

Annex 2e

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

to the GCF Funding Proposal (Simplified Approval Process)

ALBAadapt – Climate Services for a Resilient Albania

14 January 2024

Version 1

Submitted by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

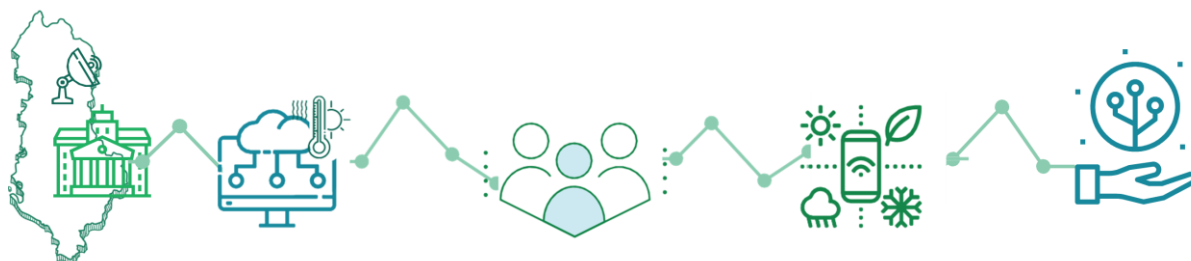


Table of Contents

List of Tables	ii
List of Figures	ii
Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	iii
1. Introduction	1
1.1 The ALBAdapt Project.....	1
1.2 Overview.....	2
1.3 Brief Project Description.....	2
1.4 Aim of the SEP.....	5
2. Stakeholder Engagement Processes.....	6
2.1 Domestic Regulatory Framework	6
2.2 GCF Requirements	6
2.3 Fundamental Engagement Principles.....	7
2.4 Stakeholder Engagement Concept.....	7
2.5 Stakeholder Engagement During the Proposal Phase.....	8
2.6 Stakeholder Feedback	18
2.7 Stakeholder Mapping	24
2.8 Stakeholder Analysis.....	25
2.8.1 Governmental Institutions	25
2.8.2 International Stakeholders	31
2.8.3 Other National Stakeholders	33
2.9 Engagement of Albania with the GCF	36
3. Vulnerable groups	37
3.1. Identification of Vulnerable Groups.....	37
3.2. Possible Means of Engagement	38
4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan	39
4.1 SEP Objectives	39
4.2 Stakeholders' relation to Project Activities.....	39
4.3 Information Disclosure Means.....	43
4.4. Stakeholder Feedback to Inform Management	45
5. Monitoring and Reporting SEP	46
Appendices.....	47
Appendix 1: Questionnaire to Stakeholders.....	47

List of Tables

Table 1: Project intervention scheme.....	4
Table 2: Overview of the engagements (2020-2024)	9
Table 3: Overview of consultation meetings 2020-2024	10
Table 4: Stakeholders' Feedback	18
Table 5: Governmental institutions engaged in Climate Change Adaptation/ CIS/EW	27
Table 6: International development partners in the sector.....	31
Table 7: Other national stakeholders	33
Table 8: Identification of priority areas and associated GCF result areas.	36
Table 9: Number of vulnerable groups/ regional and local level.....	38
Table 10: Stakeholder commitment per sub-activity	40
Table 11: Stakeholder Engagement per Activity	41
Table 12: Information Disclosure Strategy	44

List of Figures

Figure 1: Gender Distribution of the 2020 – 2023 stakeholder engagements	9
Figure 2: Stakeholder Map Diagram	24
Figure 3: Interrelation of key stakeholders in the project	25

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADA	Austrian Development Cooperation
ADF	Albanian Development Fund
AE	Accredited Entity
AGS	Albanian Geological Survey
AKPT	National Agency for Territorial Planning
AKSHI	National Agency for Information Society
AMBU	National Agency for Integrated Water Management
ASIG	Albanian Authority for Geographical Information
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CAS	Civil Aviation Service
CC	Climate Change
CIEWS	Climate Information and Early Warning System
CN	Concept Note
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EbA	Ecosystem based Adaptation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EUD	European Delegation to Albania
EWS	Early Warning System
FbA	Finance Based Actions
FPIC	Principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FS	Feasibility Study
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GoA	Government of Albania
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IGEO	Institute of Geoscience
IGWE	Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMWGCC	Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
INCA	Institute of Nature Conservation in Albania
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KKDM	National Committee of Large Dams
LAAP	Local Adaptation Action Plan
MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MMS	Military Meteorological Service
MoET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
NbS	Nature-based solutions
NCPA	National Civil Protection Agency

NDA	National Designated Authority
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NFCS	National framework for Climate Services
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
NSCC&P	National Strategy on Climate Change and Plan
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
PS	Pre-Feasibility Study
REC	Resource Environmental Center Albania
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SASPAC	State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SECO	Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SIDA	Swedish Development Cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
URI	Urban Research Institute
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

1. Introduction

1.1 The ALBAdapt Project

Albania is the most climate-vulnerable country in Europe. It is very exposed to extreme weather and climate-related events, a situation that is being further exacerbated by climate change. Future increases in the frequency and severity of floods and droughts, and secondary impacts such as landslides and wildfires, are forecast. Albania's economy is unusually dependent upon climate-sensitive sectors: agriculture accounts for 20% of GDP and employs ~60% of the workforce, 99% of electricity is generated from hydro-power, and tourism accounts for 8% of GDP and 38% of total exports. While everyone is at risk, climate impacts are particularly acute for people living in the coastal zone, where agriculture and tourism are highly vulnerable.

Albania's capacity to cope with climate impacts is hampered by an inability – of the government and of other stakeholders, notably the private sector – to produce high-quality, science-based information and to translate this information into warnings and decision support tools to reduce climate risks facing vulnerable communities and sectors. Albania is the only country in Europe that does not have a dedicated 24/7 national meteorological and hydrological service (NMHS). There is no national framework for climate services (NFCS) that engages stakeholders and provides the space for co-production and facilitation of better climate risk-informed decisions and solutions, including ecosystem-based adaptation. There is little innovation in service provision, with the result that impact-based forecasting and forecast-based action, for example, have not yet been adopted in Albania. Linkages with regional hydro-meteorological programmes and initiatives are weak, despite the enhanced forecasting and early warning capabilities they offer – and the reciprocal benefits they would receive from improved Albanian hydro-met observations and data-sharing.

Links between the NMHS and the early warning system are currently administratively and operationally weak. Effectively, there is no single multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) and the partial, fragmented system that currently operates is not sufficiently 'joined up' with the NMHS. Moreover, Albania's early warning system is not truly multi-platform, is inefficient and offers little certainty that all individuals, particularly vulnerable individuals, will be reached in a timely manner.

The ALBAdapt project will increase the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of Albania, through generation, coordination and effective use of climate information – in the form of a functional NMHS and NFCS – and a people-centred MHEWS that enables economic sectors and local communities (including vulnerable groups) to undertake actions in advance of, in anticipation of and in response to tailored warnings disseminated across multiple channels, including mobile telecommunications.

Component 1 of the project will implement foundational activities that support the development of a strengthened NMHS, accompanied by complementary platform services: a national climate information system (NCIS) and a user interface platform (UIP). Component 2 will put in place a robust, people-centred MHEWS that is strongly coupled to the NMHS and which supports the first steps in transitioning to impact-based forecasts and forecast-based action (FbA). Component 3 will support two critical aspects of climate investment: (i) private sector engagement with, and innovation in, climate services, and (ii) investment in nature-based adaptation solutions – ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) / eco-disaster risk reduction (eco-DRR).

The ALBAdapt project will, inter alia: strengthen the capacities of the institutions involved in collecting and processing hydro-meteorological data in Albania and, equally crucially, fundamentally transform the institutional underpinnings of the NMHS and MHEWS to enhance clarity of roles and responsibilities, and to facilitate information exchange in a truly 'joined up' system; begin the process of mobilising private sector involvement in the provision of climate services, thereby partially detaching service provision from government budget constraints and introducing market discipline (user-oriented focus, dynamic adjustment, profit-seeking motivation) into the hydro-met sector; and improve the usability and usefulness of the hydro-met and early warning systems, thereby cementing their importance to policy-makers, local communities and end-users.

1.2 Overview

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was prepared as part of the ALBAdapt – Climate Services for a Resilient Albania project funding proposal submission to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Our stakeholder's engagement methods are guided by a strong commitment to addressing stakeholders' needs, with special consideration given to vulnerable groups. The participation process in our projects is designed to be inclusive, with all stakeholders being encouraged to actively engage in the consultation process. We have ensured equal access to information for all stakeholders since the beginning of the concept note (CN) preparation and throughout the full proposal design.

To ensure the comprehensive and meaningful integration of relevant stakeholders, along with their concerns and recommendations, into the project, GIZ Albania conducted consultations with pertinent parties as part of the stakeholder engagement process. Throughout this process, we assessed the partners' needs, gathered recommendations and concerns, assessed environmental and social impacts, and actively engaged in discussions and feedback collection regarding the initial project measures. This collaborative approach aimed to address adverse effects and uncover opportunities for maximizing positive impacts.

The SEP is built upon a series of consultations aimed at gathering perspectives, interests, requirements, and apprehensions from various pertinent stakeholders. These stakeholders encompass target demographics, experts, government and administrative bodies, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and other project-relevant stakeholders identified by GIZ Albania. The entire process of consulting with stakeholders is meticulously documented to facilitate the review of the findings by interested or concerned external parties.

Additionally, this SEP is crafted to establish an effective platform for productive interaction with both affected parties and other interested stakeholders throughout the project's implementation. Ensuring meaningful engagement with stakeholders at every stage of the project cycle is a fundamental aspect of effective project management. It offers valuable opportunities to:

- Foster meaningful citizen engagement;
- Gather feedback to inform project, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation;
- Clarify project objectives, scope, and manage expectations;
- Identify and mitigate potential project risks;
- Enhance project outcomes and benefits;
- Disseminate project information and materials;
- Address any project-related grievances.

Finally this SEP plays a vital role for the project development and implementation team by:

- Identifying and analysing stakeholders;
- Planning engagement methods and effective communication tools for consultations and disclosure;
- Defining the roles and responsibilities of various actors involved in implementing the SEP;
- Offering a means to provide feedback to stakeholders;
- Enabling monitoring and reporting of the SEP.

1.3 Brief Project Description

The ALBAdapt project aims to increase the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of Albania, through generation, coordination and effective use of climate information in conjunction with an early warning system (CIEWS).

As a result, vulnerable Albanian communities will be more resilient to climate change impacts, will be able to take early action, and will be able to make informed, climate-related investment decisions, particularly those related to water-related hazards in the coastal belt.

The project is structured across three Components:

- Component 1: Weather, hydrological and climate information services
- Component 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and early action
- Component 3: Climate-informed investment decisions

Key project results will include:

- The government establishes fit-for-purpose institutional and regulatory frameworks for the effective implementation of the national meteorological and hydrological service (NMHS) and a national framework for climate services (NFCS), including the establishment of a national climate information system (NCIS): AlbaMet.
- The NMHS possesses the human, institutional, procedural, financial and infrastructure capabilities to effectively coordinate and cooperate in order to provide effective meteorological, hydrological and climate data and services.
- The NMHS, the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) and municipalities sensitise beneficiaries to climate risks, so they know why, where and how to react.
- Leveraging the improvements to the NMHS, NCPA, in fulfilment of its mandate, provides early warnings through a multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) that beneficiaries receive, understand and can take early action on.
- Trained municipal officials, Red Cross volunteers and communities at the local level ('last mile') are ready to respond to and handle climate hazard situations appropriately.
- All stakeholders, including government organisations, NGOs, civil society and the private sector (notably, micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs)) contribute to the design and widespread, effective use of climate services to enhance the implementation of adaptation options and to put measures in place that reduce the impacts of climate risks for society and for the economy.
- The benefits of hydro-met data are maximised by involving private sector actors in the provision of climate services.
- Investments in ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) / eco-disaster risk reduction (eco-DRR) measures are identified, prioritised and demonstrated.

While the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS will be enhanced – or established for the first time – for the entire population, early action and the development of a pipeline of EbA / eco-DRR measures will be focused on the Albanian coastal lowlands (coastal belt). This area, which represents a significant share of the Albanian population and economy, is especially important for the agricultural and tourism sectors and is at particular risk of the adverse impacts of climate change.

The ALBAdapt project is aligned with the Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)¹ and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021)², and with national policies and strategies – notably, the Law on Climate Change (2020)³, the Law on Civil Protection (2019), the National Climate Change Strategy (2021)⁴ and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2022).⁵ The ALBAdapt GCF project is specifically identified as Strategic Project 11 in the associated National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan

¹ Republic of Albania (2021), *Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-08/Albania%20Revised%20NDC.pdf>

² Republic of Albania (2021), *National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change in Albania*: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/National_Adaptation_Plan_Albania.pdf

³ [20210413081820201227203009ligj_nr_155_dt_17.12.2020_compressed.pdf](https://www.parlament.al/20210413081820201227203009ligj_nr_155_dt_17.12.2020_compressed.pdf) (parlament.al)

⁴ Resource Environmental Centre (2022), *Climate Change Strategy in Albania 2020-2030: 2019-2021 Action Plan Monitoring*: https://www.wfd.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/EN_Report_Monitoring%20of%20National%20Action%20Plan%20%281%29.pdf

⁴ <https://albcold.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Law-No.-45-On-Civil-Protection.pdf>

⁵ Republic of Albania (2022), *National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy*.

