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Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF)

Albania National and Regional Roads Project

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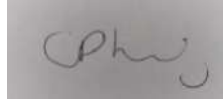


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Author	Sébastien Essayé	Technical reviewer	Bren Sheehy
Signature		Signature	
Date:	16/07/20	Date:	16/07/20
Project manager	Joanne Nightingale	Quality reviewer	Corinne Kennedy
Signature		Signature	
Date:	16/07/20	Date:	16/07/20
Reviewer Specialist of Environmental and Social Unit ADF	Nertis Mero	Reviewer Head of Environmental and Social Unit ADF	Blerta Duro
Signature		Signature	
Date:	20.08.2020	Date:	20.08.2020

**Director of
Infrastructure
Department
ADF**

Arben Skënderi

Signature

Date: 20.08.2020

**Project Manager
ADF**

Dritan Mehdi Agolli

Signature

Date: 20.08.2020

**Director of Projects
Management
Department
ADF**

Ermir Omari

Signature

Date: 20.08.2020

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
ADF	Albanian Development Fund
ALL	Albanian Lek
AMTP	Land acquisition act document (Akti i Marrjes se Tokes ne Pronesi)
ANC	Antenatal care
AOI	Area of Influence
ARA	Albanian Road Authority
ARAP	Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan
AU	Administrative Unit (Gjorice, Ostren, Lunik and Stëblevë)
COVID-19	Coronavirus
DCM	Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GII	Gender inequality index
GIS	Geographical Information System
GoA	Government of Albania
GNP	General National Plan
GRM	Grievance Redress Management
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HLE	Healthy Life Expectancy
ICH	Intangible cultural heritage
IoCM	Institute of the Cultural Monuments
IPRO	Immovable Property Registration Office
Kg	Kilogram

Abbreviation	Description
KII	Key Informant Interview
Km	Kilometre
LARF	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework
LGC	Local Grievance Committee
LGU	Municipality (Bulqizë and Librazhd)
LRCP	Local Roads Connectivity Project
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
MC	Ministry of Culture
MIE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
NAPA	National Agency of Protected Areas
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OMP	Operational Management Plan
OP	Operation Policy
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PNC	Postnatal care
PS	Performance Standard
PWD	Persons with disabilities
RCA	Regional Cadastre Agency
ROA	Republic of Albania
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SA	Social Assessment
SAC	State Agency of Cadastre
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
TAP	Trans Adriatic Pipeline
TCH	Tangible cultural heritage
WBG	World Bank Group
WHS	World Heritage Site
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council



DEFINITION OF RESETTLEMENT-RELATED TERMINOLOGY

terminology	Definition
Application file	Set of documents prepared to support the request for expropriation submitted to the respective authority
Case file	Set of documents that the Expropriation Commission finalizes in support of proposal for expropriation to the Council of Ministers
Census	A field survey carried out to identify and determine the number of Project Affected Persons (PAP) or Displaced Persons (DPs). The meaning of the word shall also embrace the criteria for eligibility for compensation, resettlement and other measures emanating from consultations with affected communities.
Compensation	Compensation is the payment in kind, cash or other assistances given in exchange for the acquisition of land including fixed assets, as well as other impacts resulting from project activities.
Cut-off date	Date of completion of the census and assets inventory of persons affected by the project. Persons occupying the project area after the cutoff date are not eligible for compensation and/or resettlement assistance. Similarly, fixed assets (such as built structures, crops, fruit trees, and woodlots) established after the date of completion of the assets inventory, or an alternative mutually agreed on date, will not be compensated.
Expropriation Commission	Special commission for application of the expropriation procedure in case of the sub activities.
Expropriation Law	Law No.8561/22/12/1999 'On Expropriation and Taking on Temporary Use of Private Property for Public Interest' The expropriation Law No. 8561 date 22.12.1999, is amended by Law 11 date 12.02.2020. DCM 395 date 13.05.2020 "For the Organization and Operation way of Governmental Agency of Expropriation"
Full replacement cost	Method of valuation of assets that helps determine the amount sufficient to replace lost assets and cover transaction costs. Depreciation of structures and assets should not be taken into account. For agricultural land it is the pre-project or pre-displacement, whichever is higher, market value of land of equal productive potential or use located in the vicinity of the affected land, plus the costs of preparing the land to levels similar to those of the affected land, plus the cost of any registration and transfer taxes
Land	It refers to agricultural and/or non-agricultural land and any structures thereon whether temporary or permanent and which may be required for the project.
Land acquisition	It means the repossession of or alienation of land, buildings or other assets thereon for purposes of the Project.
Local Grievances Committee	Local committee composed of three representatives: PAPs, Project; neutral expert to handle all grievances procedures in the affected areas and address PAPs concerns.

terminology	Definition
Local Government Unit	The LGUs include Municipalities and Administrative Units as per the new territorial division in force since June 2015.
Project	Insert program name
Project Affected Person (s) (PAPs)	PAPs are persons affected by land use or acquisition needs of the RAP in the framework of the project. These person(s) are affected because they may lose, be denied, or be restricted access to economic assets; lose shelter, income sources, or means of livelihood. These persons are affected whether or not they must move to another location.
Region	Municipalities of Librazhd, Bulqize
Replacement cost	It means replacement of assets with an amount sufficient to cover full cost of lost assets and related transaction costs. The cost is to be based on Market rate (commercial rate) according to Albanian law for sale of land or property. In terms of land, this may be categorized as follows: (a) "Replacement cost for agriculture land" means the pre-project market value of land of equal productive potential or use located in the vicinity of the affected land, plus the costs of: (b) preparing the land to levels similar to those of the affected land; and (c) any registration and transfer taxes.
Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) or "Resettlement Plan"	It is a resettlement instrument (document) prepared when projects locations are identified. In such cases, land acquisition leads to physical displacement of persons, and/or loss of shelter, and/or loss of livelihoods and/or loss, denial or restriction of access to economic resources. RAP is prepared by the party (Potential Developer) impacting on the people and their livelihoods. RAP contains specific and legal binding requirements to resettle and compensate the affected party before implementation of the project activities. RAP is a site specific report for the current known impacts and is prepared in conformity with the provisions of this RPF with the views of the PAPs.
The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)	It is an instrument to be used throughout the implementation of project activities as guidance tool. The RPF sets out the resettlement and compensation policy, organizational arrangements and design criteria to be applied to meet the needs of the people who may be affected by the project.

1 INTRODUCTION

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is considering providing a sovereign loan to the Republic of Albania (RoA) for the benefit of the Albanian Development Fund (ADF) to finance a road improvement scheme. The works will entail upgrading and widening sections of an existing gravel road from Zgosht to Cerenec (hereafter ‘the Project’). This document presents the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF) to enable the Project.

1.1 Project Description

1.1.1 Project location

The existing road is located in East Albania, approximately 41 km from Tirana, within the municipalities of Bulqizë and Librazhd and the districts of Dibër and Elbasan.



Figure 1-1: Examples of sections of the road in Fushe Studen (left) and Lunik (right)

The existing road stretches 47.1 km and connects Zgosht to Ura e Cerenecit Bridge. It is a predominantly unsurfaced two-way road in a rural, mountainous area. Approximately 13.5 km of the road runs along the western border of the Shebenik – Jabllanice National Park.

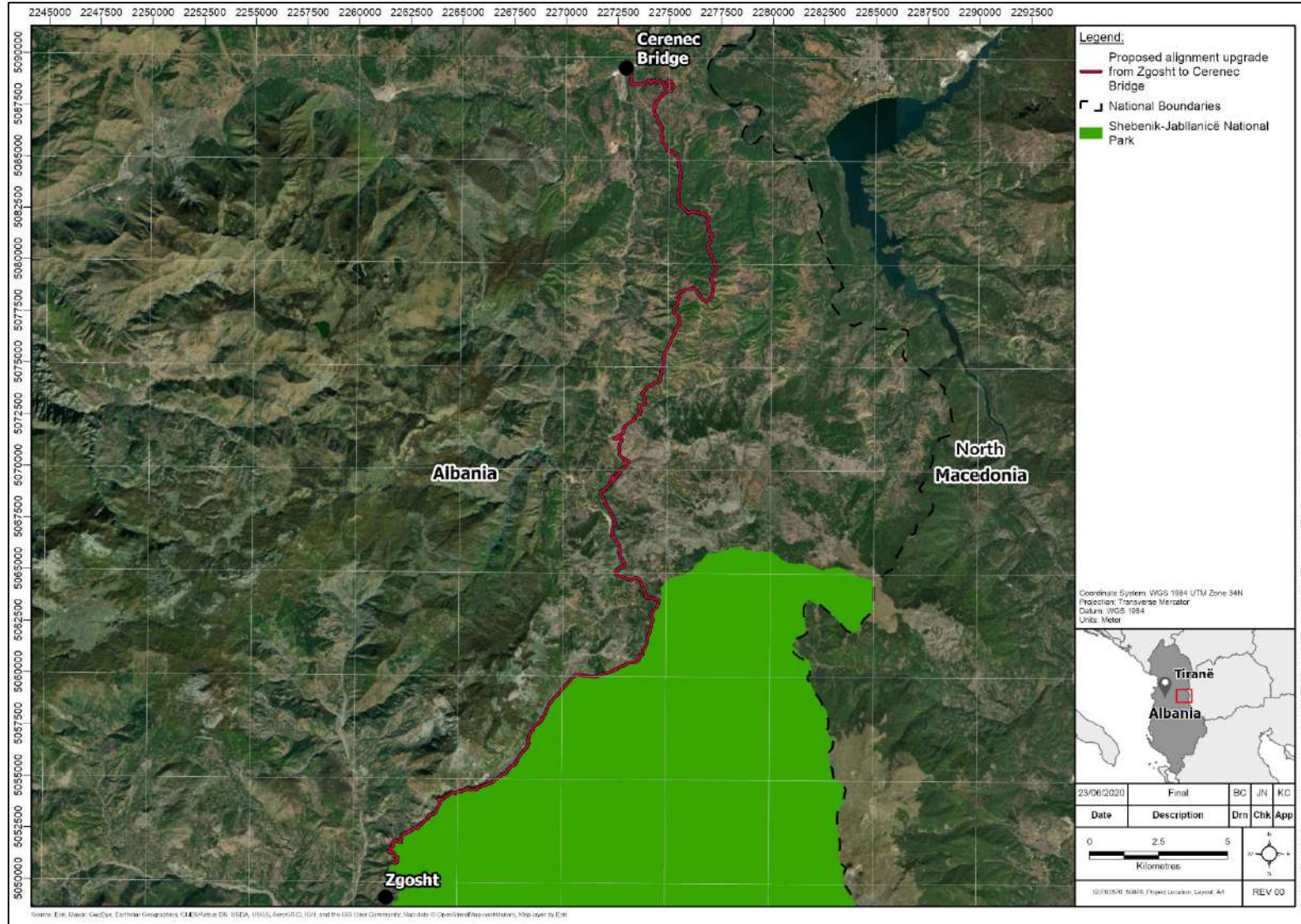


Figure 1-2: Project location

1.1.2 Project justification

Road improvement works (e.g. widening of the road, construction of roadside channels) were undertaken along this section of the road in 2012 by the Albanian Road Authority. However, according to the Feasibility Study conducted by ADF in February 2020, the road is currently a limiting factor in the economic development of these districts. It is inadequate to support existing and predicted levels of vehicle traffic and to meet road safety requirements.

It is anticipated that the road works will support economic development, agriculture and tourism (e.g. Parku Shebenik Jabllanicë in Librazhd). This Project is part of the General National Plan (GNP) Albania 2030 which was approved on December 14, 2016. The GNP is the highest instrument of territorial planning in Albania and aims to ensure integrated economic social and environmental planning in the country. The General Local Plans of Librazhd and Bulqize (drafting in progress) highlight the importance of this development at municipality level.

1.1.3 Proposed road works

The road is currently in the design phase. It is expected that the road will be widened to 8 m, with asphalted traffic lanes measuring 2 x 3.25 m and gravel shoulders measuring 2 x 0.75 m.

The following road works are anticipated:

- Permanent and temporary habitat loss within a 10 m working width from the edge of the existing road.
- construction of the sub-base and base layers along the length of the entire road
- construction of the asphaltic layers (6 cm thick binder course and 4 cm wearing course layer)
- cleaning and improvements of the existing drainage system (including concrete channels and culverts). Currently some culverts also serve as animal crossings.
- construction of additional concrete retaining walls
- installation of road safety barriers
- bioengineering works to stabilise and protect escarpments
- installation of traffic signs (i.e. pedestrian and vehicle signage)
- the addition of road markings
- installation of streetlighting along sidewalks in urban areas
- upgrading existing areas of paving
- constructing new areas of paving in urban areas
- the installation of pipes for the optical fibre network in urban areas
- the rehabilitation of several bridges

The road will pass along the existing right of way. As stated in the Feasibility Report, excavation works will not be undertaken beyond the width of the existing road as this was completed in 2012. However, the detailed design will provide for the final interventions, considering road safety and environmental issues.

Whilst there is much uncertainty regarding the detailed methods of construction at this stage in the Project development, some key aspects of the approach have been confirmed. For example, habitats and topsoil will only be cleared within key sections of

the working width using graders or bulldozers, jackhammers and trucks. The exact area of habitat clearance beyond the road footprint is uncertain but is likely to be small in area and localised.

The excavated material (i.e. topsoil and rocky substrate) will be stockpiled and reused for construction and landscape restoration. The stockpile areas will be located near the proposed road alignment and will include temporary waste disposal sites for storing inert materials. Habitats within the stockpile areas will be rehabilitated following use. The exact locations of the stockpiling sites and borrow pits are unknown at this stage in the Project development.

The extent to which some level of access along the road will be maintained during the construction works is not currently clear. Public utilities (i.e. telephone, electricity and water) are unlikely to be disrupted during the installation of new pipes and cables to the existing network. There is currently no existing underground infrastructure such as telephone cables, electricity or piping system.

1.1.4 Potential land take

The total length of the road to be upgraded is 47.1km¹. During the road works, a working width of 10 m beyond the existing road (assumed to be 10m wide) will be established (total 30m). This corresponds to a potential land take beyond the existing road of 92 ha (see Section 5.2 for further details).

Based on the proposed road works (see Section 1.1.3), it is assumed that half of this land will be acquired temporarily. Some land may require permanent acquisition for the construction of additional concrete retaining walls and new areas of paving, and installation of road safety barriers. It is expected that no physical displacement (no relocation) will take place during the proposed road works.

1.2 Objectives of the LARF

The objectives of the LARF are to:

- describe the applicable legal and administrative framework (Chapter 2)
- establish the resettlement and compensation goals and principles for the Project define the approach to be taken for resettlement and compensation (Chapter 2)
- provide a socio-economic description of the PAPs (Chapter 3)
- describe measures that will be taken during the design phase to minimise resettlement (Chapter 4)
- provide an estimate of displacement-related impacts (Chapter 5)
- identify categories of Project-affected Persons (PAPs) (Chapter 6)
- define criteria for eligibility for compensation of the different categories of PAPs, relocation and other forms of resettlement assistance (Chapter 6)
- develop a framework that defines the type of resettlement assistance to which the various categories of PAPs are entitled to, based on the type of loss they experience as a result of the Project (Chapter 6)
- identify key stakeholder groups and provide a summary of the stakeholder engagement activities conducted to date (Chapter 7).

¹ Based on GIS data sent by ADF to RSK

- Subsequent resettlement planning process (Chapter 8)
- set out the relevant organisational arrangements and institutional responsibilities (Chapter 9);
- provide an indicative schedule for preparing a LRP (Chapter 10)
- provide budget considerations for planning and implementing the land acquisition process (Chapter 11)
- provide recommendations (Chapter 12).

1.3 Livelihood restoration

Based on our current understanding of the Project (see Section 1.1.3) and expected social impacts (i.e. there is unlikely to be any physical displacement), the Project might require the preparation of a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) or Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in the next stage in the land acquisition process. This will be determined when the individual project components are defined and the required information becomes available.

2 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

This chapter sets out the Albanian and international requirements for land acquisition and resettlement. It also provides a gap analysis between Albanian laws and EBRD’s PS5 and identifies the strategies required to address those gaps

2.1 Albania legal requirements

This section outlines the key Albanian laws, supporting regulations and policies that are relevant to land acquisition and resettlement.

Table 2-1 below identifies the key pieces of Albanian legislation.

Table 2-1: Identification of key Albanian legislation

Albanian name	English name	Key issues addressed
Kushtetuta e Republikës së Shqipërisë	Constitution of the Republic of Albania	Main constitutional principles, essential rights and freedoms, organization of the State and independence of State bodies, elections, hierarchy of the laws etc. Requires institutions to maintain a healthy environment, ecologically suitable for present and future generations. On Article 41/4 of the Albanian Constitution it is provided: “The expropriations or limitations of a property right that are equivalent to expropriation are permitted only against fair compensation”.
Marreveshja e Kredise	Loan Agreement	An international agreement ratified by law has priority on application in front of a common law. (Art. 122 point 2 of the Albanian Constitution). Furthermore, if a law creates a collision with an international agreement ratified by law, it will be applied the international agreement. This principle provides a guarantee that the international loan agreement signed between the Albanian Government and World Bank, has priority on application in front of the common law, especially in front of the mentioned law “On expropriation....”.
Kodi Civil i Republikës së Shqipërisë	Civil Code of the Republic of Albania (Chapter II Acquisition and Loss of Property)	Objects and ownership: acquisition and loss of property (Chapter II). Legal rights relating to immovable properties (such as ownership,

Albanian name	English name	Key issues addressed
		<p>easement-servitudes and usufruct rights, lease, etc.), and the obligation to register property rights.</p>
Për Kadastrën	The New Law 111/2018 “On Cadastre”	<p>Defines the rules for the registration of the public or private immovable properties and the real rights over them, as well as the establishment, organisation and operation of the State Agency of Cadastre.</p> <p>The new State Agency of Cadastre ("the Agency") will take over the responsibilities of three current state authorities: 1) Immovable Properties Registration Office, 2) Agency of Legalization, Urbanization and Integration of Informal Constructions and 3) Agency of Inventory and Administration of Public Properties.</p> <p>The new law provides a new digital Cadastre which facilitates the procedure of obtaining updated information related to the immovable properties in due time.</p> <p>New Law "On Cadastre" entered into force on March 21st 2019 and has superseded Law no. 33/2012, dated 21.03.2012 “On Immovable Property Registration”.</p>
Për shpronësimet dhe marrjen në përdorim të përkohshëm të pasurisë pronë private për interes publik	Law 8561, dated 22/12/1999 "On expropriation and temporary use of private property for public interest" (amended in 2016 and more recently by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...”).	<p>Regulates the right of the State to expropriate, or take in temporary use, for public interest the properties of legal entities or individuals and the protection of the rights and interests of the expropriated owners.</p> <p>In general, expropriations may be carried out for projects and investments in the territory of Albania, for the protection of archaeological, historical or cultural monuments and for the protection of public health and security. Law 8561 requires that direct notification procedures for the intent to expropriate begin within 10 days after the relevant Ministry accepts the expropriation request. In addition, a one-week publication period in a national newspaper is required.</p>

Albanian name	English name	Key issues addressed
		<p>This amendment was published in the Albanian Official Journal on 10th March 2020 and entered into force on 25th March 2020 (15 days after the law was published).</p> <p>The basic changes that have been approved in the law “On expropriation” through the amendment -the law no. 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020, are described as follows:</p> <p>First, for the very first time it recognises the right to define and calculate the compensation of properties under private ownership, expropriated for public interest, based on the stipulations of the international agreement rectified by law for the realisation of projects. Specifically, provisions in this RPF will govern compensation of private properties affected under the Project, as part of the international agreement between the Republic of Albania and the donor on the Project.</p> <p>Second, a new agency called ‘State Agency for Expropriations’ is being established. As outlined in Article 11, point 5 of the Law 8561, dated 22.12.1999, amended by law no.11/2020, dated 12.02.2020, it is an institution under the dependency of the minister responsible for the urban development, and has the main responsibilities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) plan and administer the requests for expropriation from the respective institutions; b) calculate the value of the compensation for each property affected by the expropriation; c) supervises the progress of the expropriation procedures; d) create a database for all the expropriation procedures and the payment of each expropriation cost; e) is entitled to enter in negotiations with the subjects that will be expropriated, regarding the value of the expropriation compensation and the time limit for

Albanian name	English name	Key issues addressed
		the liquidation of this value, precise rules for the manner of handling the negotiations with the expropriated subjects are defined by the Council of Ministers, based on the proposal of the minister responsible for the urban development.
Për legalizimin, urbanizimin dhe integrimin e ndërtimeve pa leje	On the legalisation, urbanization and integration of informal zones/constructions	Legalisation of informal constructions. Transfer of the ownership rights over the land plot where the informal construction will be legalized. Urbanization of zones, blocks of informal constructions and their integration into the urban development of the country.
Per verifikimin e titujve te pronesisë mbi token bujqësore, i ndryshuar.	On consideration/revision of legal validity for creation of ownership titles on arable land	Review agricultural land allocations with the power to overturn/confirm land commission decisions that, in many cases, are already legally registered in the IPRO. Deals with the already-started land distribution procedures regulated by previous Laws No. 7501 of 1991 and No. 8312 of 1998 and provides local government structures with more time to finalize the documentation
Për përfundimin e procedurave ligjore të kalimit të tokës bujqësore të ishndërrmarrjeve bujqësore në pronësi të përfituesve	On legal proceedings required for granting ownership of agricultural land of former agricultural enterprises to beneficiaries specified in Law 8053 of 1995.	Finalization of documents for already-started land distribution procedures regulated by Law 8053 of 1995.
Për Trajtimin e Pronës dhe Përfundimin e Procesit të Kompensimit të Pronave	Law No. 133/2015 on the Treatment of Property and Finalization of the Process of Compensation of Property	Regulation and provision of a just compensation on the property rights issues raised from expropriations
Për Kthimin dhe Kompensimin e Pronës	Law No. 9235/2004 on Restitution and Compensation of Property	The object of this Law is: (a) the just regulation of the issues of property rights that have arisen from expropriation, nationalization, or confiscation; (b) restitution and compensation, whenever restitution is not possible; (c) the procedures for accomplishing restitution and compensation of property and the administrative bodies charged with its completion

Albanian name	English name	Key issues addressed
Për Planifikimin dhe Zhvillimin e Territorit	Law No. 107/2014 on territory planning and development	This Law aims at ensuring the sustainable development of the territory through the rational use of land and natural resources; assessing the actual and future potential of the territory development on a local and national level by balancing natural resources with economic demand and public and private interests.

