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Overall goal in the field of Environment- recent developments

Sustainable social and economic development, through protection of natural resources from waste and degradation, through their integrated management as well as provision of measures, steps and policies towards EU approximation legislation and strengthening of law enforcement and implementation:

- Waste management
- Nature protection
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Forests

Waste management

The updated National Strategy on Integrated Waste Management 2019-2033, will serve as the main planning document in the field of waste management, first designed in the year 2010, and now in the process of being approved.

- Creation of landfill zones instead of landfills at the level of qark;
- Extension of timeframe
- Waste management strategy is based on four fundamental pillars of the National Waste Policy: Planning, Education, Resources and legislation.
- Some of the priorities in this field are the separation of waste at source, an increase in the level of recycling, capacity strengthening for waste management, the full assimilation of waste disposal in unsafe landfills and the full assimilation of waste incineration, the building of landfills in compliance with EU standards, providing facilities for hazardous, medical or construction waste, and also providing new investments regarding waste separation and recycling.

Most recent development of Albanian legislation on waste

- New waste management strategy and action plan approved since May 2020.
- DCM no.575, dated 24.06.2015 “On requirements on management of inert waste”.
- DCM no.418, dated 25.06.2014 “On separation of waste at source”.
- DCM no.608, dated 17.09.2014 “On necessary measures for collection and treatment of bio waste as well as criteria and rules to reduce the amount of bio-waste going to landfill”.
- DCM no.687, dated 29.7.2015 “On rules for keeping, updating and publication of waste statistics”.
- DCM no.1104, dated 28.12.2015 “On approval of the requirements for the prevention and reducing discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea.”
- DCM no.652, dated 14.09.2016 “On rules and criteria on waste management for used tires”.
- DCM no.389, dated 27.06.2018 “On some amendments and additions on the decision no.452, dated 11.07.2012 “On waste landfills”.
- DCM no. 232, dated 26.4.2018 for some amendments and additions on the decision No. 177, dated 6.3.2012, of the Council of Ministers “On packaging and packaging waste”.

Nature protection and protected areas

The document of strategic policies itself is of great importance as it represents the vision and objectives of national priorities in relation with and in the frame of global objectives 'aichi targets' of Biodiversity Convention for the time frame up to 2020.

In Albania in the field of *nature protection*, policies are prepared to guarantee:(i) the protection of protected areas;(ii) the implementation of regulations adopted in 2011 on establishing special protected areas under the framework Nature 2000;(iii) measures to ban illegal activities such as hunting, logging and construction in protected areas without a permit;(iv)strengthening the administrative capacity of the inspectorate in order to suppress these phenomena.

- The law on protection and conservation wild fauna and flora approved
- Penal Code including the environmental crime approved
- Law on biodiversity protection as amended to the current biodiversity law in order to include the provisions of Nagoya protocol on access to genetic resources and the equitable and fare sharing of the benefits arising from their use by transposing also regulation of EU EU) 511/2014, date 16.4.2014 .
- New draft law on hunting is under preparation
- Additional protected areas are being designated and extended – **actually the terrestrial protected areas cover 18.5% of the Albania.**
- A new package of bylaws coming from the law on protected areas such as Draft DCMs on the revenues that coming from tariffs in the protected areas and the establishment of a special fund for the protected areas are in the final stage of being approved)

Issues & Challenges on protected areas management

- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Illegal logging and hunting
- Very low income from activities taking place within PAs
- Lack of financial mechanisms that allow the return of income from PAs to be allocated for rehabilitation and other investments on PAs
- Human and financial resources limitations

Air quality

- ❑ The strategy ensures mechanisms for coordination the current legal framework in Albania with that of the EU, as well as enforcement measures for its implementation.
- ❑ The main objective: improvement of air quality in Albania for a long term period, by improving at the same time the quality of life and increasing the environmental protection.
- ❑ Moreover, with a view to improving the environment air quality, the priorities of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment are also:**(i)** the drafting of national and local action plans for the improvement of the environment air quality;**(ii)** enforcement of the national monitoring system of urban air and discharges into air in compliance with European standards;**(iii)** strengthening collaboration with line institutions for the integration of air quality policies in their sectoral strategies **by taking the following measures:**
 - Reduction of discharges caused by vehicles ,
 - Reduction of industrial discharges,
 - Reduction of emissions coming from agricultural sector,
 - Reduction of domestic/resident discharges,
 - Local measures.

