

# *Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe*

*Needs assessment for Albania*

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## PREFACE

The aim of the project „Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe“ is to support Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in formulating actions on the basis of their Environmental Performance Reviews in order to achieve relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

The project should assist national stakeholders, in particular the ministries responsible for environmental issues, to contribute to the revision of sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aligning them with the SDGs. This is to be achieved by building the national capacities to assess priority needs in environmental governance and facilitating the national action to integrate evidence-based environmental policies into sector-specific and cross-sectoral strategies aimed at the achievement of SDGs.

This assessment report aims to contribute to the first step of this project, in order to facilitate the recognition of the right outcome for each specific country, whether it should be the national action plan or a certain policy package for implementing recommendations coming from EPR in line with the SDGs.

In September 2015 Albania, along with 192 other United Nations (UN) member states, committed to the implementation of Transforming Our World—The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. From that moment the Government of Albania has worked on integration and mainstreaming of the Agenda 2030 across the national development policy framework. An inter-Ministerial Committee and inter-Institutional Working Group have been operational since May 2017. The Prime Minister's office in 2017 released a Baseline Report that presented available data against the SDG indicators. The Parliament approved a resolution committing to the promotion, implementation, and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, through inclusive and broad-based development processes, in line with Albania's development priorities and EU integration. A Voluntary National Report (VNR) was presented to the UN High Level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2018, while preparation of a budget analysis related to the cost of SDG implementation, and an INSTAT needs assessment is on-going.

The country was the host of the first "Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support" (MAPS) mission in the Western Balkans during 16-20 April 2018, performed with support of UN Development Group (UNDG). The results of this mission are published in the MAPS report in September 2018. By showing the strong complementarities between Agenda 2030 and the SDGs on the one hand and the EU accession agenda on the other, this report (from this mission) describes how the national implementation of Agenda 2030 can accelerate progress towards EU accession—while also helping Albania to better address important development challenges that are not central to the EU accession agenda.

For the purpose of this assessment, the expert analysed recommendations of the recently published third EPR of Albania and in particular SDGs covered by this review, outcomes of the Baseline Report on the harmonization of sustainable development goals with existing sectoral policies, Albanian Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Report on Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania. The EU Progress Report (2018) for Albania has been also taken into account.

The prioritised actions presented as result of this assessment do not necessarily represent priorities in environmental governance of the country in the global context or in the context of EU integration or aligning national agenda with Agenda 2030, but priorities which can be reasonably best supported by this particular project, taking into account all of the mentioned aspects and their cross-cutting nature.

## The third Environmental Performance Review of Albania

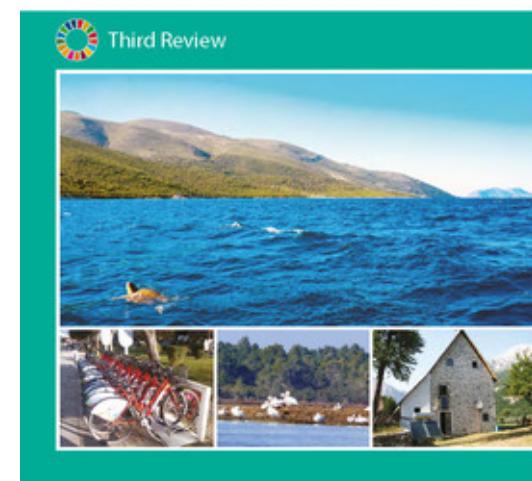
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Albania was reviewed for the first time in the scope of the UNECE Environmental Performance Review Programme in 2002. The second review followed in 2012, and the third in 2018.

Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) are assessments of the progress of countries of the ECE region in reconciling their environmental and economic targets and in meeting their international environmental commitments. While first-cycle EPRs established baseline conditions regarding trends, policy commitments, institutional arrangements and routine capabilities for carrying out national evaluations, second-cycle EPRs assessed progress and helped to stimulate better implementation and financing of the environment policy, integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors, and promotion of sustainable development. In the third cycle, since 2017, EPRs include the review of relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and provide recommendations to the countries on the achievement of SDGs. The third EPR of Albania was actually the first exercise of designing the Environmental Performance Review in a way to assist the country in the achievement and monitoring of relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Environmental performance reviews do not cover the whole range of issues addressed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They can support the achievement and monitoring of those Goals and/or targets from the 2030 Agenda that are relevant for the particular review content requested by the country under review. However, in the majority of cases, the relevant Goals and/or targets would be environment-related. The related recommendations provided in environmental performance review reports should aim to support the achievement of relevant Goals and/or targets by a country under review. Such recommendations can provide advice, for example, on the need to improve legislation and its enforcement or on additional and/or alternative measures to support the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and/or targets.

The third EPR of Albania covers legal and policy frameworks, greening the economy, environmental monitoring, public participation and education for sustainable development. Furthermore, the EPR addresses issues of specific importance to the country related to air protection, biodiversity and protected areas, as well as water, waste and chemicals management. It also examines the efforts of Albania to integrate environmental considerations into its policies in the transport, energy and industry sectors. The review further provides a substantive and policy analysis of the country's climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and its participation in international mechanisms. In total 11 chapters this EPR provides 56 various recommendations. The list of all recommendations from the third EPR of Albania is provided in the Annex I, Table 1.

As elaborated above, in accordance with the structure of the report, the 3rd EPR of Albania covers partially 11 SDGs, elaborating on certain targets which are rather directly connected with relevant recommendations. The list of Sustainable Development Goals/targets covered by the report is provided in the Annex I, Table 2.



*Although a number of recommendations provided in the 3rd EPR of Albania could be connected with various SDGs/targets, this assessment focused on SDGs/targets which were explicitly elaborated in relevant chapters and recommendations. For example, recommendation 11.1(Alternatives in energy supply) is directly connected to the SDG 7(Affordable and clean energy), but, since this goal was not elaborated in the EPR, it was not taken into consideration within this assessment. Out of total 56 recommendations, it is considered that 19 are not directly connected to the relevant SDGs/targets. Relations between EPR recommendations and SDGs/targets are presented in Annex 1, Table 3.*

*Taking into account the number of SDGs related recommendations from the third EPR of Albania, further prioritisation steps were taken in order to narrow the focus on the most relevant actions which could be realized within the project on Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe.*

*Beside elaboration of specific SDGs/targets throughout EPR, the Chapter 1 - Legal, policy and institutional framework provides information on general institutional set-up for coordination of SDGs implementation and monitoring, policy framework, awareness and aligning SDGs implementation and monitoring with the EU accession process. It recognizes the following challenges:*

- *the vision for 2030, since the current planning documents in the country have the horizon of 2020 or, in a few cases, 2025;*
- *the targets to be proposed for Albania need to be not only meaningful for the country but also measurable in the short term, to allow the monitoring of progress and to inform policymaking;*
- *importance of aligning SDGs implementation as much as possible with the EU accession process, in terms of both content and process;*
- *awareness of the SDGs among civil society, academia and the private sector is still low.*

## **Review of implementation of EPR recommendations**

Although the third EPR of Albania was only recently launched (September 2018), there is already certain progress in achievement of some recommendations given throughout the report. Beside the presentation of the progress achieved, this section aims to give a brief overview of the status of affairs in policy areas elaborated in EPR chapters, facilitating needs assessment by highlighting already recognized gaps and needs.

The Chapter on Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework provides 10 recommendations which are related to various specific issues but can be summarized as follows: it is recommended to improve legal and policy framework through certain instruments, enhance implementation and monitoring of SDGs and persist in capacity building through training of staff on various levels.

Improvement of legal and policy framework are on-going long-term activities which are strongly supported through EU integration process. EU progress report for 2018 recognises progress in Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change, which contributed to the positive opinion to the general progress made by Albania and set out the path towards opening accession negotiations with the country in June 2019. This will give an additional impetus for further improvement of legal and policy framework aligning it with relevant EU legal and policy documents. EPR recommends further development of secondary legislation, reporting on law enforcement and improvement of enforcement through strengthening of environmental inspection, improvement of strategic planning and better application of specific instruments like Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

Further on, it was recommended (Recommendation 1.6) to strengthen the institutional framework to guide efforts to achieve the SDGs and the monitoring of progress towards them, as well as to ensure the reporting on progress towards achievement of SDGs. There is a significant progress related to this recommendation: the National Committee on SDGs was established in May 2017, Voluntary National Review was presented to the UN High Level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2018, other important activities such as preparation of a budget analysis and an INSTAT needs assessment are ongoing.

