



Urban Research Institute

Climate Change Measurement, Reporting and Verification System of Albania: Emissions and Mitigation

Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Project

Terms of Reference for international consultancy on:

Feasibility evaluation of the implementation in Albania of the atmospheric-based GHG emissions estimation and verification method

Project background

Albania is party to the Paris Agreement within the UNFCCC with the status of a Non-Annex 1 Party, and is candidate for EU membership; both these national commitments require reporting of climate change data and action. A national system for climate change data measurement reporting and verification (MRV) needs to be established and implemented for the purpose of improving the quality of reporting as required from the UNFCCC and the EU environmental and climate change acquis. This system is fundamental for the improvement of the quality of national climate change data and information of the decision making on action; in this way it will support the improvement of the quality of reporting, and, at the same time, also the mobilisation of climate finance from GCF as well as from other donors.

Situation analysis

Incomplete national framework

At present, the establishment of a climate change measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system in compliance with the UNFCCC and EU environmental and climate change acquis requirements is one of the policy objectives of the Albanian National Climate Change Strategy and National Mitigation Plan (NCCS&NMP, the Strategy) 2021-2030, under the second strategic priority - to establish a national climate change monitoring, reporting and verification system in line with EU requirements.

Law no.155/2020 “On climate change” (the national law on climate change, the Law) was adopted in December 2020 and entered in force in July 2021. It is partially aligned with Regulation (EU) 525/2013.

The Strategy and the Law constitute the present national policy and legal framework on climate change in Albania, and in particular on the measurement, reporting and verification system on climate change.

The Law specifies that sub-legal acts pursuant to it shall be adopted within 4 years from its entry into force, which is within July 2025.

A draft Decision of the Council of Minister (the draft DCM) “*On monitoring and reporting GHG emissions and other information relevant to climate change at the national level, including related procedures and timing*”, has been prepared as the first draft sub-legal act pursuant to the Law. The data and information to be reported within the scope of this draft DCM are:

- a. *the anthropogenic GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the territory of Albania,*
- b. *the projections of GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the territory of Albania,*
- c. *the GHG mitigation actions developed and implemented in the territory of Albania,*
- d. *climate change adaptation measures developed and implemented in the territory of Albania,*
- e. *low-carbon development strategies developed and implemented in the territory of Albania,*
- f. *financial and technological support from state budget or developed countries.*

Within the institutional framework for climate change determined by the Law, the draft DCM determines the specific institutional framework of the climate change measurement, reporting and verification system. However, the draft DCM does not yet complete the national framework for the establishment of the MRV system; there are several major gaps which need to be approached:

First, there are no national methods for the measurement, reporting and verification of data: methods and templates are needed at every level of data measurement, reporting and verification determined by the Law and the draft DCM, from the private sector operators, the line ministries, the local government units, INSTAT, to the National Environmental Agency (NEA); methods are primarily needed for (i) the identification of the national anthropogenic GHG emission factors, including emission source and removal sink categories and sub-categories, (ii) the collection, assessment, calculation or measurement of data, (iii) the assessment of uncertainty, (iv) the quality assurance and control and (v) the projection of GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks; templates are primarily needed for monitoring and reporting of data, as well as for the archiving system.

Second, there are no administrative structures, procedures and data sharing processes: internal administrative structures and procedures are needed in each of the government and state institutions with responsibilities on MRV as determined by the Law and draft DCM, for the purpose of operationalizing their responsibilities and ensuring a timely and continuous verified data flow; for the same purpose data sharing processes are needed in relation to the private sector operators.

Third, the draft DCM needs to be revised before it is presented for adoption, with the following purposes:

- a. to become aligned with the new reporting regulations of the EU under the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, while it is currently aligned only with the Climate Monitoring Mechanism,
- b. to provide specifications on the responsibilities of private sector operators, which are currently missing,
- c. to provide specifications on the responsibilities of local government units, which are currently missing,
- d. to provide specifications on the responsibilities of IMWGCC, which are currently missing,
- e. to improve and complete specifications on the responsibilities of line ministries' agencies, which are currently incomplete and need improvement as found from stakeholder consultation workshops¹.

Fourth, the national budget for the implementation of the MRV system needs to be projected: the initial investment, and annual operation and maintenance costs of the (i) national methods, (ii) archiving system, (iii) administrative structures, procedures and data sharing processes, and (iv) the responsibilities designated to government and state institutions by the revised draft DCM need to be projected; these will inform a cost-effectiveness analysis of the implementation of the MRV system, which will be the basis for endorsement and approval of the MRV system by the Council of Ministers.