National Plan for air Quality Management

The main objective of the national plan is the implementation of National Strategy for Air Quality management There are 2 specific objectives under this plan:

- Improvement of air quality in the areas where the norms exceed the limits set by law, and for those areas where there is a potential risk of exceeding the norms
- Protection and maintaining the air quality in other areas of the country.

CLIMATE CHANGE

National strategy and a national action plan on climate change are already approved

Draft law on Climate change is in the final stage of being approved by the parliament

The process of revision and update of the NDC has already started through the assistance of NDC Partnership.

The priorities in this field include:

- full approximation with the EU *acquis*:
- **the establishment of a national system of inventories on greenhouse gas emissions,**
- and also strengthening collaboration with line institutions for the **inclusion and mainstreaming** of different policies on climate change in their sectoral strategy/ies.

FOREST MAINTENANCE SERVICES ANALYSIS

- Forest care is an important element for their good growth and effective productivity. It includes several actions that meet the need for having a healthy forest area.
- Forest protection, as an element of care, includes some measures resulting from damaging and devastating actions such as logging, transportation and illegal sale of timber, fires, diseases and natural pests, as well as harvesting / gathering without criteria of non-timber forest products, etc.
- Main problem that characterizes the forest sector in terms of protection is illegal logging at a high level, thus damaging the forests and their habitat.
- large forest areas are damaged by fires and remain unrehabilitated, due to insufficient preventive measures or the failure to act on time.

IN THE FIELD OF *FORESTRY*, the priorities of the MTE are:

(i) full approximation of the national legislation with that of the EU in this field;

(ii) finalising of a new **10 years strategy on forests and pastures;****(iii) compiling a National Forestry Inventory - Strategy on Forests already approved by having the main objectives.**

- Creation of the National Agency of Forests
- Productive Forest for life;
- Forests that contribute towards the sustainable development/ green economy;
- Forests as a source for employment and aa guarantee for the economic cycle of the country.

Objectives of the MTE :

- Increase of forestation and planting in general by bringing together local and central government, businesses, citizens;
- Establishment of policies for sustainable use of forests in order to improve the negative balance between request/offer to reduce the pressure on the forests;
- Protection of the forests from natural damages like fires, erosion, illnesses etc.

Marine Litter Hotspots in the Adriatic Sea

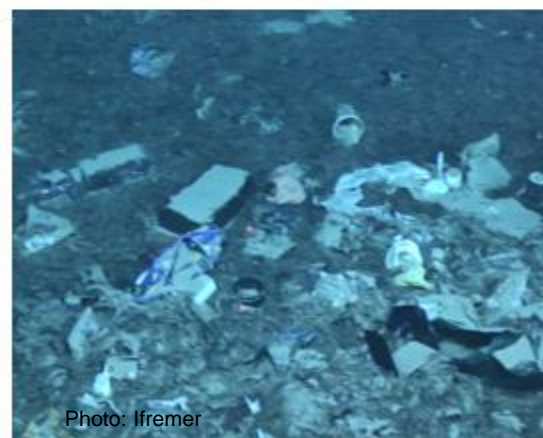


Figure 2 Overview of the pollution hotspot sites in the Adriatic Sea (red dots are priority sites)

Projects relevant to NEXUS

Plastic Busters in the Marine protected Areas project

The project is aiming to develop a monitoring methodology on plastic that ends to the sea by identifying routes of the waste especially those of the river beds and river basins that discharge to the sea.



Interreg - IPA CBC 
Greece - Albania



The Programme is co-funded
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MTE is implementing **AQUANEX project** 'Conservation and quality assurance of the surface improving water management bodies in Greece and Albania using earth observation techniques', funded by Interreg IPA CBC Greece-Albania 2014-2020, as the Lider of the project.

AquaNEX is based on NEXUS approach of intergrading water, energy and agricultural production at the watershed level to optimize agricultural productivity and ecosystem services. CB border approach ensures know-how transference among beneficiaries, applying the WFD and establishes communication among stakeholders enabling similar problem solution for the duration and after the completion of the project.

Thank you
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