This set of recommendations has strong focus on the need to train staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, staff of sectoral ministries as well as staff working on local level.

In the area of green economy, EPR provides 7 recommendations. It states that: "The country has experienced significant progress in economic growth, towards which some green economy sectors have also been deriving, as the figures on energy, fisheries and tourism show." However, it points out the necessity of development of private sector through better access to loans, insurance of funds to finance environment protection activities through an environmental fund, as well as the need for further fiscal decentralisation to enable public utility companies to improve their performance in resource efficiency. Moreover, this set of recommendations also highlights the need for development and implementation of strategy in the area of tourism (Recommendation 2.5) in order to enhance valorisation of high-value natural areas, which was also recognized by the Recommendation 9.1.

There is some progress to be noted in relation to the Recommendation 2.6 on energy market liberalization, particularly with regard to renewable energy sources. According to the Implementation Report for 2018 of the Secretariat of the Energy Community, Albania made significant progress towards the 38% renewable energy target for 2020. At present, renewables support is granted through feed-in tariffs and the first auction for a 50 MW solar PV plant was launched in August 2018.

Chapter 3 on **Environmental monitoring**, information, public participation and education brings 4 recommendations on increase of funding for environmental monitoring, an operational integrated environmental management system, better reporting on the state of environment and enhancing education for sustainable development. The progress was made in budgeting of environmental monitoring, the total budget for monitoring planned in 2019 is 439 900 €. Annual report on the state of environment (2017) including DSPIR indicator framework was published on NEA website.

The set of three recommendations given in the chapter on implementation of international agreements and commitments refer to necessity of administrative capacity building, access to information and **involvement of NGOs** as well as participation in MEAs that Albania is not a party to. The progress was achieved in Assessment of the legislation and of the capacities of main institutions for the implementation of Minamata Convention in Albania, but the Convention still has not been ratified.

The chapter on Climate change also provided three recommendations: to integrate impact of climate change in relevant studies and local urban plans, implement policies to increase resilience and raise awareness on climate change. In February 2018 Global Environmental Fund approved project to assist Albania in preparation of its First Biennial Update Report and Fourth National Communication under the UNFCCC.

The chapter on air quality brings five recommendations related to accreditation for air quality monitoring, enlargement and re-composition of air quality network, regular assessing of impact of air pollution on human health and reducing pressures on air quality from agriculture and consumption of energy through organic farming, energy efficiency, use of renewable energy **and promotion of circular economy**. According to the NEA's Report on the state of environment for 2017 and the Programme of environmental monitoring for 2019 no progress was made in improvement of the air quality monitoring. In November 2018 Albania provided data on air quality for the regional study „Air Pollution and Human Health: The Case of the Western Balkan" which is under the preparation by WHO and UNEP.

The chapter on water management also recommends improvement of environmental monitoring in accordance with EU Water Framework Directive, development of the river basin management plans as well as adoption of the strong policy framework for water supply and sewerage, including functioning of water utility companies. The report on Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania (2018) also points out on multiple challenges in integrated water management in Albania which are yet to be overcome.

Chapter on waste and chemicals management provides six recommendations related to establishment of **viable market for recyclables**, better tariff schemes for waste management, **cleaning of industrial hot-spots**, improvement of data collection on hazardous waste and chemicals and capacity building in the area of chemical management. Currently, there is an on-going project on preparation of legislation on chemicals and ratification of Minamata Convention led by UNDP office in Albania.

Third EPR of Albania provides four recommendations related to biodiversity, forestry and protected areas. The report states that biodiversity monitoring shows some progress, but little progress was achieved in forest monitoring. As of 2016, municipalities are responsible for sustainable management of forests, including monitoring. It is recommended to build capacities on local level for sustainable forest management and assist municipalities in the process of implementation of these new functions. Moreover, recommendations tackle forest certification and improvement of legislation in this area.

Transport and environment were also assessed in the report. Five recommendations are related to adoption of sustainable transport plan, investment in public transport and establishment of taxation system in order to change unfavourable structure of vehicle fleet. It also points out to the need for improvement of road safety and importance of maritime transport, including accession to MARPOL

Convention (Annex VI). In line with the recommendation 10.3 to prohibit the import of polluting vehicles into the country, in October 2018 Albania banned the imports of all vehicles more than 10 years old and not meeting the Euro standards.

Finally, in the chapter on energy, industry and environment there are 7 recommendations which are directed to diversification of energy mix with renewables other than hydroelectric power and use of natural gas in industrial activities, environmental analysis of the oil extraction industry, improvement of legislation in line with EU Directive on industrial emissions, rehabilitation of abandoned industrial sites and recovery of industrial waste. Promotion of innovation in the processing industry is also recommended. In January 2018 the Government of Albania approved the Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2018–2020 aimed at creating a comprehensive investment legal framework for domestic and foreign investors compatible with international good practices.

### Sustainable Development Goals in Albania



The Government of Albania established National Committee on SDGs in May 2017 as a political-level body mandated to guide implementation of the SDGs in the country. Coordination of SDGs implementation and monitoring is done by the Department of Development and Good Governance in the Prime Minister's Office, through its Development and Good Governance Policies Unit, which serves as a technical secretariat of the National Committee on SDGs. On 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the Albanian Parliament unanimously approved a resolution confirming the country's commitment to Agenda 2030 and achievement of the SDGs.

An informal group between representatives of UN agencies and the National Institute for Statistics has been established to advance the work on SDG indicators, in particular to identify data providers and data sources for SDG indicators, as well as data and methodological gaps. The draft Official Statistical Programme for the period 2017–2021 provides for an obligation on relevant institutions to collect and provide data for indicators included in the Programme.

The United Nations Country Team has been strongly supporting the activities related to the SDGs. The United Nations Resident Coordinator has appointed an SDG Focal Point who worked from 2016 to early 2017 in close cooperation with the Government and the United Nations agencies in the country. Later, the United Nations and the Government of Albania established a joint SDG task force to guide cooperation on SDGs implementation.

The important achievement is that the NSDI-II – the main visionary and planning document of the country – is explicitly aligned to the SDGs. The NSDI-II declares that the Government is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the SDGs are compatible with and complementary to Albania's strategic goals associated with European integration and national development. Its Annex 3 presents linkages between the SDGs and the main NSDI-II components. Albania's Parliament has unanimously approved a resolution confirming the country's commitment to Agenda 2030 as it plays an important role in monitoring achievement of the SDGs.

In 2017, the Government, with the assistance of the United Nations, drafted a baseline report, collecting available data against the SDG indicators, and a national action plan on the SDGs. It was followed by Voluntary National Review, which was presented to the UN High Level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2018, while preparation of a budget analysis for cost of SDGs implementation, and an INSTAT needs assessment, is on-going.

### **Baseline Report**

Report on the harmonization of Sustainable Development Goals with existing sectoral policies (Baseline Report) was adopted in January 2018. The report analyses alignment of the Albanian strategic framework with SDGs, target by target, but also provides very valuable information on institutional responsibilities towards SDGs implementation and monitoring.

Taking into account that the main beneficiary of this project is the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, another step of prioritization of SDGs/targets and EPR recommendations related to it was applied on the basis of whether or not the particular SDGs target is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. There are some targets (10) which are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment but were not elaborated in the EPR. The list of SDGs targets under the primary responsibility of the Ministry is provided in Annex 1 – Table 4.