Source: RPF TAP (2014); ECOLEX (2020)

The Albanian legislation outlined in Table 2-1 is further detailed below

Key principles pertaining to land acquisition include:

- The Albanian Constitution sets out dispositions on the expropriation and limitation of property rights. The right of property is guaranteed. Property may be acquired by donation, inheritance, purchase or any other means provided by the Civil Code (Article 41).
- The Albanian Constitution (Article 41) provides that “The expropriations or limitations of a property right that are equivalent to expropriation are permitted only against fair compensation”.
- The Civil Code
 - Article 162 provides that “the right to property and other rights over objects are transferable, except when prohibited by law or by the nature of the right”
 - Article 173: Plants, as well as buildings and every other construction which are situated on or under the surface of the ground, belong to the owner of the land, except when differently provided by this Code and by other legal provisions.
 - Article 190: expropriation must be done only for public interests recognized by law and only against fair compensation. Such objects pass under the property of the state or of other public agencies, in which favour the expropriation is done.
- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations enables government institutions, and to a certain extent private legal persons, to acquire private property for projects that are deemed to be of national and/or local interest, while protecting the interests of all PAPs with legal title, whose assets are to be expropriated. The law describes how an expropriation procedure begins, for what reasons, and the right of the owners to contest the evaluation of the property made unilaterally by the State institutions. The most important features of the Law on Expropriation pertaining to land acquisition are:
 - Expropriation is subject to public interest “in accordance with general principles of international law”
 - The law provides an exhaustive list of what is deemed as public interest (Article 8), this includes for the realisation of the projects and of the investments with a national or local territorial interest or expansion in the field of transports of any kind, of energy, telecommunication, water works of any kind in the service of the public interest.
 - Expropriation is subject to “fair compensation” (Article 2);

- Expropriation can only be decided by the Council of Ministers (Article 21)

Key principles pertaining to rights, transactions and registration include:

- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 6) outlines the rights and privileges of the owner of the private property that is expropriated.
- Ownership titles must be registered (Civil Code, Article 193).
- Law No. 133/2015 (Article 8) provides that expropriated subjects shall be subject to the compensation procedures pursuant to the provisions of the law, based on the final decisions on recognition and compensation:
 - in monetary value;
 - in another immovable property of any kind, with equal value, owned by the State;
 - with shares in companies with State owned capital, or where the State is co-owner, with an equal value to the immovable property.
 - with the value of facilities, subject to privatisation.
- Law 8651/1999 on expropriations (Article 14) provides that within 10 days from the date of signing the agreement with the expropriation applicant, the competent ministry starts to fulfil the realisation of the direct notification procedures.
- The New Law 111/2018 “On Cadastre” (Article 10) stipulates the conditions for transferring ownership of land without remuneration.
- The New Law 111/2018 “On Cadastre” (Article 11 and Article 12) provides details and procedure for ownership transfer without remuneration: the amount of agricultural land surface which is transferred in ownership without remuneration is:
 - the same as the area determined in the act of ownership acquisition of the land;
 - the same as the norm calculated from the ratio of the current surface area that results to be free on the ground with the number of captia.
 - The transfer is made by the State Agency of Cadastre, according to the list of land users, approved by the municipal council (Article 12).

Key principles pertaining to valuation include:

- The value of land (including agricultural land, forest and pasture) affected by expropriation procedures is defined (in ALL/m²) by the Decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers (DCM).
- The Council of Ministers Decision No 138 dated 23.03.2000 provides the legal criteria for the evaluation of properties affected by expropriation.
- The value of crops, plants, orchards, forests and permanent nurseries is defined based on the average value of their sale price in the relevant area as indicated in the IPRO register. In case IPRO declares in writing that it is not able to provide such price indicators, interested parties may request that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumers Protection carry out a specific technical valuation and to calculate the value of property subject to the expropriation.
- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 13) on valuation of property:
 - for the valuation of property that will be compensated, the Local Commission for Restitution and Compensation of Property establishes an expert group. The commission appoints as experts experienced and

- specially qualified persons in the fields of law, economics and engineering that is related to the process of restitution and compensation of property.
- the value of the property that is compensated according to this law is calculated based on the market value in accordance with the methodology proposed by the State Committee for Restitution and Compensation of Property and approved by a decision of the Assembly.
 - Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 16), the expropriation of the private property shall be done by fully refunding the value of the property and safeguarding the rights of third parties in the private properties being expropriated.
 - Law No. 133/2015 (Article 8), the base indicators on the value or property shall be assigned separately for land and buildings/facilities. When a property combines both land and the building/facility, its value is calculated per unit, as the summary of the values of the facility and the land on which it is built.
 - The value of the property to be compensated, shall be calculated pursuant to the provisions of this law based:
 - for the land, on the value map;
 - for facilities, on the decision of Council of Ministers on the assessment methodology for immovable properties in the Republic of Albania.
 - Law No. 9235/2004 on Restitution and Compensation of Property on valuation of property (Article 13).
 - The New Law 111/2018 “On Cadastre” (Article 8) provides that “the value of the payment is calculated according to the land value map determined by the decision of the Council of Ministers for the alienated surfaces as a result of the transaction or the compensated value for the alienated surfaces as a result of expropriation for public interest”.

Key principles pertaining to stakeholder engagement include:

- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 15), publication of the request for expropriation for the public interest requires that
 - the competent ministry makes the publication of the request for expropriation in the Official Journal, in a newspaper which is delivered throughout the country as well as in a local newspaper for a period of one week
 - the third parties, no later than 15 days from the date of the expiration of the publication time limits, according to this article, are entitled to present their allegations accompanied with the respective documents in the competent ministry.
- Albania has ratified a number of regulations relevant to access to information and community participation in decision making. The level and nature of ‘participation’ is not explicitly defined in the legislation but suggests that members of the local communities should work in partnership with local authorities to reach an optimal result in local decision-making and policy development.
- Law 107/2014 on Territorial and Development Planning (amended by Law No 288/2017) regulates consultations and organisation of public meetings. The Planning Authority notifies the public and interested parties of the location, date and time of each public meeting and makes available the draft planning document, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The announcement is made through the publication of the information in the register and in two major circulation papers or other media. Comments and suggestions on the draft plan,

received during the publication process, are considered in the finalisation of the plan.

Key principles pertaining to grievances include:

- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 24) provides for an appeals process against the proposed award for compensation.
- Notification of the final Decision of the Council of Ministers on expropriation is made directly to the owners of the expropriated property, who have the right to appeal in court within 30 days from receiving notice but only as to the amount of compensation specified in the decision.
- An appeal against a decision of the Council of Ministers for the expropriation does not suspend the implementation of the decision and the respective procedure for the re-registration of the expropriated property.
- Law 8651/1999 amended by the Law 11/2020 dated 12.02.2020 “For some changes and additions to the law no.8561...” on expropriations (Article 16) sets out provisions for submission of allegations.
- Law No. 9235/2004 on Restitution and Compensation of Property provides for the right to appeal (Article 20).

Key principles pertaining to cultural heritage and chance finds

- Law 8651/1999 on expropriations (Article 8), expropriation can be done for the protection of archaeological, historical or cultural monuments.
- Law No. 9235/2004 (Article 7) provides that special cultural and historical property as defined according to the legislation in force is immovable property that is not subject to restitution.

2.2 International Standards

International best practice standards relating to resettlement require that involuntary resettlement is avoided or minimised and that unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition are mitigated. They recognise the rights of all land users, including owners, tenants and informal settlers etc and require extensive disclosure and participation, clearly defined eligibility and compensation frameworks, attention to the needs of disadvantaged or vulnerable persons and strong grievance redress mechanisms. Key international standards include

- the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework – Environmental and Social Standard 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement (The World Bank’s operational policy 4.12 on involuntary resettlement)
- EBRD Performance Requirement 5 on Land Acquisition, Involuntary Resettlement and Economic Displacement.

International best practice standards define displaced persons broadly as:

- persons who have formal legal rights to land or assets they occupy
- persons who do not have formal legal rights to land or assets, but have a claim to land or assets that is recognised or recognisable under national law
- persons who have no recognisable legal right or claim to the land or assets they occupy or use.

When land acquisition or restrictions on land use (whether permanent or temporary) cannot be avoided, the above criteria are used to determine eligibility for compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation assistance measures that are required to help affected parties improve or at least restore their living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels.

2.2.1 World Bank Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP 4.12)

The World Bank's Operational Policy 4.12 on involuntary resettlement requires that involuntary resettlement is avoided where feasible, or minimised, exploring all viable alternative project designs. Where it is not feasible to avoid resettlement, resettlement activities should be conceived and executed as *sustainable development programmes*, providing sufficient investment resources to enable the persons displaced by the project to share in project benefits. Displaced persons should be *meaningfully consulted* and should have *opportunities to participate* in planning and implementing resettlement programs. They should *also be assisted in their efforts to improve their livelihoods* and standards of living or at least to restore them, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of the project implementation, whichever is higher.

The World Bank policies also require the application of the local laws for the valuation and compensation of losses as far as they fit the principles of the WB (Achieving the replacement cost for lost assets). For all losses of assets attributable directly to the project, OP 4.12 requires that full compensation at replacement value needs to be provided, as outlined below:

“With regard to land and structures, “replacement cost” is defined as follows: For agricultural land, it is the pre-project or pre-displacement, whichever is higher, market value of land of equal productive potential or use located in the vicinity of the affected land, plus the cost of preparing the land to levels similar to those of the affected land, plus the cost of any registration and transfer taxes. For houses and other structures, it is the market cost of the materials to build a replacement structure with an area and quality similar to or better than those of the affected structure, or to repair a partially affected structure, plus the cost of transporting building materials to the construction site, plus the cost of any labor and contractors' fees, plus the cost of any registration and transfer taxes. In determining the replacement cost, depreciation of the asset and the value of salvage materials are not taken into account, nor is the value of benefits to be derived from the project deducted from the valuation of an affected asset. “

2.2.2 World Bank Environmental and Social Framework – Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS 5 recognises that project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons. Project-related land acquisition or restrictions on land use may cause physical displacement (relocation, loss of residential land or loss of shelter), economic displacement (loss of land, assets or access to assets, leading to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood), or both.

If unmitigated, displacement may give rise to a range of severe economic, social and environmental risks, including but not limited to the dismantling of production systems,

loss of income sources, relocation to environments where skills are less applicable, increased competition for resources, weakened community institutions and social networks, dispersal of kin groups, loss of cultural identity and traditional authority, diminished potential for mutual help.

For these reasons, involuntary resettlement should be avoided, wherever possible. Where involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, it will be minimised and appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts on displaced persons (and on host communities receiving displaced persons) will be carefully planned and implemented.

The key requirements of ESS5 are to:

- Conduct a census as part of the environmental and social assessment to identify the status of persons outlined in the bullet points above. The aim is to identify who will be affected by the project, establish an inventory of land and assets to be affected, determine who will be eligible for compensation and assistance and to discourage ineligible persons, such as opportunistic settlers from claiming benefits. A cut-off date for eligibility will be established.
- Disclose and apply consistently compensation standards for categories of land and fixed assets. Compensation rates may be subject to upward adjustment where negotiation strategies are employed. In all cases, a clear basis for calculation of compensation will be documented, and compensation distributed in accordance with transparent procedures.
- Where livelihoods of displaced persons are land-based, or where land is collectively owned, the Borrower will offer the displaced persons an option for replacement land, unless it can be demonstrated to the Bank's satisfaction that equivalent replacement land is unavailable. As the nature and objectives of the project may allow, the Borrower will also provide opportunities to displaced communities and persons to derive appropriate development benefits from the project. In the case of affected persons under the third bullet outlined above, resettlement assistance will be provided in lieu of compensation for land.
- Undertake stakeholder engagement with affected communities. Decision-making processes related to resettlement and livelihood restoration will include options and alternatives from which affected persons may choose. Disclosure of relevant information and meaningful participation of affected communities and persons will take place throughout all project phases.
- Pay particular attention to gender impacts and impacts on the poor and vulnerable
- Ensure that women's perspectives are obtained, and their interests factored into all aspects of resettlement planning and implementation. Addressing livelihood impacts may require intra-household analysis in cases where women's and men's livelihoods are affected differently. Women's and men's preferences in terms of compensation mechanisms, such as replacement land or alternative access to natural resources rather than in cash, should be explored.
- Establish a grievance mechanism for the project as early as possible in project development to address specific concerns about compensation, relocation or livelihood restoration measures raised by displaced persons (or others) in a timely fashion.

2.2.3 EBRD PR 5

The EBRD's Performance Requirement 5 (PR5) promotes a systematic approach to land acquisition, compensation and resettlement based on consultation and disclosure of information. In summary, the key requirements of PR5 are for clients to:

- Consider alternative project designs to avoid or, if not possible, minimise project-induced physical and/or economic displacement
- Develop appropriate compensation, resettlement and livelihood restoration action plans where displacement is unavoidable
- Mitigate adverse impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on affected persons' use of and access to land, physical assets or natural resources by providing compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost, prior to taking possession of acquired assets
- Ensure that compensation, resettlement and livelihood restoration activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, consultation, and the informed participation of those affected
- Improve or, at a minimum, restore the livelihoods, income earning capacity and standards of living of displaced persons, including those who have no legally recognisable rights or claims to the land (who were present in the project affected area at the time of the cut-off date), to pre-project levels and support them during the transition period
- Make special provisions for assisting disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups (who were present in the project affected area at the time of the cut-off date) that may be more adversely affected by displacement than others and who may be limited in their ability to take advantage of livelihood assistance and related development benefits
- Establish a grievance mechanism to receive and address in a timely fashion specific concerns about compensation and relocation that are raised by displaced persons, including a recourse mechanism designed to resolve disputes in an impartial manner (EBRD, 2017).

The objectives of PR5 include:

- To avoid or at least minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring alternative project designs
- To mitigate impacts from land acquisition by providing compensation for loss of assets at full replacement cost and ensuring that resettlement activities are implemented with appropriate stakeholder engagement
- To improve or at least restore the livelihoods and standards of living of displaced persons
- To improve living conditions among displaced persons through provision of adequate housing with security of tenure.

Additionally, PR5:

- Requires that the project proponent identify, via a census, those persons who be displaced and establish a cut-off date to establish eligibility for compensation
- Requires project proponent to offer land-based compensation, where feasible, where livelihoods of displaced persons are land-based, or where land is collectively owned
- Introduces the concept of negotiated settlements to avoid forcible removal of people
- Requires private sector companies to “bridge the gap” between domestic legal requirements and the requirements of the Performance Requirement.

PR5 further requires that standards for compensation be transparent and consistent within a project and established with the participation of those impacted.

Project proponents must offer displaced persons and communities' compensation for loss of assets at full replacement cost and other assistance to help them improve or at least restore their standards of living or livelihoods.

2.3 National and international requirements: gap analysis

The key potential gaps between Albanian legislation and the international requirements include:

- compensation value (Albanian legislation does not require full replacement cost);
- consultation and disclosure (no specific requirements in Albanian law);
- planning process (no requirement for any participatory planning process per Albanian law);
- informal or unregistered ownership and usufruct rights;
- grievance management and resolution.

Table 2.1 below provides further detail of the gaps identified

Table 2-2: Gap analysis – Albanian legislation and EBRD resettlement requirements

Topic	Albania	EBRD	Recommendations to address gaps
Entitlements provided as a result of losses			
Loss of land (families and households)	The price per ha of land is stipulated by the Council of Minister (DCM no. 89 (03.02.2016))	<p>Compensation at full replacement cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For agriculture land pre-project or pre displacement, whichever is higher, market value of land of equal productive potential within the same vicinity; Replacement land of equivalent productive potential. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation at full replacement value No expenses for land registration or other administrative fees will be charged to the owners Livelihood restoration support.
Loss of land (non-title holder)	No compensation provided.	Resettlement assistance in lieu of compensation for land occupied (land, cash, and other assets, employment) to at least restore their livelihoods and standards of living to pre-displacement levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation at full replacement value for significant loss (80% or more of the total land) and compensation for all investments/ improvements made on land for limited loss (less than 80% of the total land) No expenses for land registration or other administrative fees will be charged to the owners Livelihood restoration support.
Loss of structures (Families, households, and structure owners)	Compensation at the prices referred by the Regional Cadastre Agency (RCA) for residential structures or National Housing Agency for commercial structures	Compensation at full replacement cost. For houses and structures the market cost of the materials, transport, and labour to build a replacement structure of a similar quality or better than the affected structure.	Compensation at full replacement value or restoration with agreement of owners. PAPs retain right to preserve materials without deduction from compensation

Topic	Albania	EBRD	Recommendations to address gaps
Loss of crops and trees	The value of the crops and fruit trees is defined by the Regional Agency of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumers Protection).	Compensation at full replacement cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation equal to full replacement value of the affected crops and trees • Livelihood restoration support.
Loss of community resources	Compensation by the Government at market value.	Measures to assist impacted communities to re-establish or re-develop lost community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establishment or reconstruction of lost community resources • Restore partially affected structures.
Resettlement planning process			
Cut-off date	It is understood that the date of the Cabinet of Ministers decision on expropriation is the cut-off date	In the absence of national government procedures, the date of completion of the census and assets inventory represents the cut-off date for eligibility. Individuals who move into the Project affected area after the cut-off date are not eligible for compensation and other types of assistance. Information regarding the cut-off date should be well-documented and disseminated throughout the Project area	No gap
Compensation timing	The expropriation Law stipulates that if agreement on compensation is reached, transfer of property and payment of compensation to take place within 15 days from notification by affected owner that he/she accepts the offer (art.16). If not, compensation is provided based on a decision on expropriation of the Council of Ministers, within a period of three	Compensation (alternative housing and/or cash compensation) should be provided prior to resettlement	Compensation (alternative housing and/or cash compensation) to be provided prior to resettlement.

Topic	Albania	EBRD	Recommendations to address gaps
	months, or after the court decision (art.23).		
Consultations	<p>The Environment Impact Assessment Act features some consultative activities to be carried out with impacted populations.</p> <p>The project proponent should summarize the information contained in the LRP for public disclosure to ensure that PAPs understand the compensation procedures and know what to expect at the various stages of the Project. Consultations will continue during the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of compensation payment and resettlement</p>	<p>EBRD PR 10 requires identification of key stakeholders and timely relevant and understandable disclosure of Project information. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that information is accessible to everyone, including to segments of the population who might be considered vulnerable or marginalized. It encourages Project proponents to use engagement methods that are culturally appropriate, and ‘free of manipulation, interference, coercion and intimidation.’</p>	<p>Comprehensive consultations with full documentation to be in place.</p>
Grievance procedure	<p>Expropriation Law stipulates that the owners of expropriated assets that have been depreciated, have the right to appeal to the court on the compensation amount within 30 days from the receipt of notice.</p>	<p>A grievance redress mechanism should be set up as early as possible in the process, to receive and address in a timely fashion specific concerns about compensation and relocation that are raised by displaced persons and/or members of host communities, including a recourse mechanism designed to resolve disputes in an impartial manner. The grievance mechanism, process, or procedure should address concerns promptly and effectively, using an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all segments of the</p>	<p>A grievance redress mechanism and procedures should be established to address concerns of the affected entities promptly and effectively, using an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible at no cost and without retribution. It should be provided to PAPs as an alternative means of grievance redress without in any way affecting their’ constitutional rights to seek redress through the courts.</p>

Topic	Albania	EBRD	Recommendations to address gaps
		affected communities, at no cost and without retribution.	
Other forms of assistance			
Vulnerable groups	According to law no. 9355, dated 10.03.2005 “On social assistance and services”, vulnerable persons are entitled to various forms of social welfare payments or a range of community-based services.	Specific assistance for vulnerable groups. Such assistance may include, for example, ensuring face-to-face consultation with all vulnerable households, enabling vulnerable households to engage with the Project through a designated intermediary, regular contact throughout the Project development and construction period and provision of transitional assistance to ensure maintenance of vulnerable households’ livelihoods and living standards.	Specific assistance to be provided to vulnerable groups as per EBRD.

Source: TAP (2014); ESMF, RPF (2017), RPF (2020).

2.4 Project’s land access objectives and guiding principles

The Project’s land access objectives are:

- Adherence to applicable Albanian legislation, regulations and policy
- compliance with EBRD PR 5
- supplementary actions to fill any gaps between Albanian legislation and EBRD PR 5 requirements.

In order to prepare this framework, a review of the following documents has been undertaken:

- Albanian Development Fund (ADF) Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) for the Reconstruction of the Road from Pogradec Town to Tushemisht Village, Lot 1
- Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) Land and Easement Acquisition Livelihood Restoration Framework
- Albanian Development Fund (ADF) Project for Rehabilitation of Regional and Local Roads, Albania: Environmental and Social Management Framework.
- Resettlement Policy Framework, Regional and Local Roads Connectivity Project, December 2017 and PIUTD RPF June 2020.

Table 2-3 below outlines the principles of land access to be followed.

Table 1-3: Principles of land access

Principle		Description
Principle 1	Physical displacement is avoided	The project will avoid affecting residential structures that require people to move (i.e. physical displacement) by rerouting if necessary
Principle 2	Impacts on livelihood sources (land, crops, and other resources) are minimised	The project will seek to minimise impacts on land, crops and other livelihood activities by minimising land take and considering land use in the detailed design.
Principle 3	Land access is integrated in overall project planning	From the outset land access is integrated into overall project planning with consideration given upfront to the implications of land access, in terms of Project design and budget. The project will dedicate adequate staffing, including for the stakeholder engagement function and other resources to address land access issues.

