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Terminal Evaluation

UNDP/GEF

Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting

April 2021

UNDP ID: 5308

GEF Project ID: 5638

Country: Albania

Region: RBEC

GEF Agency: UNDP

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Tourism and Environment

GEF Multi-focal Area

Terminal Evaluation conducted by: Peter Whalley and was conducted between February and April 2021.

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DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 2
Acronyms and Abbreviations vi
Executive Summary vii
1 Introduction 1
1.1 Purpose and objective of the evaluation 1
1.2 Scope and methodology 1
1.2.1 Evaluation design, execution, data collection and analysis 2
1.2.2 Ethics 2
1.2.3 Limitations to the Evaluation 2
1.2.4 Structure of the evaluation report 3
2 Project description and development context 4
2.1 Project start and duration 4
2.2 Development context 4
2.3 Problems that the project sought to address 4
2.4 Immediate and development objectives of the project 4
2.5 Description of project's Theory of Change 5
2.6 Expected results 7
2.7 Total resources 7
2.8 Main stakeholders and partners 8
3 Findings 9
3.1 Project design / formulation 9
3.1.1 Analysis of Results Framework 9
3.1.2 Assumptions and risks 10
3.1.3 Lessons from other relevant projects 10
3.1.4 Planned stakeholder participation 10
3.1.5 UNDP Comparative advantage 11
3.1.6 Linkages between the project and other interventions 11
3.1.7 Management arrangements 11
3.2 Project Implementation 12
3.2.1 Adaptive management 12
3.2.2 Active stakeholder and partnership arrangements 13
3.2.3 Project finance and co-finance 14
3.2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) 16
3.2.5 UNDP implementation and Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) Execution 17

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

3.2.6 Risk management 17
3.3 Project Results 18
3.3.1 Progress towards objective and expected outcomes 18
3.3.2 Relevance 22
3.3.3 Effectiveness 23
3.3.4 Efficiency 24
3.3.5 Overall outcome 25
3.3.6 Sustainability 26
3.3.7 Country Ownership 27
3.3.8 Gender 28
3.3.9 Cross-cutting issues 29
3.3.10 GEF Additionality 29
3.3.11 Catalytic role /Replication 29
3.3.12 Progress to impact 30
4 Main Findings, Conclusion, Recommendations and Lessons 31
4.1 Main findings 31
4.2 Conclusions 32
4.3 Recommendations 33
4.4 Lessons 34
Annex 1- Terminal Evaluation Terms of Reference 36
Annex 2 Stakeholders Engaged in Terminal Evaluation 47
Annex 3 Documents Reviewed 48
Annex 4 Evaluation Matrix 49
Annex 5 – Interview Guide 55
Annex 6 Achievements of Outcomes and Outputs 57
Annex 7 Co-financing Tables 65
Annex 8 Terminal Evaluation Rating Scale 66
Annex 9 Signed UNEG Code of Conduct 67
Annex 10 – Signed Terminal Evaluation Report Clearance Form 68

Table 1– Project Information Table vii
Table 2 - Evaluation Table Rating Table ix
Table 3 – Recommendations Summary Table x
Table 4 - Planned (CEO Endorsement) level of resources for the project 7
Table 5- Co-financing identified in the CEO Endorsement Document 7
Table 6 - Component spend per year and by component 15

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Table 7 – Monitoring and Evaluation Ratings 16
Table 8 – UNDP Implementation and Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) Execution Rating 17
Table 9 - Key project milestones and dates 25
Table 10 - Assessment of Outcomes Rating 25
Table 11 - Sustainability Ratings 27
Table 12 - Recommendations 33

Figure 1 - Theory of Change (reconstructed at TE) for EIMMS Project 6
Figure 2- Project Organisation Structure. 12
Figure 3 - GEF grant Annual Expenditure 15

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Acronyms and Abbreviations

APR	Annual Progress Report
BIONNA	Biodiversity National Network of Albania
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CCCD	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
CDR	Combined Deliver Report
CEO	GEF Chief Executive Officer
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EIMMS	Environment Information Management and Monitoring System
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MSP	Medium Sized Project
MTE	Ministry of Tourism and Environment
NEA	National Environment Agency
NGO	Non-Government Agency
PIF	(GEF) Project Identification Form
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PM 10, 2.5	Particulate Matter (10 and 2.5 micrometre diameter)
PRTR	(EU) Pollution Release and Transfer Register
REC	Regional Environment Centre - Albania
RTA	(UNDP) Regional Technical Advisor
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SES	Social and Environmental Screening
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (indicators)
TE	Terminal Evaluation
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Executive Summary

Table 1– Project Information Table

Project Details		Project Milestones	
Project Title	Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting	PIF Approval Date:	March 2014
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	5308	CEO Endorsement Date (FSP)/ Approval date (MSP):	June 2015
GEF Project ID:	5638	ProDoc Signature Date:	13 November 2015
UNDP Atlas Business Unit,Award ID, Project ID:	00089654 0095759	Date Project Manager hired:	26t November 2015
Country/Countries:	Albania	Inception Workshop Date:	February 2016
Region:	RBEC	Mid-Term Review Completion Date:	N/A
Focal Area:	Multi-Focal Area	Terminal Evaluation Completion date:	March 2021
GEF Operational Programme orStrategic Priorities/Objectives:	GEF 5 CCCD strategic objective2: Generating, accessing and using information and knowledge	Planned Operational Closure Date:	May 2021
Trust Fund:	GEF Trust Fund		
Implementing Partner (GEFExecuting Entity):	Ministry of Tourism and Environment		
NGOs/CBOs involvement:	REC-Albania		
Private sector involvement:	Dark Matter Lab		
Geospatial coordinates of project sites	The project was to provide an information system for data collected across Albania (specific geospatial co-ordinates not collected)		

Brief Project description and TE ratings

The UNDP/GEF *Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with Global Reporting* project was designed to assist the country develop an effective system to meet international reporting requirements for the 'Rio Conventions'. The project was prepared by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and UNDP as a GEF 5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Medium Sized Project to meet the national needs on information management and, increasing stakeholder capacity and civil society awareness on environmental issues.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

The project was executed through UNDP's Implementing Partner in Albania (the Ministry of Tourism and Environment) with a small Project Implementation Unit responsible for day-to-day management. The project's GEF grant was 970,000 USD with planned co-financing contributions providing 5,279,850 USD of support. The project objective is reflected in the title of the project.

A Terminal Evaluation of the UNDP/GEF project has been undertaken consistent with the requirements of both organizations. The purpose of this evaluation is to enable the Albanian stakeholders and the GEF Agency to assess the achievement of the project against the expectation of the Project Documents and to draw lessons that can assist future project design and implementation. The Terminal Evaluation has been undertaken under restrictions imposed by the global pandemic (COVID-19) and this has necessitated the need for all information collection and interviews with stakeholders being conducted 'remotely' via computer conference calls.

The project successfully developed an environmental information management and monitoring system that was installed and operated within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The project effectively developed capacity within the Ministry and data collecting partner organisations, including the National Environmental Agency and the Agency for Parks and Recreation. The project undertook significant awareness raising to increase civil society (including schools and universities) interest and participation in environmental monitoring.

The project has also delivered the expected outputs and outcomes (including the delivery of reports to Rio Conventions), and through adaptive management broadened the scope of the pilot testing of the environmental information and monitoring system as a consequence of a European Union project that was initiated in parallel to this project.

The project was designed with gender relevant indicators and has undertaken a significant study on gender roles in environment information and monitoring in Albania. This has been used to guide the Ministry of Tourism and Environment on policy development and with reporting to the Rio Conventions.

The project has been effectively and efficiently managed by the Project Implementation Unit, with oversight by UNDP and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, despite the impacts of a major earthquake in November 2019 and from the COVID-19 pandemic

Overall, the Terminal Evaluation has rated this project as **Satisfactory.** The key evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability are rated by the evaluator as:

- **Relevance:** The project was highly relevant to the needs of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and their partner organisations to meet the reporting to the Rio Conventions and to meet future needs associated with Albania's proposed membership of the European Union.
- **Effectiveness:** The objective (*development and installation of an environmental information management and monitoring system*) of the project has been effectively delivered and the information system installed within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment that has enabled reports to be prepared for the Rio Conventions and national environmental management needs. The project has very effectively engaged widely with civil society to encourage awareness and involvement on environmental issues.
- **Efficiency:** The project has largely delivered planned activities on time or earlier than planned. The project was granted two extensions responding to a relatively slow inception

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period and the desire by the project to have adequate time to complete activities and the to respond to the impacts of the earthquake and COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Sustainability**: The environmental information and monitoring system has been established and is collecting and reporting information (nationally and to international bodies) but, environmental monitoring is very demanding on resources for further capacity development and equipment and national resources are very limited. However, the ambition of Albania to join the European Union has received a positive response with negotiations beginning in 2020 and the likelihood of additional funds to assist further strengthen and sustain the work of this project increasing. The national institutions (Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Agency for Environment, etc.) are fully committed to providing information, coupled with strong civil society involvement indicates a likely support for the sustainability of the actions undertaken.

Table 2 - Evaluation Table Rating Table

1	**Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**	**Rating**
	M&E design at entry	S
	M&E Plan Implementation	S
	Overall quality of M&E	**S**
2	**Implementing Agency implementation & Implementing Partner Execution**	**Rating**
	Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	S
	Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	S
	Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	**S**
3	**Assessment of Outcomes**	**Rating**
	Relevance	HS
	Effectiveness	HS
	Efficiency	S
	Overall Project Outcome Rating	**S**
4	**Sustainability**	**Rating**
	Financial resources sustainability	ML
	Socio-political sustainability	L
	Institutional framework and governance sustainability	L
	Environmental sustainability	L
	Overall likelihood of sustainability	**ML**

Summary of findings and conclusions

The project has demonstrated clear signs towards impacts through:

- Establishment and operation of the environmental information and monitoring system including developing 158 indicators with definitions, updating the Red List of Albania and strengthening approaches on erosion monitoring. The use of the system to report to Rio Conventions and for national needs;
- The active engagement of civil society in raising awareness in environmental issues, participating in data collection and environmental education;

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- Engagement with civil society and government agencies to identify innovative approaches to monitoring;
- Adoption of gender guidelines and their use in national policy development by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

Synthesis of lessons

Ensuring national ministerial and broad stakeholder support. The project has had a high degree of ministerial and other stakeholder involvement since the development of the project concept. The design allowed for the formation of the Technical Working Group that both strengthened the technical delivery of the project and further facilitated a strong feeling of 'ownership' in many of the stakeholders involved in this Terminal Evaluation.

Active role of civil society in environmental information and monitoring. A strong element of this project has been the development of 'citizen science' to encourage greater awareness and involvement in environmental issues, especially monitoring and information. This has engaged many sectors of society including schools and universities in the brainstorming of novel and innovative approaches

The importance of detailed project websites. The lack of a more detailed project website was raised by some stakeholders. Whilst recognising that there were other methods of communication used effectively within Albania and that this was a small project, a comprehensive website that contained general project information and details of outputs, workshops and other links, would enable the success of this project would facilitate the wider dissemination.

Table 3 – Recommendations Summary Table

No.	TE Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
1	The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE) and the National Environment Agency (NEA) should be encouraged to seek additional resources to build on the success of the EIMMS and the capabilities strengthened with reporting to Rio Conventions. A follow-on project should be designed to bring all remaining environmental data platforms together and to ensure that the system will be compatible with future monitoring and reporting needs associated with EU directives.	MTE/NEA UNDP	Within next year
2	UNDP should encourage future projects to have a more comprehensive communication strategy through enacting a more comprehensive project website including all details of the project, results, workshops, feature stories, etc.	UNDP	Within next year
3	The project has adopted a successful approach for engaging civil society. The use of citizen science techniques through brainstorming events has led to novel monitoring methods and have encouraged greater awareness on environment issues within civil society. The experiences of this approach should be clearly documented before the conclusion of the project to ensure there is wide (within Albania and more widely) awareness of these approaches.	PIU /UNDP	By end of the project

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and objective of the evaluation

A Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the UNDP/GEF project '*Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting*' (the UNDP/GEF EIMMS project) has been undertaken, consistent with the expectations of the GEF and UNDP.

The purpose of the TE is to enable the GEF Agency (UNDP), the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment - MTE), government representatives in Albania and other stakeholders to assess the achievement of the project against the expectations of the Project Document endorsed by the GEF CEO, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of the benefits from this project, and aid UNDP programming.

In summary, the objectives of the terminal evaluation are to:

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the project design (concept, management arrangements, stakeholder involvement in design, monitoring and evaluation, etc.);
- Assess the achievement of the project in terms of the practical outputs and outcomes expected;
- Document any lessons and good practices that could guide future GEF and UNDP projects globally and provide any specific lessons that may be of benefit to other projects in the region;
- To make any necessary recommendations that would address any short-comings or strengthen approaches within GEF and UNDP programming.

1.2 Scope and methodology

The scope of the TE is specified precisely in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this assignment (Annex 1). Specifically, the TE was to assess:

- The project design, including: the results framework; stakeholder involvement; management arrangements; etc.;
- The project implementation including: adaptive management; partnerships; monitoring and evaluation (M&E); project finances; UNDP, Ministry of Tourism and Environment (Executing Agency) role; etc.;
- The project results including: attainment of objectives; relevance; effectiveness; efficiency; impact and sustainability.

The assessments of these elements of the project would be summarised in conclusions leading to lessons and recommendations for future initiatives. The TE would also provide a 'rating' of the key evaluation criteria of **relevance**, **effectiveness**, **efficiency** and **sustainability**. The TE also reviewed the progress to impact.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Relevance** – the extent to which the activity is suited to local and national development priorities and organisational policies, including changes over time, as well as the extent to which the project is in line with the GEF Operational Programmes or the strategic priorities under which the project was funded.

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- **Effectiveness** – the extent to which an objective has been achieved or how likely it is to be achieved.
- **Efficiency –** the extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible.
- **Sustainability** – the likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion. Projects need to be environmentally as well as financially and socially sustainable.

1.2.1 Evaluation design, execution, data collection and analysis

The Terminal Evaluation was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic that required all interviews remotely conducted with no sites visits. The approach for this remote TE was presented, and approved by the GEF Agency, in a draft inception report.

The ToR (Annex 1) allowed 25 days for undertaking the evaluation. The evaluation was designed to review project outcome and outputs and discuss the project with stakeholders. Specifically, the evaluation considered material from:

- Desk reviews of material provided by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
- Email questionnaire adapted to different stakeholder groups (Annex 5);
- Teams/Zoom/Skype/email discussions to seek clarification and additional information from stakeholders.

The evaluation criteria were further elaborated as questions within an evaluation matrix (based on a template provided in the ToR for this assignment and elaborated for the Inception Report - presented as Annex 4). The evaluation matrix was used to provide a guide to stakeholders involved in this TE (presented in Annex 5). Stakeholders were identified by the PIU following discussions with the TE Consultant. A list of the stakeholders interviewed (either email or Teams) by this TE is presented in Annex 2. Key documents reviewed for this TE are presented in Annex 3.

Where possible the evaluation has sought the responses from multiple sources and stakeholders before drawing conclusions to provide a degree of quality assurance.

1.2.2 Ethics

This Terminal Evaluation has been undertaken by an independent consultant and has been conducted in accordance with the principles[1] outlined in the United Nations Evaluation Group of credibility, utility, impartiality, transparency and participation.