One of the main findings of the National Baseline Report is that degrees of SDGs alignment with Albania's national development policy framework are not uniform. Albania's policy framework is most harmonised with the SDG targets in Goal 3: Good health and well-being, Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy, Goal 8: Good jobs and economic growth, and Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, while the least harmonisation is with Goal 14: Life below water. Taking into account the previous analysis in this report, it makes targets within the Goal 14 which are considered in EPR and are under responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment prioritized status in terms of actions which might be supported by this project. In addition, targets under goals 12 and 15 are also considered only partially aligned with national development policy framework in the Baseline Report.

### **MAPs**

The report on Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania was launched in September 2018 and is a result of cooperation of the Government of Albania, technical experts from UN agencies' global and regional offices and World Bank staff. Apart from an in-depth analysis of the current state of affairs and presentation of acceleration platforms for implementation of SDGs, this report identifies 15 EU accession negotiating chapters and twelve SDGs where indicator-level convergence between the two agendas seems strongest. It also identifies 83 global SDG indicators (most of which are based on internationally comparable methodologies approved by the UN Statistical Commission) that could be used to monitor Albania's progress in meeting criteria for potential EU accession set forth in the EU's most recent (April 2018) annual report. Use of these indicators for both SDG and EU accession monitoring and reporting would promote development policy coherence.

The list of global SDG indicators related to Chapter 27 (Environment and Climate Change) within EU negotiation process is provided in the Annex 1 – Table 5.

### **Voluntary National Review (VNR)**

Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals highlights the progress made by Albania in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals for the period 2015–2017, but also provides an overview of the situation that existed prior to the introduction of the SDGs in Albania (2012–2015).

VNR highlights that in order to succeed in implementation of Agenda 2030 and achievement of a national vision for the year 2030, Albania must engage in the process of establishing a roadmap for he

*SDG implementation as this would help in identifying roles and responsibilities of the key institutions and other stakeholders in the process and should include financial implications deriving from the national commitment to the SDGs.*

*It brings to the light the need for roadmap for implementation of environmental SDGs/targets which can ensure further mainstreaming of implementation alongside the national policies and strategies, including monitoring and reporting mechanisms.*

### **Sustainable Development Goals and EU accession process**

*Albania as an EU candidate country, (since June 2014), where EU accession processes have been a key development driver, decided to integrate its EU accession policy with the global sustainable development Agenda 2030, in particular through its National Strategy for Development and EU Integration, recognizing a number of complementarities on its road to embrace European values and achieve progress in implementation of SDGs.*

*This is especially important for the negotiation chapter 27 (Environment and Climate Change) of the EU accession process. EU has been a leader in sustainable development and environmental policy and legislation in the last decades. Since 2015, the EU created a common EU policy for Agenda 2030 implementation. This is apparent *inter alia* in the European Commission's document „Next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability“ (November 2016), and in Eurostat's „Sustainable Development in the European Union monitoring report“ released in November 2017.*

*In its last Progress Report for Albania (2018), European Commission highlights the following short-term priorities regarding the Chapter 27: „In the coming year, Albania should in particular: ensure an adequate budget, finalise the cross-cutting environmental strategy and strengthen the environment agency's monitoring and reporting capacity; develop the legal, institutional and policy framework for water, and improve the environmental impact assessment process, especially in the hydropower, construction and mining sectors; start implementing the Paris Agreement and Albania's contribution to it by adopting a national strategy and legislation on climate change as well as related energy and transport policies.“ It is also providing an assessment of the state of affairs in all sub-chapters of the chapter 27 which can be summarized as follows:*

- *Further progress is needed to achieve full compliance with the remaining cross-cutting aspects of the directives on environmental liability, environmental crime and environmental inspection;*
- *More efforts are needed to further align the legislation on air quality with the acquis;*
- *Economic instruments to promote recycling and prevent waste generation remain limited;*
- *Only one of the six defined river basin management plans, exists and it has not yet been implemented; Nine marine/coastal protected areas are registered;*
- *Alignment with the EU legislation on industrial pollution and risk management is still at an early stage;*
- *No civil protection strategy is in place and there is limited administrative capacity;*
- *A national strategy on climate change consistent with the EU 2030 framework on climate and energy policies still needs to be adopted. It should aim at implementing Albania's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement and also contain a plan on adaptation;*
- *Further efforts should be made on emission standards for new cars and vans and related consumer information, effort sharing, geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, and greenhouse gas emissions from land use, land use change and forestry.*

All of above listed recommendation of European Commission should be taken into account while prioritising possible actions which could be successful outcome of this project. They can be easily intersected with relevant SDGs/targets and related EPR recommendations.

### **Needs assessment**

In general, needs of the country related to good environmental governance and performance and achievement of environment-related SDGs are very similar. Although both platforms have its own specificities, the core activities are often the same or complementary. Hence, progress in environmental performance leads to achievement of certain SDGs and vice versa.

In the political context, the country already has SDGs high on its political agenda, having in mind that they are integrated into NSDI-II. Environmental governance, on the other hand needs more attention. Albania officially plans to streamline Agenda 2030 with the EU accession process. Opening of negotiation with EU in June 2019 will certainly draw more political attention to environmental performance of the country in the context of the negotiation Chapter 27 – Environment and Climate Change.

Albania already set up the Integrated Planning System which crucial elements are: the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), Medium-Term Budget Programme (MTBP), Government Programme, European Integration and Foreign Assistance. This system needs certain improvements in order to be fully functional. For example, both EPR and EU Progress Report 2018 recommend adoption of the cross-cutting environmental strategy. Draft strategic documents need significant period of time in order to be adopted (e.g. Climate strategy, Water management strategy). They are not always followed by Strategic Impact Assessments, which cause an insufficient level of involvement of all relevant stakeholders including environmental NGOs. There is a need to improve the process of adoption of strategic documents.

Both achievement of SDGs and improvement of environmental performance are in certain areas very demanding in terms of finance and investment. The country needs to have adequate administrative capacity and mechanisms in order to attract direct foreign investments and use pre-accession funds as well as funds from other donors and sources, in order to insure funds for achievement of policy goals.

Legal framework of Albania is improved by intensive efforts to transpose the EU environmental acquis. However, there are many pieces of legislation which are still missing, and as noted by the EU commission, significant efforts are needed on implementation and enforcement. EU accession process often leads into over-production of legal acts without proper instruments for their implementation, since countries strive to accelerate the transposition process without insuring relevant institutional set-up, finance and other elements which are necessary for implementation and enforcement. The process of accession will also require an accession strategy for Chapter 27 where dynamics of taking over the obligations stemming from EU environmental acquis should be carefully planned in order to allow sufficient time for necessary capacity building.

There are numerous legal and policy documents which have to be developed in order to implement EPR recommendations, align with EU policies and acquis and achieve SDGs. Detailed needs are elaborated through the next chapter on possible project outcomes.

Both the third EPR of Albania and experiences of countries in the region during EU accession process show that there is an evident need for capacity building in the area of environment, at all levels. While staff on central level tend to be overburdened with attending various training programmes and participation in programmes and projects for assistance (e.g. twinning projects, TAIEX missions,

*different international activities) gained knowledge is rarely shared with staff working on local level. Local environmental services are often seriously understaffed and/or do not have necessary expertise. There is an evident need to raise awareness and enhance knowledge of local authorities in certain areas such as circular economy, sustainable forest management, adaptation to climate change, recovery, re-use and recycling of waste, etc.*

*Numerous chapters of the third EPR, national documents on SDGs as well as EU progress report recognize the need to improve environmental monitoring, creating reliable and accurate data which are necessary for proper policy planning and monitoring of SDGs indicators.*

### **Possible project outcomes**

*The project "Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe" offers two possibilities:*

- *developing a national action plan on implementation of EPR recommendations in line with relevant SDGs, or*
- *developing 1-3 policy packages (e.g. a programme to address past industrial pollution hotspots) to implement selected EPR recommendations.*

*While decision on the most suitable outcome for each country will be made at national workshops on the basis of stakeholders' opinions, the purpose of this chapter is to highlight possible options and arguments for each offered choice.*

### **Action plan on implementation of EPR recommendations in line with SDGs**

*A national action plan should serve as a concrete roadmap for implementation of EPR recommendations related to the relevant SDGs, therefore increasing the likelihood of effective implementation. This option can be associated with the EPR Recommendation 1.6 (Implementation and monitoring of SDGs), especially 1.6(c):*

