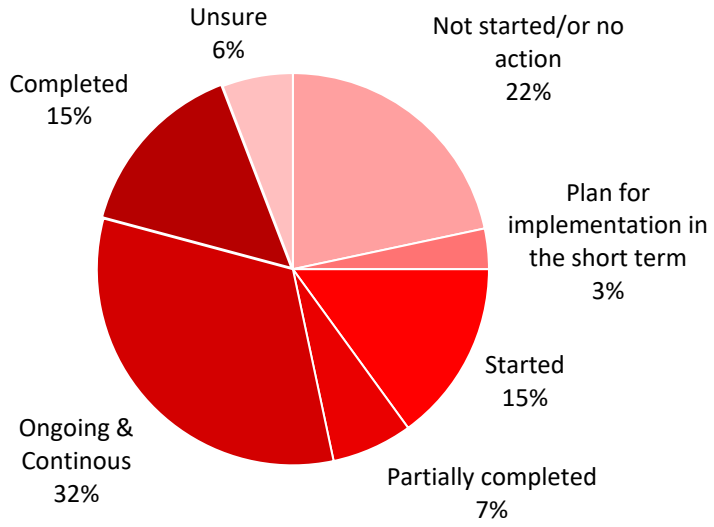
Source: Consultant.

Figure 2a. Implementation status of all 118 adaptation measures in Albania's NAP (2025)



Source: Consultant.

Figure 2b. Implementation status of all 118 adaptation measures in Albania's NAP (2023)



Source: Albania's NAP First Progress Report.

Comparative Analysis of Implementation Status of NAP Measures (2019 to 2023 versus2023 to 2025)

The comparison of the two implementation periods reveals substantial progress in Albania's adaptation efforts, demonstrating a transition from foundational planning and initiation (2019 to 2023) toward significantly accelerated implementation and completion (2023 to 2025).

Table 3 summarizes the implementation of the 118 measures in the first period and provides an updated status for 2023 to 2025, showing a clear picture of their evolution.

1. Overall improvement in completion rates:

During the first reporting period (2019 to 2023), only 15% of measures were completed, reflecting the early-stage nature of adaptation planning in Albania, combined with major external shocks such as the 2019 earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic.

By contrast, in the 2023 to 2025 update, completed measures increased sharply to 58 out of 118, representing 50% completion across all priority actions (PAs). This marks a more than threefold improvement compared to the first cycle. The progress reflects:

- strengthened institutional arrangements for climate coordination,
- increased availability of funding,
- targeted capacity building,
- the operationalization of adaptation planning at municipal level, and
- greater integration of adaptation across sectors.

2. Significant reduction in "Not Started" measures:

From 2019 to 2023, 22% of measures (26 measures) were not started, particularly PA 4, PA 7, and PA 9.

In the 2023 to 2025 update, this number drops dramatically to only three measures, representing just 2.5% of the total. This indicates that nearly all NAP measures have now entered the implementation pipeline, even if at varying speeds.

3. Shift from planning phase to active implementation:

During the first period, 69% of measures had been initiated, yet many were still in early or intermediate stages (started, partially completed, or ongoing).

In the second period:

- "Ongoing" measures remain significant (33), reflecting continued implementation.
- "Partially completed" measures increased slightly (9), showing active progression.
- "Started" measures decreased (from 18 to 11), a positive sign that many have moved into more advanced stages.

Overall, this shift confirms that Albania has transitioned decisively from planning to implementation.

4. Completion patterns across priority actions:

Fully completed PAs:

From 2019 to 2023, only PA 15 (Kune-Vain Lagoon EbA) was fully completed, reflecting a mature, well-funded, and project-based adaptation action.

In 2023 to 2025, PAs 1, 2, 3, 6, and 15 were fully completed and many PAs had very high completion levels, even if not "fully completed as a PA."

Strong progress in previously lagging priority actions:

Several PAs with slow progress in 2019 to 2023 show major improvements:

- PA 4: Monitoring system

  2019 to 2023: Five not started; zero completed

  2023 to 2025: Three ongoing + three completed

  → Reflects establishment of new MEL structures and data systems.

- PA 7: Irrigation, drainage, flood protection

  Previously four had not started and zero completed

  Now has four partially completed, five ongoing, and two completed

  → Significant acceleration due to investment programs and donor support.

- PA 9: Agricultural sector adaptation

  Previously had high levels of "not started" and "ongoing"

  Now has 10 completed, eight ongoing, and only one unsure

  → Indicates strong progress linked to EU IPARD, DRR, and extension services.

PAs that remain challenging:

A few PAs continue to face moderate delays:

- PA 13 (tourism adaptation) shows mixed progress: only two completed, continued presence of started/partially completed measures.
- PA 6 (capacity development) remains small in number (three measures) but all are now completed, reflecting targeted training efforts nationally.

5. Decline in "Unsure" reporting category:

In the 2019 to 2023 period, seven measures were categorized as "unsure," indicating lack of clarity from implementing institutions.

In the 2023 to 2025 update, this number falls to just one measure, confirming improved coordination mechanisms and institutional knowledge of NAP responsibilities.

6. Expansion of completed measures across all sectors:

The second period shows broad completion progress across sectors:

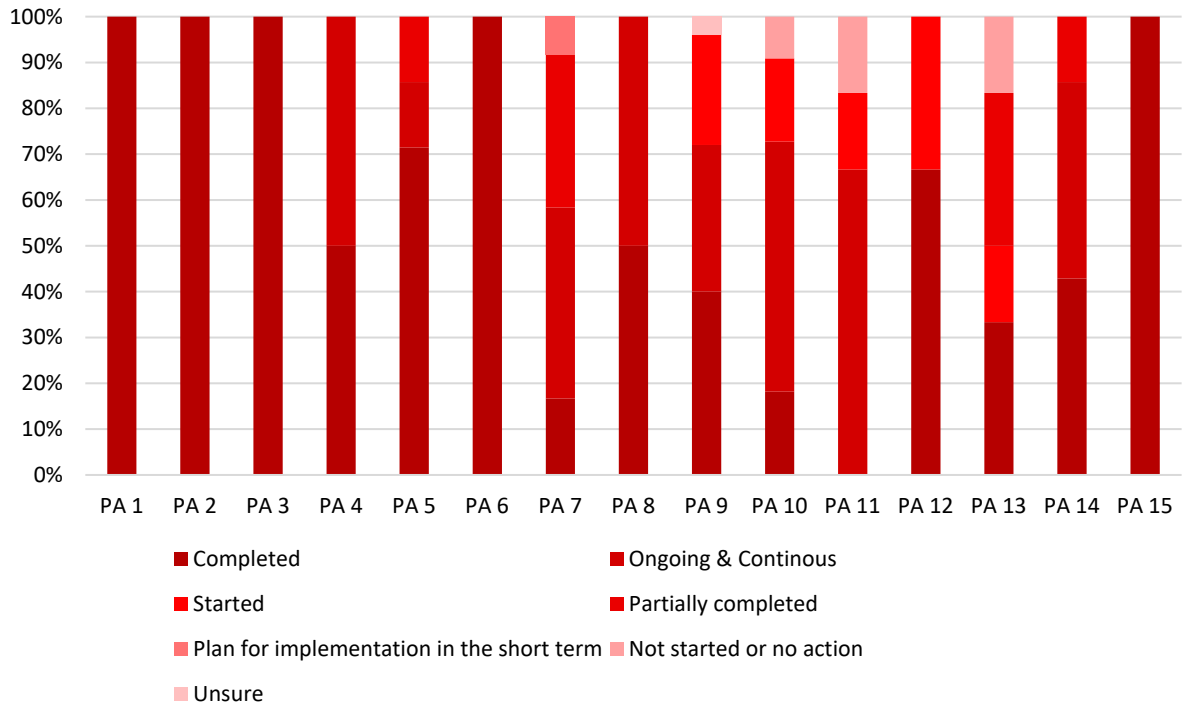
- governance and institutional PAs (PA 1, PA 2, PA 3) → all completed,

- health sector (PA 10) → two completed previously; now two completed + significant ongoing work,
- coastal planning, DRR, water management (PAs 8, 11, 14) → strong growth in implementation and completion, and
- municipal adaptation planning (PA 12) → two completed, supporting rollout of LAPs.

The wide distribution of completed measures suggests a whole-of-government expansion of adaptation actions.

Figure 3 shows the implementation percentage of the measures by PA.

Figure 3. Status of implementation (%) for the 15 PAs of Albania's NAP, 2019 to 2023



Source: Albania's First NAP Progress Report.

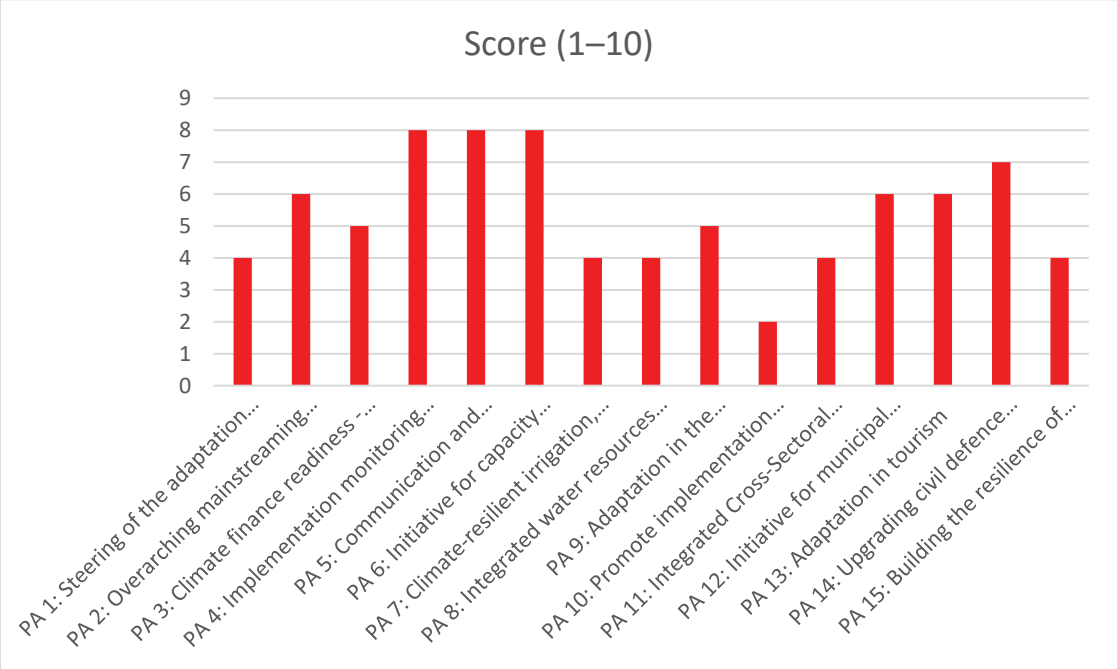
4.1.1 Equity and Inclusiveness Scores for the 15 Priority Actions

Figure 4 shows the equity and inclusiveness of the measures by PA.

The scores (1–10) evaluate how well each PA integrates equity considerations in Albania's NAP implementation. They reflect the degree to which vulnerable groups, local communities, women, youth, and rural/remote regions benefited from and participated in the adaptation measures.

Overall, the scores show moderate but uneven progress. Albania has taken steps to embed inclusivity across sectors, yet some areas—particularly agriculture, tourism, water management, and health—still require targeted improvement.

Figure 4. Equity and Inclusiveness Scores for the 15 Priority Actions



Source: Ministry of Tourism and Environment (2025), analytical assessment based on NAP implementation monitoring data, stakeholder consultations, and project reports.

1. Strongest performers (Scores 7–8):

The highest-scoring PAs are:

- PA4 – Implementation monitoring system (8)
- PA5 – Communication and outreach (8)
- PA6 – Capacity development on adaptation (8)
- PA14 – Civil defence preparedness and DRR (7)

These high scores reflect:

- broad participation from municipalities, CSOs, media, and youth in consultations,
- national awareness campaigns reaching diverse groups,
- capacity-building programs (e.g., UNDP, EU4Green, TRATOLOW) training >1,000 people, and
- disaster risk reduction initiatives that target vulnerable communities.

2. Moderate progress (Scores 4–6):

Most PAs fall into this category, including:

- PA1 – Steering process
- PA2 – Mainstreaming initiative
- PA3 – Climate finance readiness

- PA7 – Irrigation, drainage, and flood protection
- PA8 – Integrated water management
- PA9 – Agriculture
- PA11 – ICPC (coast)
- PA12 – Municipal adaptation plans
- PA13 – Tourism

These scores indicate:

- some stakeholder engagement in planning stages.
- benefits reaching selected regions (often coastal or urban),
- uneven outreach to remote municipalities, and
- limited targeted actions for vulnerable populations (e.g., Roma, elderly, farmers, rural women).

Progress has been made, but more purposeful inclusion strategies are needed.

3. Lowest score: Health sector (PA10 – score 2):

This low score reflects:

- limited involvement of vulnerable groups in health-adaptation planning,
- weak integration of local communities, elderly populations, and rural health networks, and
- lack of targeted outreach for climate-related health risks (heat, vector-borne diseases).

This finding aligns with the first NAP progress report, which identified the health sector as needing stronger institutional capacity and community-level adaptation planning.

Cross-Cutting Interpretation

Overall, the equity and inclusiveness assessment shows that:

✓ Awareness, communication, and capacity development have significantly improved, reaching a wide range of stakeholders at national and local levels.

✓ Municipal involvement has increased, especially for PA12 and PA4, where LAPs and monitoring systems have created more structured stakeholder engagement.

✓ Disaster risk reduction is becoming more inclusive, particularly due to Albania's national DRR strategy and early-warning initiatives targeting vulnerable areas.

However:

✗ Sector-level inclusiveness remains uneven, especially in health, water, tourism, and agriculture.

✗ Vulnerable groups—rural women, elderly, low-income farmers, Roma/Egyptian communities—are still insufficiently engaged.

✗ Benefits and capacities are not yet evenly distributed across Albania's regions—coastal and urban areas benefit more than mountainous municipalities.

Albania is increasingly integrating social inclusion, but gaps remain in sectors closest to vulnerable populations.

The updated NAP (2025–2026 to 2036), through its implementation instruments—such as the Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) and the Gender Action Plan—is expected to embed stronger equity safeguards, including:

- mandatory community consultations,
- gender-responsive methodologies,
- rural outreach programs, and
- equitable resource allocation frameworks.

4.2 Result-Based Analysis by Sector

4.2.1 Progress on Adaptation Implementation by Sector[1]

Agriculture

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

In Albania's agricultural sector, public spending on climate adaptation is limited and mostly indirect. There is no dedicated "climate adaptation" budget line in the Ministry of Agriculture's budget. Instead, adaptation-related expenditures are embedded in broader programs such as irrigation maintenance and water management—for example, improving water availability and flood control for farms—and disaster relief for farmers. Each year, the government spends several million USD on maintaining and upgrading irrigation and drainage infrastructure, and it provides reactive support to farmers through the Civil Protection Fund for drought or flood compensation. These expenditures support adaptation outcomes (for example, better water supply, flood mitigation), even if not explicitly labeled as "adaptation."

The Medium-Term Budget Program (2024 to 2027)

Under the Medium-Term Budget Program 2024 to 2027, the government has allocated a total of ~USD 43.17 million (ALL 3.71 billion) to agricultural adaptation measures. The vast majority of this budget (99.9%) is managed by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), reaffirming its central role in advancing climate adaptation in rural and agricultural areas. Notably, 95% of that budget, ~USD

[1] Financial needs and gaps assessment for Albania's climate Adaptation Plan under the NAP 2 Project (UNDP, GCF)

40.96 million (ALL 3.52 billion), is directed toward on-farm investments in climate-resilient infrastructure (for example, grants to farmers for irrigation systems, terraces, etc.), and about 4% to 5% supports disaster recovery compensation for farmers impacted by climate events. Smaller allocations target climate-related agricultural services: for example, ~USD 140'000 (ALL 12 million), for an invasive species action plan (addressing pest outbreaks under climate change), and a few million lekë for improving climate risk analysis in coastal agriculture. While these budgeted measures are a start in addressing agricultural adaptation, the scale remains modest relative to needs (i.e., several million USD per year, versus hundreds of millions needed). Moreover, actual disbursement of these funds and their effectiveness in building resilience will need to be closely monitored.

These measures are implemented through MARD's existing national budget programs, including direct financial transfers to eligible applicants under competitive support schemes, co-financed agribusiness initiatives (including those supported by international partners such as the EBRD), and agricultural statistical programs that inform climate risk planning and response.