1.2.3 Limitations to the Evaluation

As with all evaluations, time has been limited for this evaluation and the project has delivered many varied outputs that have resulted in only a brief inspection of some documents and reports by the TE. However, the TE considers that those inspected have been representative of the outputs as a whole. The project, as a GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP), was not required to undertaken a formal mid-term review.

The Terminal Evaluation was undertaken before the revised end-date of project and some work was still underway or planned (e.g. small grant projects and the development of an exit strategy). More

[1] www.unodc.org/documents/evaluation/Guidelines/UNEG_Ethical_Guidelines_for_Evaluation_2020.pdf

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significantly, the TE was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic that required all interviews being conducted remotely and no sites visits permitted.

1.2.4 Structure of the evaluation report

This evaluation report adheres to the table of contents provided in the consultant's ToR (Annex 1).

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

2 Project description and development context

The project was designed to strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring and information management in Albania by establishing an operational Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System (EIMMS). Initially this was designed to support the needs of relevant government institutions develop indicators, data collection, analysis, reporting and policy making with a focus on biodiversity. During the inception phase this was expanded to also address the needs for reporting on land degradation and climate change.

2.1 Project start and duration

The project concept (PIF – Project Identification Form) was approved in March 2015 and the project was endorsed by the GEF CEO in June 2015. The Project Inception meeting was held in February 2016. The project had a planned duration of 48 months with an expected closure in November 2019. The end-date was revised to February 2021 to accommodate a slight delay with the inception phase and increasing the level of ambition. With the impacts of the Albania earthquake (November 2019) and the global COVID-19 pandemic, a further three month extension was requested until May 2021.

2.2 Development context

The development context is closely linked with the project's objective aimed at enabling Albania to report multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and to use the environmental data for developing effective policies to sustain the biodiversity and respond to climate change and land-degradation pressures.

2.3 Problems that the project sought to address

The project was addressing the lack of an appropriate environmental reporting tool to satisfy international conventions with a set of defined indicators and enhanced environmental awareness. Specifically, the project was to address:

- Respond to the growing need to report environmental data for international agreements, Rio Conventions and European Union (EU);
- Defining environmental indicators;
- Capacity development and awareness raising on environmental information from communities to cabinet.

Addressing these problems would assist Albania with national priorities of reporting and eventual compliance with EU requirements.

2.4 Immediate and development objectives of the project

The project's objective was to establish an environmental management and monitoring system to facilitate reporting to multilateral environmental agreements. In addition to developing the required system the project included a component to develop the capacity of the institutions responsible for environmental reporting and other stakeholders that use this information nationally.

The Project Document presents the expected contributions to UNDAF Outcome 3 (Governance and Rule of Law – *the Albanian State executes major governance processes following internationally agreed democratic principles and practices, while upholding the rule of law and eliminating key*

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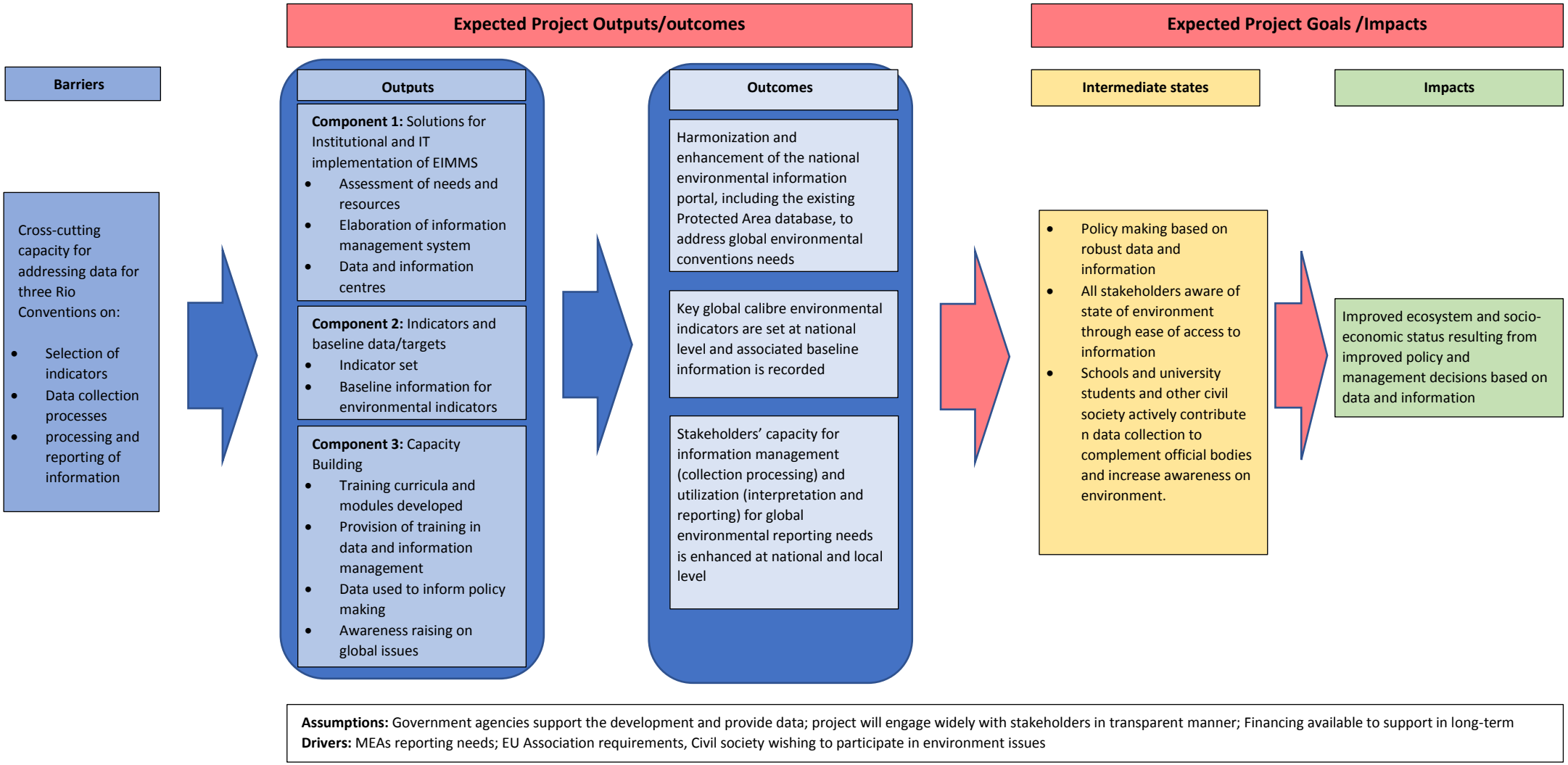
factors of exclusion of women), and Outcome 4 (Regional and Local Development – *Government of Albania implements policies that advance democratic, equitable and sustainable regional and local development).* The project was also aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan primary and secondary outcomes relating to environment.

2.5 Description of project's Theory of Change

The project development did not require a formal Theory of Change (ToC) to be elaborated. A reconstructed ToC has been prepared for this Terminal Evaluation based on the project results framework following revision during the inception phase to include actions on information management relevant to climate change and land degradation, as well as the original planned actions relevant to biodiversity. This ToC is also consistent with the final achievements of this project.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Figure 1 - Theory of Change (reconstructed at TE) for EIMMS Project



DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

2.6 Expected results

The project was designed to deliver three main outcomes through the activities in seven outputs. The following summarises the project's outcomes and the targets (as presented in the GEF CEO Endorsement Document) expected to be achieved.

Outcome 1: Harmonization and enhancement of the national environmental information portal using the existing Protected Area database to address global environmental conventions' needs. **Expected target**: Key government staff in at least three offices and Rio Conventions experts from the three conventions use the EIMMS in the course of their official duties.

Outcome 2: Key global calibre environmental indicators are set at national level and associated baseline information is recorded. **Expected targets**: (i) Global calibre environmental indicators and baseline information have been established for all key fields in the protected areas, climate change and land degradation sector; (ii) Use of EIMMS documented in the formulation of at least one report to a Rio Conventions.

Outcome 3: Stakeholders capacity for information management (collection processing) and utilization (interpretation and reporting) for global environmental reporting needs is enhanced at national and local level. **Expected target:** Visualization of data used by project partners to raise awareness of at least two international and three national issues.

2.7 Total resources

The Project received a GEF grant of 970,000 USD (Table 4) with expected co-financing of 5,429,000 USD split between the seven identified sources (Table 5) as presented in the GEF CEO Endorsement Document.

Table 4 - Planned (CEO Endorsement) level of resources for the project

	GEF Grant	**Co-Finance**	**Total**
	USD		
Component 1	367,300	2,349,700	2,717,000
Component 2	221,700	1,200,000	1,421,700
Component 3	293,000	1,400,000	1,693,000
Project Management	88,000	480,000	568,000
TOTAL	**970,000**	**5,429,700**	**6,399,700**

This included a budgeted Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) costs (as presented in the Project Document) of 48,500 USD (excluding project and UNDP staff time and travel).

Table 5- Co-financing identified in the CEO Endorsement Document

Co-financing source	**Cash /in-kind**	**Amount USD**
UNDP Albania	Cash	50,000
UNDP Albania	In-kind	2,000,000
Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Cash	100,000
GIZ	In-kind	2,267,600
French Coastal Agency	In-kind	108,800
REC Albania	In-kind	833,300
Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania	In-kind	70,000
TOTAL		**5,429,700**

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2.8 Main stakeholders and partners

The primary stakeholder (and UNDP's Implementing Partner) is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment with the responsibility for policy development in Albania on the environment. In addition, the National Environmental Agency (NEA) and Agency for Parks and Recreation (Tirana Municipality) had key roles in the project. The project planned to engage widely with academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector and international projects operating in the region. The roles of these stakeholders and partners in the project were presented in the Project Documents.

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3 Findings

3.1 Project design / formulation

The project was established as Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Medium-Sized Project (MSP) under the GEF 5 replenishment, to facilitate strengthening Albania's capacity to meet the reporting requirements of the Rio Conventions.

The project design, initiated by the government of Albania, was to develop an effective monitoring and information management system that would satisfy multiple stakeholder users and providers of environmental data needs of the country. The UNDP met with Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other stakeholders in 2014 to design the project through a wide consultation process leading to a validation of the project documents for a project to enhance the capacity on environment management and monitoring through the establishment of the EIMMS.

The project design started with an assessment of lessons from previous environment and information management projects in Albania. The main stakeholders involved in the design included:

- Government officials (both policymakers and program staff covering monitoring issues) from the Ministry of Environment, the National Environmental Agency, the Statistical Institute of Albania;
- Researchers from the University of Tirana and the Nature Sciences Museum responsible for environmental monitoring.
- NGOs working on biodiversity-related issues and environmental policy;
- Donors, experts from EU projects, UNDP Albania staff, UNDP regional and global experts on capacity development and innovation; and
- Local protected areas staff and management from the National Park offices in Divjake-Karavasta.

The project was initially designed to focus on biodiversity data management but was expanded during the project inception phase (see section 3.2.1) due to the establishment of an EU Natura 2000 project targeting information management for Protected Areas in Albania.

3.1.1 Analysis of Results Framework

Despite not requiring a formal ToC at the design, the Project Results Framework is clear and concise with SMART indicators/targets to enable project implementation monitoring. The Results Framework was modified during the project inception (see section 3.2.1) to reflect the increased ambition of this project to include all three Rio Convention indicators in the EIMMS as a consequence of the parallel EU funded Natura 2000 project on Protected Areas. The Results Framework provided information on the anticipated risks and assumptions and these were also reviewed during project inception leading to a recommendation of an additional risk and a mitigation strategy (see sections 3.1.2and 3.2.6).

The TE's analysis of the performance of the project utilised the expected targets is summarised in sections 3.3.1 and presented in detail in Annex 6. This showed that ten time-based targets were met as planned, nine were met early and only seven were delivered late.

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3.1.2 Assumptions and risks

The Results Framework presented in the CEO and Project Documents identified four main risks (at moderate probability):

- Ensuring long-term sustainability (financial, operational and technical) of the established information and monitoring system and centre;
- Difficulties in the technical establishment of EIMMS on the basis of the existing protected areas database;
- The budget allocated of environmental monitoring by the state budget may not be sufficient to support the improved environmental monitoring activities as the current expenditures in this areas are very low;
- Difficulties in accessing the necessary data from different institutions.

These were re-examined during project inception leading to recommendations on the need for a risk management strategy (presented in the APR 2017) and the inclusion of an additional risk (see section 3.2.6)

3.1.3 Lessons from other relevant projects

This project was guided by the recommendations provided by the 2006 UNDP/GEF '*National Capacity Self-Assessment*' project that identified the capacity needs and priorities with respect to global environmental conventions. The design of the project was also guided by national (e.g. GIZ, EU, GEF) and regional projects (e.g. GEF Prespa, Ohrid, Drin), regional work being undertaken by NGOs in Albania (e.g. REC) involved in environmental monitoring, reporting and civil society engagement. The UNECE second Environmental Performance Review for Albania (2012) indicated the favourable legal framework that would facilitate the monitoring.

A detailed barrier analysis on cross-cutting capacity development in environmental management and identification of successful and unsuccessful lessons from previous projects were incorporated in the design (e.g. previous projects on environmental information on projects were too linked to specific individuals and consequentially, vulnerable if these left their position).

3.1.4 Planned stakeholder participation

The CEO Endorsement Document identified an extensive list of stakeholders (over 20 groups were highlighted) and their potential roles during project implementation. Formal stakeholder engagement in the oversight of the project implementation was through the Project Board. The establishment of the (*ad hoc)* Technical Working Group enabled specific stakeholders to assist in guiding the development of the EIMMS with experts drawn from a range of ministries, agencies, donor projects, academia, civil society, etc. including focal points to key Rio Conventions.

UNDP had established a detailed involvement with the key stakeholders through previous actions in Albania and in the established of this project. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment (the project's implementing partner) had also sufficient stakeholder interactions in multiple sectors of environment and education that were expected to be utilised in this project.

Although a formal stakeholder engagement plan was not developed for the project implementation, the details presented in the Project Documents are considered sufficient by the TE to guide sufficient

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active involvement of stakeholders in this project. A formal gender strategy was also not prepared in advance of the project, but the project had identified clear indicators and planned outputs to better understand the role of women in data collection and management in Albania.

Stakeholder involvement was to be supported through technical developments of the EIMMS and indicator definitions (Components 1 and 2) and the multiple training and engagement with civil society planned in Component 3.

3.1.5 UNDP Comparative advantage

UNDP had successfully delivered environment related projects over the previous 20 years in Albania and established a close working relationship with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other stakeholders. The UNDP 2017 – 2021 Country Programme Document (CPD) identified that their comparative advantage '*was its management arrangements, made possible by the skills and competency of its national staff, to co-design and co-manage programme outputs with national and local partners, including civil society. This ensured responsiveness while reinforcing national ownership. The management capacity of UNDP presents its national and international partners with an asset through which to channel technical and financial assistance towards reform objectives'.*

3.1.6 Linkages between the project and other interventions

The project was designed to be supportive of Albania's reporting to key MEAs, the ambition for EU accession through supporting the collection and reporting of environmental data (including information of relevance to the EU's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register - PRTR), and meeting the objectives of the Aarhus convention on environmental access to information, amongst other. The Project Document had identified the main links as with the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCC as the key Rio Conventions that the project was targeting.