Table 1: Project intervention scheme

Component 1 – Weather, hydrological and climate information services	Outcome 1 Albania has an enhanced National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) and a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) capable of providing weather, hydrological and climate information services in support of policies, plans and operations across all priority sectors.	Output 1.1 Enhanced capacities of the NMHS, leading to reliable data for tailored weather, hydrological and climate services	Activity 1.1.1 Strengthening the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1 Supporting comprehensive institutional reform of the NMHS
		Output 1.2: An NFCS is established and deployed as a national coordination platform and knowledge hub	Activity 1.2.1 Establishing and deploying an NFCS	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2 Building the fundamental facilities and systems of the NMHS
				Sub-Activity 1.1.1.3 Strengthening NMHS forecasting capabilities
				Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1 Institutional establishment and governance of the NFCS
Component 2 – Multi-hazard early warning system and early action	Outcome 2 A widely-available early warning system and targeted early action services are established - saving lives, livelihoods and reducing climate disaster risks.	Output 2.1 A multi-hazard early warning system is nationally enabled and deployed	Activity 2.1.1 Deploying a widely available, fit-for-purpose MHEWS	Sub-Activity 1.2.1.2 Development of the National Climate Information System (NCIS) and the User Interface Platform (UIP)
			Activity 2.1.2 Transitioning towards forecast-based early action in Albania	Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1 Strengthening MHEWS governance and institutional arrangements
				Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2 Co-creation of a people-centred MHEWS
Component 3 – Climate informed investment-decisions	Outcome 3 Climate-informed decisions for adaptation measures are improved.	Output 3.1 A climate innovation ecosystem to support investment and decision-making for adaptation is established and operational	Activity 3.1.1 Strengthening the innovation ecosystem for climate services	Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1 Creating an enabling environment for forecast-based early action in Albania
				Sub-Activity 2.1.2.2 Piloting FbA in selected communities
		Output 3.2 Climate-informed adaptation measures are analysed, developed and ready for implementation	Activity 3.2.1 Facilitating the identification of adaptation measures and their financing	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1 Triggering the development of commercial climate service business ideas
				Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2 Development and demonstration of commercial climate services
				Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1 Territorial Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs) and associated EbA / eco-DRR demonstration measures
				Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2 Establishing a climate financing window for upscaling the EbA/eco-DRR measures

Source: Own elaboration

1.4 Aim of the SEP

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) and GIZ Albania jointly developed this SEP to provide clear communication to all parties interested and affected by the stakeholder engagement program that will be implemented throughout the entire national-level project cycle.

The primary aim of this SEP is to enhance and facilitate decision-making related to the project implementation, while creating opportunities for the active participation of all stakeholders in a timely manner. It also aims to offer avenues for stakeholders to express their views and concerns, which can influence project decisions. Therefore, the aim of the SEP is to elevate stakeholder engagement throughout the project's life cycle, including its sub-projects, ensuring compliance with the laws of the Republic of Albania and meeting the requirements outlined in GCF and GIZ relevant safeguards.

The SEP will be applicable to all planned Project activities and will be an integral part of the Project's environmental and social performance, as well as its design and implementation. It is important to note that the SEP is a dynamic document that will require periodic updates as the ALBAdapt project progresses through its various stages. During the preparatory phase, key stakeholders have been engaged through consultations, and public consultations have been conducted in two flood affected regions in alignment with the proposed interventions under each component.

2. Stakeholder Engagement Processes

2.1 Domestic Regulatory Framework

This section offers a concise overview of the domestic policies and conventions pertinent and in alignment with the regulations and review processes in Albania. These policies encompass public consultation and disclosure procedures, particularly in relation to environmental matters which are commonly raised concerns among the public.

Environmental information and public involvement in environmental decision-making in Albania are governed by several laws and regulations. The key legal frameworks and relevant decisions include:

- **Law on Environmental Protection No. 10431/2011:** This law grants the public the right to access information related to the environment, without the need to demonstrate a specific interest. It establishes the concept of public information.
- **Law on Environmental Impact Assessment No. 10440/2011:** This law outlines the parties that should be engaged in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. It emphasizes the importance of public access to information throughout the EIA process, defines procedures for public hearings, and establishes a complaint procedure.

The following laws and decisions from the Council of Ministers are directly related to public consultation:

- **Law No. 8672, dated 26.10.2000:** This law ratifies the Aarhus Convention, affirming the public's rights concerning information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters.
- **Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 994, dated 02.07.2008:** This decision focuses on public participation in environmental decision-making.
- **DCM No. 16, dated 04.01.2012:** This decision deals with public access to environmental information.
- **DCM No. 247, dated 30.04.2014:** This decision establishes rules and requirements for procedures related to public information and involvement in environmental decision-making.

Since 2011, two additional general laws have been adopted that are relevant to environmental information and public participation:

- **Law No. 119/2014, dated 18.09.2014:** This law focuses on the right to information.
- **Law No. 146/2014, dated 30.10.2014:** This law addresses notification and public consultation, regulating the process of informing the public about the drafting of legislative and other strategic national and local documents. It also includes provisions such as the appointment of a commissioner for the right of information, mandatory transparency programs for public institutions, the designation of public consultation coordinators in every public institution, the establishment of a new electronic register, and annual public reporting on planned and approved acts, public hearings, and recommendations.

Furthermore, two Council of Ministers decisions have strengthened access to environmental information and public participation:

- **DCM No. 247, dated 30.04.2014:** This decision specifies rules and procedures for public information and involvement in environmental decision-making.
- **DCM No. 219, dated 11.03.2015:** This decision outlines rules and procedures for consultation with stakeholders and the public, as well as public hearings during the strategic environmental assessment process.

2.2 GCF Requirements

GCF requires Accredited Entities (AEs) and intermediaries to develop stakeholder engagement plans based on the principles of transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, non-discrimination, and "do no harm". All stakeholder engagement plans for directly financed projects and those financed by intermediaries should have:

- A detailed process for effective engagement with communities and individuals – including vulnerable and marginalised groups and individuals – who are affected or potentially affected by proposed GCF-funded activities;

- A description of how information will be disclosed; the process by which meaningful consultation and informed participation will occur in a culturally appropriate and gender responsive manner; and, under certain circumstances, the steps that will be taken to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples;
- A process for receiving and managing concerns and grievances at the project level that has been designed in consultation with stakeholders in a gender-responsive manner and complements the AE's grievance redress mechanism and GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism⁶.

2.3 Fundamental Engagement Principles

The SEP is guided by the following fundamental principles:

- **Ownership by all Concerned Stakeholders:** The success of ALBAdapt project relies on the active involvement and commitment of all relevant stakeholders. For the CN phase this is achieved by a regular and extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process. The same is meant to be deployed during the implementation phase.
- **Sharing Responsibilities and Accountabilities:** The SEP encourages a culture of shared responsibilities and accountabilities among all stakeholders participating in the ALBAdapt implementation phase. Each stakeholder is expected to fulfil their roles.
- **Accessibility:** Clear, timely, and comprehensive information will be provided to stakeholders to facilitate their meaningful participation in the process.
- **Ongoing Engagement:** Stakeholder engagement is a continuous process that involves regular follow-up, updates, and assessments of progress.
- **Transparency:** ALBAdapt engagement activities will be conducted openly and transparently, with clear purposes, expectations, goals, limitations, and accountability measures communicated to all stakeholders
- **Inclusivity and Gender Sensitivity:** The ALBAdapt designed SEP is committed to promoting inclusivity and gender sensitivity throughout its activities. This includes adhering to social and environmental safeguards, with a particular focus on the indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities.
- **Preventing Conflict of Interest:** The SEP ensures that there are no conflicts of interest among stakeholders involved in the ALBAdapt implementation process. This is essential to maintain transparency and fairness in project decision-making.

2.4 Stakeholder Engagement Concept

This document aligns with the policies of the GCF and GIZ, while also adhering to the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). The GCF follows an interim Environmental and Social Policy based on the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards, which are harmonious with GIZ's Safeguards and its Gender Management System (S+G).

These guidelines and policies were the framework for the consultation process for the ALBAdapt CN development, Feasibility Study (FS) and Simplified Approval Process (SAP) FP development.

For more than three years the project team with the close cooperation and leadership of the Albanian National Designated Authority (NDA) went through the prefeasibility study, CN preparation, FS and SAP funding proposal drafting by employing the following tools for a meaningful stakeholder participation process:

- **Observations:** Notable records were made regarding the legal and institutional situation, barriers, ongoing activities in a country and regional level in Albania;
- **Desk Analysis:** All national laws, strategies, action plans, regulations of the sector as well as assessment reports, analyses, research papers were scrutinized and quoted while serving as reference for the proposal documents;
- **Questionnaires:** A questionnaire with draft proposal for the project concept along with request for partners feedback and detailed questions for input from their side was developed at an early stage of CN development. Their feedback was critical to define the areas of intervention as well as clarifying their potential role in the project implementation;
- **Triangulation:** The process of cross-verifying sources, techniques, and information providers was deployed to enhance the credibility and dependability of the findings;

⁶ See Sustainability Guidance Note. URL: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/sustainability-guidance-stakeholder-engagement-may2022.pdf> (Last accessed 09.11.2023)

- **Bilateral meetings:** Bilateral meetings are conducted, deploying both structured and unstructured questions with various beneficiaries (governmental institutions, academia, private sector and civil society) to gather additional data and insights;
- **Donor consultation meetings:** Several bilateral and one joint donor consultation meeting are organized with the purpose of insuring aid effectiveness and synergy among different actions in the field of Climate Change (CC);
- **Stakeholder Consultation Meetings:** Six multistakeholder consultation meetings were held during the project preparation with a twofold purpose. On one side these consultation meetings served to inform them on the project preparation process/ need for CN update as per the GCF secretariat feedback and the next steps forward. On the other hand, these meetings helped the project team to get stakeholders input, feedback as well as ensure their ownership of the project.

Due to the positive feedback from the partners on the participatory process embarked during the CN and SAP funding proposal preparation, the GIZ project team will use the bases of this concept for the implementation of the project as well.

Specific focus will be given to engagement of vulnerable and disadvantage groups and ethnic minorities (Roma people) especially for the organised activities on community level (Component 2 and 3 of the project).

2.5 Stakeholder Engagement During the Proposal Phase

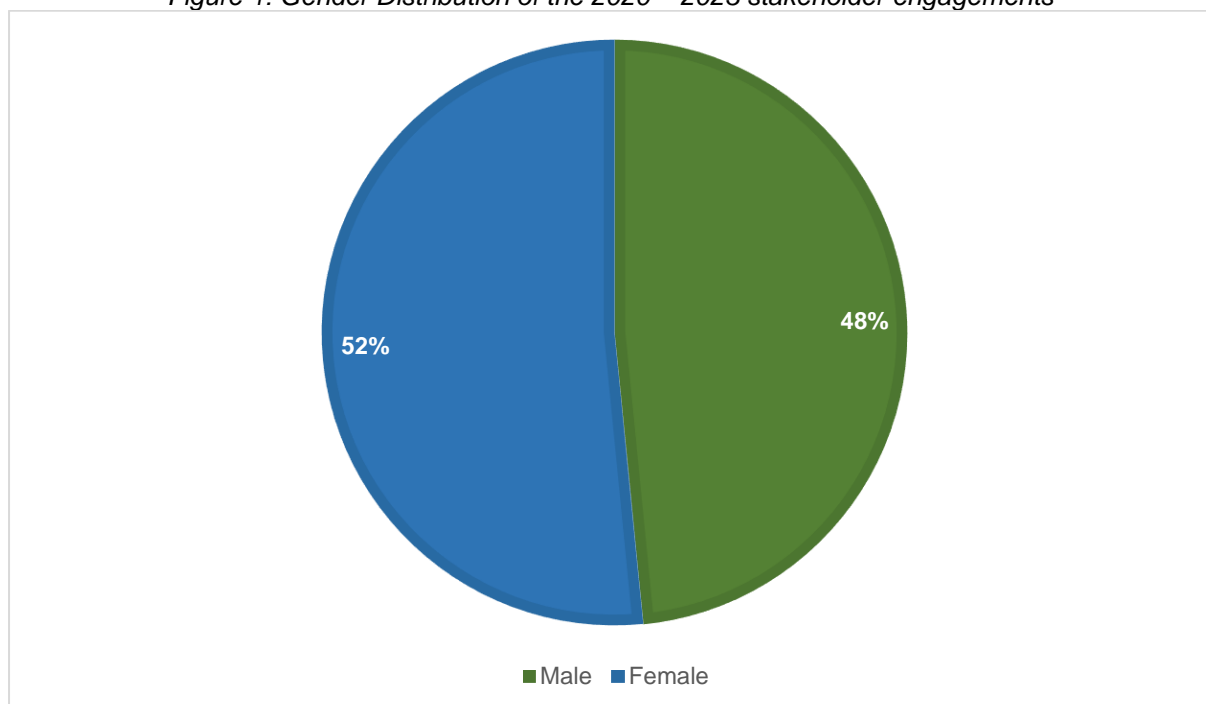
85 official meetings were organised in the frame of the project development with a total of 562 participants⁷ varying from representatives of main beneficiaries of the projects/ governmental institutions such as MoTE, institute of Geoscience (IGEO), AMBU (National Agency For Integrated Water Management), National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA), AKPT (National Agency for Territorial Planning), Military Meteorological Service (MMS), AlbControl, State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination (SASPAC), Municipalities, Counties etc, donors, Swedish Development Cooperation (SIDA), European Union (EU), Italian Cooperation, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), universities, civil society, community representatives etc.

90 % of the consultation meetings were technical consultations with the remaining being in-field and national consultations and validations workshops where more than 25 people have participated on average. From a gender perspective 52% of people consulted were female and 48% male.

⁷ Please note that there is an overlap of participants in the different meetings.

shows the gender distribution of the participants in the meetings held from 2020 until early 2024. The engagement and feedback received in these extensive meetings did not only provide valuable input, increased the ownership in the planned interventions, but also recognised the participatory process of project development.

Figure 1: Gender Distribution of the 2020 – 2023 stakeholder engagements



Source: Own elaboration

Table 4 in the stakeholder received feedback section, provides the inputs, concerns and issues raised by stakeholders and the addressing mean from the project team.

Mr. A. Karagoji (AMBU) stated in one of the validations meeting that a holistic approach and consultations of all key actors in the country is important for the design of a project. This is the only project for which there is a full picture, and this will be integrated in its design.

Another quote received from the local community consultation meetings comes from a representative of a CSO located in the city of Shkodra: "The civil emergency is still seen as an issue that belongs mostly to men, but now in the framework of political and programmatic changes it is necessary to guarantee the commitment, participation, contribution and opportunity of women and girls alongside men and boys in the management of emergencies".

Table 2 provides the overview of the consultation meetings during the three years, while Table 3 provides a detailed list of the stakeholder meetings organised by the project staff, being bilateral/ technical ones, donor coordination/ community meetings as well as wide stakeholder meetings steered and facilitated by the NDA.

Table 2: Overview of the engagements (2020-2024)

Year	# of meetings	Participants				
		Total	Female	Male	Female (%)	Male (%)
2020	9	47	23	24	49	51
2021	29	192	111	81	58	42
2022	24	102	58	44	57	43
2023	21	247	110	137	45	55
2024 ⁸	3	6	4	2	67	33
Total	79	579	296	301	52	48

Source: Own elaboration

⁸ The table shows the number of meetings that have taken place up until 10.01.2024.