Table 4. Budget Allocation for Agricultural Climate Adaptation Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024–2027	Share (%)
Empowering farmers: financial support for climate-resilient infrastructure						
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	1,023,489,600	927,682,100	786,482,100	786,482,100	3,524,135,900	95.0
Safeguarding farmers: compensation and assistance programs for disaster recovery						
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	40,934,400	27,511,600	59,049,000	41,878,400	169,373,400	4.6
Action plan for invasive species under changing climate conditions						
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	12,000,000	0.3
Enhancing IGEOS capacity						
Ministry of Environment	3,685,500	0	0	0	3,685,500	0.1
Total (ALL)						
					3,709,194,800	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

International partners provide the bulk of dedicated adaptation finance in Albania's agricultural sector, through grants, loans, and technical assistance. Key externally funded initiatives include:

- EU – IPARD III Programme (2021–2027): The EU's rural development instrument integrates adaptation as a cross-cutting objective. IPARD III provides USD 160.53 million (EUR 139.5 million), with national co-finance, to modernize farms, including investments in efficient irrigation, improved storage, soil management, and other measures that bolster climate resilience. While not all projects are labeled "adaptation," many have significant adaptive co-benefits, such as water-efficient equipment.
- EU – water and infrastructure projects: EU support also flows through dedicated projects like EU4Water (IPA III) with EUR 7.5 million in funding provided by the European Union for improving water management and irrigation systems. The total value of the project is EUR 8.8 million. This project strengthens river basin management and reduces flood and drought risks in agricultural areas. Additionally, the EU has financed rural infrastructure under its Economic and Investment Plan, including flood protection works that benefit agriculture.
- World Bank – Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project: Approved in 2023, this USD 70 million World Bank loan (2023 to 2028) is dedicated to enhancing the climate resilience of Albania's agriculture. It funds irrigation rehabilitation, climate-smart agricultural practices, and institutional capacity building for climate risk management in farming. Annual disbursements are expected to be around USD 8 million when the project is fully underway.
- World Bank – Optimization of Dam Safety and Resilience of Irrigation Systems in the Context of Climate Change program (~USD 1.61 million to be submitted for approval by the World Bank Board on January 31, 2027). The program aims to improve the safety of 400 dams critical for irrigation (covering 180,000 ha of farmland), mostly located in the western coast of Albania, from Shkodra to Vlora. This modernization will benefit 200,000 farms, enabling them to increase yields and income.
- Green Climate Fund (GCF): Albania has accessed GCF support indirectly for agriculture via multi-sector projects. One upcoming proposal (in development) is focused on climate-smart agriculture and water management, seeking GCF grant financing to scale up pilot successes. If it is approved, it could bring tens of millions in additional finance. Also, the approved "ALBAdapt" project by GCF is primarily about climate information services, but part of its scope is to develop climate information tailored for farmers (e.g., seasonal forecasts, advisories), which is an enabling adaptation input.

Overall, current international finance for agricultural adaptation is on the order of USD 15 to USD20 million per year (combining EU, World Bank, and other projects). This significantly boosts resources beyond the few million drawn from the national budget, yet still is only perhaps one-third of the ~USD 45 to USD 50 million per year needed. The gap for agriculture remains large, but with continued EU support and new climate funding (GCF/IFAD), the sector is relatively well positioned compared to others.

Private Sector Contributions

The private sector comprises mostly farmers and agribusinesses. While individual small farmers have limited capital, they do contribute via co-financing in grant programs. For example, in the IPARD on-farm investment projects, farmers typically cover a percentage of the investment cost,often 40% to 50%, with the rest covered by grants. Thus, in addition to the EUR 139.5 million public IPARD funds,

tens of millions of euros are mobilized from farmers' own funds or loans. Similarly, the credit guarantee scheme with EBRD aims to unlock USD 207.14 million (EUR 180 million) in private bank loans for agriculture by providing USD 41.43 million (EUR 36 million) in guarantees; if climate-smart projects are included, this becomes a private financing stream for adaptation. Large agribusiness firms (e.g., in agri-processing) might invest in water recycling, storage, or other resilience measures if incentivized. Currently, private direct investment in adaptation-specific measures—like a farmer building a reservoir or adopting drip irrigation by self-financing—is limited by profitability concerns. But as awareness grows—and if insurance or subsidies encourage it—private spending should rise. We estimate that current private investment in agriculture adaptation in Albania is only about a couple of million USD per year—mainly through co-investments and some innovative farmers—but the potential is much higher with proper support.

Forestry

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

National Budgets

Public funding for climate adaptation in Albania's forestry and ecosystem sector is extremely limited relative to needs. These funds cover activities like planting on degraded lands, running tree nurseries, and basic wildfire prevention (fire breaks), which are important adaptation measures (reducing erosion, stabilizing slopes).

From the MTBP, the Government of Albania has allocated a total of ALL 417.57 million to adaptation measures in the forestry sector for the period from 2024 to 2027, managed by the Ministry of Environment. This allocation supports a range of ecosystem-based and resilience-building interventions, with a clear emphasis on soil erosion control and integrated ecosystem restoration.

Table 5. Budget Allocation for Ecosystem-based and resilience-building Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024 (ALL)	2025 (ALL)	2026 (ALL)	2027 (ALL)	Total 2024–2027 (ALL)	Share (%)
Revitalizing damaged lands: Integrating NbS and EBA with agroforestry practices						
MoTE			3042000		3042000	0.7
Strengthening forest and pasture protection: investments in human capacity and firefighting resources						
MoTE			2847000	9750000	12597000	3.0
Sustainable financing through payment for ecosystem services (PES)						
MoTE	5308000	9956000	8456000	0	23720000	5.7
Integrated ecosystem restoration and resilience: addressing soil erosion in key Albanian regions						
MoTE	237007500	141200000			378207500	90.6
Total						
					417,566,500	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy.

The largest portion of the budget—90.6%—is directed toward the measure "Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience: Addressing Soil Erosion in Key Albanian Regions," with a total allocation of ALL 378.21 million. This measure targets areas severely affected by land degradation, promoting soil stabilization and reforestation as a long-term solution for climate resilience.

The second largest allocation, 5.7% or USD 278000 (ALL 23.72 million), supports "Sustainable Financing through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)," aimed at incentivizing forest conservation and sustainable land use through compensation mechanisms for ecosystem service providers. This measure also contributes to building sustainable financing models for long-term forest protection.

An additional 3% of the budget, or USD 147,984 (ALL 12.6 million), is allocated to "Strengthening Forest and Pasture Protection: Investments in Human Capacity and Firefighting Resources." This measure focuses on building local capacity for forest fire prevention and response in climate-vulnerable areas.

A smaller allocation of ALL 3.04 million, representing 0.7%, goes to "Revitalizing Damaged Lands: Integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) with Agroforestry Practices." This initiative supports restoration planning and agroforestry integration in degraded forest landscapes.

Overall, domestic spending on forestry adaptation is extremely low—a negligible amount compared to the estimated ~USD 2.1 billion needed through 2035. The vast majority of required investment—for example, large-scale reforestation of thousands of ha—is unmet by current budgets. Acknowledging this gap, Albania's forestry policies (like the National Forestry Strategy) call for increased funding.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

International funding is crucial for forestry and ecosystem adaptation in Albania. Several major ongoing or recently completed projects illustrate the range of support:

- European Union (IPA programs): The EU has supported sustainable forestry and ecosystem management through its Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Notably, under IPA II a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) project was funded (several million euros) to build capacity in Albania's forestry agencies and pilot community-based forest use practices. Under the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, the EU launched EU4Green initiatives which include afforestation and biodiversity projects benefiting Albania. For example, a regional EU-funded program is helping Western Balkan countries develop financing schemes for large-scale reforestation (Albania stands to benefit via expertise and some funds for pilot sites). The EU has also invested in integrated water basin management (e.g., in the Drin and Vjosa rivers), which involves wetland restoration and floodplain management--measures that overlap with ecosystem-based adaptation.
- The SIDA-founded "ADAPT: Nature-based Solutions for Resilient Societies in the Western Balkans" was an initiative implemented from 2020 to 2024. The project aimed to increase ecosystem and community resilience to climate change and disaster risks through the application of nature-based solutions in Western Balkan countries. ADAPT provided practical

solutions for disaster risk reduction, enhanced knowledge and awareness among decision-makers, natural resource managers, and local communities, and supported the scaling up of nature-based interventions. In Albania, the project contributed to the analysis of national ecosystem management and biodiversity policies from a climate change perspective, including the development of adaptation indicators. It supported actions in the Albanian Alps related to policy revision and institutional strengthening, with a total value of approximately USD 500,000.

- EU IPARD III – Forestry Measure: Within the EU's rural development support, IPARD III (2021–2027) includes a dedicated measure for "Establishment and Protection of Forests." This measure allocates EUR 7.06 million (public expenditure)—EUR 6 million from the EU and EUR 1.06 million from Albanian co-financing—for afforestation and reforestation activities. It supports planting new forests, improving degraded forest areas, and promoting sustainable forest management practices to increase resilience. Targets include afforesting 330 ha of land and rehabilitating over 1,100 ha of forest ecosystems. These investments contribute directly to adaptation by reducing erosion, enhancing carbon sinks, and preventing climate-exacerbated hazards like landslides and wildfires.
- EU4Forest program: Another EU-supported initiative (under IPA III) is focused on forest resilience and community forestry. With a total budget of EUR 13 million over 6 years, this program—often referred to as EU4Forest—invests in priority areas such as large-scale reforestation (over EUR 10 million for planting and forest rehabilitation), grant schemes for sustainable forest use (including fire prevention and erosion control), and public awareness campaigns. It also supports the development of modern forest management plans and alignment with the EU Forestry Acquis. This comprehensive approach by the EU aims to enhance Albania's forest cover and health in line with EU standards.
- GEF and UNDP – ecosystem-based adaptation projects: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has financed multiple ecosystem-based adaptation projects implemented by UNDP in Albania. One flagship project, "Enhancing the Resilience of Albania's Protected Areas System to Climate Change" (completed in the late 2010s), invested about USD 5 million of GEF grant funding (plus co-financing) into climate adaptation actions in selected national parks. Activities included reforesting vulnerable slopes, improving wildfire management, and engaging local communities in ecosystem co-management—all aimed at boosting the climate resilience of ecosystems and communities. Another ongoing GEF-backed initiative is "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Albanian Alps," (~ USD 2 to USD 3 million, part of a regional program) focusing on high mountain ecosystems (restoring pastures, forest regeneration to reduce downstream flood risk). GEF Small Grants Program in Albania has also supported community forestry and agro-forestry micro-projects (though at very small scales, < USD 50,000 each). These projects, though moderate in size, fill important gaps by piloting adaptation approaches in ecologically sensitive areas.
- Bilateral donors (Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Japan): Bilateral aid has provided targeted support. The Italian Cooperation funded a reforestation and flood mitigation project (2018–2021) in coastal Lezhë region, restoring coastal forests to protect against storm surge and erosion. Germany, through GIZ, piloted local ecosystem-based measures (e.g., vegetative slope stabilization in Dibër). Switzerland's aid included an integrated water management

project in Dibër that had forest and pasture management components to curb erosion. Japan, via JICA, has provided equipment and training for wildfire early warning and response. While each bilateral project is relatively small (often <USD 5 million), collectively they contribute know-how and demonstrate practical adaptation interventions, laying the groundwork for scaling up.

- Green Climate Fund (GCF) pipeline: Albania is preparing a proposal to the GCF focused on ecosystem-based adaptation in river basins. If approved, this could bring USD 10 to USD20 million in new climate finance dedicated to actions like large-scale afforestation, wetland restoration, and community resilience in priority watersheds (e.g., Vjosa or Drin river basins). The GCF prioritizes nature-based solutions, making this a promising avenue. However, any GCF project would take several years to materialize, and success is uncertain until a full proposal is submitted and approved.
- Pipeline: Also, the World Bank is considering a broader climate resilience and environment project with an integrated landscape component (no firm amount yet, but possibly blending with the GCF idea). The European Investment Bank (EIB) and EBRD have signaled willingness to finance large afforestation or catchment restoration projects if bankable proposals are developed—indicating potential loan financing in the tens of millions range in future.

In total, Albania currently receives about USD 5 to USD 7 million per year in adaptation-related support for forestry (excluding carbon finance potential). This has helped build capacity and pilot projects. However, it is only a tiny fraction of the ~USD 140 million per year required for full implementation. Meeting Albania's commitment under the Bonn Challenge, including the pledge to restore a substantial area of forest, will require a quantum leap in funding. Bridging the forestry gap will likely depend on unlocking big climate finance, such as a GCF project, blending grants with concessional loans for reforestation, and exploring innovative finance like carbon credits or ecosystem service payments to attract private investment (some Albanian forests could generate carbon offsets for voluntary markets in the future).

Private Sector Contributions

Forests in Albania are predominantly public or community-managed, so the role of the private sector is small. However, a few niche contributions by private actors can be noted:

- Some corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives involve tree planting or watershed protection. For instance, a hydropower company has funded upstream reforestation to reduce sedimentation in its reservoir—essentially a private payment for ecosystem service to protect its infrastructure. A few banks and corporations sponsor annual tree-planting campaigns ("plant a tree" drives), though these are symbolic scale (~thousands of trees).
- Payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes under development hope to engage private entities (e.g., water utilities and tourism operators) to pay communities or landowners for maintaining forests that provide services such as water regulation and landscape beauty. If implemented, PES could channel private funds into adaptation, by funding forest conservation that reduces climate risks. But this is still nascent.
- Private funding contributes only a negligible share to ecosystem resilience efforts <USD 0.5 million per year. With new schemes, this might grow modestly by 2030.

Urban Development

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Commitment to Adaptation

National Budgets

Public financing for urban adaptation comes through various channels, primarily the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, the National Civil Protection Agency, and municipal budgets. There is no single urban adaptation fund, but various programs contribute to building urban resilience.

The central government, via the National Civil Protection Agency, funds certain urban resilience projects, especially after major disasters. For instance, after the 2017 Tirana floods, the government financed flood mitigation works on the Tirana and Lana rivers by raising riverbanks and widening channels, to protect the capital. Similarly, following the November 2019 earthquake, there was a massive reconstruction program to build back safer in urban areas. Though earthquake response is not climate adaptation, some synergies occurred: new buildings were constructed to higher standards, with improved insulation and more green space, indirectly enhancing climate resilience. The government is also installing early warning systems—sirens and alert software—for floods and heatwaves in major municipalities, and supporting cities in preparing emergency response plans for extreme weather. These efforts are funded through a combination of state budgets and grants (e.g., EU civil protection funding), and they improve cities' ability to cope with climate-related emergencies.

City governments are on the front line of urban adaptation, primarily through investing in drainage, flood control, and emergency preparedness. For example, the Municipality of Tirana—which has experienced frequent flash floods—has substantially increased spending on stormwater management. In recent years, Tirana has budgeted USD 3 to USD 4 million annually for expanding stormwater culverts, enlarging sewers, and building retention basins in flood-prone neighborhoods. Other cities like Shkodër and Durrës allocate hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to clean drainage canals, reinforce riverbanks, and maintain urban pumping stations. These local expenditures directly reduce flooding risk and heat accumulation (e.g., through green spaces), serving adaptation goals even when they are routine public works. However, they are often insufficient; many cities still face regular flooding, indicating that current municipal budgets lag behind what is needed for robust resilience.

While not direct spending, updated policies are guiding future investments. The National Civil Emergency Plan (2022) explicitly calls for priority action on urban flood control and heatwave management. Likewise, Albania's urban planning regulations are gradually incorporating climate resilience criteria. For example, new building codes mandate stormwater retention capacity in large developments, and land use plans identify high-risk flood zones where development is restricted. Implementing city-level flood risk management master plans—completed for Tirana, Shkodër, Gjirokastër, with donor help—will require significant public funding in coming years. For instance, Tirana's master plan proposes upstream retention reservoirs costing tens of millions of dollars; only feasibility studies have been funded so far. Overall, domestic public spending on urban adaptation remains reactive and limited—one analysis estimated urban measures account for only ~9% of climate-related expenditures to date. However, awareness is growing.

Table 6. Budget Allocation for Urban Planning Adaptation Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024 (ALL)	2025 (ALL)	2026 (ALL)	2027 (ALL)	Total 2024–2027 (ALL)	Share (%)
Maritime and territorial planning for climate resilience: preparing for rising seas and changing environments						
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy	5,928,400,000	8,861,100,800	8,872,828,000	6,484,398,120	30,146,726,920	50.0
Strategic spatial planning for risk reduction: redirecting developments and managing surface water flood risks						
MIE	5898,000,000	8,847,000,000	8,847,000,000	5,898,000,000	29,490,000,000	48.9
Incentive schemes to increase extreme temperature resilience of the building stock						
MIE				537,452,520	537,452,520	0.9
Restoring green corridors: reforestation and urban greening initiatives						
MIE	21,510,000	22,725,000	23,965,200	23,740,200	91,940,400	0.2
Total						
					60,266,119,840	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy.

The Government of Albania has allocated a total of USD 707.82 million (ALL 60.27 billion) for adaptation measures in the urban planning sector for the period 2024 to 2027, managed by the Ministry of Environment. The funding is split between large-scale spatial planning and infrastructure measures, with smaller shares directed to building resilience and urban greening.

Half of the total budget (50%) is allocated to "Maritime and Territorial Planning for Climate Resilience: Preparing for Rising Seas and Changing Environments," with a total of ALL 30.15 billion. This measure focuses on strengthening planning systems to anticipate and manage the impacts of sea level rise and climate shifts, particularly in coastal and maritime regions.

Close behind, 48.9% of the budget, equivalent to ALL 29.49 billion, is allocated to "Strategic Spatial Planning for Risk Reduction: Redirecting Developments and Managing Surface Water Flood Risks." This intervention aims to enhance flood resilience through integrated land use planning, targeting areas vulnerable to urban flooding and unregulated development.

A smaller allocation of 0.9%, or ALL 537.5 million, is directed to "Incentive Schemes to Increase the Temperature Resilience of the Building Stock." This measure supports efforts to improve energy performance and heat resilience in buildings, particularly in urban heat-prone zones.