Principle		Description
Principle 4	Active and informed stakeholder participation	Project-affected persons (PAPs) will be adequately informed and consulted on all matters that affect them and will participate in decision making related to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases of the land access activities. This will include not impeding PAPs' access to appropriate advice to ensure that they understand their rights and responsibilities.
Principle 5	Cultural appropriateness	All land access planning and implementation will be undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner.
Principle 6	A publicly disclosed cut-off date will be used	Eligibility for compensation will be determined by a publicly disclosed cut-off date. It will limit eligibility to genuinely affected people.
Principle 7	Compensation will be based on full replacement value (in cash or in kind)	PAPs will be eligible for compensation for loss of assets at full replacement value ² , and the Project will take responsibility for restoring the land. Compensation will be transparent, fair and equitable.
Principle 8	Assistance is offered where impacts on livelihoods are generated	All impacts on livelihoods are adequately identified and compensated accordingly. Depending on the context and in line with losses suffered, this may include implementing compensation measures beyond monetary compensation, as agreed with the PAPs.
Principle 9	Informal rights are recognised	PAPs with no formal legal rights to land will be included as persons eligible to compensation provided they have established legitimate rights to assets in the licence areas prior to the cut-off date. Where there are ownership claims, the LGU and relevant authorities will assist in gaining property titles and compensation for expropriated land will follow.
Principle 10	Vulnerable people are provided with targeted assistance	All PAPs will be treated equally and fairly. However, the project will identify PAPs who are especially vulnerable to impacts generated by land access and provide them with targeted assistance, depending on the context as identified during the census component of the asset survey. In line with losses suffered, this may include implementing compensation measures beyond monetary compensation, as agreed with the PAPs.

² Replacement value is defined as the market value of the assets plus transaction costs, i.e. the value required to allow affected persons to replace lost assets with assets of similar value.

Principle		Description
Principle 11	Graves, religious, and cultural sites are avoided if possible.	All graves, religious and cultural sites are avoided if possible. This requires the identification of such sites and graves during the survey in the highly unlikely event that such sites are unintentionally encountered or impacted, the project Chance Find Procedure will be followed to minimise impact
Principle 12	A grievance mechanism will be implemented and managed by the team	A grievance mechanism will be established allowing affected people to lodge a complaint or claim without cost and with assurance of a timely consideration and response to the complaint or claim.
Principle 13	All data related to land access will be managed in a responsible manner, assuring quality and control	All census and asset survey data and also all engagements with stakeholders and transactions will be recorded and stored in a secure database and quality control of data management will be assured throughout the land access process.
Principle 14	All land access activities will be undertaken by a dedicated and experienced team	All land access planning and implementation will be undertaken by an experienced and dedicated team comprised of Project staff, government counterparts (as required) and independent experts (if needed).
Principle 15	Appropriate monitoring and evaluation of land access activities will be undertaken	Appropriate monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken to provide the project and PAPs with timely, concise, indicative and relevant information about whether compensation activities are on track or whether corrective actions are required. The implementation of land access will be subject to monitoring and the results will be shared with the people affected by the land access.

3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

The socio-economic baseline area of influence (AOI) is divided into three spheres, based on the degree of potential influence by and proximity to the Project, as follows:

- primary sphere of influence which includes administrative units (AU) and settlements (from south to north: Lunik, Fushe Studen, Borove, Trebisht, Stebleve Cerenec i Siperm, Cerenec i poshtem) whose land will potentially be crossed by the proposed road works. These settlements are most susceptible to direct Project impacts in terms of livelihoods and wellbeing.
- secondary sphere of influence refers to the social context that may be affected indirectly by the Project (i.e., influx, job opportunities) and provides the administrative context for the administrative units and settlements in the primary sphere. It includes the municipalities (Bulqizë and Librazhd) and prefectures (Dibër and Elbasan)
- tertiary sphere of influence provides the general context for the Project and includes the prefectures (Dibër and Elbasan) and the country as a whole

This chapter describes the socio-economic context at national/regional level (which corresponds to the tertiary sphere of influence) and local level (which corresponds to the secondary and primary spheres of influence) within which the proposed Project will be implemented, and the resettlement will take place.

The settlements, including Shebenik – Jabllanice National Park boundary, indicative administrative unit boundaries³ and key social features identified during the site visit, are shown in Figure 3-1.

³ The boundaries of the municipalities (or LGUs) are indicative/out dated (source: <https://www.diva-gis.org/>)

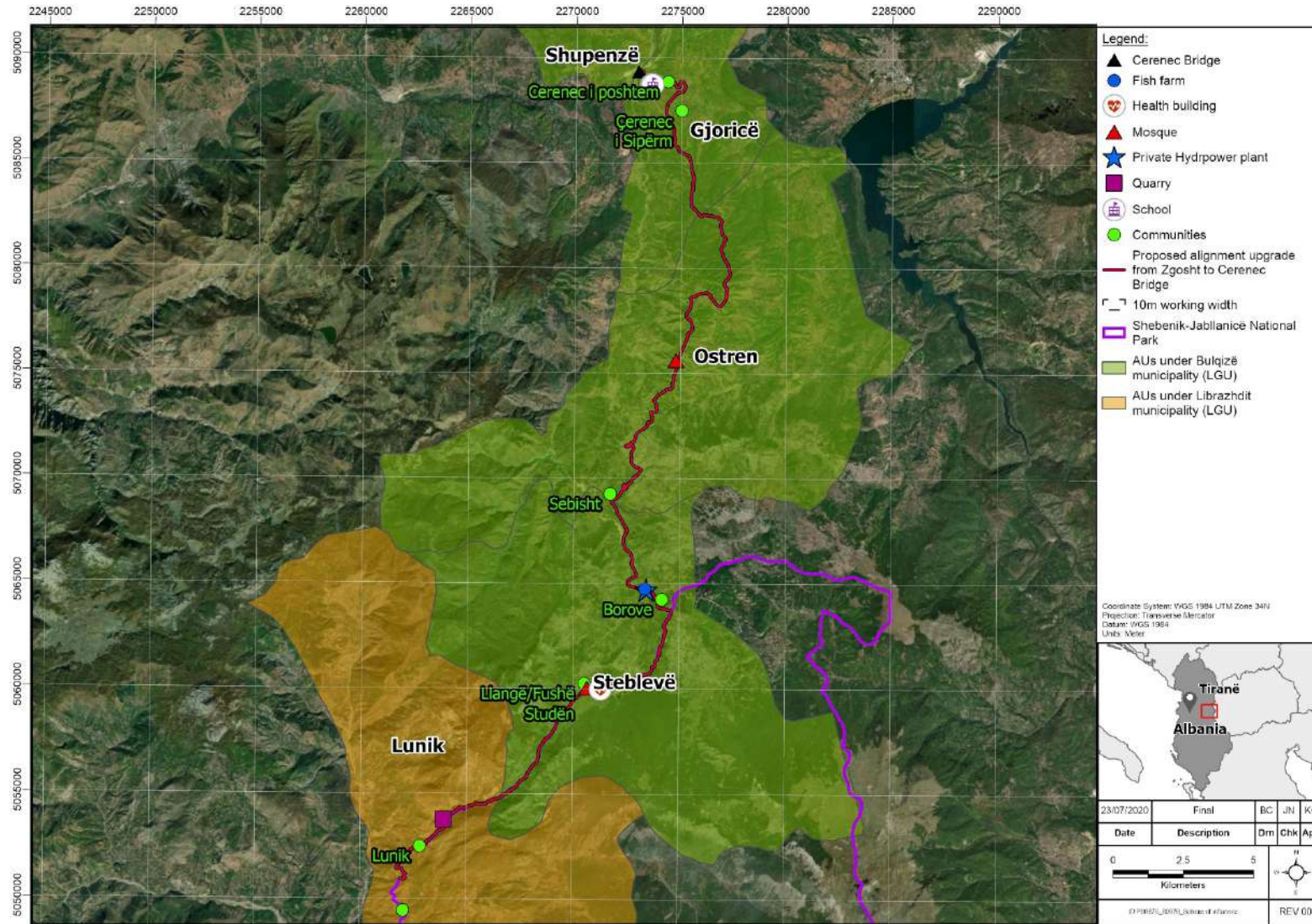


Figure 3-1 Primary sphere of influence

3.1 Research methods

Socio-economic information at national/regional level was obtained from secondary data which were accessed through internet searches and existing reports. These included:

- Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPF), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP) for past projects in Albania
- reports published by national agencies, research institutes and international organisations

Such literature is referenced in the text.

Socio-economic information at local level is based on primary data obtained during two site visits undertaken between 17th and 24th of June. The following activities were undertaken:

- preparation of interview guides and data request lists, with a focus on obtaining local data on land use and land tenure, livelihood strategies, and gender and vulnerable groups
- ad-hoc key informant interviews (KII). Figure 3-1 provides examples of such interviews and a complete list is in Table 7-1.
- meeting with representatives of administrative units and municipalities (see complete list in Table 7-1)
- a reconnaissance survey along the road between Zgosht and Cereneq bridge. The field team was equipped with smartphones and/or tablets with the GIS application collector installed. A digital form was prepared by our GIS team to enable capture of GPS locations and pictures and provide socio-economic description of the surveyed areas (e.g. houses, land under cultivation, productive assets and on-farm infrastructure (outbuildings, irrigation systems, fencing etc.), public services and infrastructure (transmission lines, phone lines, water systems, schools, health posts, markets etc.)



Figure 3-2 Ad-hoc key informant interviews with women (left) and hydropower plant staff (right)

3.2 Introduction

Albania is a European country located at the southern entrance to the Adriatic. Albania is bordered to the north by Montenegro and Kosovo, to the east by the Republic of North Macedonia and to the south and east by Greece. To the west and southwest, Albania is

bordered by the Adriatic and Ionian seas. Its immediate western neighbour, Italy, is located less than 100 kilometres (km) away (Biberaj, 2019). The capital of the country is Tirana, the country’s most populous city and the main economic and commercial centre.



Figure 3-3 Albania

Source: ADHS (2018)

3.3 Administrative structure

Albania is an independent, parliamentary republic, with a system of government based on the principle of separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers (Constitute Project, 2018).

Albania is divided into the following administrative entities (IDRA, 2017):

- 12 prefectures/regions: Berat, Dibrë, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Gjirokaster, Korçë, Kukës, Lezhe, Shkodër, Tirane, and Vlorë
- 61 municipalities (Local Government Units (LGUs))

- 373 administrative units
- 73 towns or cities
- 2,998 villages.

Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 illustrate the administrative structure of the Project-affected prefectures, Dibër and Elbasan. Communities potentially affected by the Project are underlined in the tables.

Table 3-1 Dibër prefecture

Prefecture	Prefecture centre	Municipality (LGU)	Municipality centre	Administrative units	Towns and villages
Dibër	Peshkopi Town	Bulqizë	Bulqize Town	Gjorice	Gjoricë e Sipërme, Gjoricë e Poshtme, <u>Çerenec i Sipërm</u> , <u>Çerenec i Poshtëm</u> , Viçisht, Lubalesh
				Ostren	Ostren i Madh, Radovesh, Kojavec, Lejçan, Orzhanovë, Okshtun i Madh, Oreshnjë, Okshtun i Vogël, Ostren i Vogël, Tuçep, Lladomericë, Pasinkë, Tërbaç

Table 3-2 Elbasan prefecture

Prefecture	Prefecture centre	Municipality (LGU)	Municipality centre	Administrative units	Towns and villages
Elbasan	Elbasan Town	Librazhd	Librazhd Town	Lunik (south)	<u>Lunik</u> , Prevall, Dranovicë, Kostenjë, Letëm, <u>Zgosht</u> , Koshorisht
				Stëblevë (north)	Stëblevë, Zabzun, <u>Borovë</u> , Llangë (Fushë Studen), <u>Sebisht</u> , Moglicë, Prodan

3.4 Demographics

3.4.1 National and regional context

3.4.1.1 Population

The population of Albania is currently 2.9 million (World Bank, 2020a). Between 1990 and 2008, population growth rates declined from 1.8% to -0.8% (World Bank, 2020a), due to reduced fertility rates and high levels of out-migration. In the past 10 years, population growth rates have increased slightly, from -0.8% to -0.2% (World Bank, 2020b). The population is expected to remain stable over the next decade (INSTAT, 2016). Life expectancy at birth is currently 76.9 years for males 80.2 years for females (World Bank, 2020b).

Approximately 18% of the population is below 15 years of age; 70% is between 15-64 years of age and 14% is aged 65 years and above (World Bank, 2020b). The median age of the population is 35 years old (INSTAT, 2018). Albania has an even sex ratio at birth (World Bank, 2020b); with males and females accounting for 49.9% and 50.1% of the population, respectively (Deloitte, 2019).

The population density is 104.6 people per km². Approximately 60.4% of the population currently live in urban areas, and urbanisation is increasing (World Bank, 2020b).

Table 3-3 outlines the population of the Project affected prefectures.

Table 3-3 Population by prefecture (2020)

Prefectures	Population	Density/km ²
Dibër	115,857	52.3
Elbasan	270,074	93.8

Source: Beckett-Camarata (2018; INSTAT, 2020)

The population of Dibër prefecture is estimated to be 115,857 (see Table 3-3). Between 2019 and 2020, population declined by 2.6% in Dibër prefecture. This represents the second largest decrease in population for all prefectures in Albania (INSTAT, 2020). Decreases have been caused mostly by internal migration of populations towards urban areas such as Tirana (Gedeshi and Jorgoni, 2012). Dibër currently has the highest proportion of rural population out of all prefectures in Albania, at approximately 73% (INSTAT, 2016).

The population of Elbasan is estimated to be 270,074 (see Table 3-2). Between 2019 and 2020, population growth rates in Elbasan were 1.8% (INSTAT, 2020). Elbasan town is the prefecture centre and has a population of approximately 140,000. Librazhd is a municipality of Elbasan prefecture. The prefecture's total population in the past decade has decreased by about 23%, with residents moving to larger urban areas in the country, and smaller numbers emigrating overseas (Guri *et al.*, 2015).

3.4.1.2 *Ethnicity, culture and religion*

Albania has a relatively ethnically homogenous population. Data from the most recent national census (2011) indicate ethnic Albanians comprised 82.6% of the total population. Greeks made up 0.9% of the population and other groups of North Macedonian, Montenegrin, Aromanian, Roma and Egyptian origin comprised about 1%; the ethnic and cultural affiliation of 15.5% of the population was unspecified (INSTAT, 2012). The official language is Albanian.

According to the most recent census data (2011), religious breakdown is as follows:

- Muslim (56.7%)
- Roman Catholic (10%)
- Orthodox (6.8%)
- Atheist (2.5%)
- Bektashi (a Sufi order) (2.1%)
- other (5.7%)
- unspecified (16.2%).

3.4.2 **Local context**

3.4.2.1 *Population*

Table 3-4 outlines the population in the primary sphere of influence.

Table 3-4 Population in primary sphere of influence (2020)

AU	Village	Population (2020)	Population (2018)	Total households	No. under 18 years of age	No. of elderly
Lunik	Lunik	1200	1600	480	520	130
	Prevallë	520	655	170	260	80
	Zgosht	900	1105	300	420	110
	Letem	930	955	300	510	120
	Kostenjë	500	520	150	480	67
	Dranovicë	190	223	35	60	27
	Koshorisht	180	212	30	40	22
Stëblevë	Llange (Fushe Studen)	504	500	121	120	40
	Zabzun	205	220	65	108	39
	Stëblevë	311	385	80	100	51
	Borovë	213	200	86	107	36
	Sebisht	270	265	108	113	38
	Moglicë	119	124	35	100	22
Gjoricë	Cerenec i poshtëm	580	216	216	214	78
	Cerenec i sipërm	390	398	136	131	64
	Vicisht	476	482	122	157	72
	Lubalesh	265	280	96	86	97
	Gjoricë e poshtme	1404	1423	392	278	168
	Gjoricë e sipërme	1548	1520	407	364	215

As outlined in Table 3-4, population sizes in the villages in the primary sphere of influence vary, though most are small settlements with fewer than 500 households. The villages with the largest populations are Gjoricë e sipërme and Gjoricë e poshtme in Gjoricë AU (with 1,548 and 1,404 residents, respectively). Lunik village is the largest settlement in Lunik AU, with 1,200 residents. Generally, villages in Stëblevë tend to have smaller populations than those in Lunik and Gjoricë.

There are more males (55.5%) than females (44.5%) in the settlements, suggesting that more women are migrating away from villages than men.

Consistent with the trend at the national level, the population in most villages has declined since 2018, with an average decline of -5.1%. Villages are characterised by high levels of out-migration to other areas of Albania, and seasonal economic migration (of the working age population) to countries such as Greece, Italy and Germany.

In Stëblevë, however, there is reportedly an ongoing trend of return migration; some people who have migrated to urban areas such as Tirana and Durrës are coming back,

primarily to develop family businesses in the area. This trend has been noticeable since 2015 and is especially pronounced in Borove village.

Stakeholders consulted during KIIs believed that emigrants may return to villages in Librazhd and Bulqize after the completion of road rehabilitation works.

3.4.2.2 Religion

Most of the population in the primary sphere of influence are Muslim, though in general, people are reported to be not very religious.

There are five mosques in Lunik, and four mosques, one church and two religious holy places in Stëblevë. There are also four mosques and two tekkes in Gjoricë.

3.5 Livelihoods and local economy

3.5.1 National and regional context

Over the last three decades, Albania has transitioned from one of the poorest countries in Europe to, in global terms, an upper-middle-income country (OECD, 2020). The country has maintained positive growth rates and financial sustainability, despite impacts of a global economic crisis and challenges from the economies of neighbouring countries (ADHS, 2018).

Annual GDP growth was 4.1% in 2018, which is higher than the OECD and EU averages of 2.2% and 2.0% respectively (World Bank, 2020b). According to the updated IMF forecasts from April 2020, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19, GDP growth is expected to fall to -5% in 2020 and pick up to 8% in 2021, subject to the post-pandemic global economic recovery (Santander, 2020).

Table 3-4 outlines the main economic sectors in Albania.

Table 3-5 Key economic sectors in Albania (2020)

Breakdown of economic activity by sector	Agriculture	Industry	Services
Employment by sector (% of total employment)	37.8	19.3	42.9
Value added (% of GDP)	18.4	21.3	47.3
Value added (annual % change)	0.9	9.1	5.1

Source: World Bank (2020b); Santander (2020). Note: because of rounding, the sum of the percentages may be smaller/greater than 100%

3.5.1.1 Agriculture

As shown in Table 3-4, agriculture currently contributes 18.4% of the value added to the national economy, which is higher than the average for Central Europe and the Balkans of 2.7% (World Bank, 2020b). Agriculture's contribution to employment remains very high,

at almost 40%. The proportion of the labour force engaged in agriculture in rural areas, often exceeds 60% (see Figure 3-5).

The agricultural sector is dominated by subsistence farming on smallholdings. Approximately 98% of agricultural holdings in the country are classified as small family farms with the average plot size just 0.26 hectares (ha) (Guri *et al.*, 2015). An average family farm in Albania generates an income of about USD 15,600 per year. The majority of income is derived from on-farm activities (45%), equally split between the growing and selling of crops (20%) and livestock keeping (20%) (FAO, 2018).

There are over 30,000 farms operating in Elbasan region, mostly as small family farms (Guri *et al.*, 2015).

Crop farming and livestock rearing

Agricultural production in Albania is concentrated on wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, vegetables, olives, tobacco, fruits, sugar beets, vines and livestock farming (products such as meat, milk, eggs and honey) (Santander, 2020).

The livestock sector accounts for approximately 54% of total production value, whereas crop production accounts for approximately 46%. Crop production is more important in the country's western plain, whereas livestock production is slightly more important in the other regions of Albania (including Dibër and Elbasan).

Meat and milk production account for almost 90% of livestock production. Other products, such as honey and eggs have increased their contribution in recent years, but remain less important at approximately 13% (Guri *et al.*, 2015)

Agricultural markets

At the national level, Albania is a net food importer with produce coming mostly into Albania from Italy, Greece, France and Poland (Guri *et al.*, 2015).

Small family farms in Albania sell their agricultural produce mainly through formal, local markets (e.g. district markets, cooperatives or private traders) and use the same channels for purchasing products (FAO, 2018). This suggests a relatively well-functioning local infrastructure in Albania, which enables smallholders to participate in these formal channels. However, only 12% of farmers' produce is sold on average, indicating a high share of domestic/subsistence consumption (FAO, 2018).

Challenges

The agricultural sector in Albania faces several challenges, including but not limited to:

- the small size of farms combined with high fragmentation
- unsettled land ownership titles (see Section 3.6)
- lack of functioning rental market for agricultural land
- informality in the sector
- insufficient knowledge of modern agricultural practices and lack of modern equipment and extension services
- lack of irrigation infrastructure
- lack of access to qualified advice, land and finance
- lack of enforcement of minimum standards by the state and farmers (FAO, 2018; Land Portal, 2017).

Farming households are heavily supported by non-agricultural incomes (including remittances from abroad, retirement pensions, non-agricultural employment and social financial aid) (Guri *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, notable gender discrepancies in the agricultural sector persist. Figures suggest that while more than half of women in Albania are employed in agriculture, only 6% of farms are managed by women (Zhlhima *et al.*, 2016).

3.5.1.2 Natural resources

Albania is a world leader in the production of some herbs (including sage, thyme, oregano, rosemary, lemon balm, clover and peppermint, among others). Albania has over 300 species of identified medicinal and aromatic plants (Drini *et al.*, 2015), which are widely used for medicines, health and beauty (essential oils) consumption (including herbal teas) and cooking.

The industrial use of medicinal plants remains mostly small, limited to the packaging of some herbal teas and small-scale extraction of essential oils (Drini *et al.*, 2015). Collection and more recently, cultivation, of medicinal plants are important activities and sources of revenue for a large number of rural families, particularly in northern Albania (Drini *et al.*, 2015).

Farmers typically harvest medicinal plants near their homes using sickles and dry them on plastic sheets on the floors or on stones in the mountains. The drying process takes place in sunlight. Afterwards, harvesters store plants in their houses until they are purchased by collectors (Drini *et al.*, 2015)

Medicinal and aromatic plants are an important source of livelihood in the Project-affected prefectures. It is estimated that 38.8% of households in Elbasan were involved in medicinal plant related income earning activities in 2010. The number of farmers involved in medicinal plant harvesting is high in Librazhd and income from medicinal plants in parts of Dibër is estimated to amount to between 30 and 40% of total household income (Drini *et al.*, 2015; FAO, 2013). Two of Albania's leading processors of medicinal and aromatic plants (Elba-Shenu Shpk and Herba-Fruktus Shpk) are located in Elbasan. These processors work with an established network of local medicinal plant collectors.