*„The Government should:*

- (a) *Strengthen the Development and Good Governance Policies Unit within the Department of Development and Good Governance in the Prime Minister's Office and formalize its coordination role on the SDGs;*
- (b) *Identify the political body to guide efforts to achieve the SDGs and the monitoring of progress towards them;*
- (c) *Proceed with the preparation of the national plan on SDGs and the setting up of aspirational and measurable national targets, including interim targets until 2020 and 2025;"*
- (d) *Ensure the preparation of reports monitoring progress towards the achievement of the SDGs;*
- (e) *Ensure that the SDGs are integrated into future planning documents;*
- (f) *Raise awareness of the SDGs among local government authorities, civil society, academia and the private sector in order to involve them in efforts towards attaining the SDGs, and ensure public participation in such efforts.*

*Further on, it can be associated with SDGs target 17.14 – „Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development". Although this particular SDGs target is not under primary responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, it will contribute to implementation of all other SDGs under the responsibility of this Ministry.*

*The need for establishment a roadmap for the SDG implementation is recognised in the recently published Voluntary National Report, where it is stated that it can ensure further mainstreaming of implementation alongside the national policies and strategies, including monitoring and reporting mechanisms.*

*This action plan should also contribute to improvement of the country's strategic planning within the Chapter 27. In the last Progress report for Albania (2018) European Commission recommends finalisation of the cross-cutting environmental strategy, development of policy framework in the area of water, climate change as well as related energy and transport policies, civil protection strategy and plan on adaptation to climate change.*

*It is of the outmost importance to make clear that this work should not be a duplication of efforts invested in development of the National Action Plan for implementation of SDGs, but building on its results, going into deeper details and providing a comprehensive policy document which could serve as an action plan for implementation of obligations stemming from the Chapter 27.*

*In that context, another SDG target which is not as such in the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, but is undoubtedly contributing to the improvement of environmental performance and progress in approximation to the EU could be taken into consideration.*

### **Policy packages**

*The other option for possible project outcome is policy packages, which should provide a clear policy framework to address an environmental issue at stake. This assessment, on the basis of the previously described aspects and factors sheds light on a number of actions which could be taken in the course of this project.*

*Since it should be policy packages, it was the most suitable to present them according to SDGs/target they are related to, taking into account that they are very often quite comprehensive and formulated in order to address several issues at time.*

*Each of the following proposals contains possible elements of the policy package, but they are not exhaustive and not final. Also, the package should not contain all the proposed elements, but those considered priority for Albania.*

#### **Policy package 1 - Air**



*SDG Targets relevant for this policy package are 3.9 and 11.6*

##### **3.9**

by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

##### **11.6**

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

***SDG Target 3.9 is associated with four EPR recommendations:***

**4.3 (Participation in MEAs that Albania is not a party to)**

*The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should:*

- (a) Promote the ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and their amendments;
- (b) Facilitate the conclusion of the ratification process for the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
- (c) Undertake a cost-benefit analysis for the ratification of the amendments to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
- (d) Facilitate the conclusion of the ratification process for the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- (e) Engage actively in the intersessional process to develop recommendations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
- (f) Promote the ratification of the Almaty Amendment on Genetically Modified Organisms to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

### 6.3 Impact of air pollution on human health

The Government should ensure that the Institute of Public Health regularly assesses the impact of air pollution on health and supports the raising of public awareness on this topic, including by use of an air quality index.

### 8.4 Industrial and mining hotspots

The Government should put the clean-up and remediation of the existing industrial and mining hotspots high on its agenda, including by developing a specific programme to address this issue.

#### 11.2 Oil extraction

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy should carry out an environmental analysis of the oil extraction industry in order to propose improvements to its efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Indicators defined for monitoring of this target are:

- 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
- 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene
- 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

These Indicators are currently not monitored in Albania.

In the Baseline report of Albania, it is stated that Target 3.9 is partially aligned with the strategic priorities in Albania. Although focus of the target is on public health, the environment dimension, referred in other part of the SDG framework, is dominant in this case. Further on, the report presents achieved progress as well as concern related to air pollution which remains as one of the key challenges affecting the quality of health among the Albanian citizens.

**SDG Target 11.6 is associated with the following three EPR recommendations:**

### 6.3 Impact of air pollution on human health

This recommendation has been elaborated under the Target 3.9. However, in order to insure relevant data for estimation of health risks due to air pollution, it is also necessary to have reliable data on air pollution. Therefore, in this section the focus is on ensuring data quality in accordance with EPR Recommendation 6.1: "The Government should ensure that institutions involved in air quality monitoring and assessment are accredited for air quality monitoring and laboratory analysis, in order to provide the public with correct, accurate and validated data that meet data quality objectives."

### 6.5 Energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources

*The Government should, in cooperation with international donors, favour ensuring funds for energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy sources and the promotion of circular economy activities, which at the same time improve air quality and minimize the adverse effects of climate change.*

### 10.3 Vehicle fleet

*The Government should:*

- (a) *Adapt the road and vehicle ownership taxation structure to ensure that owners of vehicles that emit more pollutants pay higher taxes;*
- (b) *Ensure that only vehicles of a level equivalent to the most recent Euro standards are allowed to be imported into the country, with a gradual increase of this level over time;*
- (c) *Ensure that the gap between the number of registered vehicles and the number of vehicles subjected to a technical inspection is closed by introducing strict monitoring and enforcement following the end of an amnesty period.*

*Indicators for monitoring of implementation of this Target are:*

**11.6.1** *Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities*

**11.6.2** *Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)*

*Indicator 11.6.1 is partially available in Albania. The Ministry of Tourism and Environment provides the information on the key cities but not through the standard required by the methodology of this indicator. The indicator 11.6.2 is available from the National Environment Agency, but is not population weighted.*

*According to the Baseline Report, Target 11.6 is partially aligned with the national policy in Albania, however, in description of achievements related to this target, the report brings data on GHG, which are not substantially relevant in this context, taking into account indicators to measure the progress of achievement.*

*The policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 3.9 and 11.6 can contain any combination of the following:*

- *Draft laws for ratification of MEAs listed under EPR recommendation 4.3, which are considered priority for the country;*
- *Draft legislation transposing EU Directive 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, which is directly connected to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;*
- *Cost-benefit analysis for the ratification of the amendments to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;*
- *Programme to address clean-up and remediation of the existing industrial and mining hotspots;*
- *National consultations with all relevant stakeholders (sectoral ministries, industry, local authorities, NGOs, etc. on prioritisation of remediation of the existing industrial and mining hotspots and possible remediation actions;*
- *Pilot environment health assessment (in cooperation with WHO) in order to build capacities of Public Health to regularly assesses the impact of air pollution on health.*
- *Needs assessment on improvement of air quality monitoring in order to enable reliable data for monitoring of indicator 11.6.2;*
- *Promotion campaign for circular economy activities;*
- *National consultations with all relevant stakeholders on possible circular economy activities in all municipalities;*
- *Legislative package on taxation of passenger vehicles;*
- *Legislative act on promotion of fuel economy of new passenger cars, transposing Directive 1999/94/EC relating to the availability of consumer information on fuel economy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in respect of the marketing of new passenger cars;*
- *Pilot guide on fuel economy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the new passenger cars in accordance with obligations stemming from Directive 1999/94/EC*

- An environmental analysis of the oil extraction industry in order to propose improvements to its efficiency and environmental sustainability (Recommendation 11.2).

## **Policy package 2 - Water**

**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



The most relevant SDG Target for this policy package is target 6.3

### **6.3**

by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

This particular Target is related to EPR Recommendation 7.4 (Water supply and sewerage):

*The Government should:*

- (a) Ensure the adoption of a strong policy framework to support further progress on water supply and sewerage following the expiration of the National Strategy of Water Supply and Sewerage for the period 2011–2017;
- (b) Based on analyses of administrative reform, elaborate a strategy for water utilities to ensure that they are able to cover the relevant costs, while also taking into account social concerns.

