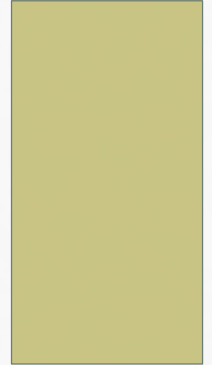




REPUBLIKA E SHqipëRIE
MINISTRIA E TURIZMIT
DHE MJEDISIT

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HERITAGE

ORNELA CUCI –
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT,
ALBANIA

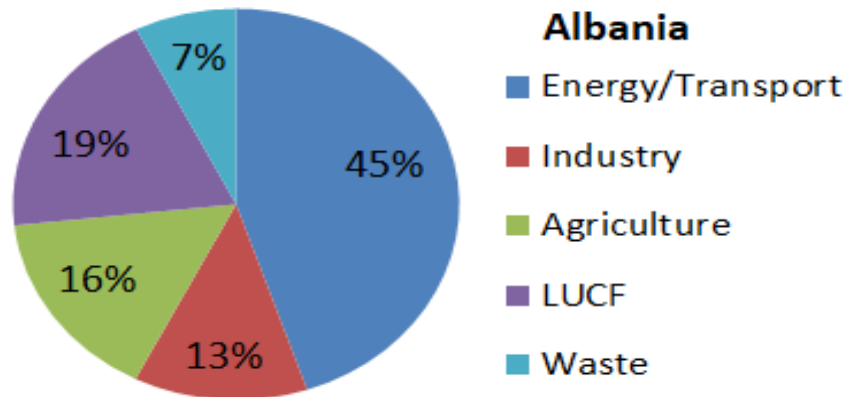


DEVELOPMENT

- Despite the significant progress achieved by Albania after the 1990s, the current economic development indicators show that the country as well as the entire Western Balkan Region can still be identified under the so called “development process”. The intensification of the “development process” as well as EU integration is a driving force for socio political development as well as a strategic objective.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONTRIBUTORS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Total direct GHG emissions for Albania amounted to 8,863.3 Gg of CO₂ eq., derived from five main contributing sectors: Energy, Industry, Agriculture, LUCF and Waste.





GHG EMISSIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE

- TEMPERATURE INCREASE**
- Air Temperature Increase
 - Water Temperature Increase
 - Soil Temperature Increase
 - Wildfire Temperature & Deforestation & Erosion

Habitats and Land degradation

Changes in flora and fauna

- PRECIPITATION DECREASE**
- Unsustainable Water Reserves
 - Freshwater Flow Decrease
 - Water Supply Change
 - Agricultural products Decrease

Habitats and Land degradation

Changes in flora and fauna

- STORM INTENSITY INCREASE**
- Flooding Intensity Increase
 - Erosion increase & landslide
 - Damage to infrastructure
 - Damage to habitats

Ecological Risk Increase

Human Health Risks Increase

ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Albania is known for its mountainous nature, diversity of territory and climate, as well as a rich cultural and natural heritage. Climate change has a profound impact, with expected temperature increase exceeding the global average.
- Without necessary investments in adaptation, climate change is expected to exacerbate environmental problems and negatively impact all sectors of development, including natural and cultural heritage.
- According to the National Communications submitted to the UNFCCC, in the last three decades, Albania has increased frequency of recorded temperatures above 37-40 degrees Celsius

CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Changes in the availability of fresh water resources are expected to result in consequences on ecosystems and the socio-economic life of the society, impacting the energy and agricultural sectors
- Temperature increases, lead to longer periods of drought, extreme climatic events and higher erosion
- Impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, forestry sector
- Impacts on land use and land use change

MEASURES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN ALBANIA

- Albania is State Party to all the three Rio Conventions, on climate change, desertification and biodiversity.
- Albania is also party to the:
 - Convention of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,
 - Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,
 - Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
 - Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

IMPORTANT STEPS FORWARD

- Process of Approximation of the Environmental Legislation with EU Directives
- Western Balkan Regional Conference and Joint Roadmap for Climate Action in collaboration with UNEP – March 2019
- Ban on Illegal logging in forests, hunting and plastics
- Specific projects on climate change, land degradation, early warning systems etc.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ALBANIA

- Butrint – UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992
- Historic Centers of Berat and Gjirokastra - UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 2005
- The Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe in Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine - UNESCO 2017 Decision no. 41
- Albanian folk iso-polyphony - UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

OTHER NATIONAL NATURAL AND CULTURAL SITES IN ALBANIA



NATIONAL IMPORTANT AREAS FOR CULTURAL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

- *Ancient cultural sites were designed for a specific local climate.*
- *The migration of pests can have adverse impacts on the conservation of the built and natural heritage.*
- *Increasing sea level threatens many coastal sites.*
- *The conditions for conservation of archaeological evidence may be degraded in the context of increasing soil temperature.*
- *Climate change impacts social and cultural aspects, will changes the communities' way of life, leading to migrating and abandoning their built and natural heritage.*

LINKING CLIMATE CHANGE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

- The issue of the impacts of climate change on World Heritage natural and cultural properties is very real. For this reason as a **long term measure** the World Heritage Committee in 2006 has requested States Parties to implement the strategy to protect the outstanding universal values, integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage properties from the adverse impacts of climate change.

SHORT TERM MEASURES

In the short term several measures can be undertaken to prevent the impacts of climate change on Heritage:

- *Define appropriate adaptation measures*
- *Enhance the sharing of knowledge among stakeholders*
- *Update management plans of all sites threatened by climate change to ensure sustainable conservation*
- *Increase research efforts by competent bodies, local stakeholders and universities*
- *Increase efforts of monitoring vulnerable sites*
- *Develop joint and regional projects*