Lastly, 0.2% of the total budget, or ALL 91.9 million, is allocated to "Restoring Green Corridors: Reforestation and Urban Greening Initiatives." This measure promotes the integration of green infrastructure in urban areas to reduce heat island effects and enhance biodiversity.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

International financial institutions and donors are very active in supporting urban resilience in Albania. Major externally financed projects and initiatives include:

- World Bank – urban resilience projects: The World Bank has been a lead partner in urban development. While its past Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (IUTD) Project (~USD 63 million, 2017 to 2023) was tourism-focused, it financed urban infrastructure upgrades with adaptation co-benefits, such as improved drainage in Berat and riverfront flood defences in Gjirokastër. The World Bank is implementing a dedicated urban resilience project, to support Albanian municipalities. This project is likely to provide approximately USD 50 million for urban flood management, resilient infrastructure upgrades (e.g., storm drains, climate-proofed roads), and capacity building for city planners. In addition, the Bank has extended a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT-DDO) to Albania—a contingent credit line that can disburse funds for urgent infrastructure repairs after climate-related disasters. Although not a direct investment in adaptation, the CAT-DDO—part of a USD 12 million disaster risk loan—ensures quick financing for post-disaster recovery, including urban transport and utility repairs, which indirectly supports resilience.
- World Bank – National Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Modernization Program: This program is part of a broader effort to reform and modernize the water supply and sewerage (WSS) sector in the country. The program is aligned with Albania's National Water Supply and Sewerage Sector Strategy (NSS) for 2019–2030. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MiE) is driving this effort, with a focus on two major goals: improving the operational and financial performance of municipal water and sewerage services public joint-stock companies (WU), and increasing access to water supply in underserved areas, typically rural regions, where development has been historically neglected in favour of urban areas. The program's objectives include strengthening the incentives and capacities of national and local governments to improve water and sanitation services across Albania. It also aims to enhance accountability, ensure better allocation of state funds, and improve the efficiency of public spending in the sector. The program will use the Program-for-Results (PforR) financing model, which links disbursements directly to the achievement of specific results, such as:
    - strengthening policy instruments and institutional capacity at the national level,
    - improving operational performance and financial viability of WSS utilities, and
    - expanding access to clean water through new functional water supply connections.

In addition, the financing will include Investment Project Financing (IPF) to support activities like technical assistance, capacity building, and strengthening the capacities of sector institutions for better management, implementation, and monitoring of the program's results. The project has a total cost of USD 141.30 million, overseen by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and AKUM, funded by the World Bank with a commitment amount of USD 81.30 million, covering the period from 2020 to 2027 (World Bank, 2023).

- European Union – municipal infrastructure and green cities: The EU, through IPA programs and the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), has funded several urban infrastructure improvements with climate adaptation elements. For example, under IPA II the

EU financed a wastewater and stormwater improvement project in Lezhë, constructing modern drainage systems that alleviate urban flooding in the city. Under IPA III, the EU is prioritizing the Green Agenda, which includes making cities more sustainable and climate resilient. Several Albanian municipalities—Tirana, Durrës, and Vlora—are receiving EU support to develop "Smart City" plans incorporating nature-based solutions for flood control and heat mitigation. The WBIF has also approved technical assistance for a "Flood Risk Management in Urban Areas" program to bundle city-level investments for potential funding by EIB or EBRD. Furthermore, the EU, with EBRD, launched the Green Cities Program. Tirana joined and prepared a Green City Action Plan in 2018, identifying measures like increasing permeable surfaces and urban green spaces to reduce flooding. The EU and bilateral donors have provided grants for initial implementations of such measures, such as park expansions and tree planting in Tirana's suburbs.

- European Investment Bank (EIB): The EIB is considering a significant project—Flood Protection for Tirana—which is currently in pre-appraisal. It could provide approximately EUR 70 million to build upstream reservoirs and enhance Tirana's drainage capacity. If realized, this will directly address one of Tirana's biggest vulnerabilities: catastrophic floods from mountain runoff. The EIB has also been involved in advisory support, via JASPERS, to integrate climate resilience in urban transport projects.
- The EBRD, through its Green Cities program, financed Tirana's new bus terminal (~USD 10 million loan), which included green infrastructure to manage stormwater. EBRD also co-finances road rehabilitations with resilience components (see the Transport section below). While these are not huge sums, they exemplify IFIs' approach of embedding adaptation into broader urban investments. The EBRD and EIB are likely financing sources for future urban projects identified in Green City plans For example, Vlora or Durrës might seek loans for flood defences or coastal protection.
- UNDP and bilateral donors: With GCF readiness grants, UNDP assisted Tirana and other cities in integrating climate risks into urban development plans and piloted community-based adaptation micro-projects, like installing rainwater harvesting systems in schools and planting shade trees in heat-prone neighbourhoods. These readiness projects (~USD 0.1 to USD 0.3 million each) build local capacity to attract bigger funds. Bilateral donors have contributed as well. Switzerland supported Berat in developing a climate-informed territorial plan; Austria financed a small project on creating urban green belts for cooling. After severe floods in 2017, Japan donated pumps and emergency flood-response equipment to Albanian cities. These contributions, though not large financially, help build local capacity and demonstrate practical interventions, such as urban green infrastructure and emergency preparedness, that cities can replicate.
- Multi-sector climate projects: The GCF "ALBAdapt" project (EUR 34.82 million, approved 2022) deserves mention. While it is not solely urban (it is national in scope to improve climate services and early warning systems), it allocates significant resources to urban disaster risk preparedness, such as multi-hazard early warning systems for cities and improved hydro-meteorological data. It also supports nature-based solutions across urban and rural areas. About EUR 23 million is a GCF grant and the rest co-finance. As ALBAdapt is implemented

through 2028, it will indirectly bolster urban adaptation by strengthening forecasting for floods and heatwaves and fostering policies that engage the private sector in resilience.

By combining these sources, external funding flowing into urban adaptation is likely about USD 10+ million per year at present (not counting large one-off loans). For example, in 2022, donors and IFIs provided roughly USD 12 to USD 15 million in urban resilience investments from various grants and projects. This supplemented domestic spending which is still far below the approximately USD 180 million needed annually. With the new World Bank project and potential EIB loan, annual external support could increase to ~USD 30 to USD 40 million in the late 2020s, narrowing but not closing the gap. Much will hinge on accessing blended finance (mixing grants and loans) for expensive urban infrastructure; without it, cities alone cannot afford major protections.

Private Sector Contributions

The private sector's role in financing urban adaptation in Albania is growing but modest. Much of the urban infrastructure is public, yet private actors influence resilience through their development and operations. Key areas of private contribution include:

- Real estate developers in Tirana have, in a few instances, voluntarily included extra drainage or green roofs in upscale projects or elevated the ground floor above flood levels. These are not common, but as regulations tighten or market demand for resilient buildings grows, developers will invest more. In 2022, an estimated USD 1 million (equivalent) was spent by private developers on climate-proofing features beyond code requirements—based on a rough FNA team estimate from anecdotal data.
- Utilities sometimes invest in resilience. For example, the power distribution operator, though state-owned, is improving infrastructure with loan financing, but also some reinvested revenues. Water utilities could invest in back-up power or diversifying water sources to handle drought; some are exploring wells or interconnections.
- The insurance industry is not a direct investor in adaptation yet, but if insurance for climate risks like floods and property expands, insurers may incentivize or even finance risk reduction measures. This might include, for example, offering premium discounts if a factory raises flood barriers, or investing in municipal flood defences to reduce claims. Albania's insurance market is small, so there is future potential.
- Private retrofit investments: Owners of hotels, malls, or factories might invest in adaptation if they see a clear risk. For instance, one major mall in Tirana installed a larger drainage tank after a flood, and some hotels in coastal areas have put in protective berms or moved key equipment to higher floors after near-miss flooding events. These cases are isolated and generally in response to an event.

In summary, aside from compliance with building codes—which the government is strengthening for energy efficiency and seismic safety—private urban adaptation spending is modest, likely USD 1 to USD 2 million per year, and largely uncoordinated. We anticipate it will grow, especially if green building certification and corporate ESG pressure encourage companies to invest in resilience of their assets.

Tourism

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

The tourism sector in Albania currently has minimal direct public funding for climate adaptation. Adaptation considerations in tourism are relatively new, and there is no dedicated budget line for "tourism adaptation." The Ministry of Environment oversees tourism development, but most public spending is for general tourism promotion or infrastructure, with only indirect contributions to adaptation. The Government of Albania has allocated a total of ~USD 0.2 million (ALL 24.08 million) to climate adaptation measures in the tourism sector for the period from 2024 to 2027. The funding is divided between two main measures focused on coastal resilience and integrated management.

The majority of the budget, 88.5%, is allocated to "Protecting Coastal Zones: Integrated Regulations, Planning and Management for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development," with a total allocation of ALL 21.3 million. This measure supports the development and enforcement of regulatory frameworks and management plans designed to safeguard coastal tourism assets from climate impacts, while promoting sustainable development practices.

The remaining 11.5% of the budget, totaling ALL 2.78 million, is directed toward "Maritime and Territorial Planning for Climate Resilience: Preparing for Rising Seas and Changing Environments." This measure focuses on enhancing territorial planning capabilities to anticipate and manage the effects of rising sea levels and changing environmental conditions that threaten tourism infrastructure and coastal communities. Key relevant areas include:

- Tourism infrastructure and site management: Government invests in infrastructure to support tourism (access roads, visitor centres, beach maintenance, etc.). A small portion of these investments can be counted as adaptation related. For example, maintaining and upgrading coastal infrastructure has adaptation benefits. Recently, the Ministry of Infrastructure financed coastal protection works in popular beach areas, including a seawall in Durrës, primarily for erosion control, which also helps address sea-level rise and storm surge impacts. However, such projects are sporadic and are not part of any comprehensive adaptation program for tourism-they are usually undertaken in response to visible problems, such as erosion threatening a promenade, flooding at a resort, etc.
- Cultural heritage preservation: Albania's cultural heritage sites, including castles, archaeological ruins, and museums, are integral to tourism and are increasingly threatened by climate factors like heavy rainfall, humidity, and flooding. The Ministry of Culture allocates funds for preserving these sites. This sometimes involves adaptive actions. For instance, after intense rains, the Ministry funded drainage improvements at the Apollonia Archaeological Park to prevent water damage. There have also been plans to improve runoff management around UNESCO World Heritage sites like Butrint. These efforts, however, are generally small-scale maintenance and emergency repairs rather than systematic climate-proofing of cultural sites. They are not labeled as climate adaptation, and budgets are limited, addressing issues case-by-case.
- Tourism diversification and promotion: Thus far, virtually no public funding is earmarked specifically to adapt the tourism sector, such as shifting tourist activities to less climate-

vulnerable seasons or regions. Most tourism development funds go toward marketing Albania as a destination and improving services. One could argue that the government's push to promote mountain and cultural tourism in addition to coastal summer tourism indirectly spreads climate risk. By diversifying tourism offerings, the sector is less reliant on the hot summer beach season. But this diversification is driven by economic strategy and reducing overcrowding, not explicitly by climate adaptation concerns, and it is largely pursued through policy and marketing rather than large expenditures. For example, supporting eco-tourism or off-season tourism has not seen significant budget allocations; it has been more about regulatory support and small grants to local projects.

Table 7. Budget Allocation for Tourism Adaptation Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024–2027	Share (%)
Maritime and Territorial Planning for Climate Resilience: Preparing for Rising Seas and Changing Environments						
MoTE	7,320,000	6,824,199	6,824,199	6,824,199	27,792,597	11.5
Protecting Coastal Zones: Integrated Regulations, Planning and Management for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development						
MoTE	49,480,000	54,520,000	54,520,000	54,520,000	213,040,000	88.5
Total						
					240,832,597	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

Overall, public sector spending that directly targets climate adaptation in tourism remains very low—likely well under USD 1 million per year. Adaptation in this sector is mostly treated as a policy and planning issue, requiring integration of climate risk considerations into tourism strategies and site management protocols, which is low-cost. The newly adopted National Tourism Development Strategy 2024–2030 does incorporate climate resilience principles. While it does not have a dedicated "adaptation" chapter, it emphasizes sustainable destination management and infrastructure that supports resilience. The strategy calls for leveraging the Albanian Development Fund, Ministry budgets, local authorities, and international partners to invest in tourism infrastructure that also safeguards natural and cultural assets. It recognizes that improving and climate-proofing tourism sites, such as coastal areas and alpine trails, will require substantial resources and cross-sector collaboration. Notably, the strategy projects significant growth in tourism revenue--from EUR 4.16 billion in 2023 to EUR 6.7 billion by 2030--part of which could be reinvested into sustainable tourism development. For now, however, public adaptation investments in tourism are ad hoc, often part of infrastructure or cultural heritage projects rather than a coordinated effort under the tourism sector's budget.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

A few external projects have addressed tourism and climate adaptation jointly, although dedicated funding in this nexus is still nascent. Key donor-funded initiatives that include tourism adaptation components are:

- World Bank – Clean and Resilient Environment for Blue Sea Project: Approved in December 2023 with a total commitment of USD 80 million (2024 to 2030), this flagship project addresses the pressing issue of land-based pollution flowing into Albania's coastal and marine ecosystems. Its primary development objective is to reduce such pollution in selected areas along the South-West Coastal Belt, with a strong focus on the Vjosa River basin. The project is structured into three major components: (i) promoting integrated and circular approaches for protecting landscapes and water resources, including institutional support and behavioural change initiatives; (ii) expanding sanitation infrastructure and implementing pollution prevention measures in the Vjosa River; and (iii) ensuring strong project management, monitoring, and coordination through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) and the National Agency for Water, Sewage and Waste Infrastructure (AKUM). By combining environmental investments, circular economy principles, and institutional strengthening, the project contributes directly to climate adaptation, water security, and coastal resilience, with activities scheduled through March 2030.
- GEF/UNDP – Development of Albania's First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and Fifth National Communication (NC) to the UNFCCC: With an expected launch date in early 2025 and a project budget of USD 1.23 million, this initiative supports Albania's efforts to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement by improving its climate transparency and reporting framework. Implemented by UNDP in close coordination with MoTE and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the project aims to operationalize the enhanced transparency framework of the UNFCCC, improve the quality and consistency of climate data, and integrate climate considerations into national development planning. The project not only supports technical reporting (through the BTR and NC), but also strengthens institutional capacity, ensures compliance with international climate commitments, and lays the groundwork for informed climate governance in the years ahead.
- GEF – Achieving Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Resilience in the Albanian Alps: This USD 10.1 million project targets the ecologically significant Alps of Albania National Park in the northern mountainous region, focusing on biodiversity protection, sustainable park management, and resilience to climate change. It is implemented with a combination of GEF financing and substantial national and local co-financing from MoTE, the National Agency of Protected Areas, Tropoja municipality, and other stakeholders. The project is divided into three components: (i) creating an enabling environment and adaptive planning tools for managing the park; (ii) enhancing practical conservation efforts through stakeholder training, enforcement, and economic diversification (e.g., through cultural tourism and sustainable livelihoods); and (iii) capturing and scaling up lessons learned to improve Albania's entire protected area (PA) system. While not urban per se, the project's governance, planning, and climate adaptation mechanisms are highly relevant for upland communities and peri-urban areas adjacent to protected landscapes.
- GEF – Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Coastal Development and Tourism Planning: Active from August 2023 to July 2027, this USD 9.86 million initiative aims to embed biodiversity protection within the frameworks of coastal tourism development, a sector that plays a vital economic role in Albania. The project promotes biodiversity-friendly planning, ensures environmental safeguards are respected in tourism expansion, and enhances institutional capacities at national and municipal levels. Co-financed by UNDP and the National Agency of

Protected Areas (NAPA), it supports the development of policies, tools, and best practices to guide sustainable land use and tourism investments. By aligning tourism development with conservation goals, it mitigates risks to fragile coastal ecosystems and contributes to long-term environmental sustainability and urban resilience in coastal municipalities.

- UNESCO/Italy – heritage climate risk management: Recognizing the vulnerability of cultural heritage to climate change, UNESCO, with funding from Italy launched a small initiative assessing climate risks to World Heritage Sites in the Balkans, including sites like Butrint. This project (valued <USD 1 million) mostly produced studies and risk assessments. While it did not finance physical interventions, it laid groundwork for future investments to climate-proof cultural heritage, such as improved site drainage, protective shelters, and conservation techniques suited to changing conditions). Protecting historical monuments from climate impacts is crucial for sustaining cultural tourism in the long term.
- Regional initiatives (EBRD, etc.): At a conceptual level, the EBRD has proposed a regional platform for climate resilience in the tourism sector. If launched, such a platform could provide technical assistance or credit lines to private tourism operators (hotels, resorts) for adaptation measures—for example, grants or loans to install water-saving systems, more efficient cooling, or shore protection for beachfront properties. Though not yet active, it signals donor interest in engaging the private tourism industry on adaptation. Additionally, Albania can tap into Western Balkans regional programs for sustainable tourism that incorporate climate considerations.
- Other donors: There is potential for donors focused on economic growth to integrate climate risk advisory services for tourism SMEs. Also, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has funded adaptation planning and climate reporting projects executed by the Ministry of Environment (e.g., support for national communications to the UNFCCC), which indirectly benefits the tourism sector by strengthening national capacity to plan for climate impacts.

In summary, donor-funded adaptation efforts targeting tourism remain limited, and often piggyback on environmental or urban projects. In financial terms, if we count the USD 80 million Blue Sea Project, the ~USD 10 million GEF coastal project, plus smaller projects, roughly USD 90 to USD 100 million of international funds from 2025 to 2030 have components supporting climate resilience. However, these are largely environmental projects justified by multiple benefits—with tourism being one. No major climate infrastructure—like seawalls specifically for resorts—is funded yet, presumably because Albania's tourism adaptation challenges are being tackled through planning and ecosystem approaches first. If coastal erosion or flooding worsens, we may see dedicated tourism adaptation investments (e.g., protecting specific cultural heritage sites or beach zones) in the 2030s. For now, donors appear to favour "no-regret" measures, such as better coastal management or diversification to eco-tourism, that yield resilience benefits without heavy concrete infrastructure.