3.5.1.3 Industry

As shown in Table 3-4, the industrial sector contributes 21.3% of the value added to the national economy and employs 19.3% of the working population. The industrial sector is divided into the following sub sectors: metallurgy, chemicals, building materials, mining, food/beverage/tobacco, textile/leather/clothing, wood/paper/printing, mechanical, and others. The sector's value added is estimated to contribute to over 5% of Albania's GDP (World Bank, 2020b).

Elbasan has historically been an important industrial region that has supplied the country with important materials including minerals (chromium, iron), construction materials (cement) and base metals (steel, cobalt), mostly from its large industrial site: the metallurgical complex (Vrusho and Pashako, 2015). Many of the prefecture's mines and factories have closed since the 1990s, however several industries remain in Elbasan including factories (cement), substations and furnaces (Vrusho and Pashako, 2015) and complex processing recycled materials. Heavy industry is mainly concentrated in the city of Elbasan, in the industrial zone of Bradashesh.

3.5.1.4 Services

The services sector currently contributes 47.3% of the value added to Albania’s economy and employs almost 43% of the workforce (see Table 3-4). The tourism, telecommunications, banking and insurance subsectors are particularly fast-growing. According to a report by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), travel and tourism receipts in 2018 represented 27.3% of overall GDP (Santander, 2020).

There are approximately 7,800 economic entities in Elbasan, the majority of which (about 65%) are located in Elbasan Municipality. Most are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and about 80% have only one employee. Most enterprises operate in the field of services (commerce), with a small minority in industry.

3.5.1.5 Labour market and employment

Albania’s employment rate is low by European standards but higher than in other Western Balkan countries (World Bank, 2018). In recent years, the unemployment rate among young people (aged 15-29) and older adults (aged 30-64) has decreased. At the time of writing, the unemployment rate among young people (aged 15-29) is 23.1%, down from 29% in 2016 (World Bank, 2018) (see Table 3-7). Despite this, youth unemployment remains a key challenge. Many young Albanians are choosing to migrate overseas due to perceived poor employment and livelihood opportunities (Meçe and Ribaj, 2019).

Table 3-6 Labour market participation (2018)

Age Group	15-29	30-64
Official unemployment rate	23.1%	9.2%
Employment rate % of population aged 15-64	38.5%	70.9%
Labour force participation rate	50.1%	78.1%

Source: Deloitte (2019)

Employment by sector in the Project affected prefectures is as follows (INSTAT (2018b):

- Elbasan
 - Agriculture: 67%
 - Industry: 9%
 - Services: 23%
- Diber
 - Agriculture: 59%
 - Industry: 13%
 - Services: 27%

Elbasan and Dibër are considered to be among the least economically developed prefectures in Albania. Both areas are heavily reliant on the agricultural sector for employment.

3.5.2 Local context

The main economic and livelihood activities in the primary sphere of influence are agriculture (including crop farming and livestock rearing) and seasonal work abroad (remittances). There are limited industrial activities, though a small proportion of the population are engaged in construction, mining activities or work at hydropower plants. Family businesses operate in Stëblevë, providing employment for a limited number of individuals.

3.5.2.1 Agriculture

Consistent with the trend at the national level, agriculture in the settlements is characterised predominantly by subsistence farming. Most produce grown is for family use, with only a small proportion remaining for sale at local market.

Crop farming and livestock rearing

Farming activities typically involve crop farming and livestock rearing with each activity representing equal importance.

The main products cultivated in the villages are as follows:

- Lunik: maize, wheat, beans, and fruit trees (including apple, pears, cherries, plumbs, white mulberry and grapes). Individuals who do not reside in Lunik continue to use their land for cultivation by planting nuts, hazelnuts and chestnuts.
- Stëblevë (Fushe Studen): potatoes and beans, followed by corn and oats. Potatoes and beans are market oriented as opposed to corn and oats which are primarily used to feed livestock. Potatoes from Stëblevë are famous throughout Albania. The village traded 1,010 tonnes of products in 2019; 90% of produce was potatoes and the remaining 10% of the marketed products comprised beans, oat and corn. A limited amount of fruit (cherries) from trees in Stëblevë reach markets for sale.
- Zghosht: vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and fruit trees including apples, grapes and nuts.
- Gjoricë: wheat and beans, in addition to fruit trees (apple, cherries, grapes).

Cows, sheep and goats are the main types of livestock. Anecdotal evidence suggests that each family may have one to two cows and a small number (five to six) of sheep and goats. Family members typically share farming responsibilities, taking turns each day to graze livestock. Milk, cheese and meat production occur on a small scale and are mostly for family consumption.

There are 7 larger herds in Lunik village (with about 150 sheep and goats in each herd). Herds are registered with an individual business tax number. There is no dairy plant in the area to make dairy products; the nearest plant is in Sebisht village. Meat is typically sold at 350-400 ALL per kg (live animal).

Agricultural markets

There is a local market (road market) which takes place every Tuesday in Botove where local traders from Lunik come to sell their products. Milk and some dairy products from sheep and goats are sold at markets in Librazhd, Elbasan, or Tirana. There is no dairy plant in the area to make dairy products; the nearest plant is in Sebisht village. Meat is typically sold at 350-400 ALL per kg (live animal).

Market production in Stëblevë (Fushe Studen) is limited and organised on a household basis. Villagers do not transport their products themselves to the markets in Librazhd or Elbasan, but instead sell their products in cases when vans come from Librazhd or Elbasan. Prices are dictated by the purchaser and residents must decide whether it is profitable enough to sell. The price of potatoes reportedly fluctuates greatly.

Agricultural inputs

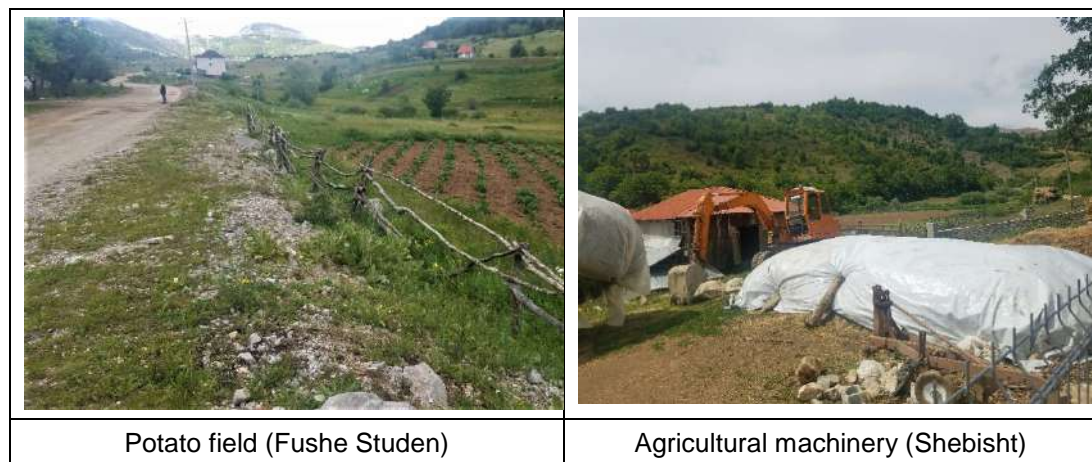
Consistent with the trend at national level, agricultural inputs in the settlements are limited. Inputs include:

- Irrigation: irrigation is generally a private investment for farms. In Stëblevë, water comes from the lake of Fushe Struden. It operates through canals and pipes. Some irrigation hoses go under the Project road. About 70% of the arable land in Gjoricë is irrigated, particularly the land parcels lying in lower areas. The irrigation system passes under the road through culverts in different sections. In Zghost, Irrigation is secured from a source in Kotorishtarea and a 14-km line was constructed with local community funds.
- Machinery: machines are used for some land related activities. Farming households typically rent machines at certain times of the year, for example during land ploughing.
- Labour force: A significant part of the agricultural land in villages (mainly Fushe Studen) is not cultivated due to lack of labour force. It is considered that the road rehabilitation could enable expansion of the existing labour force, as workers can more easily travel from other areas.

Challenges

There are government programmes (e.g. programme of IPARD 2014-2020 and National Scheme for agriculture and rural development – see <http://azhbr.gov.al>) in place in Albania to support agriculture, but several local residents lack access to this program as they do not meet the minimum criteria of land parcel size (parcels must be minimum 5,000 m2). Households generally have small land parcels, which are distributed in different locations. Local residents do not tend to join their land parcels together to form cooperative schemes.

Figure 3-9 illustrates the agricultural activities in the villages.



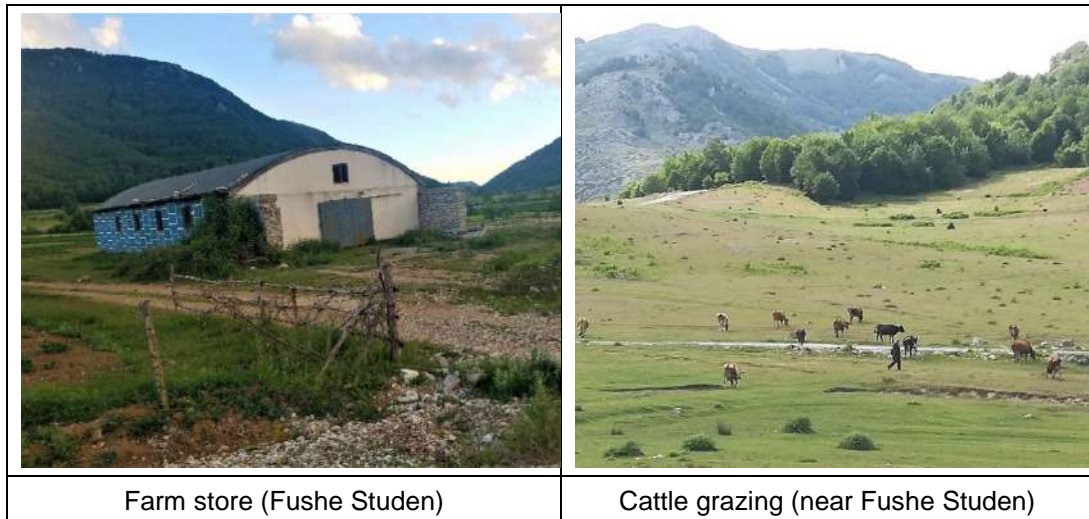


Figure 3-4: Agricultural activities in the primary sphere of influence

3.5.2.2 Aquaculture

There is one fish farm in the primary sphere of influence. Redi 2004' sh.p.k, is located in Borove (see Figure 3-10). In 2019, the fish farm sold approximately 60 tonnes of fish (trout) to local markets at Librazhd, Elbasan and Tirana. The farm includes a fish growing plant, and construction work is ongoing to develop a restaurant which will serve fish to local and international tourists.



Figure 3-5: Fish farm (Borove)

3.5.2.3 Natural resource use

The collection of medicinal and aromatic plants and beekeeping both constitute important livelihood activities in the settlements.

Medicinal and aromatic plants are collected in Librazhd (Lunik and Stëblevë) especially between March and October. There is a high diversity of Albanian flora in the area; main plants collected include acacia and nettle. There are designated medicinal plant

collection points in the area and collection is based on specific permits issued by the authorities. Additionally, companies from Elbasan come to collect plants from the village.

Several residents in Lunik and Stëblevë are engaged in beekeeping. Beekeeping businesses are tax-registered and eligible for government subsidy. There are four large herds in Lunik of 150 beehives each as well as smaller herds kept by other local beekeepers. Beekeepers in Stëblevë tend to consume the honey for household subsistence rather than selling it at market.



Figure 3-6: Beehives (Sebisht)

3.5.2.4 Industry

There are limited industries in the primary sphere of influence. Most villages have no factories, no mines, and no artisanal businesses.

There are two hydropower plants in the area: DI-TEK owned by ‘Gega sh.p.k.’ already constructed in Borove area and ‘Drini sh.p.k.’ which is currently under construction and it will be finished in one year. There are more than 40 employees working for DI-TEK. All employees come from the area.

There is one quartz (stone) quarry in Lunik owned by ‘Gega sh.p.k.’ which opened in 2018 and is estimated to employ 3-5 local people (see Figure 3-13). The materials produced at the quarry are transported to a metallurgic factory in Elbasan.

It is considered that business opportunities will be greatly enhanced by the rehabilitation of the road as it will enable companies to expand their operations and connect with markets in further regions at reduced cost.



Figure 3-7: Privately owned Hydropower plant (near Borove and within the working width)



Figure 3-8: Privately owned quarry (near Lunik and 150 from Project)

3.5.2.5 Services

The services sector in the primary sphere of influence is small. There are some entities in operation in the Fushe Studen area, mostly limited to tourism. Currently, most of the tourists are domestic visitors, generally coming from Librazhd, Elbasan, Tirana, Durrës and Pogradec. Some bookings are made by foreign tourists and the National Park is very

popular; however, business this season has been negatively impacted due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Family businesses operate in Stëblevë, including coffee bars (13), accommodation structures (12) and restaurants (6). These entities generate employment mostly for family members (see Figure 3-14). There are four dairy plants in Stëblevë, which produce cheese and meat for Tirana market. Most business in the area operate informally.

There are currently 12 live projects (private initiatives) which aim to encourage economic development in Stëblevë. They are mostly associated with improvements in accommodation for Fushe –Studen and sports and recreation, such as horse riding.

Local NGOs provide training in tourism development. These include:

- Ylli I Alpeve (the star of alps)
- Aurora ngo
- Association of Stebleva
- The Association for Stebleva Development.



Figure 3-9 Services in the primary sphere of influence

3.5.2.6 Labour market and employment

Employment in the settlements is mostly in agriculture, sales of livestock and construction, and small local businesses. Remittances from seasonal migration represent a main source of income in all villages. Over 90% of families in Lunik reportedly have at least one member who has emigrated abroad.

3.6 Education

3.6.1 National and regional context

Albania has made progress in recent years in improving access to education and learning outcomes (The Borgen Project, 2017). In 2016, the share of total government expenditure allocated to education was 13.6%, which is higher than the average across OECD countries (13.2%) and the EU (11.8%) (OECD, 2020).

Literacy rates have increased over the past decade for both men and women: 98.5% of men and 97.8% of women are literate. This is slightly lower than the Central Europe and

the Balkans average of 99.3% and 98.7% for men and women, respectively (World Bank, 2020b).

3.6.1.1 Education system

Education is compulsory for all children for nine years (UNESCO, 2020), and all children must complete the school cycles of primary and lower secondary (see Table 3-9). These two cycles are referred to as 'basic education'.

The education system can be categorised as shown in Table 3-9.

Table 3-7 Educational system and structure

School cycle	Typical age group	Typical number of years spent in cycle
Pre-primary	3 – 5	3
Primary (compulsory)	6 – 10	5
Lower secondary (compulsory)	11 – 14	4
Upper secondary	15 – 17	3
Tertiary	18 – 22	4

Source: UNICEF (2017)

Primary Education

Enrolment in primary education has recently increased to EU and OECD levels (OECD, 2020). The net enrolment rate in primary education in Albania was 96% in 2017, comparable to the average of OECD countries (96%) and the EU (96%) (OECD, 2020).

According to INSTAT (2016), there were 1,493 schools of 'basic education' (covering primary and lower secondary education) in Albania in the academic year 2014-2015.

There were a total of 24,777 teachers of basic education in the 2014-2015 academic year (INSTAT, 2016). Although the pupil to teacher ratio in Albanian primary schools has decreased over the past two decades, from 22.6 in 2000, to 17.6 in 2018, it remains higher than the average for Central Europe and the Balkans of 12.7 (World Bank, 2020b).

Table 3-10 shows the number of schools in the Project-affected prefectures.

Table 3-8 schools per Prefecture

Prefectures	'Basic education' schools (2014-2015)	Upper secondary schools (2014-2015)
Dibër	99	24
Elbasan	196	52

Source: INSTAT (2016)

Secondary Education

Although enrolment in secondary education (both lower and upper secondary) is increasing, it remains below the OECD and EU averages. The net enrolment in lower

secondary education in 2017 was 86%, below the OECD and EU average of 91% (OECD, 2020). Albania has relatively high dropout rates at secondary level, among both male and female adolescents.

Tertiary education

Albania's tertiary education system includes universities, academies, professional colleges, higher education schools and inter-university centres, all of which offer accredited study programmes.

There were 16 public higher education institutions and 26 private higher institutions in the academic year 2014-2015, providing education to over 160,000 students (EACEA, 2017). Studies in higher education are typically organised at three levels: bachelor, master's and doctorate.

3.6.1.2 Education outcomes

Learning outcomes, as measured by national assessment, examinations and Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), are improving in Albania. The average three-year trend in mean scores in reading, mathematics and science is positive, with particularly good progress in mathematics. Additionally, the gap between the highest and lowest achieving students is decreasing, with improvements at the lower end of the performance distribution outpacing improvements at the top in every subject (OECD, 2020).

However, 52.2% of Albanian 15-year olds lack basic reading skills, compared to 24% on average for OECD countries. For mathematics, 42.4% lack basic skills, compared to 24% on average for OECD countries. This suggests that a significant proportion of students are still not leaving compulsory education with the competencies needed to participate in the labour market.

Educational outcomes are generally lower in rural areas, where students are typically two years behind their counterparts in urban regions in all three domains (reading, mathematics and science) (OECD, 2020).

3.6.1.3 Education challenges

Many schools in rural areas lack instructional materials and struggle to meet their basic infrastructure needs (e.g. heating), which are funded by municipalities (OECD, 2016). Additionally, in rural areas, there are still more males than females with a high school or university degree (Zhillima *et al.*, 2016)

Dibër has relatively low levels of educational attainment compared to other prefectures. Only 7% of men and 8% of women in Dibër have obtained an education beyond secondary level, compared to 26% and 27% respectively in Tirana (ADHS, 2018).

At a national level, education participation and outcomes are particularly low for Roma and for Balkan Egyptians. Among Roma and Balkan Egyptian children, roughly 1% and 5% respectively have completed secondary education (OECD 2020). For Roma specifically, the school dropout rate is about 50% (OECD, 2020). It is estimated that 35% of children with disabilities aged 6 to 15 years are out of the education system (UNICEF, 2017).

3.6.2 Local context

Within the municipality of Bulqize, there are approximately 20 ‘basic education’ schools providing primary and lower secondary education, and 6 upper secondary schools (UNICEF, 2016a). Enrolment rates in Bulqize municipality are lower than the national average; 80.5% and 41.5% of students are enrolled in basic education and upper secondary level education, respectively. School transport is provided by the Regional Education Directorate of Peshkopi.

- Lunik: there is one kindergarten school (pre-primary) and one basic education school (primary and secondary) (catering for approximately 80-90 pupils). A minibus provides transport for pupils and teachers. The nearest high school is located in Zgosht and currently has approximately 500 pupils.
- Stëblevë: there is one kindergarten school (pre-primary) and one primary school in Sebisht. There is also a primary school in Fushe Struden. Secondary education is provided for students in nearby areas.



Figure 3-10: Primary school (Cerenec i poshtem)

3.7 Land

3.7.1 National and regional context

3.7.1.1 Land ownership

Albania has a fragmented land system. Prior to the 1990s, land ownership in Albania was highly concentrated, with land owned mostly by state farms and cooperatives. After the establishment of a democratic system in 1990, the government approved Land Law 7501 and implemented a series of land reforms which were aimed at allowing private ownership of land (Qineti *et al.*, 2015).

In 1991, property rights were transferred from the state to private individuals. This was considered a key prerequisite to enable land markets to develop, to stimulate agricultural productivity growth and to improve the food security of the rural population (Qineti *et al.*,

2015). Land was divided on an equal per capita basis among all persons who had worked on the collective and state farms. In return, all state-owned farms and cooperatives were eliminated (Koprencka and Muharremi, 2010).

The reform distributed land to 480,000 households in approximately 1.8 million small parcels, averaging 0.25 hectares per parcel. This resulted in the emergence of numerous small farms in Albania (on average 1.25 ha per farm) but also led to fragmentation of the land use (an average of five plots per farm, and lengthy distances between parcels in many cases), and land ownership (among 480,000 households) (Qineti *et al.*, 2015)

The reform also failed to address the rights of people who owned land before collectivisation in 1945. This has created continuing uncertainty and potentially constrained the functioning of land and property markets. At the time of writing, clarifying land ownership is an ongoing concern in Albania, with many residents lacking legal documents to verify land rights.

The GoA is taking steps to strengthen property rights, including continuing a national project to register all property and to regularize the significant number of informal landholdings in urban and peri-urban areas. Creating a plan to address the claims for restitution and compensation from pre-1945 landowners is proving challenging (Land Links, 2020).

Although women have the same rights of ownership, they are disadvantaged with regards to land. The legacy of the land reform and a strong customary land tenure system has created a male governed system (Zhillima *et al.*, 2016). According to a recent survey by Zhillima *et al.* (2016), approximately 70% of people who have formal land entitlements are males. The dominance of males comes as a result of prior registration of family heads in the land titles (Zhillima *et al.*, 2016).

3.7.1.2 Land use

Land use in Albania is as follows:

- Agricultural land (24%)
- Forests, meadows, pastures (54%)
- Land used for other purposes (e.g. urban areas) (22%)

Out of the total agriculture area, 561,000 ha or 81% is under private ownership and 134,000 ha or 19% is under public (state) ownership. Most of the state-owned agricultural land is undivided land of former agricultural cooperatives that has been refused by rural families due to poor quality or location (e.g., distance from dwellings etc) (Cela *et al.*, 2018).

The distribution of cultivated land is shown in Table 3-12.

Table 3-9 Cultivated land (2011)

Land use	Hectares (ha)
Arable crops	409,000
Fruit trees	180,000
Olives	46,000
Citrus	80
Pergolas	10,700

Source: Cela *et al.* (2018)

Land is used almost entirely by its owners. The market for the sale of land is almost non-existent in Albania, and formal land renting is not widespread, particularly in rural areas. As of 2007, less than 2% of the rural households had sold land on the formal market since the beginning of the privatization, and only 3.6% had rented their land.

However, there is evidence that the informal market in rural land is more active. It is estimated that 6% of farming households have rented out their land and the average farm size is slowly increasing showing that the landowners are transacting land among themselves (Cela *et al.*, 2018).

Factors constraining the development of the formal rural land market include: the perception of land as a social safety net; unresolved and conflicting claims to land; time consuming and costly land transaction process; mistakes in relation to land registration during land reform (names, land documentation) and weak access to credit. Because land titles are perceived as insecure, banks often refuse to accept titles as collateral for land purchases.