*Indicators defined for monitoring of this target are:*

**6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated**

**6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality**

*The indicator 6.3.1 is partially available in Albania. The Water Supply and Sewage Agency provides national data on the coverage of the sewage systems in the country, which approximates the underlying factors related to this indicator, but it does not reflect the same outcome. Currently Albania safely treat about 25% of its wastewater through the sewage systems. The indicator 6.3.2 is not monitored in Albania and no data are available.*

*According to the Baseline Report, Target 6.3 is partially aligned with the domestic policy framework in Albania. Government priorities, as defined in NSDI II, include integrated water management. European Commission also highlights the need to „develop the legal, institutional and policy framework for water”.*

*The policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of the Target 6.3 can contain any combination of the following:*

- Draft revised National Strategy of Water Supply and Sewerage;
- Draft strategy for water utilities (as described in EPR recommendation 7.4.b);
- Exercise of Strategic Impact Assessment process for the above mentioned documents with involvement of all relevant stakeholders throughout the country (EPR Recommendation 1.5)
- Needs assessment on improvement of water quality monitoring in order to enable monitoring of indicator 6.3.2; (also contributes to implementation of EPR recommendation 7.1)
- Expert revision of the integrated water resource management strategy which has been prepared but not adopted yet;
- Legislative package for further alignment with EU Water framework Directive or other water related acquis which are considered a priority;

## **Policy package 3 - Waste**

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION**



*SDG Targets related to this policy package are 8.4, 12.4 and 12.5*

### **8.4**

Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

***SDG Target 8.4 is associated with the following three EPR recommendations:***

#### **2.3 Statistics for environmental expenditures and measuring green growth**

*The Institute of Statistics should develop:*

- (a) *A statistical information system for environmental expenditures based on the existing international standard, i.e. the Classification of Environmental Protection Activities and Expenditures (CEPA);*
- (b) *Statistics for the measurement of indicators designed to measure progress made towards the greening of economic growth.*

#### **2.4 Resource efficiency**

*The Government should support the new local government units and the service providers to increase resource efficiency, especially in the waste and water services, and develop appropriate strategies to concentrate public and private investment, particularly from international donors, on infrastructure and plants that can create the basic conditions for cost-effective service provision.*

#### **11.5 Recovery of waste**

*The Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and municipalities, should create an enabling legal and institutional framework for the recovery of waste to be used as raw materials in the manufacturing industry.*

*Indicators for monitoring of implementation of this Target are:*

**8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP**

**8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP**

*The indicators 8.4.1 and 8.4.2 are not monitored in Albania.*

*As presented in Baseline Report, Albania has endorsed the 10YFP and its policy on consumption and production is partially aligned with Target 8.4. Several programs on sustainable industrial production in cooperation with the UNDP have been focused on the topics relevant to the Target 8.4.*

### **12.4**

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment;

## **12.5**

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By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

**These SDG targets are associated with the following three EPR recommendations:**

### 8.3 Separate collection and recycling

*The Ministry of Tourism and Environment, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Economy, should take measures to establish a viable market for recyclables in which waste collecting and recycling companies will have an economic interest, in order to increase the recycling rate of separately collected waste such as metal, plastic, glass and paper.*

### 8.6 Data on hazardous waste and chemicals

*The Ministry of Tourism and Environment, in cooperation with the Institute of Statistics, should establish an effective data collection system on generated hazardous waste and chemicals.*

### 11.5 Recovery of waste

*This Recommendation has been elaborated under the Target 8.4, which can be combined with this one.*

*Indicators for monitoring of implementation of these targets are:*

**12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement**

**12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment**

**12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled**

*Both targets 12.4 and 12.5 are partially aligned with the national policy in Albania. While the Baseline report states that management of chemicals has been improved a lot, waste management represents a matter of concern. The country is a party to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel convention. No information is available in Albania related to indicators 12.4.2 and 12.5.1.*

*In the Progress report for Albania (2018) it is stated that further efforts are needed to close the over 300 non-compliant landfills, increase the separate collection of different waste streams and reduce bio-waste and that economic instruments to promote recycling and prevent waste generation remain limited.*

*The policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of targets 8.4, 12.4 and 12.5 can contain any combination of the following:*

- *Draft Strategy on investments in infrastructure for resource efficiency;*
- *Legislative package regulating the recovery of waste;*
- *Policy on recovery of waste;*
- *Broad national consultation on policy on recovery of waste in several phases of policy development;*
- *Design of pilot project for provision of waste-recovered materials needed for an existing manufacturing industry;*
- *Legislative package on different waste streams, for example, transposition of the Directive (EU) 2015/720 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags;*
- *Involvement of producers, representatives of big chain-supermarkets, small retail shops and consumer associations on alternatives to lightweight plastic carrier bags and other single-use plastic products;*
- *Campaign to promote composting in households and small farms, including organization of promotional round-tables or panels throughout the country;*

- *Draft policy paper on recycling and re-use;*
- *Broad national consultation on policy on recycling and re-use of waste in several phases of policy development.*

## ***Policy package 4 – Climate change***



All targets specified for this SDG are relevant for this policy package.

### **13.1**

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

### **13.2**

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

### **13.3**

Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

***SDG 13 is associated with the following three EPR recommendations:***

#### **5.1 Impact of anthropogenic climate change on components of nature and on economic sectors**

*The Ministry of Tourism and Environment, in cooperation with other government bodies, should include in relevant studies the impact of anthropogenic climate change on components of nature and on economic sectors.*

#### **5.2 Resilience of economic sectors**

*The Government should:*

- (a) *Implement policies and measures to increase the resilience of economic sectors to natural and anthropogenic hazards caused by natural climate variability and anthropogenic climate change;*
- (b) *Ensure that adaptation measures are foreseen in local urban plans*

#### **5.3 Awareness**

*The Government should regularly implement measures to raise awareness on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction and early warning on natural and anthropogenic hazards caused by natural climate variability and anthropogenic climate change.*

*Indicators for monitoring of implementation of this Sustainable Development Goal are:*

**13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population**

**13.1.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

**13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies.**

**13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other).**

**13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula**

**13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions.**

*In the Baseline Report it is stated that three targets of the SDG 13 have different level of alignment with the national policy framework: Target 13.1 is partially aligned, Target 13.2 is aligned while Target 13.3 is not aligned with the national policy in Albania. Indicator 13.1.1 is collected by the Ministry of Defense and could be used to track progress with Target 13.1., although the scope of information does not capture all of the areas covered by Target 13., focusing only on natural disasters. Albania has not yet aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the sector strategy has not been approved. It is stated in the report that it might be useful to support local governments in adopting disaster risk reduction strategies within their areas of responsibility.*

*Evaluating Albania's progress in harmonisation with EU negotiation Chapter 27, the last Progress Report highlights the following needs:*

- no civil protection strategy is in place;
- national strategy on climate change consistent with the EU 2030 framework on climate and energy policies needs to be adopted and should contain a plan on adaptation to climate change;
- awareness-raising activities are needed.

*Taking into account all aspects elaborated above, the policy package which can be realised in order to achieve progress in implementation of SDG 13 can contain any combination of the following:*

- Draft civil protection strategy or an expert review of the existing draft if any;
- Draft plan on adaptation to climate change;
- Broad national consultation on policy on adaptation to climate change in several phases of policy development.
- Guidelines for development of the National Adaptation Plan, taking into account UNFCCC guidance documents and EU adaptation policy;
- Training of staff at municipal level on guidelines for integration of adaptation measures into local urban plans on the basis of developed guidance;
- Design of comprehensive awareness-raising campaign with an action plan.