Through the Technical Working Group, the project created synergies with other ongoing environmental activities, including: Natura 2000 (EU), Payment for Ecosystem Services (World Bank), Marine Protected Areas (UNDP/GEF), Third and Fourth National Communications to Climate Change (UNDP), Sustainable Land Management for Albania (UNEP), and small scale size projects implemented by local NGOs. When the project was designed the key focus for the EIMSS was on biodiversity. Prior to inception a large EU Natura 2000 Project was initiated to with an emphasis on biodiversity and the establishment of protected areas and databases. This enabled this project to expand the EIMMS development to include climate change and land degradation in addition to biodiversity aspects through the collaboration with the Natura 2000 project (see section 3.2.1).

3.1.7 Management arrangements

As a UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM) project the Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Agency) was the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, a Letter of Agreement (LoA) defined the roles and responsibilities for project implementation prior to the start of project execution. A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) was appointed by the Implementing Partner and located in UNDP's offices due to space restrictions at the Ministry of Tourism and Environment that was responsible for day-to-day management of the project. Staffing of the PIU includd a full-time project co-ordinator and a part-time administrative assistant. Procurement of services was

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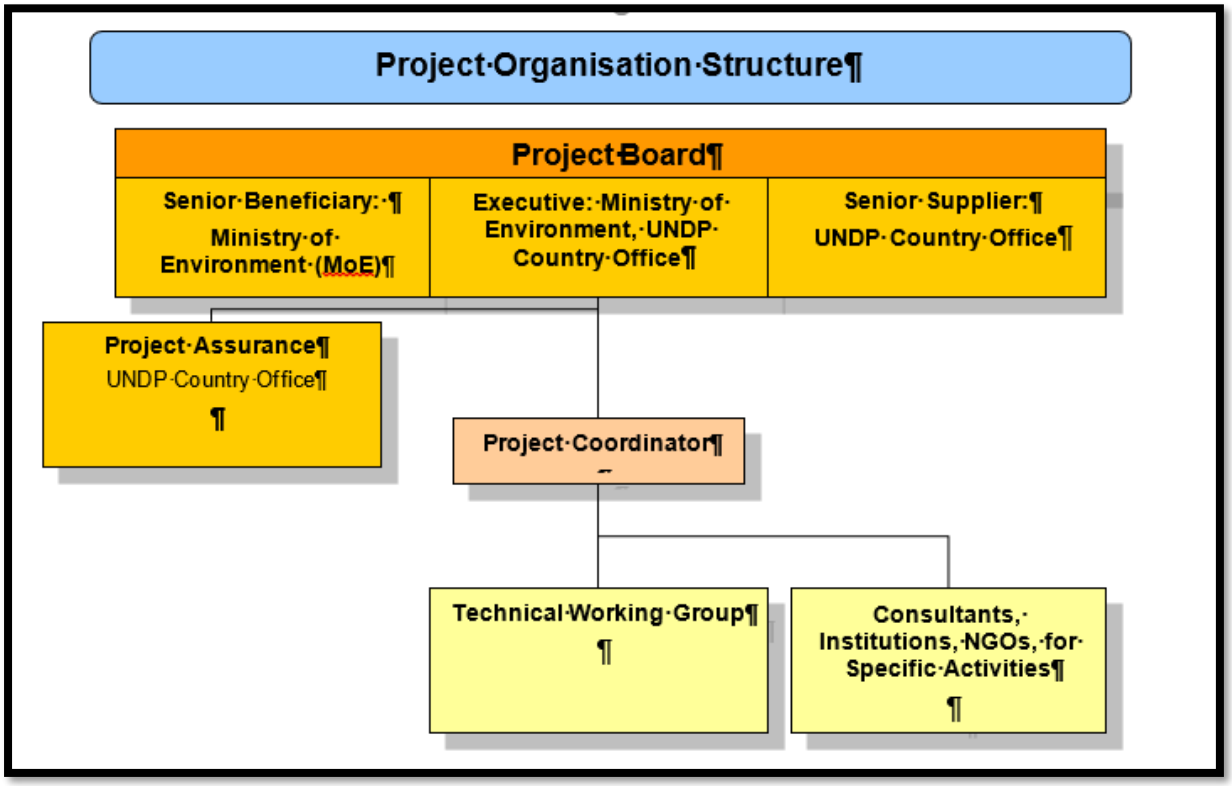
conducted by the PIU through UNDP with the authorisation of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

The Project Document identified the roles of the Project Board and the need for an *ad hoc* Technical Working Group to guide project execution. The following diagram shows the relationships of the bodies involved in the project.

Figure 2- Project Organisation Structure.



Source: Project Document/Inception Report

3.2 Project Implementation

3.2.1 Adaptive management

As with all projects, management is a continuous process of 'adaptive' actions. There are many clear cases where this project has adopted a new activity as a result of stakeholder, remarks from the Project Board and other M&E reports. Specific examples included:

- The Project Inception Phase responded to changed baseline conditions following the approval of an EU Natura 2000 project in Albania. The original project focus was that the EIMMS would be developed to address biodiversity indicators. The Natura 2000 project was a 4 million Euro intervention to assist with protected areas and associated data management. As a result, the PIU, with the support of Ministry of Tourism and Environment and key stakeholders, expanded the GEF project to enable the EIMMS to include indicators for land-degradation and climate change.
- Through the citizen science initiatives under this project the PIU/Ministry of Tourism and Environment engaged civil society and academia to expand data gathering and the

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development of innovative approaches (including the **first hackathon on environmental governance innovation** in Tirana , to explore innovative solutions to improving Albania's environmental governance capacity by presenting 5 challenges and proposed solutions, where one of them resulted development of a novel air quality monitoring solutions using 3D printing for PM 10 and PM2.5 particles.).

- During the consultancy work to update Red-List for Albania, the experts identified the need to adapt their terms of reference and include additional, international, expertise in the programme. The PIU were able to respond to these needs and demonstrate an adaptable approach to the work plan enabling a more comprehensive coverage for Albania as a result of adaptive management.
- Stakeholders from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment noted the flexibility of the project to respond to conclusions from the hackathon that identified additional activities that were launched through a small grants programme.
- Due to the slow than expected inception phase, in 2019 the PIU sought the approval of the PSC to extend the end-date of the project from November 2019 to February 2021, to ensure that there was sufficient time to deliver all the planned activities without compromising the quality of the outputs.
- In November 2019 a significant earthquake struck Albania and together with the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic the PIU and stakeholders sought a short extension to May 2021 to accommodate the problems imposed by these crisis events.

3.2.2 Active stakeholder and partnership arrangements

The project was implemented with multiple partners and stakeholders actively engaged through direct involvement in the project's outputs and their activities. These were supplemented by stakeholder participating in capacity development actions, citizen science initiatives and more formal involvement in the Project Board and the Technical Working Group meetings.

Stakeholders mostly considered that communication with the project (PIU and Ministry of Tourism and Environment) was a continuous process throughout the project execution. This was initiated during the design phase of the project and continued throughout execution. There was a strong belief that the voices of stakeholders were heard by the PIU and the Project Board. Key points raised included:

- Stakeholders considered that the PIU maintained good contacts, especially with Ministry of Tourism and Environment and UNDP;
- Communications were sufficient in most cases with reports, publications, Facebook and the project website. Some stakeholders commented that the project website could have included more background information and details about the project's outputs, and been more 'dynamic';
- There was good involvement with students and schools through the citizen science initiatives and awareness/capacity building initiative.
- The Ministry of Tourism and Environment was acknowledged in facilitating stakeholder involvement.

As noted by a stakeholder engaged with the project on issues related to teachers and students '*its [the project's] achievements and the materials produced have facilitated the process of learning*

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about the environment in general, indicators of the state of the environment, protected areas in the country, while many of the educational resources available on the EIMMS websites have been useful for these focus groups, and have been used today by student teachers when it comes to organizing environmental activities. The project has become part of all public activities or promotional events organised in the framework of the celebration of environmental days in Albania, which did not lack the project stand with its promotional materials, such as the Catalogues of Flora and Fauna of Albania.'

The majority of stakeholders thought that their interactions with the project and PIU were highly effective and informative. Although, some stakeholders would have appreciated additional information on the Project and results through an enhanced website.

3.2.3 Project finance and co-finance

The project has been effectively financial managed through appropriate project management actions. The project's financial reports were jointly signed by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and UNDP, reflecting the original Letter of Agreement between these two parties.

The project spend per component and year is shown in Table 6 and the total spend per year is indicated in Figure 3 showing a typical project cycle spend profile. Throughout the project, the PIU with the support of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and UNDP, demonstrated a willingness to adopt adaptive management approaches to providing project resources where activities demanded (see section 3.2.1) including the increased scope to address climate change and land degradation information, recruiting international experts when needed for completing the Red List reports, implementing a range of small grants projects resulting from a 'hackathon' brainstorming event, etc.

The planned actual co-financing (presented in Annex 7) and indicates that nearly 90% of planned (5,429,700 USD indicated in the UNDP Project Document) had been provided to support the project.

Independent Audit

The project has been independently audited by KPMG (Albania) in 2017.

No significant issues in the project were highlighted. The audit noted that the financial statements prepared by UNDP were: '(i*) in conformity with the approved project budgets; (ii) for the approved purposes of the project; (iii) in compliance with the relevant UNDP regulations and rules, policies and procedures; and (iv) supported by properly approved vouchers and other supporting documents.'*

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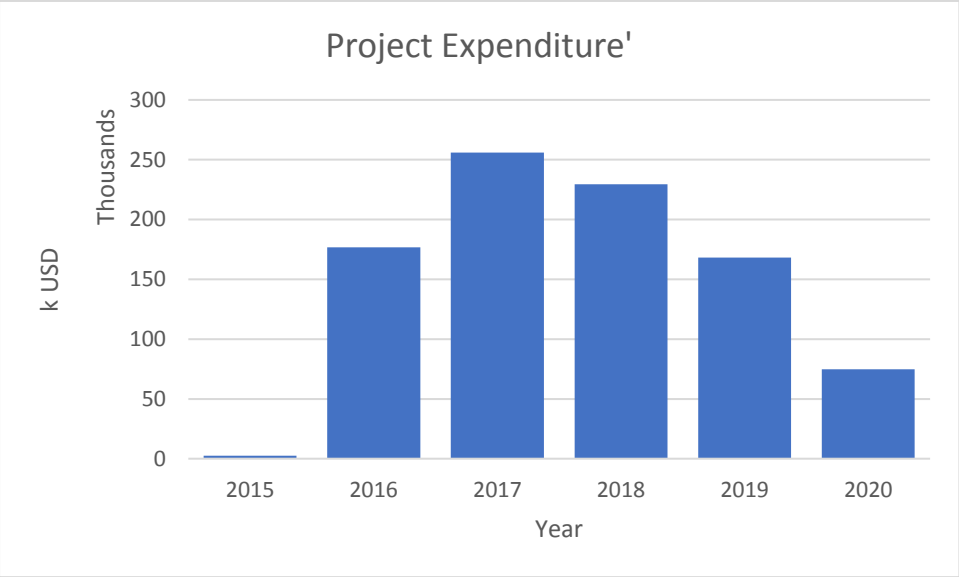
Table 6 - Component spend per year and by component

Project Component	Total Budget USD	Expenditure 2015	Expenditure 2016	Expenditure 2017	Expenditure 2018	Expenditure 2019	Expenditure 2020	Expenditure 2021	Total Expenditure (March 2021)	%age spent (March 2021)
1	367,300	2,514.9	92,008.03	101,038.16	43,528.89	97,455.22	18,733.91	4,827.04	360,106.15	98%
2	221,700		30,331.64	62,021.33	48,648.04	49,810.53	20.060.3		210,871.7	95%
3	293,000		43,073.86	74,155.95	57,122.28	55,163.17	35,865.63	2,650.41	268,031.3	91%
PM	88,000		11,282.51	18,658.83	18,977.4	27,452.46	25.1		76,396.3	87%
TOTALS	**970,000**	**2,514.9**	**176,696.04**	**255,874.27**	**168,276.61**	**229,881.38**	**74,684.94**	**7,477.45**	**915,405.59**	

Figure 3 - GEF grant Annual Expenditure



Figures taken from CDRs from 2015 to the end of 2020)

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3.2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E design at entry

The project had a detailed M&E programme from inception that was consistent with UNDP and GEF expectations. The project results framework was SMART (see section 3.1.1) and, in the opinion of the TE, included realistic indicators, targets and means of verification supported by adequate defined risks and assumptions. This was considered sufficient by the TE consultant for monitoring and assessing the delivery of the project's progress.

The project was designed with adequate supervision provided by the Project Board, chaired by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The indicative budget (presented in the Project Document for M&E activities) was USD 48,500 USD (excluding project staff costs), representing 5% of the GEF grant. The TE considers this a realistic cost for this project. The M&E plan included: inception meeting; APRs, Project Board meetings, evaluation, reporting, etc. As the project does not include a budget line specifically for M&E activities, and these activities are funded from within the technical/management actions, it has not been possible to independently verify the expenditure related to M&E actions. However, it is clear to the TE from the material prepared related to M&E that these actions have been completed.

M&E implementation

All management reports (APR, combined delivery reports - CDR, etc.) were prepared as planned. A financial audit was undertaken in 2017 (see section 3.2.3). The Project Board was the main body for approving reports, expenditure and agreeing future workplans. The Project Board also confirmed the required project extensions. Following the Inception Meeting, the Project Board met in July 2016, February 2017, January 2019 and July 2020. As the members of the Project Board had met in other fora (e.g. in the Technical Working Group) it was considered that a meeting in 2018 was not required (although this is not clearly documented). The meeting in 2020 was held virtually due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Project Inception Report identified changes to the workplan and Results Framework, reflecting the parallel work of the EU Natura 2000 project that was addressing protected areas including data management (see section 3.2.1). This enabled the GEF project to expand to developing indicators and EIMMS that addressed land-degradation and climate change information together with the data collected from the Natura 2000 project.

The SES has not been adjusted since the project endorsement but risk mitigation strategies were identified following the inception phase and included in the first Annual Project Review (APR).

As required by UNDP and the GEF, a detailed APR was undertaken each year. These reports provide adequate details on the progress of the project outputs and outcomes against the agreed targets. Stakeholders acknowledged that progress and technical reports were provided as expected.

Table 7 – Monitoring and Evaluation Ratings

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating
M&E design at entry	S
M&E implementation	S
Overall Quality of M&E	**S**

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3.2.5 UNDP implementation and Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) Execution

UNDP Implementation

UNDP Albania Country Office in Tirana together with UNDP Regional Hub (Istanbul) provided technical, administrative and financial oversight of the project's implementation and adherence to GEF and UNDP rules and regulations. The Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) based at the Regional UNDP Hub provided guidance in the development of the GEF Project Concept, and other UNDP staff located within the Regional Hub assisted with M&E and GEF reporting requirements. The Albania Country Office maintain close oversight on the day-to-day activities of the PIU (based in the UNDP offices) through the Head of Climate and Environment, and facilitated the relationship with key stakeholders including the Project Implementing Partner (the Ministry of Tourism and Environment).

UNDP established the Letter of Agreement with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment following the GEF CEO Endorsement of the Project, and undertook the necessary procurement for services identified by the PIU and approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) Execution

The Project was executed through the NIM (National Implementation Modality) with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment as the Implementing Partner. The Project Implementation Unity (PIU) reported directly to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The relationship with UNDP was defined in a Letter of Agreement (see above).

