



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10928

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Coastal Development and Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development

Countries

Albania

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Tourism and Environment

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Climate Change, Focal Areas, Climate Change Mitigation, Energy Efficiency, Biodiversity, Biomes, Lakes, Wetlands, Temperate Forests, Rivers, Sea Grasses, Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable

Development, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Certification - International Standards, Certification -National Standards, Tourism, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Large corporations, Capital providers, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

1/18/2023

Expected Implementation Start

8/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

7/31/2027

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

93,755.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	Mainstreaming biodiversity across priority sectors	GET	986,900.00	9,500,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			986,900.00	9,500,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To position the development of the tourism industry in Albania as a positive influence on the status of biodiversity in coastal Key Biodiversity Areas, and as pillar of sustainable livelihoods, through mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism planning and development

Project Component	Financi ng Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirme d Co- Financing (\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 1: Enabling framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into coastal tourism development (planning, implementation mechanisms, data)	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1. Strengthened and harmonized policies and standards to mainstream biodiversity conservation into tourism, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 2 new or amended laws, policies, regulations approved for environmental protection and sustainable green and blue growth incorporating gender equity considerations and sex-disaggregated data (<i>links to UNDP CPD Outcome Indicators</i>) - Increased capacity for management, monitoring, 	<p>Output 1.1 National policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support development of biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism development adopted and implemented</p> <p>Output 1.2 Municipal spatial plans incorporating biodiversity considerations in tourism development for 3 Key Biodiversity Areas</p> <p>Output 1.3 Multi-stakeholder and participatory management and implementation mechanisms</p>	GE T	298,467.00	2,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>and oversight of sustainable tourism development: i. Four municipal spatial plans updated to incorporate biodiversity considerations;</p> <p>ii. Multi-stakeholder working groups on sustainable tourism development and management in four municipalities meet at least quarterly, with participation from municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society;</p> <p>iii. Relevant stakeholder staff have improved skills and knowledge related to biodiversity</p>	<p>established and functioning</p> <p>Output 1.4 Technical capacity development program for monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development; ecological monitoring systems in place</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>friendly tourism development;</p> <p>iv. Annual data on tourism in KBAs collected and shared amongst relevant stakeholders (municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society)</p> <p>- 300 direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 2: Catalyzing biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism	Investment	<p>Outcome 2. More sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism across more than 161,838 ha of ecologically important coastal landscapes, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 67,443 ha of protected areas under improved management; - 94,395 ha of critical coastal ecosystems under improved management to benefit biodiversity ; - Extent of development and implementation of innovative mechanisms to incentivize 	<p>Output 2.1 Coastal tourism public-private cooperation for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>Output 2.2 Biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems</p> <p>Output 2.3 Biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences developed with local communities to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and generate livelihood benefits</p>	GE T	362,997.00	5,970,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>sustainable tourism development: i. 4 hotels entering eco-certification processes;</p> <p>ii. 4 restaurants entering eco-certification processes;</p> <p>iii. 4 PAs with improved sustainable tourism infrastructure;</p> <p>iv. 2 municipalities with expanded agritourism offerings;</p> <p>v. 2 municipalities with local eco-product branding</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3: Knowledge management and catalyzing results	Technical Assistance	<p data-bbox="618 415 751 1020">Outcome 3. Upscaling and replication of sustainable, biodiversity-friendly tourism across Albania is supported by raised awareness and knowledge management, as indicated by:</p> <ul data-bbox="618 1056 751 1803" style="list-style-type: none"> - A 20% increase in attitudes and awareness of tourism industry, communities, and tourists (domestic and international regarding the importance of biodiversity to tourism, measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and 	<p data-bbox="849 415 982 1079">Output 3.1 Targeted outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism delivered to tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists</p> <p data-bbox="849 1115 985 1629">Output 3.2 Knowledge exchange system established to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of good practices across Albania</p>	GE T	178,518.00	500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		<p>Practices) survey</p> <p>- at least 5 best practices and lessons learned developed, disseminated, and used, including gender mainstreaming and socio-cultural benefits of tourism</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 4: Project Monitoring & Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 4. Project implemented in an accountable and transparent manner, with results documented and available to public, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project results are well documented, and information about project results is disseminated through multiple online channels, and through stakeholder meetings - Project implementation and results are objectively evaluated in a useful and transparent manner - Evaluation findings are clearly communicated, with relevant recommendations formulated to be concise, specific, relevant, and time-bound, with responsibilities 	<p>Output 4.1 Project monitoring activities</p> <p>Output 4.2 Project evaluation activities</p>	GE T	57,200.00	100,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		clearly articulated				
				Sub Total (\$)	897,182.00	8,570,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET		89,718.00			930,000.00
			Sub Total(\$)	89,718.00		930,000.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	986,900.00		9,500,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNDP TRAC	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP TRAC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	9,200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agency for Protected Areas	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				9,500,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note on "Investment Mobilized": In case of GEF approval, UNDP will be prepared to invest grant financing to support the project. In case of project approval, the National Agency for Protected Areas (a government agency under the Ministry of Tourism and Environment) has agreed to coordinate with the project the development and implementation of sustainable tourism strategies and approaches. This is mainly in relation to Component 2, but the Ministry of Tourism and Environment is a key partner for the entire project, and investment mobilized from the Ministry will contribute to the achievement of outcomes for Components 1 and 3 as well.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Albania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	986,900	93,755	1,080,655.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					986,900.00	93,755.00	1,080,655.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

30,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

2,850

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Albania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	30,000	2,850	32,850.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					30,000.00	2,850.00	32,850.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
80,686.40	67,443.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
80,686.40	67,443.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Buna River - Velip oja Protected Landscape	332698	Protected Landscape/ Seascape		19,471.00			59.00		
Buna River - Velip oja Protected Landscape	332698	Protected Landscape/ Seascape	23,027.00						
Butrint National Park	900909	National Park	9,424.40						
Divjak? - Kara vasta National Park	4679	National Park		22,389.00			78.00		

Name of the Protected Area	WDA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Divjak-Karavasta National Park	4679	National Park	22,230.00						
Karaburun Nature Reserve	12446	Strict Nature Reserve		17,491.00			55.00		
Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve	11661	Strict Nature Reserve		3,110.00			55.00		
Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve	11661	Habitat/Species Management Area	4,393.00						

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Patok - Fushë Kuqe Reserve	11663	Strict Nature Reserve		4,982.00			55.00		
Patok - Fushë Kuqe Reserve	11663	Habitat/Species Management Area	2,200.00						
Vjosa - Narta Protected Landscape	196506	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	19,412.00						

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
83600.00	94395.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
83,600.00	94,395.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	805529	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		800,049		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2023		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		5,480		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2023		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	17,500	150		
Male	17,500	150		
Total	35000	300	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

* Area of PAs in scope of project that are likely to have management effectiveness co-benefits from biodiversity tourism mainstreaming: Karaburun Nature Reserve: 17,491 ha; Divjak?-Karavasta National Park: 22,389 ha; Patok-Fushe Kuqe Reserve: 4,982 ha; Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve: 3,110 ha; Buna River-Velipoje Protected Landscape: 19,471 ha.

** Area of KBAs not covered by PAs: Narta lagoon - 6,056.65; Vlor? bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain (including Orikum lagoon) - 48,357.99; Karavasta lagoon - 2,740.16; Patoku lagoon - 158.01; Drini delta - 91.78; Vilun marsh - 36,990.34. *** Core indicator 1 + Core indicator 2: 67,443 + 94,395 = 161,838. **** Based on the EX-ACT tool, potential land use change mitigation benefits total 800,049 tCO₂eq. Another GHG mitigation co-benefit could come from the project?s work with at least 4 hotels to achieve eco-certification. ?Green? hotels of the average size of coastal-zone hotels in Albania could save approximately 68,500 kg of GHG per year (Source: Viva, 2012), and therefore the 20 year savings of 4 such hotels would be approximately 5,480 tCO₂eq. ***** Through a detailed assessment of project activities it has been determined that there will be approximately 100 beneficiaries per each of the three project technical components that meet the GEF definition of direct beneficiaries: ?the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.? Therefore the total estimated number of beneficiaries is 300, of which it is anticipated that 50% will be women.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

The project design is closely aligned to the original PIF, and the structure of the project components closely resembles the PIF approved by the GEF. A description of the project components is provided in Section III, sub-section on "Expected Results" of the GEF-UNDP Prodoc (pp. 20-24). One notable change is that the PIF Component 3 on Knowledge management and M&E has been split into two components, to isolate the M&E activities, as required. This has resulted in a project structure with four components instead of the three components in the approved PIF document. Some changes were made to the project's outputs, which do not represent a departure from the project's strategy as defined in the PIF, nor will they have an impact on the funds originally budgeted. These changes are described as follows:

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 1.1. National policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support development of biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism development adopted and implemented	Output 1.1. National policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support development of biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism development adopted and implemented	No changes.
Output 1.2. Municipal spatial plans incorporating biodiversity considerations in tourism development for 3 Key Biodiversity Areas	Output 1.2. Municipal spatial plans incorporating biodiversity considerations in tourism development for 4 Key Biodiversity Areas	The number of municipalities that the project will work with in relation to spatial plans under this output was increased from 3 to 4, based on consultations and stakeholder discussions held during the PPG phase. At the PIF stage the targeted municipalities for this activity were Vlorë, Divjak, and one additional municipality to be determined during the PPG phase. During the PPG phase, Lezhë and Shkodër have been added.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 1.3. Multi-stakeholder and participatory management and implementation mechanisms established and functioning	Output 1.3. Multi-stakeholder and participatory management and implementation mechanisms established and functioning	No changes.
Output 1.4. Technical capacity development program for monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development; ecological monitoring systems in place	Output 1.4 Technical capacity development program for monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development; ecological monitoring systems in place	No changes.
Output 2.1. Coastal tourism public-private partnerships for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity	Output 2.1. Coastal tourism public-private cooperation for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity	No substantive changes. Wording slightly revised from ??partnerships?? to ??cooperation??, to reduce the chance of any misperception that ?formal? or financial partnerships were being referenced. The project will cooperate with and ?partner? with the private sector, but it is not anticipated that formal MoUs or other such formal arrangements will be necessary or will be put in place.
Output 2.2. Biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems	Output 2.2. Biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems	No changes.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 2.3. Biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences developed with local communities to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and generate livelihood benefits	Output 2.3. Biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences developed with local communities to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and generate livelihood benefits	No changes.
Output 3.1. Targeted outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism delivered to tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists	Output 3.1 Targeted outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism delivered to tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists	No changes.
Output 3.2. Knowledge exchange system established to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of best practices across Albania	Output 3.2 Knowledge exchange system established to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of good practices across Albania	No substantive changes. Wording slightly revised from "best practices" to "good practices" to reflect that all "good practices" must be considered as relevant and appropriate within local contexts, and there is not necessarily a single "best practice" approach to doing things.

PIF Output	Prodoc Output	Explanation for changes
Output 3.3. M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards developed and implemented for adaptive project management	None ? split into stand-alone component (below).	Project monitoring and evaluation activities shifted to stand-alone component. Required by UNDP project development procedures.
<i>No component 4</i>	Output 4.1. Project monitoring activities	Shifted from PIF Output 3.3, as required, to separate M&E activities into stand-alone component.
<i>No component 4</i>	Output 4.2. Project evaluation activities	

Changes to the end targets of the GEF-7 Core Indicators:

The project design and structure was not changed, though one of the six KBAs targeted was switched (from Lake Butrint KBA to the Vlor? bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain (including Orikum lagoon) KBA); see Table 1 of the Prodoc (p. 7). In addition, cartographic GIS analysis of the KBAs and associated PAs was carried out during the PPG, resulting in updated and accurate figures for the total area of the KBAs, the total area of the PAs, and the total area of KBAs covered by PAs. As such, the figures for the Core Indicators table have been revised since the PIF stage, as further outlined in the Core Indicators Table (see Annex 13 of the Prodoc, and Annex 7 of this CEO Endorsement Request).

Core indicator 1, terrestrial protected areas under improved management, has been reduced from 80,686.4 ha to 67,443 ha, a reduction of 13,243.4 ha or 16%. This was due to the exclusion of the Butrint National Park (9,424 ha) and Vjose-Narta Protected Landscape (19,412 ha), and the inclusion of Karaburun Nature Reserve (17,491 ha). In addition, the area of some of the other PAs was slightly corrected.

Core indicator 4, area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) has been increased from 83,600 ha to 94,395 ha, an increase of 10,795 ha, or 13%. This is due to multiple factors, but primarily due to i.) exclusion of the Butrint KBA, and the inclusion of the Vlor? bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain KBA; ii.) A change in methodology in the way in which the area outside of KBAs to be addressed under the project has been calculated; and iii.) application of GIS analysis to more accurately calculate the area of the KBAs not covered by PAs.

As a result of the two core indicator changes above, the total area of landscape under improved management changed from 164,286 ha to 161,838 ha, a reduction of 2,448 ha. This is a change of approximately 1.5%.

Core indicator 6, greenhouse gas emissions, has been excluded. This is due to the fact that the project is not expected to have any direct measurable reductions in GHG emissions, as the project does not include specific climate change mitigation activities. There may be some climate change mitigation co-benefits from the project, but these cannot be foreseen at this stage and there is no feasible way to predict or measure them.

Core indicator 11, number of direct beneficiaries, has been reduced from 35,000 to 300. This is a large reduction, however, it is due to a strict application of the GEF's definition of direct project beneficiaries, not a result of any change in the project strategy or design. At the PIF stage the number of beneficiaries was calculated based on assumptions related to the number of people working in the tourism sector in Albania's coastal zones, with the assumption that a percentage of these people would directly benefit from the project's intervention. However, it is not anticipated that this larger number of people will be directly involved in the project's activities, even if it is still estimated that this number of people will benefit from the project. During the PPG a revised estimate was made by conservatively calculating the number of direct beneficiaries expected to be involved in each specific project activity. Therefore, based on the stricter GEF definition of direct beneficiaries, the number of beneficiaries has been estimated at 300, with 50% women. The current figure is reflective of a highly conservative estimate of strictly direct project beneficiaries that are involved in project activities and aware that they are benefiting from the project. A tally of actual beneficiaries will be kept during project implementation.

Revisions to budget allocations across the project components:

The budget per component has been revised per the below table. The changes are primarily due to the fact that the project was not fully designed at the PIF stage, and through the PPG stage the project activities were refined and updated to fully align with the project Theory of Change and the priorities of key partners and stakeholders. At the PIF stage a specific project activity costing exercise had not been completed, so component budgets at the PIF stage were only early estimates.

Component	PIF Budget	Current Budget	Explanation
Component 1	\$178,191	\$298,467	Activities refined and updated during PPG stage, with specific costing of project activities.
Component 2	\$618,991	\$362,997	Activities refined and updated during PPG stage, with specific costing of project activities.
Component 3	\$100,000	\$178,518	Activities refined and updated during PPG stage, with specific costing of project activities.
Component 4	\$0	\$57,200	In the current project framework the M&E activities have been split out from activities previously under Component 3, as per UNDP requirements.

Project Management Costs	\$89,718	\$89,718	No change.
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Co-financing Contributions:

Planned total co-financing has risen slightly, from \$9,300,000 at the PIF stage to \$9,500,000. This is due to higher than expected parallel co-financing from the UNDP Albania Country Office, based on the Country Office’s current portfolio of work (which has changed since the PIF stage). Some of the co-financing organizations have changed, and the amounts of in-kind co-financing have changed. Please refer to the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page, and please also see the previous Table C in this CEO Endorsement Request. Co-financing contributions from local governments and CSOs are expected during implementation.

1a. Project Description. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

There have been no substantial changes in terms of the global environmental problems identified since the PIF was designed and approved, although they have been provided for in more detail on the Prodoc. Please see Prodoc Section I, pp. 6-10, for the analysis of Threats, Root Causes, and Key Barriers; and the Theory of Change (Section II, pp.12-14).

Description of the Target Landscape

The geographic focus of the proposed project is Albania’s coastal zone, and specifically the areas around Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) along the coastal landscape. The Albanian coastline has a total length of about 380 km (excluding the internal shore of coastal lagoons), with about 284 km stretching along the Adriatic Sea and the remaining 96 km facing the Ionian Sea. In the coastal area of Albania there are wetlands such as Karavasta, Narta, Patoku, Vilun, Kune-Vain, Orikum, and others. Historically Albania has lost 250,000 ha of wetlands; most of this was in the mid-20th century due to agricultural reasons, but current trends prioritize tourism and accompanying infrastructure development. Despite the massive land reclamation for agricultural purposes, about 109 km² of coastal wetlands or lagoons still exists, especially along the Adriatic coast. They are formed of Quaternary deposits, mainly of alluvial origin. The lagoons and their wetlands act as shelter and reproduction sites for a wide range of aquatic organisms of ecological interest, like fish or water birds. Coastal lagoons are important areas for wintering migratory birds, and there are annually around 70 waterfowl and water bird species with a total population of 180,000 individuals in Albania during the winter. Albania is also an important crossroad for the migration of birds, bats, and insects. There are some 91 globally

threatened species found in Albania. These include the coastal species of the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), pygmy cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*), and the sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) for which Albania is a country of particularly critical importance. Aquatic biota contain more than 310 species of fish, six of them endemic, about 520 species of mollusks with 54 endemic, 15 amphibians and 37 reptiles. Along the coast and its wetlands, 46 echinoderms and 115 crustaceans have been determined. Furthermore, about 136 species of macroscopic algae and 440 diatoms, about 70% found on rocky substrates at the Ionian riviera, have been counted. Marine grasses, *Posidonia oceanica* and *Cymodocea nodosa* inhabit the sandy substrate along the Adriatic coast, forming large submerged pastures. The lagoons are also significant regions of tourism and recreation, and important centers of fishing. Albania's coast is included within the "Mediterranean" biodiversity hotspot.

Albania's coastal zone includes multiple KBAs, which harbor globally significant biodiversity in a wide variety of ecosystem types, including wetlands, shallow bays, beaches, coastal forests, and river deltas. The proposed project aims to encompass the six major coastal KBAs (see Table 1 below) along Albania's coast, covering 166,680 ha, with varying degrees of focus. Two of the sites – the Karavasta lagoon, and Vilun marsh-Buna river – are recognized internationally as Ramsar sites. Maps indicating the geographic scope of the project are included in Annex 3 of the Prodoc, and additional details about each site are included in Annex 16 of the Prodoc.

Karavasta lagoon represents the largest lagoon in Albania and is among the biggest of the Adriatic basin. It is 43 km² in size, has a mean depth of 0.7 m and a maximum depth of 1.3 m. It is formed by the activity of Shkumbini and Semani rivers. Divjak forest, a typical dune forest of 12 km², spreads in the northwest of the lagoon. It is bordered by brackish or freshwater, and pines (*Pinus halepensis* and *P. pinea*) grow up in old dunes, mixed with shrubs, grasses or reed near lagoon shores. Karavasta lagoon harbors globally threatened water birds, especially the Dalmatian pelican.

The Drini and Mati river deltas are two of the three deltas on the northern Adriatic coast of Albania, covering a coastal area of 140 km². River deltas are a distinct feature of the northern coastal region. The Drini and Mati river deltas harbor significant biodiversity and provide wintering grounds for the endangered pygmy cormorant and over 70 other species of waterfowl and water birds. The Drini delta is an internationally recognized Important Bird Area. The Patok lagoon, within the Mati delta, serves as an important feeding area for globally endangered loggerhead turtles. The Drini and Mati river deltas represent a complex and compound system of sandy belts, capes, bays, lagoons and island areas. They also harbor significant biodiversity values in the three types of habitats: marine, wetlands and non-wetland habitats, including forests, shrubs, and open fields where traditional agriculture is practiced.

Biodiversity is one of the most important assets of Lezhë region, in which Drini and Mati river deltas lies.

Narta lagoon (Vlorë) is situated at the southern Adriatic coast; it is 42 km² in size and has a depth of 0.3 to 1.0 m. It is formed under the regime of the Vjosa River. Water salinity varies from 28 x in winter to 75 x during summer. About 1/3 of the surface is exploited as saline since the beginning of the last century. The lagoon is separated from the sea by a narrow littoral belt of alluvium dunes. Other important lagoons on the Adriatic coast are Patoku (5 km², Laci), Oriku (1.5 km², Vlorë), and Vilun (1.6 km², Shkodra).

Table 1 Proposed Project Sites: Albania Coastal Key Biodiversity Areas^[1]

Site	Area (ha)	KBA Criteria	Municipality	Associated PA	PA Area (ha)	IUCN Category	Overlapping area KBA & PA	KBA Area Not covered by PA
Narta lagoon	19,758	A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i	Vlorë	Vjosa-Narta Protected Landscape	16,125	VI	13,701.35	6,056.65
Vlorë bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain (including Oriku lagoon)	65,790	B2	Vlorë	Karaburun Nature Reserve	17,491	IV	17,432.01	48,357.99
Karavasta lagoon*	19,224	A1, A4i, A4iii, B1i, B2	Divjakë	Divjakë-Karavasta National Park	22,389	II	16,483.84	2,740.16
Patoku lagoon	3,440	A1, A4i, B1i	Kurbin	Patok-Fushe Kuqe Reserve	4,982	IV	3,281.99	158.01
Drini delta	2,320	A1, A4i, B1i	Lezhë	Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve	3,110	IV	2,228.22	91.78
Vilun marsh, Buna river*	56,148	A1	Shkodër	Buna River-Velipoja Protected Landscape	19,471	V	19,157.66	36,990.34
Total	166,680				83,568		72,285.07	94,394.93

*Recognized internationally as Ramsar sites.

