GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Naoko Ishii
CEO and Chairperson

March 24, 2015

Ms. Brennan Van Dyke
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Dear Ms. Van Dyke:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project detailed below:

Decision Sought:	Medium-sized Project (MSP) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	5986
Agency(ies):	UNEP
Focal Area:	Climate Change
Project Type:	Medium-Size Project
Country(ies):	Albania
Name of Project:	Building the Resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	$1,800,000
Indicative Agency Fee:	$171,000
Funding Source:	Special Climate Change Fund

This approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with SCCF focal area strategies and in line with GEF/SCCF policies and procedures.

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee

REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: SCCF

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)			
Country(ies):	Albania	GEF Project ID:[1]	5386
GEF Agency(ies):	United Nations Environment Programme	GEF Agency Project ID:	01140
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment	Submission Date: Resubmission Date:	December 10, 2014 23 February 2015
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	36
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐		Corporate Program: SGP ☐
Name of Parent Program	[if applicable]		

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[2]

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in $)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
CCA-1	Outcome 1.1	SCCF-A	1,262,600	6,488,012
CCA-2	Outcome 2.3	SCCF-A	640,400	5,040,860
	Total project costs		1,903,000	11,528,872

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To increase the capacity of government and local communities living near the Kune-Vaini Lagoon System to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA.

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type[3]	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in $)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA.	TA	Outcome 1. Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.	1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	SCCF-A	20,800	2,942,672
			1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.	SCCF-A	86,140	
			1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the	SCCF-A	108,700	

[1] Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.
[2] When completing Table A, refer to the GEF Website, *Focal Area Results Framework* which is an *Excerpt from GEF 6 Programming Directions*.
[3] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			implementation of EbA at the national level.			
			1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	SCCF-A	84,360	
Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	Inv	Outcome 2. Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune-Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.	2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	SCCF-A	899,650	5,871,650
			2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	SCCF-A	109,500	
			2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	SCCF-A	74,350	
Component 3. Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA.	TA	Outcome 3. Increased 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.	3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.	SCCF-A	24,250	1,619,307
			3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.	SCCF-A	118,000	
			3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.	SCCF-A	85,750	
			3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.	SCCF-A	11,000	
				Subtotal	1,622,500	10,433,629
				Monitoring and Evaluation	108,000	
				Project Management Cost (PMC)[4]	SCCF-A	172,500	1,095,243
				Total project costs		1,903,000	11,528,872

If Multi-Trust Fund project: PMC in this table should be the total and enter trust fund PMC breakdown here ( )

[4] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include confirmed co-financing letters for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Other Multi-lateral Agency(cies) : World Bank (WB) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Government of Albania	Grant	5,707,608
Other Multi-lateral Agency(cies) : Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Adriatic Programme of the European Union (2012-2015)	Government of Albania	Grant	5,130,964
National budget	Government of Albania	Grant	190,300
GEF Agency	United Nations Environment Programme	Grant	500,000
Total Co-financing			11,528,872

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee a) (b)2	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	SCCF	Albania	Climate Change	(select as applicable)	1,903,000	180,785	2,083,785
Total Grant Resources					1,903,000	180,785	2,083,785

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS[5]

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

SCCF projects are not expected to contribute to Global benefits. However, due to the focus on ecosystems the SCCF-financed project will improve management of landscapes and maintain globally significant biodiversity:

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*200 ha*
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	*(Enter number of hectares)*
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	*(Enter number of freshwater basins)*
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	*(Enter percent of fisheries, by volume)*
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	*(Enter number of tons)*
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	*(Enter number of tons)*
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	*(Enter number of tons)*
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	*(Enter number of tons)*
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	*(Enter number of countries)*
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	*(Enter number of countries)*

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? NO

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Fund) in Annex D.

[5] Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the *GEF-6 Programming Directions,* will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF[6]

No significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF have been made. The following summarizes the few changes made following the consultations during the PPG in terms of the project's outcomes/outputs and co-financing activities:

The wording of the three project Outcomes has been altered to make them more specific, however, they remain based on the same underlying principles. The rewording of project outcomes is detailed in the table below:

Outcome as written in the PIF	Outcome revised during the PPG
1. Increased national and local adaptive capacity to address climate change risks through the EbA approach in coastal areas.	1. Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.
2. Increased ecosystem and livelihood resilience from flood and drought risk through pilot EbA demonstration activities in Kune Vaini lagoon system	2. Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune-Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.
3. Enhanced awareness to climate change risks and advantages of EbA to increase ecosystems and livelihood resilience.	3. Increased 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.

The project outputs have been contextualized to fit the current needs in Albania, following the consultations held during the PPG. The following table details the revisions to outputs under Component 1.

Output as written in the PIF	Output revised during the PPG	Justification
A new output has been introdcued	1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	EbA is a new concept in Albania, and stakeholders identified the need for training of both national and local government on the subject.
1.1 Policy briefs and technical guidelines for policy and decision makers on increasing resilience of coastal zone communities to climate change through the EbA approach.	1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.	This output has been reworded to make it more specific.
1.2 Revisions to existing ecosystem management and coastal development policies (ICZM) and relevant strategies developed to identify entry points for promoting adaptation through the EbA approach.	This output has been removed	Stakeholders indicated that it is not necessary to review policies and management plans, or create policy briefs as previous projects have focused on policy revision and the creation of policy papers. However, there is a need for technical guidelines on how to adapt to climate change using EbA. Discussions with stakeholders revealed the need for documents that would make it possible to move from policy to implementation. See Output 1.2.
1.3 Road-maps for coastal adaptation using the EbA approach at local scale.	This output has been removed	This output is incorporated in Output 1.2 as it is seen as a part of the larger mechanism that promotes the development and implementation of EbA interventions.
1.4 A mechanism that: i) facilitates cross-cutting national dialogue on coastal adaptation through the EbA approach ii) develops large-scale EbA programing, and iii) mobilizes	1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA	The output has been reworded to specifically refer to the "technical working group on climate change", which will constitute the mechanism for promoting national dialogue and mobilizing funds for the implementation of EbA interventions.

[6] For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

funds for the implementation of EbA at country level.	at the national level.	
1.5 Strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate resilient coastal development using the EbA approach is institutionalized.	1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	This output has been reworded to make it more specific and measurable.

The following table details the revisions to outputs under Component 2.

Output as written in the PIF	Output revised during the PPG	Justification
2.1.1 Methods and tools for socio-economic evaluation of adaptation options as part of the ICZM framework developed.	This output has been removed	A previous GEF UNDP project identified adaptation options, designed methods and tools for socio-economic evaluation, and evaluated socio-economic impact of the identified adaptation interventions. During the PPG phase, relevant EbA interventions were selected from the set of appropriate adaptation options identified by the afore-mentioned project. This was done in consultation with multiple stakeholders (see Section 3.3 and Appendix 20 of the UNEP PD). These outputs were therefore no longer required. They have been replaced with a long-term monitoring strategy (see Output 2.2), which will facilitate the socio-economic evaluation of the intervention implemented by the project.
2.1.2 Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) measures for Kune Vaini lagoon restoration are assessed and selected.	This output has been removed	
2.1.3 EbA measures including alternative livelihoods are implemented in at least 3 selected sites of the lagoon system.	2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	The output has been reworded to focus on the the implementation of EbA interventions. Alternative livelihoods are included in Output 2.3.
A new output has been introdcued	2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	A long-term monitoring strategy will facilitate the socio-economic evaluation of the intervention implemented by the project. This will inform the implementation of future EbA projects in Albania.
2.1.4 Local communities from project sites are trained to use and sustain the selected EbA measures piloted in the project sites.	2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	The output has been reworded to include training on additional livelihoods, including ecotourism.

The following table details the revisions to outputs under Component 3. Under Component 3, the order of outputs has been revised and they have been reworded in accordance with the results of the PPG stakeholder consultations. However, all four outputs remain based on the same underlying principles.

Output as written in the PIF	Output revised during the PPG
3.1.3 Knowledge management plan to capture lessons on climate induced socio-economic impacts as well as lessons fed back through the cycle to improve EbA future interventions in the costal areas.	3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.
3.1.1 Awareness raising strategy on climate change risk and impacts in the coastal zone, and on advantages of application of the EbA approach to reduce risks.	3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.
3.1.2 Performance of EbA measures is assessed and monitored	3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.

3.1.4 A web-based platform to share the information and access to the project products (database, activities, technical reports, handbooks, etc.)	3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.

The indicative co-financing in the PIF totalled US$ 11,000,000. This estimate was made based on discussions with relevant co-financing initiatives at the time the PIF was formulated. These figures were confirmed during the PPG consultations and as a result of these consultations two baseline projects identified in the PIF – the Regional Development Programme (RDP) for North Albania and Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania project (ISPA) – are found nearing completion and are therefore no longer considered appropriate as baseline projects for the SCCF-financed project. Other baseline projects relevant to the proposed projects are identified: EcoSea project and contributions from the national budget of the Government of Albania (see the baseline project section below for more information). The total indicative co-financing has therefore been refined to US$ 11,528,872.

A.1 Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessements under relevant conventions, if applicable (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NCs, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BUR, etc.

The proposed LDCF project remains aligned with the following National strategies, plans and priorities:

- Albania's National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) (2014–2020);
- Albania's Integrated Inter-sectoral Plan for the Coast (IIPC);
- Albania's General National Plan (GNP);
- Albania's National Cross-cutting Environment Strategy;
- Albania's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP);
- Albania's Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP);
- Albania's Third National Communication to UNFCCC;
- Albania's Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (SPMCPAs);
- Albania's Concept of Regional Development (2010-2016);
- The Regional Plan on Forest and Grasslands Administration in the Lezha Region; and
- The Kune-Vain Protected Area Management Plan.

For more information on these strategies and plans, please refer to the UNEP project document Section 3.6 - consistency with national priorities and plans.

A.2. GEF focal area[7] and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

The SCCF-financed project is consistent with SCCF objectives CCA-1 "Reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change" and CCA-2 "Increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change".

As the PIF was submitted using the GEF 5 Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool and the CEO Endorsement uses the GEF 6 Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool, the outcomes have been aligned and changed to reflect the change in numbering and wording in the new template. The outcomes are described below.

- Outcome 2 will reduce the vulnerability of local communities to climate change through implementing pilot adaptation interventions including EbA. This is aligned with SCCF Objective CCA-1, Outcome 1.1: "Vulnerability of physical assets and natural systems reduced".
- Outcome 1 will increase local and national technical capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas by training local and national government, producing technical guidelines that promote the implementation of adaptation actions; and promoting the establishment of a technical working group on climate change and EbA. This

[7] For biodiversity projects, please describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to and what indicators will be used to track progress towards achieving these specific Aichi target(s).

is aligned with LDCF Objective CCA-2, Outcome 2.3: "Institutional and technical capacities and human skills strengthened to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures".

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

Further details have been added to the relevant section of the UNEP Project Document outlining UNEP's experience and success in assisting the Government of Albania to access funding for climate change adaptation.

The proposed project is consistent with UNEP's comparative advantage in providing proof of concept and the best available science and knowledge upon which investments can be based. The proposed project focuses on knowledge of ecosystems and adaptation technology, in which UNEP has taken the lead and is in line with the UNEP's core business of providing technical advice on ecosystem based adaptation.

For additional information on UNEP's comparative advantage please refer to Appendix 18 of the UNEP Project Document.

A.4. The baseline and any associated baseline projects:

Baseline situation

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA

There is a limited awareness and understanding of EbA amongst government staff in Albania. Staff members within government ministries do not receive training on EbA. As a result, there is limited knowledge on: i) the costs and benefits of EbA; ii) what constitutes EbA best practices; and iii) how to tailor EbA for coastal and lagoon ecosystems. While there are on-going ecosystem management and restoration projects in Albania these are mostly implemented in an *ad hoc* manner. These ecosystem management and restoration activities are conducted in isolation from one another and generally do not take climate change risk into account. Consequently, there is limited opportunity to maximise the benefits of ecosystem restoration and management plans to improve the resilience of ecosystems and local communities to the adverse effects of climate change.

Several projects in Albania, such as the GEF UNDP DRMD project, the GEF UNDP transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management project, and Albania's Second and Third National Communication, have included capacity building for national stakeholders on climate change adaptation, risk assessment and integrated water resources management. Despite the efforts of these projects, there is limited integration of climate change into national policies and plans.

Policies and strategies that are relevant to the KVLS, have limited integration of climate change adaptation and risks[8]. In particular, there is limited integration of climate change in coastal development planning policies such as Water Resources Management Plans or Protected Area Management Plans. The process of reviewing these and other relevant policies/plans is on-going, and therefore there is need for additional capacity building on climate adaptation.

More specifically, EbA is not integrated into policies and plans related to climate change. As a result, relevant government ministries do not have a framework for implementing EbA across the country. Consequently, there is a need for clear and practical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers on integrating EbA into relevant plans/policies.

The successful implementation of EbA on a large scale requires cross-sectoral dialogue between national and local government, and representatives from active projects in the country. Currently the IWGCC functions as the national platform for enabling regular dialogue on policies, plans, activities and financing for environmental issues related to climate change. While the IWGCC has been established, they have yet to meet[9]. Therefore, there is currently limited cross-sectoral dialogue on climate change at the national and local level. In addition, the limited demonstration of climate change adaptation interventions as a whole – and of EbA in particular – in Albania means that the IWGCC have

[8] Climate change risks have been partially incorporated into the Management Plan of KV PA as an annex. This annex is expected to be fully written into the Management Plan when it is revised in 2015.

9 as of May 2014

limited technical capacity to plan and implement EbA. This is coupled with a limited ability of technical staff to identify international funding opportunities and develop proposals to acquire funds for climate change adaptation, which further limits the opportunities to implement EbA in Albania.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system

In Albania, there are very few projects that are implementing EbA. Other initiatives do, however, focus on building hard infrastructure to restore ecosystems, and improving management plans. These initiatives are often geared toward protecting local communities from climate change induced events like flooding, without including scientific research on the effect of these initiatives during planning or implementation. Consequently, the benefits of these interventions are not maximised.

Previously, hard infrastructure interventions have been implemented in the KVLS as a way to combat ecosystem degradation in the area. These included the construction of artesian wells in the 1970s and more recently the opening of a tidal inlet channel between the Adriatic Sea and Ceka lagoon to supply fresh water and reduce the salinity of the lagoon. However, the lack of maintenance has led to the closure of this inlet and the closure of wells as a result of sediment accumulation or owing to them being submerged because of SLR. In addition to this, there are 10 hectares of degraded riparian forest and 2000 m of degraded beach dunes within the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. No reforestation of degraded riparian forest has been undertaken in the area[10], while a 200 m stretch of coastal dunes was rehabilitated as a pilot demonstration by a previous project[11].

With very few projects implementing adaptation interventions or EbA in Albania, frameworks have not been established to implement adaptation interventions and to monitor the effects of adaptation interventions and EbA over the long-term. This results in a limited number of technical reports that detail the findings of project monitoring activities being produced. A strategy to monitor birds, fish and vegetation within the Kune-Vaini is included in the protected area management plan. Monitoring is undertaken in the KVLA on a monthly basis and the data collected is submitted to the MoE. However, no strategy to monitor EbA interventions exists and no technical reports on any other type of monitoring are produced.

There is a limited awareness and understanding of EbA amongst local communities in the area surrounding the KVLS. While previous projects in the area raised awareness on climate change and its effect on the KVLS, these awareness campaigns did not include EbA or additional livelihoods. In addition, there has been no formal training on EbA and/or additional livelihoods. As a result, there is limited understanding of local communities on: i) the benefits of EbA; and ii) additional livelihood options in the KVLS. Consequently, there is limited opportunity for local communities to maximise the benefits of ecosystem restoration to improve their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Furthermore, all tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system focuses on beach tourism. There are no established ecotourism ventures, and local community members have not received any training on ecotourism or developing new ecotourism ventures.

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA

The limited implementation of EbA interventions and the *ad hoc* manner in which ecosystem restoration is undertaken in Albania has resulted in the lack of production of a knowledge management plan for EbA-relevant information. Therefore, there is a need to develop a management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed and other projects in Albania.

In Albania, individuals at both the regional and national level are unfamiliar with the term EbA. In addition to this, there is limited information available on: i) the benefits of EbA; ii) opportunities to integrate EbA into planning at a local and

[10] Reforestation has been undertaken several times in the KVLA. This reforestation has focussed on coastal dunes and included planting pine and other forest tree species. These reforestation events have failed as they did not take the effects of climate change into account and they did not use climate change resilient tree species. Furthermore, the selection of species for reforestation and the selected sites were not informed by in depth scientific research.

[11] GEF UNEP Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

central level; and iii) technical details on how to implement EbA. Furthermore, there is limited public awareness of the benefits of EbA and as such EbA is not a priority for local communities and policy- and decision-makers.

Previous projects in Albania, particularly in the DMRD, have conducted climate change awareness campaigns. While these campaigns have resulted in improved local and national awareness of climate change and the effects thereof, they did not include the benefits of and the technical details of how to implement EbA as a means of adapting to climate change in these campaigns.

At a post graduate level, universities in Albania offer both PhD and MSc courses, however, limited funding results in candidates needing to pay all fees themselves. Consequently, the system usually results in poorly designed and run projects. While scientific projects have been undertaken in the KVLS in the past five years, these projects and the scientific reports/papers produced by them are limited to bird ecology. Furthermore, there are no scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of EbA interventions. Thus, there is limited research being conducted by local universities on practical topics related to EbA. This results in limited scientific knowledge of how best to implement EbA in coastal areas of Albania.

Baseline projects

The proposed SCCF project will build on the following on-going baseline initiatives/projects:

The General Directorate of Water Administration (GDoWA) within the MoE is implementing the **Water Resources and Irrigation (WRI) project** funded by the World Bank (WB) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) (total project budget US$46,030,000, of which US$40,910,000 from an IBRD Specific Investment Loan (SIL) and US$5,120,000 from SIDA) (total project budget directed through MoE US$5,707,608[12]). The project will run from 2012 to 2018 and aims to: i) establish a strategic framework to manage water resources at the national level and in the Drini-Buna and Semani river basins; and ii) improve the performance of irrigation systems in the project area. The main components of the project are: i) dam, irrigation and drainage systems rehabilitation; ii) institutional support for irrigation and drainage management; and iii) institutional support for integrated water resources management. The KVLS is included in the project area of this WRI project.

The project will contribute towards climate-proofing of the WRI project by; raising awareness, providing technical training, producing technical guidelines that will promote the inclusion of EbA implementation into management plans, and the implementation of an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA in the KVLS to reduce the vulnerability of reconstructed economic infrastructure and community assets. Further details on how the SCCF-financed project will contribute towards climate proofing the WRI project are provided below.

The SCCF-financed project will build on on-going activities of the WRI project and contribute towards reducing the climate change vulnerability of its activities. Under Outcome 1, the project will build on the WRI project (US$1,712,282 total co-financing for Outcome 1) by strengthening the institutional capacity of the implementing agency to plan and implement climate-proof drainage and irrigation interventions. This will be achieved by providing training on: i) climate change risks and their impacts on water resources and irrigation and drainage; ii) lessons learned from other EbA projects (Activity 1.1.2 and 1.2.4); iii) opportunities for EbA in the region and country (Activity 1.1.2 and 1.2.4); and iv) identifying and accessing funds for EbA (Activity 1.3.5). Additionally, through the development of technical guidelines that will promote the inclusion of EbA into integrated management plans under Output 1.2, the SCCF-financed project will promote the integration of climate change considerations into management plans for irrigation and drainage systems. Furthermore, the improved drainage infrastructure supplied by the WRI project will reduce pollution flowing into the KVLS thereby enhancing ecosystem health. At the same time, the EbA interventions in the KVLS implemented through the SCCF-financed project, under Output 2.1, will reduce the risk of this drainage infrastructure (US$3,995,326 total co-financing amount) being damaged by floods or storm surges. In total, the WRI project will contribute US$5,707,608 (the amount of funding directed through the MoE) in co-financing to the SCCF-financed project.

[12] Converted from EUR 4,181,000 at a rate of 1EUR = US$1.365

The **EcoSea project** – funded by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Adriatic Programme of the European Union (2012-2015) and implemented by the MoE – will promote, improve and protect the marine and coastal environment through sustainable management of fishing activities in the Adriatic. The main objective of this project is the development of fish resources and biodiversity to improve the general condition of the marine environment. The SCCF-financed project will build on the objectives of the EcoSea project and increase the climate-resilience of its activities. The promotion of the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA (Under Outcome 1 of the SCCF-financed project, Activity 1.3.3 – 1.3.5) will enhance the promotion of knowledge exchange between and build the technical capacity of the MoE, MoUDT and MoARDWR to plan for and implement EbA as a means of adapting to climate change in coastal areas. Knowledge sharing will also be supported through: i) the web-based platform established by the project in Activity 3.4.1; ii) awareness raising activities undertaken under Output 3.2; iii) training of local and national stakeholders under Output 1.1; and the development of technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers to implement EbA interventions. This will further strengthen institutional capacity to manage marine resources. Furthermore, the SCCF-financed project will build on the marine environment and biodiversity protection objectives of the EcoSea project through the implementation of EbA (Output 2.1) and the promotion of eco-tourism (Output 2.3) in the KVLS. The EcoSea project will contribute US$5,130,964 in co-financing to the SCCF-financed project (Outcome 1 US$1,539,289 Outcome 2, US$2,052,386, and Outcome 3 US$1,539,289).

At the global level, this project will also build on other ongoing initiatives in UNEP namely the **UNEP-European Commission ENTRP project** on 'Building Capacity for Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)' (budget US$500,000). This project seeks to assist countries and regions to develop and apply ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to maintain and enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems and the services they provide to coastal communities in SIDS. The project aims to develop global guidance and decision making tools for the implementation of EbA in coastal regions. In addition, the project will demonstrate EbA through coastal, mangrove and beach restoration in two pilot countries – Grenada and Seychelles. Through the project's focus on coastal EbA (Outcome 2), the SCCF-financed project will benefit from and build on the elements of the ecosystem management tools, as well as the technical guidance developed to assist decision-making (US$250,000 total co-financing for Outcome 2). Furthermore, the SCCF-financed project will form part of the global transfer of good practices and experiences gained from this project (US$250,000 total co-financing for Outcome 3) particularly where coastal management is concerned.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

Additional cost reasoning

Climate change is resulting in negative impacts on the KVLS and local communities living nearby. The ecosystem goods and services provided by the lagoon system supports the livelihoods of many of the households within these communities. For example, the majority of people living around the lagoon derive their income from fishing or small-scale subsistence agriculture. However, ecosystem degradation and the negative effects of climate change – including an increase in air and sea surface temperature and reduction in precipitation – has resulted in an increase in salinity in the lagoon. Additionally, SLR has led to increased dune erosion and the removal of important barriers which has resulted in an increase in coastal flooding in the KVLS area. These climate-related changes are compromising the generation of ecosystem services – such as flood protection, water quality maintenance, nutrient regulation and fish production – that local communities depend on. Consequently, climate change will continue to have an adverse effect on communities living near the KVLS.

The SCCF-financed project will decrease the vulnerability of surrounding communities to climate change by implementing an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA – that is informed by scientific research and traditional knowledge – in the KVLS. Consequently, ecosystem services – including flood protection, water quality maintenance, nutrient regulation and fish production – will be enhanced regardless of climate-related effects. In addition, the project will increase the climate-resilience of the baseline projects in the DMRD. Further information is supplied in the table below.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Unsustainable resource use within the KVLS is causing: i) a reduction in quality and quantity of water in the KVLS affecting lagoon productivity; ii) increased coastal flooding; and iii) increased sand dune erosion. The unsustainable use and alteration of the KVLS is being compounded and will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate variability and change. Climate variability and change has and will continue to affect, most likely at a more rapid rate, ecosystems their services and livelihood of local communities living in KVLS. Climate variability and change is expected to affect not only the development of the region but also the achievement of objectives of on-going projects and investments in KVLS. The government of Albania and development partners are working together to implementing projects which address development issues, and ecosystem management such as water resources management, marine coastal ecosystems, fisheries tourism. Only a few of them take into account climate change risks with none of them considering the use of ecosystem restoration for resilience building to climate change. The national and local authorities and communities of KVLS lack the capacity to address climate change risks and furthermore lack the understanding and skills in the use of the EbA which can be more cost effective versus technical solutions in long term and generate socio-economic benefits for the environment, citizens, and the local economy.	To address this problem the GoA – with support from UNEP – is implementing an adaptation project in the KVLS funded from SCCF resources The interventions of the project will focus on building the capacity of the local and national institutions to address climate change risk through a suite of interventions supported when possible by Ecosystem Based Adaptation. These interventions include : i) improved awareness and understanding of EbA at the national and local level; ii) increased technical and institutional capacity of national and local government to address climate change risk in coastal areas through EbA ; iii) improved co-ordination between government institutions involved in climate-change adaptation; iv) increasing the technical capacity of national and local government and members of the TWGCC to identify mechanisms to mobilise private sector funding, payments for ecosystem goods and services, and microfinance for upscaling and sustaining EbA and access international funding for EbA; v) implementation of adaptation interventions including EbA to restore natural ecosystems in the KVLS; and vi) increase awareness to and knowledge on climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities to climate change.

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA.

Adaptation scenario

Component 1 will increase national and local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through EbA. To achieve this outcome, US$300,000 will be allocated to: i) train national and local government on EbA; ii) strengthen national dialogue mechanisms; and iii) design a strategy – including mechanisms for financing EbA in Albania through mobilising private sector funding, microfinance, and payments for ecosystem goods and services – to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient coastal development using EbA. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$3,251,571.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 1 • Policy- and decision-makers in Albania are largely unaware of the considerable benefits of EbA. • Policies and strategies within Albania have been revised to include climate change but do not include EbA. As such, policies and strategies do not provide an environment conducive to the use of EbA. • There is limited technical knowledge on the implementation of EbA interventions. • National approach to ecosystem restoration is *ad hoc*, with various ecosystem restoration-related activities taking place in isolation without communication between ministries. • An Inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change was created in 2012. However, regular meetings of this committee are not held, and the committee members are not well informed on the technical information needed	**Outcome 1** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to technical and institutional capacity to adapt to climate change using EbA. The interventions in this outcome will improve cross-sectoral dialogue and create a platform for promoting large-scale EbA in Albania. This will be done through the activities listed below. • Conducting introductory training of national and local government on EbA; • Reviewing existing policies and plans that are particularly relevant to ecosystem management, protected area management, national development, and coastal development to identify entry points to promoting EbA; • Developing technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers on how to plan, finance and implement EbA interventions that will increase the resilience of coastal communities to climate change;

to implement climate change adaptation interventions. • There is limited coordination on environmental projects between the various ministries in Albania, which is partly attributable to a lack of information being made available to the members of the IWGCC. • Adapting Albanian communities to climate change using ecosystem restoration for adaptation is not a strategic priority on the development agenda. • Limited technical and institutional capacity of line ministries for developing the full suite of adaptation benefits that can arise from restoring degraded ecosystems. • Limited capacity and skills for identifying and accessing international funds for EbA.	• Conducting technical training workshops with national and local government technical staff to: i) present technical guidelines; ii) train technical staff on moving from policy to implementation; and iii) train technical staff on ICZM. • Establish an improved communication mechanism between relevant ministries, and assist in overcoming other barriers to national dialogue. • Hosting meetings of the current inter-ministerial working group on climate change to promote the establishment of a technical working group on climate change and EbA – including the selection of appropriate technical members – that will provide relevant technical information on climate change risks and appropriate EbA interventions. • Conducting an initiation workshop for the technical working group on climate change and EbA and assisting in the development of a mandate for the group as well as terms of reference for its members. • Hosting bi-annual meetings to promote the continual and consistent functioning of the technical working group on climate change and EbA. • Conducting training sessions on financing climate change adaptation to strengthen the capacity of the technical working group to identify and access national/international and private sector funds for upscaling and sustaining EbA. • Develop a plan – with the technical working group – to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA. • Developing a nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, led by the inter-ministerial working group on climate change, to sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA. • Ultimately, create an enabling policy environment that strongly promotes large-scale EbA use.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

Adaptation scenario

Under this component, US$1,083,500 will be used to implement an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA – that had been identified by a previous GEF UNDP project – in the KVLS. The project will complement existing baseline activities by implementing EbA interventions to improve ecosystem functioning of the KVLS. The project will update scientific information required for comprehensive environmental impact assessments – including topography, bathymetry, meteorology, biodiversity, ecology, geomorphology and hydrology. This information will be updated through collaboration with research institutions and consultancies and build on work undertaken by other projects to develop EbA protocols. This will result in the production of evidence-based, tailored protocols – that integrate scientific expert research and traditional knowledge – for EbA in coastal areas. Moreover, these protocols will be used to implement on-the-ground EbA thereby reducing the vulnerability the KVLS and local communities living nearby. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$6,488,012.

In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the adaptation interventions in conjunction with EbA interventions, a long-term strategy for monitoring the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of these interventions will be developed. This strategy will include the production of technical reports that, in conjunction with expert and local indigenous knowledge, will be used to inform adaptive management of the project and provide valuable information to build the evidence base for EbA.

Without SCCF funding, protocols for EbA in coastal areas are unlikely to be developed and EbA is unlikely to be adopted as a means of adaptation or as a means of strengthening other adaptation measures. As a result, current

ecosystem restoration and management will continue with the potential to fail under conditions of climate change. Moreover, the lack of EbA interventions will result in limited: i) collection of long-term data on the benefits of such interventions, particularly in coastal ecosystems; ii) development of livelihood benefits from healthy lagoon ecosystems; and iii) possibilities to upscale, sustain and replicate EbA in other ecosystems in Albania.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 2 • The ecosystems in KVLS are degraded. This degradation is a result of multiple causes including overfishing, deforestation, unsustainable land use (such as the removal of buffer zone to create agricultural land), and the construction of physical barriers to prevent coastal flooding and reduced sediment supply from the Drini River. • Degradation of the ecosystems in the KVLS results in negative effects such as increase water temperature, increased salinity, increased erosion of sand dunes, and reduced quantity of water in the KVLS. • The observed consequences of increased salinity and temperature include a reduction in species diversity and plant and fish biomass as well as a decrease in overall productivity of the KVLS. • The observed consequences of increased erosion include the loss of lagoon area and increase in coastal flooding. • Restoration initiatives undertaken by government, and NGOs invariably focus on the construction of hard infrastructure to protect ecosystems and local communities, rather than using the ecosystem to maximise adaptation benefits for local communities. • Appropriate methodologies and protocols for the implementation of EbA interventions and for maximising the benefits of restoring different coastal ecosystems have either not been systematically documented or are unknown. • Restoration initiatives in Albania will continue to be implemented without taking full advantage of the benefits that EbA – if appropriately designed, –can provide to both the environment and local communities.	**Outcome 2** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to restoration of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system, by: • Collecting and updating detailed scientific information required for a comprehensive environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for the selected interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system. • Undertaking comprehensive EIAs for the selected EbA interventions to be implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon. • Preparing technical protocols and methodologies for the implementation of EbA in the coastal area. • Constructing six artesian wells and rehabilitate 4 wells at the selected sites in the in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Vaini lagoon area. • Reforesting three selected sites on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon totalling an area of ~10 ha with indigenous, climate-resilient tree species. • Constructing and maintaining a new tidal inlet channel between the Ceka Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea. • Rehabilitating a 2000m stretch of coastal dunes, south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon, by planting indigenous climate-resilient dune plants. • Developing and institutionalising a long-term strategy for the maintenance of: i) artesian wells; ii) reforested riparian areas; iii) tidal inlet channel; and iv) rehabilitated coastal dunes. • Designing and implementing a long-term strategy to monitor and compile the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of the implemented adaptation interventions, thereby creating a knowledge base for coastal EbA in Albania and further strengthening the upscaling strategy developed in Outcome 1. • Conducting training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods. • Undertaking a market assessment to identify and select appropriate ecotourism options for local communities living near the KVLS • Developing informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism. • Upgrading the tourist information centre at the entrance to the Kune-Vaini protected area. • Providing targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures. • Providing technical assistance in the development of a business plan to pilot a selected ecotourism venture including technical advice on accessing finance (e.g. microfinance). • Implement the business plan to demonstrate the pilot ecotourism venture.

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA.

Adaptation scenario:

The SCCF-financed project will dedicate resources (US$239,000) to: i) raise awareness on the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions among the public as well as policy- and decision-makers; ii) design and implement a knowledge management plan to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the project; iii) design and implement a research programme that will fund MSc and PhD students to conduct research on the long term impacts of EbA; and iv) design and create a web-based platform that will allow sharing of and access to inter alia, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports on EbA in a user-friendly manner. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$1,789,289.

Without SCCF-funding, EbA will remain a term that is not well understood among policy- and decision-makers and the public. In addition, these stakeholders will not be aware of: i) the importance of integrating expert scientific research into EbA planning; and ii) the full range of benefits that result from EbA. Consequently, the objective of existing and proposed EbA projects to upscale this approach will be hindered and research priorities for EbA will not be identified. As such, it is unlikely that EbA will be integrated into planning at a local and national scale.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 3 Policy- and decision-makers, and the general public in Albania are largely unaware of the considerable benefits of EbA as a means of adapting to climate change. • There is limited knowledge of EbA available to policy- and decision-makers, national stakeholders and local communities. • Limited collection of EbA information and production of scientific papers on EbA. • Limited integration of scientific knowledge in EbA. • Limited sharing of information on EbA, mainly as a result of a lack of knowledge sharing platform.	**Outcome 3** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to increased public awareness of the benefits and application of EbA, by: • Designing and implementing a knowledge management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed project. • Conducting awareness-raising campaigns for policy and decision makers, technical government and non-government personnel, and the general public on: i) the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions based on the lessons learned in Outcomes 1 and 2;and ii) ecotourism. • Conducting experience-sharing and community events to facilitate learning and dialogue among policy makers, implementers and local people living within and benefiting from selected interventions sites. • Designing and implementing a research programme, with the selected research institutions, to scientifically assess the long-term biological, physical and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions. • Designing, creating and maintaining a web-based platform that will allow sharing of and access to *inter alia*, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports in a user-friendly manner.

A summary of the project activities can be found in Annex O. For full details of the project activities see Section 3.3 in the UNEP Project Document.

A.6. Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

A summary of risks identified and their associated impacts and countermeasures can be found in the table below. Appropriate countermeasures and management responses to minimize the negative effect posed by the potential risk will be implemented. Monitoring, re-assessing and updating these project risks will be done throughout project implementation.

#	Description	Potential consequence	Countermeasures	Risk category	Probability & impact (1–5)
National-level risks					
1	Disagreement between stakeholders on the allocation of roles in the project.	Project inventions delayed because of uncertain role allocation. Effectiveness of project management is reduced. Reduced commitment/buy-in from local communities.	Institutional representatives at the validation workshop will agree upon the roles and responsibilities of each participating stakeholder.	Organisational	P = 3 I = 4
2	Limited capacity of institutions to undertake scientifically rigorous research.	Effectiveness of project management is reduced.	Institutional representatives at the validation meeting will agree upon the roles and responsibilities of each participating government institution. Research institutions will be assessed at the beginning of the implementation phase and only those with capacity will be selected The TA will provide substantial support to the PM. This will include two to three field visits per year by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to ensure that the project workplan is applied.	Institutional	P = 3 I = 2
3	Lack of inter-institutional data sharing or collaboration.	Limited transfer of relevant project information amongst role players and end-users resulting in delayed or ineffective implementation of interventions.	Information technologies and telecommunication systems implemented or used throughout the SCCF-financed project are best suited to the local context and do not restrict the transfer and communication of information. A web-based platform will be created during the project to share data. The inter-ministerial working group will convene on the approved schedule.	Organisational	P = 4 I = 4
4	The long-term nature of adaptation, in particular EbA, may lead to limited government support for project activities in the selected area.	Loss of government support may result in lack of prioritisation of project activities.	Ensure that government maintains its commitment and considers the project as a support to its development and integration strategies and programmes by undertaking regular stakeholder consultations.	Organisational	P = 2 I = 4
5	High turnover of staff members in implementing agencies	Changes in project-related government priorities and poor institutional memory result in disruptions or delays in project implementation and coordination.	Deputies and alternative representatives within the institutions will be recommended at inception to ensure that sufficient membership continuity is available. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will make use of established government structures to capitalise on functioning systems. Technical guidelines will be	Organisational	P = 4 I = 3

			developed in English and Albanian. These guidelines will guide new staff that become involved in the project.		
6	Government will not have funds to sustain the national arrangements, once the project ends.	Failure to upscale EbA effectively into other areas in Albania.	A strategy to up-scale, sustain and replicate coastal development using EbA will be developed. A mechanism that will help mobilize funds for the implementation of EbA, including through national budget allocations, private sector funding and payments for ecosystem services, at country level will be developed. Training of decision-makers on how to identify funding for EbA and write project proposals will be undertaken during the project.	Organisational	P = 3 I = 3
Local level risks					
7	Limited acceptance of EbA by local communities.	Communities may not adopt ecosystem restoration for adaptation activities during or after the project resulting in continued unsustainable use of resources.	The project will be institutionalised within MoE to ensure sustainability into the future. Additional livelihood projects – that have been deemed financially, technically and socially viable or feasible – will be implemented within project to reduce reliance on fishing in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system. Capacity building and training of local communities to understand the benefits of ecosystem restoration for adaptation in activities they are undertaking.	Social	P = 3 I = 4
8	Disagreement over allocation of land for implementation of project activities.	Disagreement among stakeholders about site selection.	Intervention sites were selected using a strict list of criteria to promote a transparent, logical and equitable site-selection process.	Social	P = 2 I = 3
9	Extreme climatic events and climate variability.	Current climate and seasonal variability and/or hazard events result in poor restoration results.	Ensure that current climatic variability is taken into account in restoration and construction of hard intervention processes. Focus on resilient species and promote techniques to assist plant growth particularly in the seedling and sapling stages. Focus on incorporating short term hard infrastructure interventions that protect hard interventions.	Environmental	P = 2 I = 4
11	Limited local technical capacity hinders project interventions.	Capacity constraints of local institutions and experts may limit the ability to undertake the research and demonstration activities.	Identify and develop human resources capacity as required. Initiate collaboration and exchange between local institutions and international research institutes. A Technical Advisor (TA) and/or an Albanian expert will work closely with the project Manager to ensure timely delivery of project outputs.	Technical	P = 3 I = 3

12	Limited commitment/buy-in from local communities.	Lack of commitment/buy-in from local communities may result in failure of demonstration projects.	A stakeholder engagement plan will be drawn up during the PPG phase. Community stakeholders from the PPG phase will be engaged with to ensure their buy-in into the project. Actively engage local communities during implementation.	Social, Environmental	P = 3 I = 4
13	Unsustainable land and natural resource use.	Unsustainable use of natural resources continues, leading to further degradation of ecosystems.	Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted on the value of intact and functional ecosystems for surrounding communities. Actively engage local communities during implementation.	Social, Environmental	P = 3 I = 4
14	Limited understanding of the difference between "business-as-usual" interventions and EbA by local communities.	Failure to integrate EbA effectively into policies, strategies and interventions.	Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted to define EbA. These campaigns will highlight the importance of appropriately designed EbA, using traditional knowledge and climate data.	Technical	P = 4 I = 4

A.7. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives:

The project has been designed in full alignment with the portfolio of GEF projects that are currently in implementation phase. The project will align with the following GEF-financed and projects that are not financed by GEF (for further information on coordination with GEF and non-GEF initiatives consult Section 2.7 of the UNEP Project Document).

GEF-financed initiatives:

- Southeastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SCCF);
- Enabling Trans-boundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin (GEF);
- Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean (GEF);
- Improving coverage and effective management of marine and coastal protected areas project (GEF);
- Enabling Albania to prepare its Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (GEF); and
- Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (GEF).

Other relevant non-GEF project initiatives:

- Development of eco-tourism in the region of Lezha;
- Conservation of agro biodiversity in rural areas of Albania;
- Climate change adaptation in Western Balkans; and
- Sectorial fiche on environment and climate change.

A.8. Are gender considerations taken into account? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

In Albania, women tend to have lower incomes and fewer opportunities compared to men. The Gender Equity Index (GEI) – which measures inequities in different areas of women's and men's everyday lives around the world – ranks Albania at 115 out of 167 countries. The capacity of women to adapt to the effects of climate change is therefore constrained in Albania.

Women in Albania have historically had a lower level of employment, less participation in the labor market and reduced level of pay. In addition to this women's level of representation in policy and decision making is low, with women only occupying ~17.9% of seats in parliament. This low representation creates an obstacle to reforming policies related to gender equity.

Albania has taken significant strides to close the gaps in equity in its education system. It has achieved gender parity in primary education, with a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1.0. Girls' participation in education remains high throughout upper secondary education, with a GPI of .98 – and far surpasses that of boys in tertiary education; 50% more girls enroll in higher education than boys (GPI=1.5).

During the PPG phase, a range of stakeholders were consulted. These stakeholder consultations were gender disaggregated and included women from national and local government.

The SCCF-financed project activities will be informed by socio-economic assessments that will include gender research. Moreover, gender will be considered when: i) public awareness campaigns are designed; and ii) information materials are disseminated.

Gender sensitivity will be incorporated into training topics so that: i) female participants are empowered to participate meaningfully in the trainings; and ii) all participants are made aware of their responsibility to respect the views of all of their colleagues during training workshops. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training.

The project manager will be responsible for the monitoring and review of gender sensitivity in the training workshops and the application of gender-disaggregated indicators. In addition to gender awareness, the project will promote the requirements of other disadvantaged and more vulnerable groups including the elderly, children and the differently abled.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society and indigenous people? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/ preparation:

Stakeholder at national, regional and local levels will be engaged to enable effective implementation of the SCCF-finance project.

Relevant partners and stakeholders identified for engagement by project outcome/output.

Outcome	Output	Lead or coordinating institution/s	Important Stakeholders/partners	Key responsibilities
Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal	1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	MoE	• MoE • National Experts	• Overseeing: o assessing relevant scientific research and indigenous knowledge from local communities at intervention sites; and o training on EbA.
	1.2. Technical guidelines	MoE	• NPE • International Policy Expert	• Overseeing: o meetings between national experts and

areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.	produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines..		with experience in ICZM • NEE/FE • IEE/FE • International EbA expert • NAE • CTA	projects already conducting research on policies and strategies for producing technical guidelines that promote EbA; o review of relevant strategies and policies to identify where technical guidelines on EbA are needed; and o development of technical guidelines that promote adaptation to climate change using EbA.
	1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level.	MoE European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	• Ministry of Economy • Ministry of Energy • Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Innovation, Information and Communication Technology • Ministry of Public Works and Transport • Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and sports • Ministry of Education and Science • Ministry of Integration • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Labour, Social Issues and Equal Chances • General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (acting as coordinator between Donor Coordination Department and Ministries of Finance and Integration) • Representative of the Donor Coordination Department (under the GoA) • The General Directory of Environmental Policies - Technical Secretariat • CTA	• Coordinating: o meeting of the IWGCC and the TWGCC o development of the strategy to mobilise funds o development of the training materials for the TWGCC • Overseeing the feedback of lessons learned into the training of project staff and the TWGCC.
	1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient	MoE	• MoF • National and International Experts • TWGCC • IWGCC	• Overseeing: o workshops/meetings between experts, and MoF; o the development of a national upscaling strategy; and o development of a financing plan. • Coordinating workshops to communicate findings and strategies to policy- and decision-makers on the following topics: i) entry points for EbA; ii) an upscaling

	development using EbA.			strategy; and iii) an EbA financing plan.
Outcome 2: Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.	2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	MoE	• National Topography/Bathymetry Expert • National Geomorphology/Hydrology Expert • National Meteorology Expert • National Biodiversity and Ecology Expert • National EIA Consultancy • National Adaptation Specialist • National Climate Change and Socio-economic Expert • National indigenous species in coastal areas in Albania Expert • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment • National Coastal Agency • International EbA Expert • NAE • WRIP • EU IPAA • Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • National Coastal Agency • Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications	• Overseeing: o collecting and updating of detailed scientific information required for EIAs o undertaking .of comprehensive EIAs • Overseeing development of reports – that include expert scientific research and traditional knowledge – on appropriate species and EbA protocols. • Implementing: o construction of artesian wells in the Ceka lagoon; o reforestation along the Ceka lagoon; o construction of new tidal inlet channel; rehabilitation of coastal beach dunes.
	2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	MoE	• National Academic • University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment	• Overseeing: o development of a long term strategy to monitor the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of EbA interventions. o Coordinating the monitoring of EbA interventions.
	2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	MoE	• Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • NGOs in the Lezha region • NAE • NEE • NSBE • National Awareness Raising Consultancy	• Overseeing: o assessing relevant scientific research and indigenous knowledge from local communities at intervention sites; and o training on EbA. • Undertaking market assessment for ecotourism • Develop informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism. • Provide targeted technical advice to

				interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures. • Implement the business plan to demonstrate the pilot ecotourism venture.
Outcome 3: Increased 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.	3.1 Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.	MoE	• NIE • TWGCC • IWGCC • National Coastal Agency • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment	• Overseeing development of a knowledge management plan. • Coordinating: o Capturing and sharing of impacts and lessons learned. o Implementing the use of the knowledge management plan.
	3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.	MoE	• National Awareness Raising Consultancy • Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • Sub-contractor (to conduct the public awareness campaign) • Schools • Journalists • Local and National Media representatives • Policy- and decision-makers	• Coordinating: o public awareness campaigns (national and local); o development of cross-community forums; and o visits to intervention sites by journalists, schools and policy- and decision-makers. • Overseeing the feedback of lessons learned into the training of project staff and the TWGCC.
	3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.	MoE	• National Academic • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment • University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science	• Choosing – in coordination with baseline projects – topics on EbA for MSc and PhD theses. • Selecting and funding students. • Ensuring that students communicate the findings of their research. • Coordinating workshops to communicate findings and suggestions to MoE, IWGCC, TWGCC and other relevant ministries.
	3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.	MoE	• Consultant contract for a Web-design/IT Company NPEE.	• Coordinating: o the design and implement a web-based platform for sharing information collated and generated by the project; and o awareness raising activities for the website. • Overseeing the development of the web-based platform.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

National and local benefits

At the national level, the SCCF-financed project will increase the technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA. The direct consequence of this approach will be: i) enhanced capacity to integrate climate change adaptation into development planning; ii) stronger institutional coordination of climate change adaptation using EbA; and iii) increased capacity to plan, implement and finance climate change adaptation interventions.