Lack of technical capacities

The GoA lacks the technical capacities to approach the gaps and complete the national framework for the establishment of the climate change measurement, reporting and verification system. Likewise, it lacks the technical capacities to implement the system.

Until present, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTE) has reported three NCs, in 2002, 2009 and 2016, the first BUR, two NDCs, in 2015 and 2021, and it is currently under the preparation of the fourth NC.

¹ Stakeholder consultation on the draft DCM have been organized and conducted from URI in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment as part of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Project 'Enhancement of the existing NDC' 2020-2022.

These reports have been prepared through the UNDP on a project basis. The cause of the present lack of technical capacities after so many years of national reporting is the weak commitment of the government and state institutions to the involvement in the work processes of the projects and to the ownership of the documents, methods and databases. At the root of such weak commitment is the lack of a national legal basis on climate change and, therefore, lack of legal institutional responsibilities and roles throughout these years; indeed, law no.155/2020 “On climate change” entered into force only in July 2021.

More specifically, commitment and cooperation across the governmental and state institutions in the climate change reporting until present has been poor, and the coordination activity of the IMWGCC has been lacking.

The methodologies used for estimating anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases have been those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Revised 1996 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. However, the GoA has not been directly involved in their selection and application; NEA has been consulted from UNDP and has participated in the UNDP’s trainings for the preparation of GHG emission inventory, however, these trainings have covered only the final stages of the work process, and the staff has not been directly involved in the preparatory stages, likewise in relation to the NCs, the BUR or the NDCs.

Poor quality of data

The main data providers have been the Ministry for Environment, National Environmental Agency, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (including Transport and Industry), National Agency for Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Extractive Industries Transparent Initiative, and the INSTAT; other data providers include the Bank of Albania, General Directory of Customs, as well as international organizations which have assisted the GoA, (such as the WB, UNDP, GIZ, EBRD, EIB, FAO, EU, etc.), universities and civil society organizations through studies. However, they have not provided data according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) nominations; most importantly, national emission factors have not been determined until present and have been represented by default factors of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and sectors of high uncertainty in the estimation of emissions are unknown; an aggregated information on the state of existing databases from these sources is missing; this ad hoc climate change data system has resulted in substantial data unavailability and uncertainty in the NCs, BUR and NDC 2015, and consequently in poor quality of the national reporting.

Finally, no regular monitoring of the implementation of the strategic documents related to climate change has been carried out, namely of NDC 2015, NCCS&NMP 2021-2030 and sectorial strategic documents, among which most importantly of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans 2017-2030, and National Strategy for Energy 2018-2030; these documents foresee monitoring plans of implementation, however, they are not aligned with or not prepared for the purpose and scope of the MRV on climate change, and in particular not with reporting requirements related to GHG mitigation actions, climate change adaptation measures and/or low-carbon development strategies developed and implemented at sectorial level.

Project purpose and goal

The **purpose** of this readiness and preparatory support project is to assist the GoA in the establishment of the national measurement, reporting and verification system for (i) *greenhouse gas emissions* and (ii) *mitigation actions*, and build the technical capacities for its implementation. The **goal** is to improve the quality of Albania’s national reporting under the UNFCCC and EU acquis for GHG emissions and mitigation actions, and mobilize climate finance.

Project specific objectives

The **specific objectives** of the project are:

1. Functional coordination mechanism and program of work for the establishment and implementation of the national GHG emissions and mitigation actions MRV system, with identified stakeholders, and determined roles and responsibilities, and with recommendations for mid- and long-term improvements, endorsed by the MTE
2. Final national sub-legal basis for the establishment of the GHG emissions and mitigation actions MRV system, including recommendations for improving the quality of national GHG emission data, and recommendations for improving data sharing processes with the private sector, consulted with 135 stakeholders, endorsed by MTE
3. Training of governmental and state institutions and the private sector for the implementation of the national GHG emissions and mitigation actions MRV system, and assessment of training needs for academia, in total 124 stakeholders

Project beneficiaries

The main **beneficiaries** of the project will be the government and state institutions and the private sector operators with legal responsibility in the establishment and implementation of the system, as determined by the Law: the National Environmental Agency, line ministries, the private sector operators, INSTAT, the local government units, academia, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment and the Inter-ministerial Working Group on Climate Change; in addition the Albanian School of Public Administration and the civil society.