Threats, Root Causes, and Key Barriers

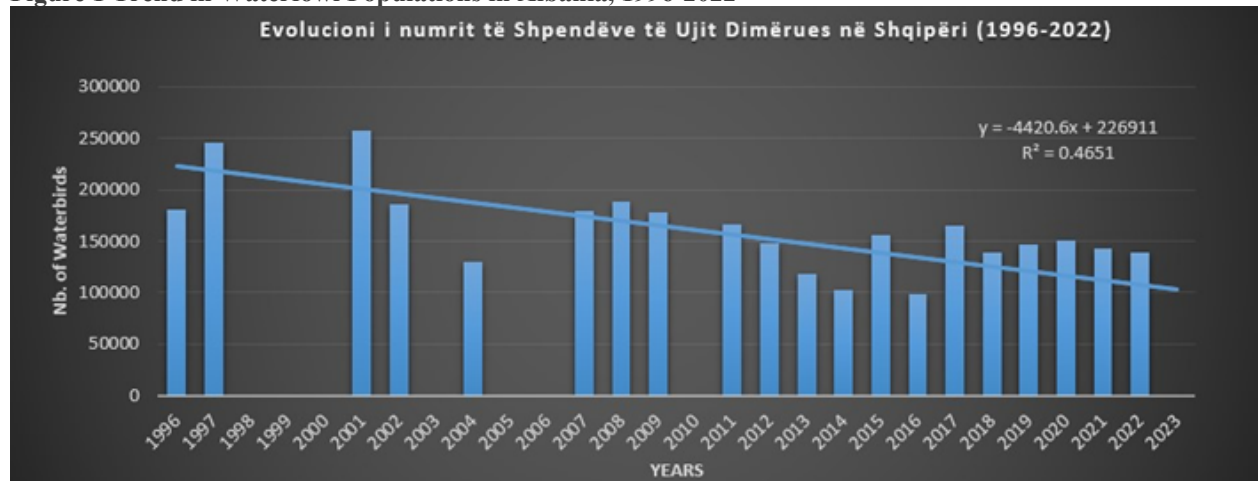
Key Threats

Albania's biodiversity is under threat due to unsuitable practices related to massive tourism developments. With the model of development based on quantity instead of quality, the foreseen growth of tourism in the region will continue to be detrimental for the landscape, and cause pressure on endangered species. In addition, the strain or overuse of available water resources, increasing amount of waste and discharge of pollution in the sea and coastal water bodies is a further threat to environmental resources, and especially species that depend on aquatic ecosystems. The fragmentation, reduction and loss of natural habitats have been a result of demographic developments and the urbanization process. Beginning in 1990, the country has been characterized by massive population shifts from the countryside to large and medium-sized urban centers such as Tirana, Durrës, Vlorë, Elbasan and Sarandë, and to undeveloped coastal areas. As a result, poor or non-existent water and sewerage systems, the clearance of land for infrastructure and a lack of overall spatial plans have caused pressures on ecosystems and species. Construction for tourism purposes has an adverse impact on the fragile coastal and marine resources in the country. From August 2017 to August 2018, according to the national statistical office, Albania hosted 2.1 million visitors - a 16.8% increase compared to the previous year. Unplanned growth will continue to have an adverse impact on these regions, and destroy the remaining functioning ecosystems and critical habitat areas.

The 2022 International Waterfowl Census in Albania was completed by one of the most distinguished NGOs in Albania for science and research, the Albanian Ornithology Society (AOS). The project sites were reconfirmed as the remaining sanctuaries of the most important breeding and nesting places for different migratory birds and other species. AOS, relying closely on science, research, advocacy, policies, as well as massive education and on the ground conservation, aims to prevent the extinction of bird species and to improve their conservation status in Albania, to preserve and enhance bird habitats, bird ecosystems and IBAs/KBAs in the country. Through very serious efforts and engagement they identify and provide practical, theoretical, institutional and legal alternatives for long-term solutions in the protection and enhancement of bird populations and their critical habitats, other biodiversity, and work closely with all stakeholders for the sustainable use of natural resources. Even though the numbers of water birds in Albania's wetlands have stabilized over the last years, data from the latest IWC show that the figure for 2022 is lower than the multiannual average of 1996-2022.

AOS unveiled the numbers of the waterfowl observed by over 120 specialists and experts in 33 wetlands in Albania on 15-16 January in line with the IWC. Some 138,495 waterfowl and a total of 61 species of waterfowl were observed. The graph represent the evolution of the waterfowl in Albania along the years (1996-2022).

Figure 1 Trend in Waterfowl Populations in Albania, 1996-2022



Source: *International Waterfowl Census, 2022*

The highest number of birds was registered at Shkodra lake (vicinity of Vilun marsh). Meanwhile, Divjak?-Karavasta National Park had the highest number of waterfowl species. The multiannual trend of IWC results shows that the number of birds is decreasing, compared to the multiannual average, which stands at about 160,000. The IWC for Albania indicates an overall negative trend in wintering water birds in Albania, which represents decreasing function of ecosystems over the last 20-25 years, which stresses the need for better management and conservation of wetland habitats. Nevertheless this kind of analysis still misses some additional analysis at site or species level, and in order to further interpret the data it is required to take in account all different factors, particularly human disturbance, etc. Although data on waterfowl and non-waterfowl occurrence are contributing to update and enrich further the biodiversity database (BioNNA), they do not reveal (and there is no research on) the linkages as to the main anthropogenic factors, such as the impact from the waste management and urban expansion of the adjacent areas.

Habitat destruction such as wetland drainage from urban expansion and tourism development: Perhaps the most significant threat to Albania's coastal biodiversity is the unplanned and unregulated development of infrastructure, especially tourism infrastructure, which tends to be located in or near the most sensitive ecological areas. Much of Albania's coastal zone remains undeveloped, but threats are increasing, and there is growing pressure for large scale intensive development for tourism along the coastal zone. In recent years in Albania tourism has significantly increased, especially in places like Ksamil and Saranda. Most of these tourists come for the sun and beaches in the summer. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel and tourism was among the most affected sectors in all countries around the world. These trends affected ecotourism in Albania too; visitation to national parks steadily increased from 2016-2019. The National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) data show an increase of visitor presence from around 1.5 million visitors in 2016 (1,563,648) to around 4.6 million in

2019 (4,654,430). In the 2020, the data shows that the number of visitors were reduced by 50 % compared to 2019, (2,559,977 visitors). Meanwhile, according to the latest data by NAPA, tourism recovered in 2021, reaching almost the level of 2019, while the data up to October of 2022 show that the number of visitors in Albanian PAs is passing the number of visitors in 2019, which was the best reference year before the pandemic. These figures are expected to continue to grow in the coming years. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) has indicated that Albania aims to attract 10 million tourists by 2025. The ambitions may have been tempered by the current global pandemic, but since the pandemic has been brought under control and international travel has again resumed, it is likely that tourism in Albania will return to rapid growth.

Disturbance (especially to birds) from unplanned and unregulated tourism: Going hand in hand with habitat loss from unregulated tourism infrastructure development is the increasing number of tourists, and their dispersed impacts on the environment. One of the key biodiversity assets in the coastal ecosystem of Albania are the populations of rare birds, such as the Dalmatian pelican and white-headed duck, among others. A critical threat to these bird populations are human disturbance at critical times or locations, such as nesting areas. Global research on tourism impacts on bird populations have documented a 46-78% decrease in bird populations compared to restricted sites. When birds are disturbed from their nest, or are displaced from important feeding grounds by human activity, they can abandon nests, leading to population declines over time. Immediate responses can range from behavioral changes including nest abandonment or change in food habits, physiological changes such as elevated heart rates due to flight, or even death. Human disturbance (one cause alone or many types acting synergistically) may reduce the overall carrying capacity of a given staging area for waterfowl and other water birds. Disturbances may affect an individual's energy balance, and in the long-term may affect an individual's productivity or survival. However, long-term effects of human disturbance is difficult and expensive to study. Researchers have described six categories of impacts to wildlife as a result of visitor activities. They are:

- 1) Direct mortality: immediate, on-site death of an animal;
- 2) Indirect mortality: eventual, premature death of an animal caused by an event or agent that predisposed the animal to death;
- 3) Lowered productivity: reduced fecundity rate, nesting success, or reduced survival rate of young before dispersal from nest or birth site;
- 4) Reduced use of refuge: wildlife not using the refuge as frequently or in the manner they normally would in the absence of visitor activity;
- 5) Reduced use of preferred habitat in the critical habitat: wildlife use is relegated to less suitable habitat in other areas due to visitor activity; and
- 6) Aberrant behavior/stress: wildlife demonstrating unusual behavior or signs of stress that are likely to result in reduced reproductive or survival rates.

The unplanned and unregulated presence of tourists in these critical ecosystems is a major source of human disturbance in Albania's coastal areas. Tourism disturbance on

bird populations (and other species) is particularly difficult to measure and monitor, and therefore data is lacking on this issue, but the presence of tourists and development of tourism infrastructure (in non-biodiversity sensitive ways) is one of the primary forms of anthropogenic disturbance in Albania's coastal ecosystems. When tourism facilities, such as walking paths, picnic areas, etc. are not planned, tourists tend to use coastal ecosystems in a random and dispersed manner, which can infringe on critical habitat zones. This also leads to issues of solid waste management, as there are not centralized collection facilities, such as clearly placed waste receptacles in tourism areas. In addition, there is poor enforcement of regulations that do exist to try to manage tourist's ecological impacts, due lack of trained enforcement personnel, and limited technical capacity.

Waste and pollution leading to water quality degradation: Water pollution comes from diverse sources along the coastal zone, and has many negative impacts on habitats and wildlife. Considering the disproportionately large role tourism plays in the economy in coastal areas, much of this negative impact is linked to tourism, and this is poised to worsen as the tourism industry continues to expand. Albania's coastal ecosystems are inherently 'downstream' from the full river watersheds, meaning that the full array of upstream pollution sources affect these sensitive coastal ecosystems. This includes point and non-point source pollution, and sources that originate near to the coastal zone, as well as far upstream. Although many habitats are highly polluted by inorganic and organic wastes, detailed data on water quality is still lacking. In the past, occasional monitoring found high levels of nitrites in the rivers Lana, Ishmi, Gjanica, Osumi, Semani, Shkumbini and Tirana, exceeding the European Union (EU) guide values for high quality fresh water, and in some cases, they exceed the guide values for surface waters.^[2] High levels of ammonium and nitrite indicate deteriorating water quality due to high organic loads. In 2010, the sewerage coverage of urban areas was 83 per cent and rural areas 11 per cent. In the Buna river delta, for example, there is no wastewater treatment plant, which makes pollution very high in the area (although there is no regular water quality monitoring to track the actual pollution levels). A water treatment plant is a key part of the Shkodra municipality Strategic Plan 2030, but so far construction has not started. The continued unregulated development of tourism infrastructure and facilities in the region will exacerbate this problem. In addition, the discharge of untreated wastewater to the ecosystem is a threat to the further development of the tourism sector, as this can present health risks to tourists, as well as reducing the attractiveness of tourist sites. In Albania, small and medium-sized enterprises normally discharge their wastewater into the urban sewerage system. Besides discharges of treated and untreated wastewater, there are other potential impacts of industries; for example, abandoned industrial sites can still be significant pollution hotspots in Albania. However, there are no official data on amounts of water used by this sector, nor for the quantity / quality of discharged wastewater. Urban solid wastes are dumped in uncontrolled and unlined areas, often located close to rivers, lakes

or seashore. The leaching wastewater from disposal sites is a major source of pollution. In rural areas, waste is not collected at all and dispersed dumping is uncontrolled.

Climate change: Impacts of climate change are projected in changes in temperature, precipitation and sea level rise. These significant changes will tip critical ecosystems out of balance, creating instability and extreme events that are likely to negatively affect biodiversity. Important biological processes, such as bird nesting routines and sites, depend on well-regulated ecosystems. All scenarios for the Vjosa river basin suggest that the area is likely to become warmer. The climate change scenarios project lower maximum temperature increases in winter and spring compared to summer and fall. In summer, projections of the mean temperature changes are likely to reach up to 1.5°C by 2050. Referring to these projections, the Vjosa basin is likely to experience average maximum temperatures higher than 25°C by the summer of 2050, and average maximum temperatures up to 30°C will dominate in all parts of this zone by 2100. The main conclusion is that the average minimum temperatures and their variation limits are likely to increase. The expected changes in winter are increases of 1.0°C by 2100. The projected increase in maximum and minimum temperatures is expected to have as consequence the increase in number of warm days ($T_{max} > 35^{\circ}C$) and decrease the number of cold days ($T_{min} < 0^{\circ}C$). The analysis of the precipitation projections according to different greenhouse gas concentration trajectories shows that all scenarios project a negative slight trend for all seasons and time horizons. One scenario projects the highest percentage decreases in precipitation. The annual and summer values are likely to reach up to -7.7% (-45.7% to +29.8%) and -16.0% (-48% to +14.5%) respectively by 2050. Another mitigation scenario, projects the lowest percentage decreases in precipitation compared to other scenarios, likely to reach a value of -8.2% (-25.1% to +7.7%) in summer and -2.4% (-13.5% to +8.4%) over the year by 2050. These positive trends may arise because of higher winter temperatures, which lead to more rainfall than snow during the winter. The reduced snowfall will lead to subsequent decreasing of river flows during spring. More frequent heavy rains with longer duration can cause flooding and economic damages. In parallel with a decrease of return periods, the amount of total precipitation falling during intense multi-day events is expected to increase from 134 (1 day) to 186 mm (2 day) and 218 mm (3 day) events. Sea level is projected to rise. As per the worst scenario, sea level is expected to rise by 27 cm (20.4 to 34.7 cm) and 80 cm (57.5 to 105.4cm) by 2050 and 2100, respectively. These simulations do not consider the tectonic movements.

Long-term Vision of the Project:

The long-term vision is that the biodiversity and critical ecosystems of Albania's coastal zone are conserved and safeguarded as Albania's tourism sector develops in a sustainable way.

Barriers to Achieving the Long-term Vision:

Barrier 1: Inadequate and uncoordinated spatial planning, priority setting, and policy mechanisms to support sustainable tourism development

A majority of the threats to biodiversity along Albania's coast derive from the lack of a coordinated planning context and inadequate enabling policy and regulatory framework, especially with respect to a rationalized and sustainable approach to coastal tourism development. There has been some progress in this regard in recent years, at least at the national level. In 2013 the Government initiated the process of drafting three national spatial planning documents: the General National Territorial Plan, the Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast and the Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Economic Zone Tirana-Durrës. These documents were approved by the National Territorial Council in June 2016. The General National Territorial Plan makes references to the EU Water Framework Directive, and protection of natural areas is also recognized as an important factor. Reference is also made to Natura 2000 and the European Green Belt. The Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast makes a reference to the principles of integrated coastal zone management and to the Barcelona and Ramsar Conventions.

While the Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast has been an important step forward, implementation at sub-national levels remains extremely limited. In addition, the policies and regulations required to support strong implementation of this plan are not yet fully in place. Few municipalities have yet developed spatial plans, and implementation of those that have been developed is still in the early stages. The key issue is that critical biodiversity resources have not yet been recognized and incorporated in spatial plans, with appropriate zoning to ensure the protection and maintenance of ecosystems, and ecosystem services. The Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast divides the entire Albanian coast into four zones, from north to south: a.) the natural region; b.) the economic region; c.) the agricultural region; and d.) the shores and cultural tourism region. However, there are KBAs in all of these regions, not just in the natural region, and spatial planning and development in each region should be carried out in a way that recognizes the important biodiversity resources in each of these regions. While tourism is a focus of the fourth region, coastal tourism occurs along the entire Albanian coast, and frequently in areas where critical ecosystems are located. The lack of biodiversity mainstreaming in the spatial planning sector is due to multiple reasons. There is, on one hand, insufficient data and information about biodiversity available to planners. On the other hand, there is insufficient awareness and capacity of planners and decision-makers on how to appropriately integrate biodiversity considerations in spatial planning, through spatial management mechanisms such as zoning for buffer zones around PAs and other biodiversity rich areas. As far as institutional obstacles are concerned, the most crucial is weak coordination and planning among the involved institutions and agencies. There are also few operationalized multi-stakeholder participatory planning and management mechanisms. Such mechanisms are critical for developing and implementing

biodiversity-friendly spatial plans, site management plans, and other natural resource management plans linked to biodiversity conservation.

In parallel with spatial planning issues, there are insufficient national tourism policies and regulations to adequately incorporate biodiversity considerations. National policies, such as the national sustainable tourism development policy, do increasingly recognize linkages between environmental conservation and sustainable tourism development. However, the understanding of the role of biodiversity in this nexus is limited, as are corresponding specific regulations (such as 'net zero wetland loss' provisions). The national sustainable tourism development policy recognizes 'coastal and maritime' tourism and 'natural tourism' as two of the three main types of tourism products in Albania, but does not clearly and specifically emphasize the need for tourism development to avoid harming biodiversity and other environmental resources, and does not highlight biodiversity resources as a potential driver of sustainable tourism development. In addition, the implementation of Environmental Impact Assessment regulations are weak throughout Albania, but particularly in coastal areas that are under high pressure for development. In relation to the tourism industry, there are currently no criteria or standards for biodiversity-friendly tourism operations or products. International good practices, such as Ramsar guidelines for wetland management, are only partially implemented in a few sites. Other key policy and regulatory challenges ahead for mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism development relate to clear land property and ownership, improved and standardized services, and access to public services and waste management.

Barrier 2: Limited technical experience and understanding of sustainable tourism approaches, infrastructure, and activities, and limited enforcement of existing regulations

The second major barrier to biodiversity friendly tourism development is that in Albania there is a severe lack of experience and technical understanding of how to implement biodiversity friendly tourism, and what that means in practical terms on the ground. Albania is significantly behind its Adriatic and Ionian neighbors (especially Croatia, partly thanks to the previous GEF-funded COAST project) in protecting and maximizing its natural assets and taking advantage of sustainable nature-based tourism. The general concept of 'ecotourism' is still nascent in Albania, and more specific approaches that directly support the conservation of biodiversity are even more rare. Neither local government officials nor tourism developers have an understanding of how to organize or construct biodiversity friendly tourism infrastructure. In addition there is an increasing need for qualified personnel in the sector, and improved services. Tourism operators do not have practical guidelines or good practice examples of how to carry out biodiversity friendly tourism services; there are currently no widely applied biodiversity friendly tourism criteria, standards, trademarks, or other internationally recognized certifications in use by tourism operators in Albania. There are also few working models of how to establish and operate models of tourism development that leverage both public and private interests and resources to achieve sustainable tourism.

Such approaches are particularly critical to support investment in public tourism infrastructure, such as roads, boating facilities, organized parking, and organized waste management. Smaller scale infrastructure to support organized dispersal of tourists is also lacking, such as trails, signage, developed picnic areas, solid waste and wastewater facilities, fences, information boards, birdwatching towers and blinds. Enforcement of current tourism regulations in coastal areas is also significantly lacking, both in terms of tourism activities allowed, as well as in larger scale development aspects; illegal construction is a ubiquitous problem in Albania. Further, in some areas, water pollution, due to industrial pollution, wastewater and solid waste have been inadequately addressed thus far, and have already degraded the environment, including biodiversity, such that tourism potential has been hampered. Considering that Albania's coastal KBAs are inherently 'downstream' from much of the country's population, there is a need to implement cost-effective water pollution and treatment remediation approaches in order to improve the situation for biodiversity, and to enhance tourism potential.

Barrier 3: Poor awareness and understanding of the damage from unsustainable tourism, potential for sustainable tourism, and the need to implement sustainable tourism approaches for long-term sustainability

Going hand in hand with the previous two highlighted barriers is the simple fact that the concept of biodiversity friendly tourism has not permeated the consciousness of most stakeholder groups involved in the development of the tourism sector. Local and national government officials, private sector investors and operators in the tourism industry, and local community members all have limited exposure to and awareness of what biodiversity friendly tourism encompasses, and its potential triple-bottom line benefits. Studies have shown that ecotourists typically stay longer, spend more, and feel a duty to respect the destination, compared to high volume package tourists. However, the most widespread model of tourism development in Albania is focused on unsustainable approaches for short-term gains. Because environmental monitoring data is usually lacking, and not widely disseminated when available, many stakeholders are not fully aware of the negative ecological impacts of poorly planned, poorly organized, and unsustainable tourism development. This lack of awareness and understanding has secondary negative effects, as political will is often stimulated by public attention to a particular issue; so with the public not fully aware of the potential long-term negative effects of unsustainable tourism development, policy makers and decision makers are also not driving forward with an agenda for sustainable tourism development. Albania does have a small cadre of environmentally-focused civil society organizations, but their influence on the broader consciousness is not yet widespread. The proposed project focuses on Albania's coastal zone, but similar poor awareness and understanding of negative tourism impacts, and the potential benefit from sustainable tourism approaches, is seen throughout Albania's tourism regions. The coastal zone is responsible for a majority of the tourism sector's contribution to Albania's GDP, but other areas, such as the Valbona Valley in the Albanian Alps would also greatly benefit from an increased understanding and awareness of biodiversity friendly sustainable tourism approaches.

These barriers will be addressed through:

- i.) Strengthening the enabling framework for the development of sustainable, biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism
- ii.) Catalyzing biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism
- iii.) Raising awareness, managing knowledge, mainstreaming gender, and monitoring, evaluating and disseminating project results.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

There have been no strategic changes to the baseline scenario or associated baseline projects since the PIF was designed and approved. Please refer to Prodoc Section 4, sub-section on Partnerships, pp. 24-25, and the co-financing tables on the Prodoc front page, and please also see Table C above.

Under the baseline scenario there are increased risks that the development of the tourism sector along Albania's coastal zone will proceed in a way that is not sustainable and not biodiversity friendly, and that irreversible harm will be done to globally significant species and ecosystems in the coastal zone.

