Finding the Transformative Pathways to Sustainable Resource Management and Just Transition in Albania
The Power of AND

• Albania has one of the largest shares of renewable energy in its energy mix in South-East Europe but also has one of the highest energy intensities and lowest energy efficiencies

• How can Albania increase its energy and mineral production while reducing its emissions without compromising its economic growth, social equity and environmental quality?

• How can Albania use a global framework to sustainably manage its energy and mineral resources?
Albania’s Energy and Mineral Resources

- Oil reserves of around 120 million barrels and natural gas reserves of 5.7 billion m³
- Hydropower accounted for 99% of its electricity production in 2020
- Resources of bauxite, iron ore and chromium, as well as some potential for critical raw materials, such as chromium, nickel and bauxite
- Potential for renewable energy sources other than hydropower, such as solar, wind, biomass and geothermal
- NDC includes an unconditional emissions reduction target of 20.9% by 2030 and a conditional target of 36.9%.
What are the Main Obstacles to Increasing Energy and Mineral Production while Reducing Emissions in Albania?

• Dependence on hydropower, which makes it vulnerable to climate variability and droughts and forces it to import electricity from neighbouring countries in dry years

• Limited domestic production and use of oil and gas, which exposes it to price fluctuations and supply disruptions

• Low energy efficiency and high energy intensity compared to the EU average, which implies a large potential for energy savings across all sectors

• Untapped potential for renewable energy sources, which could diversify its energy mix and reduce its emissions.
How can Albania Develop its Energy and Mineral Resources in a Sustainable Way?

• Diversification of its energy mix by increasing its domestic production and use of oil and gas, as well as by exploiting its potential for renewable energy sources other than hydropower.

• Improvement of its energy efficiency and reduction of its energy intensity by implementing measures such as improving energy performance standards, promoting demand-side management, enhancing energy audits and labelling schemes, etc.

• Exploitation of its potential for critical raw materials by developing sustainable mining practices and circular economy principles that can reduce waste and emissions and enhance resource efficiency and value creation.
How can Albania Develop its Energy and Mineral Resources in a Sustainable Way?

• Overcoming the institutional, regulatory and financial barriers by applying international frameworks and standards UNFC and UNRMS that can help improve data and governance of resource management

• Benefit from the EU’s support and cooperation for developing critical raw materials and renewable energy sources. EU has included UNFC in the Critical Raw Material Act.
How to Seize the Opportunities for Sustainable Resource Management?

• Using algae to produce biofuels and bioplastics that can replace fossil fuels and petroleum-based plastics, reducing emissions and waste

• Developing geothermal energy from abandoned oil and gas wells that can provide a low-carbon alternative for heat and electricity generation

• Recycling mining waste into building materials, fertilizers and metals can reduce the environmental and health impacts of mining waste, add value and extend the life cycle of mineral resources.
UNFC & UNRMS
Sustainable Resource Management.

Integrated and sustainable management of natural resources is critical to meeting universal needs.

Resources must be managed as a public good to achieve key SDGs.

UNFC and UMRMS provide the right information and tools to manage natural resources.
• Albania has significant resources of energy and minerals that can contribute to its national income and development.

• Albania faces several challenges in increasing its energy and mineral production while reducing its emissions.

• Albania has several opportunities for developing its energy and mineral resources in a sustainable way.

• Albania can adopt innovative solutions to address the challenges and seize the opportunities for sustainable resource management.

• Albania can use UNFC and UNRMS to support developing and implementing these innovative solutions and seize the power of AND.
Recommendations

• Sustainable resource management is crucial for Albania’s energy security, climate resilience and economic growth

• Albania needs to diversify its energy mix, improve its energy efficiency, exploit its renewable energy potential, develop its critical raw materials, and overcome its institutional, regulatory and financial barriers

• Albania can benefit from adopting some surprising but feasible solutions that can create economic, social and environmental benefits for different groups and regions in Albania

• Albania can rely on UNFC and UNRMS as valuable tools for improving data and governance of resource management.