The restoration[13] of lagoons, beaches and forests in the KVLS will result in multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits for local communities. In addition, the restoration of aquatic ecosystems will increase the productivity of local fisheries on which local communities rely. This will provide benefits to at least 33,614 people living within the Lezha region. Direct benefits from these interventions include: i) reduced risk of damage to public and private infrastructure/assets; ii) reduced possibility of loss of life; and iii) enhanced land value in flood-prone areas. Indirect benefits include: i) reduced losses in income/sales; ii) reduced costs of clean-ups, maintenance and repairs; and iii) reduced costs of relief and response efforts. Furthermore, the restoration of the lagoon will increase the potential for ecotourism in the area, thereby providing local communities with additional livelihood options that will further enhance their resilience to climate change. This will provide additional livelihood options for over 30 local community members living in the immediate area surrounding the KVLS. Participants in additional livelihood options, particularly ecotourism are expected to have higher levels of income that will allow them to increase savings and/or further invest in productive assets. This will strengthen their capacity to recover autonomously from eventual climate shocks as well as invest in health care, education, nutrition and other social outcomes.

The project's activities will include measures to support the sustained generation of socio-economic and environmental benefits beyond the project implementation period. For example, the project will develop a strategy to upscale EbA (which include various financing options) in other coastal areas in Albania. Additionally, the lessons learned during the project will be collated and shared with local and national policy- and decision-makers.

Gender considerations

The project has been designed with a strong focus on gender considerations . The results of multiple consultations with Government officials, and other stakeholders informed the design of the SCCF-financed project. In addition, there is overall alignment of project activities with the specific needs of women and other vulnerable groups. For example, training of national and local government on EbA will be gender inclusive providing specific opportunities for women to be involved in skills development. Furthermore, additional livelihood options will focus on ecotourism and include targets for equal inclusion of women. Finally, the knowledge management and M&E framework will identify successes and gaps in providing benefits for women.

The SCCF-financed project recognises gender equality as an important aspect of project design. As such, gender considerations have been incorporated into the project in the following ways.

During the PPG phase, a range of stakeholders were consulted. These stakeholder consultations were gender neutral and included women from national and local government.

Furthermore, indicators and targets for involving women in various project activities are included in the Results Framework of the project (see Appendix 4) to ensure that the progress of gender mainstreaming can be monitored throughout the project.

Specifically, the SCCF-financed project will ensure inclusion of women and strive towards gender balance by undertaking activities that will ensure gender disaggregated indicators and targets are achieved. Steps taken in the implementation of project activities under Outcome 1 will promote female representation in: i) training sessions and workshops; and ii) the technical working group on climate change and EbA. 50% of government staff that are trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures under Output 1.1 will be women. This

[13]Restoration is the process of recovering an ecosystem that has been damaged, degraded, or destroyed, and is an attempt to return the ecosystem to its historical trajectory. Restoration will include rehabilitation, which is the reparation of ecosystem processes, services, and productivity but it does not mean to restore the ecosystem to its pre-existing condition.

target will be achieved by inviting an equal number of male and female staff members to these training workshops. In addition to this, women's groups will be consulted during the design of the training materials. These consultations will ensure that the training materials prepared are gender sensitive and that information reaches female stakeholders within their networks. The training conducted on the application of the technical guidelines produced under Output 1.2 will also be provided to an equal number of male and female government staff. Furthermore, at least 30% of the members of the technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA that will be established under Output 1.3 will be women. This target will improve the likelihood of women attending meetings and speaking up[14]. These targets and activities will therefore not only promote female representation but also improve effective female participation in the planning and implementation of future EbA projects.

Steps taken in the implementation of project activities under Outcome 2 will promote equal female participation in additional livelihood initiatives. 50% of local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods, including ecotourism, will be women. To ensure that training materials represent the needs of women, local women's groups will be consulted during the design of the training materials. In addition, the consultancies hired for the: i) construction of Artesian wells; ii) opening of the tidal inlet channel, closing of the old channel, and construction of terminal groynes; iii) reforestation of coastal forests; and iv) rehabilitation of beach dunes will need to demonstrate a strong commitment to gender equality within the company. Finally, at least 50% of the local community members involved in the project's reforestation and dune rehabilitation activities will be women.

Gender sensitivity will also be incorporated into all training topics so that: i) female participants are empowered to participate meaningfully in the trainings; and ii) all participants are made aware of their responsibility to respect the views of all of their colleagues during training workshops. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training.

The SCCF-financed project activities under Outcome 3 include the design of: i) public awareness campaigns; and ii) information materials on EbA. Gender considerations will be included in the design of these activities, and relevant women's groups will be consulted to ensure that the awareness-campaign and information materials are accessible to women.

The SCCF-financed project focuses on gender equality and the use of a community-based approach. Consequently, project interventions are community-centred and gender-sensitive to promote social equity and equality. Consultation with community groups – including women and youth – will ensure that interventions take place in a culturally-appropriate manner.

Gender disaggregated indicators have been developed and will be further validated during the baseline study and will be used to monitor project progress. In addition to gender, the project will promote the requirements of other disadvantaged and more vulnerable groups including the elderly, children and less-abled.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The SCCF-financed project will adopt an approach of additionality and will build on two existing national projects: WRI and ECOSEA. Furthermore, it will complement and align with a number of current initiatives.

For example, the technical capacity enhanced through Component 1 will build on the existing knowledge and capacity that has been developed at regional and national levels. This is a cost-effective approach to building technical capacity that will facilitate planning and implementation of EbA.

Within Component 1, a Technical Working Group on Climate Change will be established to facilitate dialogue on adaptation to climate change and EbA. This working group will enable the sharing of lessons learned from: i) similar initiatives for ecosystem restoration and management; and ii) on-the-ground interventions that will be implemented by the project. These lessons will also be communicated to the public by means of: i) awareness campaigns; ii) a

[14] The likelihood of women attending meetings, speaking up, and holding office was found to increase when women represent 25–33% of a group. UN REDD Programme, Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+, November 2013.

knowledge management plan; iii) scientific reports; and iv) a web-based platform to share information generated and collected by the project. Therefore, EbA will be promoted and upscaled in a cost-effective way.

Globally, there is an urgent requirement to find tractable, sustainable, flexible and cost-effective interventions for local communities to adapt under conditions of climate change . In some instances, initiatives have focused on constructing hard infrastructure to protect local communities from climate-related hazards. However, it is acknowledged that healthy ecosystems also facilitate adaptation to climate change by acting as buffers and providing services . Therefore, EbA is a 'soft' proactive rather than a reactive approach for addressing climate change. Moreover, a growing body of scientific research indicates that increasing numbers of EbA projects will deliver favourable cost-benefit ratios in comparison with projects that use only hard interventions for adaptation to climate change. For example, an economic analysis of watershed management and engineering interventions was undertaken in Lami, Fiji . This study included assessments of the costs and benefits of measures based on watershed management options for disaster risk management, engineering options and a hybrid approach combining both 'hard' engineering and 'soft' watershed management interventions. The analyses demonstrated that watershed management options are at least twice as cost-effective as hard engineering options (benefit cost ratio of US $10.50 compared to US $4.80). Although hard infrastructure can protect local communities against climate-related hazards, these approaches are unsustainable without costly maintenance and repairs. Moreover, construction of hard infrastructure that covers a large surface area transforms the natural landscape. This negatively affects the functioning of ecosystem, which reduces the ecosystems' ability to provide services.

Within Outcome 2 of the SCCF-financed project, the opening of a new tidal inlet channel will be complemented by techniques for the protection of the new tidal inlet channel. Therefore, project activities will implement both soft and hard infrastructure for adaptation to climate change. This combination is effective because: i) soft interventions are more flexible in the long-term; and ii) hard infrastructure has benefits that are more direct in the short- to medium-term. Therefore, this complementary approach to climate change promotes cost-effectiveness.

The project will implement an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA in lagoon and dune systems of the KVLS to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to: i) decreased ecosystem goods and services as a result of reduced water quality in the KVLS; ii) droughts in the dry seasons; and iii) coastal flooding and storm surges resulting in inundation of agricultural land with seawater. The adaptation interventions were selected during the PPG phase from a list of proposed interventions identified by a previous GEF UNDP project undertaken in the DMRD. This previous GEF UNDP project engaged stakeholders in the DMRD area to identify, analyse and evaluate the potential effects of climate change, and develop adaptation strategies to address the identified risks. The GEF UNDP project identified EbA and 'hard' infrastructure interventions to improve and maintain ecosystem functioning in the river delta. These interventions were selected to address the three main problems that are causing a reduction in ecosystem functioning in the area, namely coastal erosion, limited water exchange between lagoons and the sea and SLR. Following this, a cost-benefit analysis was undertaken on the identified adaptation interventions (see Appendix 20 for further details on the cost-benefit analysis (CBA) that was undertaken by the GEF UNDP project). This CBA analysis resulted in the identification of 11 cost-effective priority interventions[15]. The SCCF-financed project, using a multi-criteria analysis based on a set of predefined criteria, selected four of these cost-effective priority interventions for implementation in the KVLS (see appendix 20 for further details on intervention selection). Therefore, the adaptation interventions that will be implemented by the SCCF-financed project represent an integrated approach that is cost-effective.

Through implementing an integrated suite of adaptation measures, the project will transfer knowledge on ecosystem restoration and management under conditions of climate change to local communities. This knowledge will be incorporated into technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers and, thereby promoting appropriate land uses by these local communities under the predicted effects of climate change. Importantly, the principles of EbA are grounded in ecosystem restoration and management. By adopting EbA, "no-regrets" activities will be implemented. Therefore, local communities will benefit from enhanced ecosystem services regardless of the severity of the negative effects of climate change.

EbA has benefits that will contribute towards mitigation commitments and other development goals of the GoA. While the EbA approach reduces vulnerability, it simultaneously provides a range of co-benefits such as carbon sequestration

[15] ."Project proposals based on priority interventions to adapt to climate changes" document that was produced as part of the DMRD project.

and storage, biodiversity conservation, additional livelihoods and poverty reduction. Furthermore, ecosystems that are enhanced through EbA are less likely to reach their tipping points, after which ecosystem degradation becomes irreversible under conditions of climate change .

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The M&E budget is presented in the table below.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible parties	Budget US $ (excluding project team staff time)	Time-frame
Inception workshop and report	• PM • Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) • UNEP Task Manager (TM)	Cost: US$6,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of means of verification of project results	• PM • CTA • UNEP TM • M&E Specialist	Baseline assessment. cost: US$30,000	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measuring means of verification (MoV) for project progress on output and implementation	• PM • DTA • UNEP TM • CTA • M&E Specialist	To be determined as part of the preparation of Annual Work Plans (AWPs).	Annually prior to PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
PIR	• PM • CTA • UNEP TM • PO • FO • M&E Specialist	None. Financial audit records to be provided for PSC review	Annually
Progress reports	• PM • DTA • CTA • UNEP TM	None	Quarterly
Project Steering Committee meetings	• PSC • PM • CTA • UNEP TM	6 x US$ 1000 = US$6,000	Biannually
Independent mid-term evaluation/review (MTE/MTR)	• PM • CTA • PO • FO • External Expert • UNEP TM	Cost: US$15,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Independent terminal evaluation	• UNEP Evaluation Office	Cost: US$30,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project closure workshop and report	• PM • CTA • PO • FO	Cost: US$6,000	On completion of the terminal evaluation.

	• UNEP TM		
Visits to demonstration sites	• UNEP TM • PM • DTA • CTA • PSC representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST **Excluding project team staff time and UNEP staff and travel expenses**			Estimated Cost: US$93,000

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[16] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date *(Month, day, year)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan VanDyke, Director GEF Coordination Office		February 23, 2015	Ermira Fida, Portfolio Manager, UNEP-GEF Adaptation	+254-20 762 3113	ermira.fida@unep.org

B. Additional GEF Project Agency Certification *(Applicable Only to newly accredited GEF Project Agencies)*

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required **GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template** to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

[16] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Outcomes/Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification
Objective: To 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.	*Change in the capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures has been strengthened.*	*Score of 4. Government and local communities living near the KVLS have partial capacity to adapt to climate change. (Baseline capacity was rapidly assessed during the PPG and will be further verified during project inception).* *No capacity scorecards have been undertaken by government staff or local communities.*	*Score of 8. Regional, national and sub-national institutions have, to a large extent, developed the capacity to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.*	*Verified through Scorecard Scoring methodologies recommended by AMAT, adapted from TAMD (2013) and PPCR (2014) scorecard indicators.* The indicator is based on five criteria expressed as questions: 1. Does the policy/ plan identify climate change risks and appropriate adaptation strategies and measures? 2. Are adaptation strategies and measures prioritized and specified with budget allocations and targets? 3. Does the policy/ plan assign clear roles and responsibilities for the coordination and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures? 4. Does the policy/ plan provide for the continuous monitoring, evaluation, learning and review of adaptation strategies and measures? 5. Is there evidence of the effective implementation of the policy/ plan? Each question is answered with an assessment and score for the extent to which the associated criterion has been met: not at all (= 0), partially (= 1) or to a large extent/ completely (= 2). An overall score is calculated, with a maximum score of 10 given five criteria.

Outcome 1. Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.	**Change in the capacity score assessment framework for each targeted institution.**	**Baseline values to be determined during the baseline assessment using the AMAT score criteria.**	**Each targeted institution (Ministry of Environment - national government, Lezhe commune council - local government, Kune-Vaini Lagoon Protected Area Management - protected area management) has progressed by a minimum of 1 step in their capacity score assessment framework.**	**A scoring methodology as suggested by the revised GEF AMAT will be adopted. The scoring is based on four criteria expressed as questions (these criteria will be further validated at inception phase):** **1. Are there institutional arrangements in place to address climate change in coastal area?** **2. Are those arrangements based on clear and strong mandate** **3. Are those arrangements supported by adequate budget allocations?** **4. Do those arrangements include broad stakeholder participation across relevant, climate-sensitive sectors?** **Each question is answered with an assessment and score for the extent to which the associated criterion has been met: not at all (= 0), partially (= 1) or to a large extent/ completely (= 2). An overall score is calculated, with a maximum score of 10 given five criteria.**

	A nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy document endorsed by key government officials.	**Baseline: 0**	**At least 10 government officials at Director level or above endorse the nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy.**	**Reports detailing the validation workshop for the nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session). Review of minutes from the validation workshop. Review of letters of endorsement from government ministries.**
Output 1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	Number of government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Baseline: 0	At least 30 government staff from relevant ministries and local government institutions trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).
	Percentage of women among government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Baseline: 0%	50% of government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures are women.	
Output 1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.	Number of technical guidelines on implementing EbA produced.	Baseline: 0	At least 3 technical guidelines on implementing EbA have been produced.	Review of technical guidelines produced.
	Number of government staff trained on the application of the technical guidelines for implementing EbA.	Baseline: 0 (National and local government have been trained on climate change risks and how climate change is included in national and local development policies and plans. However, officials have not received training on how to implement climate change adaptation interventions including EbA).	At least 40 national and local government staff trained on the use of technical guidelines for implementing EbA.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).
	Percentage of women among government staff	Baseline: 0%	50% of government staff trained on the application of the	

	trained on the application of the technical guidelines for implementing EbA.		technical guidelines for implementing EbA are women.	
Output 1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level.	Technical working group on climate change and EbA established and operational under the inter-ministerial working group on climate change.	Baseline: 0 (No subsidiary technical working group to provide technical guidance on the implementation of climate change adaptation policies exists).	A technical working group on climate change and EbA is operational under the inter-ministerial working group on climate change (Target: 1).	Review of meeting minutes of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.
	Percentage of women in the technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA.	Baseline: 0%	30% of the members of the technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA should be women.	Attendance registers and contacts for members of technical work group
	A plan to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA developed.	Baseline: 0 .	A plan to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA has been developed.	Review of fund mobilisation plan. Review of meeting minutes of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.

Output 1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	Number of draft upscaling strategy documents produced to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	Baseline: 0	A nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy for Albania is developed (Target: 1).	Review of project progress reports, interviews with members of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change. Review of meeting minutes of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change.
Outcome 2. Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.	**Percentage change in climate change vulnerability index scores.**	**Baseline values for the climate change vulnerability index will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**At least a 10% reduction in vulnerability of people living near the project sites.**	**Vulnerability index/score will be developed. It will be measured as a function of adaptive capacity, exposure and climate sensitivity as per the IPCC definition of the vulnerability.**
	Number of community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives.	**Baseline: 0 (Within the KVLS and buffer zone, local communities currently derive their livelihoods from either agriculture, fishing, or restauranteering. Tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is focussed on beach tourism and there are no established ecotourism ventures)**	**At least 30 community members have increased their income through additional livelihood options initiated by the project, including ecotourism.**	**Interviews with local community members and managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.**
	Percentage of women among the community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives.	**Baseline income levels of community members will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**50% increase of the community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives are women.**	**Surveys and interview with local community members and managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.**

Output 2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	Number of artesian wells functioning within the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system, and discharging freshwater into lagoon.	Baseline: 0 (In the 1970's artesian wells were constructed in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system to supply fresh water and reduce the salinity of the lagoon. However, these wells are now either closed because of sediment accumulation or submerged because of coastal erosion.)	At least 10 artesian wells fully functional and discharging freshwater into the lagoon (6 artesian wells constructed, and 4 artesian wells rehabilitated, in the in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system)	Site visits to verify the functioning of functional artesian wells.
	Hectares of degraded riparian forest reforested with climate-resilient tree species according to technical protocols.	Baseline: 0 hectares	At least 10 hectares of degraded riparian forests on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon reforested – the presence of saplings will be a proxy for forest establishment.	Site visits to verify the existence of reforested areas and comparison with existing maps of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.
	Existence of a new, functional tidal inlet channel between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea.	Baseline: 0 (A tidal inlet channel between the Adriatic Sea and Ceka lagoon was constructed by the government. However, the lack of a comprehensive feasibility study combined with the lack of maintenance has led to the closure of this inlet.)	A new, functional tidal inlet channel (including two terminal groynes) between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea constructed (Target: 1)	Site visits to verify the existence of a new tidal inlet channel. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.
	Length (m) of coastal dunes rehabilitated with climate-resilient species according to technical protocols.	Baseline: 200m (stretch of coastal dunes has been rehabilitated with beach grass by a previous project).	2000m of coastal dunes south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon rehabilitated with climate-resilient species according to technical protocols	Site visits to verify the existence of rehabilitated coastal dunes and comparison with existing maps of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.
Output 2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	A long term strategy developed for monitoring EbA interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	Baseline: 0	A long term strategy for monitoring EbA interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is developed by the end of the first year of the project (Target: 1).	Review of monitoring strategy and technical reports.
	Number of technical reports detailing the	Baseline: 0 (Bird, fish and vegetation	At least 6 technical reports (two per year) detailing the findings	

	findings of project monitoring activities produced.	monitoring data is submitted to the MoE on a monthly basis. No technical reports on any other type of monitoring are produced)	of project monitoring activities produced.	
Output 2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	Number of local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism by the end of the project.	Baseline: 0 .	At least 250 local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods by the end of the project.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).
	Percentage of women among local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	Baseline: 0%	50% of local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism are women.	
	Number of local community members having attended training on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.	Baseline: 0 (Tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is focussed on beach tourism. There are no established ecotourism ventures, and local community members have not received any training on ecotourism or developing new ecotourism ventures).	At least 50 local community members attend workshops and receive targeted technical advice on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session). Interviews with local community members.
Outcome 3. Increased 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.	**Change in percentage of people at a national level that are aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities.**	**Baseline levels of awareness will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**The percentage of people at a national level aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities' increases by 2 percentage points.**	**Surveys and assessments (as samples of the total population) of government officials and the general public in Tirana.**
	Change in percentage of people within the Lezha region that are aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities.	**Baseline levels of awareness will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**The percentage of people within the Lezha region aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities' increases by 5 percentage points.**	**Surveys and assessments (as samples of the total population) of local government officials, the general public and schoolchildren in the Lezha region.**

	Number of scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions published in an academic journal .	**Baseline: 0.**	**At least one scientific paper on an aspect of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions has been published in an academic journal (Target: 1).**	**Review of published articles in academic journals.**
	Number of downloaded documents from the web-based platform.	**Baseline: 0.**	**Target: At least 80 downloads.**	**Web based platform statistics.**
Output 3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.	Development of a knowledge management plan and communication strategy.	Baseline: 0 .	A knowledge management plan and communication strategy developed by the end of the first year of the project (Target: 1).	Interviews with project management. Review of knowledge management plan and communication strategy.
Output 3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.	Number of awareness-raising campaigns and experience-sharing days on EbA held.	Baseline: 0	At least: i) one awareness raising campaign; and iii) 2 experience-sharing days on EbA held.	Review reports detailing awareness-raising activities, including attendance registers. Interviews with project management and local community members.
Output 3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.	Number of scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions produced.	Baseline: 0 (In the past five years, scientific reports/papers relevant to the Kune-Vaini lagoon system are limited to bird ecology. There are no scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of EbA interventions).	At least two scientific reports/papers on an aspect of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions have been submitted to peer-reviewed journals by the end of the project.	Review of scientific papers. Interviews with academics from the identified research institution.
	Number of MSc and PhD students undertaking research on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions.	Baseline: 0. .	At least 4 (2 MSc and 2 PhD) students have begun a research project on an aspect the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions by the end of the project.	Review of enrolment documentation. Interviews with academics and students from the identified research institution.

Output 3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.	A web-based platform to share information on EbA established and operational.	Baseline: 0.	A web-based platform to share information on EbA is operational.	Evaluate the web-based platform to determine whether it is functioning and to report on the web-based platform statistics, including when it was last updated, the number of registered users, existing real-time social media links, related information briefs, web-pages access and e-visitor levels.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Secretariat Review Question	GEF Secretariat Recommended Action by CEO Endorsement	Response
6. Is (are) the baseline project(s), including problem(s) that the baseline project(s) seek/s to address, sufficiently described and based on sound data and assumptions?	**Recommended Action:** Please provide further clarification on how the key stakeholders of the baseline projects will be engaged (for instance, by forming a joint climate change advisory committee, or by some other mechanism.) Update 4/22/2013: Collaboration will be achieved through a project coordinators committee which will be set up by this project, comprising of key stakeholders and various project coordinators of the baseline project.	A Project Coordination Committee (PCC) has been added to the management structure of the SCCF-financed project. This PCC will ensure communication between the SCCF-financed project and the baseline projects. Further information on the Management structure of the SCCF-financed project and the PCC can be found in Annex H.
10. Is public participation, including CSOs and indigenous people, taken into consideration, their role identified and addressed properly?	Not clear. Empowering of women through improving livelihoods and maintaining ecosystems services is listed as a project benefit, and the project is expected to address gender disparities, and target vulnerabilities faced by women. However, no mention is made of how women will be substantially involved in the stakeholder consultations. Update 4/12/2013: Additional language on gender inclusion has been added. This is satisfactory for this stage. By CEO Endorsement please ensure that there will be a significant effort not only to ensure mere inclusion of women, but to strive towards gender balance.	Additional text has been added to Section A8 and B2, and to Annex A: results based framework. This text describes how the project will ensure inclusion of women and how the project will strive towards gender balance. Furthermore, Annex A includes gender specific targets for appropriate Outcomes and Outputs.
11. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change and provides sufficient risk mitigation measures? (i.e., climate resilience)	Yes, the major risks are identified. The mitigation of the risk concerning the potential lack of funds for sustaining the national arrangements once the project ends requires significantly more attention. **Recommended Action:** By CEO Endorsement, please provide further detail how this risk will be addressed. Also please refer to comment #13	15/10/2014: Additional risks and appropriate mitigation measures have been identified since the original PIF. These risks are summarized in the Section A.6.
12. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?	**Recommended Action:** Considering the prevalence of flood as a major climatic risk affecting the target area, please elaborate if the SEE-CRIF has been taken into	This has been addressed at the PIF approval stage.

	consideration when designing this project, particularly Components 1 and 3. Update 4/12/2013: This has been addressed. The SEE-CRIF and its outcomes appear to have been considered in the design of this proposal to the extent that is relevant for this project.	
13. Comment on the project's innovative aspects, sustainability and potential for scaling up. - Assess whether the project is innovative and if so, how, and if not, why not. - Assess the project's sustainability strategy and the likelihood project outcomes will be sustained or not based on the evidence in the literature. - Are there measures to secure the institutional and financial stability of the project? - Assess the potential for scaling up the project's intervention strategy and critique the plan for scaling up.	Update 4/12/2013: The revised proposal states that the project will seek to introduce innovative approaches of microfinance or / and Payment for Ecosystem Services as well private sector engagement as part of the strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate project results. For this stage, these ideas appear promising. **Recommended Action:** By CEO Endorsement, please further develop and substantially strengthen the rationale for innovation, sustainability, and potential for scaling up. Please also refer to the point under comment #6.	Section 3.8 and 3.9 of the UNEP Project Document have been further developed to strengthen the rational for sustainability and the potential for upscaling. Further details are provided below. Sustainability: • The SCCF-financed project was developed by consulting a broad range of stakeholders which promoted ownership of the project by all stakeholders. As a result, project interventions will be sustained beyond the project implementation period. • The technical and institutional capacity of local and national institutions to plan and implement EbA will be increased through training will hence this will promote long term sustainability of the project. • The development of a strategy to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA will promote long term sustainability. • The establishment of a Technical Working Group on EbA will provide decision-makers with the technical guidance to plan and implement future EbA projects thereby promoting long term sustainability. • Demonstration of on-the-ground EbA interventions will promote future EbA projects. • The project will design and implement a long-term research programme which will promote the sustainability of the project. • The project design aligns with the General National Plan (GNP) and National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) priorities. This increases the likelihood of the project interventions being upscaled to other areas. • Producing technical guidelines and

		strengthening policies and strategies to integrate EbA into development planning for relevant sectors will create an enabling environment for EbA. This will contribute to the sustainability of the project interventions and upscaling EbA across Albania. Replication: • The production of technical guidelines that promote implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA will be produced and distributed to policy- and decision-makers in Albania. These technical guidelines will further promote the replication of on-the-ground adaptation interventions in coastal areas. • To facilitate effective replication, lessons learned during project implementation will be documented and disseminated by means of: i) workshops with policy- and decision-makers, project managers and other relevant stakeholders ii) feedback during the Technical Working Group on EbA meetings; and iii) an online platform that will be developed during the project to share information on climate change adaptation. Innovative aspects of the SCCF-financed project are described below. • The establishment of a technical working group on climate change to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level. This technical group will not only improve communication but promote the use of EbA as a means of adapting to the negative effects of climate change. • The development of a strategy to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA is a further innovative aspect of the SCCF-financed project. • Specific awareness raising campaigns focussed on the school-going youth of Albania will be developed. • The project will facilitate cross-community dialogue on EbA. Consequently, members of local

		communities in which the interventions are implemented – namely Shengjin and Shenkoll – can discuss the benefits of the approach with other surrounding local communities. • Hosting experience-sharing and community event for the EbA committee, project staff, policy- and decision-makers and local communities to communicate their findings. • The implementation of EbA is in itself a new and innovative approach to climate change adaptation.

Annex G: M&E Budget and Workplan

UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process.
The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in 06/2016 as indicated in the project milestones). The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools.

The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

(i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
(ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

Annex H: Project Implementation Arrangements

The SCCF-financed project will be implemented over a three-year period (2015-2017)[18]. Implementation will be informed by lessons learned from other restoration and EbA projects in the Mediterranean.

UNEP will be the Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. The IA will oversee the project, and provide the technical assistance required to meet the project goals[19]. As such, UNEP will be responsible for project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. A task manager ™ will be appointed for this technical role. The TM will be based in UNEP Department of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI/GEF) Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU) and will be responsible for project supervision and to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. The TM will formally participate in: i) yearly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings ; ii) the mid-term review and terminal evaluation; iii) the clearance of half-yearly and annual reports; and iv) the technical review of project outputs.

Management structure

The management structure of the SCCF-financed project is presented in Figure 1. This will comprise:

- **Project Steering Committee** (PSC), to provide project oversight and support, particularly for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan;
- **Project Management Unit** (PMU), to execute the project; this structure will include a Project Manager (PM) to head the unit; a District Technical Assistant (DTA); a Financial Officer (FO); and a Procurement Officer (PO);
- **Project Coordination Committee** (PCC), to ensure communication between the SCCF-financed project and the baseline projects.
- **National and International experts** to provide technical support for tasks that cannot be conducted by government staff. This will include a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) who will work closely with the PM to assist management of the SCCF-financed project activities. Moreover, the PM will serve as a liaison between the PMU, the technical experts and the government staff involved in project activities.

The mandate of the **PSC** will include: i) overseeing project implementation; and ii) reviewing annual workplans and project reports. All decisions taken by the PSC will be communicated to the concerned parties by the PM. The PSC will meet twice a year to discuss performance indicators and provide strategic guidance. At the discretion of the committee, representatives from organisations – including members of the technical working group established within the project – may be invited to join the PSC to contribute guidance. The PM will play the role of secretary for the PSC. Any changes made to the Results-Based Framework (RBF) or timeline of project activities, will be communicated to the PMU by the PSC.

The MoE will be the **Executing Agency (EA)**. Therefore, a PMU will be established under this government ministry. This unit will support day-to-day project execution and will ensure:

- the quality of outcomes delivered by the SCCF-financed project;
- the effective use of resources;
- appropriate procurement of equipment and consultation services;
- availability of financing to support project implementation; and
- efficient coordination between project stakeholders, particularly national stakeholders.

The GEF National Focal Point will be responsible for communicating with the PMU frequently to check the progress of the project. Therefore, he will be part of the PSC, take part in PSC meetings and report the progress of the project back to the implementing agency.

A full-time PM will be hired to head the PMU and execute the day-to-day management of the project. The PM will: i) report to the PSC; and ii) manage his or her role in a transparent and effective manner. The PM will manage the project in line with all budget and workplans, and in accordance with GEF and UNEP guidelines. In addition, the PM will

[18] according to the workplan in Appendix 4
[19] see Appendix 14 for information on UNEP's comparative advantage

deliver progress reports on a monthly basis to the TM and the CTA. These reports will include information on: i) the status of activities; and ii) challenges encountered on the ground during project execution. In particular, the PM will: i) provide on-the-ground information for UNEP progress reports; ii) engage with stakeholders; iii) organise the PSC meetings; iv) provide technical support to the project, including measures to address challenges to project implementation; and v) participate in training activities, report writing and facilitation of expert activities that are relevant to the PM's area of expertise. Additionally, the PM will facilitate meetings of the PCC.

One DTA will be hired on a part-time basis to support the PM. The responsibility of the DTA will be to promote: i) the timely execution of activities and achievement of expected deliverables at the project site; ii) dialogue between stakeholders particularly at a local level; and iii) the participation of local communities in the SCCF-financed project activities. To achieve this, the DTA will visit the intervention sites regularly. This local assistant will work in close collaboration with the PM and promote effective collaboration with baseline projects in the project area.

A Financing/procurement Assistant (FPA) will be based in the PMU and will provide administrative and financial support to the PM. This officer will prepare quarterly financial reports to track internal expenditures. These reports will be made available to the PSC for review.

A team of experts will be employed for the implementation of the project activities. They will provide technical support for specialised tasks that cannot be undertaken by MoE staff. Descriptions of the experts' responsibilities are included in the project's budget notes (see Appendix 1). To address challenges in specialised EbA at a national level, an international CTA with EbA expertise will be hired to provide input. This individual will have similar experience in other GEF adaptation projects. Responsibilities of the CTA will include, inter alia: i) advising on suitable technical methodologies; ii) assisting with drafting ToRs for technical experts; iii) supervising experts' work; iv) providing quality assurance and technical review of outputs; v) assisting with knowledge management and communications for awareness-raising at a national level; vi) supervising relevant international and national experts; and vii) providing specialised technical and capacity building support to the PMU. Initially, the CTA will travel to Albania on a regular basis to interact with national and district staff and implementing partners. Thereafter, the role of the CTA will be phased out with fewer face-to-face meetings being necessary. As the project progresses, the technical capacity of PMU, PM, APMs and experts will be enhanced through the support of an international expert.

The management structure of the SCCF-financed project is depicted in Figure 1 below.

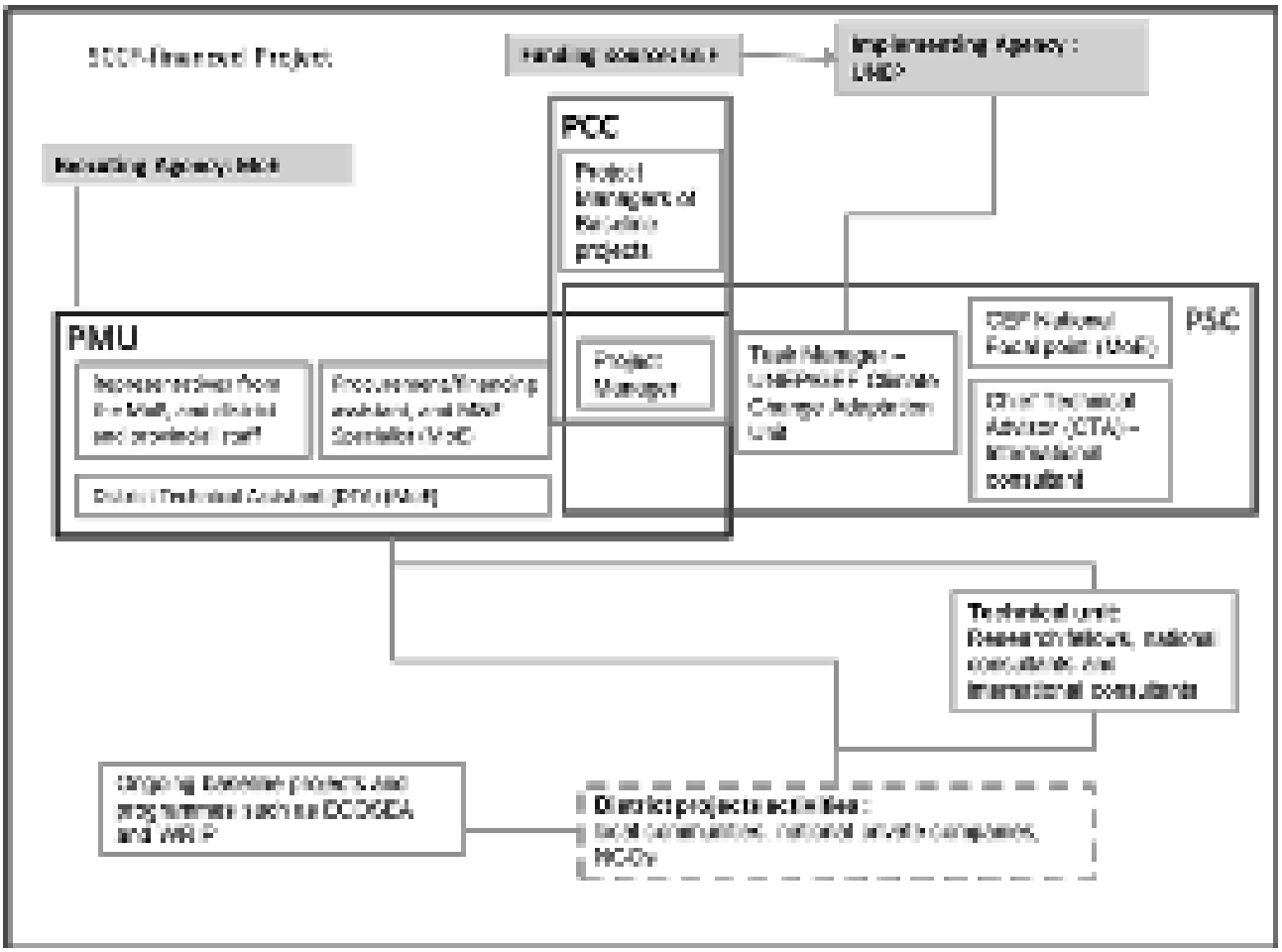


Figure 1. SCCF-financed project management structure.

Annex I: Detailed Project Workplan showing deliverables and benchmarks

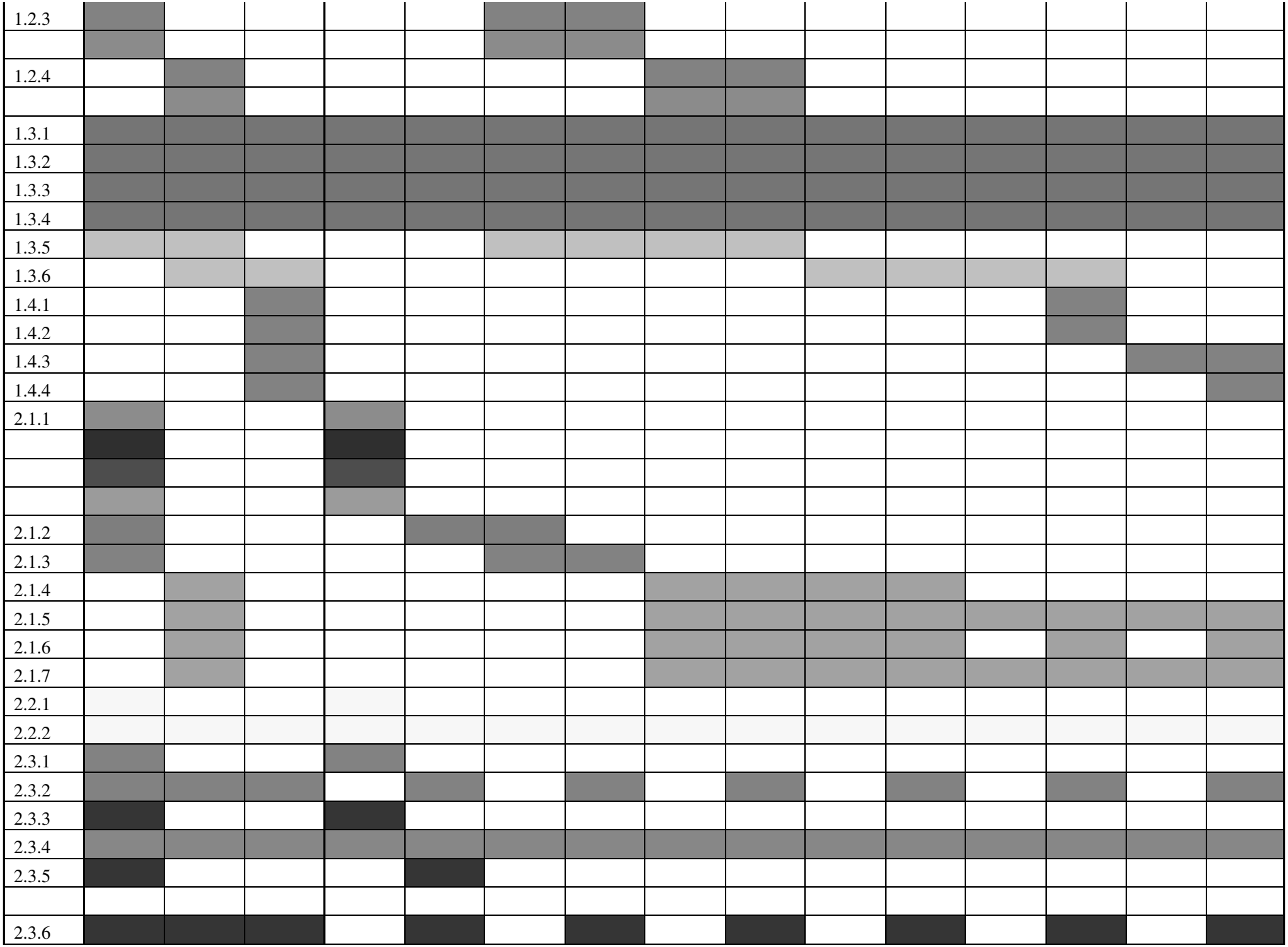
The detailed project workplan is depicted in the table below. For further details on the key deliverables and benchmarks see Appendix 3: Results Framework and Appendix 6: Costed M&E in the UNEP Project Document.

Workplan key: lead consultant for activities.

Adaptation and EbA Expert(s)	
Policy Expert(s)	
Ecosystem Economics/Financing Expert(s)	
National Topography/Bathymetry Expert	
National Meteorology Expert	
National Biodiversity and Ecology Expert	
National Geomorphology/Hydrology Expert	
National EIA Consultancy	
Consultancy contract	
National Academic	
National Ecotourism Expert	
National Awareness Raising Consultancy/Company	
National Small Business Expert	
National Information Expert	
Consultant contract for a Web-design/IT Company	
Other (PMU/project staff)	

Workplan

	Annual breakdown			**Quarterly breakdown**											
				Year 1				**Year 2**				**Year 3**			
Activity	Y1	Y2	Y3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1.1															
1.1.2															
1.2.1															
1.2.2															


1.2.3
1.2.4
1.3.1
1.3.2
1.3.3
1.3.4
1.3.5
1.3.6
1.4.1
1.4.2
1.4.3
1.4.4
2.1.1
2.1.2
2.1.3
2.1.4
2.1.5
2.1.6
2.1.7
2.2.1
2.2.2
2.3.1
2.3.2
2.3.3
2.3.4
2.3.5
2.3.6

3.1.1															
3.1.2															
3.2.1															
3.2.2															
3.2.3.															
3.2.4															
3.3.1															
3.3.2															
3.4.1															
3.4.2															

Annex J: Focal Area Tracking Tools

Project identification						
Project title:	Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)					
Country(ies):	Albania			GEF project ID:		1140
GEF Agency(ies):	United Nations Environment Programme			Agency project ID:		5386
Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment			Council/ CEO Approval date:		
Project status at submission:				Tool submission date:		
Project baselines, targets and outcomes						
Indicator	**Unit of measurement**	**Baseline at CEO Endorsement**	**Target at CEO Endorsement**	**Actual at mid-term**	**Actual at completion**	**Comments (e.g. specify unit of measurement)**
Objective 1: Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate change						
Outcome 1.1: Vulnerability of physical assets and natural systems reduced						
Indicator 2: Type and extent of assets strengthened and/or better managed to withstand the effects of climate change	ha of land	0 ha of riparian forest restored	10 ha of riparian forest rehabilitated			(specify asset type)
	km of coast	200m stretch of coastal dunes has been rehabilitated	2000m of coastal dunes rehabilitated			(specify asset type)
	Inlet channel	One old closed non-functioning tidal inlet channel	One new tidal inlet channel constructed and functioning			(specify asset type)
	Number of wells	4 non-functioning artesian wells exist that are either closed because of sediment accumulation or submerged because of coastal erosion.	6 artesian wells constructed and 4 wells rehabilitated			(add rows as needed)
Objective 2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation						

Outcome 2.3: Institutional and technical capacities and human skills strengthened to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures						
Indicator 9: Number of people trained to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	number of people	0	30			
	% female	0	50			
Indicator 10: Capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	number of institutions	0	3			
	score	4	8			(if the scoring methodology is different from the recommended [see Sheet 2], please describe)
	score					(if the scoring methodology is different from the recommended [see Sheet 2], please describe)
Reporting on GEF gender indicators						
Q1: Has a gender analysis been conducted during project preparation?			Yes	NA	NA	
Q2: Does the project results framework include gender-responsive indicators, and sex-disaggregated data?			Yes			
Q3: Of the policies, plans frameworks and processes supported (see indicators 12 and 13 above), how many incorporate gender dimensions (number)?			NA			
Q4: At mid-term/ completion, does the mid-term review/ terminal evaluation assess progress and results in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment?			NA			

Annex M: Environmental and Social Safeguards checklist

As part of the GEF's evolving Fiduciary Standards, implementing agencies have to address 'Environmental and Social Safeguards'. To address this requirement UNEP-DGEF have developed this checklist with the following guidance:

Initially filled in during concept development to help guide in the identification of possible risks and activities that will need to be included in the project design.
A completed checklist should accompany the PIF
Check list reviewed during PPG phase and updated as required
Final check list submitted with Project Package clearly showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

Project Title:	**Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem based adaptation (EbA)**		
GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number	GEF Agency Project ID: 1140 UNEP ID:	***Version of checklist***	One
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation	***Date of this version:***	*02 April 2013* *Updated 17 October 2014*
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Atifa Kassam, Task Manager, GEF Climate change adaptation unit, DEPI, UNEP		

In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.