The National Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy (NSTDS) is a key policy document that highlights the relevance and national ownership of the proposed project. The NSTDS includes the following elements:

Vision: *Albania, a hospitable, attractive and authentic destination, for sustainable development of country's economic, natural and social potentials?*

Mission: Development of destinations, areas, products and diversification of the tourism offer. Increasing the added value of tourism potentials for the economic and social development of the country.

Sub-sectors: *COASTAL: 1. Coastal; 2. Maritime. NATURAL: 3. Mountain Tourism; 4. Ecotourism (Flora/Fauna); 5. Waterfront. THEMATIC: 6. Cultural; 7. Agritourism; 8. MICE; 9. Eno-Gastronomy; 10. Health.*

Strategic goals: 1. Creating new development poles and industries, as well as consolidating the tourism offer. 2. Increasing the added value and impact of the sector on the economy and employment. 3. Development of new products and services in tourism, as well as improvement of their quality. 4. Improving the country's image and promotion of local products.

Policy Goals: 1. Promotion of Public-Private Investments. 2. Improvement of Tourism Services. 3. Development of Tourism Products. 4. Re-orientation of Promotion towards Potentials. 5. Supporting the Management of Destinations.

The proposed project's scope falls directly within the scope of the NSTDS, as it targets the coastal, maritime, ecotourism, and waterfront sub-sectors. In relation to Strategic Goal 2, the project will contribute to increasing the added value and impact of the tourism sector, as biodiversity-friendly and green tourism products and services are typically higher value and generate greater return on investment than 'mass market'

tourism. The project links to the Strategic Goal 3, as the project will support tourism entrepreneurs in developing new biodiversity friendly tourism products and services (under Component 2). The project aligns with and supports all five of the NSTDS policy goals, including the Policy Goal 4, as the project will contribute to the strengthening of marketing and branding of biodiversity-friendly and green tourism products and services.

The legal basis for nature protection in Albania is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of Albania (Law 8417 of 1998). In the constitution, Article 59 states that *"The state intends a healthy and ecologically suitable environment for current and future generations, and the rational exploitation of natural resources based on the sustainable development principle"*. Article 59 is supported by Article 56 which emphasizes that *"Everyone has a right to be informed on the state of the environment and its protection"*.

Law No. 10431 of June 2011 *"On Environmental Protection"*, defines the principles underpinning all environmental protection activities in the country. The Law on Environmental Protection allocates responsibility for environmental policy and management to the MoTE. It also outlines the relationship between the MoTE, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and its Regional Environmental Agencies (REAs), and the Environmental Inspectorate. The Law on Inspection in the Republic of Albania (No. 10433, June 2011) determines the structure and organization of the Environmental Inspectorate. Specific national legislation has been developed to regulate aspects of environmental management such as air and water quality management, waste management, environmental impact assessments, chemicals and hazardous waste management, as well as the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of flora and fauna.

Albania's environmental protection and conservation and sustainable management of coastal zones is also a priority under Albania's increasing alignment with the EU. The EU is supporting Albania through the Instrument for Pre-Accession 2021 programming (IPA III), under Thematic Priority 1 *"Environment and climate change"*, namely to strengthen national wide capacity in nature protection to effectively manage PAs following EU standards and Natura 2000 requirements in line with the green agenda for the Western Balkans. In this regard, UNDP is leading a local partnership application under this instrument consisting of: UNDP, AICS and SIDA, with the ultimate goal to protect and conserve at least 25 percent of the Albanian territory (at land and at sea), by 2030 - through establishing and implementing an effective system of protected areas, ecosystems connectivity and other effective area-based conservation measures. The specific objectives are designed to achieve improvement of the effectiveness of the management of PAs, strengthening the capacities of the relevant institutions, and supporting CSOs in the conservation and nature-based solutions and measures against environmental crime, as well as to raise awareness on Natura 2000. It will follow UNDP assistance to the environment

information management system, the development of the main PAs management and business planning instruments, improvement of PA revenue streams, ensuring PAs are managed effectively and efficiently with respect to conservation and other complementary objectives. This initiative is in line with priorities set in the NBSAP, to ensure the full transposition of the EU nature Protection Acquis, and also will target all the missing legislative and institutional gaps to ensure the implementation of the existing legal framework. Based on the assessment conducted in the framework of SANE27 (Supporting Albanian Negotiations in Environment, Chapter 27 is a program funded by SIDA), Albania has been working intensively on transposing the EU Directives within its national legislation, with 86 percent of the Habitats Directive and 65 percent of the Birds Directive already transposed. However, most of the directives / regulations under the nature sub-chapter are at the initial stage of implementation. No specific plans and/or dates are set at national level for their full implementation. In general, the legal provisions and institutions are in place, but enforcement is still weak, and inspections are not effective. Implementation is hindered by the lack of appropriate monitoring and law enforcement mechanisms, lack of clear responsibilities among the competent authorities and institutions, chronic lack of funding, lack of institutional capacities in PA management and monitoring. Capacity building and an improved institutional set up should be supported financially, therefore it demands to explore and develop financial instruments to provide for the implementation of the requirements of the EU directives.

Other Baseline Donor Projects and Initiatives

New and ongoing projects supported by other donors provide parallel, complementary, and synergistic conditions and results for achievement of the project objective. Three additional baseline projects have been identified since the PIF stage, and are summarized in the table below.

Title	Budget	Objective / Focus / Coordination	Timeframe
EU for Nature IPA III/2022	?7.5 million	Funding: European Union and Sida Geographical coverage: PAs all over the country Objective: Protection and conservation of at least 25 per cent of the Albanian territory (at land and at sea) by 2030 through the establishment and the effective management of a system of Protected Areas (PA), including NATURA 2000 sites and other effective area-based conservation measures. It contributes to advance the EU approximation process by enabling EU Nature Protection legislation implementation, enhanced capacities of relevant authorities, CSOs, academia, and private sector, providing necessary resources for new and existing PAs effective management, strengthening of the governance mechanisms, standards and performance benefiting the coastal areas.	2023-2028

Sustaining and Advancing Local Governance Reform - STAR3	\$1,000,000	Funding: Multi donor trust fund. Geographical coverage: entire country Objective: strengthen local government effectiveness and efficiency through enhancing the supporting framework, consolidating systems, standards, and organizational capacities in place, expanding, and sustaining service delivery innovation and best practices, and institutionalizing local government accountability to women and men for enhanced participatory governance. The initiative supports improvement of public service delivery, empowerment of local government and creation of new opportunities for social economic development of the country, enable synergies and leverage of interventions benefiting the coastal municipalities .	2021-2025
UN Joint Programme End Violence Against Women in Albania Phase II	\$700,000	Funding: SIDA Geographical coverage: entire country Objective: Support to SDG Financing and Economic Recovery projects funded by the SDG Acceleration Fund; enable complementarities and synergies and encourage women access and benefit from improved natural resources management as well as increased civic engagement for biodiversity and nature	2023-2027

Lessons learned from the GEF-6 project ?Enhancing Financial Sustainability of the Protected Area System?:

Several of the lessons documented in the terminal evaluation of the GEF-6 PAs financing project were considered in the formulation of the GEF-7 project strategy. First, the project design followed the GEF-6 project example by having a clear and achievable objectives, with rationale design of the project's outcomes and outputs. This simplicity of design is an essential prerequisite for successful implementation of the project. In addition, key stakeholders have been consulted during the PPG phase, and will be actively involved in project implementation. The project design includes multi-stakeholder working groups (under Output 1.2) as a mechanism for stakeholder engagement and integration to significantly contribute to stakeholder buy-in of the project and its overall success. The project design also builds on the previous project's approach of conceptualizing PAs as opportunities for revenue generation and sustainable livelihoods, through tourism, since the PAs are located in or near Key Biodiversity Areas. The project design also provides the opportunity for adaptive management, and has aimed to avoid any specific planned results that would be unrealistic, or that would block project success if not achieved. The project design also includes education and awareness activities for communication with local communities to ensure the benefits of the project are understood and supported.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

The long-term solution for biodiversity sensitive tourism development along Albania's coast has multiple key goals. These include sustainable long-term economic growth to reduce poverty, increase employment, and generate income for coastal communities. This must be achieved while securing and enhancing critical biodiversity resources in the coastal zone, which play many important roles in maintaining an intact and functioning coastal ecosystem, and which in turn also supports local livelihoods. Therefore the long-term solution is one where local communities, tourism operators and developers, and government bodies cooperate and collaborate to ensure that coastal tourism infrastructure and activities are designed, developed, and operated in full alignment with biodiversity needs and requirements.

To address the previously described threats and barriers the proposed project will mainstream biodiversity conservation within tourism development along Albania's coastal zone through outputs that support a rationalized spatial approach to coastal tourism development where biodiversity is mainstreamed in land use, strengthen the development of biodiversity friendly sustainable tourism approaches and tools, and increase awareness and understanding among tourism operators, decision makers, and the general public about the necessity of incorporating biodiversity considerations in all aspects of coastal tourism development to support widespread adoption and scaling-up of good practices.

The project's strategy is to provide stakeholders with an enabling environment and tools to support biodiversity friendly tourism development, while creating incentives for tourism development that contributes to positive biodiversity outcomes, and disincentives for tourism development with negative biodiversity outcomes. The project aims to prioritize the biodiversity friendly tourism development in those areas of Albania's coastal zone that have been identified as having the greatest biodiversity values, which are the 6 KBAs that will be targeted by the project, covering 166,680 ha (see previous table in landscape description).

The project will aim to incentive biodiversity friendly tourism in these sites, and in surrounding buffer zones and adjacent coastal areas, in areas where tourism development is appropriate and compatible. The project objective will be achieved through project components that: (i) build a stronger enabling environment for sustainable tourism that is aware of, respects and conserves biodiversity as an essential asset for tourism; (2) demonstrates a model for biodiversity sensitive and biodiversity-friendly tourism that integrates improved standards for planning, operating and monitoring tourism within ecological limits, with the promotion and development of community-based tourism experiences and products that are biodiversity-friendly and help generate financing for biodiversity conservation and communities; and (3)

establish and strengthen tourism sector and tourist awareness of the significance of biodiversity to tourism, and put in place knowledge management platforms to support replication and upscaling of biodiversity sensitive sustainable tourism throughout Albania.

The project's **theory of change** diagram is included as Figure 2 below. The theory of change diagram provides more detail linking the project's outputs, outcomes, intermediate state, and expected impacts. The theory of change diagram also specifies the project impact drivers, and the assumptions recognized in the project's strategy.

To summarize the theory of change, there are two main expected impacts: the environmental impact on biodiversity - **coastal biodiversity maintained and enhanced** - which feeds into the development impact of **sustained and sustainable tourism based economic growth in Albania's coastal zones**, which supports improved livelihoods. These impacts will be generated over the long-term once **tourism sector growth and infrastructure development along Albania's coast is occurring in a rationalized and sustainable manner over time** (the 'intermediate state?'). To achieve this intermediate state, three outcomes must be achieved. First, Albania's policies and regulations related to tourism development must be strengthened and harmonized for mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations. Second, management and operation of tourism along Albania's important coastal landscapes must be made sustainable and biodiversity-friendly. Third, awareness must be raised and knowledge shared regarding good practices, lessons, and the potential socio-economic and environmental benefits of sustainable biodiversity friendly tourism, in order for biodiversity-friendly tourism to be up-scaled and replicated throughout Albania.

Impact Drivers are the factors that the project must leverage for the project outputs to contribute to the achievement of outcomes, and for outcomes to lead to impacts. Key Impact Drivers for achievement of the project's theory of change are:

- Effective stakeholder engagement
- Quality environmental monitoring data
- Effectiveness of enforcement regimes
- The profitability of biodiversity friendly products and services
- Effective communication and outreach to target audience
- Coordination and synergy with government and partner efforts
- Resources for implementation
- Consensus building
- Information flows
- Local capacity to implement spatial plans and biodiversity friendly practices
- Implementation of M&E activities
- Implementation of policies and standards at national and local levels
- Cost-effectiveness of biodiversity friendly tourism development

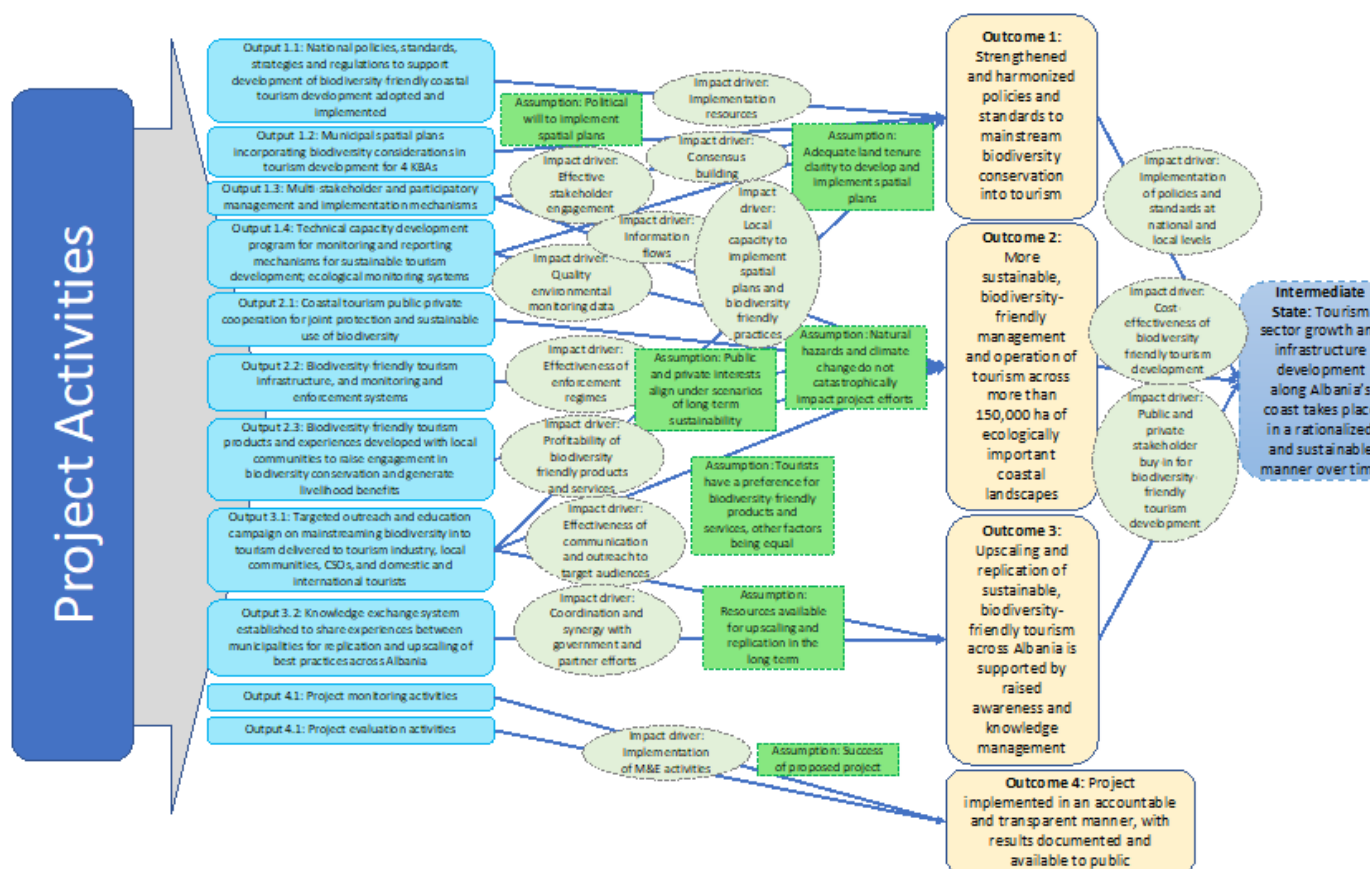
- Public and private stakeholder buy-in for biodiversity friendly tourism development

With respect to **assumptions**, there are a number of assumptions that the theory of change depends on:

- Political will to implement spatial plans: During the PPG discussion were held with municipalities in the project areas to discuss the status of their spatial plans, and willingness to improve them through biodiversity-friendly modifications, which would then be implemented. The participating municipalities expressed interest and willingness to do so. However, the political situation in any country is rarely stable, and it can only be assumed that political will to modify and implement spatial plans in biodiversity friendly ways will continue throughout and following project implementation.
- Adequate land tenure clarity to develop and implement spatial plans: The targeted project areas along Albania's coastal zone have multiple land owners and managers, with multiple overlapping institutional mandates. It is assumed that land tenure data is sufficient such that work can be completed on municipal spatial plans without major delays related to lack of clarity on land tenure.
- Public and private interests align under scenarios of long-term sustainability: It is assumed that financial, social, economic, and ecological interests are aligned between public and private entities in the long-term scenario of sustainable management of Albania's coastal ecosystems. While there may be some short-term variance (i.e. such as scenarios for short-term profit or political gain through immediate ecosystem exploitation), it is assumed that key stakeholders will align their interests under scenarios that support ecological and socio-economic sustainability in the long-term.
- Natural hazards and climate change do not catastrophically impact project efforts: Albania is in an active seismic zone, and is also subject to a variety of potential natural disasters, such as flooding. It is assumed that such disruptions will not occur in ways that would derail the achievement or sustainability of project results.
- Tourists have a preference for biodiversity friendly products and services, other factors being equal: Many studies have shown that this is the case, and it is assumed that such preferences will apply in Albania's coastal zones. This depends on tourists being aware of and having clear information about the choices they're making.
- Resources available for upscaling and replication in the long-term: This project aims and expects to have a catalytic influence, which is necessary for a project of this size. The project will achieve a base level of impact, but to achieve transformative change it will be necessary for the project's results to be replicated and scaled up within the tourism sector in Albania's coastal areas. Upscaling and replication will depend on continued investment in biodiversity-friendly tourism development, both by the Government of Albania and the private sector. For example, the project will support the preliminary development and market adoption of biodiversity-friendly tourism ecolabels and certifications, but much broader market adoption will be necessary for these innovations to significantly influence the tourism market in Albania.
- Success of proposed project: Achievement of the project outcomes and impacts assumes that the project will be successfully implemented, without major operational or other disruptions.

Based on stakeholder feedback and dialogue during the PPG, it is foreseen that the above assumptions are quite realistic. The current policies of the Government of Albania, at national and local levels, are highly supportive of the project's objective. For example, the municipal governments in each of the project sites have expressed strong support for the project, and recognize the importance of the project's objective in relation to their long-term development goals. In addition, the development of Albania's tourism sector in the coastal zone is at an inflection point, which can be influenced by the project to shift tourism development trends toward biodiversity-friendly approaches in areas with critical ecosystems. Current socio-economic conditions are also favorable, indicating that the assumptions above can be considered a 'baseline' realistic scenario. However, it must be recognized that such conditions cannot be guaranteed for the future.

Figure 2 Proposed Theory of Change



Descriptions of Project Objective, Components, Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicative Activities:

The proposed project's objective is *To position the development of the tourism industry in Albania as a positive influence on the status of biodiversity in coastal Key Biodiversity Areas, and as pillar of sustainable livelihoods, through mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism planning and development.* The project outputs planned in order to achieve the objective and outcomes are described in further detail under each of the project components. The project is structured around four components as follows:

Component 1: Enabling framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into coastal tourism development (planning, implementation mechanisms, data), in which Outcome 1 is Strengthened and harmonized policies and standards to mainstream biodiversity conservation into tourism. *Planned budget: \$298,467 in GEF funding; \$2,000,000 in co-financing.*

In this component, under Output 1.1 the project will contribute to the development of national policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support the development of biodiversity friendly coastal tourism development. A key element will be a national strategy and platform for biodiversity friendly tourism development. Additional activities will include a feasibility assessment and roadmap for national biodiversity-friendly tourism certification standards. During the PPG key private sector stakeholders were engaged, mainly the Vlorë region, based also on the former activities and accomplishments in that region. In this regard, the key tour operators, hotel owners, local authorities in charge of tourism planning and enforcement patterns, and the Chamber of Commerce of Vlorë, were progressively approached, advised and also trained in the scope of a former UNDP/AICS project for the Karaburun-Sazan MCPA. In the scope of that experience a dynamic dialogue was built with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and concerned partners, and pilot eco-certifications schemes were demonstrated in some selected hotels and tours operators. Trainings were carried out in relation to the best ecotourism practices and on-the-water -tourism experiences. Based on these project experiences and on expectations to replicate this model, the team has approached and addressed such issue with the municipal authorities in the other targeted sites. Several findings and lessons learned pertinent to ecotourism and sustainable development approaches have been addressed through former UNDP projects and programs in Vlorë region, which will be replicated and adopted in the new sites, namely in relation to issues such as capacities of tour operators, and PAs' carrying capacities assessments, focused on the touristic/recreational activities in the PAs, know-how and approaches of the hotel owners towards environmental practices.^[3] The project will support the drafting and preparation of the process for adoption of regulations for zero net loss of wetlands in relation to tourism development. Innovative financial mechanisms at the national level for incentivizing green tourism development will be assessed and analyzed, and the project will support the development and

adoption of two forms of financial incentives for green tourism development. A market analysis and scoping for sustainable tourism biodiversity credits will be conducted. The project will support the development of national level sustainable tourism guidelines related to development and updating of municipal spatial plans. All above activities will be carried out in a way that is fully aligned with and reflective of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The project will use the best practices for the application of these standards available in Albania, in accordance with Albanian policies, laws and regulations.^[4] The development of the relevant national policies, standards, strategies and regulation will respect the applicable environmental legislation and will be guided by the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its SPA/BD Protocol. Where needed, the project will strengthen their application with use of the relevant UNDP environment-related SES. SES risks will be managed through the comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

Under Output 1.2 the project aims to address the spatial planning aspect that is critical for supporting biodiversity friendly tourism development in coastal areas. The project will revise and update municipal coastal spatial planning documents in alignment with the needs and requirements of each project area, to support relevant environmental measures and sustainable tourism development. The project will work with the municipalities of Divjak?, Vlor?, Lezh?, and Shkod?r . The project will work with municipal authorities to specify appropriate zoning for tourism development, ensuring that critical habitats will be maintained, including considerations related to climate change impacts. The project will also provide assistance to support implementation of the spatial plans. All activities will be carried out in alignment with UNDP's SES and will include climate change screening. For example, Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) may be carried out in relation to municipal spatial planning adjustments in sensitive ecological areas, based on requirements in relevant Albanian laws and regulations (i.e. Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment No. 91/2013), which are aligned with EU requirements. Any relevant UNDP SES not covered through the SEA process will be integrated during scoping or when formulating TORs for completion of the relevant activities. SES risks related to this output are managed through the project strategy and through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. During work on municipal spatial plans, the project will apply key social and environmental principles in order to identify, prevent and/or mitigate the potential negative impacts related to any environmental or social risk, including especially land tenure and rights issues. In addition, the development of these proposed spatial planning proposals will be guided by the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its SPA/BD Protocol.

