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PROGRAM

**PROJECT**  
**“ALBANIAN NATIONAL CAPACITY SELF-  
ASSESSMENT FOR GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT”**

**NCSA Albania**  
**Final Report**

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The report is elaborated under UNDP/GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management project teams for Albania under the coordination and supervision of Klodiana Marika – National Project Manager

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## List of Acronyms

AL	Albania
APCD	Action Plan to Combat Desertification
ASCI	Areas of Special Conservation Interest
ASP	Agricultural Services Project
ANFI	Albanian National Forestry Inventory Project
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)
BRI	Biological Research Institute
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Program
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CCF	UNDP Country Cooperation Framework
COP	Conference of the Parties
EA	Ecosystem Approach
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EEA	European Environmental Agency
FPRI	Forest and Pasture Research Institute
FRI	Fishery Research Institute
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
GDFP	General Directorate of Forests and Pastures
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEF/SGP	Global Environmental Facility/Small Grant Program
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoA	Government of Albania
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MKOE	MillieuKontakt Ooast Europa
MNS	Museum of Natural Sciences
MN	Montenegro
FSD	Forestry Services Directorates
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MoAFPC	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Protection of Consumers
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Administration
MoTCYS	Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports
MTBP	Medium-Term Budget Program
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NCNB	National Council for Nature and Biodiversity
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NCTA	National Council of Territorial Adjustment
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations

NSSD	National Strategy for Socio-Economic Development
PEEN	Pan European Ecological Network
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
RDoAF	Regional Directorates of Agriculture and Food
RoA	Republic of Albania
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SC	Steering Committee
SPAs	Specially Protected Areas
SRF	UNDP Country Strategic Results Framework
SRI	Soil Research Institute
SU	Sustainable Use
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Today's growth in human population and a sharp increase in consumption have turned environmental problems into issues of global significance. People have understood that the future of our planet depends on how countries are able to agree on common rules to ensure that human existence on the Earth lasts as long as possible. In 1983 the UN General Assembly established the independent World Commission on Environment and Development aiming to define global problems and seeking solutions thereto. The 1987 Brundtland Report *Our Common Future* (I, II) defined the principle of sustainable development as development "which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro was a major breakthrough in this respect, formulating the concept of sustainable development.

The principles of maintaining the quality of the environment and using its resources in a balanced manner have been set out in three documents approved by the UN member states, dealing with the different facets of the natural and human environment. These documents are generally known as the Rio conventions:

- The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, whose main objective is conservation of biological diversity at its various levels, both occurring naturally and in domesticated or cultivated form.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whose principal objective is to control and slow down the increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere and to develop measures to mitigate the effects of possible climate changes.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, whose principal objective in the narrower sense is to put a stop to the worsening of the environment in the arid climatic zone and in a broader sense to protect the soil as a valuable global resource.

Albania has become a Party to three above-mentioned Conventions after 1990-s which corresponds to the country's change of regime and participation in international agreements on environmental protection.

Albania ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on January 1994. Albania became a Party of the UNCCD on 2000 April 27, after its accession on December 1999.

As part of the global economic, cultural and environmental arena, Albania's development will only proceed by adequately taking into account, global processes and trends. The principles of the conventions, as well as of the European Union environmental policy, have been established as priority areas for the next ten years. Acceding to the conventions means that the provisions thereof take precedence over domestic law and activities, and countries are bound by the international commitments undertaken under the conventions. Given the broad scope of application of the individual conventions, the specific nature of local circumstances and the needs and interests of the states, the environmental and

economic policy acts may in practice turn out to be in conflict with the objectives of the conventions.

Albania, with the support of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), has initiated a self-assessment process to lead to a better understanding of capacity development needs in the context of Albania's priorities for addressing global environment challenges, and to gain a better understanding of how the global environmental management system may assist Albania to address these capacity development needs. The National Capacity needs Self Assessment (NCSA), project was implemented by a broad-based working group and operating under the guidance of a Steering Committee (SC), comprising significant stakeholders identified in NCSA process. Steering Committee is composed by representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (Chair of the SC), Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (Institute of Soil Studies), Ministry of Energy and Transport (National Agency of Energy, Ministry of Local Government, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as ECAT Tirana and REC Albania.

The objective of the National Capacity Self Assessment was to assess capacity needs and priorities with respect to the global environment and within the context of sustainable development so that Albania can meet the requirements of the Global Environmental Conventions in a coordinated and strategic manner. The NCSA took into account the Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation and was focus on cross-cutting issues and synergies between the Conventions. The NCSA will result in the preparation of a National Action Plan that will describe in practical terms the activities should be implemented to address the capacity constraints identified in the assessment. In addition to contributing towards global environmental goals, the NCSA will have direct benefits for environmental management and sustainable development in Albania.

The project was introduced to the GoA and to the key stakeholders identified during the inception workshop held in April 2005.

The first phase of the project was devoted to stock taking and collecting of baseline information relating to the individual conventions.

In this phase the methodological guidelines for NCSA process was provided. The assessment process consists in three levels namely systemic, institutional and individual.

In the second phase thematic profiles focused on the assessment of capacity needs for implementation of each individual convention in Albania were developed. Capacity

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