Private Sector Contributions

The tourism industry in Albania—comprising hotels, resorts, tour operators, and other businesses—will ultimately need to invest in adaptation measures to protect their assets and clientele. To date, private sector adaptation investment in tourism is ad-hoc and limited, generally driven by immediate needs after climate-related events. Some examples of emerging private contributions include:

- Some coastal resort operators have funded small protective measures, such as planting vegetation to stabilize dunes in front of their property, or reinforcing a seawall after storm damage. There's also an example of a ski resort planting trees upslope to reduce avalanche risk, an adaptation to changing snow patterns.
- The arrival of big international investors like an international hotel chain might have corporate standards for resilience. They may insist on certain elevation above flood level, or backup water supply for times of drought. This indirectly drives private adaptation investment.
- The tourism strategy is expected to mainstream climate risks, meaning new tourism development proposals might be required to include adaptation measures. If that happens, the private sector will bear those costs as part of doing business.

Currently, private spending in tourism adaptation is negligible and hard to quantify—perhaps limited to maintenance of facilities during extreme weather such as extra beach nourishment or installing shade nets for heat. But as climate impacts become more evident (say, a major beach hotel gets flooded), private stakeholders may step up investments to protect their revenue streams. Public policy can also play a role: if authorities start requiring climate risk assessments for tourism development permits or offer incentives for resilient design, it would prompt greater private investment.

Energy

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

The energy sector in Albania is largely state influenced: electricity transmission and distribution are state-run; generation is a mix of public and private. However, public spending explicitly for climate adaptation in energy is not well-defined.

Medium-Term Budget Program (2024–2027)

The Government of Albania has allocated about ALL 15.4 billion to energy sector adaptation measures for the period 2024 to 2027. This funding is managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and is distributed across four targeted intervention areas.

The overwhelming majority, 93.5% of the total budget, is allocated to the measure "Optimizing Renewable Energy for Resilient Systems: Grid Innovation and Storage Investments," which receives a total of ALL 14,239,071,000. This measure supports the promotion of renewable energy systems in climate-vulnerable areas, with a particular emphasis on critical infrastructure and public facilities. It also includes territorial targeting of municipalities facing high exposure to climate risks, particularly in mountainous and remote areas.

The second largest allocation, ALL 993,552,586 or 6.5% of the budget, supports "Protecting Energy Infrastructure against Strong Winds: Rehabilitating Substations and Transmission Lines." This measure focuses on assessing vulnerabilities and implementing technical designs to reinforce energy transmission infrastructure against extreme wind events.

Table 8. Budget Allocation for Energy Climate Adaptation Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024–2027	Share of total (%)
Protecting Energy Infrastructure against Strong Winds: Rehabilitating Substations and Transmission Lines						
MIE		500,000,000	393,552,586	100,000,000	993,552,586	6.5
Enhancing Building Efficiency: Energy Performance Certificates and Resilient Standards						
MIE	32,354,400	32,800,000	33,600,000	33,600,000	132,354,400	0.9
Enhancing Heatwave Resilience through Efficient Air Conditioning Technology Deployment and Climate Refuges						
MIE	5845,000	5,766,200	0	0	11,611,200	0.1
Optimizing Renewable Energy for Resilient Systems: Grid Innovation and Storage Investments						
MIE	4,109,071,000	3,410,000,000	3,360,000,000	3,360,000,000	14,239,071,000	93.5
Total						
					15,376,589,186	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

A smaller portion (ALL 132,354,400 or 0.9%) of the budget, is dedicated to "Enhancing Building Efficiency: Energy Performance Certificates and Resilient Standards." This measure aims to strengthen national frameworks for classifying and certifying building energy performance, thereby promoting long-term adaptation in the built environment.

The lowest-funded measure is "Enhancing Heatwave Resilience through Efficient Air Conditioning Deployment and Climate Refugees," which receives ALL 11,611,200, representing 0.1% of the sector's total. This initiative provides support for deploying efficient cooling technologies in municipalities most exposed to heat extremes, focusing on vulnerable populations as identified in local adaptation plans.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

International financial institutions (IFIs) and donors provide critical support for strengthening Albania's energy sector resilience. Key externally funded initiatives include:

- The World Bank, co-financed by Germany's KfW, funded the Dam Safety Rehabilitation Project (2010s) which invested about USD 35 million to upgrade Albania's largest hydroelectric dams on the Drin River. This project, completed in 2019, addressed structural weaknesses and installed advanced monitoring, significantly improving the dams' ability to handle extreme floods. Building on that, the World Bank and KfW are considering a new Hydropower Climate Resilience Upgrade project to further strengthen climate readiness of hydropower operations. This potential ~USD 20 million package would fund state-of-the-art hydrological forecasting systems, updated spillway gates, and integration of climate projections into dam management for KESH. If approved, it would mark a direct investment in adapting the core generation assets to future climate conditions.

- World Bank – The Second Resilience and Green Development – DPL (P180679) project, financed with a total of USD 120 million, focuses on strengthening Albania's climate resilience and promoting green development. The financing supports reforms aimed at expanding the tax base and integrating climate-related performance indicators into the Medium-Term Budget Process, with the goal of aligning fiscal policies with climate objectives. It also funds the establishment of a Social Fund to improve social services and reduce poverty. This DPL—and its series—aims to strengthen institutional and financial frameworks for climate action, including adaptation in energy by encouraging better risk management by the energy utility and diversifying energy sources. While the USD 120 million itself goes to government coffers, its triggers and results include adaptation milestones
- EBRD – Power Distribution Modernization: In 2021, EBRD extended a EUR 70 million "Distribution System Upgrade" loan to OSHEE (the distribution company). This project focuses on reducing technical losses and upgrading substations; part of it is specifically to automate grid management and install sturdier equipment that can better withstand climate stresses. Approximately USD 8 million per year is disbursed under this loan, and these enhancements (smart grid components, improved transformers) make the urban electricity network less prone to outages during extreme weather. The EBRD's overall portfolio in Albania (EBRD Albania Country Strategy 2025–2030 – EUR 1.1 billion across 66 projects) increasingly has Green Economy Transition (GET) components. For instance, EBRD helped finance the Karavasta solar plant (EUR 29 million) and Floating PV plant (EUR 9 million) for KESH. These projects contribute to adaptation by reducing reliance on hydropower, hence improving energy security during droughts.
- The EU, through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), will continue to provide grants and guarantees, while bilateral donors such as Switzerland, Austria, and Italy are offering technical cooperation grants for project preparation. For instance, the EU provided grants toward regional energy interconnectors (transmission lines linking Albania with neighbours) which improve Albania's ability to import electricity during domestic droughts, thus adapting to hydropower shortfalls. The WBIF has supported the preparation of Albania's Gas Master Plan and power sector decarbonization strategies, which indirectly contribute to resilience by diversifying energy sources (although gas is a fossil fuel, having multiple sources can hedge against climate-induced hydro shortfalls). Moreover, the EU's Green Agenda for the Balkans includes assistance for integrated water management and flood control that benefits hydropower operations—for example, better upstream land management reduces sedimentation in reservoirs. The EU Economic and Investment Plan is also funding a floating solar plant at Vau i Dejës, mentioned in the WBIF context as a way to diversify generation.
- EIB – Climate-Resilient Network Investments: The European Investment Bank is evaluating support for Albania's power transmission system specifically targeting climate resilience. One proposal under review is an EIB loan for a "Climate-Resilient Electricity Network Modernization" focusing on coastal and mountainous transmission lines that suffer from wind, icing, and landslide risks. If this materializes by the late 2020s, it could bring significant capital (perhaps EUR 50 – EUR 100 million) to relocate or reinforce lines in high-risk areas—a direct adaptation investment. Such a project would finance measures like relocating lines away from high-risk cliffs, adding redundancies (looped networks) to handle outages, and strengthening pylons in wind-prone coastal zones. While still in concept stage, EIB's

engagement signals increasing attention to hardening energy infrastructure against climate threats. Meanwhile, as part of the EU's WBIF, the EIB funded a Climate Risk Assessment for Energy Infrastructure in the Western Balkans, which highlighted vulnerabilities in Albania such as transmission lines in landslide-prone mountain areas. Findings from this study are feeding into investment plans (including potentially the above-mentioned loan).

- Renewable energy expansion (solar and wind auctions): While primarily mitigation-oriented, the push to diversify Albania's electricity generation with solar and wind also improves climate resilience by reducing reliance on rainfall. The EBRD and EU have supported Albania's competitive auctions for solar and wind farms--technical assistance and some co-financing were provided. Notable projects include the Karavasta solar plant (140 MW) which received EUR 29 million in EBRD co-financing and a planned floating solar plant by KESH (auction supported by EBRD, with some concessional financing). By 2024, over 750 MW of solar and wind capacity have been tendered with international support. This influx of renewables will, in adaptation terms, reduce vulnerability to drought (sun and wind being complementary to hydro). Donors like the EU also funded grid studies to ensure the network can integrate these new sources (e.g., flexible grid operation to handle variability), which is part of making the overall energy system more robust against climate extremes.
- Bilateral support and technical assistance: Various bilateral partners contribute through grants or expertise. For example, the French development agency (AFD) contributes to Albania's climate adaptation efforts through its "Resilience and Green Development" program, launched in April 2024. This initiative includes a EUR 120 million policy-based loan, with a duration of 12 years (April 12, 2024 to April 12, 2036, and an EUR 800,000 technical assistance grant, which aligns with Albania's European Union accession objectives and its Green Agenda. Austria and Switzerland have offered training programs for energy regulators on climate-proofing energy investments. Japan (JICA) has assisted with hydrological monitoring improvements post-drought. While these do not involve large funding flows, they enhance institutional capacity to plan and implement adaptation measures in the energy sector.

International finance in energy has thus far been a mix of loans for infrastructure (~USD 100+ million) and policy support. Taking into account the EBRD loan (EUR 70 million), a potential EIB loan, the dam safety project (EUR 35 million), the upcoming projects of KFW and other donors (EUR 20 million), and an estimated EUR 10 – EUR 15 million in grants and technical assistance, total external financing in the 2020s could amount to roughly USD 200 to USD 250 million, directly or indirectly supporting energy adaptation. This is not insignificant, but relative to the USD 1.96 billion needed, more will be necessary, particularly for expensive items like widespread grid hardening and new storage solutions. Mobilizing climate-specific funds (e.g., GCF could potentially support energy storage as adaptation) or carbon market finance for diversifying generation could supplement bank lending.

Private Sector Contributions

The energy sector does have private actors—independent power producers (IPPs) operate some small hydropower plants and solar farms, and a distribution grid concession existed in the past (OSHEE is now public). Their role in adaptation includes:

- Hydropower IPPs: Many small HPPs have faced issues with sediment buildup from intense rainfall events. Some have collectively spent on dredging and catchment improvements to keep their plants operational. We estimate roughly USD 0.5 million collectively was spent by small HPP operators in one recent year on such measures.
- Industrial energy users, such as mines and factories, often invest in backup generators or solar panels with storage to ensure continuity during power outages, which might worsen with climate extremes. This can be seen as adaptation (energy security). Some large firms have installed multi-million-dollar systems for energy self-sufficiency, especially after the 2017 drought caused power cuts. We estimate that USD 0.5 million+ per year was spent by various industries doing this, though not labeled adaptation.
- Renewable energy developers consider climate risk. For instance, wind farm developers design turbines to withstand stronger winds; solar farm operators might invest in cooling systems or cleaning for dust during droughts. These are included in project costs but reflect private sector actors adapting to anticipated conditions.

Overall, the energy private sector contributes an estimated ~USD 1 million per year directly to adaptation. But indirectly, much more is happening via investments in diversifying generation—often privately led auctions for solar and wind—which bolster resilience at a systemic level. Key opportunities to increase the private sector's role include public-private partnerships for resilient energy infrastructure (e.g., jointly investing in grid improvements), developing insurance/derivative markets for climate risks in energy, and encouraging energy service companies (ESCOs) to offer resilience upgrades (e.g., flood-proofing of substation equipment and cooling systems for data centers) as part of their services. Policy-makers note that if climate resilience criteria are embedded in regulations (e.g., licensing requirements for IPPs to have certain safety measures), the private sector will comply and finance those measures. Thus, much like in urban development, regulation and market signals will drive private adaptation investment in energy moving forward.

Transport

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

In Albania's transport sector (roads, rail, ports, aviation), climate adaptation spending is mostly embedded in standard maintenance and upgrade programs, with few dedicated line items. The Government of Albania has allocated a total of ALL 14.24 billion to adaptation measures in the transportation sector for the period 2024 to 2027, managed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. The budget is concentrated predominantly on large-scale infrastructure resilience projects.

The vast majority of funds, approximately 95.4%, or ALL 13.58 billion, are dedicated to "Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Transport: Funding Climate-Resilient Transport Infrastructure." This measure supports the development and enhancement of transport infrastructure capable of withstanding climate-related stresses, ensuring long-term functionality and connectivity of key transport corridors.

A smaller share, 4.2%, amounting to ALL 605 million, is allocated to "Regular Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Definition of Resilience-Building Measures for Road Infrastructure." This measure focuses

on continuous assessment of climate risks and the development of targeted strategies to enhance road infrastructure resilience.

Table 9. Budget Allocation for Transport Climate Adaptation Measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024–2027	Share (%)
Regular Vulnerability and Risk Analysis and Definition of Resilience-Building Measures for Road Infrastructure						
MIE	605,071,000	596,910,000	596,910,000	604,910,000	605,071,000	4.2
Adapting Critical Transport Infrastructure: Advanced Risk Assessment and Resilient Design Solutions						
MIE		50,000,000	10,000,000	50,000,000	50,000,000	0.4
Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Transport: Funding Climate-Resilient Transport Infrastructure						
MIE	3,504,000,000	3,360,000,000	3,360,000,000	3,360,000,000	13,584,000,000	95.4
Total						
					14,239,071,000	

Source: Medium-Term Budget Program 2024–2027, sector budget programs of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy.

An additional 0.4%, approximately ALL 50 million, is assigned to "Adapting Critical Transport Infrastructure: Advanced Risk Assessment and Resilient Design Solutions," aimed at introducing cutting-edge risk assessment methodologies and resilient design standards for critical transport assets.

In summary, domestic public spending targeting transport adaptation is limited and mostly reactive. Maintenance budgets do help adapt infrastructure incrementally (fixing and upgrading weak points), but proactive large-scale adaptation projects—like major flood defences for roads or climate-proofing entire corridors—have been few. Adaptation is just beginning to be explicitly factored into the design of new transport investments, partly due to donor requirements and updated engineering codes. The National Transport Strategy 2021–2026 acknowledges climate change and calls for "resilient infrastructure" as a guiding principle, which is a significant step. This means future road and rail projects funded by the government should integrate adaptation features by default. The strategy also suggests developing a pipeline of projects to address known vulnerabilities (e.g., raising frequently flooded road segments and improving mountain road stability against landslides). However, until a dedicated funding mechanism, such as a Climate Resilient Infrastructure Fund, is established, much of this will depend on leveraging external funds or reallocating existing budgets. Presently, Albania continues to rely on emergency repairs and donor-funded upgrades to handle climate impacts on transport, highlighting a need for more systematic domestic financing for resilience.

Summary of Donor-Funded and Externally Financed Projects

The transport sector has benefited from large-scale investments by international financial institutions and the EU. Many of these projects increasingly integrate climate resilience components:

- European Investment Bank (EIB) & Team Europe – rail modernization: A flagship project is the modernization and electrification of the Vorë–Hani i Hotit railway line. In 2023, the EIB signed a EUR 100 million loan as part of a Team Europe package to fund this 120 km rail upgrade. The EU, through WBIF, provided a further EUR 126 million as a grant, and EBRD added a EUR 98.8 million loan, making it a heavily donor-financed project. Climate resilience is a feature: the project includes stabilizing embankments in flood-prone areas, improving drainage along tracks, and modernizing signaling systems to be more resilient to extreme heat. This railway, linking central Albania to Montenegro's border, will be built to EU standards, which inherently incorporate robust resilience criteria. The EIB (through its Climate Bank Roadmap) and partners also gave technical assistance (via JASPERS program) to ensure the project meets sustainability and climate adaptation goals. This is a prime example of donor-driven adaptation integration into a transport project. In Albania, significant investments have been made in the renovation of railway lines, specifically between Vorë and the Montenegro border. This is part of a broader regional effort to improve the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and is supported by a loan signed in 2024. The renovation project will unlock EUR 161 million in grants, which are being channeled through the Western Balkans Investment Framework. This project aims to increase railway capacity, improve efficiency, and enhance safety, aligning with the broader objectives of promoting sustainable and multimodal transport solutions. By improving the railway infrastructure, the EIB is helping facilitate a shift from road-based transport to more sustainable, environmentally friendly alternatives. This transformation is crucial for reducing carbon emissions and enhancing the overall resilience of the transport system in Albania and the broader region.
- European Union – road rehabilitation grants: The EU, often via the WBIF, has provided grants for specific road improvements that address climate risks. One example is an EU-funded "Resilient Roads" grant focused on the Lezhë–Shkodër highway, which frequently floods. A grant of about EUR 10 million was used over 2020 to 2023 to elevate road sections and install better culverts, reducing flood closures. This equates to roughly USD 3.5 million per year of grant disbursement in that period. The EU has also supported technical studies for landslide risk management on mountain roads—especially along Corridor VIII segments in eastern Albania—prepping projects for further funding. The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) has been key in blending EU grants with IFI loans to ensure new transport projects meet EU climate resilience standards.
- EU – The Economic and Investment Plan (EIP), launched in 2020, is a major initiative aimed at mobilizing up to EUR 30 billion for the Western Balkans by 2027, in collaboration with international financial institutions. Out of 227 strategic projects under the plan, 29 are fully funded, with 100% of the financing guaranteed, focusing on sectors such as sustainable transport, renewable energy, climate resilience, and regional cooperation under the EU's Green Agenda. However, there is a significant financing gap of 89% for the remaining projects. Specifically for Albania, the European Union has already mobilized EUR 1.4 billion in investments, which includes EUR 470 million in grants. This funding is directed toward key infrastructure projects such as the rehabilitation of the Vorë-Hani i Hotit railway line, including upgrades to train stations, signaling systems, and safety improvements. Additionally, part of the investment is allocated to the installation of a floating solar photovoltaic power plant at Vau i Dejës to support Albania's transition to more sustainable energy sources. Albania

received EUR 476.8 million in grants from 2008 to 2025, with EUR 410.2 million allocated for investment grants and EUR 66.6 million for technical assistance. These grants support estimated investments totaling EUR 4.7 billion, which encompass rail and road transport, renewable energy and energy efficiency, electricity transmission, gas interconnectors, water supply and sanitation, flood protection, schools and health facilities, broadband connectivity, digital school infrastructure, and high-performance computing.

- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) – road and urban transport: The EBRD has financed several road and urban transport initiatives in Albania. While not labeled adaptation projects, they contain resilience elements. For instance, EBRD co-financed major road rehabilitations like portions of Tirana's Outer Ring Road and rural connections, where projects included improved stormwater drainage and slope stabilization as part of the works (typically ~5% of the loan used for such features). EBRD also facilitated a Green City urban transport investment (Tirana's new bus terminal, ~ USD 10 million loan) which incorporated green infrastructure to manage rainfall runoff. Moreover, EBRD and EIB are evaluating flood protection infrastructure for Tirana (as noted earlier, a potential EUR 70 million project for reservoirs and drainage). Although this is targeted at flood control, it directly safeguards transport networks in Tirana from flood disruptions and can be seen as a transport resilience measure too.
- World Bank – climate adaptation policy loans: While the World Bank hasn't recently financed a major transport infrastructure build in Albania, it has extended policy-based loans that impact the sector. Notably, a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (CAT-DDO) of USD 12 million (approved in 2021) provides contingent funding for post-disaster needs, including transport infrastructure recovery. This mechanism, financed under a Disaster Risk Management DPL, ensures that if a flood or landslide hits critical roads or bridges, funds can be quickly drawn to fix them. It is a financial tool rather than a physical project, but it supports adaptation by improving Albania's responsiveness. The World Bank is also providing analytical support on transport resilience, including vulnerability assessments for key road corridors as part of climate change country diagnostics. It is anticipated that the Bank could invest in resilient transport in the future under its climate programs, but as of now direct World Bank-funded climate-adaptive transport projects in Albania are limited.
- Other bilaterals and initiatives: The Japanese government (JICA) has helped with specific resilience aspects, such as providing equipment and training for landslide monitoring along highway routes in mountainous areas following a series of landslides in 2018. Italy's development cooperation contributed to improving drainage in the Tirana-Durrës highway corridor through a soft loan in the mid-2010s. Additionally, the Greening Financial Systems program by EIB Global offers advisory services to Albania's financial sector to direct more capital into sustainable and resilient infrastructure projects. This indirectly benefits transport by helping structure projects that can attract green financing, including for resilient transport infrastructure.

In sum, the transport sector has seen hundreds of millions of donor funds for new infrastructure, such as rail and major roads, with adaptation mainstreamed in design rather than separate standalone adaptation projects. An estimated USD 10 to USD 15 million per year of the disbursed funds in transport can be attributed to climate adaptation components (like the additional cost for drainage,

slope protection, etc.). Current spending on transport resilience by donors is roughly USD 20 to USD 25 million per year, versus the ~USD 135 million needed. The gap is huge, but there is momentum: every new EU/IFI transport project is now an opportunity to incorporate resilience. Recognizing this, the government has created a Road Maintenance Fund, funded by fuel tax revenues, which it could consider explicitly earmarking in part for climate adaptation upgrades. Also, the proposed Climate Adaptation Fund could direct some money to transport, especially local infrastructure resilience. Meanwhile, any increase in government capital spending on transport, through loans or budget, needs to mainstream adaptation. The idea of a Climate Resilient Infrastructure Fund could pool donor and state money specifically for upgrading existing transport assets to climate-resilient standards. This could be a game-changer if realized, providing a structured way to finance the backlog of road adaptation needs through blended finance.

Private Sector Contributions

The transport sector is predominantly public in Albania, but private actors do contribute in certain areas, especially via maintenance concessions and operations. Key private sector roles include:

- The Milot–Morine highway concession: the private operator has installed rockfall netting and stabilized slopes to reduce landslide closures, thereby protecting toll revenue. These measures likely cost a few hundred thousand dollars, funded from toll income.
- Airport and port operators: Tirana International Airport (managed by a private consortium) upgraded its drainage system after some runway flooding incidents—a private expenditure for adaptation. Port operators in Durrës and elsewhere (often public-private partnerships) invest in maintenance of breakwaters and dredging to handle more frequent storms.
- Logistics companies: While they don't build infrastructure, they do adapt operations, for example, by. rescheduling deliveries around weather. If disruptions become severe, they might lobby or co-fund improvements on crucial routes. For example, mining companies might help co-finance road strengthening if landslides routinely block export routes, although there is no major case of this yet in Albania.

The private contribution in transport adaptation is low but not zero. Perhaps USD 1 to USD 2 million per year in value can be attributed to concessionaire investments and maintenance geared toward resilience. The important factor is contractual: Albania can require future PPPs to include climate adaptation investments (ensuring private partners share the burden of resilient design and maintenance). Still, the responsibility for climate-proofing transport lies mainly with public authorities. The private sector's role will likely remain supportive and driven by specific concession agreements or self-interest in maintaining business continuity on public routes.

Cross-Sectoral Adaptation Measures

Overview of Current Public Sector Spending/Committed to Adaptation

The Government of Albania has allocated a total of approximately ALL 1.68 billion to climate change adaptation measures for the period 2024 to 2027, primarily managed by the Ministry of Environment, with some activities jointly supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The

budget focuses heavily on enhancing climate resilience through improved data systems and risk management.

Table 10. Budget allocation for cross-sectoral climate adaptation measures under the MTBP 2024–2027 (ALL)

Institution	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024–2027	Share (%)
Strengthening Regional Resilience: Supporting the Western Balkans Adaptation Roadmap						
MoTE	0	213,333	1,600,000	2,133,333	3,946,667	0.2
Optimizing Climate Coordination: Strengthening the IMWGCC Framework						
MoTE	2,166,250	1,836,000	0	0	4,002,250	0.2
Enhancing Climate Resilience Through Improved Data Systems						
MoTE/IGJEO	0	10,575,643	5,000,000	1,381,151,065	1,396,726,708	83.0
Nature-based Solutions and Biodiversity Net Gain Developer Schemes						
MoTE		10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	30,000,000	1.8
Fostering Climate Resilience Awareness Raising and Training for Adaptation and Mitigation						
MoTE	349,000	1,622,000	900,000	900,000	3,771,000	0.2
Piloting Risk Management Assessments for Climate-Resilient Businesses						
MoTE				234,818,379	234,818,379	14.0
Promoting Gender-Sensitive Climate Adaptation: Training Stakeholders and Developing Inclusive Tools						
MoTE & MARD	1,320,000	1,360,000	1,400,000	200,000	4,280,000	0.3
Educating Communities: Adaptation and disaster awareness-raising						
MoTE	0	1,651,000	1,651,000	1,651,000	4,953,000	0.3
Total						
					1,682,498,004	

The vast majority of funds, about 83%, or roughly ALL 1.4 billion, are dedicated to "Enhancing climate resilience through improved data systems." This measure supports the development of advanced data infrastructure and monitoring tools to strengthen climate adaptation planning and decision-making capabilities.

A significant allocation of 14% (approximately ALL 235 million) is assigned to "Piloting risk management assessments," aimed at implementing innovative methodologies to identify and manage climate-related risks effectively.

Other nature-based solutions receive a smaller but consistent share of 1.8%, totaling ALL 30 million, under "Nature-based solutions and Biodiversity Net Gain Developer Schemes," supporting ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation.

The remaining budget is distributed among various measures such as "Strengthening Regional Resilience: Supporting the Western Balkans Adaptation Roadmap," "Optimizing Climate Coordination," and "Fostering Climate Resilience Awareness Raising and Training," each receiving under 1% of the total funds.

Additional investments target climate-resilient business practices and community education, jointly managed by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with about 0.6% of the budget dedicated to gender-sensitive adaptation training and disaster awareness-raising.

4.3 Case Studies per Sector

4.3.1 Agriculture

Box 2. Albania – Agricultural climate adaptation context

Most costs for agricultural adaptation (irrigation, terraces, disaster support) are already covered in the **Medium-Term Budget (MTB) 2024–2027.** Public funding remains limited and largely indirect.

Public Sector Spending MTB 2024–2027

- Total allocation: ~$43.17 million (ALL 3.71 billion), managed by the MARD
- Distribution:
  - ~95% (~$40.96 million): on-farm, climate-resilient infrastructure (irrigation, terraces)
  - 4%–5% (~$1.69 million): disaster recovery compensation
  - Minor allocations: invasive species (~$140,000) and coastal climate risk (~$3.7 million)

Donor Support

- **EU – IPARD III**: $160.53 million for farm modernization, irrigation, soil, climate resilience
- **EU water and infrastructure projects**: EUR 7.5–8.8 million for flood/drought management
- **World Bank climate resilience and agriculture**: $70 million loan (2023–2028), $8 million/year
- **World Bank – dam safety and irrigation**: ~$1.61 million (~200,000 farms)
- **Green Climate Fund**: climate-smart agriculture pilots, climate information services

Private Sector Contributions

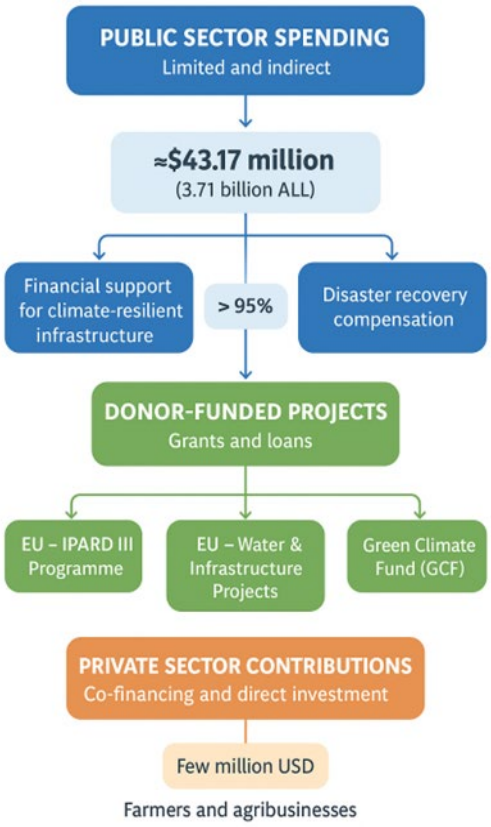
- Farmers co-finance 40%–50% of grant-supported projects
- Agribusiness investment is limited but incentivizable
- Current private adaptation investment: a few million U.S. dollars/year

Key Takeaways

- Public sector adaptation funding is largely infrastructure-focused and reactive.
- Donor finance provides most dedicated support (~$15–$20 million/year).
- Private contributions are modest but crucial.
- Funding gaps remain significant; sustained monitoring is essential to ensure NAP2 objectives are met.

Source: National Adaptation Plan of Albania 2026-2036.

Figure 5. Case study for agriculture sector



Source: National Adaptation Plan of Albania 2026-2036.

Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (CRAD)

The Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (CRAD) is a flagship, ongoing national initiative supporting the integration of climate change adaptation into Albania's agricultural sector. The project is financed by the World Bank and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the objective of increasing agricultural competitiveness while strengthening climate resilience across value chains and institutions.

A key achievement of CRAD is the systematic application of climate-smart agriculture practices through targeted investments and policy support. The project has successfully promoted more efficient use of water, land, and agricultural inputs, contributing to increased productivity and reduced post-harvest losses under increasingly variable climate conditions. This integrated approach—linking productivity gains with adaptation objectives—has proven effective and offers a replicable model for other climate-sensitive sectors.

Another major success is the modernization and rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, which has significantly improved water management in agricultural areas exposed to floods and droughts. By combining infrastructure rehabilitation with improved irrigation technologies, CRAD has enhanced water security and long-term farm productivity. This investment model demonstrates how climate-resilient infrastructure can deliver sustained adaptation benefits while supporting rural economic development.

CRAD has also strengthened institutional capacities at national and local levels by supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, technical agencies, and municipalities in climate-informed planning, monitoring, and policy implementation. The project has contributed to improved data systems, analytical tools, and decision-making processes, reinforcing evidence-based adaptation planning aligned with national green development priorities. This institutional strengthening is a critical enabling factor for scaling and replicating adaptation measures beyond the agricultural sector.

Box 3. Albania – River basin management plans context

Albania has made significant progress in developing River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) through coordinated donor support aligned with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Over the past decade, several major programs have provided the financial resources, technical expertise, and institutional strengthening necessary to draft, update, and implement RBMPs across the country.

This combined assistance has helped Albania advance its legal framework, improve monitoring systems, and generate the analytical foundations needed for effective, EU-compliant basin management.

Key project contributions to RBMP drafting:

- Project on Water Resources and Irrigation in Albania – PROJECT DURATION 2012–2020 GEF, WB, UNDP – (4.294 M EUR): Drafted the National Strategy for the Integrated Management of Water Resources, as well as the first cycle of the Seman and Drin–Buna River Basin Management Plans.
- EU Support for Integrated Water Management in Albania – PROJECT DURATION 2018–2023 EU, ADA – (EUSIWM – 3.1 M EUR): Improved the legal framework in line with EU WFD requirements, prepared the RBMPs for the Ishëm–Erzen–Mat River Basin, and conducted the Preliminary Analysis for the Vjosa River Basin to support the initial RBMP cycle.
- EU4Rivers – PROJECT DURATION 2023–2028 EU, ADA – (8.8 M EUR): Strengthens the IWM legal and institutional framework, provides expert support to update and draft RBMPs for all basins, enhances monitoring and reporting systems that supply essential RBMP data, and supports basin-level implementation and stakeholder consultation processes.

A significant amount of effort has been mobilized from 2012 to 2028 to support Albania's work on RBMP drafting and implementation. The resulting progress—new basin plans, strengthened institutions, enhanced monitoring systems, and improved legal and economic frameworks—places Albania in a strong position to deliver fully EU-compliant RBMPs. With continued support through EU4Rivers, Albania is now better equipped than ever to manage its water resources sustainably and meet WFD obligations.

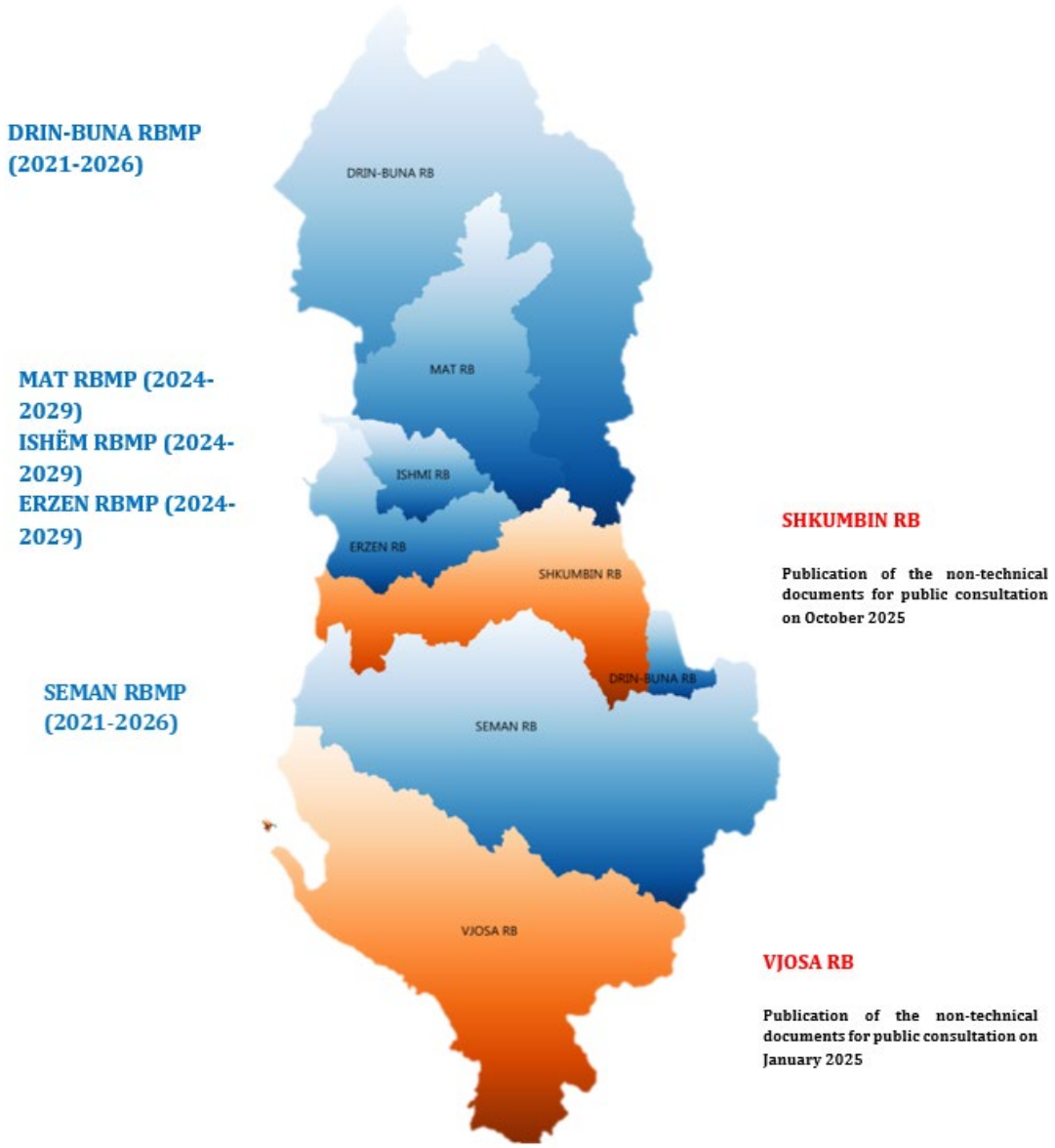
Source: National Adaptation Plan of Albania 2026-2036.