Section A: Project location:
If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Is the project area in or close to -		
- densely populated area	Yes	The project will be carried out in the coastal zone which has some densely populated pockets. The size of the population targeted by the project is at least 33,614 people living in the Lezha region. The project takes into account local livelihoods and communities living in the pilot areas. Capacity building, knowledge sharing and community based adaptation are all integrated into the project design.
- cultural heritage site	No	
- protected area	Yes	The Kune-Vaini Lagoon System (KVLS) is located within the Drini Mati River Delta area, on both sides of Drini-Lezhe River in the northern Albanian coastal region. It is a Protected Area (IUCN Category IV) and locally designated as managed nature reserve). The projects aims to build resilience of this area through ecosystem based approaches to adaptation.
- wetland	Yes	
- mangrove	No	
- estuarine	No	
- buffer zone of protected area	No	
- special area for protection of biodiversity	Yes	The KVLS was the first protected area in Albania and is an IUCN Category IV protected area. This area lies within an internationally recognised Important Bird Area

		(IBA) that provides wintering grounds for over 70 species of waterfowl and water bird and features: i) important nesting habitat for birds, in particular waterfowl such as the globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*).
- Will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	Yes	The project aims to build resilience through implementation of an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including. The opening of a new tidal channel between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea will require the construction of terminal groynes. These terminal groynes are essential for the protection of this newly created tidal channel.
If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.		

Section B: Environmental impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N. A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	Yes	The coastal ecosystems that are targeted by the project are fragile and degraded at the selected pilot sites. The project's priority is to restore these ecosystems to build the resilience of local communities. Anthropogenic pressures, climate variability and extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, siltation and soil erosion contribute to these pressures. Project activities are designed to establish resilient ecosystems in degraded areas in order to ensure long-term adaptation to the impacts of climate change. All on-the-ground implementation will be undertaken using expert guidance from qualified technical staff and scientific advisors.
- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and socio-economic studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecological and economical functions. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no maladaptation occurs.
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Short-, medium- and long-term impacts will be beneficial for local ecosystems. As mentioned above detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and socio-economic studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecological opportunities. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no maladaptation occurs.
- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	Not anticipated	Project activities such as ecological restoration will reduce the likelihood of flooding and regulate the flow of water. Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on water flows. No temporary wastewater will be generated by project activities.
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause soil erosion and	Not	It is expected that project activities will help increase soil water filtration in

siltation?	anticipated	protected watersheds in all priority project areas, thereby reducing erosion and siltation. However, detailed assessments will be conducted before ant demonstration activities, to ensure that soil erosion and siltation are taken into account.
- Will project cause increased waste production?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	Not anticipated	Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and ecological studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecosystem functions. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no harm is caused to ecosystem as a result of invasive species.
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No	Project activities are likely to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in identified priority sites through the restoration and re-establishment of degraded ecosystems, increasing soil and plant carbon sequestration.
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	Not anticipated	
Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.		

Section C: Social impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	Yes	All project interventions have been developed in accordance with internationally proclaimed human rights, in conformity with UN guidelines. In addition, all activities were developed together with various stakeholders to ensure that no rights or laws are infringed by the proposed activities.
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	Yes	The project facilitates participatory approaches for avoiding any conflicts. In addition, the project will adhere to national and local laws on land rights and land tenure.
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	No	The project will promote a community-based natural resources management approach. The project will adhere to national and local laws on land rights and land tenure.
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	Yes	All on the ground activities are implemented by local communities, and are preceded by and include stakeholder consultations together with training and information workshops. Technical briefs will be prepared to ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed.
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	Yes	The project will strengthen institutions within Albania in order to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and ecosystem based adaptation measures. Local institutions will be provided with EbA training, as will district, provincial and national structures relevant to the project outcomes.
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial	Yes	The project is designed to enhance beneficial land uses and access to resources, including improved

uses (water supply or fisheries)?		water flow, improved fishing conditions and reduced coastal siltation in identified project sites.
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	Yes	All anticipated modifications of current land use and technology will enhance the social and economic benefits to local populations.
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	Not anticipated	No movement of populations is required for project activities: local populations are involved in all on-the-ground implementation. Social assessments will be conducted in order to ensure that project interventions do not cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement.
- Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	No	No new roads are to be built through project activities, and no population movement is anticipated. Local social infrastructure will be enhanced through the project community engagement and consultation process, and through community training in adaptation techniques.
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	No	No long-term change in employment as a result of project activities is anticipated. Community members will be employed for short periods to achieve specific project objectives where necessary. Livelihoods of communities in project sites will be enhanced in order to improve community resilience under conditions of climate change.
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	Yes	The project conforms to all national and international guidelines and laws regarding forced labour. Extensive community engagement will prevent the use of forced labour, and all required labour (short term employment only for establishing specific objectives) will be provided through community engagement and remunerated in accordance with national law.
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for workers employed as part of the project?	Yes	The project will conform to all national and international guidelines and laws regarding health and safety for workers employed as part of the project. Community training will ensure that health and safety regulations are understood.
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Short-, medium- and long-term impacts will be beneficial for local ecosystems. As such, the project will create improved recreational opportunities.
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	No	All project implementation will be carried out after stakeholder consultation and in accordance with local belief systems. Livelihoods of people in project sites will be improved through the project activities.
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	No	Women's rights will be promoted in accordance with national legislation, appropriate strategies and UN guidelines for interaction within Albania. In addition, gender has been taken into account in the project document including through gender disaggregated indicators.
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	No	No cultural heritage will be impacted through project operations.
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	Yes	Corruption within the selected EA is limited due to strong internal governance and stringent protection measures.

Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.

Section D: Other considerations

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	Yes	Law No. 8990 on Environmental Impact Assessment (2003) creates an enabling environment that enforces all projects – related to the implementation of construction works, installations or schemes, or implying interventions into the natural and scenery environment – that may have a negative impact on the environment undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	Yes	There are multiple companies that specialise in undertaking sound EIAs.
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	No	Project activities are complementary to the identified baseline projects, and other ongoing initiatives, and will ensure that long-term adaptation benefits enhance the value of these activities.
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	Yes	Project will generate long-term environmental benefits by facilitating adaptation restoration in degraded coastal ecosystems and positive social impacts through enhanced ecosystems services. The project seeks to enhance climate risk management.
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	Yes	The project will generate long-term environmental benefits by facilitating adaptation restoration in degraded coastal ecosystems and positive social impacts through enhanced ecosystems services and promoting additional livelihood options.

Annex N: Acronyms and abbreviations

CBA	Cost-benefit Analysis
DMRD	Drini-Mati River Deltas
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EMINWA	Environmentally-sound Management of Inland Waters Programme
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGI	Gender Gap Index
GhG	Greenhouse Gas
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GNP	General National Plan
GoA	Government of Albania
HDI	Human Development Index
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IIPC	Integrated Intersectoral Plan for the Coast
IWGCC	Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
INC	Initial National Communication
ISPA	Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	German Development Bank
KVLS	Kune-Vaini Lagoon System
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEAP	Local Environmental Action Plans
LWR	Law on Water Resources
MoAFC	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration
MoUDT	Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism
MoPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MSP	Medium-Sized Project
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NWC	National Water Council
ORER	Office of Real Estate Registration
PDO	Project Development Objective
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RBA	River Basin Agency
RBC	River Basin Council
RDP	Regional Development Programme
REA	Regional Environmental Agency
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNC	Second National Communication
SWH	Solar Water Heating
TNC	Third National Communication
TS	Technical Secretariat
TWGCC	Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
WFD	Water Framework Directive

Annex O: Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA

Outcome 1: Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.

Output 1.1 Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.

The activities to be implemented under Output 1.1 are:

- 1.1.1. Develop/adapt training programmes for national and local government on EbA and the cross-sectoral benefits of this approach.
- 1.1.2. Conduct training for national and local government on EbA using the programmes that have been developed in Activity 1.1.1.

Output 1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.

The activities to be implemented under Output 1.2 are:

- 1.2.1. Review existing policies and plans related to ecosystem management, protected area management, national development, and coastal development to identify entry-points for promoting adaptation to climate change through EbA.
- 1.2.2. Identify barriers to the effective implementation of climate change adaptation interventions (including EbA) specified in relevant national polices and plans, including barriers to: i) national dialogue on adaptation; ii) the development of large-scale EbA programming, and iii) mobilisation of funds for EbA implementation.
- 1.2.3. Develop technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers on how to plan, finance and implement EbA interventions that will increase resilience of ecosystems and communities and climate change.
- 1.2.4. Conduct technical training workshops with national and local government technical staff to: i) present the technical guidelines on EbA (developed in Activity 1.2.3); ii) train technical staff on moving from policy to implementation; and iii) train technical staff on ICZM.

Output 1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level.

The activities be implemented under Output 1.3 are as follows:

- 1.3.1. Establish a communication mechanism between relevant ministries, and assist in overcoming other barriers to national dialogue identified in Activity 1.2.2, to facilitate the effective functioning of the IWGCC.
- 1.3.2. Revise the current mandate/terms of reference of the current inter-ministerial working group on climate change to establish a technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA – including the selection of appropriate technical members – that will provide relevant technical information on climate change risks and appropriate EbA interventions.
- 1.3.3. Conduct an initiation workshop for the technical working group on climate change and EbA and assist in the development of a mandate for the group as well as terms of reference for its members.
- 1.3.4. Host bi-annual meetings to promote the continual and consistent functioning of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.
- 1.3.5. Conduct training sessions on current climate change adaptation finance to strengthen the capacity of the technical working group to identify and access international/national funds for adaptation.
- 1.3.6. Develop a plan – in close cooperation with the technical working group – to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA.

Output 1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.

The activities to be implemented under Output 1.4 are as follows:

- 1.4.1. Identify good practices for, and barriers to, the effective upscaling of EbA interventions.

- 1.4.2. Assess current entry points for incorporating EbA into national development plans.
- Consult with stakeholders from relevant sectors to discuss the potential entry points for EbA into national development plans.
- 1.4.3. Develop a nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, led by IWGCC, to sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.
- Consult with a broad spectrum of relevant national stakeholders in developing the upscaling strategy.
- 1.4.4. Host a workshop to validate the upscaling strategy developed in Activity 1.4.3. This workshop will be attended by all relevant local and national government officials.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

Outcome 2: Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.

Output 2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

The activities to be implemented under Output 2.1 are as follows:

- 2.1.1. Collect and update detailed scientific information required for comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the selected interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.
- 2.1.2. Undertake comprehensive EIAs for the selected EbA interventions to be implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.
- 2.1.3. Prepare technical protocols for the implementation of the selected EbA interventions.
- 2.1.4. Construct six artesian wells and rehabilitate four wells at the selected sites in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Vaini lagoon area.
- 2.1.5. Reforest three selected sites on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon totalling an area of 10 ha with indigenous, climate-resilient tree species.
- 2.1.6. Construct and maintain a new tidal inlet channel between the Ceka Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea, including construction of terminal groynes at the mouth of the channel to maintain mouth integrity, using the protocols developed in Activity 2.1.3.
- 2.1.7. Rehabilitate a 2000m stretch of coastal dunes south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon, by planting indigenous climate-resilient dune plants, using the protocols developed in Activity 2.2.1.
- 2.1.8. Develop and institutionalise a long-term strategy for the maintenance of: i) artesian wells; ii) reforested riparian areas; iii) tidal inlet channel; and iv) rehabilitated coastal dunes.

Output 2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.

The activities to be implemented under Output 2.2 are:

- 2.2.1. Design a long-term strategy to monitor the implementation and bio-physical impacts of EbA interventions.
- 2.2.2. Implement the monitoring strategy designed in Activity 2.2.1 to assess the impact of adaptation interventions to provide lessons learned and best practices for upscaling EbA.

Output 2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.

The activities to be implemented under Output 2.3 are:

- 2.3.1. Adapt and develop training programmes for local communities on: i) EbA and the benefits of this approach; ii) methods to implement and maintain EbA interventions; and iii) additional livelihoods, including inter alia ecotourism and sustainable fishing.
- 2.3.2. Conduct training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods using the programmes that have been developed in Activity 2.3.1.
- 2.3.3. Undertake a market assessment to identify and select appropriate ecotourism options for local communities living near the KVLS.

- 2.3.4. Develop informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism.
- 2.3.5. Upgrade the tourist information centre at the entrance to the KVPA.
- 2.3.6. Provide targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.
- 2.3.7. Provide technical assistance in the development of a business plan to pilot a selected ecotourism venture including technical advice on accessing finance (e.g. microfinance).

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA.

Outcome 3: Increased 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.

Output 3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.

The activities to be implemented under Output 3.1 are:

- 3.1.1. Collate knowledge products, best practices and lessons learned – including the benefits of adaptation interventions and innovative financing mechanisms – from relevant EbA-related projects.
- 3.1.2. Design and implement a knowledge management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed project.

Output 3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.

The activities to be implemented under Output 3.2 are:

- 3.2.1. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for policy and decision makers, technical government and non-government personnel, and the general public on: i) the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions based on the lessons learned in Outcomes 1 and 2, and ii) ecotourism.
- 3.2.2. Identify and develop innovative awareness raising activities for learners at primary, secondary and high schools on climate change and EbA.
- 3.2.3. Implement awareness-raising activities identified in Activity 3.2.2 in schools in Albania with specific focus on schools nearby the KVLS.
- 3.2.4. Conduct experience-sharing and community events to facilitate learning and dialogue among policy makers, implementers and local people living within and benefiting from selected interventions sites.

Output 3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.

The activities to be implemented under Output 3.3 are:

- 3.3.1. Identify appropriate research institutions that will be able to assess the impact of EbA interventions in the KVLS.
- 3.3.2. Design a research programme, with the selected research institutions, to scientifically assess the long-term biological, physical and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions.

Output 3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.

The activities to be implemented under Output 3.4 are:

- 3.4.1. Design a web-based platform to share information generated and collected by the project. The project outputs shared on the web-based platform will include best practices, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports.

- 3.4.2. Maintain the web-based platform, undertake activities to raise awareness of the existence of the web-based platform, and develop a user-manual for the web-based platform to be distributed to all local and national stakeholders.

1.12 Project summary

The Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS), located within the Drini-Mati River Delta in the Lezha region of Albania, provides a wide range of valuable goods and services to nearby communities. These local communities derive the majority of their income from fishing or agriculture[1] and therefore depend on functional, intact ecosystems in the lagoon system for their livelihoods. A rapid increase in population size[2] and widespread poverty in the area have led to an increase in pressure on the lagoon for ecosystem goods and services, and to unplanned alterations in the buffer zone surrounding the lagoon. This is resulting in the over-exploitation of these important natural resources. Unsustainable resource use within the KVLS is also causing: i) a reduction in quality and quantity of water in the KVLS affecting lagoon productivity; ii) increased coastal flooding; and iii) increased sand dune erosion.

The unsustainable use and alteration of the KVLS is being compounded and will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, in several ways. Firstly, recent climate change models predict an increase in air (1.8°C by 2050[3]) and sea surface temperature, which will lead to increased evaporation. In addition, global climate models[4] also predict a reduction in precipitation, which will also result in an increase in salinity in the lagoon with detrimental effects on the fisheries. Secondly, models predict an accelerating rate of sea-level rise (up to 61 centimetres by 2100) resulting in increased erosion and the consequent loss of habitat within the KVLS. Finally, the KVLS is expected to experience more intense and frequent floods and storm surges. These extreme events will lead to the erosion of beaches and riparian forests and the alteration of flow patterns within the KVLS, which in turn reduces physical barriers to extreme coastal flooding events and limits the capacity of the lagoon to buffer the surrounding communities from these events. Overall, climate change effects are reducing the capacity of this system to provide indispensable ecosystem goods and services to local communities.

Currently, national and local government and local communities have limited technical and institutional capacity to address the negative effects of climate change. Unless this capacity is increased, local communities living around the KVLS will remain vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change.

In order to address this problem, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) project aims 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, which is considered more cost effective in long term versus hard infrastructure measures. Additionally, EbA is known to generate co-benefits to the economy and society and be more sustainable in long-term. This will be achieved by: i) improving technical and institutional capacity of policy- and decision-makers in Albania to address climate change risks through the implementation of adaptation interventions, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); ii) demonstrating adaptation interventions within the KVLS; and iii) improving awareness and knowledge of local communities and national stakeholders on effective EbA. Scientific research has been used to develop an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA that will: i) improve the quantity and quality of water in the lagoon resulting in improved lagoon productivity; and ii) reduce beach dune erosion thereby improving the resilience of local communities to coastal flooding. EbA interventions will result in multiple benefits to the local

[1] INSTAT, 2013

[2] REAP Regional Environmental Action Plan on the basin of the Drin River, the area of Shkodra Depression and the Area of Lezha

[3] GEF UNDP Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

[4] Using the global climate model MAGICC run with the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) families A1BAIM, A2ASF, B1IMA, B2MES, A1T-MES and A1FI-MI6

communities, economy and environment including: i) reduced flooding; ii) improved biodiversity; and iii) improved fisheries production. As such, this suite of interventions will improve the capacity of the ecosystem to adapt to climate change and provide important goods and services to local communities. In so doing, adaptation interventions and EbA will improve the local communities' capacity to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

Furthermore, the sustainability of the project will be ensured by: i) strengthening the current Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change; ii) developing an upscaling strategy which includes training local and national decision-makers on how to identify and secure funding for EbA projects; iii) training national government and local communities on EbA; and iv) developing and implementing a long term research programme that will measure the performance of EbA interventions.

The project will build on several on-going baseline projects, including the Water Resource and Irrigation Project, the ECOSEA project, and the UNEP Coastal EbA Programme. It will be executed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Albania, and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DMRD	Drini-Mati River Deltas
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EMINWA	Environmentally-sound Management of Inland Waters Programme
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGI	Gender Gap Index
GhG	Greenhouse Gas
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GNP	General National Plan
GoA	Government of Albania
HDI	Human Development Index
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IIPC	Integrated Intersectoral Plan for the Coast
IWGCC	Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
INC	Initial National Communication
ISPA	Institutional Support for Protected Areas in Albania
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KfW	German Development Bank
KVLS	Kune-Vaini Lagoon System
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEAP	Local Environmental Action Plans
LWR	Law on Water Resources
MoAFC	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration
MoUDT	Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism
MoPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MSP	Medium-Sized Project
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NWC	National Water Council
ORER	Office of Real Estate Registration
PDO	Project Development Objective
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RBA	River Basin Agency
RBC	River Basin Council
RDP	Regional Development Programme
REA	Regional Environmental Agency
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNC	Second National Communication
SWH	Solar Water Heating

TNC	Third National Communication
TS	Technical Secretariat
TWGCC	Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
WFD	Water Framework Directive

SECTION 2: BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS (BASELINE COURSE OF ACTION)

2.1 Background and context

1. The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) has approved funds for the implementation of the Medium-Sized Project (MSP) entitled: "Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon System through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)" in Albania. Hereafter this MSP will be referred to as the SCCF-financed project or the project.

Brief introduction

2. Historically, Albania contained one of the largest and richest wetland systems – mainly in the form of coastal lagoons – in the Mediterranean region. These wetland systems are highly productive ecosystems that provide a wide range of valuable goods and services to communities living nearby. They mitigate floods, deliver nutrients, and provide food (particularly fish) and fresh water. These systems, however, were intensely altered during two distinct periods. During the 1950s, a marshland reclamation programme and the expansion of agriculture into riparian woodland areas led to the loss of more than 50% of the coastal wetlands. More recently, the movement of people following political changes in Albania in the 1990s led to the expansion of settlements on the coastal plain resulting in further loss of approximately 15% of the remaining coastal wetlands.

3. One of the Albanian wetland systems most altered is the Kune-Vaini lagoon system (KVLS), located within the Drini-Mati River Delta in the Lezha region. This entire lagoon system has been identified as a critically vulnerable region to current and expected climate change impacts[5], therefore, the implementation of appropriate adaptation interventions is urgently required. The degradation of this lagoon system threatens the integrity of the KVLS and the livelihoods of the local community and the ecosystem goods and services upon which they rely. In the 1990's the population density in the area surrounding the KVLS reached levels almost double that of the national average. As the majority of people living around the lagoon derive their income from fishing or agriculture, the rapidly growing population has led to increased pressure on the KVLS for fish, fresh water and fodder. This in turn is resulting in the unsustainable use of these important resources. Furthermore, the expansion of settlements in the buffer zone surrounding the lagoon has resulted in physical barriers – such as embankments or drainage canals. These barriers are preventing the natural water regime from adjusting to changes in flow patterns, more specifically the timing and duration of flooding events. This is causing irreversible consequences, such as changes in geomorphology, loss of habitat – including marine, estuarine and riparian forest – and hydrological functioning.

4. The unsustainable use and alteration of the KVLS is being compounded and will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate change in several ways. Firstly, recent climate change models predict an increase in air and sea surface temperature, which will lead to increased evaporation. Global climate models[6] also predict a reduction in precipitation that – in addition to the increased evaporation – will result in an increase in salinity in the lagoon with detrimental effects on the fisheries. Secondly, models predict an accelerating rate of sea-level rise (SLR) resulting in increased erosion and the consequent loss of habitat within the KVLS. Finally, the KVLS is expected to experience more intense and frequent floods and storm surges[7]. These extreme events will lead to further degradation of the lagoon system. In addition, the removal of beaches and riparian forests and alteration of flow patterns

[5] Implication of climate change for the Albanian coast. UNEP MAP Technical Report Series No.98. UNEP/ MAP Athens, 1996; Albania's First National Communication to UNFCCC, available at (available at http://www.ccalb.org)

[6] Using the global climate model MAGICC run with the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) families A1BAIM, A2ASF, B1IMA, B2MES, A1T-MES and A1FI-MI6

[7] GEF UNDP Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

reduces physical barriers to extreme coastal flooding events and limits the capacity of the lagoon to buffer the surrounding communities from these events.

5. The SCCF-financed project will reduce the vulnerability of KVLS and nearby communities to present climate variability and future climate change risks. This will be achieved by: i) improving technical and institutional capacity of policy- and decision-makers in Albania to address climate change risks through the implementation of adaptation interventions, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); ii) demonstrating an integrated suite of adaptation interventions within the KVLS; and iii) improving awareness and knowledge of local communities and national stakeholders on effective EbA.

6. The project will build on a previous GEF UNDP project, which included the KVLS, entitled "Identification and Implementation of Adaptation Response Measures in the Drini Mati River Delta (DMRD). Amongst other activities, the GEF UNDP project undertook a review of policies relevant to climate change in Albania. This review resulted in the production of a policy paper[8] with seven strategies to integrate climate change into national policies and plans. The project also commissioned a series of ecological, economic and social studies within the Drini Mati lagoon system. Using the results of these studies, the GEF UNDP project identified and prioritised a range of potential climate change adaptation interventions to be implemented in the KVLS[9]. The SCCF-financed project will build on the work done by the DMRD project by: i) developing technical guidelines to integrate EbA into policies and plans related to climate change; and ii) implementing a variety of EbA interventions that were identified and prioritised by the DMRD project.

7. The EbA interventions will be implemented in three interlinked habitats within the KVLS[10] that have been identified as the most vulnerable to climate change. These habitats include: i) the Ceka Lagoon (Figure 1); ii) degraded beaches adjacent to the Ceka Lagoon; and iii) degraded forests within the KVLS.

8. Additional information on the climate, ecology, geography, and the political and socio-economic context in Albania – relevant to the SCCF-financed project – is presented below.

[8] Climate Change Adaptation in the Drini-Mati River Delta and Beyond – Policy Paper, Republic of Albania. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration. Tirana 2013.

[9] Project proposals based on priority measures to adapt to climate change. UNDP Climate Change Programme.

[10] The Kune-Vaini lagoon system comprises 3 lagoons, namely the Merxhani, Zaje and Ceka Lagoon.

Figure 1. Kune-Vaini Lagoon System.

Geographic context

9. The KVLS covers an area of 2.3 km^2 and consists of lagoons, islands, sandy beaches, capes and bays (see Figure 1). The lagoon system lies within the DMRD, situated in the Lezha region on the north-western coast of Albania (Figure 2). The Lezha region is predominantly rural and covers an area of 1,619 km^2 – approximately 6% of the national territory – and is divided into three districts: Kurbin, Lezhe and Mirdite. The region has a coastline of 38 kilometres and includes the Drini delta in the Lezha district and the Mati River delta in the Kurbin district.

Figure 2. Geographical location of the KVLS in the Lezha district within Albania.

Political context

10. In 1990, Albania became a democratic state[11]. The 2009 general elections resulted in the first coalition government in the country's history, which was then followed by the second coalition government in 2013. Albania has obtained candidate status for EU accession which requires them to comply with the EU's environmental acquis. However, the country is presently experiencing some internal challenges – such as high turnover of government staff and regular reshuffling of government ministries – which could slow down the accession process.

11. Albania is a parliamentary republic with a single house of parliament. The president is elected by the National Assembly and among other duties, appoints the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). The Council of Ministers exercises all state functions that are not delegated to other state organisations or to local government. Currently, a project on administrative-territorial reform is under underway. The Albanian Parliament has approved the new territorial division, consisting in 61 municipalities over the country. Under this new territorial division, Shengjin and Shenkoll will join Lezha municipality within the county and district of the same name. Therefore, activities in the KVLS are implemented by the Lezha county, while the Lezha region is responsible for implementation on national policies which will influence management and rehabilitation of the KVLS.

[11] https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html. Accessed on 8 April 2014.

Socio-economic context

Population

12. The transition to a democratic state allowed people to move freely within the country, which resulted in a rapid growth in population size in the Lezha region during the 1990s[12]. As a result, the population density of the Lezha region – 221 inhabitants per km² – is more than double the national population density of 110 inhabitants per km². At present, 70% of the population of the Lezha region reside in rural areas[13].

13. The unemployment rate in the Lezha region is 30% and is more than twice as high as the national average of 14%, indicating the considerable poverty in the region. ~5% of the labour force is engaged in the private agriculture sector (including fisheries), ~35 % in the private non-agriculture sector, and ~14% in the state sector. Tourism and agriculture are the two most important sectors effecting economic growth of the region. The majority of community members in the area surrounding the KVLS derive their income from fishing and small- to medium-scale agriculture.

Gender

14. Women constitute approximately 44% of the total number of those employed nationally. In 2012, the female-to-male employment ratio was 0.78 while the employment rate of women of working age – between 15 and 65 – was 50% compared with 63% for men[14]. This disparity between men and women in Albania is also reflected by the country's gender index scores for those categorised as 'poor'. For example, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) score for Albania is 0.25, ranking the country 41st worldwide. The lower the GII ratio, the greater the inequality between the sexes. This is in contrast to the Gender Gap Index (GGI) where a high score indicates a larger gap between the sexes. Albania's GGI is 0.66, placing it 91st out of 135 countries[15].

15. These indices indicate that women in Albania currently do not have equal access to resources such as health, education, economic participation and political engagement. In 2008, a Gender Equality Law was passed and more recently legislation[16] has been introduced – prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a wide range of social characteristics – to improve women's access to resources in Albania[17].

Education

16. Examples of the progress made in education during 2006 – 2011 include *inter alia*: i) increased participation rates in both rural and urban areas indicating that more children are attending school and there is an increase in access to education for rural children; ii) increased progression rates – from 80% to 91% – from primary to secondary education; iii) increased enrolment rates – from 53% to 76% – in upper secondary school; and iv) improved school space availability. In higher education,

[12]REAP Regional Environmental Action Plan on the basin of the Drin River, the area of Shkodra Depression and the Area of Lezha
[13] INSTAT, 2013
[14] EFT Albania Country information note2010 – 2012.
[15] World Economic Forum, The Global Gender Gap Report 2013, Available at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GenderGap_Report_2013.pdf. Accessed on 1 June 2014.
[16] Law No. 9970 of 24 July 2008 "On gender equality in society" and Law No. 10221 of 4th February 2010 "On protection against discrimination".
[17] http://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/pdf/46_shadow_reports/NonG2L/Albania/GADC_Albania_46.pdf. Accessed on 29 April 2014.

reforms are taking place which is expected to increase the efficiency and accountability of the institutions.

17. The largest barriers to educational opportunity are based on geographic location and economic status. Throughout primary education, children living in rural areas have higher rates of participation than those of children living in urban areas. Rural children have higher attendance rates, higher enrolment rates, and higher survival and completion rates. However, by secondary school the situation changes dramatically. Half as many rural children (13.6%) attend secondary education as urban children (27.2%), and rural children's attendance rates (13.6%) are half that of urban children's (27.2%) in secondary school[18].

Economy

18. After having been a closed centrally-planned state, Albania is currently making the transition to an open-market economy. In the past decade, the country has experienced rapid rates of economic growth. Albania is classified as an upper-middle income economy[19]. Currently, agriculture accounts for 21% of the GDP, services for 61% and industries for the remaining 18%.

Agriculture

19. In the last two decades, urbanisation[20] has caused a shift away from agriculture towards industry and services[21]. Consequently – in terms of GDP – the service sector now dominates Albania's economy. For example, in 2008 the service sector contributed nearly 65% the country's economy[22]. Although agriculture accounts for only one-fifth of the GDP, it provides almost half of the country's employment[23]. This is because agriculture is primarily limited to small family operations and subsistence farming. The main causes for the discrepancy between employment and GDP in agriculture include *inter alia:* i) lack of modern equipment; ii) unclear property rights; iii) the prevalence of small, inefficient plots of land; iv) land fragmentation; v) poor infrastructure; vi) market limitations; vii) limited access to credit and grants; and viii) inadequate rural institutions.

20. Wheat and maize are Albania's main agricultural products followed by beans and olives. Other minor products include *inter alia* tobacco, figs, potatoes, grapes, sugar beets and meat. Because Albania is a candidate to become a member of the EU, farmers are supported by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and receive funding to improve Albanian agriculture standards[24]. Only one-fourth of the total land area is arable, but the country is able to meet nearly all its food requirements from domestic production.

21. The buffer zone surrounding the KVLS consists mainly of open fields where traditional agriculture is practiced. The area of arable land in Shengjin and Shenkoll communes is around 4.3 km^2 with the main arable crops being wheat, maize and vegetables. Over the past 20 years, fluctuations in yield have been mainly associated with periods of flooding and drainage problems, although in recent years yields have been increasing. Many farmers are self-sufficient with small surpluses sold locally, but sales are limited by poor local access. More recently, however, there has been a growing demand for organically grown local products during the summer tourist season.

[18] MICS 2000
[19] WorldBank.2013. Available at: http://data.worldbank.org/country/albania#cp_prop. Accessed on 8 April 2014.
[20] https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/al.html. Accessed on 8 April 2014.
[21] http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/overview. Accessed on 8 April 2014.
[22] http://data.worldbank.org/country/albania. Accessed on 8 April 2014.
[23] http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania/overview. Accessed on 8 April 2014.
[24] http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/albania/ipa/2011/pf_7_agriculture_ipard_like_measures.pdf. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

Fisheries

22. Albania's fishing industry has potential to generate export earnings. However, because there are limited numbers of professional fishermen and inadequate equipment, it has not been fully developed[25]. The seafood available off the coast of Albania are carp, trout, sea bream, mussels, and crustaceans. In addition to the sea, wetlands – especially in the form of lagoons and estuaries – play an important role in fisheries as nurseries for a majority of the economically important fish species. Furthermore, these lagoons systems are an important source of fish for local communities. Approximately 10% of community members in the area surrounding the KVLS rely on fisheries in the lagoons for the majority of their income.

Energy

23. Albania generates more than 90% of its electricity through hydropower. The main source of this electricity is from the 3 large hydropower dams (Fierza, Komani, Vau I Dejes) built on the Drini River. The diversion of rivers to these hydropower dams has resulted in a reduction in sediment supply by the Drini River. This reduced sediment supply results in negative sand balance which in turn results in increased beach erosion[26]. Because of the large fluctuations in the country's rainfall and other precipitation on which hydropower depends, it is a challenge for Albania to maintain the supply of energy. This has resulted in tentative plans to build additional hydropower plants on the remaining large rivers in Albania[27].

Tourism

24. Since 1990, the tourism sector in Albania has grown considerably. In 2005, Albania had only 500,000 visitors, while in 2012 the country had an estimated 4.2 million tourists, equating to an increase of 850% in only seven years[28]. The total contribution of tourism to the GDP in 2012 was approximately 25%[29]. However, this growth in tourism has taken place without adequate strategic planning, resulting in unplanned construction of infrastructure needed for the increased tourism. This unplanned construction has led to degradation of natural habitats.

25. Currently in the KVLS there are approximately 100 tourists per month[30]. These tourists come to the lagoon mostly to experience the beaches and restaurants. The management plan for the Kune-Vaini protected area includes plans to improve eco-tourism in the area. However, there is insufficient infrastructure – including roads and tourist facilities – resulting in difficulties in getting tourists into the area. Therefore mass construction will be required to increase access for tourists, and this construction may cause further degradation of the area if it is not well planned and managed.

Water resources

26. The Drini River is the largest river in Albania. It starts at the confluence of the transboundary Black Drini and White Drini Rivers in Kukës. This river is fed by melting snow from the northern and

[25] Encyclopaedia Brittanica. 2014. Available at: http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/12472/Albania/42626/Economy. Accessed on 15 April 2014.

[26] The reduced sediment supply results in there being less sediment entrained in sea currents, therefore the deposition of sand on beaches is reduced resulting in increased erosion.

[27] D. Faloutsos, V. Constantianos, M. Scoullos. Draft Status Report. Management of the "extended" Transboundary Drin Basin. 2008. Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean Secretariat

[28] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albania#Climate. Accessed on 8 April 2014.

[29] WTTC, 2012. *Travel & Tourism Economic impact 2012, Albania*.

[30] Information supplied by Pjeter Toni, Head of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.

eastern mountains and by seasonal precipitation, providing a consistent supply of fresh water throughout the year. The Drini River flows westward where it splits into two channels, the Drini i Lezhës River and the Drinasa River. The mouth of the Drini i Lezhës River opens into the Adriatic Sea just south of the Buna/ Bojana River near the city of Lezha. The KVLS forms the area around the mouth of the Drini i Lezhës River with the river separating the Kune and Vaini portions of the KVLS.

27. The main uses of the water in the Drini River are for energy production, irrigation, industry and drinking water[31]. Agricultural in the Lezha region is the largest consumer of fresh water (60%) form this river. The quantity of surface water available – and to a lesser extent groundwater – strongly decreases during summer.

Ecological context

28. The KVLS is a complex system comprising coastal lagoons, sandy beaches, salt marshes and riparian mixed forests. The ecosystems within this lagoon system are intricately linked, with changes in one ecosystem leading to changes in the surrounding systems. As such, it is important that the ecosystems of the KVLS are considered as an integrated whole.

29. Coastal lagoons are important areas for wintering migratory birds. There are around 70 water bird species with a total population of ~ 180 000 individuals during the winter in Albania many of which migrate to the KVLS during winter. The Drini Delta – which includes the KVLS – is an internationally recognised Important Bird Area (IBA) with IUCN Category IV protected area status.

General climatic conditions

30. The Lezha region has a typical Mediterranean climate that is characterised by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. The average annual temperature is 16 – 17 C with the warmest months of the year are July and August.

31. The mean annual precipitation registered over the DMRD area is 1,350 $mm.yr^{-1}$ of which approximately 66% falls in the period from October to March. The wettest month is November, followed by December and January.

Observed effects of climate variability

32. Extreme events such as heavy rains, floods and drought are causing habitat loss and fragmentation in the DMRD[32] further exacerbating the loss of beaches, lagoons and salt marshes , which have been lost as a result of changes in sedimentary processes caused by human alterations.

[31] Banja M. 2004. *Transboundary Surface Water of Albania.* Workshop paper.
[32] GEF UNDP, 2013. *Climate change adaptation in the Drini-Mati River Delta and beyond*, policy paper.

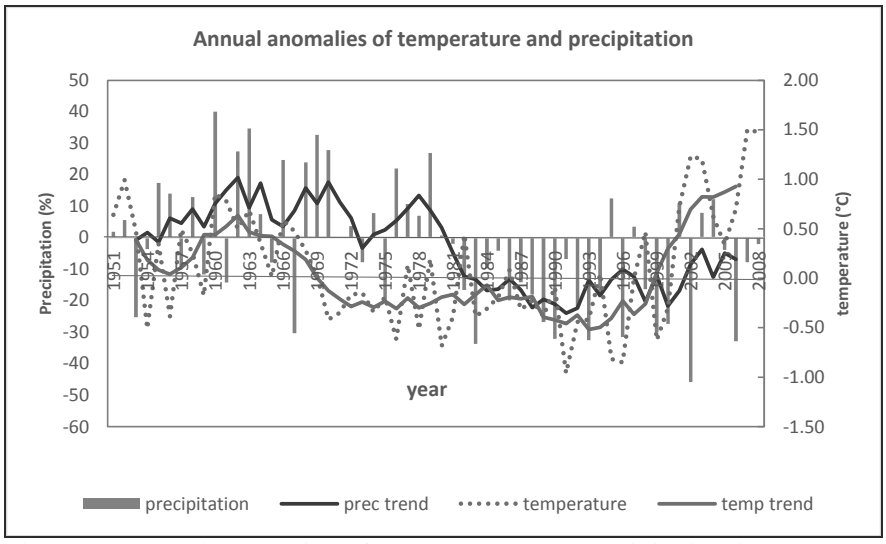


Figure 3. Annual anomalies of temperature and precipitation in the Lezha region, compared to 1961–1990 mean levels. Source: Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

33. Examples of the observed effects of climate variability and increase in frequency of extreme weather events in the DMRD include *inter alia*:

- Heavy rainfall events in 1970 and 2002 – where the 24 hour maximum precipitation value reached up to 220 mm – caused flooding in DMRD area.
- Storms and accompanying powerful waves have led to steeper and narrower barrier sand dune profiles in the DMRD area, as well as erosion. As an example, the coastline in the Lezha region has eroded by 2.5 m. yr^{-1} on average, resulting in the sea line having advanced by 400 m inland in the last decade. This has led to considerable loss of habitat.
- Inundation by seawater has increased water salinity in the KVLS. This increased salinity has altered the species composition in the lagoon. Areas that were previously dominated by common reed thicket (*Phragmites australis*) have been replaced by halophytic vegetation.
- The observed increase in temperature over the past decade has resulted in an increase in prevalence of the invasive alien species *Cuscuta spp* (a parasitic plant originating from Australia) in the DMRD area especially on sandy dune systems near the Mati delta.
- In recent years, the DMRD has experienced an upward trend in annual temperatures, compared with the 1961 – 1990 average (Figure 4).

Predicted effects of climate change

34. The climate change scenarios developed during the DMRD project[33] to predict the conditions described below for the KVLS under climate change.

- Mean annual temperature is predicted to increase 1.8°C by 2050, 2.8°C by 2080 and 3.2 C by 2100 (Figure 4).
- Mean annual precipitation is expected to decrease by up to 8.1% by 2050, 12.9% by 2080 and 15.5% by 2100 (Figure 5).
- An increase in the daily temperature range is expected.
- There is predicted to be an increase in extreme rainfall events resulting in flood risks.

[33] Using the global climate model MAGICC run with the Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) families A1BAIM, A2ASF, B1IMA, B2MES, A1T-MES and A1FI-MI6

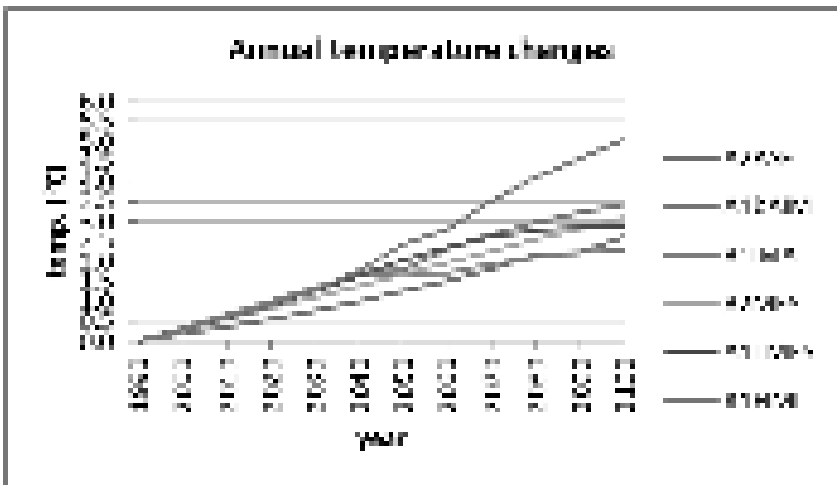


Figure 4. Expected changes in annual temperature for different scenarios (acc.to IPCC ar4), compared to 1961–1990 levels. Source: Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

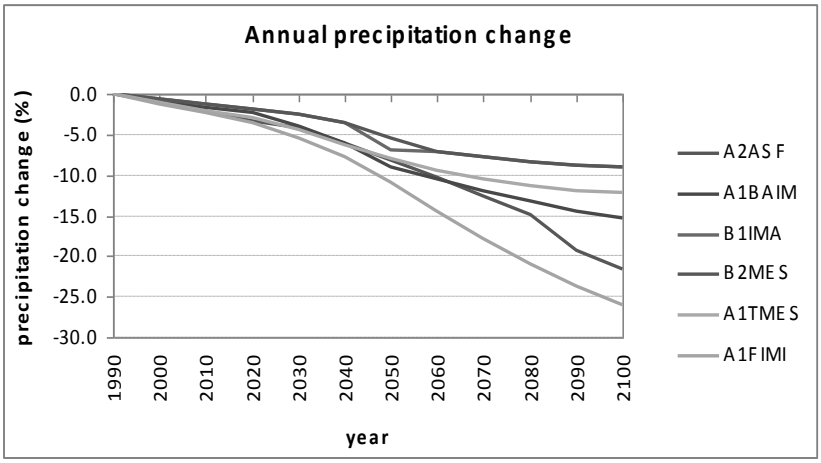


Figure 5. Expected changes in annual precipitation for different scenarios (acc.to IPCC ar4), compared to 1961-90. Source: GEF UNEP Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

35. The combination of both the increase in temperature and the decrease in rainfall will result in an increase in drought during summers. In addition, the predicted increase in intensive rainfall events will lead to increase instances of flooding. Furthermore, it is predicted that Albania's coastal zone will experience a mean average sea level rise (maSLR) of up to 61 centimetres by 2100. This increase in maSLR is expected to increase erosion rates, which currently vary between 2-4 $m.yr^{-1}$. At this rate of erosion, in 90 years, the beach will be ~270 m further inland than it is now. This will have considerable negative effects on marine and coastal biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities in the KVLS area (this will be explained further in Section 2.3).

36. The effect of observed and predicted climate changes on relevant sectors is described below.

Water

37. Albania's water sector will be the sector that is most affected by climate change. Groundwater supply in the Lezha region will be reduced as a result of decreased water infiltration. This is as a result

of the predicted increase in temperature – leading to increased evaporation[34] – and reduction in precipitation. Furthermore, the predicted sea level rise (SLR) in the area will cause an increase in the salinity of aquifers. This reduction in water quality will be further exacerbated by industrial and agricultural development. A reduction in groundwater supply – in combination with the anticipated increased salinity of this supply – will lead to a shortage of potable water in the Lezha region.

38. The predicted reduction in precipitation and increase in temperature will also reduce the base flow – the flow of water entering stream channels from groundwater sources in the drainage of large lakes[35] – of rivers, reducing the supply of fresh water to the KVLS. Declines in water supply and quality will negatively impact agriculture in the area near the KVLS by reducing the amount of water available for irrigation.