3.7.1.3 Land issues

There is a high incidence of land conflicts in Albania caused by, among other things, overlapping land boundaries, clashes between new and former owners over restitution and compensation, and disputes over access roads.

Although there is evidence that village elders, municipal officers and other local leaders are called upon frequently to mediate disputes, a formal system of mediation does not exist and the law does not authorise judges to transfer cases from the courts to mediation (Land Links, 2020).

3.7.1.4 Housing

Albania's housing stock in urban areas is dominated by concrete-framed structures, many of which are multi-family residences, and wooden, single-family homes in rural areas. Preliminary data from the 2011 census indicates that the total number of residences in Albania has increased by 37% since 2001. Approximately 56% of new construction in Albania from 1995-2012 was for residential projects, with a significant increase in detached houses in the 2001-2011 period. The real estate market is heavily concentrated in the centre of the country, mostly in Tirana. There is almost no formal housing market in rural Albania (Kahvechi and Sabaj, 2017).

Approximately 96% of the residential building stock in Albania is privately owned (mass privatisation of flats took place in 1993–1994) and around 40% of the total building stock consists of multi-family apartment buildings (most common in urban areas).

Informal housing is a phenomenon throughout the country, particularly on the outskirts of cities. Most informal settlements were established in the lands of former state enterprises and industrial zones.

3.7.2 Local context

3.7.2.1 Land ownership

Land in the settlements is typically 50% state owned and 50% privately owned (not all land in Librazhd and Bulqize was transferred from the state to private individuals the application of Law no 7501 (Law on Land) in 1991. Some land remained state-owned). State ownership is divided between central government entities (including national parks) and municipalities.

In Librazhd, The National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) is the owner of the Shebenik – Jabllanice Park which lies on the east side of the road (the road being the border line of the Park). In Bulqize, the land parcels along Zgjosht-Cerenec road within the Ostrenje AU are state owned.

Private landowners in the settlements each possess a Land Acquisition Act Document ‘Akti i Marrjes se Tokes ne Pronesi (AMTP). This is an official document issued by the government after 1991 (as per Law no. 7501). However, this official landownership document needs to be legally registered in the Cadastre Office (as per new legal requirements) to provide new certificates with a digital map.

Many local residents have not registered their land to receive a new Certificate of Recognition (Registration) of Property from the Cadaster Office (as per Law no 111/2018 On Cadastre which supersedes Law no. 33/2012 On registration of Immovable Properties).

In Bulqize municipality, the administrative units of Gjorice and Ostrenje are now part of the land registration digital system. This makes it easier to apply for new ownership certificates.

Anecdotally, it has been suggested that approximately 20% of families in Zgosht village have their land certificates registered in the Cadaster Office and between 20-30% of families in Lunik have new land registration certificates.

Families typically own small land parcels. The exact size of land parcels varies but estimates suggest:

- Lunik: approximately 4,000 – 5,000 m² in size
- Stëblevë: approximately 2,000 m² in size (this was the amount of land allocated to households in 1991)
- Fushe Struden: approximately 7,000 m² in size.
- Gjoricë: approximately 4,000 – 5,000 m² in size.

Consistent with the trend at the national level, land is characterised by high levels of fragmentation. It is common for one household to own 3-4 land parcels scattered over several locations, often distant from main dwellings. This causes challenges for farmers applying for government programmes or subsidy schemes.

3.7.2.2 Land use

Land in the settlements is mostly used for agricultural activities. Consistent with the trend at national level, land is used mostly by owners. Where renting does occur, it is often based on verbal (informal) agreement between the landowner and the land user. There is typically no legal contract between landowners and land users. In Lunik, land users reportedly do not pay any money to use/rent land owned by others.

According to the land use/cover classification undertaken as part of the biodiversity assessment, 182 ha or nearly half of the total potential land take beyond the existing road (see Section 5.2 for further details) can be considered as agricultural categorised as 'arable land and market gardens').

The land purchase price in the settlements is approximately 2500 – 3000 ALL/m². However, there are very few sale transactions taking place in the villages. Although it is common for residents to migrate abroad for seasonal or permanent work opportunities, it is very rare for them to sell their properties.

3.7.2.3 Land issues

Consistent with the trend at the national level, the main issues regarding land in the primary sphere of influence include high levels of property fragmentation; delayed formalisation and registration of property rights; buildings which lack formal legal permits, land and property disputes. Mistakes or inaccuracies on formal land ownership acts (the AMTP document) are also reportedly common.

Legacy issues relating to compensation payments for previous construction works were reported by local stakeholders in several villages including Lunik and Gjoricë. Compensation claims have historically been complicated due to inaccuracies on maps, certificates and old land ownership acts, and the high number of properties that are not fully legalised. Issues and grievances relating to land acquisition were reported in Cereneç I Poshtem, where families claim they were not properly compensated for loss of land during the opening of the right of way in 2012. Households reportedly lacked land ownership documents.

During KII with the municipality of Bulqize, it was reported that some people use different land parcels from those that they have official claim to in their land ownership acts. Inhabitants may use the land that was used by their fathers or ancestors. Misreporting of parcel sizes has been prevalent in the past due to tax reasons. As a result, the size of land parcel owned by residents (according to their formal AMTP document) is sometimes smaller than the size of land that they use in reality.

Additional land issues reported in Stëblevë relate to land registration and include:

- many people have the old certificate of the land which is not updated with the new land registration certificate that expropriation process requires
- a household typically possesses several scattered land-plots which makes it impossible for the farmers to apply for governmental subsidy agricultural scheme programmes
- discrepancies between GIS map and real location of the land
- overlapping land. Land user is different from the landowner
- there is no legal contract between the landowner and the land tenant
- land purchase price is 2500-3000 All/m² but there are very few transactions in practice.

3.8 Health

3.8.1 National and regional context

As outlined in Section 4, life expectancy for males and females is increasing. Estimates on healthy life expectancy (HLE)⁴ indicate that the number of years expected to be lived in optimal health is 63 for men and 67 for women (ADHS, 2018).

Overall, health outcomes have improved in recent years, but inequities exist among different socio-economic groups (IDRA, 2017).

3.8.1.1 Health system

The Albanian health system is mainly public. The state provides most services in terms of health promotion, prevention, diagnosis and treatment (ADHS, 2018). The private sector is small, although growing, and mostly concentrated in Tirana.

The health system is organised into three levels: primary care (mostly offered in local primary health care (PHC) centres, secondary care and tertiary care (which are mostly offered in public hospitals).

Nationally, there are 421 public primary health care centres, 43 public hospitals and 5 university hospitals. Each of the twelve prefectures has a regional hospital, in addition to several smaller primary health centres (Bali *et al.*, 2016).

Urban areas such as Tirana typically have a wider range of health services including specialised doctors. . There is a lack of specialised healthcare personnel in rural areas.

3.8.1.2 Health insurance

A compulsory health insurance scheme exists in Albania. All employed people must contribute an annual fee. The State covers the costs of the health insurance scheme for the unemployed population, including children, students, pensioners, mothers on maternity leave, people with disabilities, and people receiving assistance and economic support (Bali *et al.*, 2016).

3.8.1.3 Maternal health care

Antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) are integrated into the primary healthcare system. Women have free access to this care. In urban areas, care is offered in women's consulting centres or maternity hospitals. In rural areas, it is provided by general practitioners in health centres. Delivery care is mainly provided by public maternity hospitals at the prefecture level.

At the time of writing, for every 100,000 live births, 29 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 20.7 births per 1,000 women of ages 15-19 (UNDP, 2019).

3.8.1.4 Diseases and mortality

Table 3-12 outlines the leading causes of death among persons of all ages.

⁴ Healthy Life Expectancy is the average equivalent number of years of full health that a newborn could expect to live, if he or she were to pass through life subject to the age- specific death rates and morbidity rates of a given reference period.

Table 3-10 Top 10 causes of death in 2017

Disease	2007 ranking	2017 ranking
Heart disease	1	1
Stroke	2	2
Alzheimer's disease	3	3
Lung cancer	4	4
Other cardiovascular	5	5
COPD	6	6
Stomach cancer	7	7
Lower respiratory infection	8	8
Neonatal disorders	9	21
Chronic kidney disease	10	9
Cardiomyopathy	12	10

Source: IHME (2018)

As shown above, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, strokes and Alzheimer's remain the most common cause of mortality in Albania. Neonatal disorders have become much less prominent, decreasing by 41% between 2007 and 2017. This is possibly attributable to improved maternal healthcare.

3.8.1.5 Health challenges

Albania has the lowest rate of hospital beds in Europe, at 2.9 beds per 1,000 people, compared to the Central Europe and the Balkans and EU average of 6.4 and 6.1 beds per 1,000 people, respectively (World Bank, 2020b).

3.8.2 Local context

In the primary sphere of influence, there is one health centre located at Zgosht with one doctor, one assistant doctor, one vaccinator, and one nurse. There are a total of six health units in Stëblevë, with one medic and six nurses operating in these units. Each village typically has an ambulance and one nurse. The main hospital is in Librazhd town.

The main disease is rheumatism, which is reportedly due to high humidity in the area. Alternative medicine is used alongside modern medicine for treatments, including products such as mountain tea, nettle tea and bee flower.



Figure 3-11: Health centre (Cerenec i poshtem)

3.9 Living standards

3.9.1 National and regional context

3.9.1.1 Poverty

Albania's human development index (HDI)⁵ value is 0.785, which places the country, globally, in the high human development category. Between 1990 and 2017, Albania's HDI value increased from 0.645 to 0.785, an increase of 21.7 %. At the time of writing, the country is positioned 68th out of 189 countries (UNDP, 2018).

Continued economic growth has contributed to a decline in poverty at the national level. In 2002, 54% of the Albanian population was living on less than USD 5.5 a day, however by 2018, this figure had decreased to 35% (OECD, 2020). Notwithstanding this decrease, Albania continues to have the highest poverty rate among countries of Central Europe and the Balkans (OECD, 2020).

Poverty in Albania is related to a series of factors, including employment status, age structure, gender, geography, ethnicity and levels of educational attainment (ESPN, 2019). Groups that are reportedly at higher risk of poverty are the unemployed, those with lower educational attainment, people living in rural areas, the elderly, vulnerable women, people with disabilities, and people from the Roma and Balkan Egyptian communities (ESPN, 2019). Rural areas are still the poorest areas of the country. The distribution of the Albanian population across the wealth quintiles shows that about 8 out of 10 people living in urban households are in the two highest wealth quintiles, while 7 out of 10 people living in rural households are in the two lowest wealth quintiles (Meç and Ribaj, 2019).

⁵ HDI is an index that measures three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy); access to education (measured by years of schooling); and a decent standard of living (measured by Gross National Income per capita).

The average gross monthly wage per employee in the public sector (2015) was 50,450 ALL in Elbasan (INSTAT, 2016). The prefecture has 13,702 families benefitting from social assistance, the highest figure for any prefecture in Albania (INSTAT, 2016).

The prefecture of Elbasan had an average poverty rate of 15.2% in 2012. Towns and villages in the mountain region had a higher poverty rate compared with the other more urban towns in the prefecture (World Bank, 2016).

Elbasan prefecture has a very large gap between the lowest and highest poverty rates. In 2016, The lowest poverty rate in Elbasan Prefecture was in Librazhd Municipality (8.7 %), and the highest was in Orenjë Commune (30.4 %). (World Bank, 2016).

Despite lower poverty rates than other municipalities, an estimated 21% of households in Librazhd are in receipt of social assistance (UNDP, 2013).

The average gross monthly wage per employee in the public sector (2015) was 52,500 ALL in Dibër (INSTAT, 2016). There are reportedly 13,113 families benefitting from social assistance in the prefecture. This is the highest proportion of any prefecture, with the exception of Elbasan (INSTAT, 2016).

Dibër prefecture has high levels of inequality and a large gap between the lowest and highest poverty rates. In 2016, the lowest poverty rate was in the municipality of Burrel (11.2 %), and the highest rate was in Sllovë Commune (29.4 %) (World Bank, 2016). Within Bulqize municipality itself, there is a low level of inequality, estimated to be lower than 8%.

3.9.1.2 Energy

Albania is almost entirely dependent on hydropower for its electricity supply, with over 90% of installed electricity capacity based on this source (see Table 3-12). The country's ability to meet electricity demand has varied year on year, depending on the hydrological situation. Albania met its total energy demand domestically in 2010 and 2016 (both rainy years), while in the dry years of 2011, 2012 and 2017, it had to import relatively large amounts of electricity (IRENA, 2019).

The country has very small fossil fuel reserves and at the time of writing, produces none of its own electricity from oil, gas or coal sources (World Bank, 2020b). Albania has substantial potential to further develop its renewable energy sources, particularly solar and wind. At the time of writing, Albania has managed to achieve a significant share of biofuel in road transportation (IRENA, 2019).

Table 3-11 Installed energy capacity by source (2018)

Energy source	Installed capacity
Liquid fossil fuels	98
Hydropower	2,132
Solar	1

Source: IRENA (2019)

Albania has the lowest energy consumption per capita of any of its neighbouring countries. The figure is significantly lower than the EU average, at approximately 0.8

tonne of oil equivalent (toe) (74% below the EU average), including around 2,200 kWh of electricity (60% below the EU average) (Enerdata, 2020).

The entire population, in both rural and urban areas, has access to electricity (World Bank, 2020b).

3.9.2 Local context

3.9.2.1 Poverty

It is estimated that approximately 60% of households in Lunik and 25% of households in Gjoricë receive a monthly social income benefit from the government (of 7,000 ALL).

3.9.2.2 Energy

Households in Lunik and Gjoricë predominantly use firewood for heating, firewood for cooking in winter months and gas for cooking in summer months.

Several families in Lunik receive firewood provision from the National Park, generally obtaining 4 m² annually. Other families receive firewood from the Municipality of Librazhd. From 15th September to 1st November each year, there is increased security (checkpoint) at the National Park which prevents any trucks accessing the Park.

A feeder 6 power line runs from Librazhd to Stëblevë. This line passes along the road in many sections. There is no phone line present in Lunik.

3.9.2.3 Water

Water availability in the settlements is as follows:

- Lunik (AU): Lunik is known as the region with the highest number of water sources in Albania. The water sources are used for drinking water and irrigation purpose.
- Stëblevë AU: potable water comes from local water springs. Private investment (water pipes) is used to connect the sources.
- Gjoricë AU: residents of Cerenec are supplied either from water wells or water supply system where pipes are passing (buried) underneath the road.



Figure 3-12 Tap for drinking water (Borove)

3.9.2.4 Housing

Typical houses observed during the reconnaissance survey are shown in Figure 3-19



Figure 3-13 Housing in Cereneç I Poshtëm (left) and Fushe Studen (right)

3.10 Community dynamics

3.10.1 National and regional context

3.10.1.1 Women

In recent years, Albania has improved the status of women and promoted gender equality and empowerment of women (unece, 2019).

Albania has a gender inequality index (GII⁶) value of 0.238, ranking it 52 out of 160 countries in the 2017 index. However, many women in Albania continue to experience an array of challenges including: opportunities to participate in the labour market and economy; challenges in obtaining property rights; barriers in terms of accessing education and health services; lack of participation in decision making in the family realm; risks of gender-based violence (GBV); and social exclusion and discrimination.

Since 2010, Albania has undertaken legislative reforms with the aim of promoting gender equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. The following legal amendments have been made:

- Amendments to the Electoral Code (Law No. 74/2012) of 19 July 2012 which require that at least 30 per cent of candidates on electoral lists of political parties and one third of the top-ranked candidates for each electoral constituency be from either gender
- Amendments to the Criminal Code (Laws No. 44/2013 and No. 23/2012) criminalizing domestic violence, marital rape, sexual abuse and harassment, forced marriage and other forms of gender-based violence

⁶ GII reflects gender-based inequalities in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and economic activity. The GII can be interpreted as the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in the three GII dimensions.

- Law No. 10399 of 17 March 2011 amending the Law on Social Assistance and Social Services to provide benefits to women victims of abuse who have obtained a protection order
- Law No. 10329 of 30 September 2010 amending Law No. 9669 on Measures against Domestic Violence to establish a coordinated network of institutions responsible for the protection, support and rehabilitation of victims.

The government has also adopted a National Strategy on Gender Equality, Gender-based Discrimination and Domestic Violence (2011-2015); an Action Plan for Supporting Women Entrepreneurs (2014-2020) and a National Strategy for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014-2017) (CEDAW, 2016). Despite improvement, many women continue to face challenges and remain unaware of their legal rights. Challenges are heightened for women belonging to disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including unemployed women; women with more than three children; women in rural and the Central and Mountain areas; poor, marginalised and vulnerable women; women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women of the Roma and Egyptian community, LGBTI women (OHCHR, 2016). In general, women continue to face significant legal and practical barriers in gaining access to justice, which is reflected in the low overall number of complaints filed (CEDAW, 2016).

Albania has traditionally had a patriarchal culture (IAGCI, 2018) and issues of GBV remain. A study carried out in 2013 by the Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) indicated that:

- 58.2% of women had experienced psychological violence
- 23.7% of women had experienced physical violence
- 7.9% of women had experienced sexual violence
- 24.6% had experienced both physical and sexual violence.

At a national level, in 2015 reports for domestic violence cases totalled 11.9 per 10,000 inhabitants. At a regional level, the prefecture of Durrës recorded the highest number of reports (23.3) per 10,000 inhabitants, followed by Berat (17.6) and Korça (14.6). The lowest values are found in the prefecture of Dibër and Kukës, respectively, 3.6 and 4.7 reports per 10,000 inhabitants (INSTAT, 2016).

Although reporting has increased by 30% since 2006, domestic violence remains a taboo and is underreported in many areas of the country, especially in rural and remote areas (CEDAW, 2016). Underreporting is particularly pronounced for cases of sexual violence (IAGCI, 2018).

3.10.1.2 Roma

Roma are known as one of Europe's oldest, largest and most disadvantaged ethnic minorities (ERRC, 2018). Roma in Albania are a vulnerable group who face political and economic marginalisation and limited access to opportunities in every aspect of human development, such as basic rights, health, education, housing, employment and standard of living ((Minority Rights, 2020; UNDP and World Bank, 2018).

There are no official statistics for the size of the Roma population, however estimates range from 80,000 to 150,000, or between 0.3 and 0.5% of the population (Minority Rights, 2020).

In 2006, it was estimated that 78% of the Roma population were living in poverty and 39% were living in extreme poverty (Minority Rights, 2020). Very few Roma children are

enrolled in secondary school. Roma children are also particularly vulnerable to illegal migration and in the worst cases, human trafficking (Minority Rights, 2020).

Roma people live mainly in homogenous settlements across the 12 prefectures and 61 municipalities. Most Roma families live within or adjacent to the largest urban centres across western and central parts of Albania. Tirana has the largest number of Roma, followed by Korca. Elbasan and Fier regions are 3rd and 4th in ranking per number of Roma families. Roma inhabit urban areas at a higher rate compared to non-Roma populations. At least 68% of Roma people live in urban areas compared to 53.5% of the general population (Hazizaj, 2017).

Table 3-12 outlines the number of Roma families in municipalities across the Project-affected prefectures.

Table 3-12 Roma families

Municipality	Total families	Roma families (2016)	% Roma families
<i>Dibër</i>			
Bulqize	11,335	4	0.04%
Dibër	21,326	11	0.05%
Klos	5,711	3	0.06%
Mat	10,869	3	0.03%
<i>Elbasan</i>			
Belsh	8,847	0	0%
Cerrik	13,009	15	0.1%
Elbasan	59,240	498	0.8%
Gramsh	10,529	498	4.7%
Librazhd	12,181	0	0%
Peqin	10,647	35	0.3%
Prrenjas	8,813	0	0%
TOTAL		1,067	

Source: UNICEF (2016a) UNICEF (2016b)

3.10.1.3 Persons with disabilities (PWD)

Depending on how disability is defined and measured, the % of PWD in Albania ranges from 6.2 to 22.1 (UNDP, 2015).

At least 6% of the Albanian adult population identify themselves as having severe or extreme difficulty in at least one of the following: seeing, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, communication, or disability. The most commonly encountered type of disability is movement restrictions (3.7%), and the least common ones are hearing and communication (1.7 and 1.5% respectively), while vision, learning and self-care fall somewhere in between (Ferre *et al.*, 2015).

PWD in poor Albanian households, compared to PWD in wealthy households, are more likely to have more than one disability (UNDP, 2015).

According to the most recent census, the proportion of the population with any disability in Dibër and Elbasan was 6% and 7.1% respectively (Ferre, 2015).

Dibër has a slightly lower proportion of PWD than the national average. It is most common for the disabled population in the prefecture to suffer with mobility issues (3.7%), followed by cognition (2%), self-care (1.9%), communication (1.9%) seeing (1.8%) and hearing (1.6%) (Ferre, 2015).

Elbasan has a higher proportion of PWD than the national average. It is most common for the disabled population in the prefecture to suffer with mobility issues (4.2%), followed by sight issues (2.6%), cognition (2%), hearing (2%), self-care (2%) and communication 1.7%) (Ferre, 2015).

The number of children with special needs registered in the District of Elbasan for 2011 is 2,3763. This number is high when compared with other cities in Albania. In the Municipality of Elbasan, the number of children with special needs registered is 5,514. The total number of children with special needs in the Librazhd area is 4,835 and in the municipality of Librazhd, 516 (Coku, 2013).

3.10.2 Local context

3.10.2.1 Women

Women in the villages are involved in agricultural activities and collection of medicinal plants. They also play an important role in service provision (cooking, cleaning) in Stëblevë related to hotels and restaurants.

3.10.2.2 Vulnerable groups

There is reportedly one Roma family in Lunik, one family in Letem, and 4-5 families in Zgosht. Many of these family members have moved to other cities in Albania. There are no Roma families in Stëblevë.

Lunik village has the highest number of PWD (30), followed by the village of Letem (22), Prevalle (18) and Zgosht (17). There are 10 PWD in Stëblevë, 15 in Fushe Studen, 5 in Cerenec I poshtem and 3 in Cerenec I siperm. All PWD are eligible for a disability pension from the government.

In Stëblevë AU, 53 households profit from the government income support scheme and 5 households are supported with family social pension.