To support monitoring and implementation of all aspects of the project, under Output 1.3 the project will establish multi-stakeholder participatory management and

implementation mechanisms, and ensure these are operating and sustainable. It is foreseen that these mechanisms will be constituted in the form of a multi-stakeholder sustainable tourism development working group, with representation from all relevant stakeholders. The multi-stakeholder working groups will initially be established in relation to updating municipal spatial plans with biodiversity-friendly planning considerations, but the working groups will be maintained in support of implementation of the plans, and to address other aspects of the project (e.g. municipal ecofunds, tourism certifications, financial incentives for biodiversity-friendly tourism development, recognition programs, etc.). During the PPG a wide range of stakeholders were consulted on the most relevant and effective approach to planning and coordination in relation to biodiversity-friendly tourism development. Positive feedback was received from a majority of stakeholders on the possible application of a multi-stakeholder working group, involving multiple local institutions and stakeholders, with leadership and support catalyzed by the proposed project. The key primary stakeholders to be engaged through such mechanisms are municipal governments, the private sector (in the tourism sector), Regional Agencies for Protected Areas (RAPAs), CSOs, and other relevant government agencies (e.g. Coast Guard, harbor masters, other ministries, etc.). From the very beginning the project will work to ensure that these mechanisms are established in a manner that will lead to their long-term sustainability and continued operation after project completion. The mechanisms will be established and operated in full alignment with UNDP's SES, including managing risks through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (including the GRM), and the Gender Action Plan.

Under Output 1.4 the project will invest in a technical capacity development program to strengthen monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development. One critical aspect of a supportive enabling environment is having adequate ecological data and analysis of that data to support biodiversity-friendly tourism development and oversight. The project will work to strengthen the institutional capacity of key government agencies and partners through a training and capacity development program, including improved environmental and tourism sector data management. The project-supported training program will use the e-learning platform developed under the previous project. The training will include modules on non-discriminatory practices related to biodiversity friendly tourism policy and development. The project will support the development and implementation of a system for tracking and reporting on biodiversity friendly tourism, ecotourism, nature-based tourism, sustainable tourism, etc. to improve data management and data sharing between tourism and environment agencies. The project will also invest in ecological monitoring capacity, including water monitoring and biodiversity monitoring. The project will support mapping of point and non-point source pollution hotspots that negatively affect biodiversity, as well as negatively affecting tourism potential. The project will also support the analysis and feasibility assessment of environmental hotspot mitigation options, for example, in relation to water pollution in the Drin river, and the Vidane canal. In addition under this output, the project will introduce the

creation of a municipal ecofund in Vlorë, Divjakë, Lezhë and Shkodër municipalities, based on the good practice developed with UNDP support in Korce. Finally, the project will also support an analysis for the determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries for KBA sites. All activities will be carried out in alignment with UNDP SES requirements, including ensuring inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, and the maintenance of critical habitats. As part of the identification of environmental hotspot mitigation options a pre-assessment of environmentally friendly mitigation options will be conducted to confirm that any mitigation options identified and analyzed are appropriate, technically sound, and cost-effective approaches to addressing the problem of water quality that is negatively affecting biodiversity resources, including birds and fish.

Component 2: Catalyzing biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism, in which Outcome 2 is more sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism across Albania's ecologically important coastal landscapes. *Planned budget: \$362,997 in GEF funding; \$5,970,000 in co-financing.*

Under Output 2.1, the project will support coastal tourism public-private cooperation for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. The project will conduct at least one Green Tourism Investor Fair to introduce potential tourism investors to the concept of biodiversity-friendly tourism development in Albania's coastal zones, and to familiarize investors with the relevant ecological regulations and requirements necessary for biodiversity-friendly tourism development. The project will initiate an eco-certification process with at least four (4) hotels. The project will also support the development and implementation of eco-certification requirements for restaurants that currently operate in and around PAs and KBAs. The project will also promote the adoption of biodiversity-friendly restaurant practices, including the reduction of plastic waste and single-use items, the use of sustainable seafood options, and other practices such as the collection of used cooking oil for biofuels. The project will also cooperate with local resource users to collect and remove "ghost nets", and the development of sustainable fishing-related tourism. All activities will be carried out and conducted in alignment with UNDP SES requirements.

Through Output 2.2 the project will support the development of biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems. This will include a training program for environmental inspectors, construction inspectors, protected area authorities, and others on environmental regulations, good practices, coordination, and enforcement procedures. This will also include efficient and effective monitoring and enforcement procedures, such as multi-institutional coordination and data sharing to support law enforcement. To ensure alignment with UNDP SES requirements, the project will ensure that any training conducted includes training on non-discriminatory enforcement. The project will publish a manual on biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure for use by both tourism managers and tourism investors. The project will also provide a small level of investment for basic low-impact tourism infrastructure in KBAs, such as bird watching blinds, benches, walking paths, signage, and potentially

waste collection points. This support will be provided in the following KBA sites (and associated PAs): Narta lagoon, Orikum lagoon, Karavasta lagoon, Patoku lagoon, Drini delta, and Vilun marsh. All support from the project will be specifically designed to reduce current or future impacts on critical habitats, in line with UNDP SES. In addition, to manage health and safety risks of any project activities and physical outputs, structural elements (e.g. signs, walking paths, etc.) will be designed, constructed, operated and decommissioned in accordance with national legal requirements, good international practice, and any relevant international obligations and standards by competent professionals and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals. The project will support the update of the Karaburun and Vjose-Narta PAs management plans (particularly in relation to tourism management), and support the enhancement of KBA-linked visitor centers for nature-based tourism. The project will also support resource management authorities in monitoring the status and impacts of the tourism sector in KBA sites, including for example, possible development of mobile applications. All activities will ensure the participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, in line with UNDP SES, through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan. Attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change have been built-in to all aspects of the project. For example, climate risks will be managed by ensuring that climate risk information is disseminated to partners and stakeholders, and that any small-scale infrastructure directly supported by the project, under Output 2.2 above, is designed to be climate resilient. Site-specific climate screenings will be applied to any project-funded infrastructure development during implementation (along with other screening requirements).

Activities under Output 2.3 address the project's strategy to support the development of biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences, in support of local sustainable livelihoods. The project will support the strengthening of the agritourism sector in Divjak and Vlor municipalities, including training service providers to meet national and international green tourism certifications and standards, dissemination of information about agritourism marketing and replicable models, and cooperation with municipalities and service providers to promote agritourism. The project will support Vlor municipality in optimizing access by local hotels and restaurants to local organic agricultural food products, and support the feasibility assessment of a local organic certification system. The project will work with local producers in Vlor municipality to develop and implement a local eco-product branding system, which can serve as a model to develop and publish a manual on eco-product local branding to be disseminated in other municipalities with KBAs. The project will support further development, strengthening, and upscaling of the current nascent local bio-product branding initiative in Lezh. The project aims to develop a recognition awards program in each participating municipality for tourism vendors that have adopted sustainable and biodiversity friendly practices. The project will also support cooperation between municipalities and PAs to develop waste collection systems in PAs, including innovative approaches such as public contests for innovative ideas, user fees, and

modern waste collection and management systems. All activities will be carried out in accordance with UNDP SES, with risks managed through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan.

Component 3: Knowledge management and catalyzing results, in which Outcome 3 is upscaling and replication of sustainable, biodiversity-friendly tourism across Albania is supported by raised awareness and knowledge management. *Planned budget: \$175,518 in GEF funding; \$500,000 in co-financing.*

Through Output 3.1 the project will support targeted outreach and education campaigns on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism, biodiversity and climate-sensitive spatial land use planning, delivered to the tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists and local policy/decision makers. Activities are a national outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism, which will be targeted for the tourism industry, local communities, civil society organizations, and domestic and international tourists. A variety of methods and outreach tools will be used, depending on each different target audience. However, it is expected that this will include online tools, such as social media. The project will also support education and outreach focusing on sustainable tourism in the specific targeted municipalities of Vlorë, Divjakë, Lezhë and Shkodër, including linking to local grass roots efforts, and engagement with students active on relevant issues.

Under Output 3.2 the project will establish a knowledge exchange system to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of good practices across Albania. This will include municipality exchange visits, and knowledge sharing workshops and seminars within and outside targeted project areas. The PPG relied on and took note of capacity building activities UNDP has undertaken in previous projects with the PAs system (i.e. RAPAs and concerned stakeholders) through implementation of the e-learning platform, which hosts 10 well-tailored modules developed based on a training need assessment process. This process included SWOT analysis of the knowledge and management skills of the PAs personnel and clustering the priority training needs into 10 training modules, specific training sessions were accomplished; with an average of 22 employees in each pilot site, affiliated with management, conservation, accounting and financial tasks; it was achieved to incorporate them in each and every training program. More than 50 % of 3 pilot areas staff and 20% of NAPA staff are being trained through e-learning platform <http://akzm.net/list-courses> and other tools hosted in the platform, such as Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METTs) and Financial Sustainability Scorecard. On-the-job training for all RAPAs is facilitated by an IT expert, hardware and software support, know-how and skills. As with all previous outputs, the project will ensure alignment with UNDP SES, through the application of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (including GRM) and Gender Action Plan.

Component 4 of the project covers project-level monitoring and evaluation, in accordance with UNDP and GEF requirements. *Planned budget: \$57,200 in GEF funding; \$100,000 in co-financing.*

Output 4.1 encompasses project monitoring activities, including the inception workshop, annual PIR, and project other aspects of project reporting. The project inception workshop, to be held within three months of signing of the project document, is a critical milestone on the implementation timeline, providing an opportunity to validate the project document, including the screening of social and environment risks; confirming implementation arrangements; assessing changes in relevant circumstances and making adjustments to the project results framework accordingly; verifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities; updating the project risks and agreeing to mitigation measures and responsibilities; and agreeing to the multi-year work plan. An inception workshop report will be prepared and disseminated among the project steering committee members. The project safeguard assessments and management plans will be regularly reviewed and updated. These include the SESP, Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as well as any other management measures prepared during implementation. Gender dimensions of the project will be monitored through gender-disaggregated indicators in the project results framework. Output 4.2 includes the project's external independent monitoring and evaluation activities. According to GEF requirements, one independent evaluation will be carried out of the project, a terminal evaluation (a mid-term review is not required for MSPs).

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of strategic alignment with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area strategies. Please see Section II. "Strategy" of the Prodoc (pp. 16-19), including the description of the project Theory of Change.

The project aligns to GEF-7 biodiversity programming directions through BD-1-1 to *Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors*. Tourism is an identified priority sector for mainstreaming in the GEF-7 programming directions and a key sector impacting on biodiversity in Albania, with impacts likely to increase as visitation grows and as tourism is developed across more destinations. In alignment with GEF-7 programming directions the project will support spatially-explicit provincial tourism planning that identifies and recognizes natural tourism assets, promote systemic change across the tourism sector in Albania (e.g. through capacity development, awareness-raising and development of technical tools and operational guidelines) so that development and operations are more sensitive to biodiversity needs, and develop and demonstrate financial incentives for the adoption of biodiversity-positive tourism development and operation. Through its focus on six KBAs along Albania's coastal landscape, the project will also contribute to enhanced PA management and financing through reducing potential threats of tourism to habitats, enhancing revenue from tourism activities that can contribute to PA management (and community management of buffer zones), and strengthening management capacity in the areas of visitor management and community engagement.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

There have been no changes since the PIF was designed and approved in terms of the incremental cost reasoning. The incremental reasoning for this project is outlined in the table below.

Incremental cost reasoning for the proposed project

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact
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Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact
<p>Increasing understanding of impacts of unsustainable tourism with government introducing site closures and restrictions.</p> <p>Government policy for development of coastal tourism sites offers potential to help direct and manage Albania's growing tourism sector, but risks further impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems if tourism expansion and development is not planned and implemented in a sustainable fashion that respects ecological limits and needs.</p> <p>Government policy for tourism development promotes community-based tourism as a means for better income equality and distribution at local level. Community-based tourism typically does not explicitly consider biodiversity providing a missed opportunity to mainstream biodiversity within a key policy direction for tourism.</p> <p>Ecotourism captured in tourism strategy but has not been successfully operationalized due to lack of clear agency responsibilities, and practical and agreed technical guidelines and standards for how to develop and operate tourism in a biodiversity-friendly manner.</p> <p>Sensitive coastal ecosystems are targeted for accelerated tourism development, without zoning, planning, or other strategic and biodiversity friendly development approaches. Tourism plans prepared which recognizes natural assets for tourism but does not specify biodiversity conservation needs. Tourism development leads to ecological damage in the absence of clear technical guidance and inter-agency cooperation on tourism that respects and supports biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Small-scale initiatives for community-based ecotourism underway but limited by a lack of local capacity and understanding of tourist expectations, and absence of agreed standards and criteria for different nature-based tourism activities. Upscaling of successful approaches limited by lack of replication mechanisms and knowledge exchange across jurisdictions and government agencies.</p>	<p>Biodiversity-friendly tourism will be established as a model for tourism in Albania to help stop and avoid unsustainable tourism and facilitate financial benefits from tourism for local communities. A strategy for biodiversity-friendly tourism will be established and multi-sector engagement and capacity development will help mainstream biodiversity-friendly tourism into Albania's national tourism strategies and plans.</p> <p>Technical and operational guidance to operationalize biodiversity-friendly tourism will be developed, including explicit incorporation of biodiversity in existing tourism standards and certifications, and through broadening of financial incentives and solutions that enhance local financing for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Demonstration of biodiversity-friendly tourism standards, planning, partnerships and product development in Albania's coastal landscape helps establish sustainable tourism as a model for adoption across Albania. Spatially-explicit planning for tourism development in 4 KBAs developed for integration into national coastal spatial planning helps prevent tourism impacts and damage to critical ecological assets.</p> <p>Municipal authorities, local tour operators and communities are willing and capacitated to participate in biodiversity-friendly tourism and provide sustainable, high-quality products to tourists linked to local biodiversity.</p>	<p>Improved tourism management and operation benefitting over 161,838 ha including recognized KBAs on the coast of Albania.</p> <p>Reduction of threats from tourism development to biodiversity through adoption of industry standards and impact monitoring at critical sites, and avoided impacts on significant coastal lagoon habitats.</p> <p>Better planning and operation of tourism and development of biodiversity-friendly tourism in PAs and surrounding KBAs strengthens revenue generation and management, supporting the conservation of globally-threatened species such as Dalmatian pelican, pygmy cormorant, and white-headed duck that support wildlife-watching tourism activities; and benefitting other threatened species including slender billed curlew, greater spotted eagle and</p>

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Project impact
	<p>Awareness and interest of tourists in supporting biodiversity-friendly tourism is enhanced through product development, marketing and awareness campaigns, facilitating further increase in biodiversity-friendly tourism sector and adoption of approaches by tourism operators.</p> <p>Enhanced local livelihoods help reduce pressures on natural resources and build local awareness of the benefits of protecting unique natural habitats.</p> <p>Project knowledge management puts in place a mechanism to capture and share lessons and best practices from biodiversity-friendly tourism facilitating replication across Albania.</p>	<p>European sturgeon.</p> <p>Local community awareness and support for biodiversity conservation enhanced, and improved livelihood opportunities of local communities enhanced through employment and income generation, including communities living adjacent to critical ecosystems that may be impacted by human-wildlife conflict.</p>

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and

There have been some slight changes in the expected global environmental benefits since the PIF was designed and approved, due to more comprehensive and detailed analysis completed during the PPG phase. The key global environmental benefits are summarized in Section I.F. above, in Part II. above, and in the Core Indicators worksheet (Annex 13 of the Prodoc, and Annex 7 of this CEO Endorsement Request).

The project will contribute to safeguarding globally significant biodiversity and its ecosystem goods and services, including economic values related to nature-based tourism, ecotourism, and other forms of tourism (e.g. agritourism, etc.). There are significant social and economic values to be gained at the national and global level through the project's interventions related to biodiversity-friendly spatial planning for tourism, and implementing biodiversity-friendly approaches to coastal tourism planning and development. Social benefits for local communities will be derived from catalyzing sustainable approaches to tourism development, which can generate income for local resource users, and improve the quality of life through improved ecological conditions, such as improved water quality, in coastal areas. In addition,

the improved management of national protected areas will more effectively protect globally threatened biodiversity.

The project will also contribute to multiple adaptation co-benefits. Adaptation benefits from the project will include outcomes such as increased resilience to coastal flooding and erosion, increased resilience of coastal species populations to climate impacts, and increased resilience of local agricultural livelihoods. By ensuring biodiversity-friendly tourism development in and around Albania's sensitive coastal ecosystems, the project will contribute to improved ecosystem intactness and reduced degradation of plant communities, including wetland plants and trees. Such ecosystems have demonstrated a capacity to increase resilience and reduce the impact of climate impacts such as sea level rise and extreme meteorological events. Specific adaptation co-benefits are highlighted as follows: Under Output 1.1, national regulations and guidelines related to sustainable coastal tourism development will include climate-sensitive provisions to ensure that tourism development occurs in a way that does not put either ecosystems or infrastructure at increased climate risk. Under Output 1.2, the project's approach of operationalizing multi-stakeholder working groups will contribute to the sharing of relevant climate data and climate projections amongst coastal management and planning authorities. Under Output 1.3, the updated municipal spatial plans will specifically include climate-sensitive planning considerations, which will improve climate resilience relative to a BAU scenario. Under Output 1.4 the project will improve local capacities for environmental monitoring and assessment, which will support improved understanding, data analysis, and environmental management of coastal ecosystems, including in relation to climate impacts. Under Output 2.2 the project will support the deployment of small-scale climate resilient tourism infrastructure, which will help minimize the impact of climate change on nature-based tourism in these areas. Under Output 2.3 the project will work with local producers to promote the marketing of eco-friendly local agricultural products, including products that are produced through climate-friendly practices. Under Output 3.1 the project's work on education and awareness will include climate-awareness messages, increasing the awareness and understanding of local populations in coastal zones about climate impacts. Under Output 3.2 the project's knowledge sharing activities will include promotion of climate-related aspects of tourism development and coastal management.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

There have been no changes to these aspects of the project since the PIF was designed and approved, though each of these aspects has been given further consideration, with relevant elements incorporated in the project design. An updated description of the project's innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling-up is included in Section III of the Prodoc, sub-section "Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up" (pp. 37-38), and is replicated below.

Innovation: The project leverages the concept of biodiversity-friendly tourism as a mechanism to incentivize biodiversity conservation. This is not a new strategy, but it has been demonstrated as a viable concept to pull together the different threads of the government policy on tourism – avoiding unsustainable tourism impacts, generating enhanced tourism revenue, building community-level tourism, promoting nature-based economies and approaches – in an innovative way that maximizes alignment to government policy directions and will engage a range of partners. The project will seek to build off existing best practices for tourism impact monitoring (e.g. limits of acceptable change, carrying capacity) and adapt these into site-responsive visitor impact management and monitoring approaches that can be practically and consistently implemented by municipalities and land use managers throughout Albania. Opportunities for including guidance to monitor social impacts/benefits and incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation into tourism planning, development and operation will also be explored – these are emerging issues where more guidance is needed. The project will also, where practical, leverage technology such as mobile applications to support tourism impact monitoring, marketing, and enhancing the visitor experience to improve the understanding of biodiversity, and to connect tourists and community providers of biodiversity-friendly experiences and products.

Other innovative aspects of the project include the application of new technologies in innovative ways for sustainable tourism development. The project will leverage GIS-based and remote-sensing technologies for municipal spatial planning, with the possibility of developing open-source online georeferenced mapping to support the targeted municipalities to provide accurate, up-to-date sources of spatial data that can be easily referenced. The project will also build on and further develop the experience of Croatia in relation to innovative micro-financing for green tourism entrepreneurs; the project will not specifically create such mechanisms, but will serve as a knowledge marketplace to provide information and analysis to leverage incentives for potential partners and entrepreneurs in the micro-finance market. The project will also support the adoption of the most recent developments in green tourism standards, which will be highly innovative in Albania. In terms of on-the-ground technologies, the project will support key partners in the application of the latest, most innovative, and cost-effective technologies for monitoring ecosystems and species and tracking tourism impacts, including, for example, the potential use of cellular camera traps, satellite tagging of birds and sea turtles, drones, and eDNA for aquatic ecosystems.

Further objectives include attracting foreign investment, and increasing the competitiveness of the Albanian economy through innovative support for small and medium-sized enterprises. The direct contribution of the Albanian Development Investment Agency (AIDA) in economic development is evidenced through, facilitation and support of direct investments in Albania, increasing the competitiveness and innovation capacity of Small and Medium Enterprises, and encouragement and support to exports of goods and services.