Agriculture

39. Agriculture in the area near the KVLS is mainly subsistence in nature with traditional methods being practised. Despite this, agriculture is responsible for approximately 50% of employment in the area. This sector is therefore particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For example, the predicted higher temperatures and reduced precipitation in spring is likely to slow crop growth, reduce yields and negatively affect crop quality. In addition, an increased risk of storm surges – in the KVLS area – is expected under climate change conditions. This will cause an increase in the risk of crop damage from inundation[36] of crops by seawater and from salt water intrusion[37]. Thus, the predicted effects of climate change on agricultural production will threaten food security and income streams in the Lezha region.

Health

40. Climate change in the KVLS area is predicted to have negative effects on the health sector. Changes in the baseflow rates of rivers and quality of water in lagoons is expected to change the geographical range and prevalence of water-borne infectious diseases (such as malaria and west Nile disease). Furthermore, an increase in the frequency and intensity of heat waves is likely to lead to heat-related cardiovascular and respiratory dangers in summer months. Additionally, reduced agricultural productivity is expected to result in increased instances of malnutrition among local communities, compromising immunity to diseases[3839].

Natural resources

41. Increased salinity within the KVLS – as a result of the increased temperature and decreased precipitation – has resulted in the degradation of salt marshes, riparian forests and the highly productive lagoons themselves. The deterioration of the highly productive lagoons will result in a reduction in biomass of important fisheries species, increasing the vulnerability of communities that rely on the KVLS for fishing.

[34] http://www.climateadaptation.eu/albania/fresh-water-resources/. Accessed on 14 April 2014.
[35] McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms, 6th edition, published by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.
[36] Above ground flooding by seawater
[37] Saltwater intrusion is the induced flow of seawater into freshwater aquifers.
[38] http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/Briefs_on_Nutrition/Brief6_EN.pdf
[39] http://lpi.oregonstate.edu/ss10/nutrition.html

Conservation

42. Climate change variability and the associated extreme events such as heavy rains, floods and drought are causing habitat loss and fragmentation in the DMRD that is likely to undermine biodiversity conservation efforts in the KVLS. Conservation efforts will be unsuccessful unless the system can fully accommodate mid- to long-term alterations. Thus, it is important that management plans – that focus on responding to climate change related threats – are implemented.

Tourism

43. The coastal area near the KVLS has considerable potential for multiple tourist activities because of its favourable geographic position, long beaches, Mediterranean climate, water resources, and aesthetic landscape. Indeed, the tourism sector is becoming one of the main sources of income for the population of this coastal area. However, tourism infrastructure and activities – especially in the coastal area – are highly vulnerable to climate change. SLR is expected to have a negative effect on coastal tourism by damaging roads and other infrastructure and eroding current tourist beaches. In addition, the associated decrease in water quality in the lagoon will reduce opportunities for tourist activities (e.g. ecotourism) in this area.

2.2 Global significance

44. Through appropriately designed, implemented and monitored EbA interventions, the SCCF-financed project will also contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including species of global significance. The KVLS was the first protected area in Albania and is classified as an IUCN Category IV protected area. This lagoon area lies within an internationally recognised Important Bird Area (IBA) that provides wintering grounds for over 70 species of water birds. The KVLS includes important nesting habitat for birds, in particular the globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) and abundant fish species. This lagoon area includes over 270 plant species of which 18 are endangered. In addition, the Patok Lagoon south of the KVLS serves as an important feeding ground for globally endangered loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*). The project provides global environmental benefits by reducing the vulnerability of this ecologically important area, and the threatened species therein, to climate change.

2.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

45. The baseline context underpinning the problem induced by climate change is described in Section 2.1 under the heading “Predicted effects of climate change” together with the climate change-induced causes and threats. However, the negative effects of climate change on local communities are exacerbated by non-climate related threats. The non-climate related threats are described below.

Non-climate change related threats

Unsustainable resource use

46. A rapidly growing population together with unplanned development – such as illegal construction of housing and infrastructure – is placing increasing anthropogenic pressure on the KVLS. The increase in population density has led to the modification of the natural environment and the exploitation of coastal, marine and estuarine resources. This has resulted in the following effects: i) a loss of coastal, marine and estuarine habitats; ii) removal of important geomorphologic features such as sand dunes; iii) extensive clearing of coastal vegetation resulting in loss of flora and fauna; iv)

removal of buffer zones; and vi) reduced ecosystem resilience to SLR and climate change. Consequently there is: i) increased beach dune erosion; ii) limited water exchange through tidal inlet channels; iii) a reduction in the availability of important fish stocks; iv) saltwater intrusion; and v) reduced water infiltration – both freshwater from rainfall events and salt water from coastal flooding – in the buffer zone surrounding the KVLS leading to increased flooding in this area.

Threats causing increased beach dune erosion

47. River diversions and the construction of dams for hydroelectric power in the Drini Basin[40] have led to a reduction in water flow and sediment supply in the Drini i Lezhës River. This has resulted in increased beach dune erosion through the following chain of events.

- The creation of dams has significantly reduced the sediment yield of the Drini i Lezhës River. The dam not only captures the sediment that is entrained in the river but also reduces the energy that is required to transport the material.
- Reduced transport of sediment results in a lower supply of sediment, which in turn creates a negative sediment balance in the area[41].
- This negative sediment balance then results in increased beach dune erosion in the KVLS.
- This erosion has been further exacerbated by the construction of a breakwater to the south of the Drini i Lezhës river mouth, which has altered the transportation of sediments along a coast in this area[42].

Threats causing limited water exchange through tidal inlet channels

48. River diversions and the construction of dams for hydroelectric power in the Drini Basin, and the construction of a breakwater south of the Drini i Lezhës River mouth, have led to a reduction in water flow and sediment supply in the Drini i Lezhës River. This has resulted in limited water exchange through tidal inlet channels through the following process.

- Construction of a breakwater just south of the Drini i Lezhës River mouth has resulted in the alteration of longshore sediment supply. This has caused sediment accumulation in the tidal inlet channels between the lagoons of the KVLS and the Adriatic Sea.
- Construction of dams has also resulted in reduced water flow in the Kune River. This reduced water flow reduces the capacity of the river to remove sediment from the mouth of the tidal inlet channel and reduces the exchange of water between the lagoons and the sea.
- Sediment accumulation in the tidal inlet channels and reduced water flow in the Drini i Lezhës River results in reduced flushing rates of the lagoon.
- Limited water exchange and the associated reduction in flushing rates results in increased salinity and eutrophication of water in the lagoons. This eutrophication will be exacerbated by the continued discharge of polluted water into the lagoons from pumping stations. These pumping stations pump excess water collected in the buffer zone – during times of heavy rainfall and flooding – to the KVLS.

[40]The total catchment area of the basin is around 19,600 km2 and includes the Black Drini which drains from Lake Ohrid and flows up north until it meets the White Drini. These then flow together as the Drini River until they meet the Buna River and discharge finally to Adriatic Sea. The basin includes also three trans-boundary lakes which are the Shkodra Lake, Ohrid Lake and Prespa Lakes.

[41] Kune-Patok littoral sub-cell.

[42] This transport of sediment is called longshore sediment transfer and consists of the transportation of sediments (clay, silt, sand and shingle) along a coast at an angle to the shoreline, which is dependent on prevailing wind direction, swash and backwash. This process occurs in the littoral zone, and in or close to the surf zone.

Threats causing a reduction in availability of important fish stocks

49. The chain of casual events that link limited water exchange between lagoons and the sea to a reduction in important fish stocks is detailed below:

- Evaporation of water in the lagoons causes an increase in salinity within the lagoons.
- This increase in salinity results in a reduction in the amount of dissolved oxygen which in turn causes hypoxia in lagoon waters. Hypoxia has been linked to: i) long-term changes in benthic community structure characterised by a persistent shift in species composition and an overall decrease in species diversity; and ii) a reduction in fish stocks.
- This is exacerbated by eutrophication – as a result of the continued discharge of polluted water into the lagoons from pumping stations – which will cause a further increase in the hypoxic state of the lagoon.
- Therefore, reduced water exchange between lagoons and the sea will result in a change in species composition and a reduction in fish stocks, thereby reducing the availability of economically important fish stocks.

Threats causing a reduction in water infiltration leading to increased flooding

50. Deforestation and ecosystem degradation leads to increased flooding by reducing water infiltration into the soil through the following process:

- The expansion of small scale farming has reduced vegetation cover of trees, grasses and shrubs in coastal forest areas.
- Reduced vegetation cover exposes soils to raindrop impact. This impact results in clay dispersion and soil crusting, which results in increased surface runoff and erosion.
- Reduced vegetation cover means that the soil contains fewer root systems to: i) bind soils; and ii) provide pathways for water to infiltrate into the soil. Without these root systems, soil has less absorptive potential.
- The soils retain less water from: i) rainfall in wet seasons; and ii) inundation by salt water during coastal flooding.
- Reduced soil infiltration and increased surface runoff increases the likelihood of flooding during heavy rainfall events.

Additional threats

Rapid population growth

51. The population in the area surrounding the KVLS increased rapidly since the 1990s as people migrated in search of better livelihood opportunities[43]. Currently the population density in this area is over double the national average. This makes the area near the KVLS one of the most densely populated areas in Albania. As a result, there is intense anthropogenic pressure on natural resources which has led to degradation of ecosystems, as described earlier in this Section.

Poverty

52. The population surrounding the KVLS is among the poorest in Albania with an unemployment rate twice the national average (see Section 2.1). In 2005, approximately 15% of the population relied on social benefits[44]. The population is also greatly economically dependent on

[43] Regional Environmental Action Plan Drini river delta, Shkodra-Lezhe. 2006. Regional Environmental Centre Albania. Tirana.
[44] Regional Development Strategy, Millennium Development Goals, Lezha Region. 2005. The Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe. Albania. Tirana.

agriculture and fishing. These local communities are more vulnerable as they have a limited capacity to adapt to the related effects of climate change.

Pollution

53. Sewage and solid waste pollution upstream of the KVLS, particularly in Lezhe city, has increased pollution of water sources in the area. Industrial pollutants from fish processing companies and pumping stations aggravate this situation. Untreated sewage and industrial pollutants flow directly into the lagoons and wetland areas that harbour endangered and endemic species. This pollution is negatively affecting the fishing industry, the quality of drinking water and the tourism industry.

The problem addressed by the project and the preferred solution

54. A rapidly increasing population, with the associated expansion of agricultural land into the KVLS, is reducing the ability of this system to provide valuable ecosystem goods and services required by local communities. The observed and predicted effects of climate change, including increasing temperatures; decreasing precipitation and sea-level rise, further exacerbate this. The **problem** addressed by the project is that currently, government and local communities do not have the technical capacity and institutions to address these threats.

The preferred solution to this problem (described fully in Section 2.1 and above) is **to increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby the KVLS to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change using EbA. EbA approaches can be considered cost effective versus technical solutions in long term and are known to generate socio-economic benefits for the environment, citizens, and the local economy.** This will be achieved by the following:

Local community resilience to climate change is increased because of functioning natural ecosystems.

55. The preferred solution would see the discontinuation of unsustainable activities, such as deforestation and agriculture expansion, in favour of sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods in the KVLS. It would also see the restoration of degraded ecosystems using climate change resilient approaches so that they continue to provide valuable ecosystem goods and services. This preferred solution would be achieved through the implementation of EbA in the KVLS. By implementing EbA, ecosystem functioning in the lagoon system would be promoted thereby increasing the goods and services from the ecosystem. Local community livelihoods and economic sectors (*inter alia* fishing, agriculture and tourism) would also be developed while adapting to climate change. Additionally, restoration of lagoon ecosystems would: i) improve water quality; ii) reduce coastal erosion; iii) reduce flooding; and iv) enhance biodiversity conservation.

The technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through EbA is sufficient in Albania.

56. The preferred solution would see the technical and institutional capacity of local/national government and local communities to effectively respond to and manage climate change risks in coastal areas strengthened. This would allow EbA to be integrated into: i) development planning; and ii) ecosystem management plans. EbA on a national scale would be supported by enhanced local and national awareness on the benefits of EbA. This awareness would be informed by evidence-based research on EbA, particularly in coastal ecosystems in Albania. Furthermore, the preferred solution would see lessons learned from EbA interventions shared amongst: i) the public; ii) policy- and decision-makers; and iii) projects engaging in ecosystem management. It would also see effective

collaboration and information sharing between government departments to allow coordinated adaptation interventions and plans to be developed.

Barriers to implementing the preferred solution

57. There are a number of barriers to achieving the preferred solution in Albania. These barriers are outlined below.

Limited understanding and awareness of EbA.

58. In Albania, limited awareness and understanding of EbA is a considerable barrier to the implementation of EbA. Although government at the national[45] and local level is conducting activities for ecosystem restoration and management, EbA is a relatively new concept in the country. As a result, there is limited knowledge on: i) the costs and benefits of EbA; ii) what constitutes EbA best practice; and iii) how to tailor EbA for coastal and lagoon ecosystems. Therefore, EbA is not considered or used as a means of adapting to the adverse effects of climate change.

Limited technical and institutional capacity of government and local communities to plan and implement EbA.

59. Staff members within government ministries – including Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism (MoUDT) and Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources (MoARDWR) – do not receive training on EbA. Therefore, these national-level institutions do not have the technical capacity for planning and implementing EbA. This is similarly the case with the relevant Local Government Units (LGUs) and regional government, who provide technical support to local communities at a local level. Without the technical capacity to plan and implement EbA, these LGUs and regional government are unable to share information on EbA with local communities. Therefore, these local communities have limited technical capacity to plan and implement EbA.

Limited integration of EbA into development planning, frameworks and guidelines.

60. Policies and plans related to ecosystem management, national development and adapting to climate change have been developed for coastal areas in Albania[46]. However, these guiding documents do not include EbA specifically. Therefore EbA is not integrated into development planning or management of relevant sectors including *inter alia* environment, water, forestry, conservation and tourism.

Limited coordination between institutions involved in climate change adaptation.

61. An effective national response to climate change requires coordination between different national ministries, such as the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Finance, Planning and Local Government. Presently, there is limited coordination between government departments, scientific institutions and projects involved in climate change adaptation in Albania. To address this, an Inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IWGCC) was recently established, however, meetings of this working group are sporadic. In the absence of coordinated communication between projects and

[45] For example, the Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development and Water Resources constructed a breakwater at the mouth of the Drini River as a measure to reduce erosion along this coastline.
[46] This includes the policy paper titled, 'Climate Change Adaptation in the Drini-Mati river delta and beyond".

departments that have similar objectives, opportunities to advance the use of EbA in Albania are limited.

Limited financial resources to implement EbA.

62. Albania has limited financial resources to implement EbA. The GDP of Albania is US $28.14 billion – ranked 116th in the world – and the annual per Capita GDP is US $10,700 – ranked 115th in the world[47]. This shows that the economy in Albania is still relatively small. In addition to this, the GDP growth rate has decreased from 3.0% in 2012 to 0.7% in the 2014 fiscal year[48]. Given this, Albania has limited financial resources without donor support to: i) undertake revisions of strategy to promote EbA; ii) provide training on EbA at national and local levels; and iii) implement on-the-ground EbA.

Limited understanding of methods to identify and apply for donor funding.

63. The limited financial resources available to Albania is exacerbated by the restricted technical capacity of national institutions to identify and access international funding for adaptation. Many government staff have limited awareness of potential funding mechanisms and have not received training on proposal writing for accessing this funding. Without the technical capacity to identify and access donor funding, EbA will not be implemented across Albania.

Limited protocols/tools for implementing EbA in Albanian ecosystems.

64. To enhance adaptation to climate change and promote development of livelihoods, EbA should be tailored to particular ecosystems. However, protocols for EbA in different Albania ecosystems do not exist. This is mostly because there is limited integration of climate change science into ecosystem restoration plans. Therefore, people engaging in these activities do not have access to appropriate tools or documents to guide them to implement EbA.

Insufficient on-the-ground demonstration of EbA where benefits are being measured.

65. Currently, there are very few EbA projects being implemented in Albania. As a result, the benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA interventions have not been sufficiently demonstrated to policy- and decision-makers and local communities. Furthermore, with insufficient demonstration it is unlikely that: i) the EbA approach will be integrated into local, regional and national policies, plans and legislation for coastal areas; and ii) local communities will buy into EbA projects.

Limited research on EbA.

66. Scientific knowledge on EbA is required to guide the implementation of appropriate EbA interventions. Presently, no research institutions include EbA in their curricula at an undergraduate or post-graduate level. This is mostly because: i) there is limited awareness of the benefits of EbA; ii) EbA is a relatively new concept; and iii) there are limited resources available for research on EbA at a post-graduate level.

[47] CIA World Factbook. 2014.

[48] http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=259757210&Country=Albania&topic=Economy

The project will contribute to overcoming these barriers by:

Improving awareness and understanding of EbA at the national and local level.

67. The interventions of the SCCF-financed project will: i) increase knowledge on EbA in national/local government and local communities; ii) raise national and local level awareness of EbA; and iii) improve and facilitate the dissemination of relevant information on climate change and EbA. This will be achieved through three types of activities under Outcomes 1 and 3. Firstly, training of national/local government and local communities on EbA will be undertaken. Secondly, national and local level awareness of EbA will be raised through separate national and local level awareness campaigns. Thirdly, a web-based platform to collect and share information will be developed to increase the availability and accessibility of information on EbA. The existence of this web-based platform will be included in the awareness raising campaigns to further improve the understanding of EbA in Albania.

Increasing the technical and institutional capacity of national and local government to address climate change risks through EbA.

68. Increasing the technical and institutional capacity of national and local government will be achieved by developing technical guidelines on EbA and distributing these to policy- and decision-makers. These guidelines will be developed to: i) promote the use of EbA within a future Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) framework; and ii) to integrate EbA into development planning frameworks and strategies. This will facilitate the implementation of EbA across Albania as a means of addressing climate change risks. In addition to this, training on these guidelines and the use of EbA will be provided to: i) national and local government officials; ii) members of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change; and iii) members of the Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA. These training sessions will strengthen the technical capacity of government ministries to integrate EbA into on-going environmental projects, ecosystem management, and development planning.

Improving coordination between government institutions involved in climate change adaptation.

69. To promote coordination between government institutions, the SCCF-financed project will: i) assist with coordinating meetings of the Inter-ministerial Working group on Climate Change (IWGCC); and ii) promote the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA (TWGCC). The TWGCC will: i) be trained on EbA; ii) meet on a bi-annual basis to discuss progress, challenges, new findings and suitable areas for EbA implementation; and iii) provide members of the IWGCC with information required to develop and implement EbA interventions.

Increasing the technical capacity of national and local government and members of the TWGCC to identify and access international funding for EbA.

70. The technical guidelines developed under Output 1 will include methods to identify appropriate funding mechanisms for the implementation of EbA. Furthermore, training will be provided to national and local government and members of the TWGCC on how to identify and access international funding, including training on proposal writing. This training will strengthen the technical capacity of relevant ministries to access funds for the implementation of EbA, which in turn will facilitate the upscaling of EbA in Albania.

Implementing EbA to restore lagoons, beach dunes and coastal forests in the KVLS by demonstrating the benefits and cost effectiveness of the interventions.

71. Pilot EbA interventions for the restoration of coastal ecosystems will be demonstrated in the KVLS. These EbA interventions are detailed in Section 3.2. These pilot interventions will demonstrate the multiple benefits and cost-effectiveness of EbA to policy- and decision-makers in Albania. In addition to this, protocols for EbA will be developed for the particular ecosystems in which on-the-ground activities will take place. Such protocols will be tailored by synthesising scientific research with traditional knowledge of local communities and will support the upscaling of EbA in similar areas across Albania. Furthermore, interventions will be implemented using adaptive management and the lessons learned from these activities will be synthesised and disseminated.

Increasing the knowledge on EbA.

72. This will be achieved through activities under Outcome 2 and 3. Firstly, a long-term strategy to monitor EbA interventions and produce technical reports will be developed. Secondly, a research programme in association with an appropriate local university will be developed. This programme will include funding for PhD and MSc studies on the performance of the EbA interventions that will be implemented in the KVLS. Thirdly, a web-based platform to share information generated by the project will be developed. These activities will strengthen the understanding of EbA, and enhance the evidence base for EbA, in Albania. This increased knowledge and enhanced evidence base will promote upscaling of EbA in coastal areas across Albania.

2.4 Institutional, sectoral and policy context

Institutional context

73. The SCCF-financed project will be implemented through the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Albania. The MoE's focus on environmental protection and climate change corresponds with the EbA objectives of the project. The institutional context in Albania, particularly as it relates to the MoE, is described further below.

74. Within Albania, the MoE – previously the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration – is responsible for developing and enforcing policies related to the environment. The main priority of the MoE is to develop policies, strategies and action plans to protect and manage the environment to ensure sustainable development and the integration of Albania into the European Union (EU). The MoE is responsible for addressing environmental issues including landscape protection, Protected Areas, ecosystem preservation and restoration, and conservation of flora and fauna. With respect to climate change, the MoE is tasked with *inter alia*: i) developing national policies on climate change adaptation and mitigation; ii) ensuring that the EU Environmental Acquis[49] is adopted and implemented; iii) coordinating the mainstreaming of climate change issues in relevant sectors with other line ministries; iv) developing programmes and project proposals to implement national or international climate change legislation; and v) monitoring the implementation of environmental legislation.

75. In 2006, the MoE established the Agency of Environment and Forests. In 2011, this agency was then transformed into the National Environmental Agency (NEA) when the Law on

[49] The Republic of Albania is an official candidate for accession to the European Union. Before accession can occur, complete compliance with the environmental acquis is required. The European Union's environmental legislation today consists of about 300 acts, regulations, directives, decisions and recommendations. They are complemented with numerous communications and policy guidelines drawn up by the Commission.

Environmental Protection was promulgated. The main duty of the NEA is to monitor and develop new policies to protect and improve the environment. The NEA includes the Regional Environmental Agencies (REAs) that were created in 2002. These REAs are executive territorial agencies of the MoE tasked with issuing environmental permits and environmental inspection and monitoring.

76. As result of the increased awareness in 2014 on the national importance of coastal areas, the National Coastal Agency (NCA) was developed. The main functions of the NCA include: i) protection and sustainable development of the coastal zone; ii) implementation of policies and strategies for integrated management of the coastal zone; iii) promotion of sustainable investment in the coastal areas; iv) involvement in the formulation of policies and national strategies for ICZM and coordination of the implementation of these strategies; v) proposed changes and improvement of the legal framework for the ICZM; vi) cooperation with projects and activities related to the protection and development of coastal areas; and vii) monitoring the implementation of these projects and activities. It is expected that the project management unit and national experts will liaise with the NCA during project implementation.

Policy Context

77. The Government of Albania (GoA) has introduced multiple policies, strategies and legislation relating to appropriate environmental management and sustainable development. The legislative frameworks, strategies and multilateral environmental agreements relevant to the SCCF-financed project, and with which the project will comply, are presented below.

Legislative Frameworks

78. Law No. 8906 for **Protected Areas** – amended in 2008 – enforces the establishment, management and use of protected areas and their natural and biological resources in Albania. This law also dictates that a management plan shall be prepared for each protected area (Art. 15).

79. Law No. 9587 on **Biodiversity Protection** (2006) preserves and protects biological diversity in Albania. The objectives of this law are achieved by regulating the sustainable use of the environment through the integration of biodiversity into strategies, plans and programmes across all levels of decision-making in the country. Based on this law, several action plans for endangered species protection have been implemented. The following by-laws have been enacted under the Biodiversity Protection law: i) the by-law on alien and invasive species to prohibit invasive species from entering Albania; and ii) the by-law for the establishment of a network of biodiversity monitoring and inventory.

80. Law No. 10119 on **Territory Planning** (2009) ensures the rational and sustainable use of land and natural resources in Albania.

81. Law No. 9385 on **Forest and Forestry Service** (2005) was promulgated to establish rules and regulations on the relationships, rights, obligations and responsibilities of all stakeholders in Albania for the protection, administration, management and use of the National Forestry Fund, forestry land and biological and natural resources.

82. Law No. 7501 on **Land** (1991) has provisions for the use, purchase and sale of land in Albania.

83. Law No. 8752 on the **Creation and Operation of Land Protection and Administration Structures** (2001). The purpose of this law is to define structures at local government level in Albania charged with the protection and administration of land.

84. Law No. 9244 on **Protection of Agricultural Land** (2004). The objective of this law is to: i) determine the principles, rules and institutions relevant to the sustainable protection and improvement of agricultural land in Albania, with a particular focus on soil fertility; ii) harmonise the rights and benefits of agricultural land ownership together with the responsibilities for its sustainable use; and iii) protect and rehabilitate agricultural land from the adverse effects of climate change and unsustainable land use.

85. Law No. 8405 on **Urban Planning** (1998). This law stipulates that Albania's urban planning must consider both economic and social development at the national and local level, as well as the protection of the environment. The urban planning law enforces that all construction be based upon regional and environmental urban planning studies and master plans.

86. Law No. 8990 on **Environmental Impact Assessment** (2003) stipulates that all projects that may have a negative impact on the environment in Albania undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment. The SCCF-financed project will comply with this law by conducting comprehensive EIAs for the selected adaptation interventions to be implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon.

87. Law No. 10431 on **Environment Protection** (2011). This law sets out the framework to ensure high-level protection, preservation and improvement of the natural environment in Albania.

88. Law No. 10006 on **Wild Fauna Protection** (2008) provides general principles for the protection of Albania's wild fauna, including provisions for migratory bird species and their habitats.

89. Law No. 10253 on **Hunting** (2010) provides general principles in accordance with the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. This law prohibits hunting in designated areas around Albania.

90. Law No. 7693 on **City Planning** – amended in 1998 – covers the country's general city planning, including construction permission, special provisions for tourist zones, military zones and zones with singular – including archaeological, historical or cultural – value.

91. Law No. 8102 on **Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Regulation** (1996) established the framework for securing safe and reliable sources of potable water and waste water treatment in Albania.

92. Law No. 9970, on **Gender Equality in Society** (2008) regulates fundamental issues of gender equality in public life, the protection and equal treatment of women and men, equal opportunities and chances to exercise their rights, as well as their participation and contribution in the development of all social fields. The SCCF-financed project will comply with this law by including gender aspects for all relevant activities.

93. The laws on the **Development of Tourism Priority Zones** (1993), **Fishing and Fish Farming** (1995) and **Water Resources** (1996) set out a hierarchy of controls for infrastructure development in Albania's coastal regions.

Plans/Strategies

2.5 Stakeholder mapping and analysis

100. The SCCF-financed project has been country driven and developed through extensive consultations with national and multilateral stakeholders (see Appendix 19 for further details on the inception mission, workshop and stakeholder consultations). As a result, the project has been designed to address the priority adaptation needs identified by these stakeholders. This participatory approach to stakeholder engagement promotes ownership of the project by local communities. Consultations included: i) the inception workshop in May 2014; ii) multiple meetings with individual international, national and local level stakeholders during April and May 2014; and iii) multiple remote consultations with national and multilateral stakeholders between April and August 2014. The main purpose of the stakeholder consultations were to identify: i) appropriate EbA interventions based on the vulnerabilities and needs of local communities; ii) on-going projects relevant to the activities of the project; iii) national and local government authorities relevant to the activities of the project; iv) relevant national policies and legislation; and v) additional information on the baseline context in Albania. As a result of these consultations, the SCCF-financed project will be aligned with national policies and plans and will be feasible in the local context.

The organisations and institutions that were consulted during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase are listed below.

- Ministry of Environment (MoE)
- Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas
- Directorate of Water Administration
- Directorate of Climate Change
- Regional Development Council of Lezha region
- Directorate of Forests Services Lezha region
- Directorate of Agriculture Lezha region
- Programming Development Lezha municipality
- Shenkolli Commune
- Shengjin Commune
- 'Eco-Integration Retina' Lezha
- Kune-Vaini Protected Area Administration
- Ministry of Health
- Directorate of Healthcare
- Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism
- Department of Urban Services and Housing
- GIZ Albania – Kosovo
- National Coastal Agency
- European Commission, EEAS-Tirana, Albania
- University of Tirana
- Biodiversity Department, Faculty of Natural Science
- Environmental Policy Institution
- Ekolevizja NGO
- Academy of Science
- Albanian Geological Services
- Directory of Geological Engineering

94. The **Integrated Inter-sectoral Plan for the Coast** aims to ensure the sustainable use and management of coastal areas – particularly those areas that have been identified as the most vulnerable in Albania.

95. The **General National Plan** is an initiative by the GoA to guide the sustainable use of natural resources in Albania. The purpose of the GNP is to create a management platform – that includes the necessary legal frameworks – for sustainable urban, economic, social and environmental development.

96. The **National Cross-cutting Environment Strategy** (2007) identifies priorities for environmental management in Albania. These priorities include: i) increasing the coverage of Protected Areas; ii) improving and implementing current environmental management plans; iii) completing the legal frameworks for nature conservation; and iv) the elimination of illegal logging and hunting through better enforcement of legal frameworks.

97. The **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** (NBSAP) (2000) represents the main guiding document on biodiversity in Albania. This plan defines the country's goals, objectives and measures of biodiversity conservation management for 2000-2015.

98. The **Coastal Zone Management Plan** (CZMP). The goals of the CZMP include: i) preserving ecological integrity of the coastal areas by establishing ecological sustainable limits for resource use; ii) restoring or rehabilitating degraded resources; iii) ensuring that natural resources are equitable between generations; iv) encouraging complementary rather than competitive activities; and v) providing a mechanism for capacity building and planning.

99. The **Regional Plan on Forest and Grasslands Administration** in the Lezha Region, promotes the preservation and rehabilitation of forest and grassland ecosystem. In addition, it aims to increase the number of the protected areas in the region.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Albania is a signatory to a number of multilateral environmental agreements as outlined below.

- **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD) was signed in 1996 and ratified by the GoA in 2004.
- **Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats** (Bern Convention) was signed in 1995 and ratified by the GoA in 1999.
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora** (CITES) was ratified by the GoA in 2003.
- **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals** (CMS or the Bonn Convention) was ratified by the GoA in 2002. To date, several agreements have been concluded under the auspices of CMS. They aim to conserve the following:
  - Cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS);
  - Populations of European bats (Eurobats); and
  - African-Eurasian Migratory Water birds (AEWA).
- **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats** (Ramsar Convention) to which Albania is party since 1996.
- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** (UNCCD) was ratified by the GoA in 1999.
- **Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution, and the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas**, was ratified by the GoA in 1990.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) was ratified by the GoA in 2005.

101. A number of these stakeholders will be involved in project implementation. The participation of each institution in the implementation of the SCCF-financed project is described in Section 5.

2.6 Baseline analysis and gaps

Baseline situation

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA

102. There is a limited awareness and understanding of EbA amongst government staff in Albania. Staff members within government ministries – including MoE, MoUDT and MoARDWR – do not receive training on EbA. As a result, there is limited knowledge on: i) the costs and benefits of EbA; ii) what constitutes EbA best practice; and iii) how to tailor EbA for coastal and lagoon ecosystems. While there are ongoing ecosystem management and restoration projects in Albania (for example the project titled "Protecting Albania's Marine and Coastal Biodiversity" that is being implemented by the GoA), these are mostly implemented in an *ad hoc* manner. These ecosystem management and restoration activities are conducted in isolation from one another and generally do not take climate change risk into account. The natural ability of these ecosystems to adapt to climate change and the use of this ability as part of the adaptation strategies, being called Ecosystem -based Adaptation, has not been seriously considered so far in Albania. Consequently, there is limited opportunity to maximise the benefits of ecosystem restoration and management plans to improve the resilience of ecosystems and local communities to the adverse effects of climate change.

103. Several projects in Albania, such as the GEF UNDP DRMD project, the GEF UNDP transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management project, and Albania's Second and Third National Communication, have included capacity building for national stakeholders on climate change adaptation, risk assessment and integrated water resources management. Despite the efforts of these projects, there is limited integration of climate change into national policies and plans. For example, there is no direct consideration of climate change in policies and plans related to urban services and housing overseen by the Ministry of Urban Development and Tourism (MoUDT). Selected ministries that have included climate change in policies and plans include the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the MoE. The MoH has developed a policy on adaptation of the health system to climate change. This policy incorporates climate change into health strategies, including an action plan with the necessary budget allocations. The MoE includes climate change in environmental management plans, however, it is often not considered as a priority for immediate action.

104. Policies and strategies that are relevant to the KVLS, have limited integration of climate change adaptation and risks[50]. In particular, there is limited integration of climate change in coastal development planning policies such as Water Resources Management Plans or Protected Area Management Plans. The process of reviewing these and other relevant policies/plans is on-going, and therefore there is need for additional capacity building on climate adaptation.

105. More specifically, EbA is not integrated into policies and plans related to climate change. As a result, relevant government ministries – including MoE, MoARDWA and MoH – do not have a framework for implementing EbA across the country. Furthermore, stakeholders at a national and local level are unaware of the tasks that need to be conducted and coordinated to achieve upscaling of EbA.

[50] Climate change risks have been partially incorporated into the Management Plan of KV PA as an annex. This annex is expected to be fully written into the Management Plan when it is revised in 2015.

106. The successful implementation of EbA on a large scale requires cross-sectoral dialogue between national and local government, and representatives from active projects in the country. Currently, the IWGCC functions as the national platform for enabling regular dialogue on policies, plans, activities and financing for environmental issues related to climate change. While the IWGCC has been established, they have yet to meet[51]. Therefore, there is currently limited cross-sectoral dialogue on climate change at the national and local level. In addition, the limited demonstration of climate change adaptation interventions as a whole – and of EbA in particular – in Albania means that the IWGCC have limited technical capacity to plan and implement EbA. This is coupled with a limited ability of technical staff to identify international funding opportunities and develop proposals to acquire funds for climate change adaptation, which further limits the opportunities to implement EbA in Albania.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system

107. In Albania, very few projects are using ecosystem restoration for adaptation.. Other initiatives focus on building hard infrastructure to restore ecosystems, and improving management plans. However, these initiatives are often geared toward protecting local communities from climate change induced events like flooding, without including scientific research on the effect of these initiatives during planning or implementation. In addition, the *ad hoc* manner in which ecosystem management and restoration are implemented and the limited communication between ministries implementing the interventions results in a lack of protocol development. Consequently, the benefits of these interventions are not maximised.

108. A technical feasibility study and an evaluation of the likely impacts of a range of different adaptation intervention options was conducted as part of a previous study in the KVLS. However, no environmental impact assessments (required by law) for any of the potential adaptation interventions have been undertaken.

109. Previously, hard infrastructure interventions have been implemented in the KVLS as a way to combat ecosystem degradation in the area. These included the construction of artesian wells in the 1970s and more recently the opening of a tidal inlet channel between the Adriatic Sea and Ceka lagoon to supply fresh water and reduce the salinity of the lagoon. However, the lack of maintenance has led to the closure of this inlet and the closure of wells as a result of sediment accumulation or owing to them being submerged because of SLR. In addition to this and the information supplied in Section 2.3, there are 10 hectares of degraded riparian forest and 2000 m of degraded beach dunes within the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. No reforestation of degraded riparian forest has been undertaken in the area[52], while a 200 m stretch of coastal dunes was rehabilitated as a pilot demonstration by a previous project[53]. Therefore, there is a need to demonstrate and implement EbA that is informed by scientific research in the KVLS. Furthermore, the closing of the previously constructed artesian wells and the tidal inlet channel shows the need for long term monitoring and adaptive management of interventions.

---

51 as of May 2014

52 Reforestation has been undertaken several times in the KVLA. This reforestation has focussed on coastal dunes and included planting pine and other forest tree species. These reforestation events have failed as they did not take the effects of climate change into account and they did not use climate change resilient tree species. Furthermore, the selection of species for reforestation and the selected sites were not informed by in depth scientific research.

53 GEF UNEP Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas, Project synthesis report, 2013.

110. Moreover, with very few projects implementing adaptation interventions or EbA in Albania, frameworks have not been established to implement adaptation interventions and to monitor the effects of these interventions over the long-term. This results in a limited number of technical reports that detail the findings of project monitoring activities being produced. A strategy to monitor birds, fish and vegetation within the Kune-Vaini is included in the protected area management plan. Monitoring is undertaken in the KVLA on a monthly basis and the data collected is submitted to the MoE. However, no strategy to monitor EbA interventions exists and no technical reports on any other type of monitoring are produced.

There is a limited awareness and understanding of EbA amongst local communities in the area surrounding the KVLS. While previous projects in the area raised awareness on climate change and its effect on the KVLS, these awareness campaigns did not include EbA or additional livelihoods. In addition there has been no formal training on EbA and/or additional livelihoods. As a result, there is limited understanding of local communities on: i) the benefits of EbA; and ii) additional livelihood options in the KVLS. Consequently, there is limited opportunity for local communities to maximise the benefits of ecosystem restoration to improve their resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Furthermore, all tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system focusses on beach tourism. There are no established ecotourism ventures, and local community members have not received any training on ecotourism or developing new ecotourism ventures.

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA

111. The limited implementation of EbA interventions and the *ad hoc* manner in which ecosystem restoration is undertaken in Albania has resulted in the lack of production of a knowledge management plan for EbA-relevant information. Therefore, there is a need to develop a management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed and other projects in Albania.

112. In Albania, individuals at both the regional and national level are unfamiliar with the term EbA. In addition to this, there is limited information available on: i) the benefits of EbA; ii) opportunities to integrate EbA into planning at a local and central level; and iii) technical details on how to implement EbA. Furthermore, there is limited public awareness of the benefits of EbA and as such EbA is not a priority for local communities and policy- and decision-makers.

113. Previous projects in Albania, particularly in the DMRD, have conducted climate change awareness campaigns. While these campaigns have resulted in improved local and national awareness of climate change and the effects thereof, they did not include the benefits of and the technical details of how to implement EbA as a means of adapting to climate change in these campaigns.

114. At a post-graduate level, universities in Albania offer both PhD and MSc courses. However, limited funding has resulted in candidates needing to pay all fees themselves. Consequently, the system usually results in poorly designed and run projects. While scientific projects have been undertaken in the KVLS in the past five years, these projects and the scientific reports/papers produced by them are limited to bird ecology. Furthermore, there are no scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of EbA interventions. Thus, there is limited research being conducted by local universities on practical topics related to EbA. This results in limited scientific knowledge of how best to implement EbA in coastal areas of Albania.

Overall

115. The majority of community members in the area surrounding the KVLS rely on fishing and small- to medium-scale agriculture for their main source of income. Given this, and the proximity to the KVLS, these communities are vulnerable to the observed and predicted effects of climate change. The projected decrease in precipitation, increase in temperature and increase in storm surges and flooding (Section 2.1) will: i) decrease agricultural productivity ii) degrade ecosystems that support local communities' livelihoods.

Baseline projects

116. There are on-going projects in the Lezha region of Albania, implemented by the MoE, which are addressing some of the baseline problems identified above by improving environmental management and enhancing the livelihoods of local communities. However, these initiatives are not explicitly designed to account for the predicted effects of climate change in the medium- to long-term. Therefore, these initiatives are at risk of climate change-related setbacks, as detailed below. The SCCF-financed project will build on the on-going activities of the three selected baseline projects described below. As a result, the effectiveness of these baseline projects will be improved under conditions of climate change.

117. The General Directorate of Water Administration (GDoWA) within the MoE is implementing the **Water Resources and Irrigation (WRI) project** funded by the World Bank (WB) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) (total project budget US$46,030,000, of which US$40,910,000 from an IBRD Specific Investment Loan (SIL) and US$5,120,000 from SIDA) (total project budget directed through MoE US$5,707,608[54]). The project will run from 2012 to 2018 and aims to: i) establish a strategic framework to manage water resources at the national level and in the Drini-Buna and Semani river basins; and ii) improve the performance of irrigation systems in the project area. The main components of the project are: i) dam, irrigation and drainage systems rehabilitation; ii) institutional support for irrigation and drainage management; and iii) institutional support for integrated water resources management. The KVLS is included in the project area of this WRI project.

118. The effects of climate change will negatively affect the activities of the WRI project. The predicted reduction in precipitation, coupled with increased temperatures and therefore increased evaporation, will reduce the amount of water available for irrigation. This will reduce the ability of the WRI project to improve irrigation systems in the project area. Furthermore, the predicted increase in flooding will damage the irrigation and drainage infrastructure installed by the WRI project.

119. The SCCF-financed project will build on on-going activities of the WRI project and contribute towards reducing the climate change vulnerability of its activities. Under Outcome 1, the project will build on the WRI project (US$1,712,282 total co-financing for Outcome 1) by strengthening the institutional capacity of the implementing agency to plan and implement climate-proof drainage and irrigation interventions. This will be achieved by providing training on: i) climate change risks and their impacts on water resources and irrigation and drainage; ii) lessons learned from other EbA projects (Activity 1.1.2 and 1.2.4); iii) opportunities for EbA in the region and country (Activity 1.1.2 and 1.2.4); and iv) identifying and accessing funds for EbA (Activity 1.3.5). Additionally, through the development of technical guidelines that will promote the inclusion of EbA into integrated management plans under Output 1.2, the SCCF-financed project will promote the integration of climate change considerations into management plans for irrigation and drainage systems. Furthermore, the improved drainage infrastructure supplied by the WRI project will reduce pollution flowing into the KVLS thereby enhancing ecosystem health. At the same time, the EbA interventions

[54] Converted from EUR 4,181,000 at a rate of 1EUR = US$1.365

in the KVLS implemented through the SCCF-financed project, under Outcome 2, will reduce the risk of this drainage infrastructure (US$3,995,326 total co-financing amount) being damaged by floods or storm surges. In total, the WRI project will contribute US$5,707,608 (the amount of funding directed through the MoE) in co-financing to the SCCF-financed project.

120. The **EcoSea project** funded by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Adriatic Programme of the European Union (2012-2015) (budget US$5,130,964[55]) and implemented by the MoE will promote, improve and protect the marine and coastal environment through sustainable management of fishing activities in the Adriatic. The main objective of this project is the development of fish resources and biodiversity to improve the general condition of the marine environment. The objective will be achieved by: i) promoting the protection and enhancement of the coastal environment; ii) implementing an innovative approach for coordinated management of fishery activities at the institutional/policy level; and iii) increasing the marine biodiversity through in-field pilot actions. This will result in strengthening the sustainable development of coastal communities reliant on fisheries.

In addition, the EcoSea project pursues the following specific objectives:

- promoting knowledge exchange and institutional capacity building;
- mitigating environmental pressure exerted by the fishery sector through joint mechanisms for increasing the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture;
- strengthening the institutional capacity and competence of national governments to preserve and manage the Adriatic natural resources through cross-border cooperation within the framework of the Common Fishery Policy;
- strengthening marine ecosystems and protecting biodiversity, by means of direct interventions for restoring economically important Adriatic fish stocks;
- establishing framework conditions for promoting sustainable economic and social development based on the protection of marine resources with involvement of the fishery operators in the area; and
- increasing awareness among fishery operators and relevant stakeholders about the threats concerning the Adriatic and the importance of the marine environment.

121. The SCCF-financed project will build on the objectives of the EcoSea project and increase the climate-resilience of its activities. The promotion of the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA (Under Outcome 1 of the SCCF-financed project, Activity 1.3.3 – 1.3.5) will enhance the promotion of knowledge exchange between and build the technical capacity of the MoE, MoUDT and MoARDWR to plan for and implement EbA as a means of adapting to climate change in coastal areas. Knowledge sharing will also be supported through: i) the web-based platform established by the project in Activity 3.4.1; ii) awareness raising activities undertaken under Output 3.2; iii) training of local and national stakeholders under Output 1.1; and the development of technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers to implement EbA interventions. This will further strengthen institutional capacity to manage marine resources. Furthermore, the SCCF-financed project will build on the marine environment and biodiversity protection objectives of the EcoSea project through the implementation of EbA (Output 2.1) and the promotion of eco-tourism (Output 2.3) in the KVLS. The EcoSea project will contribute US$5,130,964 in co-financing to the SCCF-financed project (Outcome 1 US$1,539,289 Outcome 2, US$2,052,386, and Outcome 3 US$1,539,289).

At the global level, this project will also build on other on-going initiatives in UNEP namely the **UNEP-European Commission ENTRP project** on 'Building Capacity for Coastal Ecosystem-based

[55] Converted from EUR3,757,555 at a rate of 1EUR = US$1.365

Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)' (budget US$500,000). This project seeks to assist countries and regions to develop and apply ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to maintain and enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems and the services they provide to coastal communities in SIDS. The project aims to develop global guidance and decision making tools for the implementation of EbA in coastal regions. In addition, the project will demonstrate EbA through coastal, mangrove and beach restoration in two pilot countries – Grenada and Seychelles. Through the project's focus on coastal EbA (Outcome 2), the SCCF-financed project will benefit from and build on the elements of the ecosystem management tools, as well as the technical guidance developed to assist decision-making (US$250,000 total co-financing for Outcome 2). Furthermore, the SCCF-financed project will form part of the global transfer of good practices and experiences gained (US$250,000 total co-financing for Outcome 3) particularly where coastal management is concerned.