3.10.2.3 Community based organisations

There are few active NGOs operating in the primary sphere of influence. There are reportedly none in Lunik AU, and none in Gjoricë AU.

3.11 Cultural heritage

3.11.1 National and regional context

Albania has rich and diverse cultural landscape. Albania has ratified 18 international conventions which safeguard and promote tangible cultural heritage (TCH) and intangible cultural heritage (ICH), including:

- Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratified (19 March 2009)
- Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: ratified (17 November 2006)
- Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratified (4 April 2006).

At the time of writing, the country has four UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS), classified as follows:

- Cultural sites
 - Burtint (designated in 1992; extended in 1999)
 - Historic centres of Berat and Gjirokasta (designated in 2005; extended in 2008)
- Natural sites
 - Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe⁷ (designated in 2007, extended in 2011 and 2017 into a number of countries including Albania)
- Mixed sites
 - Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region, jointly with North Macedonia (designated in 1979, extended into Albania in 2019).

In recent years, Albania has taken positive steps to raise awareness of the role of preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of cultural resources.

Albania has been part of a joint programme – the “Integrated Rehabilitation Project Plan/Survey of the Architectural and Archaeological Heritage (IRPP/SAAH)” since 2003. Over 30 sites and monuments have been identified through this programme for protection and conservation.

Elbasan boasts a rich cultural heritage and its history dates back more than 2,000 years, combining eastern and western civilisations. The city possesses a substantial ethnographic museum and a fortified historical centre.

3.11.2 Local context

Cultural heritage is limited in the primary sphere of influence. In addition to religious buildings (see Section 3.4.2), there is a cemetery in Lunik AU (in the Botove area), a graveyard in Gjoricë AU (in the Cerenec I poshtem area) and a graveyard in Llange. Graveyards are located in close proximity to the road.

⁷ Jointly with Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine

4 MINIMISING RESETTLEMENT

4.1 Efforts to minimize displacement during the design phase

The working width for the road rehabilitation has been minimized to only that absolutely required for the construction activities.

If the working width has the potential to interfere with structures (dwellings, farm buildings, small businesses), it will be narrowed wherever possible.

If one side of the road has land with assets such as fences and the other side does not, the land without assets will be expropriated whenever possible and subject to technical construction and design constraints

4.2 Mechanisms to minimize displacement during implementation

All construction activity will be constrained to the working width.

While there may be some disruption to access along the road, the time period will be minimized. Efforts will be made to ensure a single lane remains useable as much as possible such that community traffic can continue.

Should community members feel land is impacted beyond that which has been agreed and compensated for, a Grievance Resolution Mechanism (GRM) will be in place (see Section 7).

5 ESTIMATED DISPLACEMENT-RELATED IMPACTS

This chapter provides a high-level description of potential impacts associated with displacement as a result of the Project's activities. The impacts presented are based on pre-survey estimates and are therefore subject to change once the land and assets survey has been undertaken (see Section 8).

5.1 Methodology

In order to estimate the total number of economically displaced households, a remote sensing exercise was undertaken. Visible structures and land parcels within a 50m buffer (50m either side from the centre line of the existing the road) were mapped. Figure 5-1 provides an example of this.

This exercise was followed by a reconnaissance survey (described in Section 3.1) to ground truth data, as well as to calibrate and interpret some of the remote sensing data.

The key displacement metrics are summarised in Table 5-2.

The methodology has limitations. For example, analysis of satellite imagery is not able to distinguish between contiguous land parcels belonging to the same owner and those belonging to separate owners. A piece of land belonging to one owner (or household) might be subdivided into separate parcels for purposes of erosion control or drainage. Analysis of satellite imagery is not able to distinguish between contiguous land parcels belonging to the same owner and those belonging to separate owners. Based on KII with farmers and meetings with local authorities, it is assumed that the average number of affected parcels is 3 and 4 parcels per household (see Section 3.7.2.1). Without the benefit of detailed field data (to be collected during land and assets survey (see Section 8)), the number of affected households is therefore strongly dependent on this assumption.



Figure 5-1 Digitizing of structures (triangles) and land parcels (circles)

5.2 Land take requirements

The total length of the road is 47.1km⁸. During the road works, a working width of 10 m beyond the existing road (assumed to be 10m wide) will be established. This corresponds to a potential land take beyond the existing road of 92 ha.

Based on recent satellite image interpretation, a total of 497 parcels of land have been identified completely or partially within a 100m buffer (50m either side of the road). Figure 5-2 shows one of the largest clusters which includes 141 land parcels identified within the working width. Other land parcels are indicated within the overview map.

⁸ Based on GIS data sent by ADF to RSK
ADF
Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework
80876-0

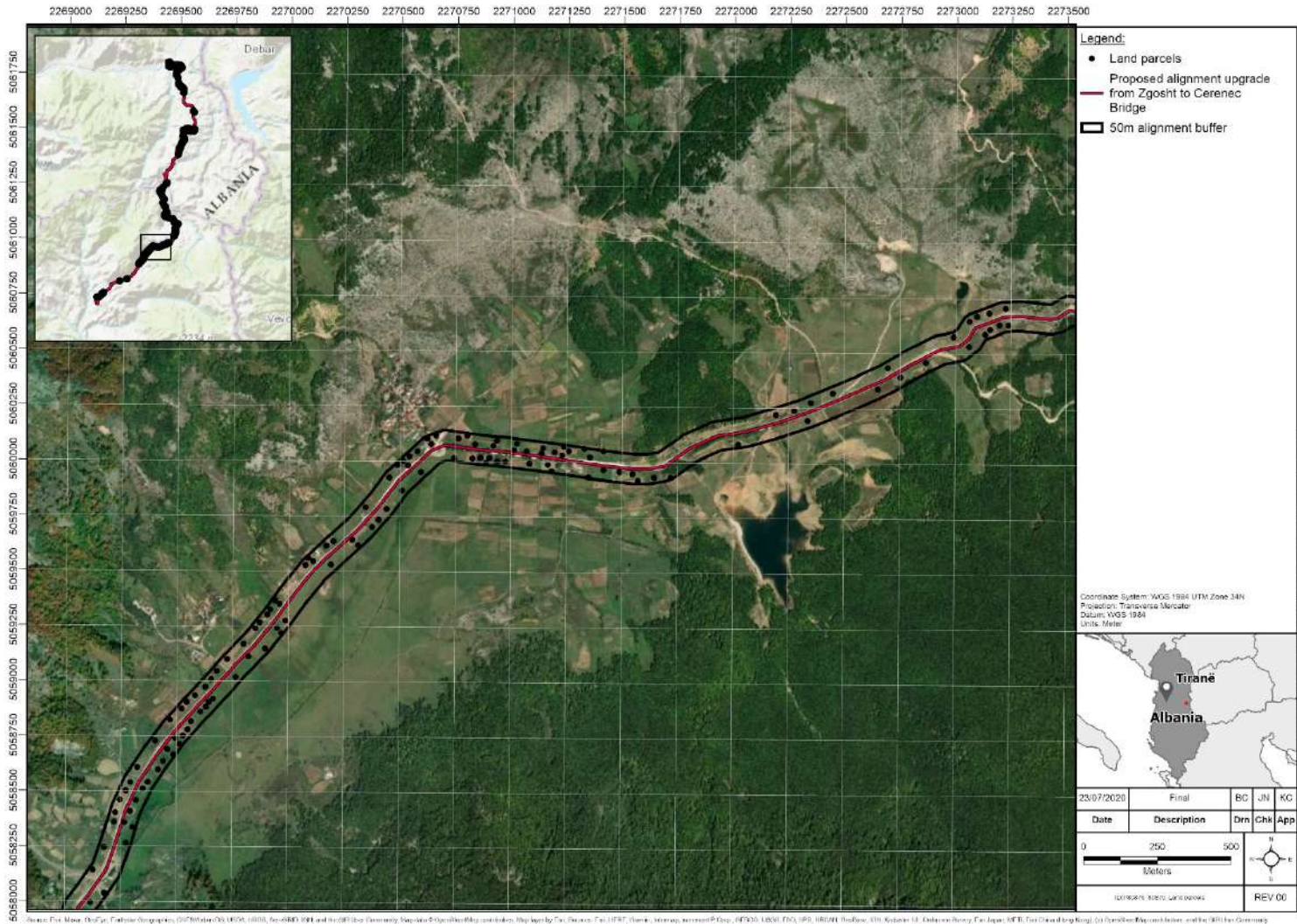


Figure 5-2 Large cluster of land parcels (total: 141) identified in Fushe Struden

A total of 23 structures have been identified within the 10m working width. Figure 5-3 shows the largest cluster which includes 16 structures which is more than half of the total number of structures identified with the working width. Smaller clusters of structures are indicated within the overview map. These structures are a range of farm infrastructure, dwellings and in some cases, small businesses.

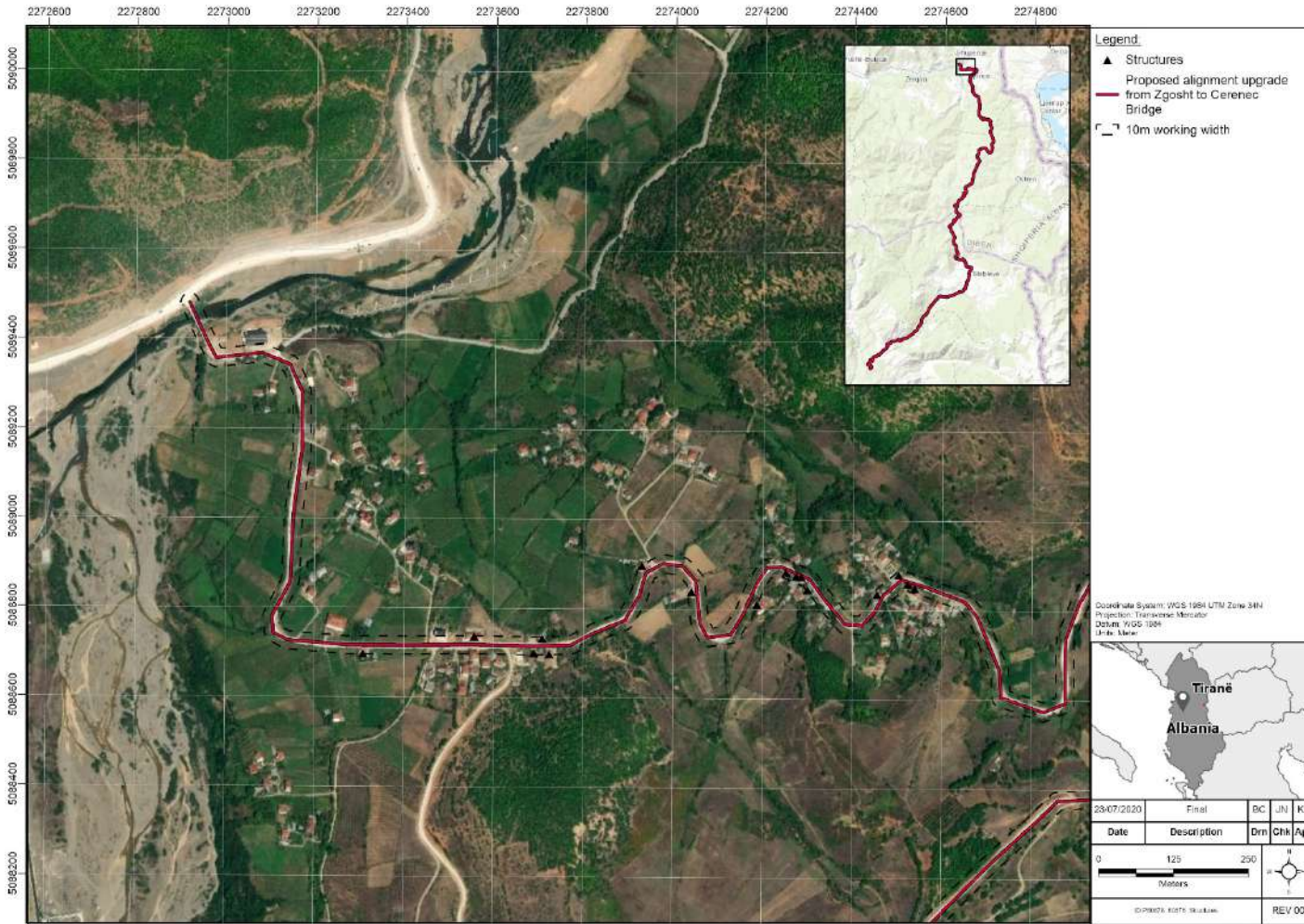


Figure 5-3 Largest cluster of buildings and structures (total: 16) identified in Çereneç i posthem

Key displacement metrics are summarised in Table 5-2 below.

Table 5-2: Summary of displacement metrics

Metric	Estimated range	Assumptions
Number of physically displaced households	It is assumed that no PAPs will be physically displaced. Farm infrastructure leads to economic displacement and is considered below.	
Number of economically displaced households	Based on the number of structures identified which are completely or partially within the working width: 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 structures have been identified completely or partially within the working width
	Based on the estimated number of parcels within the working width (497/5 = approximately 100): 25 - 33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 497 land parcels have been identified completely or partially within a 50m buffer from the centre line of the existing road Average number of parcels owned: between 3 and 4

Source: Visual inspection of satellite imagery: Maxar Vivid imagery (10/09/2018)

5.3 Expected impacts

The expected impacts presented in the section are based on the following assumptions:

- No physical displacement (no relocation) will take place during road works
- Only economic displacement will take place during road works. The impacts are as follows:
 - Temporary land acquisition associated with:
 - localised habitat clearance and topsoil removal within some areas of the working width
 - the installation stockpile areas located near the proposed road alignment
 - the installation of pipes for the optical fibre network in urban areas
 - Permanent land acquisition associated with:
 - construction of additional concrete retaining walls
 - installation of road safety barriers
 - constructing new areas of paving

In addition, based on the socio-economic context of the Project areas (see Section 3) and understanding of Project activities (see Section 1.1.3), PAPs may incur the following potential losses or disruption of access to assets and resources:

- Temporary loss of land
- Permanent loss of land
- Loss of one harvest's crops
- Permanent loss (destruction) of trees

- Damage to non-moveable structure
- Damage to farm infrastructure: e.g. irrigation systems, irrigation channels, fencing etc.
- Loss of profits for business owners/loss of wages for employees owing to temporary disruption of roads
- Temporary loss of access to assets (e.g. community infrastructure, school) and natural resources such as forested areas (e.g. collection of medicinal plants) owing to temporary disruption of roads and tracks.
- Loss of/damage to graves or archaeological finds

The Project will gain a full understanding of the nature and magnitude of impacts when conducting a land and assets survey before road works start (see Section 8). Local leaders, community members, and in particular women, will be consulted to ensure all potential culturally and economically sensitive areas are identified and avoided as far as possible.

Figure 3-9 illustrates examples of assets located within the working width which may be impacted by the road works.







	
<p>Cherry trees (near Cerenec i Poshtem)</p>	<p>Grave (Lunik)</p>
	
<p>Water supply (Cerenec i Poshtem)</p>	<p>Powerline mast (Lunik)</p>
	
<p>Irrigation channel (Fushe Struden)</p>	<p>Fence (Fushe Struden)</p>

Figure 5-4: Examples of assets potentially impacted by the proposed road works (within or near the working width)

6 ENTITLEMENT FRAMEWORK

This Section of the LARF outlines the proposed entitlements for each type of displacement impact resulting from Project activities. It defines criteria for determining the eligibility of various categories of PAPs to receive compensation and other forms of assistance. It goes on to define how impacts on land and assets will be valued and levels of compensation determined to ensure compensation at full replacement value for loss or disruption of assets. It recognises the legal context framed in Section 2 and builds on the socio-economic baseline outlined in Section 3 and the estimated displacement and related impacts in Section 5.

6.1 Eligibility criteria and categories

6.1.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility, for the purposes of this LARF, is defined as PAP's right to compensation and/or assistance granted for loss or disruption of assets. PAPs include persons, groups of persons, households, families, communities and businesses impacted by the Project's land access requirements. For the purposes of eligibility, the Project area will be defined the Project footprint, the working width, borrow pits, stockpiling areas and contractor facility area.

Eligibility criteria have been defined through the analysis of the remote and field work described in this LARF. The Project will conduct a census and assets inventory to establish the number of people to be displaced, livelihoods affected, and property to be compensated. The census and assets inventory will provide baseline data on the affected population; an inventory of losses (assets, access to resources or services, etc.); and a detailed measurement and valuation of those losses. The census will provide data on the current socio-economic status of affected households and their likely vulnerability in relation to Project impacts.

The census and assets inventory will be conducted in parallel. The date on which the census and asset inventory are conducted will also be the cut-off date for eligibility for compensation and other assistance. PAPs and other stakeholders will be given several weeks' notice of the census and assets inventory and Project stakeholder engagement will provide clear, public and accessible information on the census and inventory processes and the timing and implications of the cut-off date for affected people. PAPs will understand that any newcomers who move into the Project area, or assets or cultivations established in the area, after the cut-off date will not be eligible for compensation.

The Project will identify vulnerable people through consultation and census and will identify any specific assistance they may need to participate in Project consultation and to ensure they receive the compensation and assistance to which they are entitled. Such assistance may include, for example, ensuring face-to-face consultation with all vulnerable households, enabling vulnerable households to engage with the Project through a designated intermediary, regular contact throughout the Project development and construction period and provision of transitional assistance to ensure maintenance of vulnerable households' livelihoods and living standards.

Full details of this process, including the management of the cut-off date, the associated consultation, and the specific measures to support vulnerable people are discussed in Section 8.

6.1.2 Eligibility categories

The Project recognises the right to compensation of all persons who experience negative impacts as a result of Project construction. The impacts are outlined in Section 5.

Any person or group negatively impacted by the Project is eligible for compensation, livelihood restoration or other assistance. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- PAPs who are formal owners or lessees, or legal users under the provisions of Albanian law, of privately or publicly owned land within the Project area. This group may include:
 - Individuals, households or businesses with AMTP certificates on land in the working width.
 - Individuals, households or businesses with legal titles on land (and who have formally registered their land in cadastral land registers) in the working width.
 - State entities who own land in working width, such as NAPA and the municipalities of Librazhd and Bulqizë.
- Unregistered owners of privately or publicly owned land in the working width. Unregistered owners may be:
 - PAPs who have no formally registered title to their land but who have a legally recognised right to ownership through custom and usage.
 - PAPs who have no formally registered title to their land and no legally recognised right to ownership.
- Formal or informal users of privately or publicly owned land in the working width.
- PAPs who are formal or informal owners or users of crops affected by the Project.
- PAPs who are formal or informal owners or users of perennial plants and trees such as fruit bearing trees and are affected by the Project.
- PAPs who are formal or informal owners (e.g. of buildings constructed without permits) or users of farm buildings, structures or farm infrastructure (e.g. irrigation systems, fencing etc.) on land in the working width
- Communities or households whose access to communal assets, services or natural resources is affected by the Project (e.g. markets, grazing areas).
- PAPs who are owners of businesses (agricultural or non-agricultural) whose access to markets or customers is impeded by Project activities.
- Workers, both formal and casual employees, on affected properties whose incomes and livelihoods are impacted by the Project.
- Local residents whose family graves are located in the Project area.
- The custodians of archaeological artefacts affected by Project activities.
- Vulnerable groups, including women-headed households, single parents, elderly, disabled persons or those with long-term health problems, and households below the nationally defined poverty line, who are affected by the Project.

The process to finalise the entitlement categories, including land and asset survey and consultation, is detailed in Section 8.

6.2 Entitlement framework

The entitlement matrix (see Table 6-2) establishes the specific proposed compensation entitlements for each expected type of loss. This entitlement matrix will be adapted after analysing the outcomes of the census and assets inventory to add newly identified rights holders and impacts or losses (see Section 8).

To ensure the entitlements are acceptable to all affected persons, further consultation will be undertaken with local and administrative leaders to establish the preferred options. The consultation will seek to validate the LARF eligibility criteria and the entitlements (i.e., compensation rates) to be applied across the Project area in a transparent manner. Details are provided in Section 8

Table 6-1: Entitlement matrix

Category ID	Type of loss	Eligibility criteria	Entitlement
Privately owned land (households, individuals and businesses)			
1	Temporary loss of land due to Project activities	Individuals, households or businesses with AMTP certificates on land in the working width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation for affected land at agreed rate per ha (lease agreement negotiated between ADF and the landowner based on current rental market rates) • Transitional support for vulnerable households • Restoration of the land at previous conditions, in line with the Project restoration procedure. • Livelihood restoration support.
2		Individuals, households or businesses with legal titles on land (and who have formally registered their land in cadastral land registers) in the working width	
3		State entities who own land in the working width	
4		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title but have a legally recognised right to ownership through custom and usage to land in the working width	
5		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title and no legally recognised right to ownership to land in the working width	
6	Permanent and significant loss of land (80% or more of the total land) due to Project activities	Individuals, households or businesses with AMTP certificates on land in the working width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where PAP preference is land-for-land, replacement land of equal or higher value and similar productivity in direct proximity or in the surroundings of the expropriated land and all costs of resettlement and administrative fees required for transfer of ownership rights. • Where PAP preference is for cash, compensation for affected land (at agreed rate per ha) equivalent to full replacement value of the property, enough to replace lost assets and cover transaction costs. • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
7		Individuals, households or businesses with legal titles on land (and who have formally registered their land in cadastral land registers) in the working width	
8		State entities who own land in the working width	
9		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title but have a legally recognised right to ownership through custom and usage to land in the working width	

Category ID	Type of loss	Eligibility criteria	Entitlement
10		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title and no legally recognised right to ownership to land in the working width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation for all investments/ improvements made on land. • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
11	Permanent but limited loss of land (less than 80% of the total land) due to Project activities	Individuals, households or businesses with AMTP certificates on land in the working width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation for affected land (at agreed rate per ha) equivalent to full replacement value of the property, enough to replace lost assets and cover transaction costs. • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
12		Individuals, households or businesses with legal titles on land (and who have formally registered their land in cadastral land registers) in the working width	
13		State entities who own land in the working width	
14		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title but have a legally recognised right to ownership through custom and usage to land in the working width	
15		Individuals, households or businesses who have no formally registered title and no legally recognised right to ownership to land in the working width	
Crops and trees			
16	Loss of agricultural crops due to Project activities	Households, individuals or businesses who own crops in the Project area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation equal to full replacement value of the affected crops. • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
17	Permanent loss of trees due to Project activities	Households, families, individuals or businesses who own trees in the Project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation based on full replacement value of affected trees • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
18		State entities that own trees in the Project area	
Structures			

Category ID	Type of loss	Eligibility criteria	Entitlement
19	Damage to non-moveable structures	Communities, families, individuals or businesses who/that own the structures in the working width	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation at full replacement value or restoration with agreement of owners. PAPs retain right to preserve materials without deduction from compensation
20	Damage to farm infrastructure: e.g. irrigation systems, fencing etc.	Owners or users of affected infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate restoration of affected infrastructure (or provision of temporary alternative where immediate restoration is not viable). • Cash compensation for losses incurred as result of damage to infrastructure. • Transitional support for vulnerable households.
Businesses			
21	Loss of profits for businesses owing to Project activities	Owners of businesses whose access from/to is impeded due to Project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash compensation for the proportion of lost business during the period of business interruption • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Support to restoration of business activities.
22	Loss of wages/employment	Workers, formal and casual employees on affected properties whose incomes and livelihoods are impacted by the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indemnity for lost wages for the period of business interruption up to a maximum of 3 months. • Priority in employment on the Project, if possible and on a case by case basis • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.
Loss of access to natural resources, communal assets and services			
23	Temporary loss of access to natural resources, communal assets and services	Local residents whose access to natural resources, communal assets and services (e.g. community infrastructure such as schools and health centres, water supplies, power, shops, markets, medicinal plants in forested areas, grazing areas) are disrupted by Project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of temporary alternative access to communal assets, services or natural resources (or compensation at full replacement value where no alternatives available). • Transitional support for vulnerable households. • Livelihood restoration support.