Sustainability: Sustainability of the project results will be ensured through attention to the four elements of sustainability – financial, institutional, socio-political, and environmental. Project sustainability will ultimately depend on ensuring the full ownership of the project outputs and activities by the responsible

public institutions and private sector partners, and securing their long-term commitment (regulatory, policy, funding and resources) to scale-up and replicate best practices in biodiversity-friendly tourism development. The project has been designed to dovetail with government policy directions for tourism development and bring together the mandates of different government stakeholders in an integrated manner. This alignment will support the sustainability of the project as its mainstreaming focus will help embed the project approaches and biodiversity-friendly tourism within future tourism policy and strategy of the Government of Albania. It will also be operationalized within the coastal KBA landscapes where establishment of multi-stakeholder working groups clearly tied to the implementation of tourism plans and development strategies will provide ownership for biodiversity-friendly tourism across municipal authorities. The provision of operational guidelines, standards and capacity development programs will strengthen awareness and ownership for biodiversity-friendly tourism at national, municipal and village levels. The project aims to establish biodiversity-friendly tourism at the community level as a viable, sustainable livelihood for local communities. Providing this employment and income generation for local communities and connecting them with domestic and foreign tourists ? and tourists with high-quality, standardized visitor experiences ? will support the ongoing development of biodiversity-friendly tourism.

Catalytic Role: Potential for Replication and Scaling-up: Replication of good practices developed by the project will be achieved through the direct replication of selected project elements and practices and methods, as well as the scaling up of experiences. The following activities have been identified as suitable for replication and/or scaling up: (i) sustainable tourism standards and certification approaches; (ii) municipal spatial land use planning that integrates biodiversity considerations in tourism development zones; (iii) establishment of public-private cooperation for synergistic biodiversity and economic benefits; (iv) site-based, participatory, management guidance modalities; (v) ecosystem based management approaches to coastal ecosystems that depend on both upstream and downstream environmental quality; (vi) local eco-product branding and marketing; (vii) municipal ecofund establishment; (viii) municipal waste management strategies and practices for ecologically sensitive areas; and (ix) advanced monitoring and enforcement methodologies using new technologies such as geo-referenced monitoring and camera traps.

[1] At the PIF stage, the proposed project sites included the Lake Butrint KBA, and did not include the Vlor? bay-Karaburun-Orikum KBA. Based on stakeholder discussions and feasibility assessments during the PPG, the Lake Butrint KBA was excluded, and the Vlor? bay-Karaburun-Orikum site was added.

[2] Cullaj, Alqiviadh & Hasko, Agim & Miho, Aleko & Schanz, Ferdinand & Brandl, Helmut & Bachofen, Reinhard. (2005). The quality of Albanian natural waters and the human impact. *Environment international*. 31. 133-46. 10.1016/j.envint.2004.06.008.

Also see, for example, Miho, Aleko & A., ?ullaj & V., Lazo & A., Hasko & Kupe, Lirika & Schanz, Ferdinand & Brandl, Helmut & Bachofen, Reinhard. (2006). ASSESSMENT OF WATER QUALITY OF SOME ALBANIAN RIVERS USING DIATOM-BASED MONITORING. *Albanian Journal of Natural and Technical Sciences (AJNTS)* (Academy of Sciences, Tirana, Albania). 19. 94-105.

Also see, Marku, Elda & Nuro, Aurel & Man?e, Sidita. (2016). A preliminary survey of some chlorinated organic pollutants in Patoku lagoon, Albania. *Journal of environmental protection and ecology*. Vol.17. 94-101.

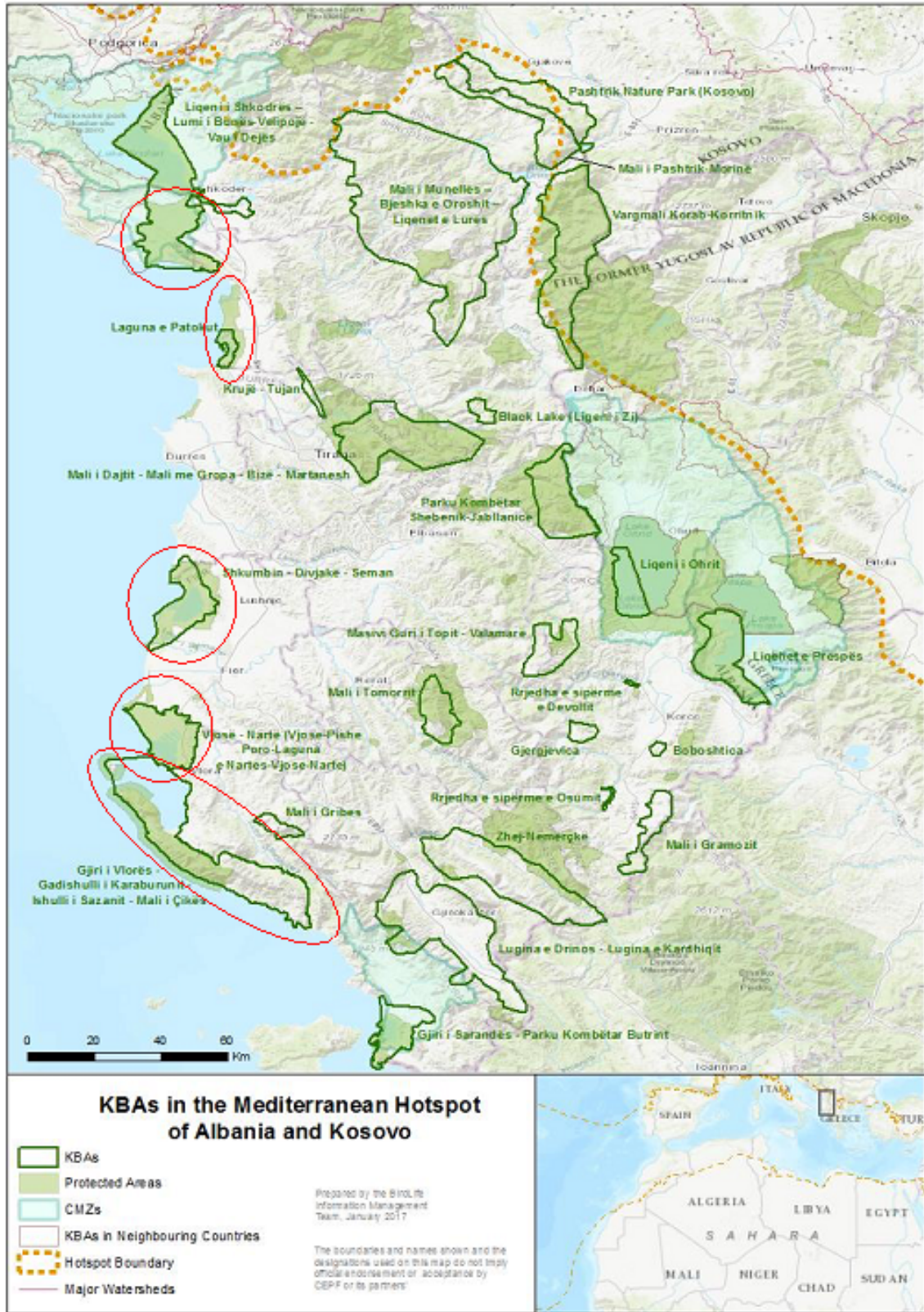
[3] For example, existing permits and related laws, water flow restrictors in bathrooms, light sensors in the hallways and staircases, monthly metering of used electricity, boilers in good condition, wastewater meets local standards with regards to disposal, electronic key cards with automatic switch-off electricity in the rooms, change of towels in bathrooms / bedlinen ? only upon request, local food at breakfast, solar water heating, waste separation including cooking oil, food waste is minimized by giving unused food to staff or the poor in the local community (via an NGO), networking tourism businesses and pooling their knowledge, voluntary certification of products, and so forth.

[4] Including, for example, Law No. 91/2013 on strategic environmental assessment; Law No.10440 dated 7.7.2011 on the environment impact assessment; and Regulation 686 date 29.7.2015 approving the rules, responsibilities, and terms of procedure for the environment impact assessment (EIA) and the transfer of the environment certificate decision.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

Please see Annex E of this CEO Endorsement Request for maps that indicate the Key Biodiversity Areas and PAs addressed under the project, and the priority areas of influence to be addressed by the project along Albania?s coastal landscape. Additional maps indicating KBAs and PAs are available in Prodoc Annex 3.



1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

?

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods	Timelines	Cost estimation
Interest	Methods	Responsibility			
Government Organizations					

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
<p>Ministry of Tourism and Environment</p> <p>General Directorate of the Policy and Environment Development</p> <p>The National Agency of Protected Areas</p>	<p>The main implementation partners are the General Directorate of the Policy and Environment Development and the National Agency of Protected Areas; they are key partners and the key stakeholders for the elaboration of the national strategy and platform for biodiversity friendly tourism development, ensuring sustainable tourism and financial sustainability.</p>	<p>1,2,3,4</p>	<p>Will be involved directly in the field trips; awareness raising activities among local communities, meetings with the municipalities, public discussions on decision making for development / update Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; working with regional administrations; working for financial mechanisms at national level for incentivizing green tourism development, working with local authorities and local stakeholders for effective management of the marine and coastal ecosystems.</p>	<p>PMU</p>	<p>2022-2027</p>	<p>No cost</p>

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Municipalities of Shkodra, Lezh?, Divjak?, Fieri and Vlor?	Key partners in planning and development of biodiversity-friendly tourism patterns, particularly municipal spatial plans and all activities at the local level.	1,2,3,4	Will be involved directly in the development / update Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; working with regional administrations; awareness raising activities, public discussions, etc.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Prefecture of Vlor?, Shkodra, Lezh?, Fieri	Partners to ensure conformity of the decisions taken by the municipality.	1,2	Will be involved in the development / update Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions, etc.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Ministry of Agriculture; Fishing Directorate	Key partner in the management of the fishing sector.	2,3	Will be involved directly in the discussion related to the reduction of ghost nets, and promotion of fishing-related tourism.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy; General Directorate of the Policy and Development of the Infrastructure and Territory	Partner to ensure the compliance of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; support in improving the quality and range of tourism and recreational products and services.	1,2	Will be involved in the discussion related to the Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; activities that relates to the infrastructure development in the coastal areas.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Inter-institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IOMC)	Partner on activities in the marine environment, ass a cross sectorial body composed of main line institutions concerned with maritime area.	2	Will be involved in the discussion and activities that relates to marine area.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Municipalities of Shkodra, Lezh?, Divjak?, Fieri and Vlor?	Crucial partners in planning and development of biodiversity-friendly tourism patterns, particularly municipal spatial plans and all activities in local level. These authorities are empowered with the designing of environmental action plans in accordance with national environmental strategies and the technical assistance provided by the ministries.	1,2,3,4	Will be involved directly in the development / update Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; working with regional administrations; awareness raising activities, public discussions, etc.; they provide information and support from local resource users in implementing biodiversity friendly tourism actions in their territories.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Non-government Organizations						

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Farmers associations	Partners on crosscutting issues relevant to sustainable land use and in development and implementation of community-based actions, and biodiversity and agrotourism activities.	1, 2, 3	Will be involved in the discussions for development of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions; training and know how on biodiversity-friendly practices in agriculture, networking roundtables / meetings for relevant stakeholders; farmers interested in eco- and certified agriculture.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Forest use and Pasture associations	Partners on crosscutting issues relevant to forest and pasture management; experiences in development and implementation of community-based actions, and biodiversity and sustainable tourism actions.	1, 2, 3	Will be involved in the discussions for development of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions, etc.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Fishermen associations (OFMs)	OFMs of Vlor?, Shkodra, Lezh? and Divjak? are economic operators licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture for the management of the fishery resources in their target areas, in compliance with the fishery law and other economic / fiscal regulatory provisions.	2,3,4	Their experience and expertise will be involved in the discussion related to the reduction of ghost nets, and promotion of fishing-related tourism.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Local NGOs in Vlor?: the most prominent are ?Auleda Centre? (sustainable planning and development), "Flag Pine" and ?PPNEA?- two NGOs focused on nature protections and biodiversity conservation, ?Ekspedita Blu" ? local Diving NGO.	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.	1,2,3	Will be involved in the discussions for development of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Local NGOs in Divjak? : reliance is envisaged to ?Horizont EU? NGO focusing sustainable land use and agrotourism and ?Wise use of nature ecosystems? - NGO	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.	3,4	Will be involved in the discussions for development of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost
Local NGOs in Shkod?r Shkod?r / Lezh? area: the most active NGOs are ?GO2Albania? ? nature protection and enforcement, the Aarhus centre Shkod?r , and Forest Federation Shkod?r	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.	3,4	Will be involved in the discussions for development of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; awareness raising activities, public discussions.	PMU	2023-2027	No cost

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Millieukontakt Albanian (MiA)	Experience working with civil society and local community on sustainable development as well as with authorities dealing with these issues, expertise on grassroot level with awareness raising campaigns.	3,4	Possible partner in improving of local tourism approaches through environmental protection, sustainable use, and enhancement of natural resources, promoting accountability, solidarity, active participation in decision-making, cooperation and social inclusion, for a sustainable future.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget
Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA)	Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania	2,3	The NGO might be involved in awareness raising activities among local communities on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management, in conducting public discussions, or nature conservation policy and discussions.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (APAWA)	A non-profit organization which develops and implements projects and activities with focus on aquatic life and conservation wildlife and biota in water ecosystems; mainly a forum of professionals whose main area of activities is research and monitoring of aquatic life and ecosystems.	3,4	Mobilisation of water aquatic wildlife research networks to raise awareness and increase public support for the sustainable use of Albanian coastal waters; inform project activities related to monitoring and surveillance system for marine sites and training activities thereof.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget
AOS	A non-profit organization which develops and implements scientific projects and monitoring on birds.	4	Awareness activities.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget
Albanian Diving Federation	Mobilizes the professional and amateurs? divers as well as promotes and develops diving education and practice in coastal area of Albania.	2,4	Provision of experience and expertise in the development and implementation of the biodiversity friend tourism activities at the coastline; awareness activities.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods	Timelines	Cost estimation	
Research and Expertise						
University of Tiran, Faculty of Natural Sciences & Museum of Natural sciences (MNS)	University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and MNS are the main scientific research bodies which can develop scientific base for development of the Municipal Spatial Plans. Based on their experience and expertise, will play a role in elaboration of the scientific grounds for biodiversity monitoring, improving participation in biodiversity inventory, development of biodiversity sustainable use norms, identification of the areas under strong pressure, PA management effectiveness assessment, etc.	1,2,3	Will be involved directly in the field trips on biodiversity monitoring, feasibility studies, PAs management plans etc. Identification of wildlife migration routes, identification of indicator / key species for monitoring, etc.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Relevant universities? departments of tourism, biology and economy, (in Vlor? and Shkod?r)	Even though new universities, they can perform research and education on ecosystems, habitats and species. They can provide several practical trainings and know how in this regard.	1,4	Will be involved in discussion during development of Municipalities Spatial Plans; provide curricula on tourism, navigation and also on marine biology; they offer expertise and experience in the project?s training activities.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget
Private Sector						

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Albanian Tourism Association (ATA)	<p>Its main mission is to encourage comprehensive, competent representation of the private tourism sector, becoming representing professional Association of the industry, to strengthen the tourism sector, focusing mainly on the sustainable development principle; ?ATA? advocates favorable framework conditions and offers services to its members which should lead to high-quality products and tourism services, efficient business management by well-trained staff and, finally, to increased revenues.</p>	2,3	Supports the implementation of project activities in targeted sites, focusing on deriving benefits to biodiversity conservation and/or the socio-economic upliftment of local communities; assist on organization of green tourism fairs.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget

Stakeholder	Role	Project components	Participation methods		Timelines	Cost estimation
Albanian Tour Operators and Touristic Agencies Association (ATOA)	This is the most active travel association in Albania representing mainly tour operators and travel agencies. Its members are among the most important and professional travel companies in the country with a long experience and well positioned in the market.	2,3	Encourage the tourism community to get involved, and benefit from biodiversity friendly tourism development, assist on organization of the green tourism fairs; QA and QC in the tourism market.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget
Albanian Tourism Union (ATU)	It implements several tourism projects, info tours to promote the tourism potential of Albania, pertinent to growth and development of rafting tourism, development of cycling tourism, etc.	2,3	Key actor in supporting and promoting development of agro and rural tourism, tourism destinations, as a nationwide potential for incoming tourism in Albania.	PMU	2023-2027	Indicated in the budget

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The project stakeholder analysis and engagement strategy has been updated and more fully elaborated during the PPG phase. The project stakeholder analysis is summarized in Section III of the Prodoc, in the sub-section on "Stakeholder Engagement and South-South Cooperation" (pp. 34-36), including Table 5 summarizing project stakeholders and their roles. A more detailed "Stakeholder Engagement Plan" is included as Annex 9 of the Prodoc; this includes information on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, resource requirements throughout

the project cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement, and coordination with other relevant initiatives including GEF projects. Section VI of the Prodoc on "Governance and Management Arrangements" also provides detailed information on how stakeholders will be involved and consulted in project execution. During the project development phase the full range of stakeholders were consulted, and their inputs, priorities, and suggestions were incorporated in the project design. Stakeholder organizations were met on a one-on-one basis throughout the project development process, as outlined in Annex 9 of the Prodoc. In situations where it was not possible to meet in person, remote meetings and phone calls were used to consult with stakeholders about the project. Finally, the project stakeholder validation workshop was attended by 25 individuals representing stakeholder organizations from civil society, government, development partners, resource managers, and others. The workshop produced qualitative comments that were further reflected in the project design (see Annex 20 of the Prodoc, Stakeholder Validation Workshop Report).

The roles and responsibilities of key stakeholder institutions in project governance and management, for example the MoTE's role as IP and NAPA's role as RP, are fully detailed and described in Section 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination, of this CEO ER document, below.

The summary table to stakeholders and their roles in relation to the project is below:

Stakeholder	Role / Interest
Government Organizations	
Ministry of Tourism and Environment General Directorate of the Policy and Environment Development The National Agency of Protected Areas	The main implementation partners are the General Directorate of the Policy and Environment Development and the National Agency of Protected Areas; they are key partners and the key stakeholders for the elaboration of the national strategy and platform for biodiversity friendly tourism development, ensuring sustainable tourism and financial sustainability.
Municipalities of Shkodër, Lezhë, Divjakë, Fieri and Vlorë	Key partners in planning and development of biodiversity-friendly tourism patterns, particularly municipal spatial plans and all activities at the local level.

Stakeholder	Role / Interest
Prefecture of Vlor?, Shkod?, Lezh?, Fieri	Partners to ensure conformity of the decisions taken by the municipality.
Ministry of Agriculture; Fishing Directorate	Key partner in the management of the fishing sector.
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy; General Directorate of the Policy and Development of the Infrastructure and Territory	Partner to ensure the compliance of Municipal Coastal Spatial documents; support in improving the quality and range of tourism and recreational products and services.
Inter-institutional Operational Maritime Centre (IOMC)	Partner on activities in the marine environment, ass a cross sectorial body composed of main line institutions concerned with maritime area.
Municipalities of Shkod?, Lezh?, Divjak?, Fieri and Vlor?	Crucial partners in planning and development of biodiversity-friendly tourism patterns, particularly municipal spatial plans and all activities in local level. These authorities are empowered with the designing of environmental action plans in accordance with national environmental strategies and the technical assistance provided by the ministries.
Civil Society Organizations	
Farmers associations	Partners on crosscutting issues relevant to sustainable land use and in development and implementation of community-based actions, and biodiversity and agrotourism activities.
Forest use and Pasture associations	Partners on crosscutting issues relevant to forest and pasture management; experiences in development and implementation of community-based actions, and biodiversity and sustainable tourism actions.
Fishermen associations (OFMs)	OFMs of Vlor?, Shkod?, Lezh? and Divjak? are economic operators licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture for the management of the fishery resources in their target areas, in compliance with the fishery law and other economic / fiscal regulatory provisions.

Stakeholder	Role / Interest
Local NGOs in Vlor?: the most prominent are ?Auleda Centre? (sustainable planning and development), "Flag Pine" and ?PPNEA?- two NGOs focused on nature protections and biodiversity conservation, ?Ekspedita Blu" ? local Diving NGO.	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.
Local NGOs in Divjak?: reliance is envisaged to ?Horizont EU? NGO focusing sustainable land use and agrotourism and ?Wise use of nature ecosystems? - NGO	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.
Local NGOs in Shkod?r / Lezh? area: the most active NGOs are ?GO2Albania? ? nature protection and enforcement, the Aarhus centre Shkod?r , and Forest Federation Shkod?r	Local NGOs implement projects on environment protection and sustainable development activities. Cooperation agendas and experience, as well as results achieved, make them reliable partners in the project.
Millieukontakt Albanian (MiA)	Experience working with civil society and local community on sustainable development as well as with authorities dealing with these issues, expertise on grassroot level with awareness raising campaigns.
Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA)	Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania
Association for Protection of Aquatic Wildlife of Albania (APAWA)	A non-profit organization which develops and implements projects and activities with focus on aquatic life and conservation wildlife and biota in water ecosystems; mainly a forum of professionals whose main area of activities is research and monitoring of aquatic life and ecosystems.