#### **Policy package 5 – Sea**



*This policy package refers to the following Targets of SDG 14:*

## **14.1**

*By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution*

## **14.c**

*Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of the „Future We Want“*

**SDG 14 is associated with the following EPR recommendation:**

### 10.5 Maritime transport

*The Government should:*

- (a) Continue the programme of investments aimed at improving the environmental performance of the transport sector in ports (e.g. the treatment of waste);
- (b) Complete accession to Annex VI (Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

*The Baseline Report states that targets 14.1 and 14.c are not aligned with the national policy in Albania. Indicators 14.1.1 (Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density) and 14.c.1 (Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources) are not available in Albania. The report also states that: „Albania may wish to take into consideration activities towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Under the scope of competencies of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, consideration can be given to the elaboration and effective implementation of Management Plans for costal and marine protected areas.“*

*In June 2017, at the High-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, H.E. Ms. Besiana Kadare, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations expressed that „Albania is deeply committed to protect and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, and stands ready to play its role in the region in order to reverse the decline in the health of our oceans.“ She highlighted that as a party to the Convention of Biological Diversity, Albania is working towards the protection of the marine environment and the efficient management of marine resources. The country prepared a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, adopted the Integrated Cross-Sectorial Plan for the Coastal Zones, and has elaborated the strategic document for the Marine and Coastal Protected Areas. National priorities for contributing to the sustainable use of oceans, seas nd marine resources are focused on three main areas:*

1. Conservation of the marine environment and monitoring of marine and protected species;
2. Promotion of sustainable, innovative, responsible and quality tourism in marine protected areas, while taking climate-change mitigation and adaptation measures;
3. Developing of the Maritime Spatial Planning, in close partnership with our neighbors in the region and in line with the criteria for membership in the European Union.

*From the perspective of the EU integration process, European Commission in its last report (2018) notices that nine marine/coastal protected areas are registered in the Country. The report also points out the need for further alignment of the legislation on air quality with the acquis. In that sense, it is recommendable to transpose the new Directive (EU) 2016/802 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content in marine fuels. Obligation to transpose this directive is also stemming from the Athens agreement on the establishment of the Energy Community. The last implementation report of the Secretariat of the Energy Community (September 2017) stated that „Albania still must transpose the provisions of the Directive relating to marine fuels by the deadline of 30 June 2018.“*

*Within the United Nations' global registry of voluntary commitments and multi-stakeholder partnerships Albania registered commitment to establish a conservation target of 5 % of marine & coastal areas by 2020 and Protect the network of marine and coastal protected areas in Vlora region.*

*Therefore, this policy package can contain any combination of the following:*

- *Revision of the Decision on the Quality of some Liquid Fuels for Civil and Industrial Thermal Usage and for the Use in Marine Transport (seas, rivers and lakes) and relevant decisions of the General Directorate for Standardization in order to achieve full transposition of the Directive (EU) 2016/802;*
- *Draft Law on ratification of the Annex VI: Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships of the MARPOL Convention;*
- *Needs assessment for monitoring of the coastal eutrophication;*
- *Draft Action Plan for implementation of Strategy on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.*

*As a part of this policy package, if it is considered a priority of the Ministry of environment and tourism, additional SDG targets could be taken into account:*

## **8.9**

By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

## **12.b**

Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

***These targets are associated with the following EPR recommendation:***

**Recommendation 2.5:**

*The Ministry of Tourism and Environment, through the National Agency of Protected Areas, and the Ministry of Finance and Economy should continue their efforts to develop and implement a tourism strategy, especially in high-value natural areas and particularly protected sites, by promoting sustainable forms of tourism.*

*Among defined indicators:*

**8.9.1** *Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate*

**8.9.2** *Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex*

**12.b.1** *Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools*

*indicators 8.9.2 and 12.b.1 are not available in Albania.*

*So, the additional outcomes of this policy package could relate to:*

- *Draft sustainable tourism strategy or policy paper or an action plan with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools.*

## **Policy package 6 – Forests**



Although the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment has the primary responsibility for the majority of targets defined within SDG 15, the focus of this particular package is on the Target 15.2.

## 15.2

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By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

**SDG 15, especially Target 15.2 is associated with the following four EPR recommendations:**

### 9.1 Monitoring of forests and biodiversity

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should:

- (a) Clarify the mandates of the National Environment Agency and the National Agency of Protected Areas in terms of the locations and parameters for the monitoring of biodiversity in protected areas;
- (b) Increase funding for the monitoring of forests and biodiversity in order to include all the identified locations and high-nature-value forests, to enable the collection of data on the core set of biodiversity and forestry indicators and make them publicly available.

### 9.2 Forest management by municipalities

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should:

- (a) Assist newly formed municipalities with the implementation of their forest management responsibilities;
- (b) Build the capacity of municipalities on sustainable forest management.

### 9.3 High-nature-value forests and non-timber forest products

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should improve the sustainable management of forests by drafting legislation for the protection of identified high-nature-value forests and non-timber forest products, including the establishment of quotas for the harvesting of non-timber forest products.

### 9.4 Forest certification

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment should prioritize the implementation of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and develop a national forest certification system as an essential element of sustainable forest management practices.

The Baseline report declare that the Target 15.2 is partially aligned with the national policy framework in Albania. It also reports on the indicator 15.2.1 (Progress towards sustainable forest management) which should be calculated on the basis of four sub-indicators and compared with the national targets. These national targets are not established in Albania.

This particular policy package can contain any combination of the following:

- *Draft legislative act clarifying responsibilities, methods and parameters for monitoring of biodiversity in protected areas or enabling the collection of data on the core set of biodiversity and forestry indicators;*
- *Guidance for municipalities on sustainable forest management;*
- *Training of staff at municipal level on sustainable forest management on the basis of developed guidance;*
- *Draft forest management plan for one chosen municipality;*
- *Draft legislation for the protection of identified high-nature-value forests and non-timber forest products, including the establishment of quotas for the harvesting of non-timber forest products;*
- *Draft legislation for introduction of forest certification;*
- *Broad national consultation on legislation for introduction of forest certification in several phases of policy development, including all relevant stakeholders.*
- *Guidance and Action plan for training activities for small forest owners as a part of forest certification programme.*

## **CONCLUSIONS**

*This Needs Assessment took into account several aspects to prioritise possible outcomes of the project „Evidence-based environmental governance and sustainable environmental policies in support of the 2030 Agenda in South-East Europe" for Albania:*

- *In accordance with the project goals, it started from the third EPR of Albania, the first ever Environmental Performance Review which integrated Agenda 2030 as a part of the environmental performance of the country;*
- *It took advantage of the already performed assessments of alignment of the national policy framework of Albania with SDGs;*
- *It payed special attention on SDGs under the responsibility of the main beneficiary of the project – the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania;*
- *respecting the country's approach to parallel progress in EU integration process and implementation of SDGs, correlation with EU negotiation chapter 27 was thoroughly followed.*

*Having in mind all the above mentioned, the assessment resulted with a number of suggestions, including an Action plan for implementation of SDGs or various policy packages which elements can also be combined into one unique policy package which is the most suitable for Albania.*

*Taking into account that the aim of this project is to insure implementation of EPR recommendations related to SDGs, packages which are related to higher number of EPR recommendations are designed to achieve more with less and might have greater impact on both environmental performance of the country as well as on progress in achievement of certain SDGs.*

*Considering the level of alignment of the national policy framework of Albania with SDGs the priority should be given to the progress in achievement of the targets related to SDG 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. In accordance with the national Baseline Report and the Voluntary National Review, this SDG has the lowest harmonisation level with the national policy framework, and is at the same time considered very important for the country with 362 kilometres of coastline. One of the pillars of the Albanian NSDI II Policy is Pillar 4: Growth Through Sustainable Use of Resources, which comprehensive tourism development and sustainable environment. The actions proposed under this SDG are very well connected with progress in achievement harmonisation with relevant EU acquis and policies, especially taking into account the initiative for establishment of an ECA (Emission Control Area) in Mediterranean Sea.*

*On the other hand, the latest Progress Report on Albania's ability to assume the obligations of membership in EU highlights sectors of water and climate change as priorities within the Chapter 27 – Environment and climate change.*

*Significant achievements could be also scored by implementing activities related to environment and health, air quality, circular economy and sustainable management of forests.*

