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# ALBAdapt

# Programme for Climate Resilient Urban Development in Albania

## Context

Climate change is a global challenge that threatens the wellbeing of modern society. Albania faces this challenge as one of Europe’s most vulnerable countries when it comes to climate-induced extreme weather events. With annual damages reaching 30 million EUR and 50,000 people yearly affected by floods, Albania urgently needs to adapt to emerging climate challenges. This undertaking involves grasping complex climate data, in order for the citizens of Albania to adapt to the unavoidable. The coastal belt, home of almost half of the Albanians and contributor to one third of the GDP, has the potential to transform from the most endangered region of the country to a model for climate resilience. Albania lacks a formalized national framework for climate services, capable of coordinating stakeholder involvement and deliver climate solutions. Thus, the country is unable to take risk-informed decisions and enable climate-resilient solutions across sectors and communities. Such urgent matter requires efforts to be focused on the establishment of the infrastructure for hydrometeorological services, which lays the foundations for enhancing the capabilities of the early warning system. However, to have a long-lasting impact, the information stemming from such services is critical for building resilience in the face of long-term climate threats. Consequently, by harnessing the power of climate data, it becomes imperative to embrace Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in order to safe-guard communities and biodiversity.

## Partners

ALBAdapt is a joint effort of the Government of Albania through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE), Ministry of Defence, National Civil Protection Agency, Institute of Geosciences (IGEO), the German Government through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, co-financed by Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Swiss Government.

## Objective

The ALBAdapt programme aims to foster Albania's climate resilience by strengthening its climate information services, implementing a multi-hazard early warning system, and promoting climate-informed investment decisions. By enhancing the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS), establishing a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), and empowering communities to take timely action through a people-centered early warning system, the programme will contribute to a more resilient future. Additionally, by catalyzing private sector involvement, identifying and implementing EbAs and Eco-Disaster Risk Reduction (eco-DRR) measures, and supporting informed climate-related investments, ALBAdapt will further strengthen Albania's adaptive capacity towards tangible climate action.

The programme will focus on national-scale improvements in hydrometeorological services and early warning systems. Additionally, it will prioritize EbA measures and Forecast-based Actions (FbAs) in coastal counties.

Programme name	Programme for Climate Resilient Urban Development in Albania (GCF), ALBAdapt
Financed by	Albanian Government (GoA) Green Climate Fund (GCF) German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
Project Region	Albania
Partners	Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE) as the main focal point for Climate Policy National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)
Beneficiaries	Direct beneficiaries: 700.000 Indirect beneficiaries: 1.800.000
Duration	2024-2030 (6 years)
Budget	34,516,000 Euro

Implemented by



# Programme approach

The ALBADapt project adopts a multifaceted approach. Nationally, it will strengthen the foundational elements of climate resilience, including the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS), the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), and a multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS). The steppingstone of such efforts will be materialized through the deployment of a digitalized platform in the frame of a National Climate Information Services (NCIS) that will embody the innovation needed to tackle the complexity of climate change. It will provide a robust framework for climate-informed decision-making across the country. Locally, the project will prioritize the Albanian coastal region, prominent for its vulnerability for its climate induced extreme weather events. Here, the focus will be on implementing EbAs and Eco-DRR measures, empowering communities to take early action, and supporting climate-resilient investments. This focused approach aims to maximize the programmes impact and address the specific needs of vulnerable communities.

## Main programme components:



**Weather, hydrological and climate information services**



**Multi-hazard early warning system and early action**



**Climate-informed investment decisions**

### **Component 1: Weather, hydrological & climate information**

A modernized observaton network:  
70-100 AWS/hydro

A national User Interface Platform



### **Component 2: Multi-hazard early warning system and early action**

A functional MHEWS – including deployment of multimodal alert system

Hazard impact models have been developed for 6 settlements in the coastal belt, accompanied by associated thresholds for triggering FbA

Emergency management plans have been developed for approximately 230 schools in coastal municipalities.



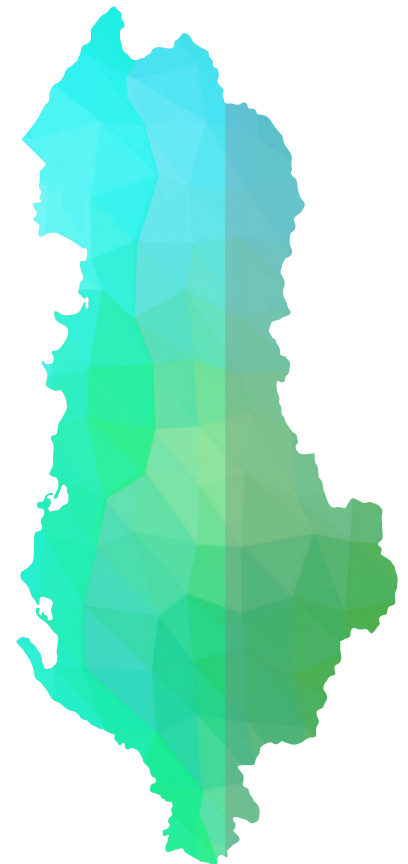
### **Component 3: Climate-informed investment decisions**

30 climate service business ideas (using a standard submission template) have been conceived

12 Local Adaptation Action Plans (LAAPs) completed and formally adopted the coastal belt municipalities

3 Climate services resulting from incubation have been tested and demonstrated in a real-world Albanian setting

5 EbA/eco-DRR measures have been successfully implemented, covering 3 different types of climate hazard and sourced from 3 different coastal zone LAAPs



## Alignment with national priorities

- National Strategy for Development and Integration NSDI II (2016)
- National Adaptation Plan (2015)
- National Climate Change Strategy (2019)
- National Adaptation Plan (2021)
- Climate Change Law 2020
- Revised NDC (2021)
- Law on Civil Emergencies (2021)
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2021

## Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

The ALBADapt project is supportive of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 13 (climate action). Furthermore, the project aligns with additional SDGs through the following project interventions:

- Early warning: Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 11 and 17
- Training and capacity building: Goals 4, 9, 12 and 17
- NbS: Goals 2, 3, 6, 11

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**In cooperation with** Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MoTE)

**As at** 2024

The project is jointly financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Government of Albania, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Swiss Government. Over 6 years, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with the Ministry for Tourism and Environment, the Ministry of Defense and the National Civil Protection Agency, will implement the project's three components.