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment was an appropriate Implementing Partner for this project being responsible for national reporting to the three Rio Conventions and responsible for oversight of environmental management within the country. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is also the focal point for reporting on environmental issues to the Aarhus Convention (Access to Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters). The Ministry of Tourism and Environment worked closely with the newly formed National Environment Agency acting as the line ministry for this body.

Stakeholders recognised the strong role that the Ministry of Tourism and Environment had in this project and the good collaboration that existed with UNDP and the many other stakeholders involved in the project.

Table 8 – UNDP Implementation and Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) Execution Rating

UNDP Implementation	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	S
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	S
Overall quality of Implementation/Oversight and Execution	**S**

3.2.6 Risk management

The Project Documents identified four main risks (see section 3.1.2) to the project implantation and annexed a Social and Environmental Screening (SES) assessment of the project that did not identify any potential SES risks. The risks to the project were reviewed during the inception phase and an additional risk identified (*Ensuring the long-term sustainability (financial, operational and technical)*

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of the established information and monitoring system and centre). The inception report also identified the need for a mitigation strategy.

The risks to the project were presented in the 2017 APR with appropriate mitigation strategy for each risk. No further risks were identified were presented in subsequent APRs.

Understandably, the project did not plan nor expect the November 2019 earthquake or the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, the project responded to ensure there was a short project extension and appropriate 'remote' working and meetings were implemented to minimise physical contacts between project staff and stakeholders whilst permitting the project to proceed. Stakeholders did not report any significant impacts to the delivery of the project.

3.3 Project Results

Evidence from the review of reports, information from the APRs and comments received from multiple stakeholders have indicated that the quality and applicability of these outputs was high. A summary of the expected outcomes and outputs is presented in Annex 2.

Key results highlighted by stakeholders include:

- The functional, transparent and easy to use EIMMS maintained within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and accessible to civil society;
- Information on the definition of 158 indicators relevant to reporting for the three Rio Conventions;
- Significant awareness raising and capacity development for civil society, academia, ministry personnel;
- Studies on soil erosion and formal reports to UNCCD;
- High quality and useable reports on governance, assessment of needs, gender in data management, Red List of flora and fauna, land degradation, capacity development, etc. that will assist the government develop new policies and enforce legislation.
- A key lesson learned by the support to the Parks and Recreation Authority has been the importance of access, ownership and involvement of local stakeholders in the establishment of the Information Points. Through this involvement local stakeholders also made suggestions on supporting the arboretum to assist with schools education work;
- The National Environment Agency noted that through their regional offices and the training the staff have received, the work of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment on reporting to the Rio Conventions has been facilitated by the project, especially the citizen science support.

3.3.1 Progress towards objective and expected outcomes

Progress towards Outcome 1: '*Harmonisation and enhancement of the national environmental information portal using the existing Protected Area database to address global environmental conventions' needs'*.

The project successful developed an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System (EIMMS) that has been established within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. This system built on an existing database on protected areas and included (following decisions taking in the inception phase) land-degradation and climate change indicators. The EIMMS supported two information centres in Albania (Tirana Aarhus Centre at the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

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and the Grand Park Information Centre within Tirana Municipality). The EIMMS is recognised as the first framework that brings together all environmental indicators, the needs of reporting to multilateral environmental agreements and other platforms, including the EU's Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), Biodiversity National Network of Albania (BIONNA) and the Biodiversity Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) into a single system.

EIMMS was designed to be easily used and to encourage a wide stakeholder (government, academia and civil society) involvement. EIMMS will also provide data for the EU, EEA, WHO in addition to Rio Conventions and national environment management.

The work leading to Outcome 1 was guided by reports on:

- Needs assessment for environmental information in Albania;
- Assessment of environmental governance through a process led by a consultant (Dark Matter Lab) of 'hackathons[2]' to identify innovative means of working between public organisations, private sector and civil society.
- Gender difference and civic participation of local communities on environmental information (undertaken by the Regional Environment Centre – REC-Albania).

The use of creative and innovative approaches to identify new methods for undertaking environmental monitoring through the use of 'citizen science' utilising 'Bioblitz[3]' and 'iNaturalist[4]' tools is considered novel and the TE considers that these methods should be further developed. The hackathon organised in January 2020 as forum to engage participant monitoring systems involving government, academia civil society (including non-traditional citizens such as young technically aware individuals who wished to contribute in the introduction of innovative solutions in the Albania). In the process the young participants were able to develop a 3D printed air quality monitor for PM 10 and PM 2.5.

Stakeholders interviewed considered the EIMMS to be user friendly, transparent to civil society and succeeded in using low-cost open-source software enabling an effective participatory approach with stakeholders.

The **project met the outcome 1 targets:**

- EIMMS developed and used by Ministry of Tourism and Environment, focal points for CBD/UNCCD and the National Environment Agency (in addition to use by other stakeholders in Albania).

The TE consultants rated **Outcome 1** to be **Highly Satisfactory** as indicated in Annex 6.

Progress towards Outcome 2: '*Key global calibre environmental indicators are set at national level and associated baseline information is recorded*.

[2] Hackathons are marathon innovation events involving stakeholders to identify potential solutions to environmental problems

[3] BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period

[4] iNaturalist uses phone-based applications to obtain georeferenced images of biological specimens and obtain expert identification whilst contributing to global data.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

The development of the 158 environmental monitoring indicators to be included in the EIMMS system has been effectively developed. Each indicator was supported by a definition and where appropriate methodology (e.g. monitoring methodology in soil erosion and land-degradation neutrality targets assessed). The work of improving the norms, standards and indicators was supported by academic-led research.

The project assisted with the updating of the Red List of endangered species in Albania that is required every 5-6 years. This work was undertaken with experts from the University of Tirana and supported with international expertise when needed, resulting in a more comprehensive Red List including nearly 400 taxa and revised threat categories. The project also supported new studies (resulting from recommendations included in the National Report to UNCCD) to assist with the soil erosion measurements and the definition of Land Degradation Neutrality target.

Stakeholders interviewed acknowledged the flexibility of the PIU to enable the delivery of the reports that have guided this outcome.

The **project met the outcome 2 targets**:

- Technical sheets for 158 environmental indicators of State, Impact and Pressure were developed. The indicators for biodiversity, climate, land degradation and hydrology have been assessed and documented;
- EIMMS portal has been used to prepare national reports to the UNCCD.

The TE consultants rated **Outcome 2** to be **Highly Satisfactory** as indicated in Annex 6.

Progress towards Outcome 3: '*Stakeholders' capacity for information management (collection processing) and utilisation (interpretation and reporting (sharing)) for global environmental reporting needs is enhanced at the national and local level'*.

The project has undertaken significant training and other capacity development activities involving government authorities, academic institutions (university and schools), local authorities and civil society, as befits a cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) project.

Although the project did not have formal strategies for communication or gender prepared during the project development stages, there were good provisions built into the design of the project to develop specific gender involvement plans to guide the ministry and other stakeholders (developed within Component 1) and, communication and awareness raising activities within Component 3.

The project initiated the delivery of this outcome by identifying the training needs to complement the EIMMS that led to training programmes, train-the-trainer events and the provision of training for government and civil society on topics related to National Environmental Monitoring of biodiversity, land-protection and air quality/climate change.

An important feature of this project has been the attention to engaging civil society in environmental issues through citizen science-based activities. Example given by stakeholders include:

- The BioBlitz event teams of students identified species in a natural area and through the iNaturalist phone application they uploaded their observations to create a species inventory through pictures in the project '*To catalogue the flora and fauna of Albania'*. Through this activity, the students were trained how to use maps and other geographic representations and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information related to the

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environment. At the end of the initiative, the country obtained an inventory of the flora and fauna done by civil society and student engagement that is (i) user friendly (ii) transparent (iii) low cost (iv) of a participatory approach, and (v) one that has a direct impact on education programmes.

- Masters' Students of Environmental Engineering developed methodologies for applying approaches to environmental data collection and soil erosion. This work contributed to the national baseline assessment and reporting to MEAs. Visualisation approaches for environmental indicators were also used to raise awareness to students/civil society.
- Establishment of an information point in Tirana Grand Park supporting actions of the new Parks Agency. For World Environment Day, three floating duck houses were constructed in Tirana Grand Park Lake together with maps, and herbarium for schoolchildren. As a result, a phone interactive application '*Tirana Ime Outdoor'* was created and launched by the Tirana Mayor, the Parks and Recreation Agency and UNDP, where citizens and tourists can get environmental information including hiking trails, flora data, information for citizens to participate in local environmental and educational activities organised by the municipality of Tirana and the agency.
- An important achievement has been the establishment of the EIMMS which it has increased the capacity of national stakeholders in environmental data management and supported the local government for better provision of environmental information to the public.

The **project met the outcome 3 targets**:

- International reporting to UNCCD and UNFCCC with information provided by EIMMS;
- National reports on Green House Gas Emissions Inventory, Measurement of soil erosion and environmental innovation.

The TE consultants rated **Outcome 3** to be **Highly Satisfactory** as indicated in Annex 6.

Progress towards Project Objective: '*To improve institutional and technical capacities to meet and sustain Rio Convention objectives and those of other MEAs'*.

Towards the long-term goal of: *Establishing Albania's Environmental Monitoring System Aligned with Global Environmental Monitoring*. The TE considers that the project has greatly assisted stakeholders in Albania reach the project's objective through:

- The development of the national environmental management and monitoring system (EIMMS) and transfer to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment that will continue to populated with data by the National Environment Agency;
- Identification and definition of 158 indicators to be used in the EIMMS;
- Multiple training activities undertaken with a range of stakeholders to ensure the EIMMS system is effectively used;
- Incorporation of recommendations in the gender report on data management in the preparation of new policies within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and reports to multilateral environmental agreements;
- The National Environment Agency reported that through this project they have managed to fulfil some of their functional tasks, which if done with the budget of the agency, would take years to be realised. This included developing bylaws with project support on draft guidance

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the '*Annual Report on Air Quality Assessment*' and draft order '*on the format and the information that should be contained in the Report on the implementation of Law 162/2014*'.

3.3.2 Relevance

The development of this project over several years in close co-operation with national stakeholders has ensured that the activities are fully in-line with national, regional (e.g. EU) and global priorities. The Project Document clearly identifies the national legislation and policies that the project supports and the TE confirms that the project was relevant to these.

Relevance to National Priorities

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment has significant ownership in the design and execution of this project and stakeholders have confirmed that the project is aligned with the national priorities to establish an environmental information management and monitoring system. This is also reflected in comments received from other stakeholders that provide data and will use the information (e.g. the National Environment Agency).

The project is also supportive in ensuring that Albania has the necessary tools, skills and data to accede to the European Union. Albania submitted a formal application to join EU in 2009 and was recommended for Candidate Status in 2012 by EU Council. In 2014 Albania was granted Candidate Status and negotiations opened in 2020.

Alignment with UNDP and GEF strategic priorities

The Project was aligned with UNDP's Country Programme Document on environment and climate change (outcome 4). The Project also contributed to addressing GEF priorities on environmental management (through improved information for decision makers), environmental reporting to conventions, gender roles in environmental management and wide engagement with civil society with innovative approaches.

Stakeholder engagement

The gender baseline assessment undertaken by the project has influenced them policy development work of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and guided the reporting of national data to Rio Conventions. The project has engaged and involved with a variety of civil society organisations (including academic institutions, NGOs and community groups).

Stakeholders indicated that the BioBlitz activities (involving 24 schools) was in-line with the national programme for Environmental Education of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. Stakeholders also reported that the work of the project has also helped to strengthen internal capacities of organisations involved with the assessment of Greenhouse Gas inventories and helping to bridge knowledge gaps between protected areas and the Park and Recreation Agency.

Relevance to other initiatives

The project's actions (the development of EIMMS, capacity development, Red List re-definition, etc.) are relevant to multiple national reporting obligations to multilateral environmental agreements, Aarhus Convention, European Environmental Agency, SDG13 (life on land) and 15 (climate change), etc.

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3.3.3 Effectiveness

Extent of contribution to outcome/output

The Project has effectively delivered the expected objective (*Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring system aligned with global environmental reporting*). The system has been installed within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and is operational, providing reports to key Rio Conventions and accessible to the wider civil society.

Annex 6 summarises the main outputs of the project against the results framework, showing the information generated and that key targets had been reached. As reported below (section 3.3.4) the majority of targets established in the Project Design have been delivered on-time or early. Examination of both APRs and Project Board meeting minutes confirms the delivery of the expected outputs according to the agreed workplan.

The formation of the Technical Working Group as an *ad hoc* body to advise and guide the project was beneficial. This also had a long-term advantage of engendering on-going ownership in the project and ensuring that parallel activities (e.g. other donor projects) were informed on the development of EIMMS.

Extent to contribution to National, UNDP, GEF Priorities

The Project was aligned with national priorities in supporting the delivery of data to three Rio Conventions along with support to enhancing environmental awareness and education to civil society. The Project has adopted an innovative approach through 'hackathons' and citizen science events to empower civil society to contribute environmental data and solutions to environmental problems (e.g. development of an air quality monitor; use of iNaturalist and BioBlitz approaches on biodiversity data). Stakeholders also cited the effective delivery of activities including the environmental monitoring, indicator development, standards, education, public access to information (e.g. Parks and Recreation information boards), delivering carbon footprint databases, etc.

The project effectively contributes to UNDP's Strategic Plan and Country Programme Development (see sections 3.1.5 and 0), and to the GEF priorities. The ability to effectively deliver reports will also assist with the SDGs and other bodies (e.g. Aarhus Convention) reporting. The availability of data and the ability to utilise this in management of the environment and the development of appropriate policies will contribute to long-term global environmental benefits of improved ecosystems.

Extent to contribution to gender equality and empowerment

A key Project output on gender and information management in Albania has provided guidance to policy development and reporting within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. This output also delivered training to guide ministry and other staff on strengthening equality within Albania. The project also effectively recorded disaggregated sex data at most meetings and through the National Programme for Environmental Education, led by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment supported 24 schools with equal girl/boy participation.

The Project identified the importance (SES at the design stage) that it would support both the active participation of both right-bearers and duty-bearers through capacity development and ensuring that the EIMMS was open to all governmental and civil society to access the environmental information.

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Areas where the Project could have been more effective.

Although the project lacked a formal communication and gender strategy, it is clear (from APRs) that significant reports have been made, together with highly effective workshops and training sessions organised by the PIU. Reports were presented on a national NGO's (REC-Albania) or UNDP websites. These reports could have had wider impact and uptake if they were located on a comprehensive project website as noted by some stakeholders that also gave more details about the project (including links to key outputs, reports, workshops, etc.), success stories, that could have assisted more in ensuring that the successes of this project are widely disseminated (both within Albania and more widely).

Project outputs (e.g. consultant reports) reviewed would have benefited by containing more information on the organisation undertaking the work (for example on an imprint page) and additional information on the context (relevance to the overall UNDP/GEF project) in the body of their reports.

3.3.4 Efficiency

Project Management and timeliness

The TE assessed the main results achieved by the project in accordance with the Results Framework. A detailed table is presented in Annex 6 indicating the indictor, target, the status at the end of the project. The results framework contained 26 indicators with time-based targets and the project delivered ten on schedule, nine sooner than expected and seven indicators were delayed.

The Project was granted two extensions.