## ANNEXES I - Tables

**Table 1: List of Recommendations – 3rd EPR of Albania**

| No.  | Chapter  | Recommendation   |
|------|--|--|
| 1.1  | <i>Legal, policy and institutional framework</i>                                 | Subsidiary legislation and law enforcement reports                                     |
| 1.2  |  | <i>Regulatory Impact Assessment</i>  |
| 1.3  |  | Strategic planning   |
| 1.4  |  | Strategic planning in the environmental field  |
| 1.5  |  | Strategic environmental assessment   |
| 1.6  |  | Implementation and monitoring of SDGs  |
| 1.7  |  | <i>Inspection</i>  |
| 1.8  |  | <i>Environment-related responsibilities at local level</i>                             |
| 1.9  |  | <i>Training of staff at the Ministry of Tourism and Environment</i>                    |
| 1.10 |  | <i>Training of staff in sectoral ministries</i>  |
| 2.1  | <i>Greening the economy</i>  | <i>Sectoral initiatives to induce sound economic growth</i>                            |
| 2.2  |  | Fiscal decentralization  |
| 2.3  |  | Statistics for environmental expenditures and measuring green growth                   |
| 2.4  |  | <i>Resource efficiency</i>   |
| 2.5  |  | <i>Tourism development</i>   |
| 3.1  | <i>Environmental monitoring, information, public participation and education</i> | Financial resources for environmental monitoring                                       |
| 3.2  |  | Integrated environmental management system   |
| 3.3  |  | State-of-environment reporting   |
| 3.4  |  | Education for sustainable development  |
| 4.1  | <i>Implementation of international agreements and commitments</i>                | Capacity and resources   |
| 4.2  |  | Access to information and the involvement of NGOs                                      |
| 4.3  |  | Participation in MEAs that Albania is not a party to                                   |
| 5.1  | <i>Climate change mitigation and adaptation</i>                                  | Impact of anthropogenic climate change on components of nature and on economic sectors |
| 5.2  |  | Resilience of economic sectors   |
| 5.3  |  | Awareness  |
| 6.1  | <i>Air protection</i>  | Accreditation for air quality monitoring and assessment                                |
| 6.2  |  | Air quality monitoring network   |
| 6.3  |  | Impact of air pollution on human health  |
| 6.4  |  | Organic farming  |
| 6.5  |  | Energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources                                  |
| 7.1  | <i>Water management</i>  | Enhancement of water monitoring  |
| 7.2  |  | WFD-compliant classification schemes   |
| 7.3  |  | River basin management plans   |
| 7.4  |  | Water supply and sewerage  |
| 8.1  | <i>Waste and chemicals management</i>  | Waste management infrastructure  |
| 8.2  |  | Cost and tariff schemes  |
| 8.3  |  | Separate collection and recycling  |
| 8.4  |  | Industrial and mining hotspots   |
| 8.5  |  | Capacity-building and organizational development                                       |
| 8.6  |  | Data on hazardous waste and chemicals  |
| 9.1  | <i>Biodiversity, forestry and protected areas</i>                                | Monitoring of forests and biodiversity   |
| 9.2  |  | Forest management by municipalities  |
| 9.3  |  | High-nature-value forests and non-timber forest products                               |
| 9.4  |  | Forest certification   |
| 10.1 | <i>Transport and environment</i>   | Development of sustainable transport   |
| 10.2 |  | Public transport   |
| 10.3 |  | Vehicle fleet  |
| 10.4 |  | Road safety  |

|      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 10.5 |  | Maritime transport  |
| 11.1 |  | Alternatives in energy supply                               |
| 11.2 |  | Oil extraction  |
| 11.3 |  | Permitting  |
| 11.4 |  | Abandoned industrial sites                                  |
| 11.5 |  | Recovery of waste   |
| 11.6 |  | Innovation in the processing industry                       |
| 11.7 |  | Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents |

*Table 2: List of Sustainable Development Goals and targets covered by the 3rd EPR of Albania*

| Goal                               | Target | Description   |
|------------------------------------|--------|---|
| 3. Good health and well-being      | 3.6    | <i>halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</i>   |
|                                    | 3.9    | <i>by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</i>  |
| 4. Quality education               | 4.7    | <i>by 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development</i> |
| 6. Clean water and sanitation      | 6.1    | <i>by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all</i>  |
|                                    | 6.2    | <i>by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</i>  |
|                                    | 6.3    | <i>by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</i>   |
|                                    | 6.4    | <i>by 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity</i>  |
|                                    | 6.5    | <i>by 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</i>   |
|                                    | 6.b    | <i>Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management</i>   |
|                                    | 8.2    | <i>Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors</i>   |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 8.3    | <i>Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including</i>   |

|  |      |  |
|--|------|--|
|  |      | <i>through access to financial services</i>  |
|  | 8.4  | <i>Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead</i>  |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure | 9.1  | <i>Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all</i>   |
|  | 9.2  | <i>Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries</i>   |
|  | 9.4  | <i>By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities</i>   |
|  | 9.5  | <i>Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending</i>  |
|  | 9.b  | <i>Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities</i>  |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities     | 11.2 | <i>By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons</i>   |
|  | 11.4 | <i>Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</i>   |
|  | 11.6 | <i>By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</i>  |
|  | 11.b | <i>By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.</i> |
| 12. Responsible consumption and production | 12.1 | <i>Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development</i>  |

|                      |       |   |
|----------------------|-------|---|
|                      |       | <i>and capabilities of developing countries</i>   |
|                      | 12.4  | <i>By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment</i>  |
|                      | 12.5  | <i>By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</i>  |
|                      | 12.7  | <i>Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities</i>   |
|                      | 12.8  | <i>By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature</i>   |
|                      | 12.c  | <i>Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities</i> |
| 13. Climate action   | 13.1  | <i>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</i>  |
|                      | 13.2  | <i>Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</i>  |
|                      | 13.3  | <i>Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</i>   |
| 14. Life below water | 14.1  | <i>By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce maritime pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</i>  |
|                      | 14. c | <i>Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"</i>  |
| 15. Life on land     | 15.1  | <i>By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements</i>  |
|                      | 15.2  | <i>By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</i>  |
|                      | 15.3  | <i>By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</i>  |
|                      | 15.4  | <i>By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</i>   |
|                      | 15.5  | <i>Take urgent and significant action to reduce the</i>   |

|                                   |       |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|
|                                   |       | <i>degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</i>  |
|                                   | 15.6  | <i>Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed</i>                 |
|                                   | 15.7  | <i>Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</i>                                       |
|                                   | 15.8  | <i>By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species</i> |
|                                   | 15.9  | <i>By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</i>  |
|                                   | 15.a  | <i>Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</i>   |
| <i>17. Partners for the goals</i> | 17.14 | <i>Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>   |

*Table 3: Relation between EPR recommendations and relevant SDGs/targets*

| <i>Recommendation</i>   | <i>Related SDGs/tar get</i> | <i>Description of the SDG/ target</i>   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>1.1 Subsidiary legislation and law enforcement reports</i>                   | /                           |   |
| <i>1.2 Regulatory Impact Assessment</i>   | /                           |   |
| <i>1.3 Strategic planning</i>   | 17.14                       | <i>Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>   |
| <i>1.4 Strategic planning in the environmental field</i>                        | 17.14                       | <i>Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>   |
| <i>1.5 Strategic environmental assessment</i>                                   | 17.14                       | <i>Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>   |
| <i>1.6 Implementation and monitoring of SDGs</i>                                | 17.14                       | <i>Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</i>   |
| <i>1.7 Inspection</i>   | /                           |   |
| <i>1.8 Environment-related responsibilities at local level</i>                  | /                           |   |
| <i>1.9 Training of staff at the Ministry of Tourism and Environment</i>         | /                           |   |
| <i>1.10 Training of staff in sectoral ministries</i>                            | /                           |   |
| <i>2.1 Sectoral initiatives to induce sound economic growth</i>                 | 8.3                         | <i>Promote development-oriented policies</i>  |
| <i>2.2 Fiscal decentralization</i>  | /                           |   |
| <i>2.3 Statistics for environmental expenditures and measuring green growth</i> | 8.4                         | <i>Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production</i>  |
| <i>2.4 Resource efficiency</i>  | 8.4                         | <i>Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production</i>  |
| <i>2.5 Tourism development</i>  | 8.3, 11.4                   | <i>8.3 Promote development-oriented policies<br/>11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage</i> |