Category ID	Type of loss	Eligibility criteria	Entitlement
Cultural heritage			
24	Loss of/damage to graves	Local residents whose family graves are located in the Project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance assistance, shifting and relocation costs Religious/ cultural rites and other measures to be agreed with the stakeholders.
25	Loss of/damage to chance archaeological finds	Custodians of archaeological artefacts affected by Project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Project's Chance Find Procedure.

6.3 Valuation methodology and mitigation measures

Compensation will be at full replacement value. The assessment of the current market therefore forms the basis for the approach outlined below.

6.3.1 Loss of land

6.3.1.1 *Temporary loss of land*

Land which will be cleared during road works and used as stockpile areas will be leased from the landowner, which can be a family or an individual, community or business.

The cost for leasing will depend on the prevailing market for land in the affected area. A market assessment of leasing prices for land in the project area will be undertaken by a specialist and further negotiated between ADF and the landowners.

6.3.1.2 *Permanent loss of land*

In line with EBRD's PR5, permanently acquired land (e.g. construction of new areas of paving and concrete retaining walls) which represents 80% or more of the owner's land will be compensated, depending on the owners' preference, by:

- Replacement land of equal or higher value and similar productivity in direct proximity or in the surroundings of the expropriated land and with all costs of resettlement and administrative fees required for transfer of ownership rights.
- Compensation for affected land (at agreed rate per ha) equivalent to full replacement value of the property, enough to replace lost assets and cover transaction costs.

Where a smaller proportion of the owner's total land is acquired, the Project will pay cash compensation equivalent to the full replacement value of the property, sufficient to replace lost assets and cover transaction costs.

In Albania, the price per ha of land is stipulated by the Council of Minister (DCM no. 89 (03.02.2016)). Follow the decision, according to Law no. 111/2018 (Art. 20, paragraph 4) the price per ha of land in each cadastral area is updated by the State Agency of Cadastre (SAC).

6.3.2 Loss of crops and fruit trees

Based on EBRD's PR5, compensation for agricultural crops and trees should be at full replacement cost. This means cash compensation will reflect both market-related rates and the cost of transporting and re-establishing lost crops and trees.

In Albania, the value of the crops and fruit trees is defined by the Regional Agency of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumers Protection), after receiving a request by the initiator of the expropriation process (ARA). The Regional Agency of Agriculture sets up a commission comprising of agricultural experts from the Regional Agency of Agriculture (Dibër and Elbasan), representatives of the municipalities (Librazhd and Bulqizë) and ARA.

The commission carries out a specific technical valuation of the project affected area in terms of type and amount/number of affected agricultural production. Criteria used for the calculation of compensation are as follows:

- land category (level of fertility),
- situation under or above the water level,
- distance from the urban centres.

Once the technical valuation is completed, it is reviewed by the Regional Agency of Agriculture which determines compensation rates.

6.3.3 Damage to non-moveable structures and farm infrastructure

Damage to structures will be avoided. However, where this is not possible, in line with EBRD's PR5, these will be compensated in cash at full replacement cost. Where appropriate, and in agreement with the owner, the Project will seek to immediately restore the damaged structure or infrastructure; where this is not immediately possible, it will seek to provide a suitable alternative to mitigate impact and enable livelihood activities to continue.

In Albania, structures are valued according to two types:

- Residential structures are valued as per local Regional Cadastre Agency (RCA)'s terms of reference
- Commercial structures as per price index of construction cost of the National Housing Agency (Enti Kombetar i Banesave,EKB)

Note that residential structures, located outside of the areas covered by the local RCA's are valued similarly to commercial structures.

6.3.4 Loss of profits for businesses and loss of wages/employment

The Project recognises that businesses in, or in close proximity to, the Project area may be adversely impacted by Project activities through, for example, disruption of access to markets and customers or by amenity impacts which reduce the appeal of hospitality or tourism services. The Project will provide cash compensation for any lost earnings during the period of business interruption due to Project activities, and support to the restoration of business activities. Where businesses are owned or operated by vulnerable households, the Project will provide any transitional support necessary to maintain livelihoods and living standards.

For workers, formal and casual employees in businesses are impacted by Project activities, the Project will provide an indemnity for lost wages for the period of business interruption up to a maximum of 3 months. These workers will be given priority in employment on the Project, if possible and on a case by case basis, and may also receive livelihood restoration assistance. Transitional support will be provided to vulnerable households affected by loss or reduction in employment in Project-impacted businesses.

6.3.5 Temporary loss of access to natural resources and communal assets

Households use the general Project area for collecting medicinal plants. All-natural resources that people use will be recorded during the socio-economic survey (see Section 8.2.4) together with their specific use, the people's dependency on the particular natural resource, the availability of alternative sources and the impacts on the resource

will be assessed. Compensation measures will be negotiated with the affected people. However, it is expected that Project impacts on access to natural resources and will be very low.

Where households lose access to communal assets such as common grazing land, water and firewood, the Project will provide temporary alternative access to those assets or resources or compensation at full replacement value where no alternative means of access are available. The Project will provide transitional support to vulnerable households affected by loss of access to communal assets and natural resources.

6.3.6 Loss of/damage to graves or archaeological finds

Graves or archaeological finds will be identified during the land and asset survey (see Section 8.2.5) in consultation with local stakeholders so that they can be avoided during the road construction works. In the unlikely event that a grave or archaeological find is affected by construction activity, the Project's Chance Find Procedure will be followed to minimise impact: feasible last-minute adjustments will be made by the construction teams to avoid disturbance.

Where disturbance is unavoidable, the Project will work closely with the affected families to agree procedures for relocation of the grave. The Project will pay all costs associated with relocation, including for any religious/ cultural rites or other measures to be agreed with the family and community representatives.

7 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This Section identifies key stakeholder groups and provides a summary of the stakeholder engagement activities conducted to date. It also presents the grievance redress mechanism for the Project which will be established for addressing legitimate concerns of PAPs.

National and international regulations guiding the approach to engaging with Project stakeholders in Albania can be found in Sections 2.2 and 2.3.

ADF is committed to applying the EBRD Performance Requirements to manage the social and environmental impacts of the Project. In addition to PR5, Performance Requirement 10 (Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement) is of particular relevance to the engagement process.

EBRD PR 10 requires identification of key stakeholders and timely relevant and understandable disclosure of Project information. The PR emphasizes the importance of ensuring that information is accessible to everyone, including to segments of the population who might be considered vulnerable or marginalized. It encourages Project proponents to use engagement methods that are culturally appropriate, and ‘free of manipulation, interference, coercion and intimidation.’

Albania has ratified a number of regulations relevant to access to information and community participation in decision-making. The level and nature of ‘participation’ is not explicitly defined in the legislation but suggests that members of the local communities should work in partnership with local authorities to reach an optimal result in local decision-making and policy development.

7.1 Stakeholder Identification

The following of categories of stakeholders have been identified.

Categories	Description
State governments / ministries, regulators, government authorities and approvals agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy including the Albanian Road Authority (ARA) and National Agency of Territorial Planning • Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration • Ministry of Environment and Tourism including the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) • Ministry of Finance and Economy • Ministry of Justice • Council of Ministers Authority including the State Agency of Cadastre (SAC) • Regional Agency of Cadastre (RAC) of Bulqizë and Librazhd
Local government authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prefectures of Dibër and Elbasan • The LGUs of Bulqizë and Librazhd • The administrative units of Gjoricë, Ostren, Lunik and Stëblevë

Categories	Description
Community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zgosht • Lunik • Fushe Struden • Borove • Sebisht • Cerenec i poshtem • Cerenec i siperm
Directly affected groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAPs (as defined in Table 6-1). These include landowners and land users. • Vulnerable and/or marginalised groups, who face particular challenges. This includes people belonging to minority ethnic groups (i.e. Roma), people with physical and/or mental disabilities, chronic health conditions frail elderly, female/single parent families and those who could be considered 'materially deprived' and/or socially excluded. A more detailed description of vulnerability in the Albanian context is provided in section 3.9
National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Centre of Shebenik – Jabllanice National Park, part of the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA). They are also responsible for development and management of tourism in the area;
Service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operators of local utility lines and infrastructure (i.e. power supply operator (OSHSHE))
Private businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private hydropower plant 'DI-TEK' in Borove • Quartz (stone) quarry • Family owned businesses: coffee shops, hotels and restaurants
Local non-governmental organisations (see section 3.9.2.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Librazhd LGU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agri-En which is a local agriculture NGO (Librazhd area). • In Stebleve village: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ylli I Alpeve (the star of alps) ○ Aurora ngo ○ Association of Stëblevë ○ The Association for Stëblevë Development

7.2 Stakeholder engagement activities conducted to date

7.2.1 Initial consultation meetings

The objectives of the initial consultation meetings were to inform stakeholders of the land acquisition process and allow them the opportunity to express their views on it. In addition, these meetings were an opportunity to gather primary and secondary socio-

economic information about the affected areas and support the Socio-Economic baseline (see Section 3).

Stakeholders were contacted by phone and/or email. Meetings were held in accordance with the relevant Albanian safety guidance for COVID-19. The following measures were adhered to during the meetings.

- Outdoor meetings were conducted where possible. When indoor facilities were used, it was only in a large conference room which met COVID-19 safety protocols. Indoor meetings did not exceed 30 minutes.
- A distance of 2 m between the attendees was respected at all times
- Attendees wore protective masks covering their nose and mouth (see Figure 7-1). Consultants brought sufficient items of PPE for attendees
- Disinfectants were provided at all times. A hand gel station was established by RSK consultants for use by attendees during the meetings



Figure 7-1 : Meeting held at the municipality of Librazhd (17/06/2020)

In conducting ad-hoc informal KII, efforts were made to ensure they were representative of gender and vulnerable groups. Key informant interviews were held with female farmers (see Figure 3-2).

A brochure (see Appendix 1) was presented during the meetings. Prepared in non-technical language, it summarised the Project and the land acquisition process.

The key information discussed included:

- Outline of the Project description, and the roles of those involved, including EBRD and ADF
- Confirmation of commitment to national and international standards
- Description of the objectives of and process to prepare a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF)
- Confirmation of other stakeholders involved, including local government authorities (and Municipality of Librazhd)

- Explanation of the grievance mechanism to ensure ongoing engagement with local residents

Minutes were taken for each meeting. The standard template is presented in Appendix 2 and photographic evidence in Appendix 3. The majority of the meeting was allocated to questions, clarifications and concerns of the stakeholders.

Table 7-1 presents the full list of meetings undertaken.

Table 7-1: Consultation meetings and key informant interviews (KII)

ID	Stakeholder	Date	Location	Number of stakeholders
Formal meetings				
1	Municipality of Librazhd	17/06	Librazhd	2 (M) 1 (F)
2	Administrator of the AU of Lunik	18/06	Lunik	1 (M)
3	Head of Lunik village	18/06	Lunik	1 (M)
4	Administrator of the AU of Stëblevë	18/06	Fushe Struden	1 (M)
5	Administrator of the AU of Gjoricë	19/06	Gjoricë	2 (M)
6	Municipality of Bulqize	24/06	Bulqize	6 (M)
7	Head of Land Acquisition department of ARA	25/06	Tirana	1 (M)
Key informant interviews				
8	Male farmers	18/06	Fushe Studen, Lunik and Zgosht	3 (M)
9	Administrator of DI-TEK (Hydropower Plant) and Redi sh.p.k	19/06	Borove	1 (M)
10	Former administrator of Ostren Administrative Unit and bar owner	19/06	Cerenec i poshtem	2 (M)
11	Joen village (restaurant and hotel)	20/06	Fushe Studen,	1 (M)
12	Workers from quartz quarry 'Gega' sh.p.k.	20/06	Lunik	1 (M)
13	Female farmers	20/06	Fushe Studen	2 (F)
14	Road maintenance workers 'Bajrami' Sh.p.k.	20/06	Fushe Studen	2 (M)

7.2.2 Stakeholder perceptions

. The main issues raised included:

- a positive impact on the development of tourism
- improved access to nearby towns and countries (e.g. young people go to Greece for seasonal work)

- improved access for farmers to local markets and beyond, enabling a better price for local products
- Reduction in out-migration
- potential job opportunities during construction
- decrease in dust (the current poor road condition generates dust)
- increase in availability of workforce. Lack of work force is blamed for the lack of cultivation of some agricultural land
- reduction in construction costs of future projects

As described in Section 3.7.1.3, it should also be noted that legacy issues around land compensation were raised by community representatives (municipality leaders) and farmers during the consultation meetings. These issues relate to the road works undertaken by ARA on the Zgosht – Cereneç section of the road in 2012. Based on our experience, these are due to two factors:

- most households in the area have AMTP certificates which tend to be inaccurate (e.g. inaccurate boundaries)
- the process of acquiring new land registration certificates is lengthy and costly

Table 7-2 summarises the key issues raised in each of the meetings.

Table 7-2: Summary of stakeholders' perceptions

Meeting/KII ID	Stakeholders	Summary of comments
Formal meetings		
1	Municipality of Librazhd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Municipality has positive expectations about the Zgosht – Çereneç road rehabilitation. It will have a positive impact on the development of tourism and improve access of farmers' products to local markets and beyond. For example, the Stëblevë potato is a very well-known local product for which there is a dedicated local celebration day. • The Municipality made it clear that they do not have allocated funds for land expropriation related to this road segment. The road is under the ARA. Compensation budget must be allocated to ARA by GoA • Directorate of Territorial Planning and Development represents the Municipality in the land expropriation process. The Municipality will perform only land expropriation activities as per legal requirements. The other parties participating in the process are assigned by the relevant ministry (Ministry of Infrastructure / ARA).
2	AU of Lunik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that the new road will have a very positive impact on the area. Local residents of Lunik village also wish that the rehabilitation works are extended to include access to their village centre. It is also expected that employment will increase during the road construction works.
3	Head of Lunik	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people have left the area. Should the road rehabilitation works have been undertaken earlier, out-migration would have been prevented. • Should the road rehabilitation works take place, it is expected that a number of people would still seek to return to the area. • The area will not suffer from air pollution due to bad road conditions. • Should the road rehabilitation take place, there should be a grievance mechanism to allow local residents to express their concerns or grievances related to this Project.
4	AU of Stëblevë	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very positive expectations about the road due to:

Meeting/KII ID	Stakeholders	Summary of comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of tourism. Stëblevë is part of the “100 Villages”, an integrated rural development programme of the Albanian government. This initiative consists of a four-year program that aims to provide financial support for tourism development (infrastructure, economic and sustainability). Projects on alternative tourism, adventure tourism, etc., are currently being planned. • Potential to improve farmers’ market access. Farmers will have more access to local and national markets. Stëblevë is famous for potatoes. • Potential for employment of local work force for low skilled jobs during road rehabilitation. • Access to local celebrations. This AU is celebrating 3 days; Potatoes day/October 2nd, Flower day/May 6th and Shebenice – Jabllanice National Park day/May 21st. Road rehabilitation will increase participation to these local celebrations and promote the tourism. • Access to workforce. A significant part of the agriculture land is not cultivated due to lack of a workforce. Road rehabilitation will allow workforce to come from nearby areas.
5	AU of Gjoricë	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rehabilitation works are long awaited by the local community. The perceptions of this project are very good. The new road will improve access of agriculture products to markets and better connect the regions.
6	AU of Bulqize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of the Zgosht – Cerenec road is very much awaited by the local community as it will bring positive impact such as: • Improved access to Greece (many community members are seasonal migrants, particularly to Greece) • It will increase visits from tourists; • It will prevent people leaving the area as access to markets for products and labour will be improved.
7	Lead of land acquisition department of ARA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although a meeting was held with ARA, they had no comments on the project.
Key informant interviews		
8	Individual KII with male farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very positive impact • Support tourism development of the area/national park.

Meeting/KII ID	Stakeholders	Summary of comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road rehabilitation seems to have the support of local people in terms of agreements on land use and approach to disturbance arising during construction activities. • The new road will improve access to market for farming and agricultural products and it will improve the product price. Currently, farmers have to sell their product to traders who come to pick up the product (e.g potatoes of Stëblevë). Farmers are obliged to accept Traders' conditions with regard to product price. • Reduction in cost of use of agriculture machinery • Road rehabilitation will reduce travel cost. Current travel ticket cost (one way) is; Zepisht to Librazhd 500 All Fushe Studen to Librazhd 300 ALL and Lunik to Librazhd 200 All. The price is very high comparing to the local community incomes.
9	KII with the administrator of DI-TEK (Hydropower Plant) and Redi sh.p.k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rehabilitation of Zgosht-Cereneç road segment is very much welcomed for the region in general and for business in particular. • The upgraded road would help the fishing farm and restaurant to attract more visitors while the cost of travel for his employees will be reduced significantly. • The business will also show their willingness to provide support for the construction company during the rehabilitation works. • Construction works for the power plants were completed two years ago. • There is no concern that the future road rehabilitation works would affect the infrastructure of the hydropower plants or the fish farm.
10	KII with Former administrator of Ostren Administrative Unit and bar owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very positive impact • Will improve access to Greece. This area is mainly supported by remittances. Young people go to Greece for seasonal work. • It will improve access to higher education at the University of Elbasan. • It will increase trading activities between Bulqize and Librazhd. • It will support the development of tourism
11	KII with Joen village (restaurant and hotel) staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very positive • It will help promote the area and increase tourist numbers. It will reduce the cost of construction for our future projects

Meeting/KII ID	Stakeholders	Summary of comments
12	KII with worker from quartz quarry 'Gega' sh.p.k.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rehabilitation of the road will bring very positive impact to the quarry as it will enable the company to connect with markets in more distant regions at reduced cost.
13	KII with female farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They look forward for the road rehabilitation as they will be better connected with the other towns such as Librazhd, Elbasan, etc. The cost of travelling to these towns is high, 300 ALL one way. The reduction in transport cost will contribute to a better price for farm products, both purchase and sales.
14	KII with road maintenance workers 'Bajrami' Sh.p.k.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the road rehabilitation on the area will be very positive. The area will be better connected with other regions and access to the schools and markets will be improved. The local residents could have the opportunity to access occupational schools and universities in other cities in Albania (Elbasan, Vlore, Korce, Tirana, etc.). Although no further expropriation may be required after the road works performed during 2012, people do not mind giving land for the road provided that full road rehabilitation works are performed.

7.3 Grievance Redress Mechanism

The objective of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to ensure that stakeholders concerns and issues with the Project are identified and resolved in a timely manner.

If not recognised and resolved, grievances can escalate to damage relationships with individuals and communities, and potentially lead to resistance and Project delays.

The GRM will be set up and maintained by ADF Environment and Social Unit throughout the different phases of the Project. The key elements include:

- **Accessibility:** It will be widely available, with clear and varied channels for submission of a grievance. It will be culturally appropriate, with consideration given to accessibility to women and vulnerable groups. PAPs will be informed of the Project's grievance management mechanism and the names and contacts of designated contact personnel, (such as Project office locations, telephone or email contacts). Grievances may be submitted either in writing or verbally.
- **Resolution:** It will provide a clear, transparent process for resolution. This will include defined timeframes for initial acknowledgement of the receipt of a grievance, as well as subsequent steps.
- **Accountability:** The staff responsible for the management and resolution of grievances will be specified.
- **Confidentiality:** It will maintain confidentiality
- **Standardised recording:** Recording will include the nature of the grievance, the date, the complainant's contact information and measures taken to close out the grievance. Outcomes should be recorded, including whether the grievance is found to be valid or not valid, and whether or not the complainant is satisfied with the outcome
- **Monitoring:** monitor number of grievances, nature of grievances and outcomes

In line with the RPF, a stakeholder grievance committee may be established by ADF Environment and Social Unit. It will include one representative of the following stakeholders:

- ADF Environment & Social unit
- Communities of Zgosht, Lunik, Fushe Struden, Brove, Sebisht, Cereneç i siperm and Cereneç i posthem
- Municipalities of Bulqize and Librazhd
- Project-affected People

The committee will review the overall functioning of the Grievance Resolution Mechanism and will support the resolution of grievances that cannot be resolved by the Project representatives alone. It is anticipated that a particular focus will be the resolution of issues around legal title and informal land use.

PAPs will maintain the right to seek redress through formal channels. The Expropriation Law provides for an appeals process against the proposed award for compensation. The Urban Planning and Construction Police laws allow for administrative appeals against a decision for demolitions of illegal construction. Further appeals can be made to the district courts. The Office of the Ombudsman in Tirana receives complaints from citizens against government actions that affect their rights.