Table 3: Overview of consultation meetings 2020-2024

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
1	Presentation of the project idea and discuss the possibility for Albanian Development Fund (ADF) to be an EE for the project.	ADF, GIZ	21.09.2020	2	50	50
2	Presentation with the new IGEWE Director, update on the ALBAdapt concept development progress, process followed and reconfirmation of the IGEWE leadership to be part of the project.	IGEWE, GIZ	25.09.2020	2	50	50
3	Sharing experiences on climate services.	CSI, GIZ	26.09.2020	8	63	38
4	Follow up of the initial meeting and the input to the pre-feasibility study requested by IGEWE team.	IGEWE, GIZ	09.10.2020	2	50	50
5	Update on the ALBAdapt concept development progress, process followed and clarification on the input to the pre-feasibility study requested by AMBU team.	AMBU, GIZ	15.10.2020	2	50	50
6	First Consultation Workshop; Present the initial project idea and the main outcomes of the project; Create a joint understanding of the intended intervention in the area of Early Warning Systems and Climate Information Services; Receive feedback from the initial indicated project partners/ beneficiaries.	NDA/ Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MoET), AMBU, IGJEUM, NCPA, GIZ	03.11.2020	13	46	54
7	Information Exchange, ALBAdapt concept presentation, information gathering on the progress of Pro News to avoid overlapping.	CIMA Foundation, GIZ	04.12.2020	4	50	50
8	Information exchange meeting, ALBAdapt concept presentation, exploring the possibilities of co-financing from IPA III funding.	EU Delegation, GIZ	08.12.2020	4	75	25
9	Coordination meeting ALBAdapt concept presentation, info gathering on the progress of ADA/ GCF water concept to avoid overlapping.	ADA, GIZ	11.12.2020	10	40	60
10	Follow up coordination meeting ALBAdapt. Exploring the possibilities of co-financing from SDC.	SDC/SECO, GIZ	19.01.2021	9	67	33
11	Update on the project ALBAdapt.	IGEWE, GIZ	21.01.2021	3	33	67

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
12	ALBAdapt concept presentation, info sharing on Brigaid and how ALBAdapt can build on the lessons learned, exploring the ways of cooperation.	AKPT, GIZ	22.01.2021	3	0	100
13	Agriculture project exchange info meeting.	GIZ	09.02.2021	3	67	33
14	ALBAdapt concept presentation, Presentation of similar remote sensing projects by Vodafone, exploring opportunities for private sector involvement and cooperation.	Vodafone, GIZ	09.02.2021	3	0	100
15	ALBAdapt concept presentation, exploring opportunities for cooperation, getting first input on the long-term CB.	Polis University, GIZ	10.02.2021	3	67	33
16	Presentation of the ALBAdapt to Hydrology and Meteorological sector/ IGEWE.	IGEWE, GIZ	15.02.2021	9	33	67
17	Update on the project ALBAdapt.	AMBU, GIZ	15.02.2021	3	33	67
18	Presentation of the project ALBAdapt, consideration to include MMS in the project, data availability.	MMS, GIZ	16.02.2021	6	50	50
19	ALBAdapt concept presentation to UNEP/EbA project.	UNEP, GIZ	02.03.2021	2	0	100
20	Meeting the new NDA, presenting the project idea, process so far and ensuring continuation of support.	MoTE, GIZ	09.03.2021	3	67	33
21	Presentation of the ALBAdapt concept to World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and exploring the possibilities of cooperation.	WMO, GIZ	16.03.2021	5	20	80
22	Second consultation workshop; Presentation of first draft of the CN, Present the project outputs, activities intervention logic; Present the draft implementation arrangements/ structures of the project; Receive feedback from the project partners/ beneficiaries as well as present next steps in preparing the CN.	NDA representatives/ MoTE, AMBU, IGEWE, AKPT, URI, ADF, JICA, SDC, MMS, NCPA, Polis University, Co-Plan, GIZ	18.03.2021	23	35	65
23	ALBAdapt concept presentation, receiving input and feedback on the priorities of the sector and potential role private sector can play.	Meteoalb -Director of Scientific and Technical information, GIZ	23.03.2021	3	0	100
24	Update on the project progress.	MMS, GIZ	01.04.2021	2	0	100

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
25	Update on the project progress and request for additional information.	ADF, GIZ	01.04.2021	2	0	100
26	Possibilities to consider the Ministry of Agriculture as a potential project partner.	Ministry of Agriculture, GIZ	02.04.2021	2	50	50
27	Private sector involvement.	Balfin Group, GIZ	02.04.2021	3	33	67
28	Reconfirming JICA interest in Forest Fires EWS and setting the dates for JICA appraisal mission.	JICA, GIZ	21.04.2021	2	50	50
29	Update on the project progress.	IGewe, GIZ	23.04.2021	3	33	67
30	Update on the project progress, input requested by IGewe.	IGewe, GIZ	27.04.2021	8	38	63
31	ALBAdapt concept presentation, receiving feedback.	IGewe, GIZ	30.04.2021	2	50	50
32	Update on ALBAdapt concept, next steps to be considered by Vodafone for their potential involvement and cooperation.	Vodafone, GIZ	05.05.2021	3	0	100
33	Final consultation meeting with the potential co-financing donors to present the CN and receive feedback on the output and activity level.	SDC/SECO, JICA, GIZ	05.05.2021	13	54	46
34	Follow up on the progress, finding out how to link output 3 with the ADF investments and plans under the regional development fund.	ADF, GIZ	06.05.2021	3	33	67
35	Exchange of information and potential financing for IPA III.	EU Consultant, GIZ	06.05.2021	2	50	50
36	Third partner consultation meeting presentation the project outputs, activities and intervention logic; Presentation of the draft implementation arrangements/ structures of the project; Feedback from the project partners/ beneficiaries; Discussion of the next steps in preparing the full proposal.	NDA representatives/ MoTE, AMBU, JICA, NCPA, Expert, MMS, IGewe, Polis University, AKPT, WMO, URI, Vodafone, SECO, ADF, GIZ	12.05.2021	31	42	58
37	Exchange with focal point of NDA.	MoTE, GIZ	14.05.2021	2	50	50

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
38	Fourth partner consultation meeting presentation the project outputs, activities and intervention logic; Presentation of the draft implementation arrangements/ structures of the project; Feedback from the project partners/ beneficiaries; Discussion of the next steps in preparing the full proposal.	NDA/ MoTE, AMBU, NCPA, IGEO, AKPT, WMO, URI, Vodafone, SDC, SECO, ADF, Red Cross, GIZ	10.12.2021	36	58	42
39	Update on CN progress and next step to be considered by IGEO.	IGEO, GIZ	21.01.2022	3	33	67
40	Update on the UNDP initiatives in the sector and current status of ALBAdapt project.	UNDP, GIZ	09.02.2022	5	20	80
41	Preparation for the ALBAdapt project consultation meeting with donors.	NDA of Albania, MoTE, GIZ	10.02.2022	2	50	50
42	First consultation workshop presenting the project idea, project outputs and main lines of activities; Presenting the overall link of the project idea with main needs and policies in the country; Providing a rough roadmap for the project; Receiving feedback from the initial indicated project partners/ beneficiaries.	NDA/ MoTE, SDC, JICA, World Bank, ADA, EU Delegation, GIZ	16.02.2022	16	69	31
43	Exchange of information on the Red Cross actions for disaster preparedness and reaction in Albania; Exploration of possibilities for cooperation with the ALBAdapt Project.	Red Cross Albania, GIZ	11.03.2022	2	50	50
44	Update on IUCN initiatives and their upcoming work on nature-based solutions (NbS) globally and regionally and current status of ALBAdapt project of GIZ.	IUCN, GIZ	21.03.2022	4	50	50
45	Update on the WB initiatives in the sector and current status of ALBAdapt Project of GIZ.	World Bank, GIZ	24.02.2022	6	17	83
46	Update on CN progress and next step to be considered by NCPA.	NCPA, GIZ	24.03.2022	3	33	67
47	Information about the project idea, stakeholders' engagement, needed support from the Parliament committee on the project co-financing from Government of Albania (GoA).	Member of Albanian Parliament, chair of the Budget and Finance committee, GIZ	24.03.2022	2	50	50
48	Sharing project activities and areas of operation between teams to ensure synergy creation.	World Bank (blue economy project team), GIZ	07.04.2022	5	0	100

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
49	Update on the CN progress, activities planned and role of the main partners (with a specific focus on IGEO).	World Bank, GIZ	07.04.2022	5	60	40
50	Update on the progress of CN comments revision.	NDA of Albania, MoTE, GIZ	20.04.2022	2	50	50
51	EbA implementation through the UNEP project.	UNEP representative	11.05.2022	4	50	50
52	Present ALB Adapt project and see possibilities for synergies/co financing.	SDC HQ, Meteo Swiss	16.06.2022	4	50	50
53	Update on ALB Adapt project status.	IGEO, GIZ	03.10.2022	3	33	67
54	Update on ALB Adapt project status.	NCPA, GIZ	27.10.2022	3	33	67
55	Preparation of the feasibility study.	Meteo Swiss, GIZ	08.11.2022	9	67	33
56	Update on ALB Adapt project status.	Vodafone Albania, GIZ	05.12.2022	4	50	50
57	Update on ALB Adapt project status.	IGEO, GIZ	21.12.2022	3	33	67
58	Present ALB Adapt project and possible cooperation during GCF project preparation.	IISD, GIZ	23.12.2022	7	29	71
59	Information about ALBAdapt project, expected intervention, donor coordination, ADA support for AMBU.	ADA, GIZ	06.01.2023	2	0	100
60	Update on ALB Adapt project status and planning of stakeholder consultation workshop.	NDA, GIZ	09.01.2023	2	50	50
61	Possible cooperation with Meteo Swiss during GCF project preparation phase.	IGEO, GIZ	17.01.2023	2	50	50
62	Fifth partner consultation meeting presentation the project outputs, activities and intervention logic; Presentation of the draft implementation arrangements/ structures of the project; Feedback from the project partners/ beneficiaries; Discussion of the next steps in preparing the full proposal.	NDA representatives/ MoTE, AMBU, NCPA, IGEO, AKPT, WMO, URI, Vodafone, GIZ, SDC, UNDP, WB, IUCN, EU Delegation, SIDA, GIZ	20.01.2023	30	50	50
63	Presentation of ALBAdapt project to new director of MMS; role and engagement of MMS in feasibility study and project preparation.	MMS, GIZ	20.03.2023	4	25	75

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
64	Progress of ALBAdapt project; Role and engagement of IGEO in preparation of feasibility study and the Inventory of Hydro-meteo network.	IGEO, GIZ	05.04.2023	4	50	50
65	Discussion with technical staff of the hydro-meteo network inventory; preparation for Swiss mission for Assessment of IGEO Institutional/Technical/ human capacities as part of Project Feasibility study.	IGEO, GIZ	07.04.2023	10	60	40
66	Mission visit for preparation of Assessment of IGEO Institutional/Technical/ human capacities as part of Project Feasibility study; Eight meetings with different partners to discuss on current role of IGEO in the hydro-meteorological services, and its future as a strong national institution with the capacities and services improved.	IGEO, Meteo Swiss, NDA, AMBU, NCPA, County of Shkoder, Municipality of Shkoder, MMS, Albcontrol, Experts, JICA, Italian Cooperation	17.04.2023-25.04.2023	31	68	32
67	Presenting progress of ALBAdapt FP. Discuss on the role and engagement of NCPA in preparation of FP.	NCPA, GIZ	31.05.2023	10	50	50
68	Information about ALBAdapt project, expected intervention, donor coordination, SIDA support for MoTE, looking for possibilities of synergies.	SIDA, GIZ	13.06.2023	2	50	50
69	Sharing info about ALBAdapt FP and EU civil protection mechanism activities with NCPA; Look for synergies and avoid overlapping of interventions.	EU civil protection Mechanism, GIZ	14.06.2023	5	40	60
70	Presenting ALBAdapt to SASPAK, strategy coordination from AL side; Looking for entry points to Mid-term budget and advice on national partner engagement with the co-financing requirement.	SASPAC, GIZ	21.06.2023	2	50	50
71	Presenting progress of ALBAdapt funding proposal; Discuss the role and engagement of NCPA in preparation of FP.	NDA, GIZ	03.07.2023	6	50	50
72	Validation workshop on project activities; Presentation of ALBAdapt project components; Validation of project components with partners findings and agreement from working group (receiving feedback on project activities); Next steps in finalizing ALBAdapt FP.	MoTE, NCPA, IGEO, Red Cross, GIZ	07.07.2023	20	60	40

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
73	Discussing on progress of ALBAdapt project; Next step to finalize funding proposal and respective annexes; Engagement and support of NDA for finalizing funding proposal.	NCPA MoTE, GIZ	07.07.2023	5	60	40
74	Public Consultation meeting in County of Fier; Presentation of ALBAdapt project preparation and its components; Presentation of gender assessment document; Presentation of ESAP document; Feedback from participants on consideration of gender issues and environmental and social aspects during project preparation and its implementation; Next steps in finalizing ALBAdapt FP.	County Fier, Municipalities of Fier, Lushnje, Roskovec and Mallakaster, Representatives from Administrative Units, DRAP Fier, ADZM Fier, CSOs, Roma community, Experts, GIZ	20.07.2023	30	63	37
75	Discussing cofinancing possibilities from GoA, Integration of ALBAdapt project into the list of high project priorities from GoA side.	SASPAC, GIZ	21.07.2023	8	50	50
76	Public consultation meeting in County of Shkoder; Presentation of ALBAdapt project preparation and its components; Presentation of gender assessment document; Presentation of ESAP document; Feedback from participants on consideration of gender issues and environmental and social aspects during project preparation and its implementation; Next steps in finalizing ALBAdapt FP.	County of Shkoder, Municipalities of Shkoder, and Vau Dejes Representatives from Administrative Units, NCPA, Red Cross, , ADZM Shkoder, ZABU Shkoder, CSOs, Roma community, Experts, GIZ	27.07.2023	27	56	44
77	Role of NCPA in implementation of component 2 of ALBAdapt project; Discussion on possibility of co-financing ALBAdapt project.	NCPA, GIZ	30.08.2023	7	43	57
78	Discussing country hydromet diagnostic report prepared by Meteo Swiss; Discussing results of inventory of Hydro-meteo network.	IGEO, GIZ	20.09.2023	3	33	67

#	Description of consultation meetings	Institutions	Date	# of Participants	Male (%)	Female (%)
79	Sixth partner consultation meeting presentation of the ALBAdapt FP and associated documents: Gender Assessment, Environmental and Social Action Plan, SEP; Discussion of the next steps for submitting full proposal and GCF evaluation procedures.	NDA / MoTE, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, IGEO, NCPA, SASPAC, AMBU, EUD, SDC, URI, GIZ, Red Cross, NTPA, Prefecture Shkoder, Prefecture Fier, Albcontrol, Vodafone, WMO, URI, EUD, Polis University, MMS, Avcon, Urban Innovation, GIZ	21.11.2023	32	56	44
80	Discussion on grant agreement and detailing of budget of NCPA for implementation of the project	NCPA, GIZ	14.12.2023	4	25	75
81	Discussion on finalization of ALBAdapt project and way forward for the submission	NDA, GIZ	18.12.2023	2	50	50
82	Discussion on how the project deliverables can serve the agency and inform the water cadaster	AMBU, GIZ	26.12.2023	3	33	67
83	Informing the prime minister office on the project components, alignment with national policies and international commitments	PMO, GIZ	05.01.2024	2	50	50
84	Discussion on improvement of ALBAdapt based on comments from IGEO	IGEO, GIZ	09.01.2024	2	50	50
85	Working on detailing NCPA grant budget to be included in the submission of ALBAdapt project	NCPA, GIZ	09.01.2024	2	0	100

Source: Own elaboration

2.6 Stakeholder Feedback

Table 4 summarizes the key feedback received from different stakeholder groups and how this feedback has been incorporated in the project design⁹.