Scope of the consultancy

URI is searching for an international consultant on **climate change data measurement, reporting and verification for GHG emissions and mitigation actions**. The scope of the consultancy is the implementation of one of the planned activities² for the achievement of the project's specific objective 2:

Activity 2.4: Carry out the feasibility evaluation of the implementation in Albania of the atmospheric-based GHG emissions estimation and verification method

The purpose of this activity is to support the improvement of the quality of the GHG emissions data of Albania in the medium to long term. Its specific objectives are:

- a. *identify GHG emission estimation uncertainties,*
- b. *determine sectors which benefit from the method in potential low-carbon development paths,*
- c. *inform and recommend MTE on potential technical capacities needed in the medium to long term period for the implementation of the method on sectorial basis: institutional, infrastructural and human.*

Tasks of the consultancy for the implementation of this activity are:

Task 2.4a:

Identify data needed for the feasibility evaluation, data sources, and data collection templates;

Task 2.4b:

Evaluate the feasibility of implementation of the method and provide recommendations for its implementation in the medium to long term period;

² The activity which is the scope of the consultancy is here numbered according to the ToR of the project of which it is part.

Task 2.4c:

Assist in the consultation workshop with stakeholders for the information, consultation and validation of the feasibility evaluation report.

To be provided from the Contractor

URI Project Team will provide local assistance in the implementation of the consultancy, which will comprise the following:

- assistance in the identification of data sources,
- assistance in institutional communication,
- collection of data,
- organization of consultation workshops with stakeholders,
- assistance in the mitigation of risks in relation to the fulfilment of the consultancy,
- further assistance needed, as may be identified from the Consultant, in agreement with the Contractor.

Work schedule

The implementation of the consultancy is planned to begin on 5 December 2022. The deliverables and planned delivery date for each of the tasks of the consultancy are presented in the following table:

Task deliverables	Planned delivery date
Activity 2.4	
2.4a: Data needed for the feasibility evaluation, data sources, and data collection templates	16 January 2023
2.4b: Feasibility evaluation report with recommendations	31 May 2023
2.4c: Recommendations on the workshop report	9 June 2023

Technical proposal

The Consultant is invited to submit a technical proposal with the following recommended structure and content:

1. Understanding of the ToR

The chapter should include at least:

- *climate change data measurement, reporting and verification,*
- *the atmospheric-based GHG emission estimation and verification method,*
- *the context of the project and the consultancy.*

2. Methodology of implementation of the consultancy

The chapter should include at least:

- *elements of the feasibility evaluation,*
- *general description of the data and work processes needed,*
- *work plan of activities for each task according to the work processes,*

A recommended structure of the work plan is the following:

Task activities
Activity 2.4
Task 2.4a: Identify data needed for the feasibility evaluation, data sources, and data collection templates
<i>Activities...</i>
Task 2.4b: Evaluate the feasibility of implementation of the method and provide recommendations for its implementation in the medium to long term period
<i>Activities...</i>
Task 2.4c: Assist in the consultation workshop with stakeholders for the information, consultation and validation of the feasibility evaluation report
<i>Activities...</i>

3. Risks and mitigation measures

The chapter should include at least potential technical and political risks for the fulfilment of the consultancy, and the respective mitigation measures.

4. Work schedule

The chapter should present the schedule of the implementation of the work plan as proposed under the methodology, including at least the milestone deliverables and planned delivery dates as in the ToR.

5. Experts

The following are qualification, experience and language requirements for the consultancy:

Education:

- M.Sc. in the field of atmospheric sciences or related sub-fields: meteorology/climate, atmospheric chemistry or physics, agricultural meteorology, or others;

Experience:

- At least one experience in the implementation or feasibility evaluation of the atmospheric-based GHG emissions estimation and verification method;
- At least one experience in atmospheric transport modelling;
- At least one experience in atmospheric composition (GHG) observations;
- Experience working with national meteorological and hydrological services is an advantage;

Language:

- Fluency in oral and written English.

CVs of experts which fulfil the above requirements should be submitted. At least one expert should be proposed for the consultancy. If a pool of experts is proposed, the fulfilment of the requirements will be jointly evaluated, i.e. the pool of experts must jointly fulfil all the requirements.

The technical proposal, excluding CVs of experts, should not exceed 5 pages, with normal margins, font size 11-12, as per the Microsoft Word software.

Financial proposal

The Consultant is invited to submit a financial proposal for the implementation of the consultancy. The financial proposal recommended structure is the following:

Task activities	Person days	USD per person day	Total USD
Activity 2.4			
Task 2.4a			
<i>Activities...</i>			
Task 2.4b			
<i>Activities...</i>			
Task 2.4c			
<i>Activities...</i>			

Submission of the proposal

The Consultant should submit a technical and a financial proposal within **25 November 2022, 23:59 CET**, in two separate pdf documents, via e-mail, in the following address: ekallamata@uri.org.al. Questions for clarification on the ToR may be sent to the same address until 18 November 2022.