- The first (noted in the 2019 APR) was to address the relatively slow start of the inception phase and to ensure there was sufficient time for completion for the expanded scope of the piloting of the EIMMS agreed during project inception, extended the project by 15 months (to February 2021).
- The second extension respond to the impacts of the November 2019 earthquake in Albania and the COVID-19 pandemic, was for 3 months (to May 2021).

Many stakeholders indicated that they considered the PIU to have managed the project execution in an effective and efficient manner, with strong interpersonal skills and relations with key stakeholders, good managerial and technical skill. Stakeholders also noted that the PIU and Ministry of Tourism and Environment demonstrated an efficient approach in meetings (including Project Board and Technical Working Group meetings) and adopted effective adaptive management changes to accommodate the recommendations of the Project Board (see section 3.2.1).

Stakeholders only raised a few deliverables that were noticeable impacted by COVID-19, including the need for meetings to be virtual and the delay of installing floating duck houses for the Parks and Recreation Agency.

The key milestones from PIF submission to project completion are presented in Table 9

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Table 9 - Key project milestones and dates

Project milestone	Date
PIF submission to GEF Secretariat for review	February 2014
PIF Approved	March 2014
GEF CEO Endorsement	June 2015
Project Start	November 2015
Project Inception Meeting	February 2016
1st PSC	July 2016
2nd PSC	February 2017
3rd PSC	January 2019
4th PSC (virtual meeting under COVID-19 restrictions)	July 2020
Planned completion	November 2019
Revised completion (2019)	February 2021
Revised completion (2020) to address COVID-19 and impacts of November 2019 earthquake	May 2021

Resource allocation

As a Medium Sized Project (MSP) with a budget less than a 1,000,000 USD the project has clearly been effective and efficient at delivering an operational data management system that has enabled the Ministry of Tourism and Environment to report to the Rio Conventions.

The annual expenditure of the project is presented in section 3.2.3.

3.3.5 Overall outcome

The achievements of the main outputs and outcomes have been summarised above in section 3.3.1 together with the relevance (section 3.3.2), effectiveness (section 3.3.3) and efficiency (section 3.3.4) of the Project's delivery.

Table 10 - Assessment of Outcomes Rating

Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	HS
Effectiveness	HS
Efficiency	**S**
Overall Project Outcome Rating	**S**

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3.3.6 Sustainability

Financial Sustainability

The clear need for the EIMMS and full support for the system by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment suggest to the TE that national resources will be available to further develop and support the operation of the EIMMS. The recently initiated discussions with the EU on the accession process will inevitably release additional EU funds to further assist strengthen environmental management. The EIMMS will also support the work of future donor assistance projects address environment projects with data.

An important design feature of the EIMMS has been the use of open-source (and low cost) software. This supports the sustainability of the system by reducing costs.

There are clear financial challenges remaining and environmental monitoring requires continuous investments. The project has facilitated the development and commissioning of the EIMMS and supported civil society, academia and government organisations with collection and interpreting data. However, there will be further needs to support, for example the National Environment Agency and its regional offices with resources to collect data more widely with field and laboratory equipment and continue with capacity development to facilitate upgrades to the EIMMS if required.

Socio-political Sustainability

The CCCD project has invested considerable resources in supporting civil society enhance their knowledge and awareness in environmental issues and to participate in innovative monitoring approaches using citizen science (BioBlitz, iNaturalist, hackathons, etc.) with input from academia (schools and universities). These activities were undertaken with the full support and engagement of official organisations (Ministry of Tourism and Environment, National Environment Agency, Parks and Recreation Agency, etc.). Stakeholders recognised the benefits of the multiple workshops and training sessions that have been undertaken to build national capacity for using the EIMMS as a tool for informed decision making to align Albania with global monitoring and reporting requirements.

Institutional and Governance Sustainability

The design of EIMMS with open-source software and the lessons from previous projects (for example linking the database to specific individuals with obvious vulnerabilities if they left) will assist the long-term sustainability of the system installed and operated from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The wide access granted to civil society, academics and official organisations will assist the overall institutional and governance sustainability.

Stakeholders considered that the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, having fully endorsed the EIMMS together with data collection organised through the National Environment Agency, supports the institutional structures reliant on the EIMMS with the positive involvement of civil society. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment hosts the servers for EIMMS and full access is granted to the National Environment Agency which is mandated to populate the database. The cross-cutting capacity development project was viewed by stakeholders to have established a good basis for the long-term continuity of the EIMMS in Albania.

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Environmental Sustainability

The Project's actions are supportive of the ToC expected impact to improve environmental management and dependent socio-economic conditions through enhance information to guide policy making with a better informed civil society taking an active role in environmental issues.

Overall sustainability

The Project was developed and implemented with the full support of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment that had a clear internationally and nationally driven demand for an effective and efficient for an environmental data information system. This CCCD GEF project has delivered the EIMMS and supported the capacity development of government and civil society to collect data and to access information the database. The project has encouraged civil society to participate in 'citizen science' and promoted environment education in multiple schools and information points in parks. These co-ordinated activities support the financial, socio-political, institutional and environmental sustainability of this GEF intervention.

Table 11 - Sustainability Ratings

Sustainability	Rating
Financial Resources	ML
Socio-political	L
Institutional framework and governance	L
Environmental	L
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	**ML**

3.3.7 Country Ownership

The Project was driven and developed with the active involvement of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The drive for this project was to improve the capacity of the Ministry to collect and report information expected by the three Rio Conventions. The Government acknowledges the importance of environmental monitoring and reporting. The Project also supports Albania's ambitions for acceding to the EU and negotiations that have been initiated. The process of accession will enable additional resources to be released by the EU and the Ministry is expected to receive funds to assist with environmental monitoring and reporting in-line with EU Directives that will supplement the reporting to the MEAs.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is the focal point for implementing and reporting various multilateral environmental agreements and is also the focal point for Aarhus Convention reporting. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment maintains the EIMMS with data provided from the National Environment Agency. The Ministry notes the shortage of resources to enable all indicators to be under accredited methods and the lack of equipment to enable additional monitoring to be performed. Additional support would also benefit the Ministry and Agency to integrate the multiple monitoring platforms that are still used in Albania (e.g. Ramsar, forests, etc.) and to better meet future EU and other international reporting requirements within a standardised system that would render data more comparable internationally

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment is the UNDP's Implementing Partner and chairs the Project Board that includes other key national stakeholders. The Ministry also participates in the *ad hoc* Technical Working Group with academia, civil society, etc.

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The active involvement of national representatives in this project designed to strengthen data collection has been noted by a number of stakeholders interviewed for this TE.

3.3.8 Gender

The project was designed with significant actions to review the roles of women and men in information management and collected disaggregated for most meetings. The Project delivered a key report on gender differences and civic participation with a focus on recommendations to best provide environmental information to local communities and best practices on environmental information and gender inclusiveness. Training sessions on gender were undertaken with relevant stakeholders. Key activities undertaken by the gender consultants include:

- Best practices on environmental information and gender inclusion[5] – *identification and preparation of cases from several CSOs providing recommendations for better information and women involvement in environmental information management and reporting.*
- Report on gender issues in environmental management[6]
- Distribution, collection and assessment of questionnaires *–on how environmental information is reported and institutional level of awareness and engagement in monitoring and reporting environmental Information.*
- Distribution, collection and assessment of questionnaires - *on environmental information management and training needs of government staff at national and local level*
- More than 40 questionnaires filled by governmental institutions and agencies in Tirana and Kolonja
- Conduct data assessment survey of civil society organizations - *on specific environmental issues and information management.*
- Report on gender differences and civic participation of local communities on environmental information[7]

Reports were located either on the consultant's website (REC-Albania) or the UNDP website. The Project has addressed gender issues by involving multiple stakeholders in training. In partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, a citizens' science initiative was conducted in 24 schools which involved an open environmental education hour and an introduction to the BioBlitz. This activity was in-line with the National Program for Environmental Education and all classrooms, boys and girls were equally involved.

Reports prepared are available in the Ministry libraries. The gender baseline assessment and recommendations have been taken into account by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and used to guide policy making and reporting to the Rio Conventions.

[5] http://documents.rec.org/publications/best_practice_brochure_small.pdf

[6] http://documents.rec.org/publications/infographic_gender_2017.pdf

[7] http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/environment_energy/gender-differences-and-civic-participation-of-local-communities-.html

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3.3.9 Cross-cutting issues

The Project is relevant to the UNDP Country Programme Development Documents (2017 – 2021) forth priority that notes '*Environment and climate change is the fourth priority, deriving from outcome 4, government and non-government actors adopt and implement innovative, gender-sensitive national and local actions for environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction'*. This supports the comparative advantage of UNDP to assist with national reforms through strengthening capacities and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The SES notes that the project has addressed the right to information by developing an open-source environmental information system that is accessible from the general public. The project will assist Albania report the SDGs (specifically Life on Land – SDG 15 and Climate Change – SDG 13) and will assist national policy makers to guide environmental management through improved data availability, data quality and through the involvement of an informed civil society.

3.3.10 GEF Additionality

The Project was designed to meet the GEF 5 Capacity Development Objectives 4 (Strengthening Capacities to Implement and Manage Global Convention Guidelines) and 5 (Enhancing Capacities to Monitor and Evaluate Environmental Impacts and Trends). Specifically, the Project addressed the reporting required by the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Project is supportive of the GEF focal areas strategies on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land-Degradation. The work focused at supporting capacity development at all levels of society in Albania from community to cabinet.

3.3.11 Catalytic role /Replication

The Project has identified a number of actions linked to involvement of stakeholders in 'citizen science' actions related to environmental monitoring that are likely to be of value elsewhere. These actions have included the BioBlitz and iNaturalist approaches that have been supported by the innovative approaches taken by the project to stimulate new ideas on environmental monitoring (e.g. hackathons leading to the development of novel air quality monitors through 3D printing). Stakeholders interviewed have acknowledged the benefits of wider engagement in the process of collecting environmental information and indicated that they believed that this would continue more widely within Albania.

The Project is still scheduled to develop an Exit Strategy.

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3.3.12 Progress to impact

The Theory of Change (see section 2.5) prepared for this TE, identified '*improved ecosystem and socio-economic status resulting from improved policy and management decisions based on data and information*' as the anticipated long-term impact of this Project. The Project has clear signs of progress towards this expected impact through:

- Establishment of the EIMMS and hand-over to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment for long-term management of the system with the support of the National Environment Agency responsible for on-going data collection;
- EIMMS used to provide data to Rio Conventions (e.g. UNCCD);
- Engagement of civil society and government agencies in identifying novel means to facilitate data collection and encourage greater awareness of environmental issues through improved access to information through the EIMMS;
- Acceptance of gender recommendations based on baseline assessment that guide the Ministry of Tourism and Environment in developing policies and reporting to the multiple environmental agreements.

Albania has embarked on negotiations with the EU with respect to eventual membership. The process of accession is likely to supplement the national resources available for environmental issues, including providing further financial support to monitoring and reporting.

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4 Main Findings, Conclusion, Recommendations and Lessons

4.1 Main findings

Relevance

The GEF 5 Cross-Cutting Capacity Development project to design and implement an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System was prepared in close co-operation with multiple stakeholders within Albania incorporating lessons from previous projects (e.g. use of open-source software).

The Project's activities are highly relevant to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment to assist in meeting international agreements (e.g. the three Rio Conventions and Aarhus Convention reporting) and to assist with national environmental management and policy development. Specifically, the development of the EIMMS, engagement of civil society in environment issues, updating the Red List of endangered species, integrating gender in the policy making and reporting activities of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. The Project was also supportive of UNDP's Country Programme Development and to the GEF.

Effectiveness

The Project was found to have been highly effective at delivering the intended results, notably:

- The EIMMS – installed and operational within the Ministry of Tourism and Environment;
- Reporting national information relevant to UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD and the Aarhus Convention
- Guiding reports and recommendations on the updating of the Red List, gender in data management, 158 defined indicators, soil erosion studies and approaches, etc.
- The active engagement of civil society in raising awareness in environmental issues, participating in data collection (e.g. BioBlitx and iNaturalist), environmental education, and through innovative workshops to identify novel approaches (e.g. hackathons resulting in a functioning air quality monitor) with school and university students;
- The project's website could have been more effective as a tool to raise awareness of the results and experiences from this project both in Albania and more widely. This would have also been of benefit to consultants working on project actions to ensure they had a complete overview of all the project's activities and results.

Efficiency

The Project has been efficient at delivering the EIMMs, the budget allocated. The inception phase undertook an expansion of the scope of the project as a result of the approval of an EU Natura 2000 project that was addressing part of the initial work of the GEF project (on biodiversity data management), to include land degradation and climate change information in the piloting of the EIMMS. This adaptive management review of the workplan was adopted during the project inception meeting. The Project Board also agreed to two extensions to the project to respond to a slightly slower than planned inception phase (requests were made for a 15 month's extension to ensure sufficient time for completion of the expanded project) and 3 months extension as a consequence of the 2019 earthquake and COVID-19 global pandemic.

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Stakeholders noted that project management through the Project Implementation Unit was conducted in an effective and efficient manner at all times, despite there being only 1.5 staff in the PIU. This low staffing (due to the duration of the project and the available budget) also meant that inadequate time was available for the development and management of a comprehensive project website. The Project also had the benefit of strong partnerships established by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, UNDP and other key bodies in Albania.

Sustainability

This project had the full support of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and related institutions in the design and implementation of the project. The project has assisted the Ministry to actively engage civil society (including universities and schools) on environment issues. This will undoubtedly encourage the long-term support for the project's actions. The support for environmental information management will also assist Albania with the expectations of initiating discussions with the EU with respect to accession and this process will also facilitate additional financing for meeting the EU environment directives.

Cross-cutting issues and gender

Although the project had not developed a formal gender strategy during the preparation phase, indicators were included where sex disaggregated data was routinely collected for workshops and other meetings. More significantly, a key project report on gender in data management was prepared and appropriate stakeholder provided. This report and the training have been used by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other stakeholders to guide the development of environmental data policies and the reporting of environmental data to multilateral environmental agreements.

4.2 Conclusions

The UNDP/GEF Cross-Cutting Capacity Development project 'Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting' has:

- Effectively delivered the EIMMS to collect essential environmental data for reporting to three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) meeting the needs of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and assisting with data management leading to the process of EU accession;
- Delivered technical support to the 158 environmental indicators agreed through the project outputs including assessment of national capacities, updated Red List on endangered species, Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, etc.
- Supported capacity development requirements to a wide range of stakeholders (government, academics, civil society) to improve awareness on environmental issues and to encourage broad engagement in data collection;
- Employed innovative approaches to involve civil society through 'hackathons', use of citizen science approaches (BioBlitz for schools and iNaturalist);
- Effectively used adaptive management to accommodate changes to the project (e.g. broaden the scope to pilot EIMMS on all Rio Convention data, accommodating impacts from COVID-19 and the earthquake, responding to outputs from the hackathon with a small grants programme, etc.)

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- The Project Documents would have benefited from the development of an outline communications strategy, which could have been finalised during project inception. This would have led to the development of a more comprehensive website that would have assisted with ensuring all stakeholders and partners had details of all project activities together with informative stories to have assisted dissemination of the project's results.
- The project delivered a highly informative report on gender in information management in Albania. This report was reported as having a direct impact on the Ministry of Tourism and Environment in policy development. However, it is recommended that a draft gender and stakeholder engagement plan is prepared during the project preparation phase.