In addition, the project has supported rural infrastructure and sustainable agricultural value chains, improving farmers' access to markets while reducing transport distances, losses, and environmental impacts. By integrating economic efficiency with climate resilience, CRAD illustrates how adaptation investments can generate co-benefits for livelihoods and rural development.

While primarily focused on adaptation, CRAD also delivers indirect mitigation co-benefits through improved energy efficiency and more rational use of natural resources. These actions contribute to a gradual reduction of agriculture's carbon footprint while preserving rural ecosystems.

With a total budget of USD 70 million, CRAD represents a successful, ongoing example of sectoral adaptation in practice, demonstrating how climate risk-informed investments, institutional capacity building, and stakeholder engagement can be combined to deliver measurable and scalable resilience outcomes. The experience and lessons generated by CRAD provide a strong foundation for replication in other priority sectors under Albania's revised National Adaptation Plan.

Figure 6. Case study for water resources management sector



Source: National Adaptation Plan of Albania 2026-2036.

Albania – Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Protection (UNDP RESEAL project)

Context

Resilience Strengthening in Albania, UNDP RESEAL project (Phase I: 2021-2025, Phase II:2025-2029), was designed to address Albania's high and increasing vulnerability to natural and climate-induced

hazards, including floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest fires, and extreme weather events. Climate change has significantly amplified the frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of these risks, placing growing pressure on national and local civil protection systems, infrastructure, and vulnerable populations.

The project responded to the urgent need to transition from reactive emergency response to proactive, risk-informed, and climate-resilient disaster governance, while supporting Albania's path toward EU accession and alignment with international climate and disaster risk frameworks.

RESEAL Phase I was fully aligned with:

- EU Accession Chapter 27 (environment, climate action, and civil protection),
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030),
- Paris Agreement commitments on climate adaptation, and
- National Civil Protection Law (2019) and its operationalization

Key drivers underpinning the intervention included:

- fragmented institutional responsibilities and limited coordination across central and local levels,
- insufficient integration of climate and disaster risk data into development planning, land-use management, and public investment decisions,
- weak preparedness capacities at municipal and community levels, particularly in climate-exposed regions, and
- limited application of gender-responsive and inclusive approaches in disaster and climate risk management.

The project prioritized the Shkodra, Lezha, and Fieri regions highly exposed to flooding, landslides, seismic activity, coastal erosion and climate-related hazards, as pilot areas for strengthening climate-resilient disaster risk governance.

Government Partners

- National Civil Protection Agency
- Ministry of Defence
- Line ministries and subordinated institutions responsible for civil emergencies, infrastructure, environment, health, and territorial planning
- Prefectures and municipalities with priority focus on highly exposed areas

Key Institutional Actions

- Adoption and implementation of secondary legislation under the Civil Protection Law, enabling climate-responsive disaster risk governance
- Establishment of institutional coordination mechanisms across sectors and administrative levels

- Development of Local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans integrating climate risk scenarios
- Systematic integration of multi-hazard and climate risk data into municipal planning, budgeting, and investment prioritization

Donor and Partner Support

- UNDP core funding: USD 200,000 for technical assistance, policy development, and capacity building
- Government of Switzerland (SECO): USD 2 million for institutional strengthening, risk governance, and climate-resilient planning systems
- Government of Sweden: USD 2 million supporting community resilience, inclusive governance, and gender-responsive DRR
- Government of Portugal: USD 320,000 for emergency preparedness, simulation exercises, and operational readiness
- Government of Albania: USD 490,000 for awareness and emergency preparedness

These contributions collectively strengthened Albania's capacity to anticipate, prevent, and manage climate-related disasters, while reinforcing EU-aligned civil protection standards.

Private Sector and Community Contributions

- Engagement of local businesses in emergency preparedness drills and contingency planning, increasing business continuity and climate resilience
- Co-financing and in-kind support for small-scale resilience measures at community level
- Private enterprises supported awareness campaigns, donated emergency equipment, and contributed supplies for vulnerable households in high-risk areas
- Community volunteers and civil society organizations actively participated in preparedness activities, enhancing local ownership and sustainability

Key Deliverables

- National Civil Protection Agency fully operationalized as the central coordinating authority
- Specialized training programs delivered to NCPA staff on incident command systems, coordination, and climate-informed emergency management
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy developed, incorporating climate change adaptation principles
- Over 500 national and local officials trained in multi-hazard risk assessment, emergency response, and climate resilience
- Three pilot regions equipped with DRR strategies, operational plans, and early warning and response protocols
- Climate and disaster risk data integrated into municipal planning and budgeting processes
- Guidelines developed for risk-informed and climate-sensitive land-use planning

- Nationwide disaster preparedness campaigns conducted, reaching over 50,000 citizens
- Gender-responsive DRR approaches mainstreamed across all planning instruments and training modules
- Active participation of women, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities ensured in preparedness planning and simulation exercises

Contribution to Climate Change Adaptation

RESEAL Phase I directly contributed to Albania's climate adaptation efforts by:

- Strengthening institutional capacity to manage climate-related hazards
- Embedding climate risk considerations into public planning and investment decisions
- Enhancing early warning, preparedness, and response mechanisms in climate-exposed regions
- Promoting inclusive and gender-responsive approaches that reduce climate vulnerability of at-risk populations
- Supporting long-term resilience of communities, infrastructure, and public services
- By operationalizing the National Civil Protection Agency and clarifying coordination mechanisms across sectors and governance levels, RESEAL Phase I enhanced Albania's capacity to manage climate-induced risks, a core pillar of the NDC adaptation component.
- The incorporation of multi-hazard and climate risk data into municipal planning, land-use regulation, and budgeting processes directly supported NDC and NAP commitments to climate-resilient development and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

Key Takeaways

- Contribution to climate change adaptation
- RESEAL Phase I directly contributed to Albania's climate adaptation efforts by:
- strengthening institutional capacity to manage climate-related hazards,
- embedding climate risk considerations into public planning and investment decisions,
- enhancing early warning, preparedness, and response mechanisms in climate-exposed regions,
- promoting inclusive and gender-responsive approaches that reduce climate vulnerability of at-risk populations, and
- supporting long-term resilience of communities, infrastructure, and public services.

5.0 Crosscutting Issues: Governance, finance, gender, and capacity building

5.1 Governance and Responsibilities for Implementation of the NAP

Within the institutional framework of Albania, climate change governance is coordinated through a multi-level system. At the national level, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the lead authority for environmental and climate policy and implementation oversight, and hosts the Climate Change Unit, which acts as the national focal point to the UNFCCC. The ministry also leads the IMWGCC, which plays a pivotal role in ensuring cross-sectoral coordination, institutional alignment, mainstreaming and decision-making of climate action. The Climate Change Adaptation Working Group (CCAWG) under the IMWGCC reviews the NAP implementation.

In practice, adaptation to climate change is implemented by the relevant sectoral ministries and agencies, often in close coordination with municipal authorities. The following sector ministries, institutions, and authorities have a key role to play in the implementation of the NAP: MoE, MARD, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovations (MECI), and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, including their subordinate institutions and agencies.

The NAP priority measures must be implemented in close collaboration with the country's 61 municipalities, who have a critical role in adaptation planning and implementation, as they manage key responsibilities such as local infrastructure (roads, drainage systems, water supply), land-use regulation, environmental protection, and public service delivery.

5.1.1 Clearly Defined Roles and Responsibilities

NAP implementation has been significantly enhanced through the establishment of clear and comprehensive institutional roles and responsibilities across the IMWGCC, the Technical Group for Mitigation, and the Technical Group for Adaptation. The IMWGCC performs a coordinating, technical, consultative, and contributory role, supporting the ministry responsible for the environment in guiding institutions whose sectors influence and are influenced by climate change.

Each structure operates according to an explicitly defined mandate, covering tasks such as data collection and reporting in line with DCM No. 889/2022, implementation and monitoring of the climate change law and related legislation, and contribution to national climate documents including the NAP, MAP, NDC, NC, and BUR. This clarity of roles has strengthened accountability, ensured continuity despite administrative changes, and enabled the effective integration of mitigation and adaptation considerations into relevant sectoral policies, strategies, and plans. The well-defined division of responsibilities also extends to ensuring compliance with international obligations and supporting Albania's position in UNFCCC processes and EU integration efforts.

5.1.2 Access to Relevant Data and Information

Reliable and timely access to climate-related data is fundamental to assessing and advancing NAP implementation. The IMWGCC and its technical groups operate under clearly established mandates that ensure systematic data collection, processing, analysis, and reporting across all relevant sectors. In accordance with DCM No. 889/2022, institutions provide the necessary information for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, climate vulnerabilities, risks, and adaptation progress.

The Technical Group for Mitigation supplies national GHG inventory data, sector-specific emissions and removals information, and inputs for tracking progress under the MAP, NDC, and related strategies. The Technical Group for Adaptation compiles sectoral data on climate impacts, risks, and adaptation measures, working in coordination with INSTAT, the Institute of Geosciences, the National Civil Protection Agency, and other line institutions. Both technical groups ensure the collection of gender-disaggregated and socio-economic data to better understand differentiated vulnerabilities and support equitable planning and financing.

This strengthened data infrastructure has improved evidence-based decision-making, enhanced the accuracy and completeness of national reporting (NC, BUR, and progress assessments), and built institutional capacity to evaluate adaptation needs and design well-informed projects. Access to relevant data therefore remains a cornerstone of effective NAP monitoring and evaluation.

5.1.3 Coordinated Efforts Across Sectors

Multisectoral coordination remains essential to the successful implementation of the NAP, given the cross-cutting nature of climate change impacts. The IMWGCC has played a central role in ensuring coordinated planning, implementation, and monitoring across all relevant ministries, dependent institutions, scientific bodies, and stakeholder groups.

Through the work of the Technical Groups for Mitigation and Adaptation, coordination mechanisms have strengthened the integration of climate considerations into sectoral strategies, policies, and programs. Regular meetings, joint work programs, and structured reporting processes enable coherent implementation of national climate objectives, while the application of established methodologies and climate trackers ensures alignment with adaptation and mitigation priorities.

Coordination also extends to academia, civil society, and international partners, supporting interdisciplinary assessments, climate modeling, vulnerability analyses, integrated risk assessments, and the identification of feasible adaptation options. The IMWGCC further facilitates the development of adaptation financing proposals, including analysis of gender-differentiated impacts and promoting equitable access to climate finance—particularly for women.

These coordinated efforts have improved policy coherence, strengthened institutional capacities, reduced duplication of initiatives, and ensured that NAP implementation remains aligned with Albania's broader climate objectives, sustainable development agenda, and EU integration commitments.

5.2 Integration in Policies, Plans, and Budgets

5.2.1 Financing of Adaptation Measures

According to the NAP 2 finacing need and gap assessement, despite recent efforts to foster adaptation finance, existing funding falls far short of the indicated adaptation financing needs for the implementation of NAP 2 priority adaptattion measures. The Government of Albania has earmarked roughly USD 310 million for adaptation actions across sectors in its 2025 to 2027 Medium-Term Budget Program (MTBP) and national sectorial strategies, with the largest shares going to forestry (USD 194 million) and agriculture (USD 80 million). International partners—including the EU, the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and others—are supporting adaptation through grants and loans, but not at the required scale.

Table 11. Estimated adaptation financing needs, current funding and gap by sector[2]

Estimated cost (USD)	Committed national public funding[3]	International funding[4]	Current committed funding	Gap over total period	Gap over total period (%)
Agriculture					
678,114,861	~80 million	~68 million	~148 million	529 million	78
Forestry					
2,134,799,556	~193 million	~7 million	~200 million	1,933 million	91
Urban development					
2,723,161,544	~4 million	~23.5 million	~27.5 million	2,695 million	99
Tourism					
8,491,619	~1 million	~13 million	~14 million	0	0
Energy					
1,960,573,000	~22 million	~275 million	~297 million	1,663 million	85
Transport					
2,038,835,000	~1 million	~2.5 million	~3.5 million	2,035 million	100
Cross-sectoral					
256,721,396	2.7 million	4 million	~6.7 million	249 million	97
Total					
9,800,696,976	306 million	393 million	699 million	9,107 million	93

[2] Albania's Climate Adaptation Financing Strategy. Prepared under UNDP NAP Project. Ministry of Environment, 2023–2025.

[3] Including the budget of MTBP 2025–2027

[4] Secured and pipeline

Table 11 summarizes the adaptation investment needs by sector, the total financing already committed or allocated from public funding for 2025 to 2027, as well as financing from international sources. It also highlights the remaining funding gaps that need to be addressed.

Referring to the current committed funding and the 15 priority adaptation actions of NAP 1, the total budget (in million ALL) is as follows:

Table 12. Albania's NAP, 15 Priority Actions

List of measures	Total budget in million ALL
Overarching actions/implementation framework	
PA 1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania	10,800
PA 2: Overarching mainstreaming initiative	16,000
PA 3: Climate finance readiness – capacity development for NAP financing and implementation in Albania	150,000
PA 4: Implementation monitoring system	688,000
PA 5: Communication and outreach initiative	93,750
PA 6: Initiative for capacity development on climate change adaptation	246,000
Sector-wise and cross-sector strategic actions	
PA 7: Climate-resilient irrigation, drainage, and flood protection	1,841,500
PA 8: Integrated water resources management	1,044,500
PA 9: Adaptation in the agricultural sector	4,925,000
PA 10: Promote implementation of adaptation strategy for health sector	145,000
PA 11: Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coast (ICPC)	148,500
PA 12: Initiative for municipal climate change adaptation plans	202,500
PA 13: Adaptation in tourism	81,200
PA 14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and DRR	1,201,500
PA 15: Building the resilience of the Kune-Vaini Lagoon System (KVLS) through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)	242,000
Total	**11,036,250**

Source:Albania's National Adaptation Plan.

Implementation Status and Funding Mobilization

- The first six measures (PA1 to PA6), costing ALL 1,204 million (≈USD 14.5 million), fall under cross-sectoral actions and are fully implemented.
- The sector-wise and cross-sector strategic actions (PA7–PA15) cost ALL 9,538 million (≈USD 114 million).
- In total, NAP1 priority actions cost ≈USD 118 million, which will be fully financed through 2027.

The allocation in the Medium-Term Budget Program (2025–2027) is about USD 310 million, covering ongoing and planned adaptation measures.

5.3 Capacity Building

Strengthening institutional and human capacities has been a central component of Albania's progress in advancing climate adaptation under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Compared to the first NAP cycle, significant improvements have been made at both central and local levels, notably through the establishment of dedicated institutional structures, expansion of technical expertise, and the delivery of large-scale national training programs.

Institutional strengthening and dedicated climate change units: A major advancement since the first NAP is the establishment of dedicated climate change units within the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy. These units serve as focal structures responsible for coordinating climate policies, supporting NAP implementation, contributing to EU climate acquis alignment, and strengthening interministerial cooperation through the Interministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IMWGCC). This institutional anchoring has enhanced policy coherence, streamlined communication between sectors, and created stronger ownership of adaptation actions at the national level.

5.3.1 Large-Scale Capacity Development under the UNDP's Advancing Albania's Planning for Medium- and Long-Term Adaptation Through the Development of a National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Process Project

An important milestone during this reporting period has been the delivery of an extensive national training program under the UNDP-supported project "Advancing Albania's Planning for Medium- and Long-Term Adaptation Through the Development of a National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Process," which significantly expanded Albania's adaptation knowledge base. The program consisted of seven specialized training modules designed to equip participants with practical tools and methodologies related to climate change adaptation, environmental economic assessment, ecosystem restoration, and evidence-based decision-making.

More than 1,000 participants were trained across diverse sectors—representatives of central and local government institutions, academia, civil society organizations, youth groups, media, and professional associations—demonstrating a broad and inclusive approach to capacity building. This represents one of the most wide-reaching climate adaptation training efforts conducted in Albania to date.

The training modules covered themes such as:

- climate change adaptation policy, national priorities, and alignment with EU frameworks,
- environmental economic assessment, including cost–benefit analysis (CBA), cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), and multi-criteria analysis (MCA),
- valuation of ecosystem services, use of sectoral data, and modelling tools,
- ecosystem restoration techniques, including reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, riparian restoration, and nature-based solutions,

- integration of adaptation and restoration into land-use planning and environmental governance. Case studies and group exercises applying economic assessment tools to real-world adaptation measures.

This blended methodology—combining theoretical modules, practical exercises, and sector-specific applications—has enhanced participants' ability to incorporate adaptation considerations into policy design, planning processes, and day-to-day decision-making.