Table 4: Stakeholders' Feedback

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
Component 1	National entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many hydro-met stations are not functional and are therefore not used because of the limited budget to operate networks and limited staff capacity. To address the challenges faced by IGEO to address the national needs for data provision, it is advisable to improve the hydro-met service with modern equipment, the latest technology developments, capacity building and adequate funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will work closely with national stakeholders to develop a detailed institutional design of a rejuvenated or restructured NMHS, to secure agreement on this design, to have it endorsed by the government, and to help operationalize the new model with new systems, capacities and equipment. (Sub-Activities 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.1.1.3).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criticism of current NMHS services should not be conflated with criticism of IGEO. IGEO is striving to provide an effective hydro-met service with the human, technical and financial resources at its disposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project fully acknowledges that IGEO is endeavouring to provide effective NMHS services in challenging circumstances. The lack of legal underpinning to the hydro-met sector, the fragmented historical evolution of the sector and government financial constraints are clearly factors outside of IGEO's control. Conversely, it is also acknowledged that IGEO's status as an academic institution offers some advantages, notably the close coupling of research and operational activities. The project will work with national stakeholders to draft a Law on Weather, Climate and Hydrological Services that will, for the first time, specify and formalise the institutional architecture of the hydro-met sector, including institutional responsibilities and mandates, data-sharing modalities, minimum service levels, the scope for provision of paid-for services, government funding and others. The future institutional identity of the NMHS is a decision that will be made by the responsible institutions of the Albanian government, building on extensive analysis and discussions. (Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All institutions need to work together (complying with EU / national environmental standards), so that a paradigm shift is possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has undertaken extensive consultations with a large number of (diverse) institutions across the public sector, private sector and civil society, at both national and local levels. The design of the NMHS and NFCS (as well as the MHEWS under Component 2) will promote – and crucially – formalize institutional roles and responsibilities, including inter-institutional data-sharing and reporting.

⁹ Kindly note that more detailed minutes of each stakeholder meeting are available upon request.

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no current university degrees which focus on hydrometeorology. We need to stimulate new experts at Master's / PhD level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will work with universities and vocational colleges to develop new, elective modules on meteorology, hydrology and climatology that will initially form part of existing bachelor- and master-level degrees in physics, earth sciences, etc. In the medium-term, these modules are expected to evolve into stand-alone degree subjects. (Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture and tourism are the most important and affected sectors from hazards at the local level, and thus should be the focus of the AL-BAdapt project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baseline and barrier analysis undertaken by the project during preparation identified agriculture, tourism, energy generation and water as the key climate-affected economic sectors, and the coastal belt as the key geographical 'sector'. However, a wide variety of other sectors will benefit from the project's support to the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project needs to create services that will cover their own costs: otherwise, it is not possible to make services sustainable in the long-term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project recognizes this reality. The Law on Weather, Climate and Hydrological Services, which will be drafted with project support, will contain explicit provisions for the NMHS to develop and provide paid-for services, in order to increase the institution's financial sustainability. The NFCS will be explicitly designed to catalyse private sector involvement in the hydro-met sector through the provision of commercial services. And the project will provide ideation and incubation support to climate service business ideas in order to kick-start market development. (Sub-Activities 1.1.1.1, 1.2.1.1, 3.1.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project's support to digitisation should extend beyond IGEO in order to enable a greater level of data-sharing between institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data sharing (and associated elements, such as technological inter-operability, clear institutional roles and responsibilities, use of international data standards, incorporation of gender disaggregation of data, etc.) forms a strong emphasis of project support. Formal standard operating procedures and data-sharing modalities will be agreed and documented for all key stakeholders. A National Climate Information System (NCIS) will be established with project support. (Sub-Activities 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.1.1.3, 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2, 2.1.1.1).
	Local actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project should not just focus on national-level structures and needs but should also address needs at the municipality and community level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive stakeholder consultations have taken place at local level. Key project interventions – such as FbA pilots, LAAP development and EbA demonstration measures – will take place at local level in close coordination with municipalities and other local actors. (Sub-Activities 2.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1).
	CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When designing its support for the hydro-met sector, the project needs to overcome the natural tendency to focus only on state institutions: CSOs, universities, local communities and the private sector also need to be closely involved, at both the project design and implementation stages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive stakeholder consultations have taken place with non-state institutions, including CSOs, academia, ARC, community groups and private sector enterprises. Key project interventions – such as the NFCS and MHEWS – will be explicitly designed to be inclusive, and other interventions (e.g. development of university hydro-met course modules and support to climate service MSMEs) have a principal or exclusive focus outside the state sector. (Sub-Activities 1.1.1.1, 1.2.1.1, 2.1.1.2, 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2).

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the private sector as participants in the project, not just as beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The private sector will be proactive participants in the project, particularly in the context of the NFCS and development of the commercial climate services ecosystem. (Sub-Activities 1.2.1.1, 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The private sector's primary motivation is generating profit. Limited support can be expected for other reasons (e.g. goodwill, corporate social sustainability programmes, etc.), but long-lasting support can only be created by profitable opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commercial imperative of private sector actors is fully acknowledged by the project and underlies its approach to climate services market development in particular (Sub-Activities 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three project components, especially Climate Information and EWS, are potential areas where Vodafone can support. A potential cooperation with Vodafone emphasizes the strong linkage with technological support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vodafone will be closely involved in development of a mobile network hazard warning system. (Sub-Activities 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2).
	International actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the geographical focus of the project, it is quite evident that the western belt of Albania is most affected by floods and other risks such as erosion, landslides, deforestation. The project should consider and coordinate with other projects/initiatives (e.g. SDC and UNDP, which are developing local plans and implementing flood management plans.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will put in place nationwide structures and systems (e.g. the NMHS, NFCS and MHEWS), but the principal focus will, indeed, be on the coastal belt. The FbA pilots and the EbA demonstration projects will be located in the 12 coastal belt municipalities. (Sub-Activities 2.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the institutional set-up, there are many stakeholders, and the cooperation and coordination framework should be considered as very important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive stakeholder consultations have taken place with state (including municipality-level) and non-state institutions, including CSOs, academia, ARC, community groups and private sector enterprises. The project will put in place detailed, formal inter-institutional cooperation and coordination systems. (Sub-Activities 1.1.1.1, 2.1.1.1 and others).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability of the project should be considered from the beginning, which means the contribution from the public sector is significant to ensure sustainability: e.g., maintenance and operation of infrastructure after the project is finished. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is fully supported by the NDA (the Ministry of Tourism and Environment) and other key government institutions. NCPA is an Executing Entity and is providing significant co-finance. The need for a GCF project like ALBAdapt is explicitly identified as a Strategic Project in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan. The Law on Weather, Climate and Hydrological Services will impose a statutory obligation on the government to provide regular funding to the NMHS; it will also enable the NMHS to generate revenue through the provision of paid-for services. (Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating the value-add of the project (e.g. with a cost-benefit analysis) would be very useful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cost-benefit analysis has been conducted (Annex 10a). Even under highly conservative assumptions, the project is clearly NPV-positive.

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include reference to, and alignment with, the Sendai framework and current running projects, e.g., World Bank. • WMO is very happy to support project development and project delivery plan. The project should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connection and alignment with ongoing projects and initiatives, e.g., SEE MHEWS. • Important: regional cooperation for data in the Western Balkans. • Data exchange for EU and global needs: data in and out of the country for modeling etc. • Infrastructure improvement for observation networks is not just a one-time thing – financed by government, embedding the modernization into an institutional reform is key. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed surveys of baseline projects and national strategies and policies (including international commitments under, inter alia, the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework) are included in the pre-feasibility study (Annex 2) and the Funding Proposal. • WMO is considered a key project partner, both as a provider of international standards and best-practice, as well as a project participant (e.g. in the provision of capacity building). WMO is very supportive of the project, which is regarded as highly complementary to its Early Warnings for All Initiative.
Component 2	National entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the system of the early warning service, it is crucial to understand linkages among institutions and how to integrate warnings within a single service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fragmented nature of the current warning system – across institutions, sectors and communication channels – is fully acknowledged. Indeed, it is this level of fragmentation (accompanied by the lack of formal, 'official', institutional roles and responsibilities, and the service gaps and deficiencies that arise as a result) that is a key motivation and justification for GCF involvement. Extensive preparatory work – interviews, consultations, legal analysis, institutional mapping, etc. – has been undertaken: the project has a good understanding of what challenges and gaps need to be addressed. A central focus of Sub-Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2 will be working with stakeholders to agree, formalize and establish the structures and systems to address these challenges and gaps.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important for local actors to be involved in the project and integrate them within the framework of the planned activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive stakeholder consultations have taken place at local level. Key project interventions – such as FbA pilots, LAAP development and EbA demonstration measures – will take place at local level in close coordination with municipalities and other local actors. (Sub-Activities 2.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1).
	Local actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for municipalities to integrate gender dimensions in local emergency response approaches. As such, it is recom- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a detailed GAP (Annex 4b) that addresses gender gaps at national, local and institutional levels. Among (many) other gender interventions, the project will: assist the 12 coastal municipalities to appoint gender focal points (and/ or formalize the roles of incumbents); provide training to coastal municipality civil protection personnel on the gender aspects of civil

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
		mended to build technical capacities in planning, gender analysis and disaggregated data, etc.	protection and early warning systems, including gender-differentiated climate impacts, needs, constraints and communications; ensure that FbA capacity building and pilots include gender-related aspects; engage gender expertise to review coastal municipalities' emergency response / DRR plans with a view to integrating gender-differentiated needs and perspectives into the plans; and work with coastal municipalities to implement gender-disaggregated data collection for civil protection purposes.
	Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of all operators that are dealing with the environment, weather, nature risks and climate is important and the unique NFCS platform is a very good idea to include all actors in the network and to provide access to information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design process for the NFCS will be fully inclusive: the private sector will play a key role. The NFCS has a number of purposes, one of which is to facilitate data-sharing (and thereby allow that data to be used, processed and received by a greater range of beneficiaries) and another is to support the development of private sector provision of climate services. The private sector will be key participants in the User Interface Platform (UIP) and the National Climate Information System (NCIS) will have walled garden areas to support data confidentiality (and hence support, inter alia, commercial services). (Sub-Activities 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of students in the faculties of science or engineering offers an option to prepare young professionals for careers in the hydro-met sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will work with universities and vocational colleges to develop new, elective modules on meteorology, hydrology and climatology that will initially form part of existing bachelor- and master-level degrees in physics, earth sciences, etc. In the medium-term, these modules are expected to evolve into stand-alone degree subjects. The intention is to support the future supply of suitably qualified staff for the hydro-met sector (public and private employers) (Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of climate risks in local spatial plans is needed. There is also a need for better coordination between actors (NCPA and NTPA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will provide extensive support to municipalities, including (inter alia): support to Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogues (TSCDs) and Territorial Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs), precisely with the purpose of better capturing, integrating and mainstreaming climate adaptation / DRR into municipal planning and investments. The NTPA will co-lead the TSCD process (with MoTE) and NCPA will be an active participant. (Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1 and others).

Project Component	Consultations	Key Feedback Received	How Feedback / Suggestions are Addressed in Project Design
Component 3	International actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Cross sees community engagement as imperative to the successful implementation of the project. It is important to enable local actors and in building the needed capacity to act. How can community engagement be financially coupled to help local action planning and early warnings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has engaged in extensive local-level consultations during project preparation. During project implementation, the project will (inter alia): implement a capacity building programme for coastal belt municipalities, which will include support for community engagement and understanding of vulnerable groups; and implement an awareness-raising campaign to enable coastal belt municipalities to reach communities and target sub-communities; provide capacity building for FbA implementation in coastal communities. FbA offers a direct link between (i) community engagement, (ii) financial/technical support and (iii) early warnings. (Sub-Activities 2.1.1.2, 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project should focus on building a single multi-hazard EWS, as an information system co-provided and produced in a tailored manner to serve multiple purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will, indeed, support the development of a single multi-hazard EWS – with NCPA as the key entity that coordinates co-provision and co-production of information (closely ‘joined up’ with the NMHS), and that issues consistent, high-quality, timely warnings across multiple communication channels. (Sub-Activities 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2).
	National entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project needs to cover all coastal municipalities but then select a sub-set to work in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will provide capacity building, TSCDs and LAAP development support to all 12 coastal municipalities. In recognition of the level of work involved and the danger of ‘spreading itself too thin’, the project will not develop hazard impact models in all coastal municipalities but, rather, in 6 coastal settlements. FbA pilots will then be developed in 3 of these settlements. FbA plans will also be developed for schools at risk of flooding in all 12 coastal municipalities. 5-10 EbA / eco-DRR measures will be implemented in a sub-set of coastal municipalities. (Sub-Activities 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature-based solutions (NbS) are the priority focus of MoTE, as well as in the NDC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NbS focus of the government and key policies / strategies (the NDC, the NAP, the National Climate Change Strategy, etc.) is fully acknowledged. Based on extensive consultations with government institutions and other stakeholders, Activity 3.2.1 is focused on developing the enabling conditions for implementation of NbS as a climate adaptation approach, with scaled-up operationalization planned for the ALBAdapt Phase 2 project.
	International actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BRIGAID project was a first step and a good starting point in terms of building market readiness and developing a community of innovators. There is now a real opportunity for Albania to create a market for climate start-ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bridging the Gap for Innovations in Disaster Resilience (BRIGAID) project was a European Commission project that ran from 2016-2020. It is one of the baseline projects that the ALBAdapt project will build on, notably by leveraging the stakeholder networks BRIGAID developed and solidifying these networks into an online digital innovation community. Ecosystem-building support, which will encompass awareness-raising and business ideation (hackathons and other events) will encompass not just climate service start-ups (although these are, of course, a key focus), but also incubators, accelerators, financiers, academia and civil society. (Sub-Activities 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2).