The project has delivered these outputs of significant importance to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and other national stakeholders, despite the country being impacted by an earthquake in 2019 and remote meetings required by restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.3 Recommendations

This medium Sized project has delivered the outputs and outcomes expected in the project document. Whilst there are a couple of activities continuing the majority or outputs were delivered on time or sooner than expected. Two areas are identified for future attention by UNDP and the Ministry of Tourism and Environment: (i) seeking a follow-on project to build on the success of this MSP that will broaden the monitoring scope and capabilities; and (ii) ensuring that the few issues identified in this TE (limited website, communication strategies, etc.) that were not affordable in this project should be strengthened.

Table 12 - Recommendations

No.	TE Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
1	The Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the National Environment Agency should be encouraged to seek additional resources to build on the success of the EIMMS and the capabilities strengthened with reporting to Rio Conventions. A follow-on project should be designed to bring all remaining environmental data platforms together and to ensure that the system will be compatible with future monitoring and reporting needs associated with EU directives. A future project should: • Enlarge the EIMMS to encompass other data platforms; • Expand the current indicators and definitions to other environment reporting and management needs; • Build on the experiences of encouraging civil society in citizen science; • Strengthening the future updates of Red List with additional analysis on biodiversity change in accordance with IUCN recommendations; • Strengthen capacity (equipment and capacity) of the NEA and regional bodies to undertake accredited monitoring (data collection) and analysis of data.	MTE/NEA UNDP	Within next year

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No.	TE Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
2	UNDP should encourage future projects to have a more comprehensive communication strategy through enacting a more comprehensive project website including all details of the project, results, workshops, feature stories, etc.	UNDP	Within next year
3	The project has adopted a successful approach for engaging civil society. The use of citizen science techniques (such as BioBlitz and iNaturalist), together with the brainstorming 'hackathons' have led to novel monitoring methods and have encouraged greater awareness on environment issues within civil society. The experiences of this approach should be clearly documented before the conclusion of the project to ensure there is wide (within Albania and more widely) awareness of these approaches. Examples of successful approaches to raise awareness of GEF project activities can be seen with the GEF International Waters focal area with the use of 'Experience Notes' to enhance replication of the lessons from this project.	PIU /UNDP	By end of the project

4.4 Lessons

The following lessons are considered relevant to future projects in Albania and more widely:

Ensuring national ministerial and broad stakeholder support.

The project has had a high degree of ministerial and other stakeholder involvement since the development of the project concept. This, coupled with close dialogue maintained by the PIU, has assisted the project in delivering outputs expected by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment whilst ensuring the active engagement of civil society. A small, but effective, PIU has demonstrated good interpersonal skills to facilitate this project as noted by multiple stakeholders. In addition, the design allowed for the formation of the Technical Working Group that both strengthened the technical delivery of the project and further facilitated a strong feeling of 'ownership' in many of the stakeholders involved in this TE.

Active role of civil society in environmental information and monitoring.

A strong element of this project has been the development of 'citizen science' to encourage greater awareness and involvement in environmental issues, especially monitoring and information. This has engaged many sectors of society including schools (using the BioBlitz and iNaturalist tools) and universities in the brainstorming of novel and innovative approaches to collecting data through the 'hackathons' and the use of information boards in the Parks in Tirana. These were linked to Ministry of Tourism and Environment education programmes and the brainstorming activities also engaged ministry staff with civil society that led to new approaches.

The importance of detailed project websites.

Although the project's website adhered to UNDP's requirements, the TE noted that the lack of a more detailed project website was raised by some stakeholders. Whilst recognising that there were other methods of communication used effectively within Albania and that this was a small project, a comprehensive website that contained general project information and details of outputs, workshops and other links, would enable the success of this project (e.g. on civil society engagement

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in innovative monitoring and the use of iNaturalist) would facilitate the wider dissemination. Ensuring that these tools and approaches are used in other UNDP and GEF projects is highly recommended by the TE.

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Annex 1- Terminal Evaluation Terms of Reference

This is an adjusted standard terms of reference for Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-supported GEF/LDCF/SCCF-financed projects taking into account the impact of COVID-19 on evaluations, including consideration for COVID-19 situation assessment within countries, impact and restrictions on evaluations, alternative approaches, methodologies and considerations to mitigate the impact of COVID19 on evaluations.

Underlying this guidance is a principle of "do no harm", and a consideration that the safety of staff, consultants, stakeholders and communities is paramount and the primary concern of all when planning and implementing evaluations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Location: Home-based
Application Deadline: 11 January 2021
Type of Contract: Individual Consultant
Assignment Type: Terminal evaluator for UNDP-supported GEF-finance project
Languages Required: English
Starting Date: 15 January 2021
Duration of Initial Contract: up to 4 months
Expected Duration of Assignment: up to 4 months

BACKGROUND

1. Introduction

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full- and medium-sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects are required to undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) at the end of the project. This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the TE of the *medium-sized* project titled *"**Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting**"* (PIMS #5308) implemented through the *UNDP Albania CO/Ministry of Tourism and Environment*. The project started on the 13 November 2015 and is in its 5th year of implementation. The TE process must follow the guidance outlined in the document 'Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects' *Guidance For Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects'*

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2. Project Description

This project is designed to strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring and information management in Albania by establishing an operational environmental information management and monitoring system (EIMMS) with a focus on the MEAs of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.
The project will address the need for an environmental monitoring system that is integrated throughout relevant government institutions and that uses international monitoring standards for indicator development, data collection, analysis, and policymaking. It will also build on existing technical and institutional capacity in Albania to align its management and monitoring efforts with global monitoring and reporting priorities. Increased capacity in this area will improve reporting to the Rio Conventions for sustainable development through better-informed environmental policy.
The project will aim at: (i) Development of the EIMMS to enable integration of global environment commitments into planning and monitoring processes. (ii) Development and application of uniform indicators encompassing UNFCCC, CBD and CCD concerns and global environmental threats, and (iii) Stakeholder's capacity for information management of key global environment data and utilization is enhanced at national and local level.
Lessons leared from the project are the Diffusion, Uptake of Knowledge and Ownership on establishing an Environmental Information and Management System. Given the attempts with previous digitized information systems, that had failed or lagged use, the establishment of the Technical Working Group (TWG) with members from the government, agencies, projects with similar aims and interested stakeholders was vital in diffusing the information, up-taking of knowledge, involvement and most important the ownership of the system by the government counterparty. This was materialized with the EIMMS system and its endorsement from the National Environmental Agency.

It is to be noted that the Government of Albania was under State of Emergency from the November 26th, 2019 earthquake of 6.4 Richter magnitude that hit central and west Albania until 23rd of June 2020 given the COVID-19 pandemic.
A set of mitigation measures including lockdowns, curfews, travel bans etc. were applied and some continue to be in place resulting in some delays in project activity implementation. To cope with the Covid-19 situation, from March 2020 and ongoing, the project has been working through online system (virtual meetings) to conduct coordination discussions with UNDP Albania, the Implementing Partner (Ministry of Tourism and Environment) and other relevant partners.

3. TE Purpose

The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE report promotes accountability and transparency and assesses the extent of project accomplishments.

The TE process must follow a collaborative and participatory approach ensuring close engagement with key participants including the Commissioning Unit (usually the UNDP Country Office), RTAs, Regional M&E

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Advisors, Country Office M&E Focal Points and Programme Officers, Government counterparts including the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, and other key stakeholders. Ideally, the TE should occur during the last few months of project activities, allowing the TE consultant to proceed while the Project Team is still in place, yet ensuring the project is close enough to completion for the evaluation expert to reach conclusions on key aspects such as project sustainability.

The COVID pandemic has affected the project implementation due to several measures and restrictions imposed in the country. Albania was under State of Emergency from the November 26th, 2019 Earthquake of 6.4 Richter magnitude that hit central and west Albania until 23rd of June 2020 given the multiplied impact of COVID-19 pandemic.
Since March 9, 2020, where measures on Covid-19 have started in Albania, a set of mitigation measures including lockdowns, curfews, travel bans were applied, and some continue to be in place amid the rise of the number of cases of Covid-19 in Albania.
They have affected the project implementation resulting in delays due to delays in government counterparts providing feedback and input for the development of studies; approval of studies, due to home confinement. Difficulty/inability in reaching out to stakeholders to acquire information and data for the preparation of studies and their participation in awareness raising activities, workshops, meetings, etc.
On Monday, July 13th, 2020, a Virtual Steering Committee took place, where the Steering Committee members were updated on the project's recent development and continuous work plan.
A no-cost project extension of 3 months to mitigate and conclude the project given the implementation delays from the Covid-19 pandemic and November 26th, 2019 earthquake of 6.4 Richter magnitude was requested and approved.

Hence, most of the activities planned for Q2 of the year 2020 were moved to Q3 and Q4. In Q4, some activities in the field were implemented with a small group of a maximum of 10 people by practicing physical distancing, and some activities that were supposed to be attended by participants from various places were adjusted through virtual options.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4. TE Approach & Methodology

The TE must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The TE consultant will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP) the Project Document, project reports including annual APRs, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the expert considers useful for this evidence-based evaluation.

The TE consultant is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts, Implementing Partners, the UNDP Country Office(s), the Regional Technical Advisors, direct beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

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Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful TE. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, project beneficiaries, academia, local government and CSOs, etc.
Additionally, the TE mission for the international consultant may not be possible due to the Covid-19 situation in Albania. For this, virtual tools will be used to conduct the interviews.

Project Partner
• Project Coordinator
• UNDP Country Office Programme Officer
• Ministry of Tourism and Environment
• National Environmental Agency
• National Agency of Protected Areas
• Agency for Parks and Recreation- Tirana Municipality
• University of Tirana- Faculty of Natural Sciences
• Polytechnic University of Tirana- Department of Environmental Engineering

The specific design and methodology for the TE should emerge from consultations between the TE consultant and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the TE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The TE consultant must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the TE report.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule and data to be used in the evaluation should be clearly outlined in the inception report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the TE consultant.

The final TE report should describe the full TE approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the evaluation.

As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world.

UNDP cannot be liable for anything that may result to the international consultant that is COVID related, be it health wise, time in quarantine, change in flights, etc.

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The TE consultant should develop a methodology that takes this into account and conduct the TE virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires.
This should be detailed in the TE Inception Report and agreed with the Commissioning Unit. The TE is to be carried out virtually and consideration should be taken for stakeholder availability, ability or willingness to be interviewed remotely.
In addition, their accessibility to the internet/computer may be an issue as many government and national counterparts may be working from home. These limitations must be reflected in the final TE report.
Given that the data collection/field mission is not possible due to Covid-19, the remote interviews will be undertaken through online means (skype, zoom etc.).
No stakeholders, consultants or UNDP staff should be put in harm's way and safety is the key priority.

5. Detailed Scope of the TE

The TE will assess project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework (see TOR Annex A). The TE will assess results according to the criteria outlined in the Guidance for TEs of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects *Guidance For Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects'*.

The Findings section of the TE report will cover the topics listed below. A full outline of the TE report's content is provided in ToR Annex C.

The asterisk "(*)" indicates criteria for which a rating is required.

Findings

i. Project Design/Formulation

- National priorities and country driven-ness
- Theory of Change
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Social and Environmental Safeguards
- Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators
- Assumptions and Risks
- Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g. same focal area) incorporated into project design
- Planned stakeholder participation
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
- Management arrangements

ii. Project Implementation

- Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)
- Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements

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- Project Finance and Co-finance
- Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry (*), implementation (*), and overall assessment of M&E (*)
- Implementing Agency (UNDP) (*) and Executing Agency (*), overall project oversight/implementation and execution (*)
- Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards

iii. Project Results

- Assess the achievement of outcomes against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and outcome indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements
- Relevance (*), Effectiveness (*), Efficiency (*) and overall project outcome (*)
- Sustainability: financial (*) , socio-political (*), institutional framework and governance (*), environmental (*), overall likelihood of sustainability (*)
- Country ownership
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant)
- GEF Additionality
- Catalytic Role / Replication Effect
- Progress to impact

iv. Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- The TE consultant will include a summary of the main findings of the TE report. Findings should be presented as statements of fact that are based on analysis of the data.
- The section on conclusions will be written in light of the findings. Conclusions should be comprehensive and balanced statements that are well substantiated by evidence and logically connected to the TE findings. They should highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP and the GEF, including issues in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Recommendations should provide concrete, practical, feasible and targeted recommendations directed to the intended users of the evaluation about what actions to take and decisions to make. The recommendations should be specifically supported by the evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around key questions addressed by the evaluation.
- The TE report should also include lessons that can be taken from the evaluation, including best practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success that can provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstance (programmatic and evaluation methods used, partnerships, financial leveraging, etc.) that are applicable to other GEF and UNDP interventions. When possible, the TE consultant should include examples of good practices in project design and implementation.

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- It is important for the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the TE report to include results related to gender equality and empowerment of women.

The TE report will include an Evaluation Ratings Table, as shown in the ToR Annex F.

6. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

The TE consultant shall prepare and submit:

- TE Inception Report: TE consultant clarifies objectives and methods of the TE no later than 2 weeks before the TE assessment. TE consultant submits the Inception Report to the Commissioning Unit and project management. Approximate due date: 01 February 2021.
- Presentation: TE consultant presents initial findings to project management and the Commissioning Unit at the end of the TE assessment. Approximate due date: 15 February 2021.
- Draft TE Report: TE consultant submits full draft report with annexes within 3 weeks of the end of the TE assessment. Approximate due date: 10 March 2021
- Final TE Report* and Audit Trail: TE consultant submits revised report, with Audit Trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final TE report, to the Commissioning Unit within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft. Approximate due date: 19 March 2021.

*The final TE report must be in English. If applicable, the Commissioning Unit may choose to arrange for a translation of the report into a language more widely shared by national stakeholders.

All final TE reports will be quality assessed by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Details of the IEO's quality assessment of decentralized evaluations can be found in Section 6 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines.[8]

7. TE Arrangements

The principal responsibility for managing the TE resides with the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's TE is *UNDP Albania*.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the consultant. The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the TE consultant to provide all relevant documents and set up stakeholder interviews.

Due to the COVID-19, the Commissioning Unit and Project Team will support the implementation of remote/ virtual meetings. An updated stakeholder list with contact details will be provided by the Commissioning Unit to the TE consultant.

8. Duration of the Work

[8] Access at: http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

The total duration of the TE will be approximately *25 working days over* a time period of *(10 weeks)* starting *15 January 2021* and shall not exceed four months from when the TE consultant is hired. The tentative TE timeframe is as follows:

- *11.01.2021:* Application closes
- *15.01.2021:* Selection of TE consultant
- *22.01.2021:* Prep the TE consultant (handover of project documents)
- *01.02.2021: 02* days (recommended 2-4): Document review and preparing TE Inception Report
- *05.02.2021: 01* day: Finalization and Validation of TE Inception Report- latest start of TE assessment
- *From 08 February 2021 to February 17 2021: 7* days (r: 7-15): TE assessment: virtual stakeholder meetings, interviews.
- *February 19, 2021:* Assessment wrap-up meeting & presentation of initial findings- earliest end of TE assessment
- *March 1, 2021: 5* days (r: 5-10): Preparation of draft TE report
- *March 8, 2021:* Circulation of draft TE report for comments
- *March 10, 2021: 1* day (r: 1-2): Incorporation of comments on draft TE report into Audit Trail & finalization of TE report
- *March 15, 2021:* Preparation & Issue of Management Response
- *March 17, 2021:* (optional) Concluding Virtual Stakeholder Workshop
- *March 19, 2021:* Expected date of full TE completion

The expected start date of contract is *15.01.2021*

9. Duty Station

Travel:

- International travel will not be possible given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restriction imposed by number of countries in the region and globally;
- In case of travel, the BSAFE course must be successfully completed prior to commencement of travel;
- Individual Consultants are responsible for ensuring they have vaccinations/inoculations when travelling to certain countries, as designated by the UN Medical Director.
- Consultants are required to comply with the UN security directives set forth under: https://dss.un.org/dssweb/
- All related travel expenses will be covered and will be reimbursed as per UNDP rules and regulations upon submission of an F-10 claim form and supporting documents.

REQUIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

10. TE consultant Composition and Required Qualifications

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One independent evaluator will conduct the TE –with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions. The evaluator will be responsible for the overall design and writing of the TE report, etc. assess emerging trends with respect to regulatory frameworks, budget allocations, capacity building, develop communication with stakeholders who will be interviewed, and work with the Project Team in developing the TE workplan.

The evaluator cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation and/or implementation (including the writing of the project document), must not have conducted this project's Mid-Term Review and should not have a conflict of interest with the project's related activities.

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic travel restrictions, the International Consultant will operate remotely using tools to conduct virtual interviews and consultations.

International evaluator:

Education

- Master's degree in *environmental studies, environmental conservation, natural sciences, natural resources, sustainable development, social sciences,* or other closely related field;

Experience

- Relevant experience with results-based management evaluation methodologies;
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to *Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation/Environment*.
- Experience in evaluating projects;
- Experience working in *the Region and/or Albania*.
- Experience in relevant technical areas for at least *7 years;*
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and *Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation,* experience in gender responsive evaluation and analysis;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills;
- Project evaluation/review experience within United Nations system will be considered an asset

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English.

11. Evaluator Ethics

The TE consultant will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The evaluator must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluator must also ensure security of collected information before and after the

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evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

12. Payment Schedule

- 20% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final TE Inception Report and approval by the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the draft TE report to the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final TE report and approval by the Commissioning Unit and RTA (via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form) and delivery of completed TE Audit Trail

  Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%
  - The final TE report includes all requirements outlined in the TE TOR and is in accordance with the TE guidance.
  - The final TE report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other MTR reports).
  - The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.

In line with the UNDP's financial regulations, when determined by the Commissioning Unit and/or the consultant that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and limitations to the TE, that deliverable or service will not be paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant invested time towards the deliverable but was unable to complete to circumstances beyond his/her control.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are requested to send in their offer by January 11th 2021. Individual consultants are invited to submit applications for this position.

Scope of Price Proposal and Schedule of Payments

Financial Proposal:

- Financial proposals must be "all inclusive" and expressed in a lump-sum for the total duration of the contract. The term "all inclusive" implies all cost (professional fees, travel costs, living allowances etc.);
- The lump sum is fixed regardless of changes in the cost components.

13. Recommended Presentation of Proposal

a) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template provided by UNDP;
b) **CV** and a **Personal History Form** (P11 form);

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c) **Brief description of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)

d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc.), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

All application materials should be submitted indicating the following reference "Consultant for Terminal Evaluation of *(Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting)*" by email at the following address ONLY: procurement.al@undp.org by *16.00 CET on 11.01.2021* . Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

14. Criteria for Selection of the Best Offer

Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated. Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method – where the educational background and experience on similar assignments will be weighted at 70% and the price proposal will weigh as 30% of the total scoring. The applicant receiving the Highest Combined Score that has also accepted UNDP's General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

15. Annexes to the TE ToR

(Original Annexes not included in TE report)

- ToR Annex A: Project Logical/Results Framework
- ToR Annex B: Project Information Package to be reviewed by TE consultant
- ToR Annex C: Content of the TE report
- ToR Annex D: Evaluation Criteria Matrix template
- ToR Annex E: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators
- ToR Annex F: TE Rating Scales and TE Ratings Table
- ToR Annex G: TE Report Clearance Form
- ToR Annex H: TE Audit Trail template

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Annex 2 Stakeholders Engaged in Terminal Evaluation

Stakeholders were contacted by email with a short series of questions that were tailored to the differing stakeholder groups (see Annex 5). Stakeholders chose to either address the questions by email or join the TE in discussion via Teams.

UNDP	
Mr. Nuno Queiros	Deputy RR
Ms. Elvita Kabashi	Head of Climate and Environment
Ms. Odeta Cato	Project Coordinator
Ms Ema Moci	Project Assistant
Ms. Nadezda Liscakova	IRH Lead Project Assistant
Ministry of Tourism and Environment	
Mr. Rezart Fshazi	GEF Operational Focal point
Mr. Pellumb Abeshi	(former GEF operational focal point) currently at the Flora Gene Bank of Albania
Ms. Klodiana Marika	Head of the Steering Committee, Department of Development Programmes on Environment, Convention of Biological Diversity Focal Point
Mr. Redi Baduni	Director of Projects and Feasibility Studies Department
Ms. Elvana Ramaj	Specialist of Biodiversity
Ms. Edlira Dersha	Environmental Statistics Specialist, Aarhus focal point
National Environmental Agency	
Mr. Edison Konomi	General Director NEA
Mr. Neritan Postoli	Director of Information and Statistics
Ms. Enkeleda Shkurta	Head of Environmental Information's Sector, GIS and Environmental Registers
Agency for Parks and Recreation- Tirana Municipality	
Ms. Erinda Fino	General Director
Ms. Migena Leksani	Head of Project Planning and Coordination
Ms. Miriam Koliqi	Public Relations
University of Tirana- Faculty of Natural Sciences	
Mr. Ferdinand Bego	Professor at University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Biology
Polytechnic University of Tirana- Department of Environmental Engineering	
Mr. Oltion Marko	Head of Environmental Engineering Department - Faculty of Civil Engineering
Civil Society Organizations	
Mr. Ivo Krug	Tek Bunkeri
Mr. Joost Beunderman	Dark Matter Labs
Mr. Meivis Struga	Environmental and Territorial Management Institute
Ms. Daniela Ruci	REC

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Annex 3 Documents Reviewed

The following documents were used in the development of this Terminal Evaluation Review.

1. GEF PIF
2. GEF CEO Endorsement Document
3. UNDP Project Document and annexes (including results framework)
4. Letter of Agreement between UNDP and Ministry of Tourism and Environment
5. Project Inception Report
6. Annual Project Reports (APRs)
7. UNDP's Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs)
8. Audit (2017)
9. UNDP Albania Country Programme Development (2017-2021)
10. Project outputs /reports
11. Project Steering Committee (PSC) /Project Board minutes
12. Technical Working Group minutes
13. Project Extension request

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Annex 4 Evaluation Matrix

UNDP/GEF: Albania Environmental Information and Monitoring System aligned with Global Environmental Reporting - draft Evaluation Matrix

(As presented in the TE Inception Report)

Evaluation Criteria/Questions	Detailed question	Indicator	Source	Methodology
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of national authorities and the GEF Focal Area?				
Is the project relevant to the multi-focal Areas	• How does the project support the Multifocal Focal Areas?	• Existence of clear relationship between the project objective and GEF MFA	• ProDoc • GEF MFA strategy	• Doc analysis • Interviews with PIU/UNDP
Is the project relevant to Albania's environment and sustainability objectives?	• How does the project support the environment and sustainable development objectives in Albania? • Is the project 'country driven'? • What is the level of stakeholder ownership in implementation? •	• Degree to which project supports national environmental objectives • Degree of coherence between project and national priorities etc. • Appreciation from national stakeholders to project design and implementation • Level of government involvement in the design of project	• ProDoc • National Policies, priorities and strategies • Project partners	• Document analyses • Interviews with UNDP • Interviews with project partners and national stakeholders
Is the project addressing the needs of target beneficiaries?	• How does the project support the needs of relevant stakeholders? • Has the implementation of the project been inclusive of all relevant stakeholders? • Were beneficiaries and stakeholders adequately involved in project design and implementation?	• Strength of the link between expected results from the project and the needs of relevant stakeholders • Degree of involvement and inclusiveness of stakeholders in project design and implementation	• Project partners and stakeholders • ProDoc • Needs assessment studies	• Document analyses • Interviews with partners & stakeholders
Is the project internally coherent in design?	• Are there logical linkages between expected results of the project (logframe) and the project design (in terms of project components, choice of partners, structure,	• Level of coherence between project expected results and project design internal logic • Level of coherence between project design and project implementation approach	• ProDoc • Project stakeholders	• Document analyses • Interviews with partners & stakeholders

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	delivery mechanism, scope, budget, use of resources etc)? • Is the length of the project sufficient to achieve project outcomes?			
How is the project relevant to other donor-supported activity?	• Does the GEF funding support activities and objectives not addressed by other donors? • How do GEF-funds help to fill gaps (or give additional stimulus) that are necessary but are not covered by other donors? • Is there coordination and complementarity between donors?	• Degree to which program was coherent and complementary to other donor programming nationally and regionally	• Donor representatives and documents • ProDoc • UNDP	• Document analyses • Interviews with partners & stakeholders
What lessons and experiences can be drawn regarding relevance for other GEF, UNDP and other donor projects?	• Has the experience of the project provided relevant lessons for other future projects?		• Data collected from MTE • Information from PIU, National representatives and UNDP CO/RTA	• Data analyses
Effectiveness: To what extent have/will the expected outcomes and objectives been achieved?				
Has the project been effective in moving towards achieving the expected outcomes and objectives?	• Have the outputs been delivered as planned? • Has the project been effective in achieving outcomes?	• Indicators from results framework	• ProDoc • Results framework • PIU, National representatives and UNDP CO/RTA • Stakeholders • PIR/APRs	• Document analyses • Interviews with project UNDP/PIU • Interviews with partners & stakeholders
How is risk and risk mitigation managed?	• How have risks, assumptions and impact drivers managed? • What was the quality of risk mitigation strategies developed (e.g. for impacts from earthquake and COVID 19)? Were these sufficient? • Are there clear strategies for risk mitigation related with	• Completeness of risk identification and assumptions during project planning and design • Quality of existing information systems in place to identify emerging risks and other issues • Quality of risk mitigations strategies developed and followed •	• ProDoc • PIU, National representatives and UNDP CO/RTA • Stakeholders • PIR/APR	• Document analyses • Interviews with project UNDP/PIU • Interviews with partners & stakeholders

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	long-term sustainability of the project •			
What lessons can be drawn regarding effectiveness for other GEF, UNDP and other donor projects?	• What lessons have been learned from the project regarding achievement of outcomes? • What changes could have been made (if any) to the design of the project in order to improve the achievement of the project's expected results?		• Data collected through TE	• Data analysis • Interviews with project UNDP/PIU •
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently in-line with international standards?				
Was project support provided in an efficient way?	• Was adaptive management used or needed to ensure efficient resource use? • Did the project logical framework and work plans and any changes made to them use as management tools during implementation? • Were the accounting and financial systems in place adequate for project management and producing accurate and timely financial information? • Were progress reports produced accurately, timely and responded to reporting requirements including adaptive management changes? • Was project implementation as cost effective as originally proposed (planned vs. actual) • Did the leveraging of funds (co-financing) happen as planned?	• Availability and quality of financial and progress reports • Timeliness and adequacy of reporting provided • Level of discrepancy between planned and utilized financial expenditures • Planned vs. actual funds leveraged • Cost in view of results achieved compared to costs of similar projects from other organizations • Quality of results-based management reporting (progress reporting, monitoring and evaluation) • Occurrence of change in project design/ implementation approach (i.e. restructuring) when needed to improve project efficiency • Cost associated with delivery mechanism and management structure compare to alternatives	• ProDoc • UNDP CO/RTA • National representatives • PIU	• Document analyses • Interviews with partners

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	• Were financial resources utilized efficiently? Could financial resources have been used more efficiently? • Was procurement carried out in a manner making efficient use of project resources? • How was results-based management used during project implementation?			
How efficient are partnership arrangements for the project?	• To what extent partnerships/ linkages between institutions/ organizations were encouraged and supported? • Which partnerships/linkages were facilitated? Which ones can be considered sustainable? • What was the level of efficiency of cooperation and collaboration arrangements? • Which methods were successful or not and why? •	• Specific activities conducted to support the development of cooperative arrangements between partners, • Examples of supported partnerships • Evidence that particular partnerships/linkages will be sustained • Types/quality of partnership cooperation methods utilized	• ProDoc • Project partners and stakeholders	• Document analysis • Interviews
What lessons can be drawn regarding efficiency for other GEF, UNDP and other donor projects?	• What lessons can be learnt from the project regarding efficiency? • How could the project have more efficiently carried out implementation (in terms of management structures and procedures, partnerships arrangements etc…)? • What changes could have been made (if any) to the project in order to improve its efficiency? •		• Data collected throughout evaluation	• Data analysis
Gender equality and women's empowerment: How did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment?				

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How have gender issues been integrated into project execution?	• Was a gender plan/strategy available for the project? • What information has been collected with regards to gender? • Has the project pro-actively promoted the involvement of women in the project?	• Presence of gender indicators in logframe Gender strategy available	• ProDoc/logframe • PSC minutes • Reports • PIRs	• UNDP • Stakeholder interviews
Financial Management				
Were the accounting and financial systems in place adequate for project management and producing accurate and timely financial information?	• Are financial and progress reports adequate? • Are there discrepancies between planned and utilized financial expenditures? •	• Reports from UNDP indicate delivery of financial statements • Audits completed and comments responded to	• UNDP • National Execution Agency • Project Manager • PIRs • PSC minutes	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders
Did the leveraging of funds (co-financing) happen as planned?	• Planned vs. actual funds leveraged •	• Comparison of co-finance expected and delivered	• PIRs • Project Manager • PSC minutes	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders
Monitoring and Reporting				
Were progress reports produced accurately, timely and responded to reporting requirements including adaptive management changes?	• Were progress reports adequate and timely? •	• Reports delivered on-time	• PSC • UNDP CO • National Execution Agency • GEF Secretariat	• Document analysis • Interviews
	•		•	•
Sustainability – To what extent have the countries, with the project's support, achieved benefits for an extended period of time after completion.				
How will the project results and outcomes be sustained after project completion?	• Do national plans exist to sustain EIMMS? •	• Existence of plans	• Reports • PSC minutes	• Document analysis • Interviews with stakeholders
How will the project assist in delivering socio-political sustainability?	• Do Reports indicating uptake of approaches?	Reports indicating uptake of approaches	• Reports and other outputs • PSC minutes • Stakeholders • PIRs	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders

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How has the project assisted in delivering /strengthening sustainable institutional frameworks?	• Is there evidence of sustainable links between partner institutions?	Evidence of sustainable links between partner institutions	• Reports and other outputs • PSC minutes • Stakeholders • PIRs	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders
How has the project facilitated financial sustainability?	• Is there evidence of financial sustainability for supporting EIMMS in partner organisations?	Evidence of financial sustainability for supporting EIMMS in partner organisations	• Reports and other outputs • PSC minutes • Stakeholders • PIRs	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders
What lessons can be drawn regarding sustainability for other GEF, UNDP and other donor projects?	• Are lessons and experiences released document in project reports? •	Documented lessons	• Reports and other outputs • PSC minutes • Stakeholders • PIRs	• Document analysis • Discussions with UNDP and stakeholders

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Annex 5 – Interview Guide

Targeted questionnaires for stakeholder groups

a) UNDP

- Were there any issues (positive or negative) in the development of the project concept or CEO Endorsement document dealing with the GEFSec or national stakeholders?
- In your opinion, was the PIU effective and efficient in dealing with problems as they arose in project execution? In your opinion, were Project Inception, Project Steering Committee meetings, Technical Working Group meetings effective at guiding the project execution?
- Do you have any comments on the interactions between the PIU and the project Execution Agency (Ministry of Tourism and Environment), or other national stakeholders?
- Do you have any views on the likelihood of the sustainability of the EIMMS within the ministry? Do you think further support is needed from international donors to ensure the sustainability?
- Are there any lessons from the project execution that could be of benefit to other GEF or UNDP initiatives nationally, regionally or globally (e.g. on project development, crisis management, innovation, relationship with main beneficiary, etc.)?

b) Ministry of Tourism and Environment / National Environment Agency/ Parks and Recreation Agency

(Please respond to the questions that are most relevant to you and your work with the project)

- What was your involvement with the project?
- How has the work of the project been relevant to your organisation's activities?
- What is your perception of the interaction of the project with stakeholders? Do you think their needs were met?
- How has the project interacted with other environmental actions in Albania?
- In your view, what have been the main achievements and lessons (positive and negative) of the project? Can you give some examples?
- How has the project assisted with national information management and monitoring in Albania? Please give some examples if possible
- Do you think that the project has been effective in delivering the outputs you expected from this GEF actions? What has been the most and least effective from your perspective?
- If you attended project meetings, were these effectively organised and managed? If not, what was wrong/could have been improved?
- Could you comment on relevance, timeliness and quality of the (i) workshops, (ii) training, (iii) reports, and (iv) communications delivered by the project.
- Did you receive any expected reports on the progress of the project? Were these provided on-time?

