



PRESS RELEASE

Albania impacted by climate change

Albania to integrate climate change adaptation measures into national and local programs.

Tirana, 11 June 2008 –The Government of Albania and UNDP have launched a new project today “Identification and Implementation of Adaptation Response Measures in the Drini-Mati River Deltas”.

The latest UN report on Climate Change has confirmed the warming of our climate which affects human activity, social and economic life. Such impacts range from sea level rise, melting of ice caps and glaciers, severe weather events, droughts, flooding, warming, and changing in ecosystems. Albania, like other countries in the world is not immune to such impacts, despite different contributions to the greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is expected to affect Albania with increased temperatures, less precipitation and sea level rise. This may hinder progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, if not addressed on a timely manner. A set of sectors and areas in the country have been identified to be at high risk including water resources, hydro-energy, coastal zone, ecosystems and agriculture.

UNDP Albania, Ministry Environment, Forests and Water Administration and other partners are focusing on adaptation actions needed for the area of Drini-Mati River Deltas - the area harboring biodiversity values of global and national significance.

The project focuses on the high vulnerability of the Drini Mati River Deltas, which combined with the likelihood of significant adverse impacts on the preservation of global biodiversity; indicate an urgent need for all actors to take into account the impacts of climate change into all future actions aimed at promoting sustainable

development in this area. Amongst others, the project aims to assist Albania in implementing strategies to moderate, cope with, and take advantage of the consequences of climate change.

The project is built on the previous UNDP support to climate change, and will help to pilot identification and implementation of adaptation measures through a combination of technical and institutional capacity development. Adaptation measures implemented on the ground will include; coastal dune habitat restoration, the modification of protection planning and coverage for the Drini Mati River Deltas, and other landscape-wide adaptation policy measures.

All these interventions aim at reducing negative social and economic impacts associated with climate change.

The project will last for 4 years and is financially supported by Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Government of Albania, UNDP and Regional Environment Center.

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