2.7 Linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions

122. In Albania, several GEF and non-GEF projects have been or are currently being implemented. These initiatives provide opportunities for synergies and knowledge exchange with the SCCF-financed project. The project management team will coordinate efforts and establish linkages with similar projects. This will be achieved through the establishment of a project coordinators committee. This committee will meet every three months to: i) collate lessons learned; ii) avoid duplication of interventions; and iii) identify opportunities to maximise the synergy between the projects' interventions. These related projects are described below.

123. The SCCF-financed project will coordinate with and take into consideration the GEF SCCF project '**Southeastern Europe and Caucasus Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SEEC CRIF)**' (2011-2015). The project is implemented by the World Bank, with GEF providing US$5.5 million through the SCCF to fund the technical and regulatory work needed to develop catastrophe and weather-risk insurance markets. Through this the project aims to mitigate the negative impact of climate change in Albania, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia.

124. **UNDP – Enabling Trans-boundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin** (2012 – 2016). The goal of this UNDP project is to foster the joint management of the shared water resources of the extended transboundary Drin River Basin, including coordination mechanisms among the various sub-basin commissions and committees (Lakes Prespa, Ohrid and Skadar). The SCCF-financed project will consult with the UNDP project to build on experiences, lessons learned, impacts and the work being done within the larger basin area. The SCCF-financed project is well aligned with Output 10 of this UNDP project, which is aimed at strengthening technical and institutional capacities for water resource management.

125. **UNEP – Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean** (2012 – 2014). The project will support the implementation of the ICZM Protocol through the development of region-wide capacity, an enabling environment, and tools needed to address climate variability and change in the Mediterranean Region. The SCCF-financed project is well aligned with Outcome 3.2 of this UNEP project "Increased knowledge, capacity, and awareness to improve inter-sectoral coordination in mainstreaming climate variability and change issues into the ICZM protocol implementation process".

126. **UNDP – Improving coverage and effective management of marine and coastal protected areas project** (2011 – 2016)**.** UNDP and the GEF support the Government of Albania's plans to improve the coverage and management of the network of marine and coastal protected areas. The SCCF-financed project is well aligned with Output 2.3 of this UNDP project: 'Technical extension

services created under the umbrella of MEFWA and start to provide guidance to site managers on cost-effective management and conservation approaches'.

127. **UNDP – Enabling Albania to prepare its Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** (2012 – 2015). With the support of UNDP and GEF, Albania recently started the development of the Third National Communication (TNC) to the UNFCCC. The process of preparation of the National Communications is not only a tool for reporting to the UNFCCC but also for mainstreaming climate change into the national planning process and programs through mobilisation of new resources. Component 1 of the SCCF-financed project is in line with the TNC. The project management team will therefore collaborate closely with the stakeholders involved in preparing the TNC to exchange knowledge and ensure no duplication of efforts.

128. **Development of eco-tourism in the region of Lezha (DETUREL).** The overall objective of the DETUREL project is to develop sustainable tourism through: i) enhancing environmental, social and cultural values in the region of Lezha; ii) strengthening small infrastructure; iii) developing alternative types of tourism that focus on cultural and rural tourism; and iv) opening a long-term process of regional cooperation in tourism to support economic development.

129. **Strengthening community-based natural recourses (NRs) and eco-tourist values (ETVs) management for sustainable tourism development (CBSTD) in the Lezha subregion** (2014). Specific objectives of the CBSTD project are: i) evaluating and creating an inventory of community-based nature values; ii) promoting the use of community-based artisanal and farming products; iii) preparing relevant maps and documents required for the registration of forests and pastures in the Office of Real Estate Registration (ORER); iv) increasing knowledge and management skills of staff of the Shëngjini tourism service office; and v) creating a website to promote tourism services.

130. **Conservation of agro biodiversity in rural areas of Albania (CABRA)** (2011-2015). This project is funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and is being implemented by the MoE. The objective of the CABRA project is to improve conservation and sustainable land use in selected mountain areas of Albania by involving public and private sector stakeholders and civil society.

131. **Climate change adaptation in Western Balkans** (2012 – 2018). This project is funded by GIZ and implemented by MoE. This project seeks to mitigate negative social, economic and environmental effects by way of improved flood and drought risk management. The project supports the five countries of Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia in five distinct areas by means of capacity development, advisory services and the procurement of equipment.

132. **Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Prespa – support to Prespa National Park in Albania** (2010 – 2015). This programme is funded by the German Development Bank (KfW) and has the following two main objectives: i) to reduce current and future pressures on the national park ecosystem; and ii) to reduce poverty of local communities living within the boundaries of the Prespa National Park.

133. **Sectorial fiche on environment and climate change (SFECC)** (2014 – 2017). The SFECC project is funded by IPA 2013 Programme with the overall objective to develop a cleaner and safer environment for citizens in Albania through climate change mitigation. The specific objectives of this project are in the area of climate change and environment related to the fulfilment of the requirements of the UNFCCC and EU climate change regulations. This includes approximating Albanian legislation to the relevant EU acquis on environment and strengthening nature protection.

134. The **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MedPartnership)** project is a collective effort of leading organizations (regional, international and non-governmental) and countries sharing the Mediterranean Sea towards the protection of the marine and coastal environment of the Mediterranean. The MedPartnership is being led by UNEP/MAP and the World Bank and is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other donors, including the EU and all participating countries. The MedPartnership works through two lines of actions: technical and policy support led by UNEP/MAP (Regional Project) and project financing led by the World Bank (Investment Fund/Sustainable MED). The SCCF project will build on ongoing relevant activities such as "Buna/Bojana Transboundary Integrated Management Plan" that is being prepared in the framework of the MedPartnership, which aims to assist in identifying the steps towards the reduction of pollution and the preservation of biodiversity in the area. The plan will identify problems and issues in the Buna/Bojana in order to propose to the competent authorities of the countries, ways to address these problems and issues. Buna/Bojana region is a potential region for replication of the SCCF-financed project results.

SECTION 3: INTERVENTION STRATEGY (ALTERNATIVE)

3.1 Project rationale, policy conformity and expected global environmental benefits

Project rationale

135. The SCCF-financed project will increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearby the KVLS to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. To achieve this objective, the project will: i) strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of national and local institutions to address climate change risks through EbA; and ii) implement an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA at selected sites in the KVLS.

136. Adaptation interventions will include: i) opening a new tidal inlet channel between the Ceka Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea; ii) opening new artesian wells in the Ceka Lagoon; iii) reforesting selected sites on the outskirts of the Ceka Lagoon; and iv) stabilising beach dunes adjacent to the Ceka Lagoon by planting indigenous climate-resilient pioneer dune plants (for further details see Section 3.3). Once restored, these ecosystems will have an enhanced capacity to act as a buffer against the negative effects of climate change such as SLR, storm surges and coastal flooding. This integrated suite of adaptation interventions will improve water circulation and tidal flow in the Ceka Lagoon, thereby improving the water quality and increasing the volume of water in the lagoon by providing a stable supply of seawater. In addition, the interventions will reduce beach dune erosion, which will in turn reduce coastal flooding and siltation of the newly constructed exchange channel. Overall, the implementation of adaptation interventions including EbA will result in increased ecological functioning and climate-resilience, which will reduce the vulnerability of the KVLS and the communities surrounding it to the negative effects of climate change.

137. The project will build on existing initiatives related to ecosystem management and technical capacity building in the surrounding Lezha region. The sites for interventions were selected based on the results of the previous GEF UNDP project[56] (see appendix 20 for further details on intervention selection). The GEF UNDP project identified, analysed and evaluated potential impacts of climate change and used this information to develop adaptation strategies to address the potential impacts of climate change. Furthermore, the project will improve awareness and knowledge – at both a national and local level – on effective EbA to support the long-term sustainability of the project's interventions.

[56] GEF UNDP project titled "Identification and Implementation of Adaptation Response Measures in the Drini-Mati River Deltas"

138. The restoration[57] of lagoons, beaches and forests in the KVLS will result in multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits for local communities. In addition, the restoration of aquatic ecosystems will increase the productivity of local fisheries on which local communities rely. Furthermore, the restoration of the lagoon will increase the potential for ecotourism in the area, thereby providing local communities with additional livelihood options that will further enhance their resilience to climate change.

139. The project's activities will include measures to support the sustained generation of socio-economic and environmental benefits beyond the project implementation period. For example, the project will develop a strategy to upscale EbA in other coastal areas in Albania. Additionally, the lessons learned during the project will be collated and shared with local and national policy- and decision-makers.

Policy conformity

140. The SCCF-financed project is aligned with the new GEF VI Focal Area/SCCF strategies. This conformity was taken into account in the design of the project's components. In particular, the following GEF Focal Area Objectives are addressed by the project.

- *CCA-1, Outcome 1.1: Vulnerability of physical assets and natural systems reduced.* The implementation of EbA interventions in the KVLS (Section 3.3 Component 2) will reduce the vulnerability of natural systems.
- *CCA-2, Outcome 2.3: Institutional and technical capacities and human skills strengthened to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures.* The production of technical guidelines that promote implementation of climate change adaptation actions (Section 3.3 Component 1), development of a plan to mobilise funds for the large scale implementation of EbA (Section 3.3 Component 1), and training of national stakeholders and local communities (Section 3.3 Component 1 and 3) will strengthen the capacity of local and national government to identify, implement and upscale adaptation in the Lezha region and in Albania as a whole.

SCCF conformity

141. This project conforms to the SCCF's eligibility criteria, namely: i) undertaking a country-driven, participatory and cost-effective approach; ii) conducting activities that are complementary to existing GEF initiatives; iii) working within Non-Annex 1 countries; iv) integrating project activities into existing national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies; iv) leveraging additional resources including bilateral and multilateral sources, private sector and NGOs; v) integrating recommendations from national communications, and TNAs as well as other information provided by the important stakeholders; and vi) promoting gender equality[58,59].

142. **Country driven, participatory and cost-effective approach:** Activities to be undertaken by the SCCF-financed project were selected through numerous stakeholder consultations and are therefore in line with country priorities. More details on conformity with national priorities are provided in Section 3.6. The SCCF-financed project will build on existing regional networks and

[57] Restoration is the process of recovering an ecosystem that has been damaged, degraded, or destroyed, and is an attempt to return the ecosystem to its historical trajectory. Restoration will include rehabilitation, which is the reparation of ecosystem processes, services, and productivity but it does not mean to restore the ecosystem to its pre-existing condition.
[58] GEF 2004. Programming to implement the guidance for the SCCF adopted by the COP to the UNFCCC at its ninth session.
[59] GEF. 2009. Accessing Resources under the SCCF.

national projects. This is a cost-effective approach to institutional capacity building, which will facilitate the planning and implementation of EbA.

143. **Building on and complementary to existing GEF initiatives:** The SCCF-financed project will complement and collaborate with the existing GEF initiatives described in section 2.7. Furthermore, it will focus on collating, synthesising and disseminating the lessons learned from a range of GEF and non-GEF national projects focused on ecosystem management which have been implemented or are currently being implemented in Albania and the Balkan area. These lessons will further be used for informing concrete, on-the-ground interventions in Component 2. An interactive and dynamic web-based platform and a range of workshops will be used to disseminate new findings and build on lessons learned for the benefit of other developing countries.

144. **Non-Annex 1 Parties - developing countries:** The SCCF-financed project will be conducted in vulnerable European developing countries that are non-Annex 1 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in accordance with SCCF funding eligibility criteria. In addition, the SCCF-financed project will extend capacity and knowledge support to other developing countries.

145. **Leveraging additional resources:** The SCCF-financed project will build on 3 baseline projects. These projects are providing co-financing to the SCCF project.

146. **Country specific recommendations (national communications, NAPAs and TNAs):** The SCCF-financed project will focus on addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and supporting the transfer of climate resilient technologies among developing countries and regions in line with the recommendations from national communications and TNAs, and other relevant country-specific information. In particular, Component 2 of the SCCF-financed project will implement EbA interventions that have been prioritised through numerous in-country stakeholder consultations in conjunction with relevant national policy documents such as national communications, NAPAs and TNAs.

147. **Gender equality**: in Albania, women tend to have lower incomes and fewer opportunities compared to men[60]. The Gender Equity Index (GEI) – which measures inequities in different areas of women's and men's everyday lives around the world – ranks Albania at 115 out of 167 countries. The capacity of women to adapt to the effects of climate change is therefore constrained in Albania.

148. Women in Albania have historically had a lower level of employment, less participation in the labour market and reduced level of pay. In addition to this women's level of representation in policy and decision making is low, with women only occupying ~17.9% of seats in parliament. This low representation creates an obstacle to reforming policies related to gender equity.

149. Albania has taken significant strides to close the gaps in equity in its education system. It has achieved gender parity in primary education, with a Gender Parity Index (GPI) of 1.0. Girls' participation in education remains high throughout upper secondary education, with a GPI of .98 – and far surpasses that of boys in tertiary education; 50% more girls enrol in higher education than boys (GPI=1.5).

150. Targets for involving women are included in the Results Framework of the project (see Appendix 4). As such, female representation will be encouraged in: i) the technical working group; ii)

[60] Not just education: gender wage gap in the Albanian labour markets through occupational segregation, work experience, and childcare. Juna Miluka and Caren Grown, American University.2009.

training sessions and workshops; and iii) activities for EbA demonstrations. To ensure that the progress of gender mainstreaming can be monitored throughout the project, gender disaggregated targets will be developed and used to monitor indictors.

151. The SCCF-financed project activities will be informed by socio-economic assessments that will include gender research. Moreover, gender will be considered when: i) public awareness campaigns are designed; and ii) information materials are disseminated.

152. Gender sensitivity will be incorporated into training topics so that: i) female participants are empowered to participate meaningfully in the trainings; and ii) all participants are made aware of their responsibility to respect the views of all of their colleagues during training workshops. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training.

153. The project manager will be responsible for the monitoring and review of gender sensitivity in the training workshops and the application of gender-disaggregated indicators. In addition to gender awareness, the project will promote the requirements of other disadvantaged and more vulnerable groups including the elderly, children and the differently abled.

Overall GEF conformity

154. The SCCF-financed project has been designed to meet GEF requirements in terms of project design and implementation. The following core GEF criteria have been addressed.

155. **Sustainability:** Project priorities include training and capacity building of national and local government, line ministries and local communities. EbA will be implemented in areas of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system utilising a country-driven approach that promotes sustainability. In addition, results and best practices will be documented and shared enabling EbA to be upscaled and extend beyond the project's lifetime. See Section 3.8 on sustainability for more information.

156. **Replicability:** the project will systematically document the activities, management decisions, strategies, results and lessons learned. Such information will be used to guide the design and implementation of future projects (refer to Section 3.9 for more information on replicability).

157. **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E):** the project design includes an effective M&E framework that will enable ongoing adaptive management. This will support the learning and dissemination of lessons by producing regular progress reports for stakeholders. See Section 6 on M&E for more information.

158. **Stakeholder involvement**: the project design was developed through extensive stakeholder consultations (Section 2.5). Moreover, the design of the project will ensure that a range of stakeholders is engaged throughout the project implementation phase (Section 5).

3.2. Project goal and objective

159. The overarching goal of the SCCF-financed project is to increase the resilience of Albania's local communities and economic sectors to climate change by increasing the technical and institutional capacity of stakeholders to plan and implement EbA. The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of government and local communities living nearthe KVLS to adapt to climate change using an integrated suite of adaptation interventions, including EbA. This objective will be achieved within three Outcomes (please refer to Section 3.3 for more details).

3.3 Project components and expected results

160. The objective of the SCCF-financed project will be achieved through three complementary components. Component 1 will support a policy environment that promotes EbA across Albania by enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of national and local government to address climate change risks through EbA. Component 2 will demonstrate best practice on-the-ground EbA and other adaptation interventions in the degraded KVLS. In addition, activities under Component 2 will include training local community members on EbA and additional livelihoods, in particular developing ecotourism promotional materials and providing targeted technical advice on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures. Component 3 will enhance local and national awareness on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts. In addition, a programme for long-term research on EbA will be designed and implemented.

161. The three components of the SCCF-financed project are further detailed below.

Adaptation alternative

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA

Outcome 1: Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.

162. This component will strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of government to plan and implement EbA, thereby promoting EbA as a means of adaptation to climate change in Albania. Technical capacity will be strengthened through the training of national and local government officials on EbA. This training will be supported by the development of technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers that detail how to plan, finance and implement EbA. To strengthen institutional capacity, the project will facilitate the more effective functioning of the current Inter-ministerial Working group on Climate Change (IWGCC). Furthermore, the project will promote and assist in the establishment a Technical Working Group on Climate Change and EbA (TWGCC). The TWGCC will inform the IWGCC of relevant technical information on climate change risks and appropriate EbA interventions. Added to this, the project will develop: i) a strategy – based on lessons learned and best practices – to upscale and sustain coastal development using EbA; and ii) a plan to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA.

163. Component 1 of the project will build on work completed by other projects and organisations in Albania. For example, the DMRD project reviewed national policies and plans, identified potential entry-points, and proposed strategies to incorporate climate change adaptation into these policies. The technical guidelines developed through the SCCF-financed project will build on these proposed strategies to promote the use of EbA as an effective means of adapting to climate change to Albania.

Output 1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.

164. National and local government will be trained on all introductory aspects of EbA including the cross-sectoral benefits associated with this approach. The training will also include guidance on how to implement various EbA interventions. International best practice and lessons learned from similar projects in Albania will inform the development of the training programmes. In addition, this training will build on previous training programmes on EbA developed by UNEP. Training could include workshops, group discussions, lectures and field trips to EbA interventions sites.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 1.1 are:

1.1.1 Develop/adapt training programmes for national and local government on EbA and the cross-sectoral benefits of this approach.

- Collect information on international best practice and lessons learned from similar projects in Albania and in the Mediterranean area.
- Prepare/update training material on:
  - introduction to EbA;
  - socio-economic and environmental benefits of EbA; and
  - best practices for implementing EbA.

1.1.2. Conduct training for national and local government on EbA using the programmes that have been developed in Activity 1.1.1.

- Organise workshops, group discussions, lectures, and field trips to EbA intervention sites.

Output 1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.

165. Technical guidelines that promote EbA will be developed and disseminated to policy- and decision-makers. These technical guidelines will detail how to move from policy to implementation and will be developed to promote EbA within an ICZM approach. While Albania has not yet adopted an ICZM framewor, there exists a legal framework related to regulation of development in the coastal zone of Albania. The most relevant legal framework encompasses the Law on City Planning the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on the Development of Tourism Priority Zone, the Law on Fishing and Fish Farming, etc., as well as by-laws and regulations relevant to coastal development (such as Law on Protected Areas, law on establishment and operation of land protection and administration structures, law on establishment of forest guard). Additionally, the regulatory frame on preparation of environmental impact assessments is of particular importance. Given the enabling environment created for the development of an ICZM framework; the technical guidelines and training activities developed under this output will therefore be aligned with an ICZM approach.

166. Methods to identify appropriate financing mechanisms for implementation of EbA interventions will be included in the technical guidelines. Furthermore national and local government will be trained on the use of these guidelines and how to move from policy to implementation. This training will build on the introductory training conducted in Activity 1.1.2 and focus on identifying international funding opportunities for EbA implementation and writing proposals for this funding. Representatives of multiple national ministries will be invited to attend these workshops. A participatory interactive approach will be used to disseminate the information in the technical guidelines.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 1.2 are:

1.2.1. Review existing policies and plans related to ecosystem management, protected area management, national development, and coastal development to identify entry-points for promoting adaptation to climate change through EbA.

- Identify organisations that have conducted – or are conducting – reviews of policies and plans to identify entry points for EbA. Meet with these organisations to collect information on their progress and/or to identify plans and policies that have been reviewed.
- Review policies and strategies that are relevant to EbA in Albania.
- Consult with stakeholders from relevant sectors to discuss the potential entry points for EbA.

1.2.2. Identify barriers to the effective implementation of climate change adaptation interventions (including EbA) specified in relevant national polices and plans, including barriers to: i) national dialogue on adaptation; ii) the development of large-scale EbA programming, and iii) mobilisation of funds for EbA implementation.

- Identify organisations that have implemented – or are implementing – climate change adaptation interventions. Meet with these organisations to collect information on barriers to the effective implementation of adaptation interventions.
- Identify organisations that have worked with – or are working with – the inter-ministerial working group on climate change. Meet with these organisations to collect information on barriers to national dialogue on adaptation.
- Consult government officials that have experience in protected area management and EbA in Albania to identify barriers to the development of large-scale EbA programming and mobilisation of funds for EbA implementation.

1.2.3. Develop technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers on how to plan, finance and implement EbA interventions that will increase resilience of ecosystems and communities and climate change.

1.2.4. Conduct technical training workshops with national and local government technical staff to: i) present the technical guidelines on EbA (developed in Activity 1.2.3); ii) train technical staff on moving from policy to implementation; and iii) train technical staff on ICZM.

Output 1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level.

167. To support the implementation of EbA, the project will promote and assist in the establishment of a TWGCC. This will be done in close collaboration with the IWGCC. The TWGCC will promote the development and implementation of EbA interventions and create a strategy for mobilising funds for EbA implementation at the national level. In addition, the technical working group will share and discuss findings from EbA interventions and other climate change-related projects and studies. Representatives from local scientific institutions and technical government staff will constitute the working group, which will convene in Tirana on a bi-annual basis. This technical working group will provide the IWGCC with technical information on inter alia climate change, climate change adaptations and EbA to enable informed discussions on coastal adaptation.

168. To further support the implementation of EbA, an improved communication mechanism between relevant ministries will be developed to facilitate the effective functioning of the IWGCC. The improved communication mechanism will, amongst other functions, ensure that members of the working group are informed of the date and venue of the meetings and the topics for discussions during these meetings. This will facilitate and strengthen national dialogue on coastal adaptation and the implementation of EbA interventions in Albania.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 1.3 are as follows:

1.3.1. Establish a communication mechanism between relevant ministries, and assist in overcoming other barriers to national dialogue identified in Activity 1.2.2, to facilitate the effective functioning of the IWGCC.

- Identify the most appropriate communication mechanism for informing members of relevant ministries of upcoming meetings. This mechanism could include email, SMS and or other scheduling programmes.
- Assigning a member of the IWGCC as coordinator to oversee and ensure that the communication mechanism is used and maintained.

1.3.2. Revise the current mandate/terms of reference of the current inter-ministerial working group on climate change to establish a technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA – including the selection of appropriate technical members – that will provide relevant technical information on climate change risks and appropriate EbA interventions.

- Identify relevant government bodies, NGOs, research institutions and other organisations that focus on EbA or ecosystem management.
- Assist the IWGCC to prepare ToRs and mandate for the TWGCC.
- Assist in the finalisation of the list of recommended TWGCC members.
- Distribute Terms of References (ToRs) – developed in Activity 1.3.2 – to all working group members.

1.3.3. Conduct an initiation workshop for the technical working group on climate change and EbA and assist in the development of a mandate for the group as well as terms of reference for its members.

1.3.4. Host bi-annual meetings to promote the continual and consistent functioning of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.

- Assist in the scheduling of bi-annual meeting for the IWGCC and distribute the scheduled dates via the communication mechanism developed in Activity 1.3.1.

1.3.5. Conduct training sessions on current climate change adaptation finance to strengthen the capacity of the technical working group to identify and access national/international funds for adaptation.

- Collect information on international funding for EbA.
- Collect information on national funding, including possibility for private sector investments.
- Assess the proposal-writing skills of members of the TWGCC.
- Prepare training material on:
  - identifying national/international financing for EbA; and
  - proposal writing for accessing national/international funds.
- Conduct training for national and local government and TWGCC members on identifying and writing proposals for national/international funding for EbA.

1.3.6. Develop a plan – in close cooperation with the technical working group – to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA.

- Workshop with the MoE and MoF to review recent financing plans. In particular, assess financial resources allocated for adaptation to climate change.
- Assess potential for accessing international adaptation funds.
- Develop a report detailing the financing plan for EbA.

Output 1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.

169. To promote the sustainability and replication of EbA in Albania, a nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy will be developed. This upscaling strategy will build on the funding plan developed under Output 1.3. Included in the development of the upscaling strategy will be consultations with a broad

spectrum of relevant national stakeholders. This strategy will include sections on: i) the benefits of EbA; ii) multi-sectoral research to inform EbA; ii) a coordinated approach to upscaling; iii) cost-effectiveness of EbA relative to other approaches for adapting to climate change; iv) recommendations for mainstreaming EbA into development planning; v) the role of stakeholders in the upscaling strategy; vi) mechanisms for financing EbA across Albania; and vii) additional research required to further support upscaling of EbA.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 1.4 are as follows:
1.4.1. Identify good practices for, and barriers to, the effective upscaling of EbA interventions.

1.4.2. Assess current entry points for incorporating EbA into national development plans.
Consult with stakeholders from relevant sectors to discuss the potential entry points for EbA into national development plans.

1.4.3. Develop a nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, led by IWGCC, to sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.
Consult with a broad spectrum of relevant national stakeholders in developing the upscaling strategy.

1.4.4. Host a workshop to validate the upscaling strategy developed in Activity 1.4.3. This workshop will be attended by all relevant local and national government officials.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

Outcome 2: Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.

170. This component includes the implementation of an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA in selected areas on the KVLS (Figure 6), the development of a long term monitoring strategy and training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods. The EbA interventions will be informed by expert research and traditional knowledge and will build on EbA tools that have been developed by other projects. Consequently, the project will contribute to the progress of EbA and to the application of technologies and adaptive management in the country. Additionally, the project will develop protocols for EbA in coastal areas. These protocols will be used to inform further EbA in the Kune-Vaini and Drini-Mati River Delta areas as well as all lagoons along the Albanian coastline. These EbA interventions will increase the resilience of the KVLS to climate change. Therefore, the vulnerability of local communities who rely on this lagoon system for ecosystem goods and services will be reduced. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods will further reduce the vulnerability of these local communities.

Output 2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

171. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions was selected during the PPG phase from a list of proposed interventions identified by a previous GEF-UNDP project undertaken in the DMRD. The GEF-UNDP project identified adaptation response measures needed in the DMRD and ran cost-benefit analyses to identify 11 priority interventions for this area. Using a multi-criteria analysis – based on a set of predefined criteria – four of these priority interventions were chosen for implementation in this SCCF-financed project (see appendix 20 for further details on intervention selection). Firstly, artesian wells – pumpless water sources that use pipes to allow underground water that is under pressure to rise to the surface – will be restored/established in selected areas of the Ceka lagoon. These artesian wells

will improve water quality and reduce salinity in the lagoon by providing additional sources of fresh water. Secondly, selected areas of the Ceka lagoon will be reforested with climate-resilient indigenous tree species. The reforestation of degraded areas will stabilise soils thereby reducing erosion within the KVLS. Moreover, reforestation will restore natural habitat and increase biodiversity, which will in turn lead to an increase in the ecological resilience of the KVLS. Increased ecological functioning and resilience will reduce the vulnerability of the KVLS to the negative effects of climate change. Thirdly, a new tidal inlet channel will be constructed between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea. Terminal groynes will be constructed at the newly opened exchange channel to protect the channel mouth until it has become established. This tidal inlet channel will improve the movement of water between the lagoon and the sea. In turn, improved water exchange will reduce the salinity and improve the water quality within the lagoon, counteracting the negative climate change effects of increased temperatures and reduced precipitation. Enhanced water quality will also result in the recovery of biodiversity and natural habitat in the lagoon resulting in improved fishing conditions. As a final measure, dunes on the coast adjacent to the Ceka lagoon will be stabilised by planting climate-resilient pioneer dune plants. These dune plants will reduce the rate of erosion of the dunes in this area, thereby slowing the loss of wetland areas and counteracting the negative effects of sea-level rise and storm surges.

172. Before implementation of these selected interventions, comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) will be undertaken The EIAs will be in accordance with national legislation and will utilise the information gathered in activity 2.1.1. The EIAs should evaluate the environmental and socio-economic suitability of all of the selected adaptation interventions. Thereafter, specific sites will be selected for the individual interventions and protocols for implementing the selected interventions – that have been approved by the EIAs will be developed. These protocols will build on tools and lessons learned from similar projects – in Albania and the Mediterranean – and the updated scientific information collected in Activity 2.1.1. The protocols will include the selection of climate-resilient species for reforestation and dune rehabilitation. Projects conducting similar activities in other lagoon systems in Albania will be identified and consulted to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. After the implementation of the selected interventions, a long-term maintenance strategy, with proposed budget allocations, will be developed with the management of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area and Lezha municipality to promote the continued maintenance and sustainability of the interventions after the project has ended.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 2.1 are as follows:

2.1.1. Collect and update detailed scientific information required for comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the selected interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

- Prepare a list of required scientific information required for the comprehensive EIAs. This list will include bathymetry, topography, hydrology, geomorphology, meteorology, and biodiversity. The procurement for consulting services to update the scientific information required for the comprehensive EIAs has already been undertaken and suitable candidates have been contacted to begin contract negotiations[61].
- Contact relevant institutions that are collecting or will be able to assist in the collection of this information.
- Compile the detailed scientific information in a report that will allow easy access to this relevant information.

2.1.2. Undertake comprehensive EIAs for the selected EbA interventions to be implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

[61] As of 20 October 2014

2.1.3. Prepare technical protocols for the implementation of the selected EbA interventions.

- Review EbA toolkits and databases developed by other EbA and ecosystem management projects. Identify those that are applicable to this project.
- Develop protocols for EbA and hard interventions in coastal areas.

2.1.4. Construct six artesian wells and rehabilitate four wells at the selected sites in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Vaini lagoon area.

- Identify specific sites for the drilling of new artesian wells and identify existing wells that can be rehabilitated.
- Carry out maintenance on the new and rehabilitated wells to prevent sedimentation.

2.1.5. Reforest three selected sites on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon totalling an area of 10 ha with indigenous, climate-resilient tree species.

- Assess climate change trajectories for rainfall and temperature at intervention sites.
- Workshop with local communities and academic institutions to identify appropriate climate resilient tree species;
- Conduct a literature review of trees, shrubs and grasses in the Mediterranean area – with a particular focus on Albania.
- Develop a list of species for EbA in forests.

2.1.6. Construct and maintain a new tidal inlet channel between the Ceka Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea, including construction of terminal groynes at the mouth of the channel to maintain mouth integrity, using the protocols developed in Activity 2.1.3.

- Maintain and dredge the new tidal channel bi-annually to prevent closure.

2.1.7. Rehabilitate a 2000m stretch of coastal dunes south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon, by planting indigenous climate-resilient dune plants, using the protocols developed in Activity 2.2.1.

- Assess climate change trajectories for rainfall and temperature at intervention sites.
- Workshop with local communities and academic institutions to identify appropriate climate resilient pioneer dune species;
- Conduct a literature review of dune plants in the Mediterranean area – with a particular focus on Albania.
- Develop a list of species for EbA on beach sand dunes.

2.1.8. Develop and institutionalise a long-term strategy for the maintenance of: i) artesian wells; ii) reforested riparian areas; iii) tidal inlet channel; and iv) rehabilitated coastal dunes.

- Assess the cost of annual maintenance of the project interventions.
- Work with the management team of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area to carry out maintenance of : i) artesian wells; ii) reforested riparian areas; iii) tidal inlet channel; and iv) rehabilitated coastal dunes.
- Develop a long-term strategy, with specific budget allocations, to continue maintenance of the project interventions beyond the lifespan of the project.

Figure 6. Sites for adaptation interventions including EbA

Output 2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.

173. This output will facilitate the long-term monitoring of EbA interventions in the KVLS. A long-term strategy to monitor EbA interventions will be developed and implemented. The monitoring strategy will focus on collecting data to inform the on-going implementation of EbA interventions using an adaptive management approach (i.e. measuring seedling survival rates under different planting techniques and adjusting planting methodologies accordingly). In addition, the monitoring strategy will include the collection of information relevant to measuring the predicted bio-physical benefits of the selected EbA interventions (e.g. measuring biodiversity in the reforested areas). A participatory approach where local communities will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring process will be promoted in the strategy. This monitoring could be included in the on-going monitoring activities of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area management to promote long-term continuation of this monitoring strategy. This output would align with project M&E activities. The data collected through the monitoring of adaptation interventions will be analysed and compiled into technical reports for dissemination to all stakeholders.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 2.2 are:

2.2.1. Design a long-term strategy to monitor the implementation and bio-physical impacts of EbA interventions.

- Assess and review existing methods for monitoring EbA.

2.2.2. Implement the monitoring strategy designed in Activity 2.2.1 to assess the impact of adaptation interventions to provide lessons learned and best practices for upscaling EbA.

- Compiled and disseminate technical reports summarising the monitoring results.

Output 2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.

174. This output will improve local communities' understanding of: i) the benefits of EbA; and ii) additional livelihoods that EbA provides. Training and providing targeted technical advice will strengthen the technical capacity of local communities to identify opportunities for EbA in the KVLS, and develop additional livelihood options including inter alia ecotourism and sustainable fishing techniques. This training programme will build on the training developed for government staff in Activity 1.1.1. International best practice and lessons learned from similar projects – in Albania and the Mediterranean – will inform the development of the training programmes. These training programmes may include workshops, group discussions, lectures, and field trips to EbA interventions sites. After the initial training, local and national stakeholders and local communities will meet to: i) share lessons learned; and ii) communicate on updated best practices, challenges and opportunities for EbA. These meetings will promote communication between local and national government and local communities. Therefore, this output will further promote improved communication between all stakeholders and organisations on EbA. In addition this output will encourage local community members to run ecotourism ventures in the KVLS by providing informational and promotional material on ecotourism, upgrading the tourist information centre at the entrance to the KVPA, and providing targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 2.3 are:

2.3.1. Adapt and develop training programmes for local communities on: i) EbA and the benefits of this approach; ii) methods to implement and maintain EbA interventions; and iii) additional livelihoods, including inter alia ecotourism.

- Collect information on international best practice and lessons learned from similar projects in Albania and the Balkan area.
- Prepare training material on:
  - benefits of EbA;
  - best practices for EbA;
  - identifying opportunities for EbA in coastal areas in Albania; and
  - additional livelihoods including ecotourism.

2.3.2. Conduct training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods using the programmes that have been developed in Activity 2.3.1. These training programmes will focus on a general introduction to EbA, the potential benefits that the EbA approach offers, and additional livelihoods.

- Organise and implement experience-sharing and community events –e.g. schedule local workshops or experience sharing days– to facilitate learning and dialogue among policy- and decision-makers, companies implementing the project interventions, and local communities living within and benefiting from selected interventions sites.
- Consult policy makers, companies implementing the project interventions and local communities to identify and organise effective communication events.

2.3.3. Undertake a market assessment to identify and select appropriate ecotourism options for local communities living near the KVLS. These additional ecotourism options could include inter alia bird watching tours, lagoon canoe or kayak tours, bike trails through the lagoon area, guided hikes.

2.3.4. Develop informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism. These informational materials will include inter alia posters, bird and animal checklists, maps, lagoon history hand-outs. Promotional materials will include, posters and brochures.

2.3.5. Upgrade the tourist information centre at the entrance to the KVPA. This upgrade may include inter alia funding improvements to the information centre at the KVPA main gate, setting up hiking trails, setting up canoe or kayak tours, training local community members on birding.

2.3.6. Provide targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures. This technical advice will also include specific training on relevant ecological information needed for the ecotourism ventures (e.g. bird identification, etc.)

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA.

Outcome 3: Increased 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.

175. Component 3 will increase national and local awareness and knowledge on EbA. To achieve this, existing knowledge on ecosystem management and EbA in Albania will be collated and disseminated. Moreover, the design and implementation of a long-term research programme – that will enable research institutions to collect information on the long term impact of the projects activities – will enhance knowledge on EbA and promote long-term research on EbA in Albania. The project will develop a web-based platform to share information generated and collected during the project, thereby providing a base for the storage and distribution of knowledge on EbA. The activities implemented within this component of the project will: i) increase awareness on the performance of EbA; ii) collate knowledge products derived from EbA projects; iii) promote long-term scientific research to inform EbA; and iii) provide access to project products, scientific reports and information on climate change impacts and lessons learned.

Output 3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.

176. A knowledge management plan will be developed that details information on: i) climate change impacts; and ii) lessons learned from current and previous projects will be developed to tailor future EbA interventions in Albania. The knowledge management plan will include mechanisms to store and disseminate relevant information collected from other projects through Activity 3.1.1. The information generated and collected through the SCCF-financed project will provide an evidence base to promote the wide-scale implementation of EbA interventions in Albania. The knowledge management plan and communication strategy will inform the awareness-raising activities under Output 3.2 and wed-based platform under Output 3.4. This knowledge management plan will provide an evidence base to promote the large-scale implementation of EbA in Albania.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 3.1 are:

3.1.1. Collate knowledge products, best practices and lessons learned – including the benefits of adaptation interventions and innovative financing mechanisms – from relevant EbA-related projects.

- Meet with appropriate institutions that have been involved in relevant EbA-related projects to collect knowledge on best practices and lessons learned from these projects in Albania.

3.1.2. Design and implement a knowledge management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed project.

- Establish a "project coordinators committee" to ensure communication between the SCCF-financed project and the baseline projects. This committee will include members of the PMU from the SCCF-financed project and the baseline projects identified in Section 2.6.

Output 3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.

177. Awareness campaigns will be conducted to increase public awareness on the benefits of EbA in increasing resilience to climate change. These campaigns will build a basic understanding of EbA and its benefits using: i) local awareness-raising in the Lezha region; and ii) national awareness-raising. The national awareness campaigns will disseminate general information on EbA. In contrast, local awareness-raising events will provide detailed information on the particular EbA interventions that will be implemented by the project in the KVLS. Through this output, awareness will also be raised by coordinating visits to intervention sites for: i) schools in the Lezha region; and ii) relevant policy- and decision-makers. Furthermore, an awareness campaign focussed on the school-going youth of Albania will be developed. In addition, toolkits and games and activities will be developed to facilitate the integration of climate change into education. Furthermore, the project will facilitate cross-community dialogue on EbA. Consequently, members of local communities in which the interventions are implemented – namely Shengjin and Shenkoll – can discuss the benefits of the approach with other surrounding local communities.

178. All the lessons learned while implementing on-the-ground EbA in Component 2 will be documented. This information will inform awareness raising campaigns.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 3.2 are:

3.2.1. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for policy and decision makers, technical government and non-government personnel, and the general public on: i) the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions based on the lessons learned in Outcomes 1 and 2, and ii) ecotourism.

- Meet with relevant institutions and government ministries to identify the most effective media (i.e. print, outdoor, digital, internet) for raising national awareness.
- Meet with institutions that have undertaken or are undertaking – i.e. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – national awareness raising strategies to identify gaps for the inclusion of EbA and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.
- Design, coordinate, and implement: i) national awareness campaigns; and ii) local awareness campaigns in the Lezha region.

3.2.2. Identify and develop innovative awareness raising activities for learners at primary, secondary and high schools on climate change and EbA. This information will then be used to design specific awareness-raising activities for learners at primary, secondary and high schools on climate change and EbA. Awareness raising activities could include inter alia site visits, computer games, board games, radio and T.V. competitions.

- Meet with relevant institutions and government ministries to identify the most effective media (i.e. print, outdoor, digital, internet) for raising national awareness at the school level.
- Develop and coordinate local awareness campaigns – that are targeted at the school level – in the Lezha region.

3.2.3. Implement awareness-raising activities identified in Activity 3.2.2 in schools in Albania with specific focus on schools nearby the KVLS.

- Identify: i) schools near demonstration sites; and ii) policy- and decision-makers that are willing to visit intervention sites.
- Invite schools, members of the TWGCC and IWGCC and local and national government to visit intervention sites annually on the condition that they provide official feedback to their peers or the public on lessons learned from their visit.
- Coordinate annual visits for schools, members of the TWGCC and IWGCC and local and national government to EbA demonstration sites. During these visits, share information on objectives, progress and lessons learned with students and all stakeholders.

3.2.4. Conduct experience-sharing and community events to facilitate learning and dialogue among policy makers, implementers and local people living within and benefiting from selected interventions sites.

Output 3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.

179. The SCCF-financed project will design and implement a research programme that will enable selected research institutions to measure and assess the performance of the EbA interventions. These selected institutions will have previous experience in the area and the necessary equipment and technical expertise to produce scientific reports for publication in peer-reviewed journals. PhD and MSc research will be funded to: i) design and undertake long-term research projects on the EbA interventions in the KVLS; and ii) develop new hypotheses and studies that are particular to EbA. Research findings will be used to build the knowledge base on EbA in Albania. Importantly, these findings will be communicated to the project team, policy- and decision-makers and the international scientific community. Consequently, the project will promote the integration of research into EbA planning.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 3.3 are:

3.3.1. Identify appropriate research institutions that will be able to assess the impact of EbA interventions in the KVLS.

3.3.2. Design a research programme, with the selected research institutions, to scientifically assess the long-term biological, physical and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions. The research programme should be aligned with the long-term monitoring being conducted under Output 2.3.

- Consult relevant members of research institutions to identify universities and/or university departments that satisfy the above criteria.
- In conjunction with identified universities, design research programmes and select students to conduct them.
    - Select and fund two MSc students and two PhD students from local universities.
    - Suggest a selection of MSc and PhD topics on EbA in the KVLS.
    - Work with students to refine research topics, objectives and workplans.

- Support students and monitor their progress on a quarterly basis to ensure that their progress is in line with research needs.
- Ensure that students communicate their project findings.
  - Work with the students to prepare their finding during experience-sharing and community event for the EbA committee, project staff, policy- and decision-makers and local communities to communicate their findings.
  - Work with students to submit their research findings to international peer-reviewed journals.

Output 3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.

180. Within the project, a web-based platform will be designed, created and maintained to enable the sharing of project products, scientific reports and other relevant information related to climate change and EbA.

The activities and sub-activities to be implemented under Output 3.4 are:

3.4.1. Design a web-based platform to share information generated and collected by the project. The project outputs shared on the web-based platform will include best practices, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports.

- Consult institutions and organisations (i.e. GAN and the China SCCF project) that have created or are creating a web-based platform to share information on lessons learned from this process and the effectiveness of the designed website in sharing information. This consultation will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.
- Assess all relevant sites and liaise with these networks.
- Consult institutions that create web-based media to gather information on design and ease of use to ensure that the created website will be easy to use.
- Collate information collected in Output 2.2 and Output 3.3 to be placed on the web-based platform.

3.4.2. Maintain the web-based platform, undertake activities to raise awareness of the existence of the web-based platform, and develop a user-manual for the web-based platform to be distributed to all local and national stakeholders.

- Meet with appropriate institutions and government ministries to identify most effective media (i.e. print, outdoor, digital, internet) for raising awareness on the web-based platform.
- Design a web-based platform awareness-raising strategy.
- Coordinate and implement the web-based platform awareness-raising strategy.
- Distribute user-manual to all relevant stakeholders.

3.4 Intervention logic and key assumptions

181. The activities of the SCCF-financed project will strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of stakeholders at a local and national level to address climate change risks through EbA. This will be achieved by: i) enabling an environment that promotes the discussion about and use of EbA; ii) demonstrating adaptation interventions including EbA; and iii) enhancing awareness of local communities and policy- and decision makers on the effectiveness of EbA. These project interventions represent a multi-disciplinary approach to climate change adaptation, including EbA and infrastructural interventions. UNEP advocates this approach and the project interventions therefore align with: i) UNEP's Programme of Work; and ii) the priorities identified in Albania's National Strategy for Development and Integration (2014 – 2020).

182. The project was designed in consultation with multiple local stakeholders and the selection of interventions used a participatory approach. This participation of local communities and government institutions (Section 2.5) will promote buy-in and ownership of the project stakeholders at a national and local level. This local support will enhance the long-term sustainability of the project.

183. The project interventions are considered "low regret" or "no regret" options. This is because they will benefit government and local communities regardless of the severity of climate change. For example, activities that focus on strengthening the technical capacity of the government and local communities (Outcome 1) will support improved planning and management, particularly with respect to natural resources and ecosystems. In addition, activities that focus on funding post-graduate research will increase the human resources capacity of Albania. Finally, activities to restore the KVLS and improve management of these ecosystems (Outcome 3) will benefit biodiversity and generate multiple ecosystem goods and services.

The following assumptions underlie the project design.

- Project activities are unlikely to be undermined by extreme climate events during implementation.
- Local communities at intervention sites will take ownership of activities on the ground.
- Infrastructure constructed will be safe from theft and vandalism.
- Local communities participating in developing and implementing the project interventions will accept additional livelihoods and land-uses proposed by the project.
- Governmental institutions will have sufficient capacity to support the project's activities.
- Sufficient national financial resources will be available to maintain the project's interventions in the long term.
- There is sufficient technical capacity to undertake the preliminary studies and to design the implementation of activities.
- Baseline project activities will be implemented as planned.
- Adaptation priorities for climate change are unlikely to be undermined by national emergencies or civil unrest.
- Large-scale infrastructural developments – that would disrupt project activities – will not take place within the project areas during project implementation.