5.3.2 Strengthened Cross-Sector Collaboration

The training activities also fostered increased collaboration between ministries, municipalities, universities, NGOs, research institutions, and youth networks. By engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the program has contributed to building a shared understanding of Albania's climate challenges and the need for coordinated adaptation responses. This is a substantial improvement from the first NAP implementation period, during which capacity-building efforts were more limited and fragmented.

5.4 Stakeholder Involvement

5.4.1 Gender Equality Challenges Across NAP Sectors

The NAP 2 gender analysis highlights persistent and systemic gender gaps across all climate-sensitive sectors, with women disproportionately exposed to climate risks, facing limited access to resources, and underrepresented in decision-making.

In **agriculture**, women constitute 54.4% of the workforce but have limited access to land titles, credit, advisory services, and vocational education. Only 10.8% of registered farmers are women, and participation in national support schemes has declined, reducing adaptive capacity.

In **tourism**, women are concentrated in seasonal, informal, and low-paid roles, underrepresented in management, with limited access to skills development and entrepreneurship opportunities. The absence of gender-disaggregated data hampers effective planning.

In **urban development**, women face poor access to infrastructure, limited participation in planning, safety risks in public spaces, and increased unpaid care responsibilities. In construction, women make up only 3.7% of the workforce, highlighting structural barriers.

In the **energy sector**, women account for 15.1% of the workforce and are underrepresented in technical and leadership roles. Women-headed households are more vulnerable to energy poverty, amplified by climate-related variability and hydropower dependence. Gender data gaps and wage disparities further limit effective adaptation.

In **transport**, women comprise 8.1% of the workforce and rely heavily on public transport, increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Limited representation in decision-making restricts gender-responsive mobility planning.

Across sectors, gender inequality compounds climate vulnerability, reducing women's resilience and limiting the effectiveness of adaptation measures.

5.4.2 Gender Actions to Support NAP Implementation

The Gender Action Plan (GAP) complements the 66 prioritized NAP adaptation measures, embedding gender equality across planning, implementation, monitoring, and financing. Key objectives include:

- strengthening women's participation in climate-related decision-making,
- improving access to resources, technologies, finance, and information for climate resilience,
- addressing gender-specific vulnerabilities and structural barriers,
- promoting women's leadership in climate-resilient initiatives, and
- ensuring equitable distribution of adaptation benefits.

The GAP also establishes cross-cutting measures for all sectors:

- Inclusive governance: balanced representation in the IMWGCC and technical working groups, with gender focal points in key ministries.
- Capacity development: training on gender and climate change, and strengthening gender-responsive planning and budgeting.
- Gender-responsive MEL: using sex-disaggregated indicators and integrating gender analysis into monitoring, evaluation, and learning.
- Equitable access to finance: targeting women-led MSMEs, farmers, and vulnerable groups.
- Civil society engagement: involving women's organizations and CSOs in consultations, project design, and monitoring.
- Gender-sensitive disaster risk management: ensuring early warning systems, safe evacuation, shelters, and protection from GBV.
- Knowledge and data: mandatory collection and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, and research on gendered climate impacts.

5.4.3 Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Proactive engagement of stakeholders in climate change adaptation is essential to make adaptation a national priority, to ensure buy-in and to drive decisions and collective action to achieve long-term resilience. In this regard, engagement with key stakeholders and the communication of the right messages about climate change adaptation plays a key role for successfully implementing the NAP. For this purpose, as part of the NAP process, a Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) was carefully designed to strengthen stakeholder capacities with sector-specific toolkits, community guides for local leaders, and educational resources to build climate literacy among the youth. Through targeted and inclusive communication, it aims to transform climate adaptation from a policy framework into a movement embraced by stakeholders across all levels of society—policy-makers, government institutions, private sector, local communities. academia, media, civil society organizations (CSOs), and international partners.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the CSEP emphasizes engaging vulnerable groups, women, and youth as active participants in climate adaptation processes. It also integrates initiatives to

empower schoolchildren, such as student-led campaigns, workshops, and interactive projects that encourage climate-smart practices like tree planting, energy saving, and recycling. By fostering youth engagement, the strategy hopes to build a new generation who will drive adaptation efforts forward. Interactive tools like virtual workshops, storytelling platforms, and online surveys will deepen engagement and gather feedback.

5.4.4 Project Series "Solutions Connecting Farmers"[5] 1.0 and 2.0 Implemented by REC Albania

"Solutions Connecting Farmers" is the first initiative of its kind in the country, supported by the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA). Through it, three farming communities across Albania have been supported with photovoltaic systems that harvest solar energy to power irrigation pumps, while five others have been equipped with shredding machinery for biomass waste from their olive groves, which is otherwise burned in the open. In total, over 40 ha of agricultural land have been assisted with irrigation technology in three different prefectures (Shkodër, Fier, and Korçë), while 22 ha of olive groves have been covered with shredding technology, also across three prefectures (Tirana, Fier, and Berat). In addition to economically empowering farmers and increasing their adaptive capacity, the initiative incentivizes options for decarbonizing the agricultural sector in Albania.

[5] https://www.adaptation-undp.org/how-albanias-farmers-are-embracing-eco-friendly-tech-overcome-climate-challenges

6.0 Barriers, Enablers, and Lessons Learned

The implementation of Albania's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has advanced significantly since the adoption of the first NAP, reflecting strengthened institutional frameworks, improved technical capacity, and growing alignment with EU climate obligations. This section outlines the key barriers encountered, the enabling factors that supported progress, and the lessons learned to inform the next phase of NAP implementation.

6.1 Barriers

1. Limited availability and quality of local-level data (improved, but still a challenge):

During the first NAP progress report cycle, the absence of standardized data collection systems at both national and local levels hindered risk assessments and cost estimations. Progress has been made through the development of climate risk assessments for priority sectors and the establishment of data templates for local adaptation plans (LAPs). However, data gaps persist—particularly for climate-sensitive sectors such as water, biodiversity, and agriculture—affecting the precision of vulnerability assessments and long-term planning in most of the municipalities.

> "We now understand climate risks much better than before, but when it comes to local data—especially for agriculture and water—we still rely on estimates rather than real measurements."
> – Municipal technical staff

2. Fragmented institutional coordination (partially improved):

The first NAP progress report highlighted the need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination. The establishment and operationalization of the Interministerial Working Group on Climate Change has improved oversight and strategic coherence. Nevertheless, coordination challenges remain, especially in aligning adaptation actions across ministries with different mandates, and ensuring consistent engagement at municipal level.

3. Limited integration of climate adaptation into municipal planning (progressing):

While LAPs have now been developed and costed for several municipalities (e.g., Durrës, Vlora, Elbasan, Gjirokastër, Përmet), many local governments continue to face limited financial and human resources for adaptation. The lack of climate-resilient procurement standards and the absence of municipal budget lines dedicated specifically to adaptation still constrain implementation.

> "The LAP gives us a clear roadmap, but without a dedicated budget line, adaptation measures compete with many other urgent local priorities."
> – Municipal finance expert, Vlora municipality

4. Insufficient domestic financing and complex access to international funds:

The first NAP progress report underscored financing constraints as a major barrier. Although progress has been achieved—particularly through increased access to GCF Readiness support, EU-funded projects, and IPA III mechanisms—predictable and long-term domestic financing for adaptation remains limited. Procedures for accessing climate finance are still complex, requiring technical and administrative capacities that many institutions lack.

5. Limited ground-truthing and monitoring systems:

Monitoring, reporting, and learning (MEL) for adaptation remains in an early stage. While the revised NAP has initiated a framework for monitoring progress at national and local levels, the practical rollout of indicators and reporting processes is still developing, limiting the ability to track outcomes comprehensively.

> "We are collecting more information now, but we still lack a clear system to measure whether adaptation actions are actually reducing vulnerability on the ground."
> – Ndricim Bytyci, expert, MARD.

6.2 Enablers

1. Strengthened institutional arrangements and governance:

Major advances have been made since the first NAP, with clearer institutional mandates, enhanced roles for the IMWGCC, and active participation of stakeholders such as national and local government, academia, CSOs, and youth. The revision process of the Prime Minister's order for the establishment of IMWGCC NAP during 2024 to 2025 has further clarified institutional responsibilities and encouraged whole-of-government coordination.

2. Enhanced technical capacity through targeted training and tools:

A significant enabler in the current progress cycle has been the extensive capacity building delivered through the NAP project, TRATOLOW, EU4Green, and other partners. Municipalities now have increased capacity in risk assessment, GIS mapping, cost estimation, and adaptation planning—compared to the first NAP progress report cycle, when such capacities were limited.

3. Integration of adaptation into EU accession processes:

Alignment with the EU Governance Regulation, EU Adaptation Strategy, and Energy Community climate acquis has created strong incentives for Albania to accelerate adaptation planning. This integration has increased national attention to adaptation, and enhanced coherence between mitigation and adaptation agendas.

4. Improved stakeholder engagement and local participation:

Compared to the first NAP progress report—which was more centrally driven—the current cycle has seen deeper engagement from local governments, CSOs, academia, and community stakeholders.

Workshops, consultations, and participatory methods have increased local ownership and ensured that measures better reflect local needs.

> "Being involved from the beginning made a difference—local knowledge was reflected in the adaptation measures, not added as an afterthought."
> – Civil society representative

5. Greater availability of climate finance and international support:

Support from the Green Climate Fund, UNDP, GIZ, the World Bank, UNFCCC, the NAP Global Network, AFD, ADA, FAO, and others has been fundamental. Albania's increasing ability to access readiness grants and technical assistance has enabled the development of LAPs, the costing of priority measures, the improvement of MEL systems, and the preparation of large-scale concept notes.

6.3 Lessons Learned

1. Data standardization and digitalization are foundational:

The progress made through improved risk assessments demonstrates that quality data is essential for designing costed adaptation measures. A national system for data governance—supported by GIS platforms, municipal data templates, and digital monitoring tools—is critical for the next phase.

2. Municipal capacity determines the pace of implementation:

Experience from Durrës, Vlora, Elbasan, and other municipalities shows that adaptation success depends heavily on local capacity. Targeted training, standardized costing tools, and dedicated local budget lines are necessary to sustain progress.

3. Stronger coordination mechanisms increase efficiency:

The improvement observed through the IMWGCC demonstrates the value of structured coordination. Future progress will depend on regular reporting, clear mandates, and sustained participation from all sectors.

4. Financing strategies must be integrated early:

Costing LAPs has shown that early identification of financing needs—paired with domestic budget integration and international finance strategies—improves implementation readiness. Development of a national adaptation strategy framework is essential moving forward.

5. Adaptation benefits greatly from whole-of-society engagement:

Engagement with CSOs, youth groups, academia, and private sector actors has improved the legitimacy and sustainability of adaptation measures. This confirms the lesson from the first NAP progress report that broad participation is indispensable for effective climate resilience.

Compared to the first NAP cycle, Albania has made meaningful progress in institutional coordination, capacity building, local adaptation planning, and access to climate finance. However, persistent barriers—especially related to data availability, financing, and monitoring—continue to shape the pace and scale of implementation. The lessons learned during this cycle provide a solid foundation for strengthening the revised NAP and ensuring that adaptation actions are more targeted, effective, and sustainable.

7.0 Recommendations for Updated NAP (2025)

The revision of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides an important opportunity to build on the progress achieved since the first NAP cycle and address the barriers identified through the implementation process. The updated NAP (2025) should prioritize a more integrated, evidence-based, and forward-looking approach that strengthens institutional arrangements, enhances local-level implementation, and supports long-term resilience across sectors. The following recommendations outline key improvements to guide the next phase of adaptation planning.

1. Strengthen data, information systems, and monitoring:

- Establish a national adaptation information system: Develop a centralized, digital platform to collect, store, and analyze climate risk, impact, and adaptation data. This system should integrate GIS layers, municipal datasets, hydrometeorological indicators, and MEL information. The NAIS should serve as a shared resource for ministries, local governments, and the National Environment Agency.
- Standardize data collection across municipalities: Create unified templates for vulnerability assessments, costing, and reporting. Consistent data standards will improve comparability across municipalities and support evidence-based decision-making for investment prioritization.
- Operationalize the MEL framework for adaptation: Define measurable indicators, reporting timelines, and roles across institutions. The updated NAP should introduce annual or biennial reporting mechanisms and link adaptation indicators with national monitoring platforms.

2. Enhance institutional coordination and governance:

- Strengthen the mandate and operation of the IMWGCC: Formalize working procedures, introduce mandatory reporting from each ministry, and ensure regular meetings. The IMWGCC should serve as the central coordination body for NAP implementation, supported by technical sub-groups.
- Clarify roles between central and local institutions: The updated NAP should define clear responsibilities for the Ministry of Environment, line ministries, the National Climate Committee, and municipalities. This clarity will help reduce duplication and improve accountability.
- Embed climate adaptation in sectoral policies and strategies: All sector strategies—agriculture, energy, tourism, water, transport, health, and biodiversity—should be reviewed to ensure climate resilience is systematically integrated. This helps align national planning with the EU Governance Regulation and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

3. Strengthen local-level adaptation planning and implementation:

- Expand LAPs to all municipalities: Building on the progress made in Durrës, Vlora, Elbasan, Kruja, Gjirokaster, Permet, Kukes, and Fier, the updated NAP should aim for nationwide coverage of local adaptation plans by 2027. A national guideline for LAPs should be developed to ensure consistency.

- Integrate adaptation into municipal budgets: Introduce dedicated climate adaptation budget lines in municipal Medium-Term Budget Programmes (MTBP) and annual investment plans. This reduces dependence on external project-based financing.
- Provide long-term capacity support for municipalities: Develop a national training program for local staff on risk assessment, procurement, nature-based solutions, and adaptation project preparation. Municipalities require continuous, not one-off, technical support.

4. Improve financing for adaptation:

- Develop a national adaptation finance framework: The updated NAP should include a clear financing strategy that identifies domestic sources, international funds (GCF, Adaptation Fund, EU IPA III), private finance opportunities, and innovative mechanisms such as blended finance and insurance schemes.
- Strengthen national capacity for accessing climate finance: Build dedicated teams for concept note development, economic appraisal, and funding applications. The success of recent GCF readiness projects should be scaled up and institutionalized.
- Prioritize high-impact, costed measures: Use evidence from municipal costing exercises to prioritize adaptation investments with strong co-benefits—such as flood management, nature-based solutions, resilient infrastructure, and early warning systems.

5. Promote risk-informed development and resilient infrastructure:

- Integrate climate risk screening into all public investments: All infrastructure projects under national and municipal budgets should be required to undergo climate risk assessment. This ensures resilience is incorporated from the design stage.
- Update technical standards, building codes, and procurement guidelines: Introduce climate-resilient standards for roads, bridges, water infrastructure, and urban planning. Procurement guidelines should include adaptation requirements, nature-based solutions, and long-term maintenance considerations.
- Strengthen early warning systems (EWS) and disaster preparedness: Enhance the integration of meteorological, hydrological, and geospatial data. Develop community-level preparedness plans, especially in areas at risk from floods, landslides, wildfires, and heatwaves.

6. Integrate nature-based solutions and ecosystem resilience:

- Prioritize ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA): Strengthen protection and restoration measures for forests, coastal ecosystems, wetlands, and river basins—including the Vjosa River, the Drin-Buna system, and important biodiversity corridors.
- Mainstream nature-based solutions (NBS) in urban and rural planning: Implement strategic tree planting, green corridors, floodplain restoration, permeable surfaces, and water-sensitive urban design. These contribute to cooling, flood mitigation, and biodiversity.
- Strengthen biodiversity monitoring and climate-sensitive habitat management: Ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable species and ecosystems and integrate findings into national conservation planning.

7. Strengthen engagement, communication, and awareness:

- Develop a national climate adaptation communication strategy: The updated NAP should outline a communication plan targeting policy-makers, communities, youth, businesses, and the media. Clear messaging helps sustain public support and behaviour change.
- Expand participation of youth, civil society, academia, and private sector: Establish structured platforms for consultation and co-creation of adaptation measures. Collaboration with universities and research institutions can enhance innovation and scientific support.
- Promote community-based adaptation approaches: Involve communities directly in risk identification, early warning, and decision-making. Local knowledge is essential for effective implementation.

8. Enhance integration with EU obligations and UNFCCC processes:

- Strengthen alignment with the EU governance regulation and climate acquis: Embed adaptation into long-term energy, climate, and environmental reporting systems—including the NECP, MRVA requirements, and risk assessment obligations under EU directives.
- Integrate NAP monitoring with UNFCCC ETF reporting and REPORTNET: The updated NAP should establish linkages between national adaptation monitoring and indicators required for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and long-term adaptation communications.
- Ensure synergies between adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction: Strengthen coherence between NAP, NDC, Sendai Framework implementation, and sectoral disaster risk strategies. Multi-hazard approaches should guide all national planning.

8.0 Conclusion

The implementation of Albania's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has entered a more mature and structured phase, marked by substantive progress in institutional coordination, technical capacity, and integration of adaptation into national and local planning processes. Compared with the first NAP cycle, Albania has made notable strides in establishing clearer governance arrangements, advancing local-level adaptation planning, and deepening alignment with EU climate obligations. These achievements reflect a growing national recognition that climate resilience is a core pillar of sustainable development and a critical component of Albania's EU accession pathway.

The progress assessment highlights that significant improvements have been made in several key areas. Municipalities have developed and costed local adaptation plans, strengthening the connection between national priorities and local realities. Sectoral risk assessments have been updated, providing a stronger evidence base for decision-making. Targeted capacity building has enhanced institutional readiness, while international support has accelerated reforms and helped pilot innovative adaptation measures, particularly in vulnerable coastal, urban, and agricultural areas.