Source: Own elaboration

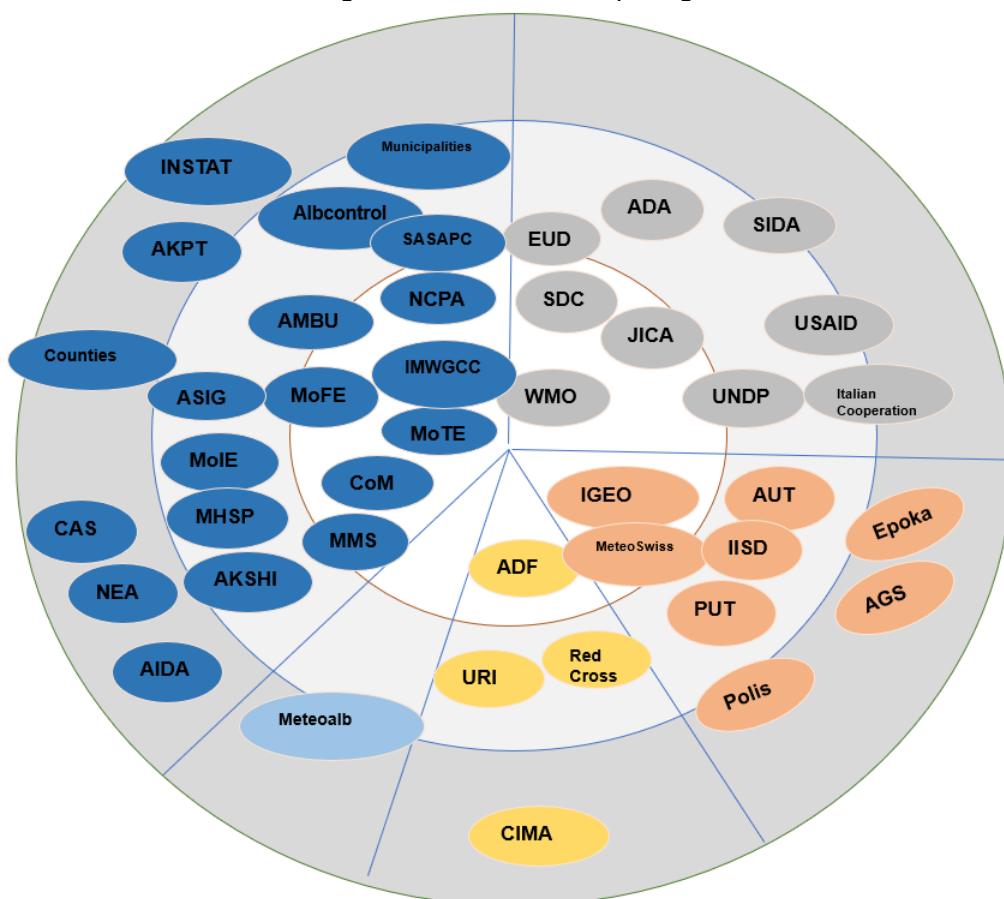
2.7 Stakeholder Mapping

A stakeholder mapping and analysis report was done in 2021 within the process of ALBAdapt CN development to better inform the project team among others on the key players in the sector, their activities and interlink with each other. The stakeholder profile provides a comprehensive estimate of 45 national and international stakeholders. These stakeholders are divided into three categories:

- Governmental Institutions (central and local governmental units, national agencies, departments etc.);
- International Stakeholders working as development partners in EWS and climate change;
- Other national stakeholders (CSOs, Private Sector, Academic Institutions).

Figure 2 the stakeholder map diagram prepared back in 2021 and updated during the SAP proposal development represents the panorama of analysed actors as per their sphere of influence in the project. Location of the stakeholders is done according to the level of influence, starting from the centre with the most influential ones while in wider circle are places the least influential stakeholders.

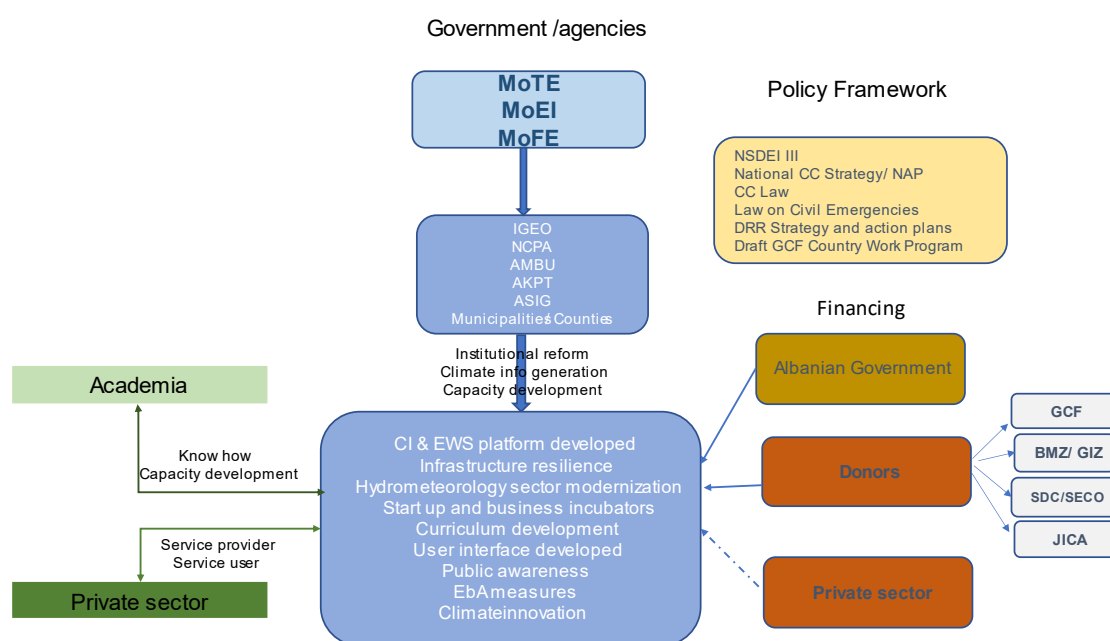
Figure 2: Stakeholder Map Diagram



Source: Own elaboration

Figure 3 shows the interrelation between the key stakeholders in the project.

Figure 3: Interrelation of key stakeholders in the project



Source: Own elaboration

2.8 Stakeholder Analysis

The stakeholder analysis done during CN development and updated during SAP preparation provides a comprehensive estimate of 46 national and international stakeholders. As mentioned before, these stakeholders are divided into three categories:

- Governmental Institutions (central and local governmental units, national agencies, departments etc.);
- International Stakeholders working as development partners in EWSs and climate change;
- Other national stakeholders (CSOs, Private Sector, Academic Institutions).

2.8.1 Governmental Institutions

For the sake of this analysis the profiles provided here are on an institutional basis regardless the level of the governance.

Based on the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, and the deriving legislation, the governance system in Albania consists of two levels:

- Central government level, and
- Local self-government level.

The **central government level**, represented by the central government body, acts as the highest executive authority. Together with other constitutional bodies, it facilitates political decision-making and formulates strategies to achieve the state's objectives during specific historical periods through administrative activities.

Members of the government body, either collectively or individually depending on their respective departments, oversee the translation of political decisions into administrative actions within the public administration. This involves carrying out administrative functions, particularly at the senior administrative level, including the appointment and dismissal of high-ranking public officials. According to the Constitution of Albania, the Council of Ministers assumes any state function not assigned to other state or local government bodies.

The government is responsible for normative functions, allowing it to enact regulatory measures with less authority than laws. In some cases, it can issue normative acts of equal authority to laws, either through delegation by the parliament or with its ratification. Decisions made by the Council of Ministers are approved by a majority vote of its members through an open ballot.

Counties in Albania are part of the central governance tier. Their role is primarily related to regional administration and coordination of governmental activities. Counties serve as intermediate administrative units between the central government and the local government, ensuring the implementation of national policies and regulations at the regional level. They are responsible for overseeing and coordinating various administrative functions, including law enforcement, civil registration, and public services, within their respective regions.

Moreover, Counties play a crucial role in crisis management and emergency response, serving as key points of contact for the central government during times of natural disasters, civil emergencies, or other critical situations. They work closely with local authorities, law enforcement agencies, and relevant stakeholders to ensure effective communication, coordination, and implementation of government policies and initiatives at the regional level.

The second governing level in Albania is the **local self-government level**. The local self-government is organized in two tiers: i) Municipalities (61), which stand at the first tier, and ii) Regional Councils (12), which stand at the second tier. Local government ensures governance at a level as close as possible to the citizens through recognizing the existence of different identities and values of communities, respecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens sanctioned in the Constitution or other laws, choosing different types of services and other local public facilities for the benefit of the community, the effective exercise of functions, competencies and tasks by local government bodies, the provision of services in appropriate forms and the effective promotion of community participation in local government. The local self-government body is regulated by law 139/2015 "On local self-government" which was a step forward in the process of decentralization of governance in Albania that has started in 1992. It gives more functions to the municipalities. Table 5 below provides the list of governmental institutions related to early warning and climate information systems both on national and local level.

Table 5: Governmental institutions engaged in Climate Change Adaptation/ CIS/EW

Name of the institution	Description of role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Albanian Authority for Geographical Information (ASIG)	ASIG is responsible for surveying, mapping and land-use registration. It maintains a sophisticated public digital map of Albania that incorporates many 'layers' (topography, geology, land-use, etc.) Its main role was to facilitate the collection, organization, management, and dissemination of geographic information for various purposes, including urban planning, environmental management, infrastructure development, and other governmental initiatives. ASIG plays a significant role in promoting the use of geographical information systems (GIS) and geospatial data to support informed decision-making processes across different sectors.	Medium	Improved climate data serves to ASIG dedicated climate and hazard info update and enrichment. Cooperation with project will facilitate two-way GIS data exchange with the MHEWS to incorporate hazard information into ASIG products and to enrich MHEWS hazard assessment activities.
Albanian Geological Survey (AGS)	The AGS is a public institution that has the legal status as advisory, technical and scientific institution. It is a governmental, public, budgetary legal entity, which carries out activities in the field of soil sciences including studies for civil geological, geo-sciences and hydrogeological emergencies in the territory of the Republic of Albania.	Medium	Can provide the expertise for the hydrogeological emergencies and other technical expertise in the field of soil science regarding the landslide and other related issues.
Albcontrol	Formerly known as the National Air Traffic Agency. It manages and controls the airspace of Albania. Albcontrol was created in 1992 as a state-owned enterprise and was restructured as a state-owned joint stock company in 1997. The Meteorological Directorate (Albcontrol Met), one of 17 operating units, is responsible for operating automated weather observing systems (AWOS) at Tirana and Kukës airports. Albcontrol Met produces regular 24-hour terminal aerodrome forecasts (TAFs) and local area forecasts (LAFs) for defined weather parameters, as well as 7-day weather outlooks.	Medium - Low	Improved climate data and forecast info on a country level serves to the Albcontrol. They do recognize the need for info exchange in between governmental institutions.
Civil Aviation Service (CAS)	The CAS is the authority responsible for the regulation and supervision of all activities in the field of civil air transport in the Republic of Albania.	Low	Interest in early warning and meteorological data.
Council of Ministers	Main body for approving policies and plans	High	Legal requirement for establishing and approving an effective system for DRR, EWS as well as sectorial reform needed in hydrometeorology.
INSTAT	INSTAT is an independent public legal entity, organized at central level and local level. It is the main producer of official statistics in the country. Its mandate is to produce neutral, transparent and up-to-date statistics that help users to judge the processes of development and transformation of the country. INSTAT coordinates the National Statistical System for all activities in the country for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics to ensure that all producers of official statistics use the standards, concepts, definitions, classifications and statistical methodologies adopted by the United Nations and Eurostat, where applicable	Low	Interest to improve segregated and topic specific data collection in the country

Name of the institution	Description of role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change (IMWGCC)	The IMWGCC is responsible for drafting policies and strategies on climate changes and include them in the respective sectorial programmes. The IMWGCC is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Environment and is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE), MARD, Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP), MEYS etc. This committee may improve stakeholders' coordination for more integrated responses to the challenges of climate change.	High	This mechanism has been in place since 2015, but lacks representation from the involved institutions, know-how, and delivering the appointed tasks. With the increased interest of donors in financing CC related projects in Albania the need for IMWGCC to properly run and ensure coordination is considerable. Therefore, significant needs for capacity building and direction.
Military Meteorological Service (MMS)	The MMS is an integral part of Military Forces of the Republic of Albania created by law No. 9224 dated 29.04.2004 under the command of the Air Forces. The MMS studies meteorological phenomena, analyses different meteorological elements that determine the actual situation of weather and provides meteorological assistance for the safety of the population, air or sea navigation, as well as in cases of civil emergencies.	Low	Limited network available, budget and staff. Need for digitalization and modernization of the network. MMS stations are WMO recognized.
Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE)	It prepares and implements government policies for co-ordinating foreign aid, trade, housing and entrepreneurship to build a new economic model, with a view to sustainable, high-growth economic growth in Albania. This ministry designs and implements integrated economic policies in the primary sectors of the economy, etc. MoFE is the manager of the state budget, including donor financing. It is the one that determines the budget for all state institutions.	Medium	GCF and other donor money should be channelled through the state budget. A climate change marker for the earmarked funds should be established. Mainstreaming CC into the public finance is one of the envisaged actions in the National Adaptation Plan (as part of the Climate Change Strategy). The ministry has no person in charge to deal with such tasks, nor indicators to measure CC measures.
Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MHSP)	MHSP is responsible for drafting and implementing policies and strategies in the healthcare sector.	Low	Improvement of hydro-met services and climate information services by the ALBAdapt project will guide and support the Ministry in relation to decision-making to improve health conditions of the population at risk and adapt living environments for affected communities.
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE)	MoIE is the ministry with state responsibilities for the sector of hydrocarbons (oil and gas), energy (including CC mitigation), but also industry, transport, infrastructure, including waste management infrastructure and urban development, which are big consumers of energy. Its mission is to draft and implement the general state policy in the energy sector, in the use of energy resources, mining and industry sectors, urban planning and development, infrastructure and transport, telecommunication and postal sector. Following the governmental changes of 2017, it has the strongest influence on the determination and acceptance of the national and sectorial targets under the NDC and the upcoming NECP.	Medium	Improved climate data and services serves to better and resilient infrastructure planning. The ministry recognizes the need for support and know-how in mainstreaming CC adaptation into infrastructure planning.
Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE)	MoTE is the main institution in charge of the protection of the environment. It is the country's promoter of the CC mitigation and adaptation policy and measures. Its mission is the development of climate change policy. It coordinates the integration of environmental and climate change issues into agricul-	High	The climate related competencies are reflected in MoTE organizational charts only as of January 2023. The later re-organization that established the MoTE provided one structure for CC, with limited human capacities. Additionally, on its role as the NDA of GCF additional efforts are done to increase the