3.5 Risk analysis and risk management measures

184. A participatory approach was adopted during the PPG phase of the project. This approach will be continued throughout project implementation. Therefore, the project will have strong support from local communities and government. However, risks to successful project implementation need to be identified and assessed. In so doing, appropriate countermeasures and management responses to minimize the negative effect posed by the potential risk can be implemented. Monitoring, re-assessing and updating these project risks will be an important task of the TA throughout project implementation. Table 1 below describes the risks that have been identified, their associated impacts and countermeasures.

Table 1. Risk matrix

#	Description	Potential consequence	Countermeasures	Risk category	Probability & impact (1–5)
National-level risks					
1	Disagreement between stakeholders on the	Project inventions delayed because of	Institutional representatives at the validation workshop	Organisational	P = 3 I = 4

	allocation of roles in the project.	uncertain role allocation. Effectiveness of project management is reduced. Reduced commitment/buy-in from local communities.	will agree upon the roles and responsibilities of each participating stakeholder.		
2	Limited capacity of institutions to undertake scientifically rigorous research.	Effectiveness of project management is reduced.	Institutional representatives at the validation meeting will agree upon the roles and responsibilities of each participating government institution. Research institutions will be assessed at the beginning of the implementation phase and only those with capacity will be selected The TA will provide substantial support to the PM. This will include two to three field visits per year by the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to ensure that the project workplan is applied.	Institutional	P = 3 I = 2
3	Lack of inter-institutional data sharing or collaboration.	Limited transfer of relevant project information amongst role players and end-users resulting in delayed or ineffective implementation of interventions.	Information technologies and telecommunication systems implemented or used throughout the SCCF-financed project are best suited to the local context and do not restrict the transfer and communication of information. A web-based platform will be created during the project to share data. The inter-ministerial working group will convene on the approved schedule.	Organisational	P = 4 I = 4
4	The long-term nature of adaptation, in particular EbA, may lead to limited government support for project activities in the selected area.	Loss of government support may result in lack of prioritisation of project activities.	Ensure that government maintains its commitment and considers the project as a support to its development and integration strategies and programmes by undertaking regular stakeholder consultations.	Organisational	P = 2 I = 4
5	High turnover of staff members in implementing agencies	Changes in project-related government priorities and poor	Deputies and alternative representatives within the institutions will be	Organisational	P = 4 I = 3

		institutional memory result in disruptions or delays in project implementation and coordination.	recommended at inception to ensure that sufficient membership continuity is available. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will make use of established government structures to capitalise on functioning systems. Technical guidelines will be developed in English and Albanian. These guidelines will guide new staff that become involved in the project.		
6	Government will not have funds to sustain the national arrangements, once the project ends.	Failure to upscale EbA effectively into other areas in Albania.	A strategy to up-scale, sustain and replicate coastal development using EbA will be developed. A mechanism that will help mobilize funds for the implementation of EbA at country level will be developed. Training of decision-makers on how to identify funding and write project proposals will be undertaken during the project.	Organisational	P = 3 I = 3
Local level risks					
7	Limited acceptance of EbA by local communities.	Communities may not adopt ecosystem restoration for adaptation activities during or after the project resulting in continued unsustainable use of resources.	The project will be institutionalised within MoE to ensure sustainability into the future. Additional livelihood projects – that have been deemed financially, technically and socially viable or feasible – will be implemented within project to reduce reliance on fishing in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system. Capacity building and training of local communities to understand the benefits of ecosystem restoration for adaptation in activities they are undertaking.	Social	P = 3 I = 4

8	Disagreement over allocation of land for implementation of project activities.	Disagreement among stakeholders about site selection.	Intervention sites were selected using a strict list of criteria to promote a transparent, logical and equitable site-selection process.	Social	P = 2 I = 3
9	Extreme climatic events and climate variability.	Current climate and seasonal variability and/or hazard events result in poor restoration results.	Ensure that current climatic variability is taken into account in restoration and construction of hard intervention processes. Focus on resilient species and promote techniques to assist plant growth particularly in the seedling and sapling stages. Focus on incorporating short term hard infrastructure interventions that protect hard interventions.	Environmental	P = 2 I = 4
11	Limited local technical capacity hinders project interventions.	Capacity constraints of local institutions and experts may limit the ability to undertake the research and demonstration activities.	Identify and develop human resources capacity as required. Initiate collaboration and exchange between local institutions and international research institutes. A Technical Advisor (TA) and/or an Albanian expert will work closely with the project Manager to ensure timely delivery of project outputs.	Technical	P = 3 I = 3
12	Limited commitment/buy-in from local communities.	Lack of commitment/buy-in from local communities may result in failure of demonstration projects.	A stakeholder engagement plan will be drawn up during the PPG phase. Community stakeholders from the PPG phase will be engaged with to ensure their buy-in into the project. Actively engage local communities during implementation.	Social, Environmental	P = 3 I = 4
13	Unsustainable land and natural resource use.	Unsustainable use of natural resources continues, leading to further degradation of ecosystems.	Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted on the value of intact and functional ecosystems for surrounding communities. Actively engage local communities during	Social, Environmental	P = 3 I = 4

			implementation.		
14	Limited understanding of the difference between "business-as-usual" interventions and EbA by local communities.	Failure to integrate EbA effectively into policies, strategies and interventions.	Awareness-raising campaigns will be conducted to define EbA. These campaigns will highlight the importance of appropriately designed EbA, using traditional knowledge and climate data.	Technical	P = 4 I = 4

3.6 Consistency with national priorities or plans

185. The SCCF-financed project is consistent with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) (2014–2020) and other sectoral strategies in line with the Albanian Government Programme (2013-2017). The NSDI represents Albania's single strategic document that establishes national strategic priorities and goals. These strategic priorities and goals include sustainable economic and social development and integration into the European Union. One of the priorities described in the NSDI is the enhanced focus on implementation of actions for mitigating and adapting to the potential consequences of climate change.

The project is consistent with Government priorities aimed at improving ecosystem resilience through:

- implementing strong conservation measures for protected areas;
- enacting a new investment programme to rehabilitate forest areas that are of national importance;
- adopting a new approach for the integrated management of water resources;
- implementing sustainable management plans for the management of forest resources;
- improving participation of local communities and the local and national government in the policy-making process and management of forest areas; and
- creating an integrated tourism model that focusses on the cultural, natural and historical tourism.

The SCCF-financed project is aligned in particular with the following national priorities and plans.

186. The **Integrated Inter-sectoral Plan for the Coast** (IIPC) aims to ensure the sustainable use and management of coastal areas – particularly those areas that have been identified as the most vulnerable – in Albania.

187. The **General National Plan** (GNP) is an initiative taken by the Albanian government to guide the sustainable use of natural resources in Albania. The purpose of the GNP is to create a management platform – that includes necessary legal frameworks – for sustainable urban, economic, social and environmental development. The main aims of the NGP are: i) promoting appropriate actions for protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of the natural and cultural heritage; and ii) preserving biological and landscape diversity. The SCCF-financed project will therefore enhance the GNP by strengthening the adaptive capacity at national and local level to address climate change risks and by restoring ecosystems in the KVLS thereby promoting appropriate actions for protecting and restoring natural habitats.

188. The **National Cross-cutting Environment Strategy** was approved in 2007 and considers biodiversity as one of the priority areas when looking at environments. This document identifies the main areas that need work. These areas include increasing the coverage of Protected Areas, improving and implementing current Management Plans, completing the legal frameworks for nature conservation, and the elimination of illegal logging and hunting by the means of better enforcement of

legal frameworks. Additionally the strategy identifies capacity building and implementation of action plans for threatened species and habitats as important areas to focus on.

189. The **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** (NBSAP) was approved in 2000 and represents the main document on biodiversity. This plan defines the goals, objectives and measures of biodiversity conservation management in Albania for 2000-2015. The main objectives of the NBSAP are: i) protection and improvement of biological and landscape diversity; ii) incorporation of the principles and policies required for sustainable biodiversity use and management; iii) and promotion of sustainable development for present and future generations. Therefore the SCCF-financed project will have a direct influence on this plan by improving biological diversity and improving ecosystem management plans.

190. The **Coastal Zone Management Plan** (CZMP) was conducted in Albania as part of Coastal Area Management Programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The overall goals of the CZMP are: i) preserving ecological integrity through establishing ecological sustainable limits for resource use; ii) renewing or rehabilitating damaged resources; iii) ensuring that natural resources are equitable between generations; iv) encouraging complementary rather than competitive activities; preserving and promoting social equity and introducing the participatory approach, and v) providing a mechanism for capacity building and planning.

191. The SCCF-financed project will promote outcomes under the vulnerability and adaptation component of Albania's **Third National Communication to UNFCCC** (ongoing). This component is focused on the coastal area, taking into consideration the following sectors: climate, water, natural ecosystems, agriculture, tourism and population. Particularly the project is aligned with the output on the evaluation of the climate change impacts and adaptation measures that can enhance the resilience of the coastal zone.

192. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the **Strategic Plan for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas** (SPMCPAs) through the training of local communities and national stakeholders on EbA and through the implementation EbA interventions in KVLS.

At the regional level, the SCCF-financed project supports the following priorities and plans.

193. The SCCF-financed project will promote activities under the **Concept of Regional Development**, (2010-2016). In particular the project is aligned with Activity 5.1.3 "environmental education, including climate change adaptation" and Activity 5.4.1 "dune planting and reforestation of coastal areas prone to erosion and flooding through use of traditional raw material".

194. The **Regional Plan on Forest and Grasslands Administration in the Lezha Region**, acknowledges the importance of EbA implementation in increasing the adaptive capacity to climate change of wetland ecosystem situated along the Drini and Mati Rivers. The SCCF-financed project will promote outcomes under two of the goals of this plan. Specifically, Goal 2 "Preservation and rehabilitation of forest and pasture damaged or degraded ecosystems using native species" under Objective 1 "Provision of forest territorial, ecological and biodiversity integrity" and Goal 4 "Implementation of adaptation measures to climate changes impacts in coastal protected areas" under Objective 2 "Effective management and increased number of the protected areas".

195. The **Kune-Vaini Protected Management Plan** sets the foundation for the long-term conservation of the KVLS. The overarching objectives of this plan are to : i) prepare a plan for multi-stakeholder participation in the management of natural resources and economic incentives for long term sustainability; ii) identify and classify measures and action plans for improving conservation; iii)

promote community participation in conservation efforts; iv) generate income for the community through sustainable use of the protected area; and v) strengthening of institutional capacity. Through implementation of adaptation interventions and additional livelihoods, the project will support the implementation of the Kune-Vain Protected Area Management Plan.

196. The **Government of Albania-UN Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016 (under the UNDAF)**, is the overarching programme document for the UN in Albania and brings together the support of UN agencies to Albania's development priorities. The Programme of Cooperation promotes sustainable and equitable development, social inclusion, the adherence to international norms and fulfilment of international obligations in support of national priorities and European Union intergration aspirations. It supports national priorities and development challenges in the areas of Governance and Rule of law, Economy and environment, Regional and Local development and Inclusive Social Policies. The Programme of Cooperation operationalises the programme presented in the **Country Programme Document (2012–2016)** and provides a legal framework for its implementation. One of the objectives of the Programme is to support efforts to protect, preserve and use natural resources more sustainably, with particular consideration given to the impacts of climate change. Albania will be advised on how to meet its commitments related to climate change and to support implementing bodies to monitor progress and to introduce adaptation measures. The GoA will be assisted in adopting a strategic approach for environmental planning and the establishment of an inter-ministerial decision-making body. Improving governmental capacity to undertake environmental assessments in the context of increased public awareness and participation will assist Albania to meet environmental standards. This project is aligned more specifically to:

Outcome 2.2 - National authorities and institutions, the private sector and the general public protect, preserve and use natural resources more sustainably, with consideration to the impacts of climate change and to the achievement of European environmental standards; and
Outcome 3.1 - Institutional capacities, frameworks and policies meeting international standards promote equitable and sustainable regional development focusing on land use and livelihoods for women and men, agriculture, tourism and cultural and natural heritage management.

3.7 Additional cost reasoning

197. Climate change is resulting in negative impacts on the KVLS and local communities living nearby. The ecosystem goods and services provided by the lagoon system supports the livelihoods of many of the households within these communities. For example, the majority of people living around the lagoon derive their income from fishing or small-scale subsistence agriculture. However, ecosystem degradation and the negative effects of climate change – including an increase in air and sea surface temperature and reduction in precipitation – has resulted in an increase in salinity in the lagoon. Additionally, SLR has led to increased dune erosion and the removal of important barriers that has resulted in an increase in coastal flooding in the KVLS area. These climate-related changes are compromising the generation of ecosystem services – such as flood protection, water quality maintenance, nutrient regulation and fish production – that local communities depend on. Consequently, climate change will continue to have an adverse effect on communities living near the KVLS.

198. The SCCF-financed project will decrease the vulnerability of surrounding communities to climate change by implementing an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA – that are informed by scientific research and traditional knowledge – in the KVLS. Consequently, ecosystem services – including flood protection, water quality maintenance, nutrient regulation and fish production – will be enhanced regardless of climate-related effects. In addition, the project will increase the climate-resilience of the baseline projects in the DMRD.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Unsustainable resource use within the KVLS is causing: i) a reduction in quality and quantity of water in the KVLS affecting lagoon productivity; ii) increased coastal flooding; and iii) increased sand dune erosion. The unsustainable use and alteration of the KVLS is being compounded and will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate variability and change. Climate variability and change has and will continue to affect, most likely at a more rapid rate, ecosystems their services and livelihood of local communities living in KVLS. Climate variability and change is expected to affect not only the development of the region but also the achievement of objectives of on-going projects and investments in KVLS. The government of Albania and development partners are working together to implementing projects which address development issues, and ecosystem management such as water resources management, marine coastal ecosystems, fisheries tourism. Only a few of them take into account climate change risks with none of them considering the use of ecosystem restoration for resilience building to climate change. The national and local authorities and communities of KVLS lack the capacity to address climate change risks and furthermore lack the understanding and skills in the use of the EbA which can be more cost effective versus technical solutions in long term and generate socio-economic benefits for the environment, citizens, and the local economy.	To address this problem the GoA – with support from UNEP – is implementing an adaptation project in the KVLS funded from SCCF resources The interventions of the project will focus on building the capacity of the local and national institutions to address climate change risk through a suite of interventions supported when possible by Ecosystem Based Adaptation. These interventions include: i) improved awareness and understanding of EbA at the national and local level; ii) increased technical and institutional capacity of national and local government to address climate change risk in coastal areas through EbA ; iii) improved co-ordination between government institutions involved in climate-change adaptation; iv) increased the technical capacity of national and local government and members of the TWGCC to identify and access international funding for EbA; v) implementation of adaptation interventions including EbA to restore natural ecosystems in the KVLS; and vi) increase awareness to and knowledge on climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities to climate change.

Component 1: Technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks through EbA.

199. EbA is a relatively new concept in Albania. Consequently, there is limited understanding of EbA at the local and national level. In addition, stakeholders have limited: i) access to information on how EbA fits into relevant government policies and plans; ii) knowledge on how to identify financing mechanisms for implementing EbA and iii) knowledge on the long-term benefits of EbA. There is also limited scientific research to inform EbA in Albania. Although there are multiple ecosystem management initiatives and projects aimed at ecosystem restoration in the country, the sharing of information between these projects is limited or performed in an ad hoc manner. A national dialogue mechanism – the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change – was developed as a means of addressing the limited sharing of information between government ministries. While this mechanism exists, the members of this working group require the technical knowledge to develop and implement EbA interventions. Without this technical understanding, it is unlikely that EbA – a cost-effective means of climate change adaptation – will be implemented in the country.

200. Component 1 will increase national and local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through EbA. To achieve this outcome, US$300,000 will be allocated to: i) train national and local government on EbA; ii) strengthen national dialogue

mechanisms; and iii) design a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient coastal development using EbA. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$3,251,571.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 1 • Policy- and decision-makers in Albania are largely unaware of the considerable benefits of EbA. • Policies and strategies within Albania have been revised to include climate change but do not include EbA. As such, policies and strategies do not provide an environment conducive to the use of EbA. • There is limited technical knowledge on the implementation of EbA interventions. • National approach to ecosystem restoration is *ad hoc*, with various ecosystem restoration-related activities taking place in isolation without communication between ministries. • An Inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change was created in 2012. However, regular meetings of this committee are not held, and the committee members are not well informed on the technical information needed to implement climate change adaptation interventions. • There is limited coordination on environmental projects between the various ministries in Albania, which is partly attributable to a lack of information being made available to the members of the IWGCC. • Adapting Albanian communities to climate change using ecosystem restoration for adaptation is not a strategic priority on the development agenda. • Limited technical and institutional capacity of line ministries for developing the full suite of adaptation benefits that can arise from restoring degraded ecosystems. • Limited capacity and skills for identifying and accessing international funds for EbA.	**Outcome 1** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to technical and institutional capacity to adapt to climate change using EbA. The interventions in this outcome will improve cross-sectoral dialogue and create a platform for promoting large-scale EbA in Albania. This will be done through the activities listed below. • Conducting introductory training of national and local government on EbA; • Reviewing existing policies and plans that are particularly relevant to ecosystem management, protected area management, national development, and coastal development to identify entry points to promoting EbA; • Developing technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers on how to plan, finance and implement EbA interventions that will increase the resilience of coastal communities to climate change; • Conducting technical training workshops with national and local government technical staff to: i) present technical guidelines; ii) train technical staff on moving from policy to implementation; and iii) train technical staff on ICZM. • Establish an improved communication mechanism between relevant ministries, and assist in overcoming other barriers to national dialogue. • Hosting meetings of the current inter-ministerial working group on climate change to promote the establishment of a technical working group on climate change and EbA – including the selection of appropriate technical members – that will provide relevant technical information on climate change risks and appropriate EbA interventions. • Conducting an initiation workshop for the technical working group on climate change and EbA and assisting in the development of a mandate for the group as well as terms of reference for its members. • Hosting bi-annual meetings to promote the continual and consistent functioning of the technical working group on climate change and EbA. • Conducting training sessions on current climate change adaptation finance to strengthen the capacity of the technical working group to identify and access international funds for adaptation. • Develop a plan – with the technical working group – to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA.

	• Developing a nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, led by the inter-ministerial working group on climate change, to sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA. • Ultimately, create an enabling policy environment that strongly promotes large-scale EbA use.

Component 2: Climate resilience through demonstration of best practice and concrete EbA and other adaptation interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.

201. Currently, restoration of degraded ecosystems in Albania is undertaken in an ad hoc manner by a range of local and national stakeholders. Generally, restoration initiatives focus on building hard infrastructure to protect local communities from the effects of climate change. These restoration activities do not use EbA as an approach to improve local community livelihoods while addressing the effects of climate change. In addition, the selection and implementation of hard infrastructure measures is not informed by scientific research, nor does it consider climate change. Furthermore, the implementation of hard infrastructure does not take into account the development of livelihood benefits and additional livelihoods from healthy lagoon ecosystems. As a result, there is minimal demonstration of the benefits of climate resilient adaptation interventions and on-the-ground EbA to increase the resilience of local communities to the effects of climate change, Without the SCCF-financed project, restoration initiatives in coastal areas of Albania will continue to be implemented without using EbA and will not maximise the potential for additional livelihoods.

202. Under this component, US$1,083,500 will be used to implement an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA – that had been identified by a previous GEF UNDP project – in the KVLS. The project will complement existing baseline activities by implementing EbA interventions to improve ecosystem functioning of the KVLS. The project will update scientific information required for a comprehensive environmental impact assessments – including topography, bathymetry, meteorology, biodiversity, ecology, geomorphology and hydrology. This information will be updated through collaboration with research institutions and consultancies and build on work undertaken by other projects to develop EbA protocols. This will result in the production of evidence-based, tailored protocols – that integrate scientific expert research and traditional knowledge – for EbA in coastal areas. Moreover, these protocols will be used to implement on-the-ground EbA thereby reducing the vulnerability the KVLS and local communities living nearby. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$6,488,012.

203. In order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the adaptation interventions and EbA interventions, a long-term strategy for monitoring the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of these interventions will be developed. This strategy will include the production of technical reports that, in conjunction with expert and local indigenous knowledge, will be used to inform adaptive management of the project and provide valuable information to build the evidence base for EbA.

204. Without SCCF-funding, protocols for adaptation interventions and EbA in coastal areas are unlikely to be developed. As such, EbA is unlikely to be adopted as a means of adaptation. As a result, current ecosystem restoration and management will continue with the potential to fail under conditions of climate change. Moreover, the lack of EbA interventions will result in limited: i) collection of long-term data on the benefits of such interventions, particularly in coastal ecosystems; ii) development of livelihood benefits from healthy lagoon ecosystems; and iii) possibilities to upscale, sustain and replicate EbA in other ecosystems in Albania.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 2 • The ecosystems in KVLS are degraded. This degradation is a result of multiple causes including overfishing, deforestation, unsustainable land use (such as the removal of buffer zone to create agricultural land), and the construction of physical barriers to prevent coastal flooding and reduced sediment supply from the Drini River. • Degradation of the ecosystems in the KVLS results in negative effects such as increase water temperature, increased salinity, increased erosion of sand dunes, and reduced quantity of water in the KVLS. • The observed consequences of increased salinity and temperature include a reduction in species diversity and plant and fish biomass as well as a decrease in overall productivity of the KVLS. • The observed consequences of increased erosion include the loss of lagoon area and increase in coastal flooding. • Restoration initiatives undertaken by government, and NGOs invariably focus on the construction of hard infrastructure to protect ecosystems and local communities, rather than using the ecosystem to maximise adaptation benefits for local communities. • Appropriate methodologies and protocols for the implementation of EbA interventions and for maximising the benefits of restoring different coastal ecosystems have either not been systematically documented or are unknown. • Restoration initiatives in Albania will continue to be implemented without taking full advantage of the benefits that EbA – if appropriately designed, –can provide to both the environment and local communities.	**Outcome 2** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to restoration of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system, by: • Collecting and updating detailed scientific information required for a comprehensive environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for the selected interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system. • Undertaking comprehensive EIAs for the selected EbA interventions to be implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon. • Preparing technical protocols and methodologies for the implementation of EbA in the coastal area. • Constructing six artesian wells and rehabilitate 4 wells at the selected sites in the in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Vaini lagoon area. • Reforesting three selected sites on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon totalling an area of ~10 ha with indigenous, climate-resilient tree species. • Constructing and maintaining a new tidal inlet channel between the Ceka Lagoon and the Adriatic Sea. • Rehabilitating a 2000m stretch of coastal dunes, south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon, by planting indigenous climate-resilient dune plants. • Developing and institutionalising a long-term strategy for the maintenance of: i) artesian wells; ii) reforested riparian areas; iii) tidal inlet channel; and iv) rehabilitated coastal dunes. • Designing and implementing a long-term strategy to monitor and compile the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of the implemented adaptation interventions, thereby creating a knowledge base for coastal EbA in Albania and further strengthening the upscaling strategy developed in Outcome 1. • Conducting training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods. • Undertaking a market assessment to identify and select appropriate ecotourism options for local communities living near the KVLS • Developing informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism. • Upgrading the tourist information centre at the entrance to the Kune-Vaini protected area. • Providing targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.

Component 3: Awareness and knowledge on effective EbA.

205. There is limited understanding of EbA at the local and national level as a result of EbA being a relatively new concept in Albania. This limited understanding of EbA is partly due to a lack of awareness of policy- and decision-makers, technical government and non-government personnel, and the general public on the benefits and implementation of EbA. This lack of awareness is a result of: i) limited demonstration of EbA (addressed in Component 2); ii) a lack of scientific knowledge on the long-term benefits of EbA; and iii) a lack of access to information on EbA. This lack of awareness results in EbA not being used as an adaptation option.

206. The SCCF-financed project will dedicate resources (US$239,000) to: i) raise awareness on the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions among the public as well as policy- and decision-makers; ii) design and implement a knowledge management plan to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the project; iii) design and implement a research programme that will fund MSc and PhD students to conduct research on the long term impacts of EbA; and iv) design and create a web-based platform that will allow sharing of and access to inter alia, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports on EbA in a user-friendly manner. The total co-financing for this component amounts to US$1,789,289.

207. Without SCCF-funding, EbA will remain a term that is not well understood among policy- and decision-makers and the public. In addition, these stakeholders will not be aware of: i) the importance of integrating expert scientific research into EbA planning; and ii) the full range of benefits that result from EbA. Consequently, the objective of existing and proposed EbA projects to upscale this approach will be hindered and research priorities for EbA will not be identified. As such, it is unlikely that EbA will be integrated into planning at a local and national scale.

Business-as-usual	Adaptation alternative scenario
Outcome 3 Policy- and decision-makers, and the general public in Albania are largely unaware of the considerable benefits of EbA as a means of adapting to climate change. • There is limited knowledge of EbA available to policy- and decision-makers, national stakeholders and local communities. • Limited collection of EbA information and production of scientific papers on EbA. • Limited integration of scientific knowledge in EbA. • Limited sharing of information on EbA, mainly as a result of a lack of knowledge sharing platform.	**Outcome 3** The SCCF-financed project will contribute to improve the baseline situation, particularly in relation to increased public awareness of the benefits and application of EbA, by: • Designing and implementing a knowledge management plan and communication strategy to capture, store and disseminate knowledge products generated by the SCCF-financed project. • Conducting awareness-raising campaigns for policy and decision makers, technical government and non-government personnel, and the general public on: i) the benefits and implementation of EbA interventions based on the lessons learned in Outcomes 1 and 2;and ii) ecotourism. • Conducting experience-sharing and community events to facilitate learning and dialogue among policy makers, implementers and local people living within and benefiting from selected interventions sites. • Designing and implementing a research programme, with the selected research institutions, to scientifically assess the long-term biological, physical and socio-economic impacts

	of the implemented EbA interventions. • Designing, creating and maintaining a web-based platform that will allow sharing of and access to *inter alia*, technical guidelines, technical reports, handbooks and scientific reports in a user-friendly manner.

3.8 Sustainability

208. The SCCF-financed project was developed by consulting a broad range of stakeholders, including: i) central government representatives; ii) local government representatives in the Lezha region; iii) NGO's; iv) implementing agencies and v) national academic institutions (Section 2.5). This participatory approach promoted ownership of the project by all stakeholders. As a result, project interventions will be sustained beyond the project implementation period. A participatory approach will also be used during the implementation of the project to further promote: i) stakeholder ownership; and ii) sustainability of project interventions.

209. Additional activities will be implemented to promote the sustainability of the SCCF-financed project. Firstly, the technical and institutional capacity of local and national institutions to plan and implement EbA will be increased through training. Secondly, a strategy to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA will be developed. Thirdly, the establishment of a Technical Working Group on EbA will provide decision-makers with the technical guidance to plan and implement future EbA projects. Fourthly, a national awareness campaign to enhance the public's understanding of the benefits of EbA will be undertaken, thereby promoting the approach to local communities and policy- and decision-makers. Finally, the demonstration of on-the-ground adaptation interventions including EbA will not only promote the development of future EbA projects but it will also help sustain the project interventions given the sustainability nature of the EbA approach itself.

210. The long-term sustainability of the adaptation interventions will be promoted by planning and undertaking maintenance events throughout the project lifespan. Additionally, the interventions are aligned with the objectives of the Kune-Vain Protected Area Management Plan. Integrating monitoring and maintenance during the project lifespan into management plans sets a foundation for the long-term sustainability of the project interventions. In addition, a long-term maintenance strategy, with proposed budget allocations, will be developed with the management of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area and Lezha municipality to promote the continued maintenance and sustainability of the interventions after the project has ended.

211. The project will prioritise the appointment of national consultants. International consultants will be appointed only where local expertise is limited. In such cases, national and international consultants will collaborate to develop national expertise in EbA and promote the sustainability of project activities.

212. The project will design and implement a long-term research programme to enable selected institutions to measure and assess the short- and long-term performance of EbA interventions. Knowledge gained through the implementation of such long-term research will inform the implementation of future EbA interventions and promote the sustainability of the project.

213. The project design aligns with the General National Plan (GNP) and National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) priorities. This increases the likelihood of the project interventions being upscaled to other areas. In addition, the cost-effectiveness of the proposed interventions as well as the buy-in of local communities will encourage the government to include EbA in national development planning.

214. Strengthening policies and strategies to integrate EbA into development planning for relevant sectors will create an enabling environment for EbA. This will contribute to the sustainability of the project interventions and upscaling EbA across Albania.

215. Finally, the SCCF-financed project will benefit from the UN's previous experiences in Albania, particularly the GEF UNDP project in the DMRD. Therefore, the project will build on the lessons learned from this project – and other initiatives for ecosystem restoration and management – to avoid pitfalls that have been experienced.

3.9 Replication

216. The SCCF-financed project will implement interventions in the KVLS in the Lezha region of Albania. Within the project, technical protocols and tools for adaptation interventions will be tailored to coastal ecosystems. As coastal lagoons cover a large portion of Albania's coastal ecosystems, the protocols and tools developed in this project can be replicated throughout the country in degraded wetlands. Therefore, there is considerable potential for replication of coastal EbA throughout Albania. Furthermore, technical guidelines that promote implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA will be produced and distributed to policy- and decision-makers in Albania. These technical guidelines will further promote the replication of on-the-ground adaptation interventions in coastal areas.

217. To facilitate effective replication, lessons learned during project implementation will be documented and disseminated by means of: i) workshops with policy- and decision-makers, project managers and other relevant stakeholders ii) feedback during the Technical Working Group on EbA meetings; and iii) an online platform that will be developed during the project to share information on climate change adaptation (see Activity 3.4.1). In addition, the upscaling of the project activities will be promoted by the enhanced institutional and technical capacity of government agencies such as the MoE.

3.10 Public awareness, communications and mainstreaming strategy

218. The limited resilience of local communities near the KVLS is partly a result of limited knowledge on climate change. For example, settlements have expanded into the wetland buffer zone, resulting in significant vulnerability to floods. In addition, local communities have limited knowledge on increasing climate resilience using EbA. To address this limitation, the SCCF-financed project will increase public awareness of EbA by holding national and local awareness raising campaigns. The campaigns will focus on explaining: i) the meaning of EbA; ii) how EbA contributes to adaptation to climate change; iii) current EbA projects; iv) best practices; and v) basic EbA tools that can be used to better adapt to climate change. Additionally, lessons learned and information generated during the project will be integrated into the public awareness campaigns. These awareness-raising campaigns will be gender-sensitive.

219. The project will identify and build on existing media networks to hold the national and regional awareness campaigns. Additionally, the project will identify and design appropriate awareness raising activities for learners at primary, secondary and high schools on climate change and EbA.

220. Local communication events at the KVLS will facilitate learning and dialogue among policy makers, implementers and local people living within and benefiting from the selected interventions sites. During these events, it is feasible that local communities will share information with representatives from other communities that live near coastal lagoons threatened by climate change.

221. With a view to publicising EbA, visits to the project intervention sites will be coordinated for schools, policy- and decision-makers and journalists. During these visits, the project staff will hold presentations on the project's progress and lessons learned. Thereafter, the students, journalists, policy- and decision-makers are encouraged to report on their visits through presentations to institutions or articles in newspapers or magazines. Where possible, these students will be involved in planting activities on the dunes and in the forests.

222. The SCCF-financed project will facilitate the internalization and mainstreaming of the EbA approach by: i) producing technical guidelines to promote adaptation to climate change using EbA and detail methods to identify appropriate financing mechanisms; ii) increasing knowledge and awareness on EbA; iii) and strengthening the capacity of local and national government to plan and implement EbA ; iv) demonstrating adaptation interventions that include EbA; and v) developing a strategy to upscale and sustain resilient coastal development using EbA and mobilise funds for large-scale EbA implementation. The financing strategy will include recommendations for training to develop the proposal-writing skills of policy- and decision-makers. This training will equip these stakeholders with the tools to access funding for EbA interventions. The technical guidelines and upscaling and funding strategy will be presented to policy- and decision-makers through training sessions and workshops.

3.11 Environmental and social safeguards

223. The interventions to be implemented by the SCCF-financed project will have positive environmental impacts. This is because these interventions are aimed at: i) restoring degraded beach dunes, forests and lagoons; and ii) enhancing the capacity of local and national stakeholders to plan for and implement EbA. The activities implemented by the project will be designed to improve environmental conditions in the short- to long-term.

224. The UNEP checklist for Environment and Social Safeguards (Appendix 16) reflects the positive environmental and social impacts of the project. The Project Manager, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and UNEP Task Manager (TM) will be responsible for overseeing adherence to these guidelines throughout the implementation of the project. This checklist will be reviewed and updated annually by the PM in conjunction with the UNEP TM.

225. To meet the objectives of the project, the construction of hard infrastructure (terminal groynes at the newly opened tidal inlet channel and artesian wells) will be done in combination with EbA interventions. The hard infrastructure will protect the newly opened tidal inlet from siltation thereby preserving the newly opened lagoon mouth. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) will be conducted by a national research unit before the interventions are approved. The findings of these EIAs will be used to inform the sustainable construction of hard infrastructure thereby minimising any resulting negative environmental effects.

226. In 2011 the Government of Albania approved the new National Strategy on Gender Equality and Reduction of Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (2011-2015). The objective of this policy is to strengthen institutional and legal mechanisms, increase women's participation in decision-making, empowering girls and women economically, and reducing gender based violence. Accordingly, gender equity – defined here as the equal participation of men and women in project activities – will be considered in each activity of the project. Stakeholder decisions relating to project activities will only be made with a sufficient representation of women in attendance.

SECTION 4: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

227. The SCCF-financed project will be implemented over a three-year period (2015-2017)[62]. Implementation will be informed by lessons learned from other restoration and EbA projects in the Mediterranean.

228. This project is in line with UNEP's Programme of Work 2014-2015, in particular with Subprogramme 1- Climate Change. The project will be building capacity, undertaking pilot initiatives through Ecosystem-based approaches to Adapatation, fostering climate change outreach and awareness-raising —all of which are areas of work under Subprogramme 1 under the current UNEP Programme of Work (PoW 2014-15). Under the Climate Change Subprogramme the project will be contributing to PoW Output 2 (*Technical support provided to countries to implement ecosystem-based adaptation demonstrations and supporting adaptation approaches, and to scale these up through partnerships at the regional and national levels)* and Output 4 (*Technical support provided to countries to address adaptation planning and reporting requirements under the Framework Convention on Climate Change*), under expected accomplishment A *(Ecosystem-based and supporting adaptation approaches are implemented and integrated into key sectoral and national development strategies to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to climate change impacts).*

229. UNEP will be the Implementing Agency (IA) for the project. The IA will oversee the project, and provide the technical assistance required to meet the project goals[63]. As such, UNEP will be responsible for project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. A task manager ™ will be appointed for this technical role. The TM will be based in UNEP Department of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI/GEF) Climate Change Adaptation Unit (CCAU) and will be responsible for project supervision and to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures. The TM will formally participate in: i) yearly Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings ; ii) the mid-term review and terminal evaluation; iii) the clearance of half-yearly and annual reports; and iv) the technical review of project outputs.

Management structure

The management structure of the SCCF-financed project is presented in Figure 7. This will comprise:

- **Project Steering Committee** (PSC), to provide project oversight and support, particularly for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan;
- **Project Management Unit** (PMU), to execute the project; this structure will include a Project Manager (PM) to head the unit; a District Technical Assistant (DTA); a Financial Officer (FO); and a Procurement Officer (PO);
- **Project Coordination Committee** (PCC), to ensure communication between the SCCF-financed project and the baseline projects.
- **National and International experts** to provide technical support for tasks that cannot be conducted by government staff. This will include a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) who will work closely with the PM to assist management of the SCCF-financed project activities. Moreover, the PM will serve as a liaison between the PMU, the technical experts and the government staff involved in project activities.

230. The mandate of the **PSC** will include: i) overseeing project implementation; and ii) reviewing annual workplans and project reports. All decisions taken by the PSC will be communicated to the concerned parties by the PM. The PSC will meet twice a year to discuss performance indicators and provide strategic guidance. At the discretion of the committee, representatives from organisations –

[62] according to the workplan in Appendix 4
[63] see Appendix 14 for information on UNEP's comparative advantage

including members of the technical working group established within the project – may be invited to join the PSC to contribute guidance. The PM will play the role of secretary for the PSC. Any changes made to the Results-Based Framework (RBF) or timeline of project activities, will be communicated to the PMU by the PSC.

231. The MoE will be the **Executing Agency (EA)**. Therefore, a PMU will be established under this government ministry. This unit will support day-to-day project execution and will ensure:

- the quality of outcomes delivered by the SCCF-financed project;
- the effective use of resources;
- appropriate procurement of equipment and consultation services;
- availability of financing to support project implementation; and
- efficient coordination between project stakeholders, particularly national stakeholders.

232. The GEF National Focal Point will be responsible for communicating with the PMU frequently to check the progress of the project. Therefore, he will be part of the PSC, take part in PSC meetings and report the progress of the project back to the implementing agency.

233. A full-time PM will be hired to head the PMU and execute the day-to-day management of the project. The PM will: i) report to the PSC; and ii) manage his or her role in a transparent and effective manner. The PM will manage the project in line with all budget and workplans, and in accordance with GEF and UNEP guidelines. In addition, the PM will deliver progress reports on a monthly basis to the TM and the chief Technical Advisor (CTA). These reports will include information on: i) the status of activities; and ii) challenges encountered on the ground during project execution. In particular, the PM will: i) provide on-the-ground information for UNEP progress reports; ii) engage with stakeholders; iii) organise the PSC meetings; iv) provide technical support to the project, including measures to address challenges to project implementation; and v) participate in training activities, report writing and facilitation of expert activities that are relevant to the PM's area of expertise. Additionally, the PM will facilitate meetings of the PCC.

234. One district technical assistant (DTA) will be hired on a part-time basis to support the PM. The responsibility of the DTA will be to promote: i) the timely execution of activities and achievement of expected deliverables at the project site; ii) dialogue between stakeholders particularly at a local level; and iii) the participation of local communities in the SCCF-financed project activities. To achieve this, the DTA will visit the intervention sites regularly. This local assistant will work in close collaboration with the PM and promote effective collaboration with baseline projects in the project areas.

235. A Financing/procurement Assistant (FPA) will be based in the PMU and will provide administrative and financial support to the PM. This officer will prepare quarterly financial reports to track internal expenditures. These reports will be made available to the PSC for review.

236. A team of experts will be employed for the implementation of the project activities. They will provide technical support for specialised tasks that cannot be undertaken by MoE staff. Descriptions of the experts' responsibilities are included in the project's budget notes (see Appendix 1). To address challenges in specialised EbA at a national level, an international CTA with EbA expertise will be hired to provide input. This individual will have similar experience in other GEF adaptation projects. Responsibilities of the CTA will include, inter alia: i) advising on suitable technical methodologies; ii) assisting with drafting ToRs for technical experts; iii) supervising experts' work; iv) providing quality assurance and technical review of outputs; v) assisting with knowledge management and communications for awareness-raising at a national level; vi) supervising relevant international and national experts; and vii) providing specialised technical and capacity building support to the PMU.

Initially, the CTA will travel to Albania on a regular basis to interact with national and district staff and implementing partners. Thereafter, the role of the CTA will be phased out with fewer face-to-face meetings being necessary. As the project progresses, the technical capacity of PMU, PM, APMs and experts will be enhanced through the support of an international expert.

The management structure of the SCCF-financed project is depicted in Figure 7 below.

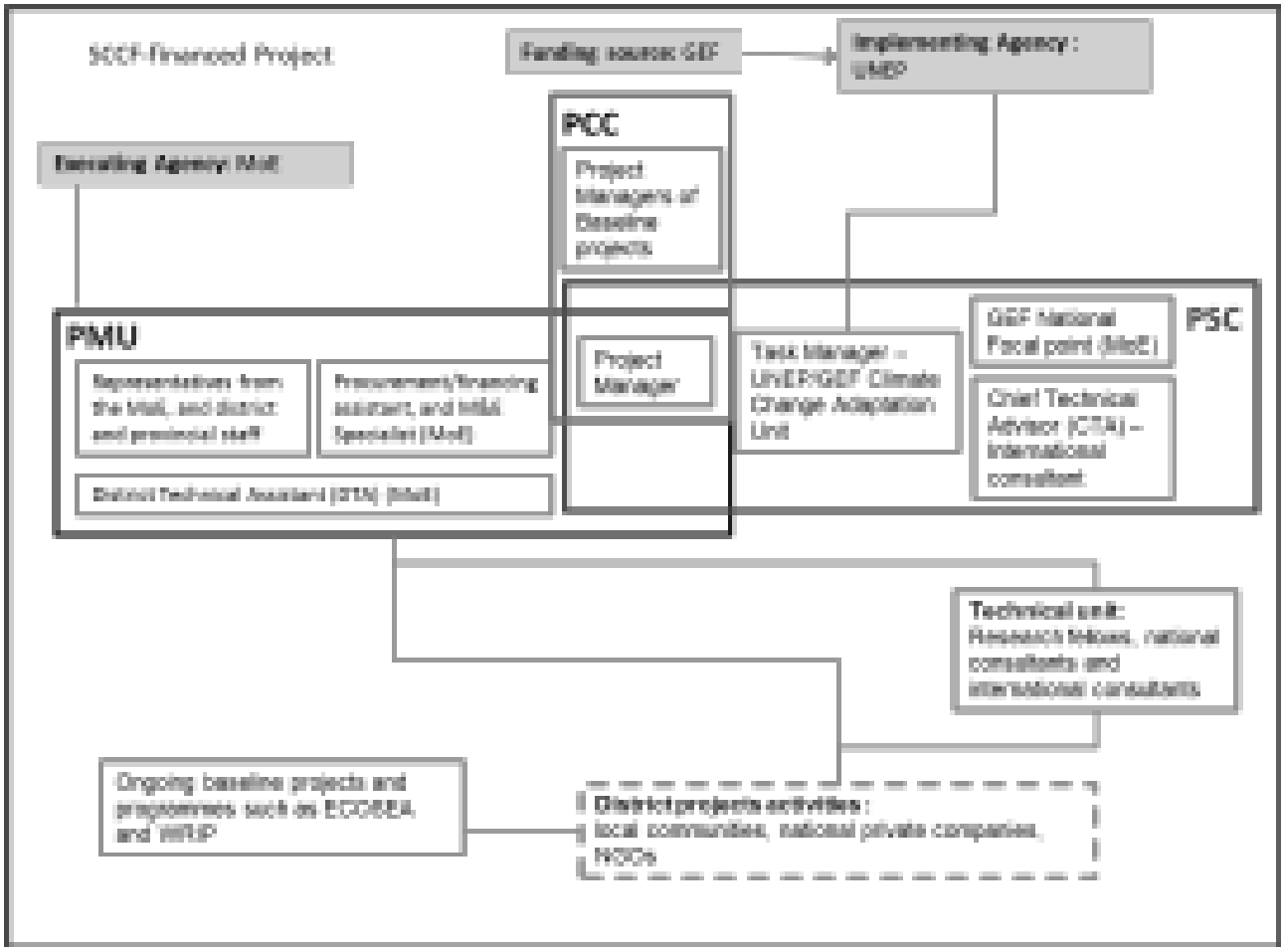


Figure 7. SCCF-financed project management structure.

SECTION 5: STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

237. Stakeholder participation will be coordinated to enable effective implementation of the SCCF-financed project. The stakeholders and partners for each outcome are described in **Error! Reference source not found.** 2 below. Details of stakeholder participation will be finalised during project inception.