|   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| <i>3.1 Financial resources for environmental monitoring</i>                                       | 12.8       | By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature   |
| <i>3.2 Integrated environmental management system</i>   | 12.8       |  |
| <i>3.3 State-of-environment reporting</i>   | 12.8       |  |
| <i>3.4 Education for sustainable development</i>  | 4.7        | by 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development   |
| <i>4.1 Capacity and resources</i>   | /          |  |
| <i>4.2 Access to information and the involvement of NGOs</i>                                      | 12.8       | By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature   |
| <i>4.3 Participation in MEAs that Albania is not a party to</i>                                   | 3.9        | by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination  |
| <i>5.1 Impact of anthropogenic climate change on components of nature and on economic sectors</i> | 13.1, 11.b | 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries   |
| <i>5.2 Resilience of economic sectors</i>   | 13.1       | Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries<br>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels |
| <i>5.3 Awareness</i>  | 13.3       | Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning   |
| <i>6.1 Accreditation for air quality monitoring and assessment</i>                                | /          |  |
| <i>6.2 Air quality monitoring network</i>   | /          |  |
| <i>6.3 Impact of air pollution on human health</i>  | 3.9        | by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination  |
| <i>6.4 Organic farming</i>  | /          |  |
| <i>6.5 Energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources</i>                                  | 11.6       | By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management   |
| <i>7.1 Enhancement of water monitoring</i>  | /          |  |
| <i>7.2 WFD-compliant classification schemes</i>   | /          |  |
| <i>7.3 River basin management plans</i>   | 6.5        | by 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate   |
| <i>7.4 Water supply and sewerage</i>  | 6.2, 6.3   | 6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations<br>6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally  |
| <i>8.1 Waste management</i>   | /          |  |

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| <i>infrastructure</i>   |           |   |
| <i>8.2 Cost and tariff schemes</i>                                  | /         |   |
| <i>8.3 Separate collection and recycling</i>                        | 12.5      | By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse   |
| <i>8.4 Industrial and mining hotspots</i>                           | 3.9       | by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination   |
| <i>8.5 Capacity-building and organizational development</i>         | /         |   |
| <i>8.6 Data on hazardous waste and chemicals</i>                    | 12.4      | By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment   |
| <i>9.1 Monitoring of forests and biodiversity</i>                   | 15.2      | By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally   |
| <i>9.2 Forest management by municipalities</i>                      | 15.2      | By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally   |
| <i>9.3 High-nature-value forests and non-timber forest products</i> | /         |   |
| <i>9.4 Forest certification</i>                                     | 15.2      | By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally   |
| <i>10.1 Development of sustainable transport</i>                    | 9.1       | Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all   |
| <i>10.2 Public transport</i>  | 11.2,12.7 | 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons<br>12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities |
| <i>10.3 Vehicle fleet</i>   | 11.6      | By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management  |
| <i>10.4 Road safety</i>   | 3.6       | halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents  |
| <i>10.5 Maritime transport</i>                                      | 14.c      | Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law  |
| <i>11.1 Alternatives in energy supply</i>                           | /         |   |
| <i>11.2 Oil extraction</i>  | /         |   |
| <i>11.3 Permitting</i>  | 9.4       | By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities   |
| <i>11.4 Abandoned industrial sites</i>                              | 9.4       | By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to  |

|  |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
|  |                   | make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities   |
| 11.5 Recovery of waste   | 8.4, 12.5,<br>9.4 | 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production<br>12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse<br>9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities |
| 11.6 Innovation in the processing industry                       | 8.2, 9.2,<br>9.5  | 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation<br>9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization<br>9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries  |
| 11.7 Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents | 9.4               | By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities  |

*Table 4 – SDGs/targets under the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism and Environment*

| Goal                                       | Target | Description   |
|--|--------|---|
| 3. Good health and well-being              | 3.9    | <i>by 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</i>  |
| 6. Clean water and sanitation              | 6.3    | <i>by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</i>   |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth         | 8.4    | <i>Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead</i> |
|  | 8.9    | <i>By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</i><br><i>Recommendation 2.5</i>  |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities     | 11.6   | <i>By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</i>   |
| 12. Responsible consumption and production | 12.4   | <i>By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse</i>  |

|                      |       |   |
|----------------------|-------|---|
|                      |       | <i>impacts on human health and the environment</i>  |
|                      | 12.5  | <i>By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</i>  |
|                      | 12.b  | <i>12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</i><br><i>not elaborated in the EPR</i>   |
| 13. Climate action   | 13.1  | <i>Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</i>  |
|                      | 13.2  | <i>Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</i>  |
|                      | 13.3  | <i>Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</i>   |
|                      | 13.a  | <i>not elaborated in the EPR</i>  |
|                      | 13. b | <i>not elaborated in the EPR</i><br><i>Both SDG 13 means are not applicable for Albania.</i>  |
| 14. Life below water | 14.1  | <i>By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce maritime pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</i>  |
|                      | 14.2  | <i>By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</i><br><i>not elaborated in the EPR</i>  |
|                      | 14.3  | <i>Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.</i><br><i>not elaborated in the EPR</i>  |
|                      | 14.5  | <i>By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</i><br><i>not elaborated in the EPR</i>   |
|                      | 14. a | <i>Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries</i><br><i>not elaborated in the EPR</i> |
|                      | 14. c | <i>Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"</i>  |
|                      | 15.1  | <i>By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements</i>  |
| 15. Life on land     | 15.2  | <i>By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation,</i>   |

|  |      |  |
|--|------|--|
|  |      | <i>restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</i>  |
|  | 15.3 | <i>By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</i>   |
|  | 15.4 | <i>By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</i>  |
|  | 15.5 | <i>Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</i>  |
|  | 15.7 | <i>Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</i>  |
|  | 15.8 | <i>By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species</i>  |
|  | 15.9 | <i>By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</i>   |
|  | 15.a | <i>Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems</i>  |
|  | 15.b | <i>Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation not elaborated in the EPR</i> |
|  | 15.c | <i>Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities. not elaborated in the EPR</i>                                       |

Source: Report on the harmonization of Sustainable Development Goals with existing sectoral policies (Baseline Report), 2018

**Table 5 – List of global SDGs indicators related to Chapter 27**

| <i>Indicator</i> | <i>Description</i>   |
|------------------|--|
| 3.9.1            | <i>mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution</i>  |
| 3.9.2            | <i>mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene</i>                                    |
| 6.1.1            | <i>proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</i>   |
| 6.2.1            | <i>share of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water</i> |
| 6.3.1            | <i>share of wastewater safely treated</i>  |
| 6.3.2            | <i>share of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</i>  |
| 6.4.1            | <i>change in water-use efficiency over time</i>  |
| 6.4.2            | <i>level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</i>                      |
| 6.5.1            | <i>degree of integrated water resources management</i>   |
| 6.5.2            | <i>share of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation</i>                             |
| 6.6.1            | <i>change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time</i>  |
| 6.a.1            | <i>amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is</i>                                     |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
|        | <i>part of a government-coordinated spending plan</i>  |
| 6.b.1  | <i>share "of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</i> |
| 11.5.1 | <i>number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</i>  |
| 11.5.2 | <i>direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters</i>                  |
| 11.6.1 | <i>share "of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities</i>                                   |
| 11.6.2 | <i>annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)</i>   |
| 12.4.2 | <i>hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment</i>  |
| 12.5.1 | <i>national recycling rate, tons of material recycled</i>  |
| 13.1.3 | <i>share "of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</i>                  |
| 15.1.1 | <i>forest area as a proportion of total land area</i>  |
| 15.1.2 | <i>share "of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type"</i>   |

Source: Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Albania, 2018

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