Stakeholder	Role / Interest
Albanian Ornithological Society (AOS)	A non-profit organization which develops and implements scientific projects and monitoring on birds.
Albanian Diving Federation	Mobilizes the professional and amateurs? divers as well as promotes and develops diving education and practice in coastal area of Albania.
Research and Expertise	
University of Tiran, Faculty of Natural Sciences & Museum of Natural sciences (MNS)	University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and MNS are the main scientific research bodies which can develop scientific base for development of the Municipal Spatial Plans. Based on their experience and expertise, will play a role in elaboration of the scientific grounds for biodiversity monitoring, improving participation in biodiversity inventory, development of biodiversity sustainable use norms, identification of the areas under strong pressure, PA management effectiveness assessment, etc.
Relevant universities? departments of tourism, biology and economy, (in Vlor? and Shkod?r)	Even though new universities, they can perform research and education on ecosystems, habitats and species. They can provide several practical trainings and know how in this regard.
Private Sector	
Albanian Tourism Association (ATA)	Its main mission is to encourage comprehensive, competent representation of the private tourism sector, becoming representing professional Association of the industry, to strengthen the tourism sector, focusing mainly on the sustainable development principle; ?ATA? advocates favorable framework conditions and offers services to its members which should lead to high-quality products and tourism services, efficient business management by well-trained staff and, finally, to increased revenues.
Albanian Tour Operators and Touristic Agencies Association (ATOA)	This is the most active travel association in Albania representing mainly tour operators and travel agencies. Its members are among the most important and professional travel companies in the country with a long experience and well positioned in the market.
Albanian Tourism Union (ATU)	It implements several tourism projects, info tours to promote the tourism potential of Albania, pertinent to growth and development of rafting tourism, development of cycling tourism, etc.

Stakeholder consultation is required to continue throughout the project implementation phase, and a transparent project-level grievance redress process is freely available. The Stakeholder Engagement

Plan also includes a description of the project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and information on UNDP's Accountability Mechanism. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is an integral part of the project design and will be communicated to project stakeholders during the inception workshop and referenced in each of the terms of reference developed for implementation of project activities.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation: There are multiple GEF projects that are currently under implementation or are being developed to address various aspects of environmentally friendly tourism development. These include "Mainstreaming biodiversity-based tourism in Thailand to support sustainable tourism development" (GEF PIMS ID #10409), and "*Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia*" (GEF PIMS ID #10676). Through the UNDP global network the project will connect with other similar and relevant GEF-funded projects in order to identify synergies and share good practices and lessons for Knowledge Management. Component 3 of the project focuses on Knowledge Management, and includes activities designed to provide opportunities for replication and scaling-up. The project will also support south-south and triangular cooperation by sharing good practices, experiences, and lessons through ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform, and PANORAMA.

In addition, to bring the voice of Albania to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on biodiversity friendly tourism development. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on biodiversity friendly tourism development in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Albania (such as North Macedonia, mentioned above).

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

During the PPG analysis of the gender aspects of the project were significantly enhanced and further elaborated, to support implementation of both the GEF and UNDP gender mainstreaming policies and strategies. The PPG team produced a comprehensive gender analysis, including human rights aspects, and a project gender action plan was produced. These are included as Annex 10 of the Prodoc (as a separate document to the Prodoc). Gender aspects of the project are summarized in Section III of the Prodoc, on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" (pp. 36-37). In addition, gender is addressed in the project's Social and Environmental Screening Protocol (Annex 5 of the Prodoc), with gender-related risks assessed. In addition to the Gender Action Plan included in Annex 10, gender considerations were mainstreamed in the project's work plan; for example, gender aspects were made explicit in activities under Output 1.1 gender related activities were specified, including women's participation in stakeholder consultation processes; under Output 1.2 in relation to inclusion of gender considerations in municipal spatial plans; and Outputs 1.4 and 2.2 in relation to gender aspects of monitoring and effective PA management. Gender aspects are also highlighted under Output 2.3 in relation to the inclusion of women in sustainable livelihoods activities, and Output 3.1 in relation to gender aspects in awareness raising campaigns. The project Strategic Results Framework includes gender-disaggregated indicators.

The project will be fully in-line with and supportive of both the GEF's and UNDP's gender mainstreaming policies. The thematic and geographic scope of the project provides a range of opportunities for the engagement of women, and possibilities for supporting gender mainstreaming through the direct involvement of women, for example in community-based tourism activities. Community-based tourism provides good opportunities for women to engage in nature conservation and biodiversity conservation through developing tourism enterprises and through roles as hosts, guides, hospitality and/or development of handicrafts and local products for tourists. This will generate socioeconomic benefits for women and also help improve female participation in the labor market. Women are typically under-represented in decision making, particularly at formal or higher-levels, and the project will seek to encourage the participation of women in tourist development platforms and associations at municipal and county levels.

A gender analysis has been completed to help understand the different roles of men and women in biodiversity-friendly tourism economic activities. At the site level, the project will carefully respond to local conditions pertaining to local livelihoods, resource use and land tenure and management systems, and factors affecting the livelihoods of women and men in project KBAs and nearby communities. Consultation sessions were held to obtain views and inputs of a wide range of local stakeholders, including women, to develop project activities and to inform the stakeholder engagement plan with full gender considerations. A corresponding gender mainstreaming action plan for the project has been completed and will be submitted with the project document at time of CEO Endorsement. This includes integrated project approaches and actions to mitigate any negative impacts on rural women and girls (e.g., in terms of benefit sharing, labor division of labor, access to resources, access to technology and skills development), along with the gender mainstreaming focus which has been integrated across project activities as relevant. Gender-disaggregated targets and indicators are included within the project results framework. The project is aiming for at least 50% of direct beneficiaries to be female.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

There have been no changes to the project's engagement with the private sector since the PIF was designed and approved. Details of the project's activities in relation to the private sector have been further developed during the PPG. The description of the project's engagement with the private sector is included in Section III of the Prodoc, under the "Partnerships" sub-section (p. 24). The planned project outputs 2.1 and 2.3 in particular have been designed to specifically engage and cooperate with the private sector. Under Output 2.1 the project will directly engage hotels and restaurants in the private sector to support them in strengthening their biodiversity-friendly tourism practices. Under Output 2.3, the project will support private sector enterprises in developing marketing approaches for biodiversity-friendly tourism products and services. Many of the project outputs will directly target the tourism sector and private

tour operators and providers, through activities such as development of incentives to facilitate the adoption of biodiversity-friendly tourism development and operation, and demonstration of standards and guidelines for tourism operators to better incorporate biodiversity conservation along with the provision of awareness-raising and capacity development programs to support their uptake. It is anticipated that there will be strong interest expressed by private sector operators in key coastal zones to cooperate and coordinate with the project. Eco-friendly hotels and local tour operators could also champion the promotion of biodiversity-friendly tourism products/experiences developed by the project and their inclusion in regional tour itineraries. There are also opportunities to engage private sector nationally to support uptake of tourism sustainability and biodiversity-friendly standards across Albania. National tourism associations will be used as an entry point to private sector engagement. The UNDP policy on due diligence and partnerships with the private sector will be applied as relevant during implementation, for example, if formal partnerships with a legal basis are established between UNDP and private sector actors.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The risks to the project and the risks posed by the project (social and environmental risks) were updated and further elaborated during the PPG, following the updating of the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). Project risks are summarized in Prodoc Section III, sub-section on "Risks to project success and social / environmental safeguards", pp. 25-33, including a table summarizing risks and mitigation measures. Social and environmental risks are analyzed and assessed in the SESP, included as Annex 5 to the Prodoc. These risks, and associated mitigation measures, are detailed in the UNDP Risk Register in Annex 7. Furthermore, general project governance risk management procedures are detailed in Section X. "Risk Management" (p. 75).

There are two main types of risks: a.) external risks to the success of the project; and b.) social and environmental risks related to project implementation that could lead to unintended negative consequences. Multiple risk analyses were conducted during the PPG phase to identify these two types of risks related to the project. For the first category of risks, eight risks were identified, and are summarized in Prodoc Table 3 below, along with planned mitigation measures.

Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Measures
Slow or limited policy mainstreaming and adoption of biodiversity-friendly tourism within tourism development strategy.	Low ? 2	Low ? 2	Low	The project is well-aligned to government policy for tourism and different mandates and objectives of Ministries. Project outputs have been developed to provide inputs that can be fed into key national policy documents on tourism development, and integrated into county and municipal planning and partnerships. However, there is a chance that government policies can change during the life of the project which could lessen project sponsorship from government and limit mainstreaming potential. To mitigate this, the project will need to actively engage with key Ministries and municipalities during project development and implementation. Appropriate mechanisms for ensuring coordination and partnership between Ministries will be required.
Limited engagement of local communities and tour operators in capacity development programs for biodiversity-friendly tourism.	Low - 2	Moderate - 3	Moderate	Initial consultations have indicated interest of local stakeholders (for example, in the area surrounding Divjak? -Karavasta National Park), however current ecotourism efforts in the region have found that it can be difficult to secure time of local communities for tourism-related training and capacity development. To prevent against this, the project will actively engage with local communities during project implementation to seek their inputs and feedback on the content and structure of training and capacity development activities. The project will also seek to establish appropriate incentives to secure community engagement and interest, and will work with established community social enterprises to facilitate strong community engagement.

Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Measures
Economic factors influence tourism market in Albania in a way that prohibits achievement of project objective.	Moderate ? 3	Low - 2	Moderate	Albania's tourism sector is growing, but there is some potential for this to be negatively impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a reduction or slowing of tourism growth in Albania in the short-term, due to both travel restrictions, and general poor global economic conditions. This will not have a major impact on the project objective as there is still strong domestic tourism at project sites that can support biodiversity-friendly tourism development, and the project will set the stage for future tourism growth. There is also the possibility that Albania will actually benefit in the long-term from the global pandemic, as tourists look for relatively less expensive travel destinations that also provide quality ecotourism experiences. The success of the project is not reliant on tourism revenue which will mitigate against this risk, however a sharp downturn in tourism could potentially influence government policies, and the ability or willingness of private sector partners to implement biodiversity friendly approaches developed championed by the project. Project outputs and activities will be implemented in a way that helps prevent and mitigate this potential risk.
Biodiversity-friendly tourism might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit.	Low ? 2	Low -2	Low	A full gender analysis and mainstreaming plan has been completed during the PPG phase. Gender-based risks and mainstreaming opportunities have been integrated into project outputs and activities, and included within the project results framework.

Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Measures
Rolling out of new standards on tourism development / operation could change current access to tourism sites and their resources, including by restricting access to current tourism operators, which may include local communities (e.g. local tour operators, local guides).	Impact ? 3	Low ? 2	Moderate	Local communities and tour associations have been included in consultations during project development and their views and inputs secured. The project will demonstrate activities to help encourage voluntary adoption of more sustainable and biodiversity-positive tourism rather than blunt enforcement of rules, which will help facilitate engagement and buy-in for activities. UNDP's SESP screening has been completed in accordance with policy, including the elaboration of mitigation of potential impacts at a community / local level. The project has developed and will implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to ensure that local stakeholders and communities are consulted and engaged in project activities.
Climate change could impact natural habitats (including shifts in use of natural resources by local communities, e.g. if agricultural crops fail) and impact on the quality of ecotourism experiences.	Moderate ? 3	Moderate - 3	Moderate	These impacts are more likely to emerge over the longer term, but over the course of project duration there could be localized storm or extreme weather events that impact on natural assets supporting tourism, reduce access to tourist sites reducing tourism numbers and economic benefits for communities. Relevant climate risk screening was applied during the PPG phase. The project will engage local communities and tour operators in the project development and detailed design. Climate change adaptation will be integrated into activities related to standards, guidelines and criteria for tourism planning, development, operation and monitoring. Climate change vulnerability and adaptation will also be considered in the development of biodiversity-friendly tourism products.

Risks	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Assessment	Mitigation Measures
Area of influence risk: Despite the project's best efforts, it is possible that large-scale tourism development that is not biodiversity-friendly (large scale mass-market tourism development in ecologically sensitive areas) will occur in the project target areas, which would significantly affect the project's ability to achieve its planned outcomes and objective.	Moderate ? 3	Low ? 2	Moderate	The project will work closely with all stakeholders, including key government decision-makers, with the aim of being informed as far in advance as possible of potential large-scale developments that are not aligned with the project strategy. If any such developments are initiated, the project team will work with a range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to re-direct developments in an appropriate manner. The project will connect investors wishing to initiate tourism development with experts to ensure that tourism development is planned and carried out in a biodiversity-friendly manner.
COVID-19 related travel and meeting limitations may affect the proposed project's support for biodiversity conservation and biodiversity friendly tourism activities	Low ? 2	Low ? 2	Low	The COVID-19 situation has been closely followed during the PPG. In case threats persist during project implementation, the project's interventions requiring public gatherings will sought to be replaced by online alternatives. When online alternatives are not feasible (e.g. for rural stakeholders with limited IT capacity), meeting participants will be properly instructed to keep social distancing and all other national requirements related to COVID-19 protocols. They will be provided PPE materials such as masks and sanitizer. Outdoor meeting venues will be utilized, with necessary arrangements to make participation comfortable.

Note on COVID-19: Risks related to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic were monitored during the PPG phase, and no major risks to the proposed project strategy and activities were identified. The COVID-19 situation will be closely followed during project implementation. UNDP together with MoTE have adaptive management capacities and possibilities to ensure COVID-19 related mitigation measures and effectiveness of the proposed overall project implementation and stakeholder

engagement. In case threats persist following project approval and up to the time of project start-up, the project's interventions requiring public gatherings (including, for example, the project inception workshop) will be sought to be replaced by online alternatives. When that is not feasible, meeting participants will be properly instructed to keep social distancing; they will be provided with a sufficient number of masks and sanitizers. Outdoor venues will be encouraged, with necessary arrangements in place to ensure participants are comfortable. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes further details on enabling the participation of all stakeholders in the project implementation, with appropriate mitigation measures in case of COVID-19 restrictions, including ways to reach out to the most marginalized groups. The project annual reports will include updated analysis of the situation, as relevant.

Procedures for Screening, Assessment & Management of Social and Environmental Risks

UNDP has adopted an updated version of its Social and Environmental Standards (SES) policy that became effective on January 1, 2021. The objectives of the SES are to:

- ? Strengthen the quality of programming by ensuring a principled approach
- ? Maximize social and environmental opportunities and benefits
- ? Avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment
- ? Minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible
- ? Strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks
- ? Ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

The standards set out social and environmental requirements applicable to UNDP supported projects.

- Standard 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Standard 2. Climate Change and Disaster Risk
- Standard 3. Community Health, Safety and Security
- Standard 4. Cultural Heritage
- Standard 5. Displacement and Resettlement
- Standard 6. Indigenous Peoples
- Standard 7. Labor and working conditions
- Standard 8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Eight risks were identified in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) (Annex 5), and the project is assessed as moderate risk overall in relation to SES. The project was categorized as 'moderate risk' because of Output 1.1 (related to national policies, standards, strategies and regulations), Output 1.2 (related to municipal spatial planning), Output 1.4 (related to environmental hotspot identification and mitigation feasibility planning), and Output 2.2 (related to the establishment of small scale tourism

infrastructure) that will involve activities that will have their detailed design finalized only during project implementation.

Potential risks related to these project activities, whether social or environmental, will be, therefore further screened during the project implementation at the appropriate level, in accordance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES), with a particular emphasis on the following standards: Standard 1 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management); Standard 3 (Community Health, Safety, and Security); Standard 4 (Cultural Heritage); and Standard 7 (Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency). A description of potential risks and measures to mitigate these projects is provided in the SESP in Annex 5.

The project will ensure that the project activities are implemented also in accordance with the national legislation listed below that governs the revision of municipal spatial plans, environmental enforcement measures, environmental hotspot identification and mitigation feasibility assessment, and small-scale tourism infrastructure.

Relevant legislation and regulations that could pertain to certain aspects of project activities are as follows:

- ? Law on Environmental Protection No. 10431/2011
- ? Law on Environmental Permits No. 10448/2011
- ? Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment No. 91/2013
- ? Law on Environmental Impact Assessment No. 10440/2011
- ? Law on Licenses, Authorizations and Permits No. 10081/2009
- ? Law No. 9587 on biodiversity protection and its later amendments and supplements
- ? Law on Protected Areas No. 81/2017
- ? Law on the Protection of Wild Fauna No. 10006/2008
- ? Law on the Moratorium in Forests No. 5/2016
- ? Law on the Moratorium on Hunting No. 61/2016
- ? Law on Environmental Protection and the Law on Organic Production, Labelling of Organic Products and Their Control No. 106/2016
- ? Law on Integrated Waste Management No. 10463/2011
- ? Law on Integrated Water Resources Management No. 111/2012
- ? Law on Protection of Transboundary Lakes No. 9103/2003
- ? Law on Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution and Deterioration No. 8905/2002
- ? Law on Evaluation and Management of Environmental Noise No. 9774/2007
- ? Law on the Use of Fertilizers for Plants No. 10390/2011
- ? Law on Tourism No. 93/2015
- ? Law No. 107/2014 on territory planning and development and its implementing regulations
- ? Law No. 7895/1995 Criminal Code amended by Law No. 44/2019, dated 18.7.2019

In addition, Albania is a party to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) that provide numerous requirements and orientations that are directly relevant to this project.

With respect to UNDP SES standards relating to occupational health and safety, Albania has ratified the Occupational Health and Safety Convention. The below legislation further codifies relevant occupational health and safety protections in Albania:

Code of Labor of the Republic of Albania

Law No. 10237, dated 18.02.2010, on safety and health at work

The responsibility for respecting the applicable UNDP SES Policy and the national legislation will be carried out by the Project Manager and will be supervised by the UNDP CO Safeguards Officer. The UNDP Gender Expert will also assess and monitor the project to ensure compliance with applicable UNDP standards for gender equality and women's empowerment (additional information is provided in the relevant subsection below and in Prodoc Annex 10).

Site-specific assessments and management plans will be prepared for project activities that trigger those requirements (per the SES); no activities that could cause harm can commence until those management measures are approved and put in place. All social and environmental risks will be subject to monitoring and follow-up to ensure that planned mitigation measures are implemented and effective. All project activities that require further assessment, permitting, etc., will be closely supervised by the Safeguards Expert and the Project Manager to ensure that they carry out the necessary actions. Furthermore, project activities will adhere to the following exclusionary criteria; i.e., the Project Board shall not approve project activities that involve any of the following elements:

- ? Forced evictions of individuals or communities (as prohibited by the SES);
- ? Any forms of employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labour standards;
- ? Alteration, damage, or removal of cultural heritage;
- ? Activities that affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and livelihoods of local resource users in an adverse way.
- ? Support for extractive industries;
- ? Cultivation or processing of tobacco and tobacco products; Use, sale, or distribution of wildlife or other products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The Prodoc Table 4, excerpted below, provides an overview of the management of potential social and environmental risks related to the project. For all outputs that require

further safeguards screening, assessment and management, no activities can start until after the required screening has been prepared, and if necessary for SES compliance assessments conducted and management plans are put in place.