Table 2. Stakeholder participation per outcome

Outcome	Output	Lead or coordinating institution/s	Important Stakeholders/partners	Key responsibilities
Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.	1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	MoE	• MoE • National Experts	• Overseeing: o assessing relevant scientific research and indigenous knowledge from local communities at intervention sites; and o training on EbA.
	1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.	MoE	• NPE • International Policy Expert with experience in ICZM • NEE/FE • IEE/FE • International EbA expert • NAE • CTA	• Overseeing: o meetings between national experts and projects already conducting research on policies and strategies for producing technical guidelines that promote EbA; o review of relevant strategies and policies to identify where technical guidelines on EbA are needed; and o development of technical guidelines that promote adaptation to climate change using EbA.
	1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at	MoE European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance	• Ministry of Economy • Ministry of Energy • Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection • Ministry of Finance • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Innovation, Information and Communication Technology • Ministry of Public Works and Transport • Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and sports • Ministry of Education and Science • Ministry of Integration	• Coordinating: o meeting of the IWGCC and the TWGCC o development of the strategy to mobilise funds o development of the training materials for the TWGCC • Overseeing the feedback of lessons learned into the training of project staff and the TWGCC.

	the national level.		• Ministry of Health • Ministry of Labour, Social Issues and Equal Chances • General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment (acting as coordinator between Donor Coordination Department and Ministries of Finance and Integration) • Representative of the Donor Coordination Department (under the GoA) • The General Directory of Environmental Policies - Technical Secretariat • CTA	
	1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	MoE	• MoF • National and International Experts • TWGCC • IWGCC	• Overseeing: o workshops/meetings between experts, and MoF; o the development of a national upscaling strategy; and o development of a financing plan. • Coordinating workshops to communicate findings and strategies to policy- and decision-makers on the following topics: i) entry points for EbA; ii) an upscaling strategy; and iii) an EbA financing plan.
Outcome 2: Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.	2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	MoE	• National Topography/Bathymetry Expert • National Geomorphology/Hydrology Expert • National Meteorology Expert • National Biodiversity and Ecology Expert • National EIA Consultancy • National Adaptation Specialist • National Climate Change and Socio-economic Expert • National indigenous species in coastal areas in Albania Expert	• Overseeing: o collecting and updating of detailed scientific information required for EIAs o undertaking .of comprehensive EIAs • Overseeing development of reports – that include expert scientific research and traditional knowledge – on appropriate species and EbA protocols. • Implementing: o construction of artesian wells in the Ceka lagoon; o reforestation along the Ceka lagoon; o construction of new tidal inlet channel; rehabilitation

			• Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment • National Coastal Agency • International EbA Expert • NAE • WRIP • EU IPAA • Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • National Coastal Agency • Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Telecommunications	of coastal beach dunes.
	2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	MoE	• National Academic • University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment	• Overseeing: o development of a long term strategy to monitor the biophysical and socio-economic benefits of EbA interventions. o Coordinating the monitoring of EbA interventions.
	2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	MoE	• Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • NGOs in the Lezha region • NAE • NEE • NSBE • National Awareness Raising Consultancy	• Overseeing: o assessing relevant scientific research and indigenous knowledge from local communities at intervention sites; and o training on EbA. • Undertaking market assessment for ecotourism • Develop informational and promotional material for local communities and the general public to encourage ecotourism. • Provide targeted technical advice to interested local community members on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.
Outcome 3: Increased awareness of local and national stakeholders to climate change risks and the potential of	3.1 Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change	MoE	• NIE • TWGCC • IWGCC • National Coastal Agency • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment	• Overseeing development of a knowledge management plan. • Coordinating: o Capturing and sharing of impacts and lessons learned. o Implementing the use of the knowledge management plan.

EbA to increase the resilience of local communities to climate change.	impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions .			
	3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.	MoE	• National Awareness Raising Consultancy • Lezha Regional Council • Shëngjini Commune • Shënkoll Commune • Sub-contractor (to conduct the public awareness campaign) • Schools • Journalists • Local and National Media representatives • Policy- and decision-makers	• Coordinating: o public awareness campaigns (national and local); o development of cross-community forums; and o visits to intervention sites by journalists, schools and policy- and decision-makers. • Overseeing the feedback of lessons learned into the training of project staff and the TWGCC.
	3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.	MoE	• National Academic • Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment • University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Science	• Choosing – in coordination with baseline projects – topics on EbA for MSc and PhD theses. • Selecting and funding students. • Ensuring that students communicate the findings of their research. • Coordinating workshops to communicate findings and suggestions to MoE, IWGCC, TWGCC and other relevant ministries.
	3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.	MoE	• Consultant contract for a Web-design/IT Company NPEE.	• Coordinating: o the design and implement a web-based platform for sharing information collated and generated by the project; and o awareness raising activities for the website. • Overseeing the development of the web-based platform.

SECTION 6: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

238. UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process.

239. The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in 06/2016 as indicated in the project milestones). The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools.

240. The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

241. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

(i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
(ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

242. While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

243. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. The EO will share formal comments on the report in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The EO will make the final determination of project ratings when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

244. The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

SECTION 7: PROJECT FINANCING AND BUDGET

7.1 Overall project budget

Table 3. A breakdown of total project financing.

	SCCF Funds	Co-Financing	Total Costs
Total project cost (US$)	1,903,000	11,528,872	13,431,872

7.2 Project co-financing

Table 4. Breakdown of project financing by funder.

	US$	%
SCCF Funds	1,903,000	14.2
Co-financing		
National government (MoE)	190,300	1.4
UNEP ENTRP Project	500,000	3.7
ECOSEA Project	5,130,964	38.2
WRI Project	5,707,608	42.5
Total	**13,431,872**	**100**

7.3 Project cost-effectiveness

245. The SCCF-financed project will adopt an approach of additionality and will build on two existing national projects: WRIP and ECOSEA. Furthermore, it will complement and align with a number of current initiatives.

246. For example, the technical capacity enhanced through Component 1 will build on the existing knowledge and capacity that has been developed at regional and national levels. This is a cost-effective approach to building technical capacity that will facilitate planning and implementation of EbA.

247. Within Component 1, a Technical Working Group on Climate Change will be established to facilitate dialogue on adaptation to climate change and EbA. This working group will enable the sharing of lessons learned from: i) similar initiatives for ecosystem restoration and management; and ii) on-the-ground interventions that will be implemented by the project. These lessons will also be communicated to the public by means of: i) awareness campaigns; ii) a knowledge management plan; iii) scientific reports; and iv) a web-based platform to share information generated and collected by the project. Therefore, EbA will be promoted and upscaled in a cost-effective way.

248. Globally, there is an urgent requirement to find tractable, sustainable, flexible and cost-effective interventions for local communities to adapt under conditions of climate change[64]. In some instances, initiatives have focused on constructing hard infrastructure[65] to protect local communities from climate-related hazards. However, it is acknowledged that healthy ecosystems also facilitate adaption to climate change by acting as buffers and providing services[66]. Therefore, EbA is a 'soft' proactive rather than reactive approach for addressing climate change. Moreover, a growing body of

[64] Jones et al. 2012. Harnessing nature to help people adapt to climate change. *Nature*. Published online: 26 June 1012. DOI: 10.1038/nclimate1463
[65] including sea walls, irrigation infrastructure and dams
[66] Ibid

scientific research indicates that increasing numbers of EbA projects will deliver favourable cost-benefit ratios in comparison with projects that use only hard interventions for adaptation to climate change. For example, an economic analysis of watershed management and engineering interventions was undertaken in Lami, Fiji[67]. This study included assessments of the costs and benefits of measures based on watershed management options for disaster risk management, engineering options and a hybrid approach combining both 'hard' engineering and 'soft' watershed management interventions. The analyses demonstrated that watershed management options are at least twice as cost-effective as hard engineering options (benefit cost ratio of US $10.50 compared to US $4.80). Moreover, it investigated hybrid approaches using complementary watershed management and engineering measures. Irrespective of the proportional emphasis on watershed management for disaster risk management relative to engineering, strategies that combined both watershed management and engineering options were likely to reduce damages by ~25% with a benefit cost ratio of US $4.30–8.00. See Table 5 below for further examples of successful EbA compared to hard infrastructure to address climate change.

Table 5. Examples of the cost of successful EbA compared with hard infrastructure for addressing climate change[68].

EbA for adaptation to climate change	Hard infrastructure for adaptation to climate change
Sustainable water management	
Approximately 9 million New York City residents receive 1.3 billion gallons of water per day – 90% of their water requirement – from the Catskill-Delaware watershed. Protection of the watershed has cost the city US$ 150 million per annum over the past 10 years.	To address the water needs of New Yorkers without this type of natural watershed, a water filtration plant would need to be built. A water filtration plant capable of processing 1.3 billion gallons of water for New York City would cost between US$ 6–8 billion. In addition, the plant would have operating costs of US$ 300 million per annum.
Disaster risk reduction	
Coral reefs are natural buffers that provide protection against erosion and wave damage. In the Turks and Caicos Islands this protection is valued at US$16.9 million per year.	The cost of using hard-engineering options (dykes and levees) for coastal protection in the Turks and Caicos Islands has been estimated at 8% of its gross domestic product, or US$223 million.
Wetlands of the Mississippi Delta are valuable ecosystems providing services worth US$12 billion–47 billion per year. If the wetlands of New Orleans were to be restored and used as part of the coastal defence system, the estimated cost would be: for marshland stabilization US$2 per square metre; for marshland creation US$4.30 per square metre; and for freshwater diversion US$14.3 million.	The cost of engineering solutions for coastal defence in New Orleans is high. To heighten a dyke by 1 m costs between US$7 million and US$8 million per kilometre. To heighten concrete floodwalls costs between US$5.3 million and 6.4 million per kilometre length. To heighten closure dams (in water) 1 m costs US$5.3 million per kilometre. The cost to armour levees for each square metre is between US$21 and US$28.
Food security	
The use of sustainable land-management practices such as agroforestry (using trees and shrubs in pastures and croplands) can increase farmers' resilience to climate change through sustaining or	To increase average yields fourfold by using nitrogen-based inorganic fertilizers would cost Malawi farmers US$11.6 million annually.

[67] Rao et al. 2013. *An economic analysis of ecosystem-based adaptation and engineering options for climate change adaptation in Lami Town, Republic of the Fiji Islands*. A technical report by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Apia, Samoa.

[68] Jones et al. 2012. Harnessing nature to help people adapt to climate change. Nature. Published online: 26 June 1012. DOI: 10.1038/nclimate1463

increasing food production. By intercropping maize with a nitrogen fixing tree, *Gliricidia sepium*, Malawi farmers increased average yields fourfold, at minimal cost.	

249. Although hard infrastructure can protect local communities against climate-related hazards, these approaches are unsustainable without costly maintenance and repairs. Moreover, construction of hard infrastructure that covers a large surface area transforms the natural landscape. This negatively affects the functioning of ecosystem, which reduces the ecosystems' ability to provide services.

250. Within Outcome 2 of the SCCF-financed project, the opening of a new tidal inlet channel will be complemented by techniques for the protection of the new tidal inlet channel. Therefore, project activities will implement both soft and hard infrastructure[69] for adaptation to climate change. This combination is effective because: i) soft interventions are more flexible in the long-term; and ii) hard infrastructure has benefits that are more direct in the short- to medium-term[70]. Therefore, this complementary approach to climate change promotes cost-effectiveness[71].

251. The project will implement EbA in lagoon and dune systems of the KVLS to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to: i) decreased ecosystem goods and services as a result of reduced water quality in the KVLS; ii) droughts in the dry seasons; and iii) coastal flooding and storm surges resulting in inundation of agricultural land with seawater. To this end, the project will transfer knowledge on ecosystem restoration and management under conditions of climate change to local communities. This knowledge will be incorporated into technical guidelines for policy- and decision-makers and, thereby promoting appropriate land uses by these local communities under the predicted effects of climate change. Importantly, the principles of EbA are grounded in ecosystem restoration and management. By adopting EbA, "no-regrets" activities will be implemented. Therefore, local communities will benefit from enhanced ecosystem services regardless of the severity of the negative effects of climate change.

252. EbA has benefits that will contribute towards mitigation commitments and other development goals of the GoA. While the EbA approach reduces vulnerability, it simultaneously provides a range of co-benefits such as carbon sequestration and storage, biodiversity conservation, additional livelihoods and poverty reduction. Furthermore, ecosystems that are enhanced through EbA are less likely to reach their tipping points, after which ecosystem degradation becomes irreversible under conditions of climate change[72].

[69] For example, artesian wells and terminal groynes at the new tidal inlet channel.
[70] Hallegate, S. and Dumas, P. 2009. Adaptation to climate change: soft vs. hard adaptation. C.I.R.E.D. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/40899422.pdf. Accessed on 1 April 2014.
[71] CARE. 2011. Policy brief: climate change – why community based adaptation makes economic sense. Available at: http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/PolicyBrief_Why_CBA_Makes_Economic_Sense_July12.pdf. Accessed on 1 April 2014.
[72] Jones et al. 2012. Harnessing nature to help people adapt to climate change. Nature. Published online: 26 June 1012. DOI: 10.1038/nclimate1463

Appendix 3: Incremental cost analysis

SCCF projects do not follow the incremental cost reasoning, but rather apply additional cost reasoning. See Section 3.7 (Additional Cost Reasoning) in the main document for details.

Appendix 4: Results Framework

Outcomes/Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Means of Verification
Objective: To 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.	*Change in the capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures has been strengthened.*	*Score of 4.* *Government and local communities living near the KVLS have partial capacity to adapt to climate change. (Baseline capacity was rapidly assessed during the PPG and will be further verified during project inception).* *No capacity scorecards have been undertaken by government staff or local communities.*	*Score of 8.* *Regional, national and sub-national institutions have, to a large extent, developed the capacity to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.*	*Verified through Scorecard Scoring methodologies recommended by AMAT, adapted from TAMD (2013) and PPCR (2014) scorecard indicators.* The indicator is based on five criteria expressed as questions: 1. Does the policy/ plan identify climate change risks and appropriate adaptation strategies and measures? 2. Are adaptation strategies and measures prioritized and specified with budget allocations and targets? 3. Does the policy/ plan assign clear roles and responsibilities for the coordination and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures? 4. Does the policy/ plan provide for the continuous monitoring, evaluation, learning and review of adaptation strategies and measures? 5. Is there evidence of the effective implementation of the policy/ plan? Each question is answered with an assessment and score for the extent to which the associated criterion has been met: not at all (= 0), partially (= 1) or to a large

				extent/ completely (= 2). An overall score is calculated, with a maximum score of 10 given five criteria.
Outcome 1. Increased national/local technical and institutional capacity to address climate change risks in coastal areas through adaptation interventions including EbA.	**Change in the capacity score assessment framework for each targeted institution.**	**Baseline values to be determined during the baseline assessment using the AMAT score criteria.**	**Each targeted institution (Ministry of Environment - national government, Lezhe commune council - local government, Kune-Vaini Lagoon Protected Area Management - protected area management) has progressed by a minimum of 1 step in their capacity score assessment framework.**	**A scoring methodology as suggested by the revised GEF AMAT will be adopted. The scoring is based on four criteria expressed as questions (these criteria will be further validated at inception phase):** **1. Are there institutional arrangements in place to address climate change in coastal area?** **2. Are those arrangements based on clear and strong mandate** **3. Are those arrangements supported by adequate budget allocations?** **4. Do those arrangements include broad stakeholder participation across relevant, climate-sensitive sectors?** **Each question is answered with an assessment and score for the extent to which the associated criterion has been met: not at all (= 0), partially (= 1) or to a large extent/ completely (= 2). An overall score is calculated, with a maximum score of 10 given**

				five criteria.
	A nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy document endorsed by key government officials.	**Baseline: 0**	**At least 10 government officials at Director level or above endorse the nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy.**	**Reports detailing the validation workshop for the nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session). Review of minutes from the validation workshop. Review of letters of endorsement from government ministries.**
Output 1.1. Training conducted for national and local government representatives on EbA.	Number of government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Baseline: 0	At least 30 government staff from relevant ministries and local government institutions trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).
	Percentage of women among government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures.	Baseline: 0%	50% of government staff trained to identify, prioritise, implement, monitor and evaluate EbA strategies and measures are women.	
Output 1.2. Technical guidelines produced on implementation of climate change adaptation actions using EbA, and training conducted on the application of these guidelines.	Number of technical guidelines on implementing EbA produced.	Baseline: 0	At least 3 technical guidelines on implementing EbA have been produced.	Review of technical guidelines produced.
	Number of government staff trained on the application of the technical guidelines for implementing EbA.	Baseline: 0 (National and local government have been trained on climate change risks and how climate change is included in national and local development policies and plans. However, officials	At least 40 national and local government staff trained on the use of technical guidelines for implementing EbA.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).

		have not received training on how to implement climate change adaptation interventions including EbA).		
	Percentage of women among government staff trained on the application of the technical guidelines for implementing EbA.	Baseline: 0%	50% of government staff trained on the application of the technical guidelines for implementing EbA are women.	
Output 1.3. A technical working group on climate change and EbA established to facilitate national dialogue on coastal adaptation through EbA and mobilise funds for the implementation of EbA at the national level.	Technical working group on climate change and EbA established and operational under the inter-ministerial working group on climate change.	Baseline: 0 (No subsidiary technical working group to provide technical guidance on the implementation of climate change adaptation policies exists).	A technical working group on climate change and EbA is operational under the inter-ministerial working group on climate change (Target: 1).	Review of meeting minutes of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.
	Percentage of women in the technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA.	Baseline: 0%	20% of the members of the technical working group on climate change adaptation and EbA should be women.	Attendance registers and contacts for members of technical work group
	A plan to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA developed.	Baseline: 0 .	A plan to mobilise funds for the large-scale implementation of EbA has been developed.	Review of fund mobilisation plan. Review of meeting minutes of the technical working group on climate change and EbA.

Output 1.4. Technical support provided for the development of a strategy to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	Number of draft upscaling strategy documents produced to upscale, sustain and replicate climate-resilient development using EbA.	Baseline: 0	A nation-wide EbA upscaling strategy for Albania is developed (Target: 1).	Review of project progress reports, interviews with members of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change. Review of meeting minutes of the inter-ministerial working group on climate change.
Outcome 2. Reduced vulnerability of communities living nearby the Kune Vaini lagoon system to climate change-induced extreme events through pilot adaptation interventions including EbA.	**Percentage change in climate change vulnerability index scores.**	**Baseline values for the climate change vulnerability index will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**At least a 10% reduction in vulnerability of people living near the project sites.**	**Vulnerability index/score will be developed. It will be measured as a function of adaptive capacity, exposure and climate sensitivity as per the IPCC definition of the vulnerability.**
	Number of community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives.	**Baseline: 0 (Within the KVLS and buffer zone, local communities currently derive their livelihoods from either agriculture, fishing, or restauranteering. Tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is focussed on beach tourism and there are no established ecotourism ventures)**	**At least 30 community members have increased their income through additional livelihood options initiated by the project, including ecotourism.**	**Interviews with local community members and managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.**
	Percentage of women among the community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives.	**Baseline income levels of community members will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**50% increase of the community members who have increased their income through additional livelihood initiatives are women.**	**Surveys and interview with local community members and managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.**

Output 2.1. An integrated suite of adaptation interventions including EbA implemented in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	Number of artesian wells functioning within the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system, and discharging freshwater into lagoon.	Baseline: 0 (In the 1970's artesian wells were constructed in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system to supply fresh water and reduce the salinity of the lagoon. However, these wells are now either closed because of sediment accumulation or submerged because of coastal erosion.)	At least 10 artesian wells fully functional and discharging freshwater into the lagoon (6 artesian wells constructed, and 4 artesian wells rehabilitated, in the in the Ceka and Zaje sections of the Kune-Vaini lagoon system)	Site visits to verify the functioning of functional artesian wells.
	Hectares of degraded riparian forest reforested with climate-resilient tree species according to technical protocols.	Baseline: 0 hectares	At least 10 hectares of degraded riparian forests on the outskirts of the Ceka lagoon reforested – the presence of saplings will be a proxy for forest establishment.	Site visits to verify the existence of reforested areas and comparison with existing maps of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.
	Existence of a new, functional tidal inlet channel between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea.	Baseline: 0 (A tidal inlet channel between the Adriatic Sea and Ceka lagoon was constructed by the government. However, the lack of a comprehensive feasibility study combined with the lack of maintenance has led to the closure of this inlet.)	A new, functional tidal inlet channel (including two terminal groynes) between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea constructed (Target: 1)	Site visits to verify the existence of a new tidal inlet channel. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.
	Length (m) of coastal dunes rehabilitated with climate-resilient species according to technical protocols.	Baseline: 200m (stretch of coastal dunes has been rehabilitated with beach grass by a previous project).	2000m of coastal dunes south of the new tidal inlet channel and adjacent to the Ceka lagoon rehabilitated with climate-resilient species according to technical protocols	Site visits to verify the existence of rehabilitated coastal dunes and comparison with existing maps of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area. Interviews with managers of the Kune-Vaini Protected Area.

Output 2.2. Long term strategy for: i) monitoring EbA interventions developed; and ii) technical reports produced.	A long term strategy developed for monitoring EbA interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system.	Baseline: 0	A long term strategy for monitoring EbA interventions in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is developed by the end of the first year of the project (Target: 1).	Review of monitoring strategy and technical reports.
	Number of technical reports detailing the findings of project monitoring activities produced.	Baseline: 0 (Bird, fish and vegetation monitoring data is submitted to the MoE on a monthly basis. No technical reports on any other type of monitoring are produced)	At least 6 technical reports (two per year) detailing the findings of project monitoring activities produced.	
Output 2.3. Training of local communities on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	Number of local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism by the end of the project.	Baseline: 0 .	At least 250 local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods by the end of the project.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session).
	Percentage of women among local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism.	Baseline: 0%	50% of local community members trained on EbA and additional livelihoods including ecotourism are women.	
	Number of local community members having attended training on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.	Baseline: 0 (Tourism in the Kune-Vaini lagoon system is focussed on beach tourism. There are no established ecotourism ventures, and local community members have not received any training on ecotourism or developing new ecotourism ventures).	At least 50 local community members attend workshops and receive targeted technical advice on establishing, financing and operating the potential ecotourism ventures.	Reports detailing training sessions and workshops, including attendance registers (verified at the end of a training session). Interviews with local community members.

Outcome 3. Increased 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.	**Change in percentage of people at a national level that are aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities.**	**Baseline levels of awareness will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**The percentage of people at a national level aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities' increases by 2 percentage points.**	**Surveys and assessments (as samples of the total population) of government officials and the general public in Tirana.**
	Change in percentage of people within the Lezha region that are aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities.	**Baseline levels of awareness will be determined during the baseline assessment.**	**The percentage of people within the Lezha region aware of climate change risks and the potential of EbA to increase the resilience of local communities' increases by 5 percentage points.**	**Surveys and assessments (as samples of the total population) of local government officials, the general public and schoolchildren in the Lezha region.**
	Number of scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions published in an academic journal .	**Baseline: 0.**	**At least one scientific paper on an aspect of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions has been published in an academic journal (Target: 1).**	**Review of published articles in academic journals.**
	Number of downloaded documents from the web-based platform.	**Baseline: 0.**	**Target: At least 80 downloads.**	**Web based platform statistics.**
Output 3.1. Knowledge management plan developed to capture and share information on climate change impacts and lessons learned to inform future EbA interventions.	Development of a knowledge management plan and communication strategy.	Baseline: 0 .	A knowledge management plan and communication strategy developed by the end of the first year of the project (Target: 1).	Interviews with project management. Review of knowledge management plan and communication strategy.
Output 3.2. Awareness-raising campaign conducted on the advantages of EbA to increase resilience to climate change impacts.	Number of awareness-raising campaigns and experience-sharing days on EbA held.	Baseline: 0	At least: i) one awareness raising campaign; and iii) 2 experience-sharing days on EbA held.	Review reports detailing awareness-raising activities, including attendance registers. Interviews with project management and local community members.

Output 3.3. Scientific reports produced on the performance of implemented EbA interventions and research projects underway.	Number of scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions produced.	Baseline: 0 (In the past five years, scientific reports/papers relevant to the Kune-Vaini lagoon system are limited to bird ecology. There are no scientific reports/papers on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of EbA interventions).	At least two scientific reports/papers on an aspect of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions have been submitted to peer-reviewed journals by the end of the project.	Review of scientific papers. Interviews with academics from the identified research institution.
	Number of MSc and PhD students undertaking research on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions.	Baseline: 0. .	At least 4 (2 MSc and 2 PhD) students have begun a research project on an aspect the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the implemented EbA interventions by the end of the project.	Review of enrolment documentation. Interviews with academics and students from the identified research institution.
Output 3.4. A web-based platform established to share information and provide access to project products.	A web-based platform to share information on EbA established and operational.	Baseline: 0.	A web-based platform to share information on EbA is operational.	Evaluate the web-based platform to determine whether it is functioning and to report on the web-based platform statistics, including when it was last updated, the number of registered users, existing real-time social media links, related information briefs, web-pages access and e-visitor levels.

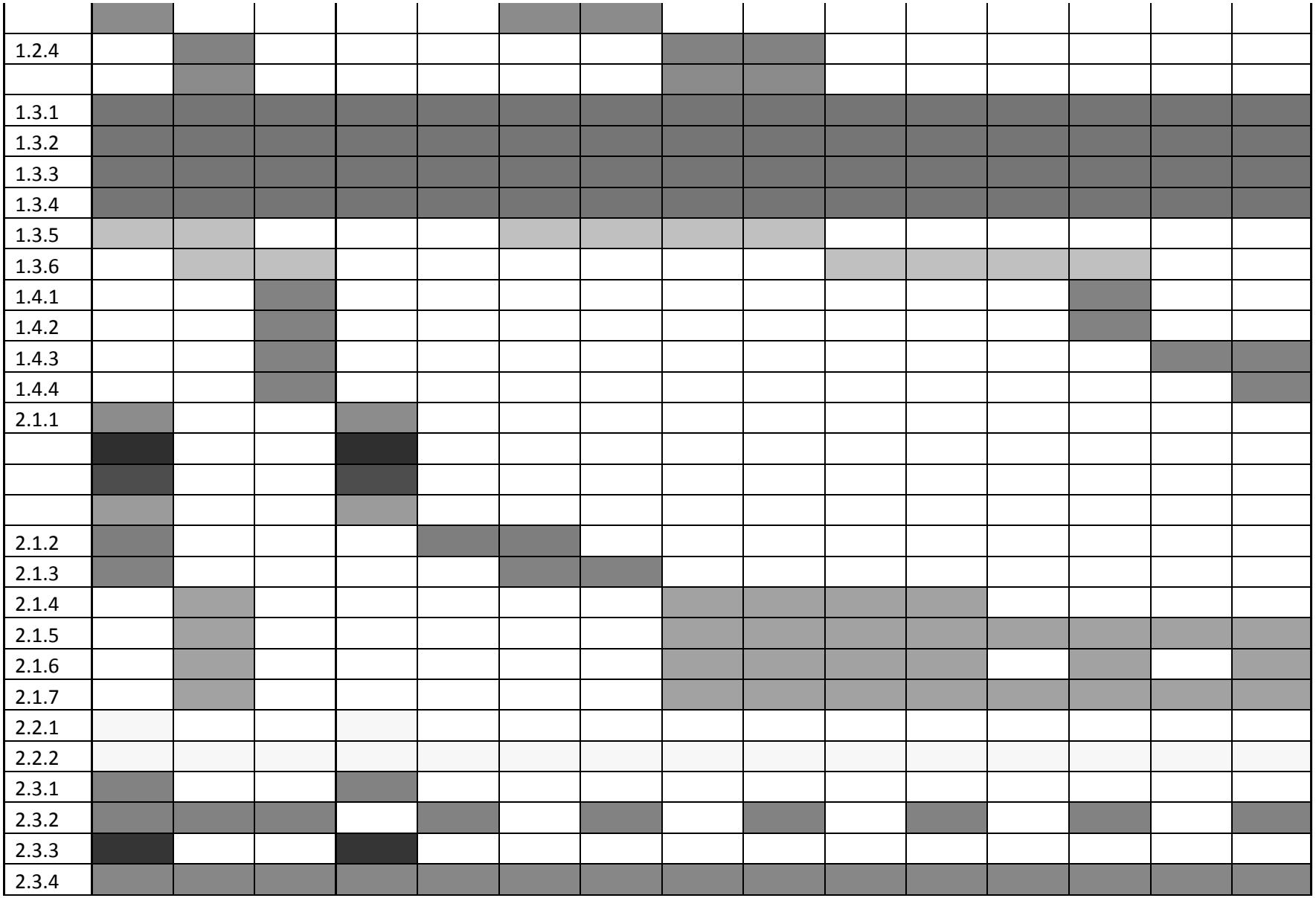
Appendix 5: Workplan and timetable

Workplan key: lead consultant for activities.

Adaptation and EbA Expert(s)	
Policy Expert(s)	
Ecosystem Economics/Financing Expert(s)	
National Topography/Bathymetry Expert	
National Meteorology Expert	
National Biodiversity and Ecology Expert	
National Geomorphology/Hydrology Expert	
National EIA Consultancy	
Consultancy contract	
National Academic	
National Ecotourism Expert	
National Awareness Raising Consultancy/Company	
National Small Business Expert	
National Information Expert	
Consultant contract for a Web-design/IT Company	
Other (PMU/project staff)	

Workplan

	Annual breakdown			Quarterly breakdown											
				Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
Activity	Y1	Y2	Y3	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1.1															
1.1.2															
1.2.1															
1.2.2															
1.2.3															



2.3.5															
2.3.6															
3.1.1															
3.1.2															
3.2.1															
3.2.2															
3.2.3.															
3.2.4															
3.3.1															
3.3.2															
3.4.1															
3.4.2															

Appendix 6: Key deliverables and benchmarks

See Appendix 4: Results Framework, Appendix 5: Workplan and Appendix 7: Costed M&E plan.

Appendix 7: Costed M&E plan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible parties	Budget US $ (excluding project team staff time)	Time-frame
Inception workshop and report	• PM • Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) • UNEP Task Manager (TM)	Cost: US$6,000	Within first two months of project start up
Measurement of means of verification of project results	• PM • CTA • UNEP TM • M&E Specialist	Baseline assessment. cost: US$30,000	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.
Measuring means of verification (MoV) for project progress on output and implementation	• PM • DTA • UNEP TM • CTA • M&E Specialist	To be determined as part of the preparation of Annual Work Plans (AWPs).	Annually prior to PIR and to the definition of annual work plans
PIR	• PM • CTA • UNEP TM • PO • FO • M&E Specialist	None. Financial audit records to be provided for PSC review	Annually
Progress reports	• PM • DTA • CTA • UNEP TM	None	Quarterly
Project Steering Committee meetings	• PSC • PM • CTA • UNEP TM	6 x US$ 1000 = US$6,000	Biannually
Independent mid-term evaluation/review (MTE/MTR)	• PM • CTA • PO • FO • External Expert • UNEP TM	Cost: US$15,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.

Independent terminal evaluation	• UNEP Evaluation Office	Cost: US$30,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation
Project closure workshop and report	• PM • CTA • PO • FO • UNEP TM	Cost: US$6,000	On completion of the terminal evaluation.
Visits to demonstration sites	• UNEP TM • PM • DTA • CTA • PSC representatives	For GEF supported projects, paid from IA fees and operational budget	Yearly
TOTAL indicative COST **Excluding project team staff time and UNEP staff and travel expenses**			Estimated Cost: US$93,000

Appendix 8: Summary of reporting requirements and responsibilities

Reporting requirements	Due date	Responsibility
Inception Workshop Report	One month after Project Inception Workshop.	• PM • M&E Specialist • UNEP TM • CTA
Expenditure report accompanied by explanatory notes		• PM • Accountant
Cash Advance request and details of anticipated disbursements		• NPC • Accountant
Supervision Plan	Before the end of the SCCF-financed project's inception phase.	• UNEP
Progress reporting	Quarterly	• PM • CTA • M&E Specialist
Audited report for expenditures for year ending 31 December	Yearly on or before 30 June.	• Executing partners
Inventory of non-expendable equipment	Yearly on or before 31 January.	• PM • Accountant
Co-financing report	Yearly on or before 31 July.	• PM
PIR	Yearly	• PM • M&E Specialist • CTA • UNEP TM
Minutes of PSC meetings	Biannually (or as relevant).	• PM
Completion report	Within six months of project completion date.	• PM • IA
Final inventory of non-expendable equipment		• PM
Equipment transfer letter		• PM
Final expenditure statement	Within three months of project completion date.	• PM • UNEP
MTR/MTE	Midway through project lifetime.	• UNEP TM/UNEP Evaluation Office
Terminal evaluation	At least three months prior to the project end date.	• UNEP Evaluation Office
Final audited report for expenditures of project	Within six months prior to project completion date.	• EA
Independent terminal evaluation report	Within three months prior to project completion date.	• PM • NTAs • CTA • UNEP TM

Appendix 14: Tracking Tool for Climate Change Adaptation Projects

Project identification						
Project title:	Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA)					
Country(ies):	Albania			GEF project ID:		1140
GEF Agency(ies):	United Nations Environment Programme			Agency project ID:		5386
Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment			Council/ CEO Approval date:		
Project status at submission:				Tool submission date:		
Project baselines, targets and outcomes						
Indicator	**Unit of measurement**	**Baseline at CEO Endorsement**	**Target at CEO Endorsement**	**Actual at mid-term**	**Actual at completion**	**Comments (e.g. specify unit of measurement)**
Objective 1: Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate change						
Outcome 1.1: Vulnerability of physical assets and natural systems reduced						
Indicator 2: Type and extent of assets strengthened and/or better managed to withstand the effects of climate change	ha of land	0 ha of riparian forest restored	10 ha of riparian forest rehabilitated			(specify asset type)
	km of coast	200m stretch of coastal dunes has been rehabilitated	2000m of coastal dunes rehabilitated			(specify asset type)
	Inlet channel	One old closed non-functioning tidal inlet channel	One new tidal inlet channel constructed and functioning			(specify asset type)
	Number of wells	4 non-functioning artesian wells exist that are either closed because of sediment accumulation or submerged	6 artesian wells constructed and 4 wells rehabilitated			(add rows as needed)

		because of coastal erosion.				
Objective 2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation						
Outcome 2.3: Institutional and technical capacities and human skills strengthened to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures						
Indicator 9: Number of people trained to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	number of people	0	30			
	% female	0	50			
Indicator 10: Capacities of regional, national and sub-national institutions to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	number of institutions	0	3			
	score	4	8			(if the scoring methodology is different from the recommended [see Sheet 2], please describe)
	score					(if the scoring methodology is different from the recommended [see Sheet 2], please describe)
Reporting on GEF gender indicators						
Q1: Has a gender analysis been conducted during project preparation?			yes	NA	NA	
Q2: Does the project results framework include gender-responsive indicators, and sex-disaggregated data?			yes			
Q3: Of the policies, plans frameworks and processes supported (see indicators 12 and 13 above), how many incorporate gender dimensions (number)?			NA			
Q4: At mid-term/ completion, does the mid-term review/ terminal evaluation assess progress and results in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment?			NA			

Appendix 15: Checklist for Environmental and Social issues

As part of the GEF's evolving Fiduciary Standards, implementing agencies have to address 'Environmental and Social Safeguards'. To address this requirement UNEP-DGEF have developed this checklist with the following guidance:
Initially filled in during concept development to help guide in the identification of possible risks and activities that will need to be included in the project design.
A completed checklist should accompany the PIF
Check list reviewed during PPG phase and updated as required
Final check list submitted with Project Package clearly showing what activities are being undertaken to address issues identified

Project Title:	**Building the resilience of Kune-Vaini Lagoon through ecosystem based adaptation (EbA)**		
GEF project ID and UNEP ID/IMIS Number	GEF Agency Project ID: 1140 UNEP ID:	***Version of checklist***	Two
Project status (preparation, implementation, MTE/MTR, TE)	Preparation	***Date of this version:***	*02 April 2013* *Updated 17 October 2014*
Checklist prepared by (Name, Title, and Institution)	Atifa Kassam, Task Manager, GEF Climate change adaptation unit, DEPI, UNEP		

In completing the checklist both short- and long-term impact shall be considered.

Section A: Project location:

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Is the project area in or close to -		
- densely populated area	Yes	The project will be carried out in the coastal zone which has some densely populated pockets. The size of the population targeted by the project is at least 33,614 people living in the Lezha region. The project takes into account local livelihoods and communities living in the pilot areas. Capacity building, knowledge sharing and community based adaptation are all integrated into the project design.
- cultural heritage site	No	
- protected area	Yes	The Kune-Vaini Lagoon System (KVLS) is located within the Drini Mati River Delta area, on both sides of Drini-Lezhe River in the

		northern Albanian coastal region. It is a Protected Area (IUCN Category IV) and locally designated as managed nature reserve). The projects aims to build resilience of this area through ecosystem based approaches to adaptation.
- wetland	Yes	
- mangrove	No	
- estuarine	No	
- buffer zone of protected area	No	
- special area for protection of biodiversity	Yes	The KVLS was the first protected area in Albania and is an IUCN Category IV protected area. This area lies within an internationally recognised Important Bird Area (IBA) that provides wintering grounds for over 70 species of waterfowl and water bird and features: i) important nesting habitat for birds, in particular waterfowl such as the globally threatened Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) and Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*).
- Will project require temporary or permanent support facilities?	Yes	The project aims to build resilience through implementation of an integrated suite of adaptation interventions including. The opening of a new tidal channel between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea will require the construction of terminal groynes. These terminal groynes are essential for the protection of this newly created tidal channel.
If the project is anticipated to impact any of the above areas an Environmental Survey will be needed to determine if the project is in conflict with the protection of the area or if it will cause significant disturbance to the area.		

Section B: Environmental impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Are ecosystems related to project fragile or degraded?	Yes	The coastal ecosystems that are targeted by the project are fragile and degraded at the selected pilot sites. The project's priority is to restore these ecosystems to build the resilience of local communities. Anthropogenic pressures, climate variability and extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, siltation and soil erosion contribute to these pressures. Project activities are designed to establish resilient ecosystems in degraded areas in order to ensure long-term adaptation to the impacts of climate change. All on-the-ground implementation will be undertaken using expert guidance from qualified technical staff and scientific advisors.

- Will project cause any loss of precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and socio-economic studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecological and economical functions. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no maladaptation occurs.
- Will project cause impairment of ecological opportunities?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Short-, medium- and long-term impacts will be beneficial for local ecosystems. As mentioned above detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and socio-economic studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecological opportunities. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no maladaptation occurs.
- Will project cause increase in peak and flood flows? (including from temporary or permanent waste waters)	Not anticipated	Project activities such as ecological restoration will reduce the likelihood of flooding and regulate the flow of water. Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on water flows. No temporary wastewater will be generated by project activities.
- Will project cause air, soil or water pollution?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause soil erosion and siltation?	Not anticipated	It is expected that project activities will help increase soil water filtration in protected watersheds in all priority project areas, thereby reducing erosion and siltation. However, detailed assessments will be conducted before ant demonstration activities, to ensure that soil erosion and siltation are taken into account.
- Will project cause increased waste production?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause Hazardous Waste production?	Not anticipated	
- Will project cause threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species?	Not anticipated	Detailed EIA's as well as hydrological, biodiversity and ecological studies will be conducted before any construction or demonstration activities occur in order to assess the effects of the project interventions on ecosystem functions. In addition, project demonstration activities will be guided by these EIA's to make sure that no harm is caused to ecosystem as a result of invasive species.
- Will project cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions?	No	Project activities are likely to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases in identified priority sites through the restoration and re-establishment of degraded ecosystems, increasing soil and plant carbon sequestration.
- Other environmental issues, e.g. noise and traffic	Not anticipated	

Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.

Section C: Social impacts

If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Does the project respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people?	Yes	All project interventions have been developed in accordance with internationally proclaimed human rights, in conformity with UN guidelines. In addition, all activities were developed together with various stakeholders to ensure that no rights or laws are infringed by the proposed activities.
- Are property rights on resources such as land tenure recognized by the existing laws in affected countries?	Yes	The project facilitates participatory approaches for avoiding any conflicts. In addition, the project will adhere to national and local laws on land rights and land tenure.
- Will the project cause social problems and conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources?	Not anticipated	The project will promote a community-based natural resources management approach. The project will adhere to national and local laws on land rights and land tenure.
- Does the project incorporate measures to allow affected stakeholders' information and consultation?	Yes	All on the ground activities are implemented by local communities, and are preceded by and include stakeholder consultations together with training and information workshops. Technical briefs will be prepared to ensure that all stakeholders are fully informed.
- Will the project affect the state of the targeted country's (-ies') institutional context?	Yes	The project will strengthen institutions within Albania in order to facilitate mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and ecosystem based adaptation measures. Local institutions will be provided with EbA training, as will district, provincial and national structures relevant to the project outcomes.
- Will the project cause change to beneficial uses of land or resources? (incl. loss of downstream beneficial uses (water supply or fisheries)?	Yes	The project is designed to enhance beneficial land uses and access to resources, including improved water flow, improved fishing conditions and reduced coastal siltation in identified project sites.
- Will the project cause technology or land use modification that may change present social and economic activities?	Yes	All anticipated modifications of current land use and technology will enhance the social and economic benefits to local populations.
- Will the project cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of people?	Not anticipated	No movement of populations is required for project activities: local populations are involved in all on-the-ground implementation. Social assessments will be conducted in order to ensure that project

		interventions do not cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement.
- Will the project cause uncontrolled in-migration (short- and long-term) with opening of roads to areas and possible overloading of social infrastructure?	No	No new roads are to be built through project activities, and no population movement is anticipated. Local social infrastructure will be enhanced through the project community engagement and consultation process, and through community training in adaptation techniques.
- Will the project cause increased local or regional unemployment?	No	No long-term change in employment as a result of project activities is anticipated. Community members will be employed for short periods to achieve specific project objectives where necessary. Livelihoods of communities in project sites will be enhanced in order to improve community resilience under conditions of climate change.
- Does the project include measures to avoid forced or child labour?	Yes	The project conforms to all national and international guidelines and laws regarding forced labour. Extensive community engagement will prevent the use of forced labour, and all required labour (short term employment only for establishing specific objectives) will be provided through community engagement and remunerated in accordance with national law.
- Does the project include measures to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for workers employed as part of the project?	Yes	The project will conform to all national and international guidelines and laws regarding health and safety for workers employed as part of the project. Community training will ensure that health and safety regulations are understood.
- Will the project cause impairment of recreational opportunities?	Not anticipated	The project aims to increase the ecological opportunities and ecosystem services despite the negative impacts of climate change. Short-, medium- and long-term impacts will be beneficial for local ecosystems. As such, it is expected that the project will create improved recreational opportunities.
- Will the project cause impairment of indigenous people's livelihoods or belief systems?	No	All project implementation will be carried out after stakeholder consultation and in accordance with local belief systems. Livelihoods of people in project sites will be improved through the project activities.
- Will the project cause disproportionate impact to women or other disadvantaged or vulnerable groups?	No	Women's rights will be promoted in accordance with national legislation, appropriate strategies and UN guidelines for interaction within Albania. In addition, gender has been taken into account in the project document including through gender disaggregated indicators.
- Will the project involve and or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any critical cultural heritage?	No	No cultural heritage will be impacted through project operations.

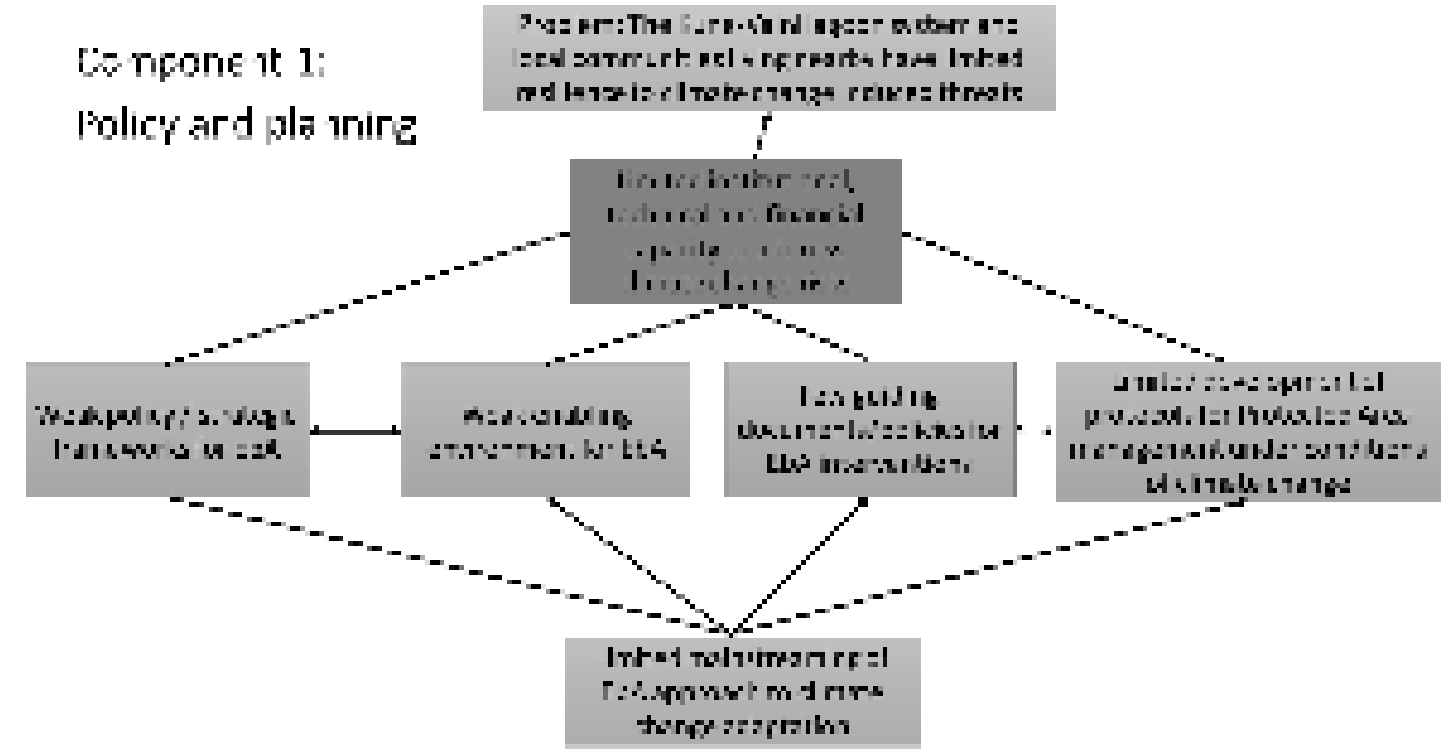
- Does the project include measures to avoid corruption?	Yes	Corruption within the selected EA is limited due to strong internal governance and stringent protection measures.
Only if it can be carefully justified that any negative impact from the project can be avoided or mitigated satisfactorily both in the short and long-term, can the project go ahead.		

