Terms of Reference for the expected assistance of the Netherlands EIA Commission

SEA CAPACITY-BUILDING IN ALBANIA AND MONTENEGRO, WITHIN A BROADER CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ALONG THE ADRIATIC COAST

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

With the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands under the BNPP, the World Bank will support the Governments of Albania and Montenegro (GOA, GOM) with capacity-building in the area of Strategic Environmental Assessment. The initiative compliments efforts to strengthen the countries' capacity for implementation of their respective poverty reduction strategies as well as to provide upstream analytical input to Bank operations. In addition, it will directly support priority Bank programmatic lending operations in both countries:

- Albania has already initiated large-scale coastal development planning program in parallel with concerted implementation efforts entailing substantial infrastructure investments, including as part of Bank supported Albania Coastal Zone Management and Clean-Up Program (ACZMCP). A centrepiece to this work is the preparation of the South Coastal Region Development Plan and associated SEA work. The BNPP-supported work will leverage and seamlessly integrate with that work to 1) independently assure its quality and 2) build upon it to develop and operationalize a structured approach to strengthen the GOA's institutional capacity for SEA.
- Similarly to Albania, the BNPP support will set in place a structured program for SEA capacity-building in Montenegro. The coastal zone of Montenegro is ecologically closely linked with that of Albania, and the GOM is planning to intensify tourism in coastal areas substantially over the next decade, with assistance from the World Bank among others (e.g., proposed IDA and GEF-financed Tourism Development Project currently under preparation). Therefore, it is expected that the SEA capacity-building initiative in Montenegro will focus initially on tourism and related development in the coastal region. However, the GOM may identify additional priority focal areas for SEA capacity building.

2. Objectives

The long-term objective of the project is the practical implementation of SEA in Albania and Montenegro in order to:

Contribute to improved decision-making by integrating environmental concerns and sustainable development principles into the development planning (plans and programs);

- Structure public and governmental debate in policy preparation and planning processes; and
- Guarantee public participation, transparency and quality of information.

To this end, the World Bank initiative aims at designing and initiating the implementation of a coherent medium-term (up to five years) programme for SEA capacity building in Albania and Montenegro with specific emphasis on processes/activities that contribute to the sustainable coastal zone management of their Adriatic coast. It is intended to both draw-upon and compliment existing and planned Bank operations in Albania and Montenegro and provide a framework for the selection and implementation of on-going and future (capacity-building) SEA activities not only by the Bank but also by other Donors active the area.

3. <u>Services sought from the Netherlands EIA Commission for the period</u> 2005-2006.

In meeting the above objective, the World Bank intends to enter with the Netherlands EIA Commission in a partnership arrangement and engage its expertise and services to perform the following activities:

- Undertake capacity gap assessment and assist the governments in drafting a multi year SEA capacity-building programme (Albania and Montenegro). The capacity assessment should be based on both the analysis of existing studies and fieldwork with the representatives of the respective governments (at central and local levels) as well as relevant private sector and NGO representatives. The multi-year program should be based on a realistic assessment of the resources that the respective governments can be expected to provide for implementation, including their own budgetary resources and external assistance after the close of the present activity. The program This should result in programmes that:
 - i) identify and target one or more sector/activity –specific opportunities for SEA pilot work per country that will also address the identified most pressing capacity gaps/institutional obstacles;
 - ii) link closely with on-going and planned Bank operations; and
 - iii) are approved and adopted by the respective governments.
- 2) Design and provide SEA training courses to the government and other stakeholders. (Albania and Montenegro) to be carried out with support from the grant (and other funding as appropriate). The training should both relate to and support Bank-assisted SEA pilot activities already under way (Albania) or expected to be initiated under this initiative (Montenegro).
- 3) Provide independent guidance on the implementation of two pilot SEA activities, as follows:
 - i) Guidance to the Albania ICZMCP-supported South Coast Development Plan SEA, including:
 - (1) providing advice to both the government and its consultants on the implantation of SEA process, and
 - (2) quality review of the final SEA report.

- ii) Following identification of the Montenegro pilot SEA (to be defined under 1 above), provide support and guidance for implementation, including:
 - (1) identification of scope of the activity
 - (2) designing the pilot SEA and assisting the Bank with Terms of Reference and selection of consultants to carry out the assignment;
 - (3) providing advice to both the consultants and their government counterparts on the implantation of SEA process and
 - (4) quality review of the final SEA report design.
- 4) In the context of the basis of the above training and pilot activities, develop dissemination strategy and materials, including the technical support for the organization of a regional SEA workshop.

4. Approach for an effective introduction of SEA

The approach to drafting a five-year SEA introductory programme should be such as to raise ownership for SEA by the respective governments. The implementation of specific pilot SEA to familiarise both government and other stakeholders with SEA is further expected to contribute to this process. As part of the dissemination strategy and based upon practical experiences with the pilot SEAs, the respective governments could be assisted with the drafting of country specific SEA procedures and guidelines (including guidance on new SEA legislation in line with the EU SEA directive, if necessary). If there is sufficient government buy-in, inter-ministerial SEA taskforces could become the driving force responsible for the implementation of the programmes. Finally, the program for introduction of SEA will include a coherent program for training of key stakeholders, aimed at ensuring that SEA processes are well understood, transparent and participatory.