Name of the institution	Description of role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
	ture, tourism, health, energy, transport, forestry and water policies. This coordinating/leading role is strengthened with the newly approved Law “On climate Change”. MoTE serves as the focal point for international environment conventions, including the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as serving as the NDA for the GCF and the Political and Operational Focal Point for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). MoTE is the lead institution for the National Climate Change Strategy and chairs the IMWGCC.		interest and attention of different actors in undertaking initiatives in this regard. These endeavours will need extensive human resources from the ministry to steer and coordinate different processes. Therefore, the need for a trained staff in this newly established directory is a priority. There is a huge need for capacity building, and additional resources to address the CCA, DRR and EWS related legal responsibility among others.
Municipalities	The municipalities are in charge of the assessment of risks within their territory, drafting and adopting the document on risk assessment from disasters, inform the public on the risk based on the assessment and draft, adapt and revise the local plan for civil emergencies. Moreover, according to the legislation each municipality should have a directorate or department that is responsible on civil protection and should establish a permanent civil protection committee.	Medium	The legal requirements oblige local governments / municipalities to collect, organize and keep their own climate related data and reports on the measures taken or planned to be taken for mitigation and adaptation as well as share them with the MTE and the relevant line ministry. They do not have sufficient capacity to implement their legal obligations (risk assessment, disaster response plans, urban planning adaptation, data collection and gathering etc.). There is a lack of lack of human capacities and funds available.
National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)	NCPA is a central public legal entity, subordinate to the minister responsible for civil protection and responsible for disaster risk reduction and civil protection, throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania. Its main tasks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the CoM policy for DRR and CP policy; • Coordinate and steer the process for the preparation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, National Civil emergency Plan and Disaster Risk Assessment at central level; • Cooperate with international bodies and counterpart international organizations in the framework of civil protection and disaster risk reduction; • Develop training program for central and local civil protection structures etc. 	High	New agency, new structures, structures at local level still to be established, lack of human resources, lack of know-how, considerable needs for capacity building, most of disasters faced are climate induced disasters. The new law on Civil protection implies the preparation of national strategy and action plan for disaster risk reduction as well as the risk assessment in national and local level for all disasters including climate induced ones. The need for technical assistance and support is articulated by the head of the agency.
National Agency For Integrated Water Management (AMBU)	The AMBU was established by Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 221 dated 26.4.2018 “On the organization and functioning of the Water Resources Management Agency”. The mission of the Agency is the good governance of water resources in order to meet all vital needs, keeping in mind the sustainability of ecosystems, promoting competitiveness of uses and prioritizing towards economic profitability	Medium	The well-functioning of the climate information services and EW, AMBU can fulfil its obligations for a functionable and reliable Water Cadastre in Albania. Within the framework of the WB (Water Resources Irrigation Project) AMBU has performed an institutional analysis and functional mapping for the sake of well-functioning of the National Water Resources Cadastre where IGEO as a key player assumes a prominent role.
National Agency for Territorial	Responsible institution for drafting General National Spatial Plan and the coordination of the drafting of local development plans. Administration and maintenance of the spatial planning database (National Register of Spatial Planning); informing the public about the spatial planning processes, as well	Medium	Prior experiences with CCA projects (Brigaid Project). Young, well-educated and motivated staff interested in participating in CCA related initiatives.

Name of the institution	Description of role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Planning (AKPT)	as promoting its participation in the processes of drafting and implementing planning documents in relation to changes due to measures raised from EWS.		
National Committee of Large Dams (KKDM)	KKDM is a body of the Council of Ministers which exercises state control over the safety of dams and dams as acts of importance special and represents the Albanian state in the International Commission of Dams.	Low	As a newly established committee they are interested in know-how, networking and exchanging with other players in the sector.
National Environmental Agency (NEA)	NEA is the regulatory authority in the environmental sector and the main institution responsible for monitoring and reporting on the environment. NEA is responsible for drafting the National Programme for Monitoring of Environment and Environmental Status in Albania. Counselling local and central institutions for the implementation of environmental policies.	Low	Need for more accurate data. Lack of capacitated human resources in relation to environmental protection and monitoring.
State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination (SASPAC)	SASPAC is responsible for the coordination of development programmes and projects and monitors implementation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI).	High	Sector reform, EWS and implementation of EbA are the key priority of climate adaptation in the NSDI sector. Besides ensuring the monitoring of proper implementation of the NSDI, the institution has a high stake in donor coordination, insurance of projects implementation alignment with policy priorities as well as GoA by in.
The prefect of the region (qark)	The prefect of the region (<i>qark</i>) has a primary role to play in disaster risk reduction and civil protection at the region level. The prefect of the region drafts and adapt the hazard risk assessment in regional level, ensures the functioning of the monitoring, early warning, notification and alarm system in the territory of the region and informs in time the endangered community, the prefects of the neighbouring regions, as well as the National Agency of Civil Protection for disasters in their territory.	Low	Limited know-how, human capacities and budget available.

Source: Own elaboration

2.8.2 International Stakeholders

International stakeholders, whether organizations or various agencies, contribute to Albania in almost every sector including environmental protection, climate change and related issues. The contribution is made through loans, funds and various development models. International bodies can provide coordination, standardization, and support for national early warning activities and foster the exchange of data and knowledge between individual countries and regions. Support may include the provision of advisory information, technical assistance, and policy and organizational support necessary to aid the development and operational capabilities of national authorities or agencies.

International Stakeholders working in Albania do not have independent functions in EWS but operate as development partners supporting in the field of climate change and environment and human protection and therefore consequently supporting to the EWS, within the context of their respective organizational mandate and resources.

Table 6 presents a list of international stakeholders that are active in the aforementioned fields in Albania.

Table 6: International development partners in the sector

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA)	Combating poverty, ensuring peace and preserving the environment are the three major concerns of the ADA, the operational unit of Austrian Development Cooperation. ADA currently funds projects and programmes with a total volume of 500 million euros to improve living conditions in developing countries.	Medium	Currently in the process of writing a GCF CN in the water sector. Need for coordination and information exchange to create synergies.
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	Through investment projects, policy engagement work and donor-funded activities, the EBRD promotes the transition to a well-functioning, modern market economy. In particular in Albania EBRD seeks to make the economy competitive, well-governed, green, inclusive, resilient and integrated.	Medium	At the moment EBRD has two projects being implemented that could be of interest. The first one is the multicounty GCF financed project on Green Cities Facility. EBRD has also approved a €10 million loan to ProCredit Bank Albania for on-lending to SMEs
European Delegation to Albania (EUD)	<p>The EUD to the Republic of Albania is a permanent diplomatic mission. The Delegation was established in 1993, when the European Commission decided to upgrade its Office of the Special Envoy to a full delegation in the light of the positive democratic development which had taken place.</p> <p>The delegation's main tasks are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the development of political and economic relations between the EU and Albania in the framework of the Stabilization and Association Process, which is the strategy for helping Albania in its path towards integration into the EU. • Managing EU Assistance programmes. • Disseminating information on the EU, informing the Albanian general public, decision makers and opinion formers about the integration process, EU institutions and its policies. 	Medium - High	The EUD in Albania helps in reaching the country strategy paper targets for CC. The upcoming IPA III is under preparation. In the last four EU progress country reports continuous emphasis is given to the need of the country to deal with CC. Considerable strengthening of administrative capacity, allocation of the necessary financial resources as well as awareness-raising activities is requested ¹⁰ .

¹⁰ See Albania 2019 Report. URL: <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2019-07/20190529-albania-report.pdf> (Last accessed: 09.11.2023).

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
GIZ	GIZ Albania addresses the country's unemployment. A more competitive private sector is crucial for effectively tackling unemployment. In the agriculture sector, programmes contribute to improving productivity as well as the economic perspectives of people living in disadvantaged regions. Other focus areas are shortcomings in water supply. GIZ also supports Albania in environmental issues, focusing on reducing pollution from solid waste, protecting biodiversity from overuse of land and preventing floods.	High	GIZ is in charge for the preparation of the CN and Full funding proposal. It has a growing strong climate portfolio in the country.
Japan International Cooperation (JICA)	JICA is a governmental agency that coordinates development assistance for the government of Japan. It is chartered with assisting economic and social growth in developing countries, and the promotion of international cooperation.	High	JICA has implemented DRR projects in region with focus on forest fires and is interested to apply a regional approach including Albania.
Swedish Development Cooperation (SIDA)	SIDA is Sweden's government agency for development cooperation. Through cooperation with civil society, multilateral organisations, public agencies and the private sector SIDA works for sustainable development and help create conditions for people living in poverty and oppression to improve their living conditions.	Medium	SIDA, among others, is one of the main international stakeholders engaged in the environmental sector in Albania. Environment and climate are one of the three priority funding areas in the country. In parallel it is also implementing an EU funded project on innovation which could be linked with climate information and service idea.
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC/ SECO)	Switzerland is supporting Albania in the development of a democratic society and a competitive economy with the aim of helping to advance Albania's integration into Europe. Switzerland's support is focused on local governance, economic development and healthcare as well as urban infrastructure and energy.	High	Existing project on energy efficiency. SDC/SECO expanded its development cooperation portfolio into the DRR sector after the earthquake of 2019. They are officially engaged in the cofinancing of ALBAdapt project.
United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)	Present in Albania since 1991, UNDP works with the Government and People of Albania, including its civil society and businesses, to strengthen the rule of law, promote human rights and freedoms, protect the environment and support economic and social reforms for social inclusion and an equitable society.	High	Implementing several sector relevant projects. Need for coordination, exchanging information, lessons learned.
World Bank	WB engagement in Albania exists since 1990 supporting investments across all sectors and providing technical support. WB develops appropriate frameworks, guidance and standards of good practice for statistics. The role of WB in Albania is to: Build consensus and define internationally agreed indicators, such as indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals; Establish data exchange processes and methods; Help Albania improve statistical capacity.	Medium	The WB is the largest financial institution operating in Albania which has a very active role in the field of environmental protection and climate change
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)	WMO is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories. It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the roots of which were planted at the 1873 Vienna International	Medium - High	Albania has not a proper hydro-meteo service institution, therefore its outreach in the country is low. WMO has extensive know-how, experience and similar projects all over the world.

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
	Meteorological Congress. Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.		

Source: Own elaboration

2.8.3 Other National Stakeholders

Other national stakeholders are academic institutions such as universities and institutes, CSOs and think tank organizations, private sector and businesses specialized in the field of environment and climate change related issues. These stakeholders have a critical role in providing specialized scientific and technical input to assist governments and communities in developing EWSs. Their expertise is central to analysing natural hazard risks facing communities, supporting the design of scientific and systematic monitoring and warning services, supporting data exchange, translating scientific or technical information into comprehensible messages, and to the dissemination of understandable warnings to those at risk. Table 7 summarizes these other national stakeholders.

Table 7: Other national stakeholders

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Albanian Development Fund (ADF)	From an agency established with the mission to alleviate poverty in rural areas of Albania through small interventions after the fall of the communist regime, ADF transformed into the main lever of development. ADF applies regional approaches and implements integrated and complex projects ensuring sustainable social and economic development as well as creation of successful models. ADF is widely known for road infrastructure projects, water supply and sewerage, urbanization, etc.	Medium	The ADF is the main implementing partner for donors and GoA funds for infrastructure and regional development. However, as the legal status allows, ADF has several international partners such as WB, EBRD, EIB, EU etc.
Alb-Matrix Group (AMG)	Alb-Matrix Group is a private company operating in the field of construction and geology. The AMG is specialized in the delivery of works and river protection, hydraulic system and reclamation. Environmental engineering works.	Low	Can provide expertise in the geological and river protection field.
ALBtelecom	ALBtelecom is a company with experience and presence over 100 years in the market and it continues to be an integral part, the first choice, but also the best communication solution of Albanians.	Medium	ALBtelecom can site AWS and serve as go-betweens to send early alerts to the endangered population.
Balfin Group	Balfin Group is one of the leading companies of development and construction industry, energy and mining in Albania and region, offers construction and investment of development projects.	Medium	Balfin Group is committed to promote higher social values and show care for community and environment. It can be involved in the framework of the Corporate Social Responsibility.
CIMA Foundation	CIMA Foundation is a research organization in the field of civil protection and civil emergencies. CIMA focuses mainly on supporting the Civil Protection and National hydrometeorological service of the region for prevention, prediction and mitigation of wildfire and flood risk at local, national and regional levels.	Low	CIMA contributes actively to the advancement of science and engineering in environmentally related fields, focusing on public health and safety, civil protection and the preservation of terrestrial and water-related ecosystems.

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
Co-PLAN	Co-PLAN is a non-profit organization that has contributed to sustainable development by enabling good urban and regional governance, tackling key environmental issues, developing civil society, impacting policies, and promoting community participation knowledge-making. Co-PLAN fulfils implements pilot activities and advisory services financed by national and international institutions and direct involvement with communities, local government units and other non-governmental organizations in the field of urban and regional management, environmental management, and municipal finance.	Low	Co-PLAN has a long-standing experience and an extensive research portfolio in matters pertaining to our thematic areas, particularly in the realm of environmental assessments, territorial management, preparation of strategic plans, and development strategies, preparation of urban regulatory plans, local government service provision; informal settlements integration, etc.
EDEN centre	EDEN centre is a non-governmental/ non-for-profit organisation established in 2004 that has contributed to sustainable development and healthy environment through informing, educating and offering services in partnership with the interested actors. EDEN is focusing its work in four sectors: a) Capacity Building, b) Environmental Education, c) Environmental Management Practices and d) Public Information and Participation	Low	EDEN is well known in the country for its watchdog spirit and campaigns organised
Epoka University	Epoka University is an institution of higher education oriented to scientific research. It manages and organizes its scientific research policy in accordance with its Strategic Plan in the framework of "Research Excellence at Epoka" under the Research and Projects Office. Epoka University has four research centres: the Center for European Studies (CES), the Center of Research and Design in Applied Sciences (CORDA), the Yunus Center for Social Business and Sustainability (YCSBS) and the Continuous Education Center (CEC).	Low	Through the active participation of students and all academic the Epoka University has the capability to provide an extended expertise in the field of research.
Geo Sensors Albania	Geo Sensors is a company specialized in the field of geological sensors as well as active research and teaching group that integrates geoinformatics and environmental science to advance sustainable landscape management and conserve biodiversity.	Low	Can provide expertise in the geological and river protection field.
INCA (Institute of Nature Conservation)	The INCA is a non-Governmental and non-profitable organization, established in July 2000. The INCA's main goal is to facilitate and help the professional capacity building through training and participatory approach, safeguard of environment, conservation of the natural environment treasures and rural development in the country, protection of flora and fauna, the assessment of biodiversity, the management of protected areas and river basin management.	Low	INCA offers its main services in the research and study part and the capacity building process: Assessments of biodiversity and "environmental services" Conducting visibility studies and preparing strategic documents; Preparation of management plans (protected areas, coastal areas, forests, tourism plans).
Institute of Geoscience, (IGEO)	IGEO is a national research unit that operates under the umbrella of the Polytechnic University of Tirana. IGEO provides scientific and applicative research, undertakes services in the fields of seismology, natural resources, geoengineering and geoinformation technologies, carries out research	High	High needs for infrastructure and modernization; very low budget, scarce human resources, no technicians, high dependence on the university.