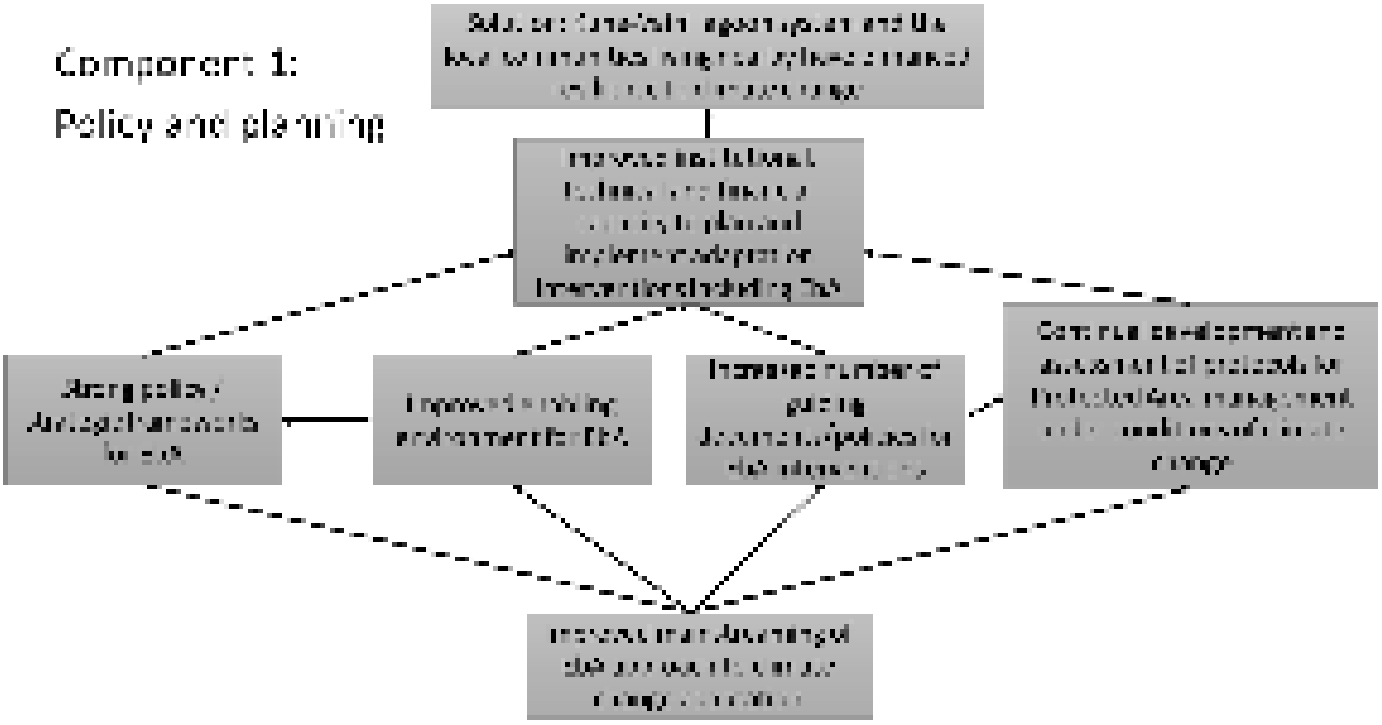
Section D: Other considerations

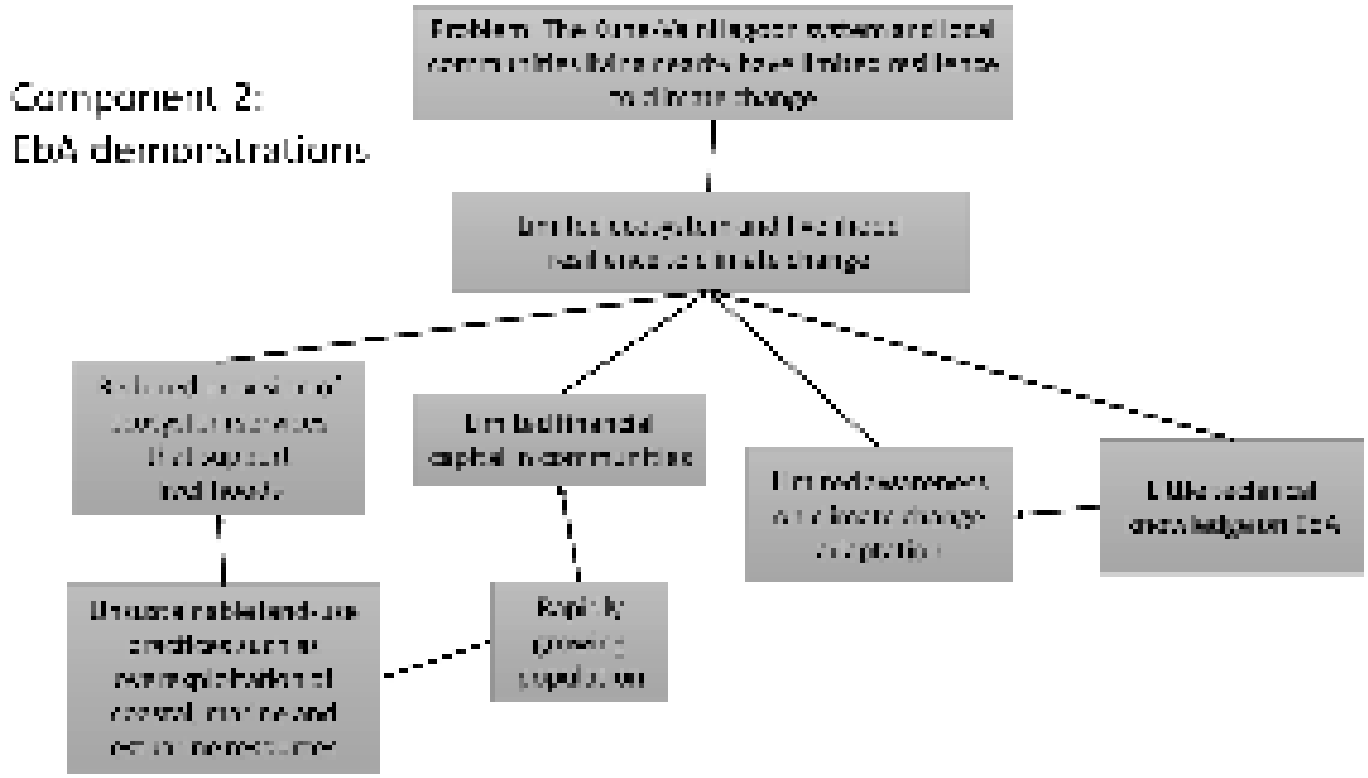
If negative impact is identified or anticipated the Comment/Explanation field needs to include: Project stage for addressing the issue; Responsibility for addressing the issue; Budget implications, and other comments.

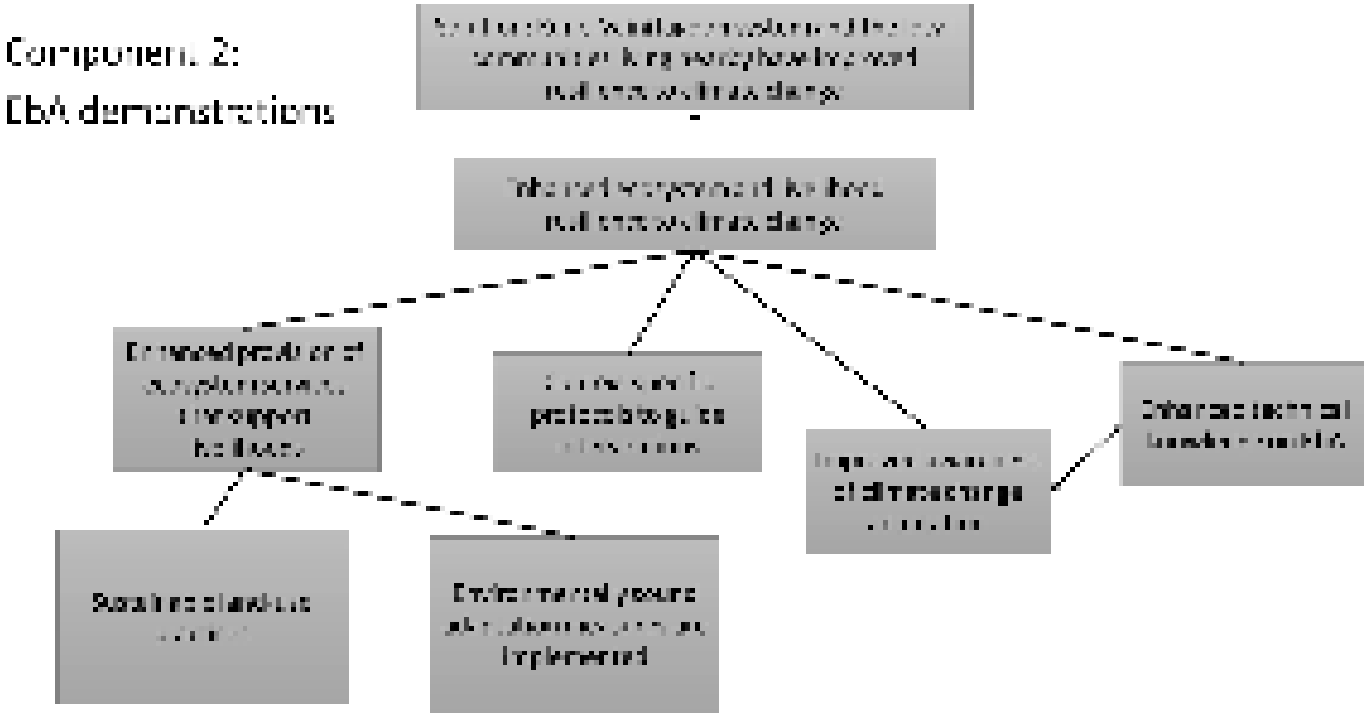
	Yes/No/N.A.	*Comment/explanation*
- Does national regulation in affected country (-ies) require EIA and/or ESIA for this type of activity?	Yes	Law No. 8990 on Environmental Impact Assessment (2003) creates an enabling environment that enforces all projects – related to the implementation of construction works, installations or schemes, or implying interventions into the natural and scenery environment – that may have a negative impact on the environment undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Is there national capacity to ensure a sound implementation of EIA and/or SIA requirements present in affected country (-ies)?	Yes	There are multiple companies that specialise in undertaking sound EIAs.
- Is the project addressing issues, which are already addressed by other alternative approaches and projects?	No	Project activities are complementary to the identified baseline projects, and other ongoing initiatives, and will ensure that long-term adaptation benefits enhance the value of these activities.
- Will the project components generate or contribute to cumulative or long-term environmental or social impacts?	Yes	Project will generate long-term environmental benefits by facilitating adaptation restoration in degraded coastal ecosystems and positive social impacts through enhanced ecosystems services. The project seeks to enhance climate risk management.
- Is it possible to isolate the impact from this project to monitor E&S impact?	Yes	The project will generate long-term environmental benefits by facilitating adaptation restoration in degraded coastal ecosystems and positive social impacts through enhanced ecosystems services and promoting additional livelihood options.

Appendix 16: Problem Tree, Solutions Tree and Theory of Change

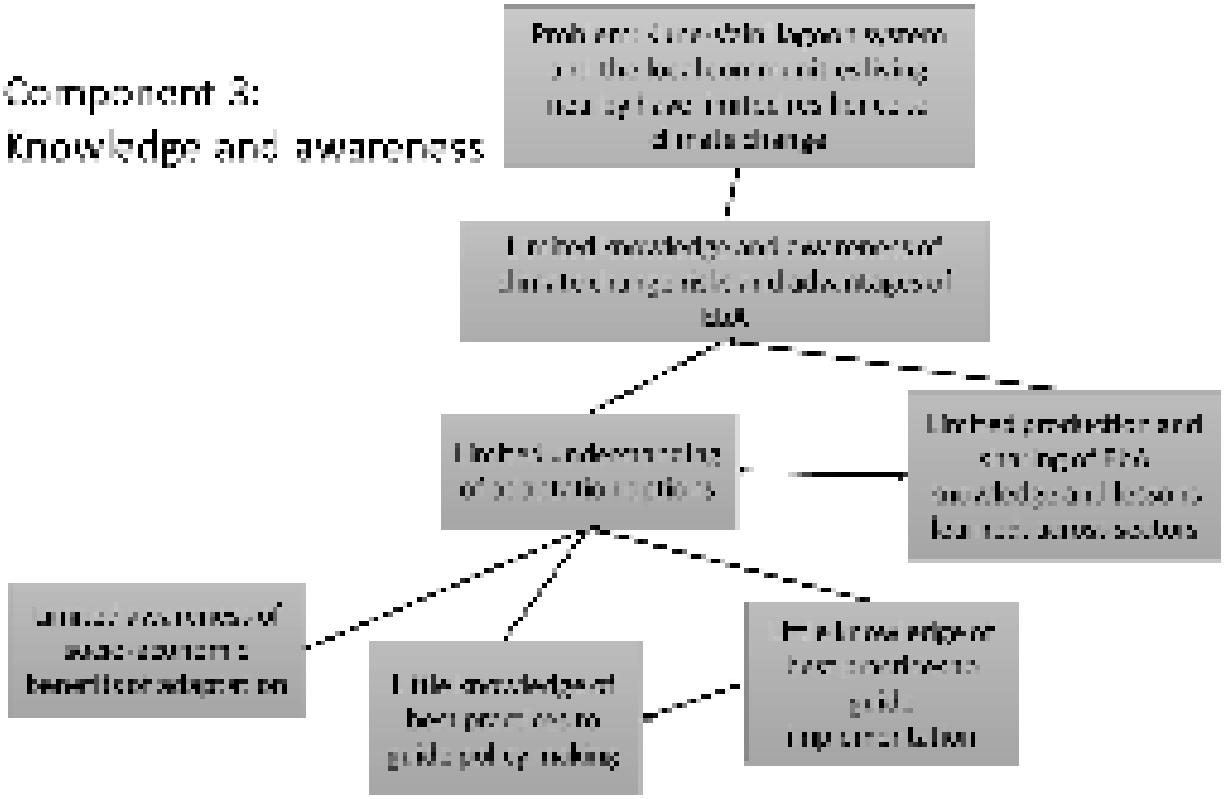




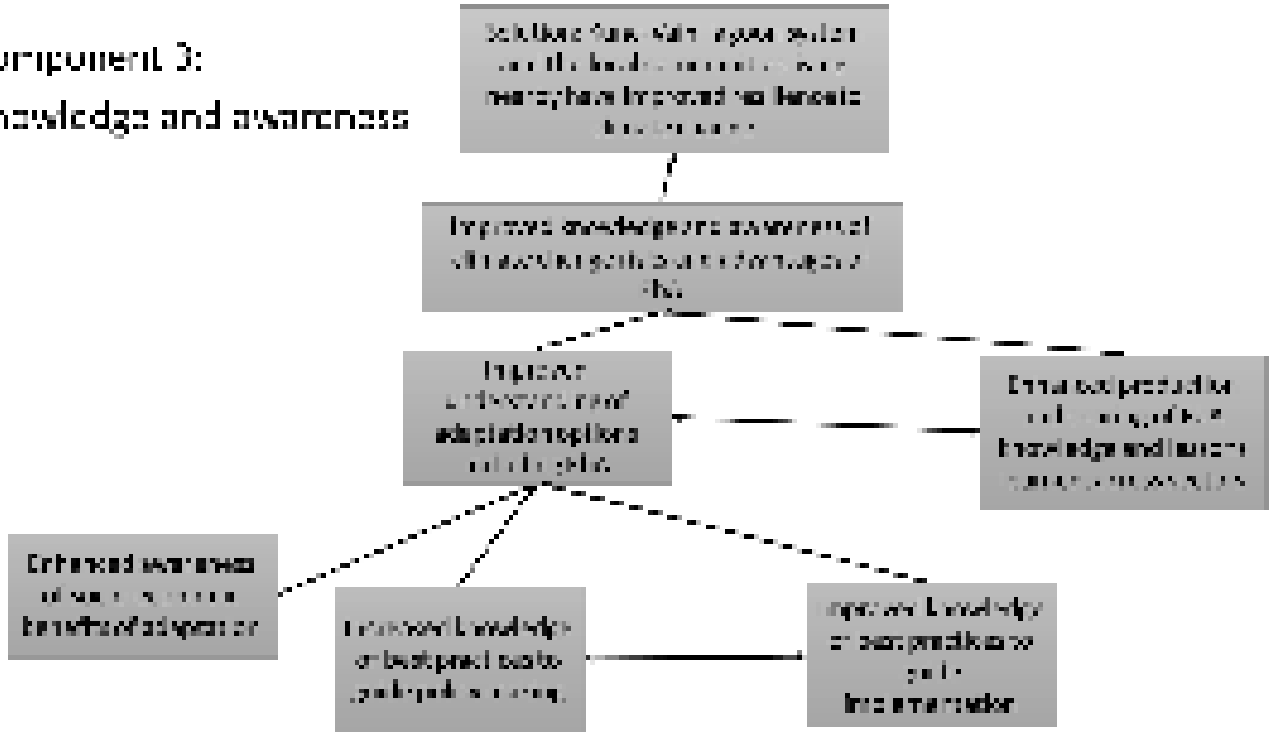

Component 2:
EbA demonstrations

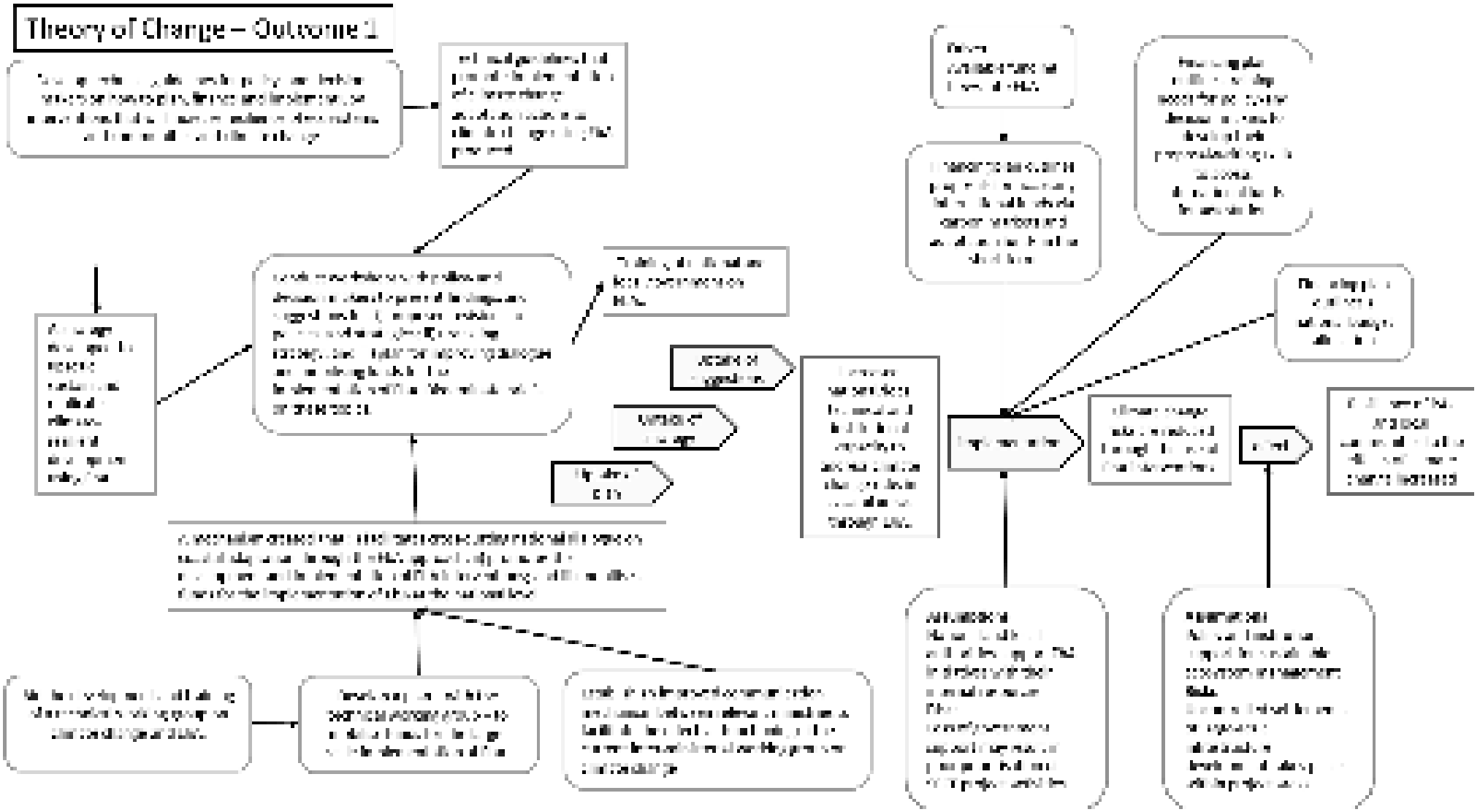

Component 2:
EbA demonstrations

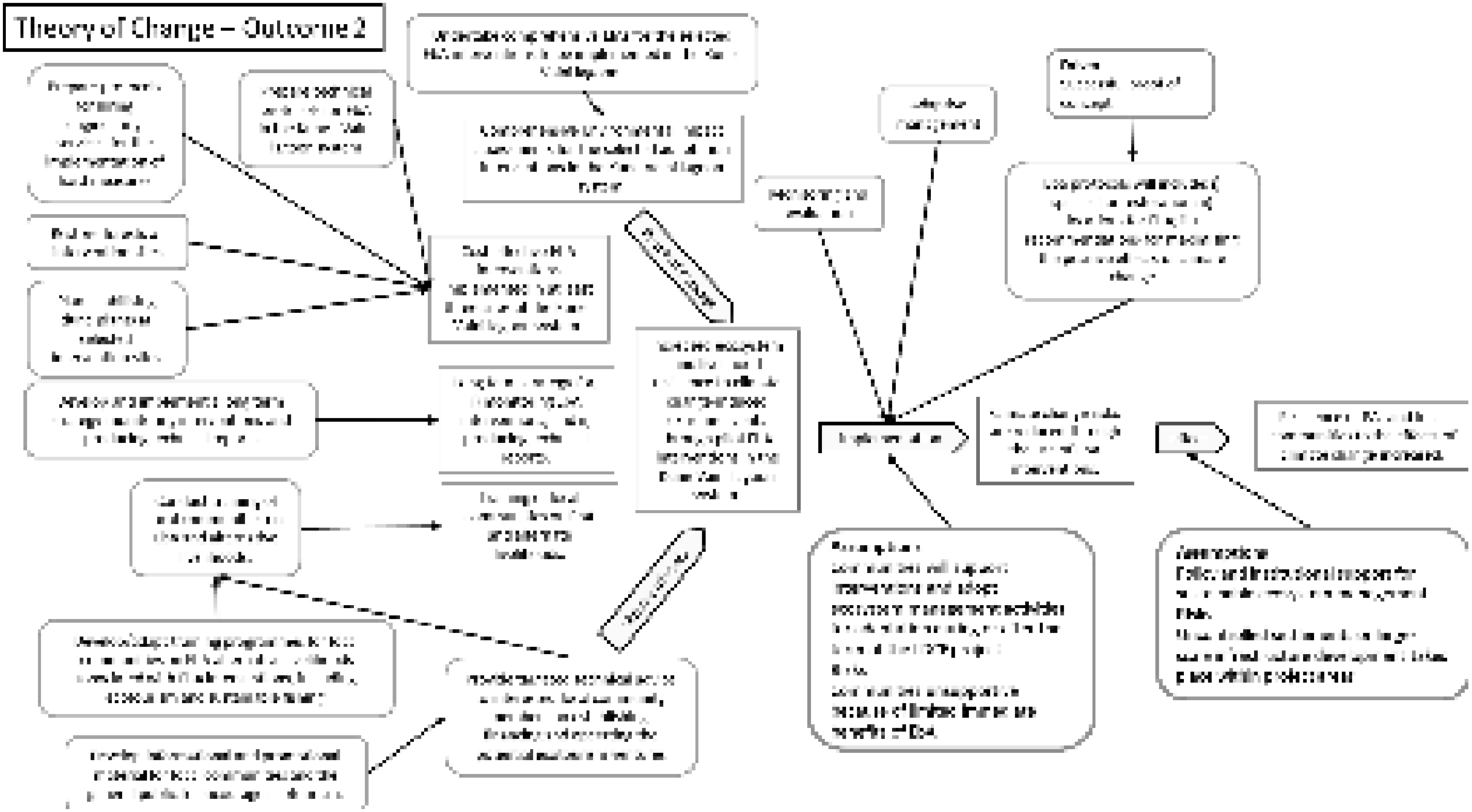
Component 3:
Knowledge and awareness

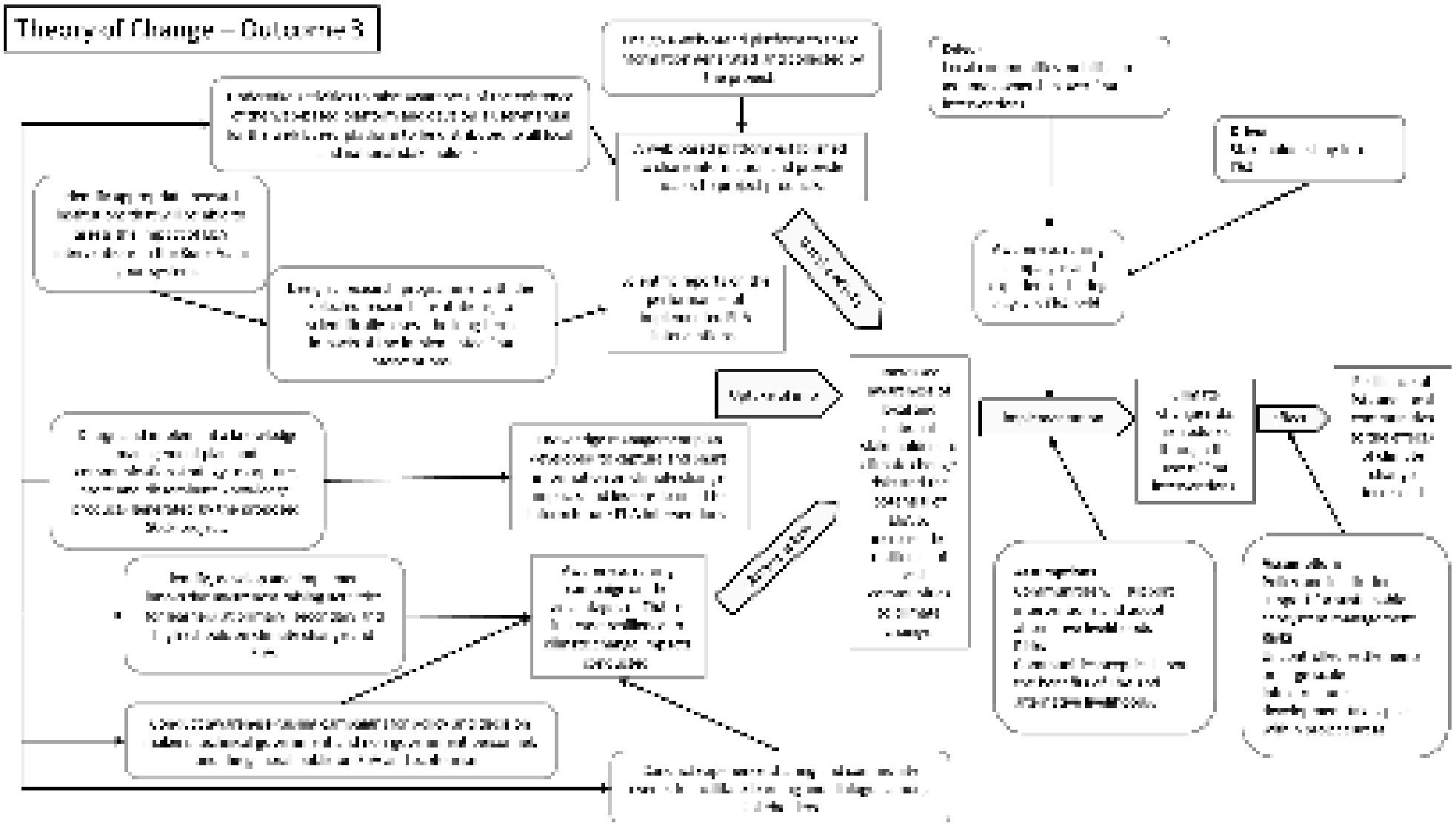


Component 3:
Knowledge and awareness




Theory of Change – Outcome 1


Theory of Change – Outcome 2


Theory of Change – Outcome 3

Appendix 17: UNEP comparative advantage

UNEP has experience in implementing approximately 80 projects on climate change adaptation at global, regional and national levels. These projects develop innovative solutions for national governments and local communities to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change in an environmentally sound manner. This is achieved by: i) providing methods and tools to support decision making; ii) addressing barriers to implementation; iii) testing and demonstrating proposed solutions; and iv) enhancing climate resilience by restoring valuable ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change. UNEP has accumulated an impressive body of knowledge and experience from its implementation of previous and on-going projects. The agency will draw upon this experience during the implementation of this SCCF-financed project. Furthermore, UNEP has been known for its strong technical and scientific background in the field of climate change. Finally, UNEP's experience in community-based projects and natural resource management is well recognised worldwide. As such, it is an appropriate agency for providing implementation support and capacity development for enhancing climate resilience within Albania.

UNEP's Flagship Programme, Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), represents a ground-breaking shift in focus in the realm of climate change adaptation. In 2011, this programme was commended at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (CoP17). It has also been endorsed by IUCN, the EC and GEF through the Operational Guidelines on "Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Adaptation" GEF/LDCF.SCCF.13/Inf.06 October 16, 2012. The EbA approach is multidisciplinary in nature. It involves managing ecosystems to enhance their resilience. In addition, it uses ecosystem services to promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. Furthermore, it provides a platform for engaging a broad range of stakeholders and sectors in the adaptation process. The adaptation interventions proposed in this SCCF-financed project are well within the scope of UNEP's current work on climate change.

The GEF Council paper (C.31/15) outlines the comparative advantages of UNEP. These include providing GEF with the best available science and knowledge upon which to base investments, provision of expertise on environmental and climate change matters. UNEP also has considerable experience in the piloting of successful innovative approaches and the implementation of adaptive learning. The proposed SCCF-financed project builds upon this comparative advantage. In addition, GEF Council paper (C.28/18) mentions UNEP's comparative advantage of "developing and using climate information to effect changes in relevant sectoral policies based on climate science" which is an area that is addressed by the SCCF-financed project.

UNEP has undertaken many projects where innovative solutions and methodologies are demonstrated at inter-regional, national and local levels. All such projects comply with the mandate from the UNEP Governing Council, as detailed in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

The SCCF-financed project is consistent with UNEP's other work in the water sector. This work is mandated by the UNEP Governing Council and is based on the UNEP Water Policy and Strategy. It also builds on the achievements of the Environmentally-sound Management of Inland Waters Programme (EMINWA) and other programmes falling under the scope of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The majority of the infrastructure and restoration interventions will be linked to and benefit from the Green Economy paradigm led by UNEP. The project will also benefit from ongoing work within UNEP towards analysing and documenting the ecological foundation of food security. Additionally, the PROVIA programme of UNEP provides insight into the economic assessment of ecological services, EbA and tools for urban and coastal planning. Finally, the SCCF-financed project will also benefit from research and demonstration efforts undertaken within the

UNEP-led Integrated Marine & Coastal Environment and Resource Management project. This project provides tools for integrated sustainable management of coastal zones and marine protected areas.

UNEP is uniquely positioned to undertake this innovative environmental work. Importantly the adaptation interventions of this SCCF-financed project hinge around knowledge of a wide range of ecosystems. Other parts of the SCCF-financed project such as enhancing water supplies, increasing agricultural productivity and developing alternative community livelihoods are attached to the central theme of managing ecosystems appropriately. UNEP's core business is providing technical advice on managing environments in a sustainable manner and thus has a significant comparative advantage in implementing the SCCF-financed project. The technical and scientific knowledge that UNEP brings to the SCCF-financed project will be fundamental for its success. In particular, ecological science will need to drive Outcome 2's demonstration activities to ensure that the information generated is based on rigorous evidence. UNEP's experience in revising policy will be important for translating the information generated into appropriate policy, strategy and legislative documents.

UNEP has a long standing engagement with many East European countries in helping them to address climate change impacts. The first study on the climate change impacts on the Albanian coast was undertaken in 1996 with support from UNEP in the frame of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan and MedPartnership initiative. UNEP has a good and long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Albania built through the implementation of other projects including on climate change such as the project on Article 6 of the UNFCCC which set the foundations for the communication strategy on climate change. Previous and on-going experience with this Executing Agency demonstrates its strong capacity to implement this type of project. The project will capitalise upon the existing human capacity dealing with climate change issues as well as nature protection within the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests Administration of Albania and its relevant programmes and projects. The implementation supervision role will be exercised directly from UNEP HQ office in Nairobi with ad-hoc support through UNEP MAP office based in Athens as well as UNEP regional office for Europe in Geneva.

Appendix 18: Links between baseline projects and the proposed project

Baseline projects Goals and activities	Climate change hazards affecting the baseline projects	Impacts to the baseline projects and targeted populations as a result of climate change	Targeted ecosystem services of the SCCF-financed project	Alternative scenario including complementary activities of the SCCF-financed project	Expected SCCF-financed project benefits
Project targeted vulnerable sites and communities: **Ecosystems within the KVLS and local communities living nearby that experience the adverse effects of flooding and reduced ecosystem functioning as a result of increased temperatures and decreased precipitation, beach dune erosion and limited movement of water between lagoons and the sea.**					
Water Resources and Irrigation (WRI) Project • Establish a strategic framework to manage water resources at the national level and in the Drini-Buna and Semani river basins, and • Improve performance of irrigation systems in the project area through: ○ dam, irrigation and drainage systems rehabilitation; ○ institutional	Increased temperatures and reduced annual rainfall leading to a reduction in amount of water available for irrigation which will reduce the ability of the WRI project to improve irrigation. SLR leading to increased beach dune erosion resulting in a reduction of physical barriers to storm surges and coastal flooding.	Climate change is expected to: Reduce the effectiveness of the rehabilitation measures used to rehabilitate dams, irrigation and drainage systems in the project area through removing physical barriers to storm surges and coastal flooding. Increased incidences of storm surges and flooding will destroy irrigation and drainage systems. Reduced water availability will reduce the ability of the WRI project to improve irrigation systems. Compromise **t**he	• Barrier to coastal flooding and storm surges • Infiltration of water into topsoils[74]. • Improved ecosystem functioning in the KVLS.	SCCF resources will be used to build resilience of this baseline project through: • Improving ecosystem functioning of the KVLS to increase the capacity of the KVLS to act as a buffer to storm surges and coastal flooding as a result of climate change thereby protecting irrigation and drainage infrastructure in the area near the KVLS. • Increasing the resilience of local communities.	• Improved ecosystem functioning in the KVLS. This will result in improved physical barriers to storm surge and coastal flooding. • Improved tidal exchange between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea. This will result in increased water movement between the Adriatic Sea and the KVLS improving the capacity of the KVLS to assist in drainage.

[74] The infiltration of water into soils also reduces soil erosion resulting in less siltation in rivers.

support for irrigation and drainage; and ○ institutional support for Integrated Water Resources Management.		livelihoods of local communities[73] because of their: • Reliance on natural buffers and drainage systems to protect them from coastal surges and flooding.		• Building technical capacity to plan and implement ecosystem restoration[75]. • Strengthening policies and strategies that promote ecosystem restoration. • Increasing adaptation awareness[76].	
EcoSea project • Development of fish resources and biodiversity to improve the general condition of the marine environment through: i. promoting the protection and enhancement of the coastal environment; ii. implementing an innovative approach to coordinated management of fishery activities at the	Increased temperatures and reduced annual rainfall leading to a reduction in water quality in the KVLS which in turn results in reduced fisheries production of the lagoon. SLR leading to increased beach dune erosion resulting in a reduction of physical barriers to storm surges and coastal flooding.	Climate change is expected to: Reduce KVLS productivity as a result of: • Reduced water quality. Reduce fisheries production as a result of: • Reduced water quality. • Reduced productivity of the KVLS Compromise livelihoods of local communities because of their: • Reliance on fisheries in the KVLS.	• Fisheries production in the KVLS.	SCCCF resources will be used to build resilience of this baseline project through: • The restoration of ecosystems within the KVLS including lagoons, forests and beach dunes using indigenous, climate-resilient species to improve the functioning and productivity of the KVLS, thereby improving fisheries in the KVLS and as such increasing the resilience of local communities.	• Improved communication between the Ceka lagoon and the Adriatic Sea. This will result in improved water quality in the KVLS which in turn will result in improved productivity in the KVLS. • Increased fisheries productivity. This will result in improved availability of economically important fish species in the KVLS. • Increased pioneer dune plant cover leading to enhanced dune stabilisation and reduced beach dune erosion. This

[73] In the area near the KVLS in the Lezha region.
[75] This capacity will be developed in government departments, academic institutions and NGOs.
[76] increasing awareness of the adaptation benefits of restoring natural capital among the public, policy makers and decision makers

institutional/policy level; and iii. increasing the marine biodiversity through in-field pilot actions.				• Building technical and institutional capacity to plan and implement lagoon restoration[77]. • Strengthening policies and strategies that promote EbA. • Increasing adaptation awareness[78].	will result in reduced salt water intrusion into the KVLS resulting in improved water quality in the KVLS. This will also result in a reduction in intensity of storm surges and coastal flooding.
UNEP 'Building Capacity for Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)' • Develop global guidance and decision making tools for the implementation of EbA in coastal regions. • Develop and apply ecosystem-based adaptation approaches to maintain and enhance the resilience of coastal ecosystems and the services	Increased temperatures, reduced annual rainfall and increased extreme weather events lead to a loss in the environmental integrity of the KVLS, negatively impacting on the surrounding local communities.	Climate change is expected to: Reduce KVLS productivity as a result of: • Reduced water quality. Reduce fisheries production as a result of: • Reduced water quality. Reduced productivity of the KVLS. Compromise livelihoods of local communities.	• Improved ecosystem functioning in the KVLS.	SCCCF resources will be used to align with this baseline project by: • building on the elements of the ecosystem management tools, as well as the technical guidance developed to assist decision-making. • Form part of the global transfer of good practices and experiences gained on EbA, particularly where coastal management is concerned.	• Improved ecosystem functioning in the KVLS. This will result in improved physical barriers to storm surge and coastal flooding. • Improved technical capacity of government and local communities will enable them to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. • Improved knowledge of EbA.

[77] This capacity will be developed in government departments, academic institutions, and NGOs.
[78] increasing awareness of the adaptation benefits of restoring natural capital among the public, policy makers and decision makers

they provide to coastal communities in SIDS					

Appendix 19: Inception workshop report for PPG phase

Republic of Albania

Ministry of Environment

PPG Phase
Inception Workshop Report
Held in Tirana, Albania on 6 May 2014

Prepared by:
Nicholas Tye and Adam Ludford
Representing Anthony Mills
C4 EcoSolutions, Cape Town, South Africa

Table 6. Proposed adaptation interventions

Proposed adaptation intervention	Intervention	Location	Objective of intervention	Indicative cost (EUR)
AI1) Management of freshwater in the Kune-Vaini and Patok protected areas	New wells drilled at various sites in the Kune-Vaini and Patok lagoons	Kune Island Zaje lagoon Patok lagoon	Improve water and habitat quality in the Kune-Vaini and Patok protected areas through opening new artesian wells in the area.	60,000
AI2) Management of forest ecosystems in coastal areas	Reforestation of pilot sites	Ceka lagoon and Alk village	Restore pilot degraded forest areas in DMRD area	93,000
AI3) Management of Ceka lagoon tidal channel	Construction of terminal groynes Ceka lagoon tidal inlet cut and old inlet filled Maintenance dredging of Ceka lagoon inlet	Ceka lagoon	Improve water quality and habitat functioning of the Ceka Lagoon.	600,000
AI4) Management of communicating channels in Kune Island	Rehabilitation of channels connecting the water bodies within the Kune lagoon Construction of terminal groynes	Kune Island Merxhani communication channel (Kune spit)	Improve sea-lagoon water exchange in the Kune	230,000
AI5) Maintenance of the communication between Ceka and Zaje lagoons and Ceka lagoon and the Drini river	Moving gate at Zaje lagoon inlet Breaching the Zaje – Ceka lagoon embankment Construct a bridge over the Zaje – Ceka breach zone	Zaje – Ceka lagoon inlet and embankment	Improve water and habitat quality by restoring natural water flow patterns and to increase the adaptive capacity of the Kune-Vaini Lagoon to climate change.	700,000
AI6) Maintenance of the embankments in Kune-Vaini and Ishull Shëngjin area	Raise level/maintenance of the embankment	Shëngjin Island embankment Kune/Merxhani Lagoon embankment	Protect adjacent agricultural land and populated areas in the Kune-Vaini and Ishull Shëngjin region from extreme weather events, including climate change-induced flooding and storm surges.	124,000

AI7) Maintenance of the embankment in the Tale area Raise level/maintenance of the embankment	Raise level/maintenance of the embankment	Tale PA border	Protect adjacent agricultural land and populated areas in the Tale region from extreme weather events, including flooding and storm surges, which are being exasperated by climate change.	85,000
AI8) Maintenance of the drainage channels in the DMRD area	Cleaning and deepening of irrigation channels	Shëngjin Island Shënkoll	Improve the removal of excess water, through cleaning and deepening the drainage channel system in the Shëngjin Island and Shënkoll areas, to protect local communities from climate change induced flooding.	60,000

Table 7. Proposed Adaptation Intervention (AI) Selection Criteria and MCA matrix

Criteria	Weight	Sub-criteria	Adaptation Intervention Options (1-8)							
			AI 1	**AI 2**	**AI 3**	**AI 4**	**AI 5**	**AI 6**	**AI 7**	**AI 8**
Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)	2	Represents an EbA approach	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1
		Increases potential for income generation/diversifies livelihoods	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cost	1	Cost-effectiveness	3	3	1	2	3	3	2	3
		Cost does not preclude the implementation of other interventions	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	2
Biodiversity, & Ecosystem goods/services	2	Conserves and strengthens biological diversity	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2
		Promotes ecosystem good and services	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
Awareness & Information	3	Increases climate change awareness through community involvement	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
		Facilitates access to information about climate change and the uncertainty of future conditions	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	2
Economic	3	Does not generate influence, power and natural resource management inequities, which could be the source of social conflicts that obstruct the development of productive activities	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	3
		Safeguards lives and property	3	1	3	2	3	3	2	3
Cultural context	3	Understandable and easily applied by communities in their current context	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	3

		Contributes to social development goals such as gender equity and health	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	3
Implementation Capacity	2	Ease of implementation	2	3	2	1	2	3	3	3
		Degree of specialist knowledge/equipment required	2	3	3	3	3	1	1	2
Sustainability	1	Flexibility in the face of climate change	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2
		Can be scaled-up for wider implementation	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	2
Total			12	12	12.67	11	12.67	11	11.67	12.33
Ranking before weighting			**4**	**5**	**1**	**7**	**2**	**8**	**6**	**3**
Total after weighting			16.53	16.67	17.33	14.67	17.17	14.57	15.83	16.3
Ranking after applying weighting			**4**	**3**	**1**	**7**	**2**	**8**	**6**	**5**