However, full implementation of adaptation priorities remains challenged by persistent barriers. Data gaps, inconsistent monitoring practices, limited domestic financing, and uneven municipal capacity continue to constrain the pace of progress. While institutional arrangements have improved, coordination across ministries and between central and local levels requires further strengthening to ensure coherent and efficient implementation. Additionally, integrating climate risks into public investment planning and infrastructure development remains a long-term challenge that must be addressed systematically.

Despite these constraints, the lessons learned during this cycle offer a strong foundation for the updated NAP (2025). The findings of this report underscore the importance of a more data-driven, integrated, and inclusive approach to adaptation planning—one that links climate resilience with economic development, territorial planning, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction. To sustain momentum, Albania must continue expanding local adaptation planning, institutionalizing monitoring systems, strengthening financing mechanisms, and embedding adaptation into all levels of decision-making.

As climate impacts intensify and global processes advance—particularly with the increased focus on adaptation at COP30—Albania has the opportunity to position itself as a regional leader in resilience planning. The updated NAP will play a central role in guiding this transition. The progress achieved to date demonstrates that Albania is on the right trajectory, provided that commitments are matched with the necessary resources, capacities, and institutional support. With a strong enabling environment and proactive engagement from all stakeholders, Albania can advance toward a more climate-resilient future that safeguards communities, ecosystems, and economic development for generations to come.

Appendix A. List of Stakeholders

Institution	Name	Last Name	Designation
Ministry of Environment	Klodiana	Marika	Director of Nature Protection
	Fatjona	Cinaj	Climate change expert
	Eneida	Rabdishta	Climate change expert
	Vesjana	Rredhi	Climate change expert
	Klodiana	Marika	Director
	Edit	Verdhami	Biodiversity expert
	Klea	Cuka	Biodiversity expert
	Rovena	Agalliu	Air quality expert
	Sonila	Pashaj	Expert at waste sector
	Ylli	Hoxha	Head of Forest Sector
	Aida	Tafili	Forestry expert
	Enkeleda	Vehbiu	Tourism expert
National Agency of Protected Areas	Jula	Selmani	Head of Protected Areas Sector
Ministry of Finance and Economy	Gentian	Opra	Director of Budget Analysis and Programming Department
	Ambra	Caushaj	Expert of budget analysis
The National Environmental Agency	Enkeleda	Shkurta	Head of Information Sector, GIS and Environmental Registers
National Agency of Natural Resources	Renata	Aliko	Natural Resources Expert
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy	Bledar	Aliaj	Director of Policies and Strategies in the Field of Energy and Industry Sector
	Besjan	Kadiu	General Director
	Jonida	Rika	Head of Sector at the Directorate of Policies and Strategies in the Field of Energy and Industry Sector
	Zana	Josa	Head of Sector, Infrastructure
	Ardian	Islami	Director of Energy Projects
Ministry of Education	Erlis	Hoxha	Director of Policies
Ministry for Health and Social Protection	Zhaneta	Miska	Expert at sector of standards and administration of hospital and social services
Public Health Institute	Elida	Mataj	Head of of Environmental Epidemiology and Air Quality Control Sector

Institution	Name	Last Name	Designation
Ministry of Defence	Razlind	Shytaj	Captain of Rank III
	Olsa	Rexhaj	Directorate of Protocol
National Agency of Civil Protection	Holta	Xhurxhi	Expert of civil emergencies
	Klajdi	Nikolla	Director
	Fatjona	Xhaferraj	Expert
	Anxhela	Arapi	Expert
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ndricim	Bytyci	Head of Land Use sector
	Anxhela	Hysaj	Land use expert
National Agency of Water Resources	Hilda	Hoti	Expert
INSTAT	Denis	Kristo	Director of Agriculture and Environment Statistics
	Ndue	Cuni	Statistics on environment and forestry
Other donors	Mirela	Kamberi	UNDP
	Laureta	Dibra	UNDP
	Merita	Meksi	GIZ
	Arben	Kipi	FAO
	Viola	Agasi	UNEP
IGEO	Albana	Hasimi	Hydrology expert
	Irena	Ymeti	Hydrology expert
Academia	Albana	Hasimi	Polytechnic University of Tirana, Institute of Geosciences – expert at climate and environment department
	Ornela	Shoshi	Polis University
NGOs	Lutfi	Myftari	Environmental activist, Lurimi shpk
	Mihallaq	Qirjo	Director, REC
	Deborah	Lika	Youth climate activist
	Kristel	Hasani	Youth climate activist
	Fabiola	Egro	Women activist
Subnational actors	Shqiponja	Tresa	CFO, Odisea Travel & Tours
	Laura	Payne	Outdoor Albania Scature
	Eljon	Memsuri	SIGMA|Vienna Insurance Group
	Genci	Mita	CEO Sejega shpk
	Greta	Zenullari	Agrocredit Sha
	Luena	Harita	Director of Load Risk per Small Business. Credins Bank

Institution	Name	Last Name	Designation
	Andrit	Shehu	Acting Deputy Mayor, Kukës municipality
	Olta	Dedej	Head of Unit for Tourism, Durrës municipality
	Shkelqim	Malja	Specialist in forest management, Kruja municipality
	Sanie	BallaExpe	Agriculture expert, Vlora municipality
	Ferrik	Avdiaj	General Director of Agriculture, Forests and Livestock, Fier municipality
	Spiro	Diamanti	Expert, agriculture, irrigation and drainage unit, Gjirokaster municipality
	Marsela	Kapllani	Head of Urban Planing Sector, Përmet municipality

Appendix B. List of Priority Actions From NAP

Table B1. List of the 15 NAP PAs and 31 goals

Subject area	Rationale/main goals	Potential substantial elements	Responsible actors
Overarching actions/implementation framework			
No. 1: Steering of the adaptation process in Albania	• Ensure process character of NAP beyond adaptation of NAP document. • Ensure implementation of measures envisaged in the NAP document. • Ensure necessary adjustments of NAP process based on experiences.	• Delegate powers to the Ministry responsible for climate change, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. • Ensure regular meetings of IMWGCC for general steering and on selected key topics for each session. • Develop overall process roadmap including timelines, responsibilities, and resources. • Regular review and update of NAP process. • Link with M&E and reporting mechanism.	MoTE (lead) Prime minister office (involved)
No. 2: Overarching mainstreaming initiative	• Climate change adaptation is reflected in NSDI and sector strategies. • Climate change adaptation is being promoted in accession assistance in line with the EU climate policy objectives.	• Promote mainstreaming concepts and tools (climate proofing, climate lens, climate sensitive, strategic environmental assessment, etc.). • Coordinate mainstreaming pilots in Albania. • Climate change adaptation mainstreaming in NSDI implementation. • Climate change adaptation mainstreaming into the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) process.	MoTE Relevant donors (support)
No. 3: Climate finance readiness	• Successfully access Albania's public budget for financing NAP implementation. • Gain indirect or direct access to GCF funding for Albania's NAP implementation.	• Setting up a climate finance unit. • Develop strategic framework. • Climate budgeting/labelling pilots. • Promote access to climate finance. • Ensure learning and innovation.	Ministry of Environment/NDA (lead) UNDP (support)

Subject area	Rationale/main goals	Potential substantial elements	Responsible actors
No. 4: Implementation monitoring system	• Assess progress toward the climate resilience objectives. • Establish RBM.	• Overall concept of RBM system. • Gap analysis of existing M&E systems. • Institutional setup for M&E. • Operationalize M&E system with regular reporting.	MoTE (lead) Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy Institute of GeoScience
No. 5: Public information and involvement initiative	• Capacity building of relevant public institutions on climate change adaptation. • Raising awareness and involvement of civil society on climate change adaptation.	• Capacity building for public institutions. • Outreach through educational institutions. • Civil society outreach and involvement. • Extension of information for relevant economic sectors.	MoTE Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth Universities Media NGOs
No. 6: Initiative for capacity building on climate change adaptation	• Support through targeted trainings to raise the knowledge and personal skills of actors and stakeholders involved in the NAP process. • The development of institutional structures, regulations, and policies in selected sectors of the NAP process are supported by donors and institutions of excellence.	• Assess training needs and elaborate training plan. • Conduct trainings. • Selected measures of institutional capacity building.	MoTE UNDP Donor agencies
Sector-wise and cross-sector strategic actions			
No. 7: Climate-resilient irrigation, drainage, and flood protection	• Calculation of water needs and supply potential for crops with consideration of climate change. • Infrastructure improvement and maintenance for irrigation and flood protection.	• Recalculate irrigation needs in a changing climate. • Assess flood risks. • Select PAs on flood risk management based on the above-mentioned assessments. • Training.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (lead) Local governments

Subject area	Rationale/main goals	Potential substantial elements	Responsible actors
No. 8: Integrated water resources management	• Climate change adaptation measures are adequately reflected in the implementation plan and process for pilot river basin management plans (RBMPs) and will be also part of the new RBMPs.	• Mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into the RBMPs. • The implementation process for the RBMPs will be designed in a way that climate change is adequately reflected during implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development National Water Council
No. 9: Adaptation in agricultural sector	• Adaptation to climate change in agricultural sector through farm protection, crop yield management, information systems and livestock management.	• Adapted agricultural practices and infrastructure. • Improved information services for farmers.	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development National Food Authority Local government Farmers
No. 10: Promote implementation of adaptation strategy for health sector	• Apply best approaches for vector control, public health measures, and preparedness for extreme events (heat waves).	• Public awareness and training. • Capacity building for health institutions.	Ministry of Health and Social Protection Institute of Public Health Institute of Geosciences National Food Authority
No. 11: Integrated Cross-Sectoral Plan for the Coast (ICPC)	• Promote adaptation in coastal areas through local plans.	• Introducing and adapting the EU instruments and policies relevant to coastal areas' ecosystems and biodiversity. • Enforcement of legislation related to construction in the coastal area. • Improve the management of coastal areas. • Erosion control. • Buildings and climate change. • Concrete pilot projects.	MoIE/National Territorial Planning Agency Municipalities Universities NGOs

Subject area	Rationale/main goals	Potential substantial elements	Responsible actors
No. 12: Initiative for municipal adaptation	• Municipalities are capacitated for local climate change adaptation plans.	• Provide a guide that would facilitate the municipalities with simple know-how on how to integrate climate change adaptation into the city planning. • Trainings, advisory services. • Pilot measures for local adaptation measures.	MoIE/National Territorial Planning Agency Municipalities
No. 13: Adaptation in tourism	• Integrated tourism sector objectives and plans reflecting climate change impacts are being developed.	• Provide the necessary legal basis, general or sectoral strategies, action plans, etc., which will include the appropriate policies and measures. • Prepare a sectoral strategy taking into consideration climate issues. • Support local and national sectors dealing with climate change.	MoTE
No. 14: Upgrading civil defence preparedness and DRR	• Increase the capacity of the Albanian general directorate for civil emergencies to prevent and respond to climate-related disaster management.	• Develop a regional flood hazard map following EU flood directive. • Preparation of a floods early warning system and its integration into the European flood awareness system (EFAS). • Cost-benefit analysis, prioritization, and financing of measures in strengthening flood warning systems. • Awareness/visibility/communication: improve flood awareness of the public by informing them about the risk, early warning systems, and the plan to follow in case of an emergency. • Support Albania in preparing for membership to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). • Support IGEWE in strengthening the hydrometeorological network and services.	Ministry of Interior Affairs IGEWE

Subject area	Rationale/main goals	Potential substantial elements	Responsible actors
No. 15: Building the resilience of the Kune-Vaini Lagoon System (KVLS) through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)	• The climate change effects into the KVLS will be addressed through an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA.	• Increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby the KVLS to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions, including EbA. • Build the climate resilience of the KVLS by demonstrating best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions. • Increase awareness of local and national stakeholders to climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities to climate change.	MoTE Global Environment Facility (GEF) UNEP

Appendix C. Survey on Progress in Adaptation under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Purpose

This survey aims to collect inputs from institutions and stakeholders to inform the preparation of the second NAP Progress Report (2023–2025). Your feedback will help identify achievements, challenges, and needs for strengthening climate change adaptation in Albania.

Section 1. General Information

1. Institution/Organization:

2. Sector (please select):

- ☐ Agriculture and Rural Development
- ☐ Water Resources
- ☐ Health
- ☐ Forestry and Biodiversity
- ☐ Tourism and Coastal Management
- ☐ Disaster Risk Reduction and Infrastructure
- ☐ Other (please specify):

3. Name and Position:

4. Contact Email/Phone:

5. Type of institution you represent (please select):

- ☐ Government – National level
- ☐ Government – Subnational/Local level
- ☐ NGO
- ☐ CSO
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Academia/Research
- ☐ Other (please specify):

6. Your involvement in adaptation-related work:

- ☐ Very active
- ☐ Active
- ☐ Somewhat active
- ☐ Not very active
- ☐ Not at all active

7. Your knowledge of the NAP process:

- ☐ Very well informed
- ☐ Well informed
- ☐ Moderately informed
- ☐ Somewhat informed
- ☐ Not at all informed

Section 2. Achievements in Adaptation Measures (since 2023)

1. Please describe key adaptation measures implemented in your sector/institution since 2023.

2. What are the main achievements (policies, projects, investments, community initiatives)?

Section 3. Challenges, Gaps, and Lessons Learned

1. What challenges or barriers have you faced in implementing adaptation measures?

2. Please share any lessons learned or good practices that could inform other sectors or municipalities.

3. Are there any specific measures or initiatives from your sector that could serve as potential case studies?

Section 4. Clarity of Roles, Responsibilities, and Intersectoral Coordination

1. How effective are governance structures for adaptation at the national level?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Moderately effective
- ☐ Somewhat effective
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Unsure/no answer

b. How clear are the roles and responsibilities in implementing the NAP?

- ☐ Very clear
- ☐ Clear
- ☐ Moderately clear
- ☐ Somewhat clear
- ☐ Unclear
- ☐ Unsure/no answer

3. How effective is the coordination of adaptation across scales (national–local) to ensure coherence and effectiveness?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Moderately effective
- ☐ Somewhat effective
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Unsure/no answer

4. How is coordination with other sectors on climate change adaptation?

- ☐ Very effective
- ☐ Effective
- ☐ Moderately effective
- ☐ Somewhat effective
- ☐ Ineffective
- ☐ Unsure/no answer

Sub-questions for further detail:

5. How frequent are coordination meetings on adaptation?

- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Ad hoc/irregular
- ☐ Never

6. How clear are the reporting channels between institutions (from local to national level and across ministries)?

- ☐ Very clear
- ☐ Clear
- ☐ Moderately clear
- ☐ Somewhat clear
- ☐ Unclear

Section 5. Agency's Capacity for NAP Implementation

1. How would you rate your sector's knowledge on climate risks?

2. How would you rate your sector's knowledge on climate adaptation?

3. How would you rate your sector's overall technical capacity on adaptation?

4. What are your sector's main capacity needs to support NAP implementation?

Section 6. Capacity-Building Needs

(Options: Technical expertise and training, data collection and monitoring tools, financial resources and budgeting, institutional coordination, community engagement approaches, other)

Section 7. Financing for Adaptation

1. On a scale of 1–5, how adequate is the financing available to implement your sector's adaptation measures?

- ☐ Very adequate
- ☐ Adequate
- ☐ Moderately adequate
- ☐ 4 Somewhat inadequate
- ☐ Not adequate at all

2. What are the main barriers your sector faces in mobilizing and accessing adaptation finance?

- ☐ Lack of project preparation capacity
- ☐ Complex application procedures for funds
- ☐ Limited coordination between ministries/sectors
- ☐ Insufficient budgetary prioritization for adaptation
- ☐ Low private sector engagement
- ☐ Other (please specify):

3. What are the main technical and financial supports for national adaptation efforts from local, regional, and international mechanisms?

4. How well integrated are adaptation activities into the Medium-Term Budgeting and reporting process?

Section 8. Information Sharing and Knowledge Management

1. How is the collection, compilation, processing, and dissemination of climate data and knowledge being done?

2. Have climate risks and vulnerabilities been assessed in your sector?

3. Does your sector have access to reliable weather and climate projections?

4. Does your sector have access to relevant climate-related data and information (e.g., hydrological, meteorological, socio-economic, environmental)? If yes, how is this data accessed and used?

5. How is data and information shared between institutions and stakeholders (nationally and locally)? Are there formal mechanisms, platforms, or informal networks in place?

6. What challenges or gaps exist in accessing, managing, or using climate-related data and information?

7. Are there capacity-building needs in your sector for improving data management, use, and sharing (e.g., technical skills, IT systems, inter-institutional collaboration)?

Section 9. Crosscutting Issues

1. To what extent has gender and social inclusion been integrated into adaptation planning and implementation in your sector?

- ☐ Fully integrated (gender analysis and actions in all measures)
- ☐ Partially integrated (considered in some measures)
- ☐ Minimal (only mentioned, no concrete actions)
- ☐ Not integrated
- ☐ Unsure

2. How is monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation currently being done? What systems are in place?

3. What specific support would help strengthen gender and social inclusion in your sector's adaptation work?

- ☐ Training and awareness
- ☐ Guidance/tools for gender-responsive planning
- ☐ Better disaggregated data
- ☐ Dedicated financial resources
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Section 10. Recommendations for the Next Phase of NAP Implementation

1. What priority actions should be taken in your sector for the next phase of NAP implementation?

2. Please provide any recommendations for revising the NAP.

Section 11. Additional Comments

Any other comments, suggestions, or documents to share?

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