Programme 16-20 January 2006

Date	Time	Objective
Monday, January 16	11.00- 14.30	Presentation of main issues and findings from the Interim Report (PAP/RAC-Sogreah) see participants list hereafter
	16.30	Meeting with H.E. Sweder van Voorst tot Vo- orst and Mr. Cas Van der Horst
Tuesday,	7.30	Departure for Vlora
January 17	11.00- 14.30	Presentation of main issues and findings from the Interim Report (PAP/RAC-Sogreah) see participants list hereafter
	14.30- 18.00	Visit Northern part of study area (Vlora- Himara)
	19.00	Overnight stay Himara
Wednesday,	7.30-	Himara-Tirana
January 18	13.00	
	13:00	Meeting with Mr. Marin Bicoku, Director of Urban Planning
	14:00	Meeting with Alma Bako, EIA Director and Zamir Dedej, Nature Conservation Director
	15:30	Meeting with Mrs. Franka Paloka, Director of Development Policies
Thursday,	9.00	Meeting with Mrs. Albana Vokshi, Adviser to
January 19	10.30	the PM for aid coordination
		Meeting with Valbona Mazreku, Milieukon- takt Oost-Europa, Albania local office
	12.30	Lunch with Drita Dade, WB-Tirana office, environmentally and socially sustainable de- velopment

	14.00	Meeting with Mr. Stavri Ristani, Deputy Min- ister, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication	
	17.00	Meeting with Elenita Roshi and Daniel Ren- ton, Butrinti Foundation	
Friday, January 20	9.00	Meeting with Nadir Mohamed, WB-office Country Manager	
	10.30	Meeting with Genc Myftiu, Sustainable Eco- nomic Development Agency	
	14.30	Departure for Rinas Airport	

THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS -- TIRANA

PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET Contact Number: ++355 04 228399

Mr. Besnik Aliaj, Advisor to the Prime Minister.

MINISTRTY OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICA-TION. Contact Number: ++355 04 227945

1. Mr. Stavri Ristan (PAO), Deputy Minister of Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication

- 2. Mr. Marin Bicoku, Director of Territorial Planning
- 3. Mr. Fahri Maho, General Director of Water Supply and Sewage
- 4. Genci Dautaj, General Director of Roads Department
- 5. PCU Staff

MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION: Contact Number: ++355 04 225134

1. Mrs. Alma Bako, Director of EIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS: Contact Number: ++355 04 232488

1. Mrs. Suzana Turku, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport

2. Genc Metohu, Advisor of the Minister

3. Franka Paloka, Director of Tourism Department

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1. Mr, Gjergj Bojaxhi, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy

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- 1. Mr. Ferdinand Pone, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Interior
- 2. Experts

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1. Mr. Apollon Baci, Director

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- 1. Mrs. Shpresa Leka, Director of the Institute Uban Studies and Projektions
- 2. Experts

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1. Mrs. Sokrat Sinaj, Director of State Committee of Land Restitution and Composition

- 2. Agim Toro
- 3. Miranda Cerepi
- 4. Patriot Cobaj

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- 1. Mrs. Katelijn Van Den Berg
- 2. Mrs. Drita Dade

COMMISSION EIA

- 1. Mr. Klaas Jan Beek Chairman of the working group
- 2. Mr. Roel Slootweg Natural Resource Management
- 3. Mr. Eric Mackay Spatial Planning, Coastal Development
- 4. Ms. Ineke Steinhauer Technical Secretary

PAP/RAC SOGREAH

- 1. Mr. Ivica Trumbic, Director of PAP/ RAC
- 2. Mr. Gojgo Berlengi
- 3. Five more experts.

THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS -- VLORA

MINISTRTY OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICA-TION.

1. Mr. Stavri Ristan (PAO), Deputy Minister of Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication

2. Mr. Marin Bicoku, Director of Territorial Planning

3. PCU Staff

MINISTRY OF ENVIROMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION:

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1. Mrs. Alma Bako, Director of EIA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS:

1. Franka Paloka, Director of Tourism Department

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND ENERGY

1. Mr, Gjergj Bojaxhi, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy

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- 3. Mr. Eric Mackay Spatial Planning, Coastal Development
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- 1. Theodhori Shia
 - 2. Mynyr Gjika Cheaf of Cabinet Vlora Regional Council
 - 3. Sulejman Bubeqi Director of Development Department