Name of the institution	Description of Role	Level of influence	Relevance for the proposed project
	on natural hazards such as landslide, erosion, floods, environmental pollution etc. The National Center for Forecast and Monitoring of Natural Risks operates within the institute. The NCFMNR provides Meteorological Warning Bulletins.		
Meteoalb	Meteoalb is a company in the field of consultations and services on hydrometeorology and environment. Meteoalb offers wide range of products and services from real-time meteorological data and weather forecast up to studies and full advance assistance on applied hydrometeorology and environment.	Low	Meteoalb is the only private company providing meteorological and hydrological measurements and services mostly to TVs and other private sector entities. Interested to be part of projects.
Polis University	Polis University acts as a think tank of policies for spatial development, applied design and technology, and also for leadership and entrepreneurship. Polis University promotes research work by investing in the inclusion of research and technology in all study programs.	Low	Through the active participation of students and all academic the Polis University has the capability to provide an extended expertise in the field of habitat development and environment.
Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT) (Department of Environmental Engineering [DEE])	The aim of the DEE in the Polytechnic University of Tirana is to prepare experts in engineering level in the field of environmental protection mainly in the water and energy. Moreover, the DEE provided scientific research in the field of EIA, Assessment of Quality and Environmental Risks as well as CC Adaptation and Mitigation Measures.	Medium	Through the active participation of students and all academic the DEE has the capability to provide an extended expertise in the field of environment, environmental risks and climate change.
REC Albania (Resource Environmental Center)	REC Albania is an Albanian legal entity registered under the Law on Non-profit Organizations (2001). The REC Albania works to fulfil the organization's mission by supporting CSOs and environmental institutions and stakeholders at a national, regional and local level. It also promotes participatory processes and exchange of information.	Low	REC has an experience with natural protection focusing on floods and forestry and disaster response plans
Urban Research Institute (URI)	URI is one of the main national organizations providing continuous assistance and support to the central and local government in Albania in the improvement of the provision of environmental related services. URI provides continuously policy and strategic planning assistance for the central and local government based on a thorough knowledge and experience of the regulatory legal and institutional framework and as well administration in place in environmental sector.	Low	URI has an experience of more than 20 years in different areas such as trainings, studies, management and technical assistance projects implementation. At present, URI is the only organization from Albania that is accredited by GCF as DAE. URI offers services such as: Assessments of biodiversity and "environmental services" Conducting visibility studies and preparing strategic documents. Preparation of management plans (protected areas, coastal areas, forests, tourism plans);
Vodafone Albania	Vodafone Albania is part of Vodafone Group Plc - a world leading company in the field of electronic communications. As one of the most valued brands in the world, Vodafone Albania is a leader in the Albanian market not only as a mobile phone operator but also as a responsible company and contributor to the socio-economic development of the country.	Medium	Vodafone Albania can serve as go-betweens to send early alerts to the endangered population.

Source: Own elaboration

2.9 Engagement of Albania with the GCF

In 2016, MoTe (then called the “Ministry of Environment”) was nominated as the NDA to serve as the interface between the Albanian government and GCF. The Ministry provides broad strategic oversight of the GCF’s activities in Albania and communicates the country’s priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development.

The main document for the country engagement with the GCF is the Country Programme. The Albanian draft Country Programme has identified six programmes that can be further developed and funded by the GCF. Table 8 below identifies priority areas and associated GCF result areas.

Table 8: Identification of priority areas and associated GCF result areas.

Priority area	Project proponents submitting ideas for the priority area	GCF results area alignment
Mitigation		
Energy efficiency improvements in public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Environment; Energy Efficiency Agency; Energy Efficiency Fund; Gramsh Municipality; Fier Municipality; Municipality of Korçë Albania. 	Mitigation: Buildings, cities, industries and appliance
Adaptation / cross-cutting		
Climate resilient agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) 	Adaptation: Health and well-being, and food and water security
Adapted water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of Albania; Austrian Development Agency (ADA); Water Resources Management Agency of Albania; MoTE; UNEP. 	Adaptation: Ecosystems and ecosystem services; Health, food and water security
Green Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Energy and Industry; Municipal Government of Albania; UNDP; Kukes Municipality; Durres Port Authority; Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy; Inclusive Development Center (IDC). 	Cross-cutting: Buildings, cities, industries and appliance; Infrastructure and built environment; Livelihoods of people and communities; Transport
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoTE; Rural Association Support Programme; RASP; Puka Municipality; Association of the Forest and Pasture Users. 	Cross-cutting: Ecosystems and ecosystem services; Forests and land use
Climate services / Early warning system / Disaster risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIZ; MoTE. 	Adaptation: Health and well-being, and food and water security; Livelihoods of vulnerable communities

Source: Own elaboration

Until now there are three projects that are being developed and are in the process of the writing of the CNs. The Climate Resilient Agriculture CN is being prepared by FAO and Ministry of Agriculture, the Adapted Water Management CN is being prepared by Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Climate Services/Early Warning System/Disaster Risk Reduction is being prepared by GIZ in framework of which is this report prepared for.

3. Vulnerable groups

3.1. Identification of Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups within Albania, particularly those impacted by natural disasters, have encountered a range of difficulties concerning their preparedness, resilience, and recovery. Albania has faced natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and sporadic extreme weather occurrences, significantly affecting marginalized communities including low-income households, minority groups residing in informal settlements, and individuals with limited mobility or disabilities. These groups have borne a disproportionate burden, exacerbated by limited access to resources, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic constraints, making it challenging for them to manage and recuperate from the consequences of such events.

Additionally, challenges arise from communication barriers, limited access to timely and accurate information, and insufficient participation in disaster preparedness and response initiatives, leaving these vulnerable groups further marginalized during and in the aftermath of natural disasters. While efforts have been made by the government and various organizations to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience among these groups in Albania, obstacles persist in ensuring they receive adequate support and are included in decision-making processes related to disaster management. Disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals and groups are at a higher risk of being disproportionately affected by the project and may face difficulties in accessing and understanding information about the project's environmental and social impacts and mitigation strategies. They may also encounter barriers to participation in the consultation process.

Communication barriers, illiteracy, informal housing, limited financial resources, and other socioeconomic factors can hinder the ability of these groups to voice their concerns and priorities regarding the project's impacts. Specific examples include women in rural communities who engage in manual labour, households without access to water or sanitation systems despite proximity, persons with disabilities facing difficult living conditions and water supply issues, and elderly citizens potentially overlooked in citizen engagement efforts.

Among the stakeholders, the ALBAdapt project's beneficiaries also include citizens residing within the coastal area, including vulnerable groups. The classification of potentially vulnerable groups affected by the project is based on their exposure to risk and their limited ability to cope, as described by the vulnerability equation: vulnerability equals exposure to risk plus inability to cope.

Children, elderly and disabled people, indigenous people (in this context Roma people), Extremely Poor People and Women are globally recognised as most vulnerable groups to Climate Change impacts. Women and Children are 14 times more likely to die or be injured during a disaster than men¹¹.

Based on the criteria of the inability to cope, various vulnerable groups have been identified by the project staff:

- **Children:** Children are more vulnerable to vector-borne diseases than adults due to age and relative inability to care for themselves in natural disasters cases;
- **Women:** GA and GAP documents provide concrete suggestions how the gender inequality can be addressed in the project implementation;
- **Indigenous people:** Tend to live in places that are worst hit by climate change. Their poverty and discrimination exacerbate their vulnerability, as does their proximity to nature. Most Roma people in Shkodra region for example live in or near the flood-prone areas;
- **Elderly and disabled people:** Diminished ability to adapt; difficulty to regulate body temperature and to adapt physiologically to heat; resistance in seeking assistance; detrimental physical impacts; dehydration and the worsening of existing health problems; loss of access to infrastructure; power-cuts can impact on life support equipment and affect mobility;
- **Poor people:** Climate change impacts will slow down economic growth throughout the 21st century- making poverty reduction more difficult- "food security" and "creation of new poverty traps"; increased inequality; wage dependent poor households affected by increased food prices; especially in regions with high flood/ drought risks, leading to food insecurity and high inequality.

¹¹ See Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerable Groups. URL: <https://www.ajne.org/sites/default/files/event/7081/session-materials/3ajs-ts4-1-iahsann-impacts-of-climate-change-on-vulnerable-groups.pdf> (Last accessed: 09.11.2023).

The identification and mapping of these vulnerable groups are expected to evolve throughout the project's phases. An initial analysis is presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Number of vulnerable groups/ regional and local level

#	Coastal Municipalities	Prefecture	# of children up to 14 years old/per prefecture	# of elderly from 65 years old+/per county	# of women/per county	Beneficiary household with persons of Rom nationality/per county (%)	# of beneficiary households of economic aid (TOTAL) /per county	# of beneficiaries of disability payments/per county
1	Durrës	Durrës	48,525	46,105	144,229	6	781	6,419
2	Divjakë	Fier	43,684	44,784	138,810	6	2.375	8,152
3	Fier	Fier	43,684	44,784	138,810	6	2.375	8,152
4	Kurbin	Lezhë	19,939	20,156	59,508	2	2.801	4,430
5	Lezhë	Lezhë	19,939	20,156	59,508	2	2.801	4,430
6	Shkodër	Shkodër	31,012	29,490	99,302	1	4.488	5,291
7	Kavajë	Tiranë	149,745	137,849	466,718	6	3.205	11,976
8	Rrogozhinë	Tiranë	149,745	137,849	466,718	6	3.205	11,976
9	Himarë	Vlorë	25,860	30,329	92,577	3	2.123	4,567
10	Konispol	Vlorë	25,860	30,329	92,577	3	2.123	4,567
11	Sarandë	Vlorë	25,860	30,329	92,577	3	2.123	4,567
12	Vlorë	Vlorë	25,860	30,329	92,577	3	2.123	4,567

Source: Own elaboration

3.2. Possible Means of Engagement

To ensure the full participation of vulnerable groups (including those experiencing poverty, the elderly, women, children, Roma communities) during the project implementation, and to safeguard their rights and benefits, the project should incorporate suitable measures.

These can include:

- Designing interventions, wherever possible, to address the specific needs and interests of vulnerable groups;
- Organise awareness and information campaigns on how to prepare and act prior during and after a disaster event for disadvantage groups like children and women;
- Facilitating effective communication through appropriate methods (such as home visits, social media, or meetings) to foster understanding, including the establishment of a grievance redress mechanism. Project staff will arrange individual meetings at mutually convenient locations and times to provide information and solicit feedback;
- Providing transportation support for vulnerable individuals to attend project-related meetings when necessary and building capacity to facilitate the engagement of these vulnerable groups.

4. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

4.1 SEP Objectives

This SEP is formulated to establish a robust platform for productive engagement with affected parties and other interested stakeholders in the project's implementation process. Meaningful involvement of stakeholders throughout the project cycle is a crucial element of effective project management, providing opportunities to:

- Facilitate meaningful participation of citizens;
- Foster strong project-stakeholder relationships, including community level and disadvantaged groups;
- Gather feedback to shape project execution, monitoring, and evaluation;
- Ensure opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback, ask questions and raise concerns;
- Identify and mitigate project risks;
- Maximize project outcomes and benefits;
- Disseminate project information and materials;
- Ensure meaningful consultation and promote social acceptability of the project;
- Ensure a culturally appropriate and gender sensitive mechanism for filing complaints and grievances;
- Address any grievances related to the project.

4.2 Stakeholders' relation to Project Activities

Climate resilience stakeholders are integral in addressing and adapting to the impacts of CC. Through collaborative efforts, these stakeholders contribute to the development and implementation of strategies that help communities, ecosystems, and economies withstand the adverse effects of a changing climate.

In Albania, an analysis of climate resilience stakeholders encompasses a diverse range of individuals, organizations, and institutions actively involved in enhancing resilience and adaptation measures in response to CC.

Political level structures in Albania have preceded the project preparation through the already approved important documents such as: NSDI, National Strategy on Climate Change and Plan (NSCC&P), communication with the UNFCCC (so far there are four communications), as well as by implementing climate-relevant projects related to: water basins, agriculture, impacts on the coastal area, etc.

Table 10 presents the findings regarding the commitment that stakeholders must give for specific sub-activities. The institutional commitments referred to in this table is an important part of the risk analysis and mitigation measures that must precede the project in its early stages, so that the implementation and timeline of the project do not have significant impacts, and, beyond this, the aim is to achieve a long-term sustainability for follow-up after the project completion.