Table 4.a Risk Management framework for ensuring project's compliance with the relevant UNDP SES and national legal framework

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Horizontal arrangement for the avoidance of potential adverse impacts on human rights and other adverse impacts on the potentially affected population and individuals (including particularly marginalized groups).	Human Rights Principle Accountability Principle	The project will operate a transparent, fair, and free-to-access project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), approved by stakeholders, which will be put in place at the start of implementation. Stakeholders will be able to raise a grievance at any time to the Project Management Office, the Executing Agency, Implementing Agency (UNDP), or the GEF.	The Implementing Partner will establish the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and use the inception phase to clearly communicate its existence to all stakeholders and how they may communicate concerns or grievances when activities may adversely affect them (see Prodoc Annex 6).
Horizontal arrangement for the advancement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principle	Implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), monitored by the UNDP Country Office gender expert. Gender sensitive approaches and opportunities for tackling women's needs, such as to support women's participation in project meetings and workshops and ensuring the inclusion of women.	The Implementing Partner will implement the Gender Action Plan and will provide UNDP with data on results related to gender mainstreaming.
Activity-specific Measures:			

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
<p>Output 1.1. National policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support development of biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism development adopted and implemented</p>	<p>Human Rights Principle</p> <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principle</p> <p>Accountability Principle</p> <p>Standard 5 - Displacement and Resettlement</p>	<p>The development of the relevant national policies, standards, strategies and regulation will respect the applicable environmental legislation and will be guided by the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its SPA/BD Protocol.</p> <p>Within this process, the project will ensure full implementation of the comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, based on an appropriately scoped stakeholder analysis, and through the specific mechanisms and approaches to involve all stakeholder groups, including marginalized groups and women. Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored by the project Steering Committee and by UNDP through the annual PIR. The PMU will keep records of stakeholder consultations and engagement during project implementation. The implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be validated by the Terminal Evaluation.</p> <p>The project will also ensure implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), monitored by the UNDP Country Office gender expert. The project will also implement gender sensitive approaches and opportunities for tackling women's needs,</p>	<p>The Implementing Partner will ensure the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and will provide UNDP with data on results related to gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>The Implementing Partner will also establish the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and use the inception phase to clearly communicate its existence to all stakeholders and how they may communicate concerns or grievances when activities may adversely affect them (see Prodoc Annex 6).</p>

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
		<p>such as to support women's participation in project meetings and workshops and ensuring the inclusion of women in biodiversity-friendly tourism development activities, supporting improved livelihoods. The project team and partners will provide gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators to facilitate planning, implementation, and monitoring.</p> <p>The project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism will be in place to address complaints.</p>	

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Output 1.2. Municipal spatial plans incorporating biodiversity considerations in tourism development for 3 Key Biodiversity Areas	<p>Accountability Principle</p> <p>Standard 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Standard 2 - Climate Change and Disaster Risks</p> <p>Standard 5 - Displacement and Resettlement</p> <p>Standard 4 - Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Standard 8 - Pollution Prevention</p>	<p>The project will provide technical support to municipalities to develop biodiversity-friendly changes to municipal spatial plans. These proposed spatial planning measures will be based on the applicable land-use planning regulations (under the Law No. 107/2014 on Territorial Planning and Development) and will be elaborated through a consultative process that will provide potentially affected and concerned stakeholders with opportunities to raise comments or objections. Under national territorial planning legislation and bylaws, municipalities are obligated to conduct 3-4 public hearings when drafting spatial plans. In some cases, municipalities may hold specific hearings dedicated to the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.</p> <p>In addition, the development of these proposed spatial planning proposals will be guided by the relevant provisions of the Barcelona Convention and its SPA/BD Protocol.</p> <p>The proposed land-use changes will also consider and duly respect other applicable SES and the alignment of the proposed modifications of the municipal spatial plans with national spatial planning</p>	<p>The Implementing Partner will provide regular reports on the way the relevant UNDP standards are being respected during the elaboration of the proposed land-use changes and an overview of comments and objections that have been raised during this process.</p> <p>The Implementing Partner will also undertake SEA whenever the proposed changes in the land-use plans require such assessment according to the relevant Albania laws and regulations, and will allow UNDP to provide input during scoping and review of these SEAs.</p>

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
		<p>documents ? especially with the General National Territorial Plan, the Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast and the Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Economic Zone Tirana? Durr?s. approved by the National Territorial Council in June 2016. The General National Territorial Plan makes references to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Protection of the natural areas is also recognized as an important factor. Reference is also made to Natura 2000 and the European Green Belt. The Integrated Cross-sectoral Plan for the Coast makes a reference to the principles of integrated coastal zone management and to the Barcelona and Ramsar Conventions.</p> <p>The proposed land-use changes will be also screened in accordance with Law No. 91/2013 on strategic environmental assessment and will be subject to relevant SEA processes if/when required by the law.</p> <p>The elaboration of proposals for changes in the municipal spatial plans will also dully consider the existing and expected climate change risks and advise on optimal planning options that avoid, reduce, or offset these risks.</p>	

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Output 1.3. Multi-stakeholder and participatory management and implementation mechanisms established and functioning	<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principle</p> <p>Accountability Principle</p>	<p>The SES requirements will be met through implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), monitored by the UNDP Country Office gender expert. In addition, the project will include gender sensitive approaches and opportunities for tackling women's needs, such as to support women's participation in project meetings and workshops and ensuring the inclusion of women in biodiversity-friendly tourism development activities, supporting improved livelihoods. The project team and partners will provide gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators to facilitate planning, implementation, and monitoring.</p> <p>The project team, UNDP, and project partners will ensure full implementation of the comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, based on an appropriately scoped stakeholder analysis, and through the specific mechanisms and approaches to involve all stakeholder groups, including marginalized groups and women. In addition, the project will establish the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism in place to address complaints.</p>	<p>The Implementing Partner will support the implementation of the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan by ensuring all multi-stakeholder mechanisms include the representation of all relevant stakeholders, including gender considerations.</p> <p>The Implementing Partner will ensure the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and will provide UNDP with data on results related to gender mainstreaming.</p>

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Output 1.4. Technical capacity development program for monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development; ecological monitoring systems in place	Standard 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	<p>To meet SES requirements and address risks, the project activities and outputs will ensure compliance with all relevant national legislation and regulations</p> <p>The project will conduct a pre-assessment of environmentally friendly mitigation options to confirm that any mitigation options identified and analyzed are appropriate, at technically sound, and cost-effective approaches. The identification and analysis of mitigation options will include application of the SES Procedure for this specific activity and will consider SES requirements. As necessary and relevant, Targeted Assessments will be conducted, in line with national requirements, UNDP's SES, and international norms, such as a water resources impact study, and measures to ensure there is no inadvertent environmental harm (in case mitigation options will be implemented by project partners during project implementation).</p>	The Implementing Partner will ensure the implementation of any mitigation options identified by the project fully meets Albanian national environmental requirements and standards in terms of EIA, SEA, environmental permitting, and any other requirements. The Implementing Partner will ensure that the project activities will only include the identification of environmentally friendly mitigation options, and no actual construction activities will take place with the support of project resources.
Output 2.1. Coastal tourism public-private partnerships for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity	No specific SES triggered.		

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Output 2.2. Biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems	<p>Human Rights Principle 2</p> <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Principle</p> <p>Accountability Principle</p> <p>Standard 1 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</p> <p>Climate Change and Disaster Risks Standard 2</p> <p>Standard 3 - Community Health, Safety and Security</p> <p>Standard 7 - Labour and Working Conditions</p>	<p>The project activities will be implemented in accordance with all relevant national laws, including the Law on Evaluation and Management of Environmental Noise No. 9774/2007, as well as the Law on Integrated Waste Management No. 10463/2011, and the Law on Integrated Water Resources Management No. 111/2012.</p> <p>The project will establish multi-stakeholder management mechanisms under Output 1.3. The project will support training to increase government capacity under Output 1.4 and Output 2.2 to support the government's ability to meet their obligations in a non-discriminatory manner (monitoring and enforcement actions by environmental inspectors, construction inspectors, or other relevant government agents do not carry out their duties in a discriminatory manner). The project team, UNDP, and partners will ensure implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan. The project's Grievance Redress Mechanism will also ensure that any discriminatory actions that occur within the framework of the project can be adequately resolved.</p> <p>The project will ensure that all activities are executed in a manner that reduces risks</p>	<p>The Implementing Partner will design appropriate training for relevant government staff and supported also by project's stakeholder engagement and consultation mechanisms, and ensures staff participate in training activities. The Implementing Partner will provide support in managing climate risks by ensuring dissemination of climate risk information to partners and stakeholders, The Implementing Partner will ensure that any small-scale infrastructure directly supported by the project (Output 2.2) is designed to be climate resilient.</p>

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
	<p>Standard 8 - Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</p>	<p>of potential adverse impacts to biodiversity, and maximizes biodiversity conservation benefits. Activities under Output 2.2 are intended to be carried out in partnership and cooperation with the PAs that are within the scope of the project, and therefore all aspects of the activities will be carried out in alignment with the PAs' management plans, and within the goals and objectives of the PAs ? which is primarily the conservation of biodiversity. The PA partners, and individuals associated with other partner organizations (i.e. CSOs, academia) are technical biodiversity experts, and they will provide inputs to specific aspects of project activities to ensure that all activities support the overall objective of the project, and the partner PAs, which is the conservation of biodiversity. All activities will be reviewed by the Project Steering Committee, which will also ensure that project activities do not create any undue risks to biodiversity.</p> <p>Any proposals related to the potential changes in the local regulations related to harvesting of marine resources will consider the dynamic of aquaculture activities and the cumulative pressures in the marine and coastal ecosystems and will be designed to ensure a long-term equilibrium between the harvesting of marine</p>	

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
		<p>aquatic resources and the rigorous protection of marine and costal protected areas.</p> <p>In addition, attention to the current and potential impacts of climate change will be built-in to all proposed projects. Site-specific climate screenings will be applied to any project-funded infrastructure development during implementation, as reflected in the ProDoc (along with other screening requirements).</p> <p>To address community health and safety SES risks, structural elements (e.g. signs, walking paths, etc.) will be designed, constructed, operated and decommissioned in accordance with national legal requirements, UNDP's SES, good international practice, and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals.</p>	
<p>Output 2.3. Biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences developed with local communities to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and generate livelihood benefits</p>	<p>No specific SES triggered.</p>		

Project components	Applicable UNDP SES Policy	Planned arrangements	Obligations for the implementing entity
Output 3.1 Targeted outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism delivered to tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists	No specific SES triggered.		
Output 3.2 Knowledge exchange system established to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of best practices across Albania	No specific SES triggered.		
Output 3.3 M&E system incorporating gender mainstreaming and safeguards developed and implemented for adaptive project management	No specific SES triggered.		

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project's institutional arrangements are described in detail in Prodoc Section VI. ?Governance and Management Arrangements? (pp. 61-67). Coordination aspects are also described Section III, sub-section on ?Partnerships? (p. 24) and sub-section on ?Stakeholder Engagement and South-South Cooperation? (pp. 34-36), and will include representation by other development partners on the Project Steering Committee. Coordination aspects are also described in the Stakeholder Engagement plan, as discussed in Section 2. above.

A summary of the institutional arrangements is provided below, from the Prodoc.

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE). The project will be nationally implemented (NIM), with UNDP execution assistance, in line with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Albania and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), signed by parties June 17, 1991. The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance, specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility

and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in the Project Document.

Responsible Parties: Based on consultations between UNDP and the Government of Albania, the National Agency for Protected Areas (NAPA) has been identified as a Responsible Party for the implementation of technical components of the project. The NAPA is the main protected areas system management authority, established in 2015, and which employs 304 staff, of whom 24 are based in the headquarters in Tirana and the rest are deployed in the 12 regional (counties) directorates (RAPAs). The selection of the RP was discussed and agreed between MoTE and UNDP. NAPA is a technical government agency responsible for managing a significant portion of the geographic area covered by the Key Biodiversity Areas that represent the strategic focus of the project. In addition, the areas managed by the NAPA represent significant nature-based tourism assets. An execution options analysis was carried out, discussed, and explained in the UNDP audit checklist verified by the IRH team and signed by the UNDP-GEF head, with notice of the planned arrangements shared in advance with the GEF Secretariat. The PCAT and HACT for the NAPA are attached as Annex 16 to this Prodoc. In line with UNDP POPP, RP agreements will be signed only after funds are approved and the Prodoc is signed by UNDP and the Government of Albania. The Government of Albania will sign a contract with the RP, as specified in the UNDP POPP; there is no intention to deviate from POPP requirements. The NAPA as Responsible Party will support delivery of selected technical activities under Components 1, 2 and 3.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

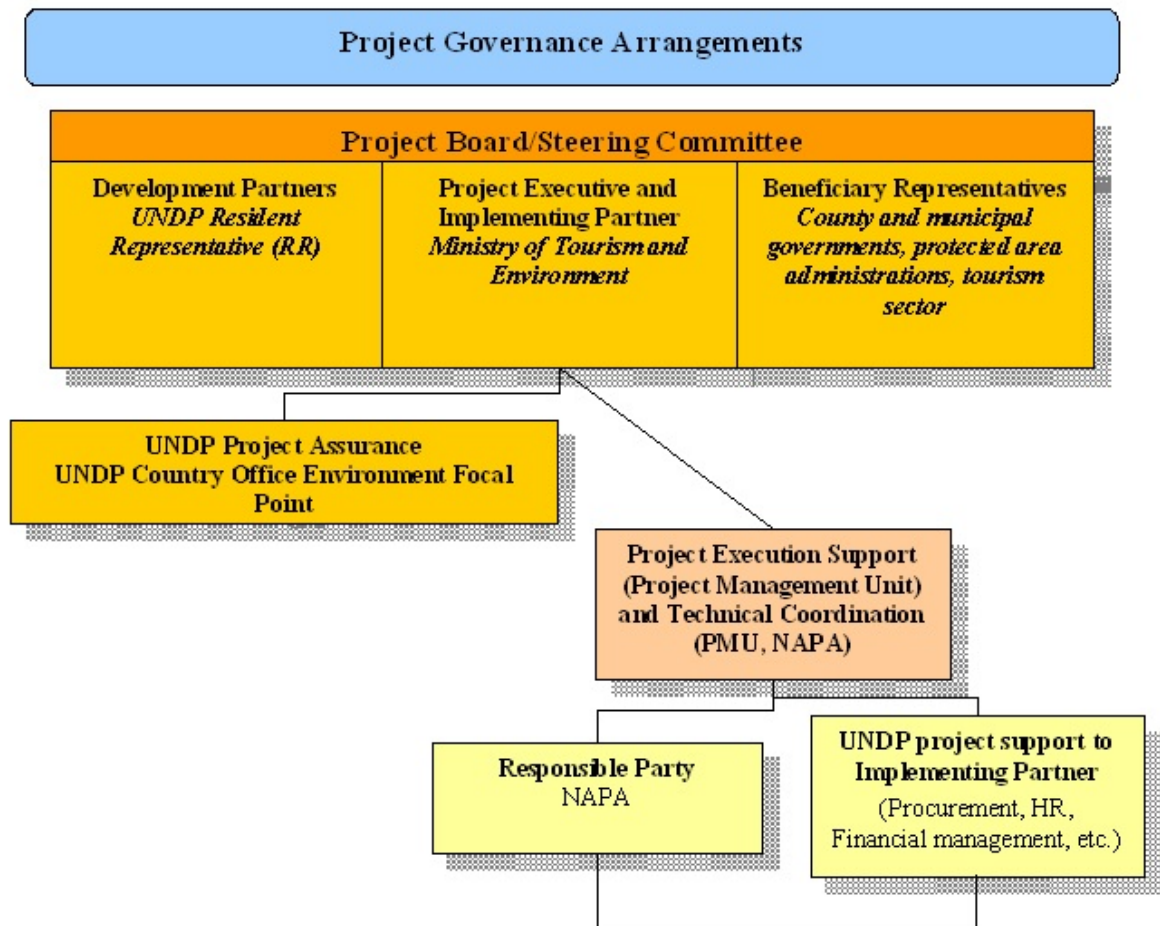
Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project. The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

- 1) High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner (as explained in the 'Provide Oversight' section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of

project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the 'Manage Change' section of the POPP).

Project Organization Structure



Project Management ? Execution of the Project: The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance

levels and risk registers. The PMU will be located outside the office of UNDP. A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings will be determined once the PMU staff are contracted during the project inception phase.

UNDP project support: The Implementing Partner as represented by the GEF OFP has requested UNDP to provide support services for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services.

During the PPG, consultations have been conducted between UNDP and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment to determine suitable execution arrangements for the efficient and effective delivery of the project. Based on extensive discussions and the request of the Ministry, an assisted-NIM execution modality is foreseen. The Government of Albania does not have, and does not wish to have, project execution capacities. No other suitable project execution partner has been identified. The role of government institutions in Albania is directed toward setting policy, and law-making. As such, the Government of Albania does not have a mandate for, and does not desire a mandate for, project execution. Following consultations with the project Implementing Partner, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, it was determined that it was not feasible for the project to be implemented under full National Implementation (full NIM) arrangements. In addition, considering that project execution is not a core government task, government institutions currently have capacity weaknesses related to project management functions (similar to other countries in the ECA region that have recently developed GEF-7 projects, such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan, where UNDP execution support has also been requested). Given that full national implementation is not a viable option from either the point of view of the Government of Albania or UNDP, UNDP worked with the government to identify potential government bodies to provide project execution support. The government proposed that project execution be delegated to the National Agency for Protected Areas, a government body. A micro-HACT assessment was conducted for the NAPA, which identified a small number of institutional capacity limitations and risk areas. The Government of Albania has therefore formally requested UNDP provide execution support on an exceptional basis through a letter from the GEF OFP to the UNDP Country Office.

In line with agreements reached during the PPG, the GEF budget will not be charged for compensation to UNDP Country Office. Any costs associated with rendition of execution support by UNDP Country Office will be borne by UNDP Country office itself (as in-kind contribution to the project). To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- *National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC*
- *National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD*
- *ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury*
- *Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention*
- *National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD*
- *National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC*
- *Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC*
- *National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD*
- *National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs*
- *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)*
- *National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC*
- *Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC*
- *Others*

The project remains fully consistent with national priorities as originally outlined in the PIF. The project supports national priorities relating to the UNCBD, including as outlined in Albania's NBSAP. The project's relevance to these priorities and multilateral agreements is outlined in Section I of the Prodoc, sub-section on 'Consistency with National Policies, Laws, Strategies, and Assessments under Relevant Conventions' (pp. 13-15).

The project is highly relevant to and consistent with Albania's national priorities related to biodiversity conservation, as outlined in key national policy documents. The project rationale and approach is fully consistent with broader government planning at the national level, and specifically in relation to Albania's coastal belt. The Government of Albania ratified the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on 1994 and to this end it is committed to the implementation of the requirements of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of Parties (COP) of CBD. The Convention is binding on the member states to make sure that this strategy is consistent with planning and activities of all sectors that might have a (favorable or adverse) impact on biodiversity. Biodiversity conservation is addressed through the second revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2012 - 2020). The NBSAP is the main strategic document guiding the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity requirements in Albania. In addition, Albania is a participant in European and regional initiatives related to the CBD - particularly the PAN-European Strategy on Biological and Landscape Diversity (PESBLD). The primary focus for implementing the CBD and PESBLD are:

- Protection and improvement of biological and landscape diversity;
- Incorporation of principles and policies required for sustainable biodiversity use and management into national legislation; and
- Promotion of sustainable development for present and future generations.

The NBSAP specifically highlights the linkages between sustainable tourism and the conservation of biodiversity: *Recreational values related to biological and landscape diversity represent an asset that may be used for tourism development. This is a task and responsibility for the protection and development of these values and passing them on to current and future generations. If we are not able, and not responsible for protecting biological diversity there is risk for loss of these values that help tourism, as an instrument for fostering development in Albania. Hunting, fishing, and alpinism, and other tourism-related activities require from the country to take the necessary measures for protecting environment and its biodiversity. Recently, the concept of ecotourism has turned into an important domain, which is generating financial benefits, in particular regarding protected areas, but not only, and which generates sustainable use of biodiversity components. This element was identified and developed in cooperation with the responsible Ministry for culture, in the National Tourism Development Strategy.?*

As outlined in the NBSAP, the first strategic policy objective of the NBSAP is the integration of biodiversity in cross-sector policies. A specific target for this objective is the formulation and use of guidelines to ensure that biodiversity has been considered in the decision-making process. This is covered through Component 1 of the project. In addition, the NBSAP aims to promote and support the inclusion of actors in decision-making regarding biodiversity, which is also supported through Component 1 of the project, through the establishment of management working groups. Another target under this strategic objective is the conservation and strengthening of the social functions of biodiversity; this can be addressed through the recognition of biodiversity as important for socio-economic development, through activities such as ecotourism. Another target relates to the engagement of the private sector in biodiversity conservation, which is critical in the sustainable development of the tourism sector, and which is also supported by the project under multiple aspects of the project, but especially under Component 2.

In addition, Albania is a party to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA/BD Protocol) that provide numerous requirements and orientations that are directly relevant to this project. Albania acceded to the Barcelona Convention May 30, 1990, and ratified the SPA/BD Protocol July 26, 2001.

The project will support Albania's contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets. The primary SDG linkages will be to SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 14 (Life Under Water). There are also contributions from the proposed project towards SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic

Growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Sustainable tourism has been identified as contributing to all SDGs (e.g. see the Global Sustainable Tourism Council alignment of the GSTC criteria to SDGs), so indirectly the project will have the potential for broad SDG contributions. Key contributions to Aichi targets include: Target 1 (awareness of values of biodiversity awareness), Target 4 (sustainable production and consumption), Target 5 (habitat loss and degradation), Target 11 (protected area expansion and management).

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The project has been designed to address Knowledge Management through multiple activities and aspects of the project. Components 3 and 4 of the project include a variety of activities that support Knowledge Management (as described in the project activities for these components (pp. 23-24), but Knowledge Management activities are also included throughout Components 1 and 2 of the project. For example, Output 1.2 will support a multi-stakeholder consultative process that will facilitate knowledge exchange between stakeholders and institutions responsible for management of natural resources and economic development in critical coastal habitats. Under Outputs 1.4 and 2.2, the project will support the training of local resource managers in environmental monitoring and biodiversity-friendly tourism development. Under Output 1.4 the project will support local resource managers and PAs to improve their ecological monitoring, ensuring that biodiversity and ecosystem data are properly managed and integrated with local management planning systems. The project results framework also includes Knowledge Management indicators, including indicator 8, relating to levels of awareness and understanding about the importance of biodiversity to tourism, and indicator 9, relating to the dissemination of good practices and lessons relating to biodiversity-friendly tourism.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The budgeted M&E plan is included in Prodoc Section V., "Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan" (p. 60), which also refers to the Prodoc Section IV Project Results Framework (pp. 39-44). Component 4 of the project is specifically dedicated to project M&E. The budgeted M&E plan and Component 4 of the project are also consistent with the Total Budget & Work Plan in Prodoc Section VIII (pp. 70-74).

The project inception workshop, to be held within three months of signing of the project document, is a critical milestone on the implementation timeline, providing an opportunity to validate the project document, including the screening of social and environment risks; confirming governance implementation arrangements; assessing changes in relevant circumstances and making adjustments to the project results

framework accordingly; verifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities; updating the project risks and agreeing to mitigation measures and responsibilities; and agreeing to the multi-year work plan. An inception workshop report will be prepared and disseminated among the Project Board committee members.

The project team will regularly monitor and evaluate achievement of the performance metrics included in the project results framework, and report progress in the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports and other progress reports, enabling timely implementation of adaptive management measures in response to monitoring and evaluation findings. The project safeguards assessments and management plans will also be regularly reviewed and updated.

Consistent with GEF requirements for MSPs, one independent evaluation will be carried out of the project, a terminal evaluation.

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshops (3), Technical Support, and Report	\$16,000	Inception Workshops within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework, and preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	\$24,000	Annually and at mid-point and closure.
Monitoring of safeguards and gender action plan	Included in other monitoring activities.	On-going.
Supervision missions	N/A	Annually
Learning missions	N/A	As needed
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	\$31,700	May 1, 2027
Project Completion Workshop	\$1,500	<i>At the end of project</i>
Total Indicative Cost	\$73,200 (\$57,200 financed from GEF, \$16,000 co-financed from UNDP cash co-financing)	<i>Equivalent to TBWP component (M&E)</i>

Certain adaptive management measures might be warranted during project implementation in case of a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic. Through implementation of possible adaptive management measures, project implementation is expected to be carried out without major impacts to the budget. The project team will provide strategic guidance to the local partners through a variety of in-person and virtual techniques accordingly.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?