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- What was good/less good in the collaboration?
- How will the EIMMS be supported post-project?
- How has the project responded to the impacts from the earthquake and COVID 19? What more could have been done under these circumstances?

c) Academia/CSOs/Consultants

(Please respond to the questions that are most relevant to you and your work with the project)

- What was your involvement with the project?
- How has the work of the project been relevant to your organisation's activities?
- What is your perception of the interaction of the project with stakeholders? Do you think their needs were met?
- How has the project interacted with other environmental actions in Albania?
- In your view, what have been the main achievements and lessons (positive and negative) of the project? Can you give some examples?
- How has the project assisted with national information management and monitoring in Albania? Please give some examples if possible
- Do you think that the project has been effective in delivering the outputs you expected from this GEF actions? What has been the most and least effective from your perspective?
- If you attended project meetings, were these effectively organised and managed? If not, what was wrong/could have been improved?
- Have the voices of stakeholders been effectively heard by the project?
- Did the project effectively communicate what it was doing and its achievements?
- From your perspective, has the project been effectively and efficiently managed? If not, what issues did you observe?
- Did partnerships/linkages to institutions and ministries deliver good collaboration? What was good/less good in the collaboration?
- How will/could the EIMMS be supported post-project?

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Annex 6 Achievements of Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
Outcome 1: Harmonization and enhancement of the national environmental information portal using the existing Protected Area database to address global environmental conventions needs	Degree to which the national environmental information portal has been harmonized and enhanced using existing data sources to address global environmental conventions needs	Key government staff in at least 3 offices and Rio Conventions experts from the three conventions use the EIMMS in the course of their official duties	• EIMMS developed and implemented in MTE • EIMMS used by: ○ MTE ○ CBD/UNCCD focal points ○ NEA Sector of Statistics and PRTR • Over 150 staff (ministry, NEA and regional agencies) using EIMMS • Opensource platform has encouraged wide stakeholder use.	**Outcome 1** is rated as **HS** Exit strategy will be completed after the finalisation of this TE
Output 1.1 Need and resources assessment including on costs to achieve more cost-effective and relevant data collection and maintenance (identification of users and their information needs at the local and national level).	Understanding of key data needs and data gaps at local levels and the national level	A survey, including high priority data needs, is completed by the end of Q3 of project implementation and available for use by project partners.	• Completed	**S** Delivered Q3
		The environmental and information management data needs are identified for Rio Conventions and EEA requirements by the end Q4.	• Data management needs confirmed	Delivered Q4
		Gender-sensitive recommendations are developed by the end of Q4 of	• Report/recommendations completed	Delivered Q4

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Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
		project implementation for community use of data.		
Output 1.2: Elaboration of environmental information management system with development of standards, meta databases to its effective implementation	Presence of necessary fields for data collection in the protected areas component of the EIMMS Availability and usage of guidelines on database management (QA/QC, data storage, data protection) Availability and usage of technical guidance on database administration	By the end of Q8, an external technical review of the database indicates that the necessary fields for data collection are included (and have been added or modified where relevant). By the end of Q8, an external review indicates that the necessary technical guidance for database use and management has been developed, including guidelines for QA / QC and data storage and protection At Q8 and Q16, a survey of system users and administrators indicates that they are aware of technical documentation and can provide examples where methodological guidance is followed as a part of their routine jobs duties.	• Completed by Q4 • Completed and populated with data • Surveys completed by Nov 18 • Updated survey undertaken in Dec 20 • Survey supported by: ○ Research on environment governance ○ 1st hackathon on indicators with civil society	**HS** Delivered Q4 Delivered Q15 – Q16 Delivered Q11 Completed updated survey and training of trainers on EIMMS from MTE and UNDP. Completed Q15 Completed Q16
Output 1.3: Development of data and information centres	Operational data and information centers	By the end of Q12, two information centers are operational and can demonstrate use by project stakeholders	• Centres established and operational: ○ Tirana Aarhus Centre (hosted by MTE)	**HS** Operational by Q7 Operational by Q5

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
	Degree of replication of data and information centers Consideration of broadening the use of these centers	By the end of Q16, database access and use are observed in at least four entities. By the end of Q16, a report has been produced with recommendations on the feasibility of expanding database access to further sites	○ Info-point (within Tirana Grand Park) • Database used by: ○ MTE ○ Aarhus Centre ○ NEA ○ Agency of Protected Areas	All operational by Q16 when the system was finalized.
Outcome 2: Key global caliber environmental indicators are set at national level and associated baseline information is recorded	Extent to which key global caliber environmental indicators are set at the national level and associated baseline information is recorded	Global caliber environmental indicators and baseline information have been established for all key fields in the protected areas, climate change and land degradation sector Use of EIMMS documented in the formulation of at least one report to a Rio Conventions.	• Environmental indicators established • 158 indicators that include also climate, land degradation, hydrology and air assessed • EIMMS portal used to report national data to UNCCD	**Outcome 2** is rated as **Highly Satisfactory**
Output 2.1: An effective set of environmental monitoring indicators is modified from existing ones or developed	Adoption of appropriate norms, indicators, and standards for environmental monitoring in the sector of protected areas Degree to which improved indicators lead to improved reporting to the Rio Conventions	By end of Q8, assessment of institutional and legal arrangements including bylaws. By the end of Q12, dictionary developed including norms, indicators, and/or standards	• Completed • Dictionary for 158 indicators developed	**HS** Completed Q 3 - Q 4 Completed Q6

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Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
	Degree to which improved indicators lead to improved environmental monitoring the national level	have contributed to reporting for at least 1 Rio Conventions. By the end of Q16, the dictionary - indicators, and/or standards have been adopted for use in the government's environmental database system more broadly	• Completed (national report to UNCCD utilising EIMMS) in 2018 • Further development: ○ EIMMS portal has standardised data collection/reporting in Albania ○ Trained officials ○ Adoption into national policies (2019) ○ 1st study on Land Degradation Neutrality targets & indicators developed	Completed Q16 Completed Q14 Completed Q14
Output 2.2: Baseline information for environmental indicators is compiled	Presence of "learning by doing" activities for data collection and analysis Collection of baseline data through activities under this output and inclusion of these data in the EIMMS	By Q8, baseline data have been collected and analyzed for all or nearly all fields of the database identified in Output 1.2. By Q12, a synthesis report is finalized and available summarizing "learning by doing" activities on baseline data collection and analysis	• Achieved Achieved	**HS** Completed Q8 Completed Q12 - Including: Assessment of Albania's National Capacities on Environment monitoring, the indicator dictionary, the EIMMS system and environmental governance and innovation.
Outcome 3: Stakeholders' capacity for information management (collection	Amount by which stakeholders' capacity for information management and	Visualization of data used by project partners to raise awareness of at least 2	• MoU to increase awareness on data signed between UNDP and:	**Outcome 3** is rated as **Highly Satisfactory**

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
processing) and utilization (interpretation and reporting (sharing)) for global environmental reporting needs is enhanced at the national and local level.	utilization for global environmental reporting needs is enhanced at the national and local level	international and 3 national issues.	○ MTE ○ Polytechnique University ○ University of Gjirokaskra At the international level issues are Climate Change and Land Degradation. At the national level Green House Gases Emissions Inventory, Measurement of soil erosion through the Erosion Potential Method (EPM), environmental innovation.	
Output 3.1: Training curricula (data management and information management) and regular training modules developed and tested in collaboration with training institutions active in environment. Training of Trainers sessions conducted	Training module in data and information management Training of trainers	By the end of Q4, training needs assessments will be complete for both government and nongovernmental institutions. Curriculum for training developed and available for use by the end of Q8.	• Completed • Curriculum developed • Training – the – trainers completed	**HS** Completed Q4- Q8 Completed Q8 Completed Q14

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
Output 3.2: Provision of training in data and information management for Ministry staff responsible for monitoring and evaluation and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) representatives	Provision of training to project partner agencies	By the end of Q8, pilot training on information management and monitoring has been provided stakeholders (taking gender representation into account).	• Completed (MTE and NEA)	Completed Q9 – Q10 focused on three main thematic fields of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme: Biodiversity, Land Protection, Air Quality and Climate Change with NEA and REAs
	Provision of training to CSO representatives	By the end of Q16, additional training that incorporates feedback from participants is provided to project stakeholders (taking gender representation into account).	• Completed (CSOs)s with 35 participants (71% women) in Durres (2018) and 42 participants (43% women) and various locations in 2019	A total of 42 individuals attended the three training activities. Of these 42 participants, 30% were senior specialists on monitoring environmental licenses and 70% were junior specialists on monitoring environmental licenses. Also 18 or 43 % of the participants were women and 24 or 57% were men.
		By the end of Q16, training activities are reported in at least one report or official communication to a Rio Convention or Conventions	• 6th National Report to CBD notes data collection by universities and NGOs and references the project and EIMMS.	
Output 3.3: Data used to inform reporting, outreach and policymaking	Data-driven reports used to brief environmental policymakers	By the end of Q8, a topical report or reports completed under Output 3.3 on a national or subnational environmental is completed and is presented in a briefing to policymakers.	• Completed	Completed Q8 to Q16 (consultant reports are mostly environmental data driven reports)
	Data-driven reports used to inform reporting on the Rio Conventions	By the end of Q16, a topical report or reports completed under Output 3.3 on a global issue is completed and is	• The National Report on UNCCD was developed with the use of EIMMS	Completed Q 11 Completed Q 14

DocuSign Envelope ID: 1E6EA4AF-C27F-45E2-AA22-E36ABB14D20A

Outcome/Output	Indicator	Target	Achievement	TE Comment/ Outcome/Output Rating
		published in at least one report or official communication to a Rio Convention or Conventions.	• A study on Land Degradation Neutrality was developed	
Output 3.4: Environmental monitoring used to raise awareness of global environmental issues	Presence of a community-based monitoring or citizen science program involving environmental information / monitoring Level of awareness at the local level of community-based monitoring Level of awareness at the level of national project partners regarding community	By the end of Q12, a community-based monitoring program is underway involving at least 3 schools and/or communities (taking gender representation into account). By the end of the project, key stakeholders in the community are aware of the program, and relevant entities management staff are aware of the results	• Completed in partnership with MTE – involving 24 schools on 'citizen science' (gender data was not collected) • MoUs (with MTE, Universities etc.) to: ○ Increase capacity on managing environmental data for reporting to MEAs ○ Data visualisation ○ Citizen science activities (involving 14 students – 50% women) to link land use management and erosion /run-off	All completed by Q6 (end of school year) Some citizen science small grant projects are still underway at the time of the TE

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Annex 7 Co-financing Tables

Co-financing (type/source)	UNDP financing (US $M)		Government (US $M)		Partner Agency (US $M)		Total (US $M)	
	Planned	**Actual**	**Planned**	**Actual**	**Planned**	**Actual**	**Planned**	**Actual**
Grants	50,000	50,401	100,000	100,192			150,000	150,593
Loans / Concessions								
In-kind support					5,279,700[a]	4,496,882	5,279,700	4,496,882
Other								
Totals	50,000	50,401	100,000	100,192	5,279,700	4,496,882	5,429,700	4,647,476

[a] as presented in UNDP Project Document

Source of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment mobilised	Amount (US$)
Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	100,192
GEF Implementing Agency	UNDP Albania	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	50,402
GEF Implementing Agency	UNDP Albania (Territorial and Administrative Reform Project)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	2,000,000
NGO	REC Albania	In-kind	Investment mobilised	50,482
Bilateral Donor	German Development Cooperation (GIZ)	In-kind	Investment mobilised	2,267,600
Donor	French Coastal Agency	In-kind	Investment mobilised	108,800
NGO	Institute for Nature Conservation of Albania	In-kind	Investment mobilised	70,000
Total				**4,647,476**

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Annex 8 Terminal Evaluation Rating Scale

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight, Execution, Relevance	Sustainability ratings:
6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings 5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings 2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment	4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability 3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability 1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability

Evaluation Ratings Table	
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating[9]
M&E design at entry	
M&E Plan Implementation	
Overall Quality of M&E	
Implementation & Execution	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	
Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	
Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	
Effectiveness	
Efficiency	
Overall Project Outcome Rating	
Sustainability	Rating
Financial resources	
Socio-political/economic	
Institutional framework and governance	
Environmental	
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	

[9] Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, I&E Execution, Relevance are rated on a 6-point rating scale: 6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS), 5 = Satisfactory (S), 4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS), 3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), 2 = Unsatisfactory (U), 1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability is rated on a 4-point scale: 4 = Likely (L), 3 = Moderately Likely (ML), 2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU), 1 = Unlikely (U)

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Annex 9 Signed UNEG Code of Conduct

The Evaluator:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. He/She should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. The Evaluator must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. The Evaluator is not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. The Evaluator should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Evaluator must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. He/She should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, the evaluator should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders 'dignity and self-worth.
6. Is responsible for the performance and the product(s). Is responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form[6]

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: Peter Shalley

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): —

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *placeon date* Malmesbury UK, 24/3/21

Signature: Peter Shalley

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Annex 10 – Signed Terminal Evaluation Report Clearance Form

Terminal Evaluation Report for *(*Establishing Albania's Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System Aligned with the Global Reporting *#5308*)

Reviewed and Cleared By:

Commissioning Unit (M&E Focal Point)

Name: Nuno Queiros, Deputy Resident Representative

Signature: _____ Date: May 13, 2021

Regional Technical Advisor (Nature, Climate and Energy)

Name: Adnan Kareem

Signature: Adnan Kareem Date: 18-May-2021