

Policy and investment planning in FOLU in Albania to support the utilization of the climate change mitigation and sustainable development potential of the sector

Context

Albania’s forests and pastures cover approximately 65% of the national territory—46% forests and 19% pastures—constituting one of the country’s most critical natural resources. These ecosystems support both environmental integrity and socio-economic development.

Albania’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20.9% by 2030. Of this target, 61% is attributed to the energy sector, while FOLU accounts for 37%. This positions the FOLU sector as a major national contributor to climate mitigation efforts.

Despite its strategic relevance, the sector is currently hampered by fragmented governance, insufficient strategic planning, weak institutional coordination, low private sector engagement, and limited technical capacities at both central and local levels.

Project Objectives

The project aims to enable the full utilization of the climate change mitigation and sustainable development potential of the FOLU sector in Albania, with a specific focus on forests and grasslands.

Specific objectives include developing strategic and policy frameworks for low-emission development aligned with Albania’s NDC targets, strengthening institutional coordination and technical capacities at national and local levels, enhancing public and private sector engagement including investment planning and climate financing mechanisms, establishing data and monitoring systems for evidence-based decision-making, and raising awareness among stakeholders regarding the economic and environmental co-benefits of sustainable FOLU practices.

Deliverables and activities

- **Strategic Framework for Low-Emission Development:** Strategy for sustainable development in forests and pastures, aligned with Albania’s climate and development goals, including policy frameworks and investment planning.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** Training programs to strengthen national and local government skills for planning and managing sustainable land use, plus improved inter-institutional cooperation structures.
- **Investment Roadmap and Financing Mechanisms:** Comprehensive roadmap to attract and guide public and private investments in climate-friendly forest and land use activities with tailored financing mechanisms.
- **Monitoring and Awareness Systems:** Data collection, monitoring, and reporting tools for evidence-based decision-making, combined with outreach materials and community engagement activities for knowledge sharing.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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PARTNERS:
•Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania
•Urban Research Institute

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About URI

Since 1999, the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society /Soros Foundation, etc.