The socioeconomic and local benefits generated through the project are described in Section III of the Prodoc, sub-section on 'Socio-economic and Local Benefits', (p. 38). Beneficiaries are also included in the discussion on project stakeholders in the same section of the Prodoc, and in Annex 9 of the Prodoc, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project is expected to have a minimum of 300 direct beneficiaries, which will primarily be project participants from various stakeholder organizations and institutions responsible for sustainable tourism development, and the management of natural resources along Albania's coast, as well as private sector participants from small and medium tourism enterprises. For example, under Output 1.4 it is estimated that the project will have a minimum of 20 direct beneficiaries from the training program on biodiversity-friendly tourism policy and development. An additional 10 direct beneficiaries are anticipated in relation to the training program for environmental inspectors under Output 2.2. The project would also have 20 direct beneficiaries from the Green Tourism Investor Fair foreseen under Output 2.1. Under Output 2.3, the project would have approximately 25-30 direct beneficiaries from the project activities related to the promotion and marketing development of biodiversity-friendly tourism products and services. The project would also have more than 100 direct beneficiaries from all knowledge sharing activities under Component 3. Based on an analysis of all project activities, it was estimated that there would be a minimum of approximately 100 direct beneficiaries for each of the three project components.

Support for sustainable local livelihoods in the tourism sector (particularly under Component 2) is a key part of the project's strategy, and critical for the general of GEBs. The tourism sector along Albania's coast continues to grow, and demonstrating that biodiversity-friendly tourism can generate local economic benefits is necessary to ensure that the tourism sector continues to develop in a sustainable manner. This will be tracked through indicator 1 of the project Strategic Results Framework, including gender disaggregated reporting. The type and number of beneficiaries will be analyzed as part of the project's aggregation of results data for regular reporting under the annual PIR.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
PIMS 6584 SESP Albania_MainstreamingBDinCoastalTourism_22DEC2022	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SESP Pre-Screening	Project PIF ESS	

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).

Please see Section IV. "Project Results Framework" of the Prodoc, pp. 42-47, of the Prodoc.

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective:	<i>To position the development of the tourism industry in Albania as a positive influence on the status of biodiversity in coastal Key Biodiversity Areas, and as pillar of sustainable livelihoods, through mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism planning and development</i>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p><u>Mandatory</u> Indicator 1: # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people) (GEF Core Indicator 11)</p> <p><i>(Provide total number of all direct project beneficiaries expected to benefit from all project activities until project closure. Separate the total number by female and male. This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving</i></p>	0	100	<p>300</p> <p><i>(Estimated as approximately 100 direct beneficiaries under each of Component 1, Component 2, and Component 3)</i></p>

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p><i>targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.)</i></p>			
	<p><u>Mandatory</u> <u>GEF Core Indicators:</u> Indicator 2: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (hectares) (GEF Core Indicators sub-indicator 1.2)</p>	0	67,443 ha Karaburun Nature Reserve: 17,491 ha Divjak?-Karavasta National Park: 22,389 ha Patok-Fushe Kuqe Reserve: 4,982 ha Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve: 3,110 ha Buna River-Velipoje Protected Landscape: 19,471 ha	67,443 ha Karaburun Nature Reserve: 17,491 ha Divjak?-Karavasta National Park: 22,389 ha Patok-Fushe Kuqe Reserve: 4,982 ha Kune-Vain-Tale Nature Reserve: 3,110 ha Buna River-Velipoje Protected Landscape: 19,471 ha

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p><u>Mandatory GEF Core Indicators:</u></p> <p>Indicator 3: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, excluding protected areas) (qualitative assessment, non-certified) (<i>GEF Core Indicators sub-indicator 4.1</i>)</p>	0	<p>94,395 ha</p> <p>Area of KBAs not covered by PAs:</p> <p>Narta lagoon - 6,056.65</p> <p>Vlor? bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain (including Orikum lagoon) - 48,357.99</p> <p>Karavasta lagoon - 2,740.16</p> <p>Patoku lagoon - 158.01</p> <p>Drini delta - 91.78</p> <p>Vilun marsh - 36,990.34</p>	<p>94,395 ha</p> <p>Area of KBAs not covered by PAs:</p> <p>Narta lagoon - 6,056.65</p> <p>Vlor? bay, Karaburun peninsula and Cika mountain (including Orikum lagoon) - 48,357.99</p> <p>Karavasta lagoon - 2,740.16</p> <p>Patoku lagoon - 158.01</p> <p>Drini delta - 91.78</p> <p>Vilun marsh - 36,990.34</p>
Project Component 1	Component 1. Enabling framework for mainstreaming biodiversity into coastal tourism development (planning, implementation mechanisms, data)			
<p>Project Outcome 1:</p> <p>Strengthened and harmonized policies and standards to mainstream biodiversity conservation into tourism</p> <p>(<i>Outcomes are medium term results that the project makes a contribution towards, and that are</i></p>	<p>Indicator 4: Number of new or amended laws, policies, regulations approved for environmental protection and sustainable green and blue growth incorporating gender equity considerations and sex-disaggregated data (<i>UNDP CPD Outcome Indicators</i>)</p>	0	0	2

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
<i>designed to help achieve the longer-term objective. Achievement of outcomes will be influenced both by project outputs and additional factors that may be outside the direct control of the project.)</i>	Indicator 5: Capacity level for management, monitoring, and oversight of sustainable tourism development	5.i. Municipal spatial plans in targeted KBAs not updated to incorporate biodiversity considerations 5.ii. No multi-stakeholder management mechanisms in place 5.iii. No specific training programs for municipal or natural resource management staff in relation to biodiversity-friendly tourism development 5.iv. Limited data on volume and type of tourism in KBAs; data not shared between stakeholders	5.i. One municipal spatial plan updated to incorporate biodiversity considerations 5.ii. Multi-stakeholder working groups on sustainable tourism development and management in four municipalities have met at least once, with participation from municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society 5.iii. Training program on biodiversity-friendly tourism development under development 5.iv. Data collection framework on tourism in KBAs agreed between relevant stakeholders (municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society)	5.i. Four municipal spatial plans updated to incorporate biodiversity considerations 5.ii. Multi-stakeholder working groups on sustainable tourism development and management in four municipalities meet at least quarterly, with participation from municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society 5.iii. Relevant stakeholder staff have improved skills and knowledge related to biodiversity friendly tourism development 5.iv. Annual data on tourism in KBAs collected and shared amongst relevant stakeholders (municipalities, RAPAs, private sector, and civil society)
Outputs to Achieve Outcome 1	<p>Output 1.1. National policies, standards, strategies and regulations to support development of biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism development adopted and implemented</p> <p>Output 1.2. Municipal spatial plans incorporating biodiversity considerations in tourism development for 3 Key Biodiversity Areas</p> <p>Output 1.3. Multi-stakeholder and participatory management and implementation mechanisms established and functioning</p> <p>Output 1.4. Technical capacity development program for monitoring and reporting mechanisms for sustainable tourism development; ecological monitoring systems in place</p>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Component 2	Component 2: Catalyzing biodiversity-friendly coastal tourism			
Outcome 2 More sustainable, biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism across more than 161,838 ha of ecologically important coastal landscapes	<p>Indicator 6: Extent of development and implementation of innovative mechanisms to incentivize sustainable tourism development, as indicated by:</p> <p>6.i. Number of hotels entering eco-certification processes (with project support)</p> <p>6.ii. Number of restaurants entering eco-certification processes (with project support)</p> <p>6.iii. Number of PAs with improved sustainable tourism infrastructure</p> <p>6.iv. Number of municipalities with expanded agritourism offerings</p> <p>6.v. Number of municipalities with local eco-product branding (with project support)</p>	<p>6.i. Number of hotels entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 0</p> <p>6.ii. Number of restaurants entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 0</p> <p>6.iii. Number of PAs with improved sustainable tourism infrastructure: 0</p> <p>6.iv. Number of municipalities with expanded agritourism offerings: 0</p> <p>6.v. Number of municipalities with local eco-product branding: 0</p>	<p>6.i. Number of hotels entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 1</p> <p>6.ii. Number of restaurants entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 1</p> <p>6.iii. Number of PAs with improved sustainable tourism infrastructure: 2</p> <p>6.iv. Number of municipalities with expanded agritourism offerings: 1</p> <p>6.v. Number of municipalities with local eco-product branding: 0</p>	<p>6.i. Number of hotels entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 4 (target rationale: 1 pilot per municipality)</p> <p>6.ii. Number of restaurants entering eco-certification processes (with project support): 4 (target rationale: 1 pilot per municipality)</p> <p>6.iii. Number of PAs with improved sustainable tourism infrastructure: 4 (target rationale: All PAs in scope of project)</p> <p>6.iv. Number of municipalities with expanded agritourism offerings: 2 (target rationale: Vlor? and Divjak? / Lezh? / Shkod?r)</p> <p>6.v. Number of municipalities with local eco-product branding: 2 (target rationale: further develop one partially in existence in Lezh?, and develop one new one in Vlor? or Divjak?; the 2 can then be replicated by other municipalities)</p>

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	Indicator 7: Interventions implemented to ensure effective performance of protected areas system and nature protection, as measured by PA METT scores (UNDP CPD Indicator 1.2)	<p><u>METT Scores:</u> Buna River-Velipoje: 59 Divjak?: 78 Kune Vain - Fushe Kuqe: 55 Karaburun: 55</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that the project may influence thirteen (13) METT assessment questions 2, 3, 4, 9, 15, 16, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32 and 34.</i></p>	<p><u>METT Scores:</u> Buna River-Velipoje: 60 Divjak?: 79 Kune Vain - Fushe Kuqe: 56 Karaburun: 56</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that the project activities will have had relatively little time to positively influence the relevant thirteen (13) METT assessment questions as of the project mid-point, and the METT assessment scores may only have increased by a value of +1.</i></p>	<p><u>METT Scores:</u> Buna River-Velipoje: 66 Divjak?: 82 Kune Vain - Fushe Kuqe: 62 Karaburun: 62</p> <p><i>It is anticipated that the project may positively influence approximately half (+7 out of 13 questions) of the relevant METT assessment questions for Buna River-Velipoje, Kuna Vain-Fushe Kuqe, and Karaburun PAs, which have lower baseline scores, and approximately one quarter of the questions (+4 out of 13 questions) for Divjak? which has a higher baseline score.</i></p>
Outputs to Achieve Outcome 2	<p>Output 2.1. Coastal tourism public-private cooperation for joint protection and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> <p>Output 2.2. Biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure, and monitoring and enforcement systems</p> <p>Output 2.3. Biodiversity-friendly tourism products and experiences developed with local communities to raise engagement in biodiversity conservation and generate livelihood benefits</p>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project component 3	<i>Component 3: Knowledge management and catalyzing results</i>			
Outcome 3 Upscaling and replication of sustainable, biodiversity-friendly tourism across Albania is supported by raised awareness and knowledge management	Indicator 8: Attitudes and awareness of tourism industry, communities, and tourists (domestic and international regarding the importance of biodiversity to tourism, measured by KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices) survey	TBC during inception	N/A (no mid-term survey)	Increase of 20%
	Indicator 9: Number of best practices and lessons learned developed, disseminated, and used, including gender mainstreaming and socio-cultural benefits of tourism	0	1	5
Outputs to Achieve Outcome 3	<p>Output 3.1 Targeted outreach and education campaign on mainstreaming biodiversity into tourism delivered to tourism industry, local communities, CSOs, and domestic and international tourists</p> <p>Output 3.2 Knowledge exchange system established to share experiences between municipalities for replication and upscaling of good practices across Albania</p>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Component 4	Project Monitoring & Evaluation			
Outcome 4 Project implemented in an accountable and transparent manner, with results documented and available to public	Indicator 10: Status of required project monitoring and evaluation activities	N/A	Mid-term PIR completed, with all required inputs, including inception report, previous PIRs, co-finance reporting, and tracking tools (METTs).	Terminal Evaluation successfully completed, with all required inputs, including PIRs, co-finance reporting, tracking tools (METTs), and management response complete.
Outputs to Achieve Outcome 4	<i>Output 4.1. Project monitoring activities</i> <i>Output 4.2. Project evaluation activities</i>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Cross-cutting	Gender Mainstreaming During Implementation			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p>Indicator 11: Consistency of project gender mainstreaming approach with project plans</p>	<p>N/A ? Project not under implementation; project design includes multiple elements designed to mainstream gender</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming action plan integrated in project workplan and under implementation</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming carried out during project implementation, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project Board and local stakeholder resource management boards have gender balance and/or include a gender expert; b. Policies, laws, and regulations developed with project support include gender perspectives, as relevant c. Project events and activities (e.g. trainings) promote gender balance among invited participants, as feasible d. Project technical training activities proactively recruit participants to achieve gender balance e. Project education and awareness activities are developed and carried out incorporating gender perspectives, as relevant f. Gender disaggregated indicators are

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
				reported on annually

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).

No comments received on this MSP.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 30,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEFTF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Component A. Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	14,000.00	12,352.72	3,640.00
Component B. Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	13,000.00		12,440.00
Component C. Validation workshop	3,000.00	1,221.90	345.38
Total	30,000.00	13,574.62	16,425.38

* Unspent budget balance is USD \$ 0 (status on 20-Dec-2022)

The unspent PPG funds will be returned to the GEF.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (US Deq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub-Total	M & E	P M C		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Sub-component 1.1	Sub-component 2.1	Sub-component 3.1					
Furniture/Equipment	Output 1.4: \$40,000 for ecological, water, and biodiversity monitoring equipment.	40,000			40,000			40,000	UNDP / RP (NAPA)
Furniture/Equipment	Output 2.3: \$5,000 for equipment to support tourism waste management.		5,000		5,000			5,000	UNDP / RP (NAPA)
Furniture/Equipment	\$2,000 for communication equipment and A/V equipment for project team.						2,000	2,000	UNDP
Furniture/Equipment	\$4,000 (\$1,000/year for 4 years) for maintenance of computers, modems, and other IT equipment.						4,000	4,000	UNDP
Furniture/Equipment - Vehicle	\$4,140 for set-up of PMU office.						4,140	4,140	UNDP
Contractual Services ? Individual	Output 1.1: \$65,167 for prorated technical aspects of project manager's (\$28,180; 20% of work) and project lead national technical expert's (\$36,987; 30% of compensation) scope of work.	65,167			65,167			65,167	UNDP / RP (NAPA)
Contractual Services ? Individual	Output 2.1: \$118,005 for prorated technical aspects of project manager's (\$56,361; 40% of time) and project lead national technical expert's (\$61,644; 49.9995% of time) scope of work.		118,005		118,005			118,005	UNDP / RP (NAPA)
Contractual Services ? Individual	Output 3.1: \$52,838 for prorated technical aspects of project manager's (\$28,180; 20% of time) and project lead national technical expert's (\$24,658; 20.0003% of time) scope of work.			52,838	52,838			52,838	UNDP / RP (NAPA)

Contractual Services ? Individual	<p>\$20,181 for prorated project management aspects of project manager's scope of work (20.0002% of time). Project manager salary @31,200/year UNDP pro forma cost for NPSA 9 Project Coordinator position; 5% inflation + 3% annual performance bonus/year. (Total = $((31,200 * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03$)=\$140,902). \$40,645 for 50% time Project Assistant position @\$18,000 UNDP pro forms cost for NPSA 5 contract; 5% inflation + 3% annual performance bonus/year (Total = $(((\$18,000 * 50% = \$9,000) * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03) * 1.05 * 1.03$)=\$40,645).</p>				0		60,826	60,826	UNDP
Contractual Services ? Company	<p>Output 1.1: \$10,000 for a firm to develop a national strategy and platform for biodiversity friendly tourism development. Output 1.2: \$20,000 for a firm to support the development and updating of municipal spatial planning documents in alignment with biodiversity considerations and sustainable tourism. Output 1.4: \$15,000 for an organization or institution for mapping and water quality monitoring upstream of KBA sites.</p>	45,000			45,000		45,000	45,000	UNDP / RP (NAPA)
Contractual Services ? Company	<p>Output 2.1: \$11,192 for an event management company to organize and hold a Green Tourism Investor fair. Output 2.2: \$56,000 for firms to support investment in low-impact tourism facilities in and around KBAs and nature-based tourism areas. Output 2.3: \$10,000 for a firm or organization to develop a network for supplying local biodiversity friendly food products to tourism venues; \$15,000 for a firm or organization to develop awards incentive program for biodiversity friendly tourism vendors.</p>	92,192			92,192		92,192	92,192	UNDP / RP (NAPA)

Contractual Services ? Company	Output 3.1: \$20,000 for a media company to conduct a national outreach and education media campaign for biodiversity friendly tourism; \$10,000 for a firm or organization to support education and outreach focusing on biodiversity friendly tourism at the municipal level in 4 priority municipalities.			30,000	30,000		30,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)
International Consultants	Output 4.1: \$9,000 (15 days @\$600/day) for technical advisor to support for project inception phase. Output 4.2: \$15,000 (25 days @\$600/day) for international evaluation expert to conduct terminal evaluation.			0	24,000		24,000	UND P

<p>Local Consultants</p>	<p>Output 1.1: \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert for feasibility assessment and roadmap of national biodiversity-friendly certification standards; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local legal expert to draft and prepare process for adoption of regulations; \$7,500 (30 days @\$250/day) for local financial expert for feasibility assessment and analysis of innovative financial mechanisms; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local financial expert for market analysis and scoping for biodiversity credits; \$10,000 (40 days @\$250/day) local financial expert for development and adoption of financial incentives; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity planning expert to develop national sustainable tourism guidelines related to municipal spatial plans; \$32,000 (2*40 days/year * 4 years @\$100/day) for 2 local technical coordinators. Output 1.2: \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) local biodiversity planning expert for local implementation support for municipal spatial plans; Output 1.4: \$7,500 (30 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism consultant to develop training on environmentally friendly tourism; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert to support introduction of municipal ecofunds; \$7,500 (30 days @\$250/day) local water monitoring expert for environmental hotspot assessment; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) local water monitoring expert for determination of water requirements for estuaries for KBA sites.</p>	<p>99,500</p>					<p>99,500</p>	<p>UND P / RP (NAP A)</p>
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Local Consultants	Output 2.1: \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert to start-up of eco-certification process for hotels. Output 2.2: \$10,000 (40 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert for training program for environmental inspectors; \$40,000 (\$2,500 / year / junior for 4 juniors) for program on juniors to support KBA-linked visitor centers for nature-based tourism. Output 2.3: \$10,000 (40 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert to support development of agritourism in Divjake and Vlore; \$15,000 (60 days @\$250/day) for local biodiversity tourism expert to develop and adopt local eco-product branding; \$5,000 (20 days @\$250/day) for local consultant to coordinate waste collection plans between PAs and municipalities; \$32,000 (40 days/year * 4 years @\$100/day) for 2 local technical coordinators.							117,000	117,000	117,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)	
Local Consultants	\$56,000 (2*70 days/year * 4 years @\$100/day) for 2 local technical coordinators.							56,000	56,000	56,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)	
Local Consultants	Output 4.1: \$8,000 (8 days/year @\$250/day * 4 years) for annual results data collection. Output 4.2: \$5,000 for national evaluation expert to conduct terminal evaluation; \$4,500 (15 days @\$300/day) for interpreter for TE support for TE team.								0	17,500	17,500	UND P
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Output 1.3: \$12,000 for meetings related to multi-stakeholder tourism development working groups in four priority municipalities. Output 1.4: \$8,000 for	20,000							20,000	20,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Output 2.2: \$8,000 for meetings and workshops associated with assessment of the status of biodiversity friendly tourism in PAs.		8,000						8,000	8,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)	

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Output 3.2: \$14,000 for knowledge sharing workshops and seminars for replication and scaling up of good practices related to biodiversity friendly tourism development.				14,000	14,000		14,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Output 4.1: \$3,000 for 3 inception workshops (@\$1,000 ea) (Vlore, Lezhe and Tirana); \$1,500 for 3 project completion workshops (@\$500 each) (Vlore, Lezhe and Tirana).				0	4,500		4,500	UND P
Travel	Output 1.1: \$19,200 for local travel for workshops, meetings, and stakeholder consultations. Output 1.3: \$9,600 for local travel to stakeholder meetings related to multi-stakeholder working groups.	28,800				28,800		28,800	UND P / RP (NAP A)
Travel	\$16,800 for local travel for workshops, meetings, and stakeholder consultations.		16,800			16,800		16,800	UND P / RP (NAP A)
Travel	Output 3.2: \$25,680 for travel for municipal exchange visits.				25,680	25,680		25,680	UND P / RP (NAP A)
Travel	Output 4.1: \$4,000 for consultant travel in support of inception phase. Output 4.2: \$5,200 for one international trip @\$4,000 (TE consultant); and local travel for one evaluation mission with \$1,200 of local transportation total for evaluation team.					9,200		9,200	UND P
Supplies	\$4,000 for office supplies for project office (\$1,000/year).					0	4,000	4,000	UND P
Other Operating Costs	Output 2.2: \$3,000 for publication of a manual on biodiversity-friendly tourism infrastructure. Output 2.3: \$3,000 for publication of a manual on local eco-product branding.		6,000			6,000		6,000	UND P / RP (NAP A)
Other Operating Costs	Output 4.2: \$2,000 for translation of terminal evaluation report.					0	2,000	2,000	UND P
Other Operating Costs	\$10,752 for office maintenance, phone service, electricity for office (NOT RENT).					0	10,752	10,752	UND P
Other Operating Costs	\$4,000 annual financial audit (\$1,000/year * 4 years).						4,000	4,000	UND P

Grand Total		298,467	362,997	178,518	839,982	57,200	89,718	986,900	
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ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit a finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).