Table 10: Stakeholder commitment per sub-activity

Main project Stakeholders	Component 1				Component 2				Component 3			
	Output 1.1		Output 1.2		Output 2.1		Output 3.1		Output 3.2			
	Activity 1.1.1		Activity 1.2.1		Activity 2.1.1		Activity 2.1.2		Activity 3.1.1		Activity 3.2.1	
	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.1	Sub-Activity 1.1.1.2	Sub-Activity 1.2.1.1	Sub-Activity 1.2.1.2	Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1	Sub-Activity 2.1.1.2	Sub-Activity 2.1.2.1	Sub-Activity 2.1.2.2	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.1	Sub-Activity 3.1.1.2	Sub-Activity 3.2.1.1	Sub-Activity 3.2.1.2
Ministry of Tourism and Environment			✓	✓							✓	✓
Institute of Geosciences (IGEO)	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Military Meteorological Service (MMS)		✓	✓	✓								
Albcontrol MET			✓	✓								
Water Resources Management Agency			✓	✓							✓	
National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
National Territorial Planning Agency			✓	✓							✓	✓
State Authority for Geospatial Information			✓	✓							✓	✓
National Agency for Information Society			✓	✓								
Albanian Development Fund											✓	✓
Schools and Coastal Municipalities							✓	✓			✓	
CSOs/Communities					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Private sector		✓							✓	✓		

Source: Own elaboration

Table 11: Stakeholder Engagement per Activity

Activity	Activity 1.1.1: Strengthening the NMHS	Activity 2.1.1: Deploying a widely available, fit for purpose MHEWS	Activity 2.1.2: Transitioning towards forecast-based early action in Albania	Activity 3.1.1: Strengthening the innovation ecosystem for climate services	Activity 3.2.1: Facilitating the identification of adaptation measures and their financing
SEP Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional reform and law dialogue: A multi-stakeholder consultation process will be implemented to discuss the options for NMHS reform and the law. The engagement of the government (including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Finance and Economy and line ministries, as well as other public institutions), academia, CSOs and the private sector will be ensured in order to facilitate the development of a widely accepted, financially sustainable and functional solution. • Institutional reform stakeholder validations: National stakeholder meeting to consultatively agree on the law and on the new structure will also be part of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and regional needs assessment: Government and non-government stakeholders will work together to design the hazard warning system through participatory co-design. The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Finance and Economy will provide high-level oversight to ensure that the design process is fair and effective. Regional expertise is needed to assess the regional needs to improve the hazard warning system. • Legal anchoring of new SOPs: Consultations with territorial stakeholders, community representatives, and national/local government agencies will be conducted to ensure appropriate legal anchoring of the new SOP. • Operationalisation of the MHEWS: The National Agency for Information So- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection: The project will gather data for hazard impact modelling by consulting with the population to collect additional data in the field besides the data provided by NMHS and MHEWS. • EAP (Early Action Protocols) development and SOPs: Stakeholder consultations are necessary for the development of EAP- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For the three selected settlements, the project will work with the municipalities, as well as local stakeholders (civil society, NGOs, ARC, etc.) to insert Early Action Protocols (EAP) into the existing emergency plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment meeting with stakeholders: Stakeholders will hold an assessment meeting at the end of the demonstration and testing phase of business ideas. The climate service provider and the user participate in this assessment meeting, and other interested parties (e.g. central government, local government, civil society, local NGOs, etc.) may also participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogues: Stakeholders in each of the 12 communities in the Coastal Belt are being consulted to develop Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs). The National Territorial Planning Agency (NTPA) and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) will co-lead Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogues (TSCDs) in each of the 12 municipalities in the coastal belt. • Local Adaptation Action Plans: Stakeholders will validate the LAAPs at a high-level meeting. • EbA / eco-DRR financing window design and set-up: Experts will be consulted to establish the funding window. In parallel, stakeholder consultations will be conducted to validate the governance

Activity	Activity 1.1.1: Strengthening the NMHS	Activity 2.1.1: Deploying a widely available, fit for purpose MHEWS	Activity 2.1.2: Transitioning towards forecast-based early action in Albania	Activity 3.1.1: Strengthening the innovation ecosystem for climate services	Activity 3.2.1: Facilitating the identification of adaptation measures and their financing
	<p>this stakeholder consultative approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation network consultation: Before deploying new stations on public or private land, or renewing existing stations on private land, the project will early engage with the communities and landowners. As a result of this early engagement Long-term contracts will be negotiated, outlining their responsibilities to provide physical access, prevent vandalism and ensure basic maintenance. 	<p>ciety (AHKSHI) the government entity in charge of digital content provision and operationalization, will be consulted to provide the necessary administration rights and flow of data information consent needed for operationalization of the MHEWS, ensuring its successful operationalization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising campaigns: Coastal belt municipalities will work with the Albanian Red Cross (ARC) in capacity building and awareness-raising activities. This work will be closely coordinated with the Territorial Stakeholder Climate Dialogues (TSCDs) and Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAP on the ground simulation exercise: Stakeholders will participate in the on-the-ground simulation of the EAP. • Lessons learnt workshop: After the (simulation) exercise, a multi-stakeholder workshop will take place in each settlement to assess lessons-learned, areas for improvement and modifications (if required). 		<p>arrangements and the defined criteria in order to ensure country acceptance and ownership.</p>

Source: Own elaboration.

4.3 Information Disclosure Means

The disclosure of information will encompass various aspects related to project updates, progress, and outcomes, communicated through diverse formats such as reports, newsletters, and interactive presentations.

With the support of GCF readiness version 4 “NDA strengthening and direct access process support for Albania”¹² a sub-web page is being designed for the Climate/ NDA related topics. This sub-page will be the core of reaching our different stakeholders and general public. Additionally, digital platforms including other partners websites, social media, and email newsletters will be utilized to disseminate information efficiently and promptly. To ensure effective communication, methods such as workshops, community meetings, and training sessions will be employed, allowing for interactive dialogue and feedback. These approaches aim to cater to the diverse needs and preferences of the wide range of stakeholder groups involved.

It must be envisaged that stakeholder engagement concept and participatory processes are fully incorporated in project activities and sub-activities design. Therefore, the costs for implementing this SEP are fully mainstreamed in project budget. Table 12 summarises methods, channels, and stakeholder engagement during project implementation.

¹² See Readiness Proposal. URL: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/albania-giz.pdf> (Last accessed: 09.11.2023).

Table 12: Information Disclosure Strategy

Disclosure channel	Information/documents to be disclosed	Target stakeholders	Frequency	Responsibility
MoTE Website/ Climate-NDA sub page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents (including this Project info sheet, SEP, GAP, ESS) and other relevant reports; Details about the Grievance Redress Mechanism together with an electronic grievance submission form; Contact details of the project team in GIZ, MoTE, NCPA; Regular updates on Project Implementation; Project progress reports; Summaries of stakeholder engagement activities and GRM reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders General public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the latest in 12 months after Project starts Regularly in line with project dynamics Annually 	MoTE, NCPA, GIZ
Steering Committee structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports; Operational plan; Budget; Overall decisions. 	Steering Committee Members	Regularly in line with project dynamics	MoTE, GIZ
Official Websites of NCPA, IGEO, Municipalities /administrative units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project briefs; Project announcements and engagement activities; Invitations to public consultations; Information on planned meetings or the availability of project information; Brief reports on project progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders; General public 	Regularly in line with project dynamics	NCPA, IGEO, Municipalities, GIZ
Media, including traditional and social media - dedicated project Facebook, Twitter pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project announcements and engagement activities; Invitations to public events, public consultation meetings; Information on planned meetings or the availability of project information; Brief reports on project progress; Dedicated articles; Interviews; Videos. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders; General public 	In line with project implementation timeline	MoTE, NCPA, IGEO, Municipalities, GIZ
Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitations and agenda to consultation meetings. Events/ training/ workshops/site-visits; Info-sheets, factsheet, leaflets; Project documents; Progress reports/ targeted reports. 	Targeted stakeholders based on the thematic of meeting/ event	In line with project implementation timeline	MoTE, NCPA, IGEO, Municipalities, GIZ
On-site meetings, trainings, public events and written instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face meetings; Citizens' consultation meetings; Mass/Social Media Communication – Facebook; Disclosure of written information - Brochures, posters, flyers, leaflets, website; Information boards in the premises of the local communities, Municipalities/administrative units' level; Grievance redress mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stakeholders; General public. 	Regularly in line with project dynamics	MoTE, NCPA, IGEO, Municipalities, GIZ

Source: Own elaboration

4.4. Stakeholder Feedback to Inform Management

The Project team acknowledges the diverse stakeholder profile, recognizing varying expectations, capacities, and orientations toward project engagement. With this understanding, the project team in place under the guidance of the steering committee aim to mitigate social exclusion risks and address potential obstacles that may emerge during the implementation of project activities and sub activities. Special attention will be given to the sector reform of hydrometeorology. Early engagement and sustained dialogue will serve as the cornerstone of the project, based on the set good example of participatory and inclusive practices during the project design phase.

The input and feedback from stakeholders will be managed proactively, with project team responding to the feedback as needed to ensure that project implementation proceeds as intended, while upholding social and environmental safeguards.

GIZ Albania as the executing entity in cooperation with MoTE will appoint one team member responsible for Environmental and Social Safeguards tasked with supervising the implementation of the GAP, ESS, and this SEP, including activities related to stakeholder engagement. At the community level, the project team with under the guidance and supervision of the appointed Environmental and Social Safeguard advisor will work in conjunction with representatives from local government organizations, counties, educational directorates, as well as with CSOs and community representatives.

5. Monitoring and Reporting SEP

The outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process will be incorporated into the Project Monitoring Reports. These reports will be provided annually to the Steering Committee and will encompass the following details:

- Venue, time, and date of all public consultation meetings conducted;
- Issues and concerns expressed during the consultative meetings;
- A comprehensive list of the number and categories of grievances raised within the reporting period, along with the number of grievances resolved and those that remain outstanding;
- Information outlining how the matters discussed during the meetings and through grievances were or will be considered during the Project's implementation;
- Furthermore, the Reports will feature a concise summary of the corrective measures that have been implemented to address the grievances.

Appendix Questionnaire to Stakeholders

Partners involvement and input on the Early Warning and Climate Information Services (EW&CIS) Project Idea in the frame of Green Climate Fund funding instrument

Background

Following a proactive role of the GIZ in Albania during the preparation of the GCF country program as well as the long-term support to the Albanian government with regard to flood risk management¹³, the NDA in Albania asked the GIZ Program "Climate Change Adaptation through Flood Risk Management, Western Balkans" CCAWB III to develop a GCF Project on Climate Information Services (CIS), Early Warning Systems (EWS) and Climate Risk Reduction in Albania. The project preparation team is finalising the pre-feasibility study and has entered the stage of preparing the CN according to the GCF criteria. During February – March 2021 a series of bilateral meetings will be organised as well as joint workshops with all partners/ beneficiaries of the project. We would also appreciate if each of your institutions reconfirm to us the contact persons/s we need to invite to the meetings and share the materials to be consulted/ discussed with you.

Project idea

The project on EW&CIS seeks to increase **the adaptive capacity and climate resilience** of Albania through 1) the generation, coordination, uptake and effective use of **climate information and services** (CIS), as well as 2) by strengthening **climate risk management** capacities (*Outcome of the project*).

The project puts forward the following interventions organized along **three interrelated action areas** (Outputs), to address the existing barriers and support the coordination of the provision, demand and use of CIS

Output 1: Modernization and strengthening of the NMHS for effective provision of weather and climate information and services

- Institutional reform of the NMHS (incl. institutional settings, standardization, regulations, clarification of mandates and roles, mentoring, etc.)
- Establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services (according to WMO standards¹⁴)
- Modernizing infrastructure as well as capacity building for:
 - ✓ observation and monitoring
 - ✓ modelling, forecasting and prediction
- Developing climate services based on quality-controlled data in two priority areas:
 - ✓ Multi-hazard early warning (MHEW) for floods, droughts, heat waves and wildfires
 - ✓ Climate resilient infrastructure development, e.g. roads, bridges, electricity, water supply and sanitation system (focus tbd)

Output 2: Improve climate risk management capacities for multi-hazard early warning and climate resilient infrastructure development

- Multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS)
 - ✓ Organizational development to improve structures, coordination and responsibilities for (MHEWS) at all levels (NCPA, counties, municipalities, civil society)
 - ✓ Strengthening technical capacities for early warning across all levels and mandates, incl. for warning dissemination, contingency planning, response, risk assessments, awareness raising and outreach as well as simulation exercises
- Climate resilient infrastructure development
 - ✓ Adjustment of risk assessment and climate proofing approach to the Albanian context
 - ✓ Strengthening the technical capacities of engineers, planners and private sector consultants for climate proofing
 - ✓ Climate proofing of selected infrastructure projects
 - ✓ Integration into regulatory framework

Output 3: Matching supply and demand and mobilizing resources for climate services

- ✓ Establishment of a provider-user interface platform to foster coordination and cooperation among providers, intermediate users/ vendors and users of climate information
- ✓ Turning climate and weather data and information into accessible, understandable and usable CIS through matchmaking and coproduction
- ✓ Implementation of awareness campaigns, outreach and communication on climate change impacts, information needs as well as available information and services and alternative solutions
- ✓ Establishment of a climate information service incubator and matchmaking mechanism

¹³ For more info on the project activities and support provided, please refer to project info page <https://www.giz.de/en/world-wide/29000.html> (Last accessed: 09.11.2023).

¹⁴ See: National Frameworks for Climate Services. URL: <https://gfcs.wmo.int/national-frameworks-for-climate-services> (Last accessed: 09.11.2023)

- ✓ Curriculum development to build capacities for climate information service provision (university programmes, vocational training, master's degrees and specialization courses, summer schools, etc.)

Questions to the partner / need for input

1. What do you think of the project outputs and the draft interventions planned?
2. Does the project idea comply with any strategy, priorities and sector regulations of your institution? Please specify
3. Have you participated in any donor funded project dealing with CI/ EWS? If yes, please list them and provide a short information on the impacts that/those projects had in your institute. We would be thankful if lessons learned are also listed
4. Please share with us what would you differently in implementing those projects and the lessons learned
5. Is your institution implementing any project for the time being? If yes please state the name of the project, name of the donor and funding volume, your role in project implementation, the timeline of the project implementation and its main activities,
6. Does the presented CI/EWS project duplicate or contradict any activity already funded by other donors, government, or private actors? If yes, please provide more details
7. What are your needs as an institution to be able to provide meaningful CI and EWS? In terms of:
 - Institutional Development / Organizational Development
 - Human resources
 - Infrastructure
 - Others
8. Are there any activities you would like to add based on the needs of your institution?
9. What type of involvement does your institution want to have during the project development phase?
 - a. Consultation
 - b. Commenting
 - c. providing technical input
10. What role do you see for your institution during the project implementation? (Please explain each of the selected roles by also providing info on the institutional commitment to the project implementation in terms of human resources)
 - a. Participation in project activities
 - b. Beneficiary from the activities.....
 - c. Implementation of some of the activities.....
11. Which are the obstacles you face during your daily job, (both institutional and technical)?
12. Please provide a detailed narrative of the current institutional set up that deals with CI & EW (please be descriptive and list all the elements from the network available, workforce, existing systems, know-how etc)

According to the information available, the main entities linked to climate change issues and EWS are listed below:

Ministry of Tourism and Environment.
 Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water, and Environment.
 Ministry of Defence

Please try to provide the input within 10 days timeframe. Feel free to contact the team and provide any suggestion, or other possible ways to provide the requested input.