The Headman Vlora Regional Council

- 4. Vladimir Haxhi Director of Territorial Adjustment and Tourism
- 5. Niko Dumani Chief of Environmental Regional Agency Vlore
- 6. Leonard Jaho Director of Urbanity in Vlora Municipality
- 7. Halim Hallko Vice Headman of Vlora Municipality
- 8. Beqir Kashuri Headman of Orikum Municipality
- 9. Fitim Mizmo
- Headman of Lukova Commune
- 10. Petrit Dervishi Director of Wet Lands Project
- 11. Hasan Allko Director of Development Regional Agency,
- Auleda
- 12. Petrit Levendi Headman of Vlora Tourism Association (3 accompanists)

- 14. Fatbardha Kapaj Headman of Hor-Vranisht Commune
- 15. Hektor Harizi Expert of Environmental Regional Agency Vlore

Project information and composition of the Commission's working group

Proposed activity: The World Bank will support the Government of Albania in capacity building in the area of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) through the assistance of the Netherlands Government under the Bank Netherlands Partnership Programme. One of the activities of this SEA capacity building programme is the undertaking of a specific pilot SEA to familiarise both government and other stakeholders with SEA. For Albania, the so-called South Coast Development Plan was identified as a suitable plan for such a pilot SEA. The idea of the pilot would be to use this as a model to show how to integrate SEA in plan development. The key Ministries involved in this SEA are the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration.

The draft Interim report (South Coast Development Study, phase I)) has been presented to the Albanian authorities on 16 and 17 January 2006. This Study will form the basis for phase II and III, being the South Coast Development Plan and a so-called Policy Action Plan.

The World Bank has approached the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment. The objective of the involvement of the Commission in this pilot SEA for the South Coast Development Plan can be summarised as:

- provide independent advice to both the government and its consultants on the implementation of the SEA process and
- carry out an independent quality review of the final SEA report.

In practical terms this means that the Commission will review the Interim report (the 'Study'), and will do this in close co-operation with the above mentioned Ministries and the consultants that drafted the report.

Categories: DAC/CRS codes: 41010 Environmental Policy and administrative management, 41040 Site preservation.

Project numbers: Netherlands Commission for EIA (NCEIA): 061

Procedural information:

ToR with request for Advice	: 5 September 2005
Site visit to Albania by the Working Group	: 15-20 January 2006
Submission of Final Draft Advisory review	: 3 February 2006

Significant details: The Commission finds that when judging this Interim Study according to the several SEA phases (Screening, Scoping, Assessment, Decision making and Monitoring), in general the Assessment part (the Interim Study) is of good quality. Screening, Scoping and the link to Decision making did not yet receive sufficient attention. Also Monitoring should be further elaborated. This can be repaired however, as the Plan is being developed at the moment. The Commission has the following overall conclusions and recommendations: 1) Information for decision making: the quality of the information is good, however it should be better focused on the decisions to be taken.

2) Participation: a good start has been made but especially in Plan development extra efforts should be realized.

3) Transparency of the process and decision making: make available the most important information in the Albanian language including the decisions taken.

Composition of the working group of the Commission for EIA:

Mr. Klaas Jan Beek Mr. Eric Mackay Mr. Roel Slootweg

Technical secretary:

Ms. Ineke Steinhauer

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List of documents used

Available prior to site visit to Albania

- Terms of Reference SEA capacity building in Albania (September 2005);
- Secretariat Advice by the Netherlands EIA Commission on SEA capacity building in Albania (10 November 2005);
- Priority Assessment Study and SEA as a tool in Coastal management in Albania' (October 2004 by PAP/RAC);
- Overview of the EIA/SEA system in Albania, initially elaborated by REC (Regional Environmental Centre), updated early 2005;
- Integrated Coastal Development Study and Plan, final interim report, October 2005 PAP/RAC-Sogreah consultants. Appendices containing a detailed analysis and maps can be downloaded at www.gradst.hr/~pavasic/albania/
- Terms of reference Integrated Coastal Development Study and Plan for the Albanian Southern Coast' (end 2004) and Minutes of meeting between the Ministry of Territory Adjustment and Tourism and PAP/RAC (February 2005).
- Key sheets on SEA and SEA systems (Views and experiences Netherlands EIA Commission 2005)

Received during site visit to Albania

- Butrint National Park, a guide to the environment and walking trails.
- Trekking trough Southern Albania, Benen Hayden, 2005

Power-point presentations held during site visit

• Integrated Coastal Development Study and Plan of the Southern Albanian Coastal Region, Interim Report presentation, PAP/RAC, 16-17 January 2005

Written comments received after visit

- Ministry of Tourism, Cuture, Youth, and Sports, Department of Tourism Policies by Ms. Suzana Turku, Deputy Minister (18-1-06)
- Institute of Monuments of Culture, Director, Prof. Dr. Apollon Bace (16-1-06)
- Institute of Urban Studies and Projections, URB D. Progri, URB R.Daja, ARK V. Bufi (16-01-06)
- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Administration of Waters, Deputy Minister Aleksander Garuli (20-1-06)
- Form TECH 4 Description of Approach, Methodology and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment. PAP/RAC, 40 p. (received 14-2-2006).