8 SUBSEQUENT RESETTLEMENT PLANNING STEPS

This section of the LARF sets out the main tasks and procedures required to develop a LRP for the Project, in particular the entitlement matrix (see Table 6-2) which requires the registration of the PAPs, a census and assets inventory to be finalised.

The approach presented in this chapter is informed by EBRD standards and national legislation (as described in Section 2) as well as discussions held with ARA on 25/06/2020 and Municipality of Bulqizë on 24/06/2020 (see Table 7-1).

Table 8-1 provides an overview of the different steps required.

Table 8-1 Resettlement planning steps

Steps	Description
Step 1	Confirmation of Project land requirements and preliminary PAPs identification
Step 2	Establishment of a grievance committee
Step 3	Establishment of a cut-off date and consultations
Step 4	Census (PAPs registration)
Step 5	Socio-economic survey
Step 6	Land and assets survey
Step 7	Preparation and approval of the LRP
Step 8	Preparation of documentation for ARA from ADF on land acquisition/expropriation

Each of these Steps are further detailed in this Section.

8.1 Step 1: Confirmation of Project land requirements and preliminary identification of PAPs

Once the design of the road is finalised, it will be submitted to the State Agency of Cadastre (SAC) which is under the Council of Ministers Authority

In the meantime, ADF or the assigned project designer, will start collaborating with the Regional Agency of Cadastre (i.e. RAC of Bulqizë and Librazhd) which will identify all the immoveable assets (land parcels and properties) affected by the Project (i.e. within the working width).

8.2 Step 2: Establishment of a grievance committee

The Project will establish a grievance redress mechanism – including a grievance committee, procedures, applicable deadlines etc. – to allow individuals and communities to raise their concerns and have them addressed in a prompt and consistent manner (see Section 7).

8.3 Step 3: Establishment of a cut-off date and consultations

As described in Section 6.1.3, the Project will establish a cut-off date for eligibility to compensation and other assistance. The cut-off date indicates the date beyond which no new assets on Project-affected land will be eligible for compensation. In Albania, the cut-off date corresponds to the Cabinet of Ministers decision on expropriation.

If a person should occupy land in the Project area after the cut-off date, they will not be eligible for compensation or assistance and, similarly, the Project will not compensate any fixed assets established in the Project area after the cut-off date.

The cut-off date will be widely communicated by ADF to PAPs so that they understand its consequences. The Project will consult with local governments, community leaders and community members to ensure that PAPs are fully aware of the cut-off date and understand its significance. The most appropriate manner to advertise the cut-off date has yet to be established but it is likely that a public meeting will be held in each affected village to explain the cut-off date and land access procedure. In addition, a range of other approaches will be employed, such as the use of radio or other means to reach vulnerable groups and PAPs who are no longer residents (e.g. migrated to another region or country) and enhance the reach of Project messaging into affected areas.

8.4 Step 4: Census (PAPs registration)

The Project will conduct a census to enumerate all the PAPs (those who will be eligible for compensation or other forms of assistance) including those identified through the cadastre (e.g. RAC of Bulqizë and Librazhd). It will identify the nature, magnitude and duration of the Project impacts that PAPs will experience.

The census will coincide with the cut-off date. It provides the basis – agreed by PAPs and local community leaders – for excluding speculative claims from those settling in the Project area after the cut-off date and claims by local households for new structures built or crops planted after the cut-off date.

During the census,

- The names of PAPs and their basic demographic data including personal information of the owners and representatives (accepted by the owner as a trusted person, someone the RAP/ADF team can liaise with in his/her absence) will be recorded.
- The assets (land, crops, trees and structures) located within the 100m working width will be identified (GPS readings will be taken) and names of asset owners (PAPs) registered on a registration form. All the PAPs will be provided with an ID card as proof of registration.

Households and individuals that are potentially vulnerable will be registered. PAPs who are not registered during the census may be registered during the land and asset survey (see Section 8.6).

8.5 Step 5: Socio-economic survey

The Project will conduct a socio-economic survey of a random sample of the PAPs who are identified during the census. The household survey will purposively sample key

subgroups including vulnerable or marginalised groups and livelihood groups (e.g. farmers, beekeepers) and business groups.

The objectives of the household survey are to:

- provide an understanding of PAPs' pre-project living standards, livelihood resources, social networks, and access to services and infrastructure
- establish a baseline for future monitoring of impacts and progress towards living standards and livelihood restoration.

The household questionnaire will include the following topics/indicators:

- Demography: population structure, birth rate, household size,
- Health: most common diseases households have suffered in the past year, births and infant deaths
- Education: school attendance and educational attainment
- Occupation and sources of incomes
- Livelihoods: livestock (average livestock ownership), land (average land size owned and land tenure type), crops and agriculture (main crops cultivation), trees (average ownership)
- Access to water and sanitation: primary water source, sanitation systems used by households²⁰
- Energy supply: source of energy by households
- Household items including bicycles, television, radios, mobile phones, etc.
- Main household expenses
- Nutrition, food security and food shortages: hunger months
- Housing

8.6 Step 6: Land and assets survey

The scope of the land and assets survey is to:

- Survey, measure, count and record the land and assets that each PAP will lose (temporality or permanently) due to the Project. All parameters needed for the valuation of land and assets will be recorded.
- Identify tenurial status of PAPs. Asset owners who only have an AMTP land ownership acts will be invited to apply for new land registration (recognition) certificates at RAC offices. The RAC in collaboration with the respective LGUs will clarify, correct and register all affected properties as per Law No. 111/2018 'On Cadastre'.
- Identify and delimit common property and natural resources that may be lost or subject to restrictions of access.
- Map cultural property including graves and archaeological artefacts that will be displaced or subject to restrictions of access and identify owners or custodians.

The PAPs will be present during the asset survey and sign the survey form to

- verify that the information is collected properly and is a correct representation of the asset present on that date.

- Confirm the PAPs agree on eligibility criteria and compensation and livelihood restoration measures

The survey form will also be signed by the valuer who surveyed the asset and a member of the committee that accompanied the survey teams as witness. The purpose is to collect and have PAPs confirm the information on the assets.

8.7 Step 7: Approval of the Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP)

A Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP)/ Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and compensation framework will be prepared for the area affected by Project land acquisition for approval by ADF and EBRD. EBRD will provide final clearance/approval of the LRP which will be compliant with Albanian laws, institutional requirements and the EBRD's PR5.

8.8 Step 8: Preparation of documentation for ARA by ADF

Expropriation process for road projects is initiated by ARA. Expropriation process and related procedures are processed as the responsibility of and executed by the Albanian Public institutions. ARA will initiate a process after it is notified for a road works project by the Project designer/planner (ADF in this case). ADF and ARA will sign an agreement for the expropriation procedure and tasks, and also for the handing over of the project.

ADF will provide ARA with technical documents prepared by designer for preparation of the project expropriation file as per requirements. This will most likely include, but may not be limited to, the following documentation:

- Table of Land expropriation as per project design affected area
- Benchmarks and topographic survey, which defines the exact areas affected
- Expropriation layout or plans
- Cadastral documentation (cadastral map and file (kartel) of the immovable property updated as per State Agency of Cadaster, SAC (Agjensia Shteterore e Kadastres, ASHK) for the project impacted Properties
- Proof of source of finance

ARA will complete the expropriation file and send a request for Land Expropriation to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy or State Agency of Expropriations. If the expropriation file is completed, the Ministry accepts the request by signing an agreement with ARA, which defines rights and mutual obligations. The Ministry sets up a land Expropriation Committee consisting of experts in economics, legislation, construction, etc. Within 10 days of signature of the agreement, the Ministry, following the legal procedure, starts the notification procedure directly to each owner of the private property to be expropriated and publishes the Request for Expropriation for public interest. The notice of the request for expropriation is published in the Official Journal and in a newspaper with a nationwide distribution, as well as in a local newspaper for a period of one week.

8.9 Data management and compliance with GDPR regulation

All data, which will be generated during the planning and implementation of the land acquisition process, will need to be entered (and where applicable georeferenced) and

stored into a secured database system that complies with General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679) and applicable national privacy laws.

The following survey data will be collected during the land acquisition process:

- PAP ID and personal description information.
- PAP assets
- Scanned copies of the survey forms, verification/sign-off forms. These will be filed as these will be required as evidence in any future court case that might challenge the survey results.
- Signed receipts of payment.

Although these survey data can be collected on handwritten paper forms and then entered manually into the database, it is recommended that these data be entered directly in the field with the use of electronic devices such as tablets (connected to a differential GPS) equipped with mobile GIS applications such as Survey 123.

During data collection, data subjects will have the purpose of data collection explained to them and will be informed about all stages of data processing such as recording, storing, using, analysing, combining, disclosing and deleting data. Personal data will be collected only after obtaining informed consent from data subjects based on the disclosed purpose of data collection and based on a personal data collection consent form. Data subjects will be provided with a free and simple way of withdrawing their consent after it has been provided at any stage.

Based on the Albanian legislation “personal data” privacy will be maintained for PAPs names and contact details during disclosure of the LRP and local authorities will maintain continuous contacts with PAPs and ask them in advance if they accept to have their full name published in the newspaper.

9 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 Role of the government

Although the Council of Ministers has ultimate responsibility for resettlement procedures under Albanian Law, the Albanian Road Authority (ARA) is the authority responsible for the land acquisition process for road works projects. The process is detailed in Section 8.8.

Governmental institutions involved in the process are:

- Council of Ministers which provides the price per ha of land (see Section 6.3.1.2 for further details)
- State Agency of Cadastre (SAC) which provides cadastral documentation for assets that have been formally registered.
- State Agency for Expropriations has to follow the legal procedure, on publishing the request for expropriation, collecting the complaints of the affected owners, and preparing the draft of the sub legal act for the Council of Ministers. The Regional Agency of Agriculture (RAC) which is under the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumers Protection. The RAC sets up a commission in order to determine compensation rates for crops and trees (see Section 6.3.2 for further details)
- The Regional Agency of Cadastre (i.e. RAC of Bulqizë and Librazhd) and municipalities (Bulqizë and Librazhd) collaborate to identify and verify boundaries and ownership of assets which have not been formally registered (e.g. Individuals, households or businesses with AMTP certificates)
- The regions and municipalities will provide continuous assistance and support (e.g. facilitating public hearings / consultations with PAPs, execution of the compensation) during the planning and implementation of land acquisition process.

9.2 Role of ADF

ADF will work in close association with ARA and all the other institutions mentioned above to ensure a successful planning and implementation of the land acquisition process. In order to start the process, ADF will be responsible for providing all required documentation to ARA (as per the terms of the reference developed by ARA).

ADF Environment and Social Unit will be responsible for:

- Preparing the LRF including conducting consultations and collecting data (see Section 8 for further details).
- Establishing a GRM and a stakeholder grievance committee to ensure that stakeholders concerns and issues with the Project are identified and resolved in a timely manner (see Section 7.3 and Section 8.2 for further details)
- Overseeing, in collaboration with a committee composed of PAP-Project Authorities, the implementation of the Resettlement Procedure in accordance with the EBRD Performance Requirement 5. This also includes overseeing the payment of compensation to PAPs.

The RIC will be responsible for contracting and training appropriate personnel to carry out the planning and implementation process. This may include personnel capable of carrying out the following roles:

- Project Management Staff
 - Project Manager
 - Resettlement Specialist
 - Valuation Specialist (with experience working in compliance with EBRD's PR5)
 - Database Manager
 - GIS Manager
 - Office Support Staff
- Field Staff
 - Field Supervisors
 - Enumerators

10 LRP PLANNING SCHEDULE

Table 10-1 presents the proposed RAP planning schedule.

Table 10-1 Resettlement planning steps

Step	Description	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8
Step 1	Confirmation of Project land requirements								
	Submission to State Agency of Cadastre								
	Engage with Regional Agency of Cadastre								
Step 2	Establishment of a grievance redress mechanism								
	Establish Project grievance/ consultation committee								
	Establish grievance redress system (procedures, timelines, reporting, data management etc.)								
	Publicize grievance redress mechanism through stakeholder engagement								
Step 3	Establishment of a cut-off date and consultations								
	Engage with stakeholders and PAPs on cut-off date and implications								
	Media campaign to publicize cut-off date								
Step 4	census (PAPs registration)								
	Establish data management tools for census, socio-economic and land and assets surveys								
	Enumerate all PAPs affected by Project land acquisition								
	Identify vulnerable individuals and households and assess needs								
Step 5	Conduct sample household survey of socio-economic conditions, including housing, livelihoods, access to services etc								

Step	Description	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8
Step 6	Land and assets survey								
	Quantify all parameters required for valuation of land and assets.								
	Identify and, where necessary, regularize, tenurial status.								
	Identify common property and natural resources that may be lost or subject to restricted access.								
	Map cultural property including graves and archaeological artefacts that may be displaced or subject to restricted access.								
	Secure PAP verification of data and agreement to proposed compensation and livelihood restoration processes								
Step 7	Prepare Project Livelihood Restoration Plan and approval								
Step 8	Prepare documentation for ARA								
	Prepare Project Expropriation File for submission to Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy								
	Establish Land Expropriation Committee								
	Publish Request for Expropriation in Official Journal and mainstream media								

11 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Accurate costing is difficult to assess at this stage, since no exact figures are available on the number of PAPs, the nature of the loss they may experience, and the type of compensation and assistance required.

The budget for planning and implementing the land acquisition process will need to consider but not be limited to the following:

- Stakeholder engagement:
 - costs linked to dispersion of information and communication
 - organisation of public meetings: venue, catering/water and other logistical costs, communication costs, transport and facilitation allowances of government officials
 - meetings of grievance committee: venue, catering and other logistical costs, transport and participation allowances (per diems) of all members
- Surveying assets, identifying rights holders and valuation:
 - surveying equipment: differential GPS, tablets or paper survey forms:
 - transport and participation allowance of specialists and local leaders witnessing the survey process
 - provision of catering and water and other logistical costs
 - provision of transport during the survey.
- Compensation:
 - cash compensation payments for crops and trees (as applicable for duration of lease agreement), other natural resources, fishing infrastructure, any other small structures etc
 - an expropriation reserve fund of 10% of the total compensation amount, for any unexpected claim on land compensation from PAPs, who may require additional compensation and win the case at the Court
 - Costs of establishing bank accounts and other logistical costs
 - depending on location of compensation payments: transport allowance should affected people need to travel a considerable distance to receive compensation money
 - chance find procedure for archaeological sites and/or artefacts and graves
- Livelihood restoration measures (e.g. support with agricultural techniques; market access, potentially new improved crops)
- Land clearing and restoration.
- Support to vulnerable people (as applicable).
- Database solution.
- Human resources for
 - stakeholder engagement, including grievance management
 - surveying and valuation

- verification and sign-off
- database management and data entry (if applicable)
- compensation delivery
- livelihood restoration support
- land restoration
- monitoring and evaluation.

12 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although stakeholder perceptions of the Project are very positive (see Section 7.2.2), recent experience in Albania suggests that the process of land acquisition can be controversial.

Issues such as the variation in form and registration of legal title, inaccuracies in or lack of these documents, and the potential for overlap with customary and usage rights, can generate grievances. There appears to be legacy issues from the previous road construction works that may also come to the fore.

The final alignment and working width will be critical for minimising the impact on existing structures, the potential for physical displacement and the potential for real or perceived structural damage from construction-related vibrations.

Given the number of structures close to the road, and the expectation of increased traffic after the construction works, the need for a community safety programme should be considered in the Environment and Social Impact Assessment, with particular focus on children.

The mitigation and compensation associated with water pipes crossing the road needs to be particularly carefully managed because of the risk of livelihood impacts over a much larger area.

The steps outlined in Sections 8 - 10 provide a structure to manage this complexity and should lead to outcomes aligned with EBRD PR5.

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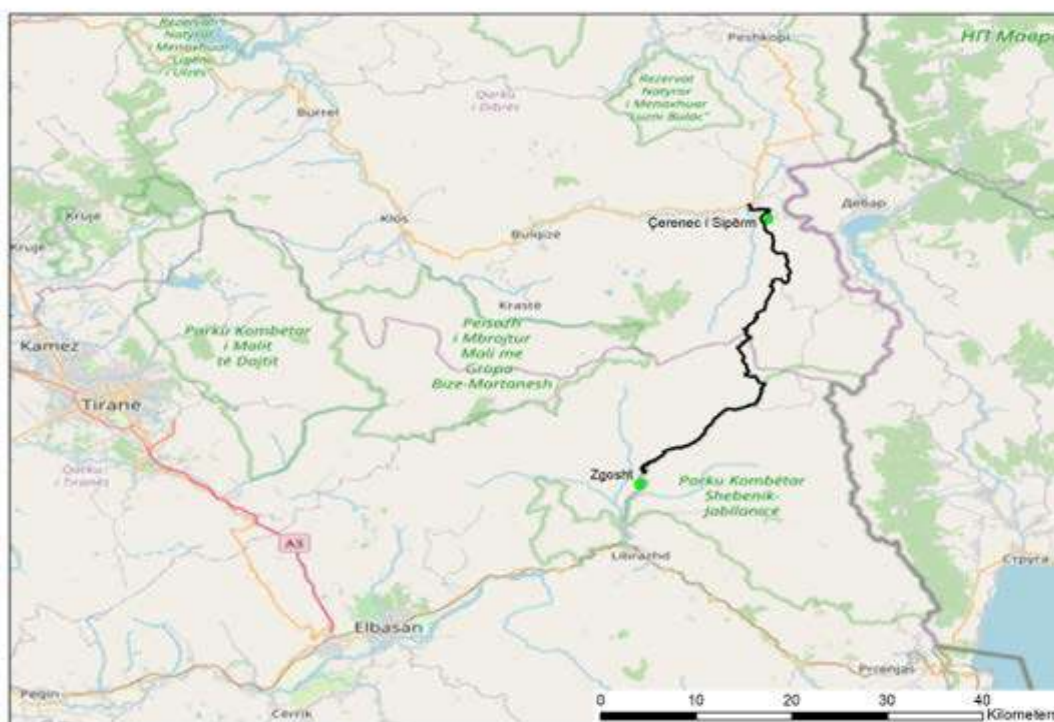
APPENDIX 1 – BROCHURE USED DURING THE INITIAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Introduction

The Albanian Development Fund (ADF) is working towards gaining financing to rehabilitate the road that lies between Zgosht and Cereneç Bridge.

Project location

The existing road is located in East Albania, approximately 41 km from Tirana, within the municipalities of Bulqizë and Librazhd and the districts of Dibër and Elbasan.



The existing road stretches 47.1 km and connects Zgosht to Ura e Cerenecit Bridge. It is a predominantly unsurfaced two-way road in a rural, mountainous area. Approximately 14 km of the road is within the western border of the Shebenik – Jabllanicë National Park.

Project Justification

Road improvement works (e.g. widening of the road, construction of roadside channels) were undertaken along this section of the road in 2012 by the Albanian Road Authority. However, according to a recent engineering study, the road is currently a limiting factor in the economic development of these districts. It is inadequate to support existing and predicted levels of vehicle traffic and to meet road safety requirements.

It is anticipated that the road works will support economic development, agriculture and tourism (e.g. Parku Shebenik Jabllanicë in Librazhd). This project is part of the General National Plan (GNP) Albania 2030 which was approved on December 14, 2016. The GNP is the highest instrument of territorial planning in Albania and ensures integrated economic social and environmental planning in the country. The General Local Plans of Librazhd and Bulqizë (drafting in progress) highlight the importance of this development at municipality level.

The proposed road works

The road upgrade is currently in the design phase. It is expected that the road will be widened to 8 m, with asphalted traffic lanes measuring 2 x 3.25 m and gravel shoulders measuring 2 x 0.75 m.

It is anticipated that the proposed road works will include but not be limited to:

- localised habitat clearance and topsoil removal within the working width (50 m either side of the existing road)
- cleaning and improvements of the existing drainage system
- addition of an asphalt layer, road safety barriers, traffic signs (i.e. pedestrian and vehicle signage), road markings, streetlighting along sidewalks in urban areas
- upgrading/construction of existing/new areas of paving
- addition of optical cabling for the optical fibre network in urban areas

The upgraded road will run along the existing right of way. It is anticipated that the road works will take 12 months to complete. The start date is yet to be determined.

Environmental and social studies

In compliance with Albanian Environmental Regulations and international policies, this project requires the conduct of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

The ESIA will investigate any potential impacts that the Project may have and identify measures to mitigate any negative impacts and ensure the positive benefits of the project. This ESIA has not been conducted yet but will include opportunities for stakeholders to understand more about the Project and to raise any concerns.

During the ESIA, as well as during construction, there will be a grievance mechanism in place, to ensure stakeholders including Project Affected People can raise concerns at any time.

Land acquisition process

Given this project requires the acquisition of a small amount of land, a Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF) is currently being developed. The LARF will identify the additional land required for the road rehabilitation and describe the arrangements for compensation of affected landowners.

The preparation of the LARF requires the conduct of initial consultations with key stakeholders (e.g. regulatory authorities and community leaders) in order to inform you of the land acquisition process and give you the opportunity to express your views on the land acquisition and compensation process.

Who to contact?

Outside of these meetings you will be able to contact Mrs Blerta Duroa, ADF, by email, or by phone:

- Email address: bduro@albaniandf.org
- Phone number: +355688045220

APPENDIX 2 – TEMPLATE FOR RECORDING MINUTES OF MEETINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION				
Meeting ID:		Date :		
Prefecture:		Administrative unit:		
Municipality:		City/town/village:		
Number of attendees:				
Notes/reasons for interacting:				
List of attendees				
First name and last name	Gender	Name of the organisation	Function within organisation	
SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION				
Issues/questions	Stakeholder (first and last names)	Responses	Response by	Follow-up (Y/N?)

APPENDIX 3 – INITIAL FORMAL MEETINGS

Meeting at the municipality of Librazhd – 17/06/2020:

- Adri Çota: Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Librazhd
- Aferdita Koçi: Project Office of the Municipality of Librazhd
- Bajram Pishkashi: General Secretary of the Municipality of Librazhd

Meeting with the head of Lunik village – 18/06/2020:

- Kismet Roci: head of village

Meeting with the Administrator of the AU of Stëblevë: 18/06/20

- Alfred Kaleci Administrator of the Administrative Unit of Stëblevë



Meeting at the AU of Gjoricë – 19/06/2020:

- Shkelqim Cami: administrator
- Ramiz Kaja: Inspector of Agriculture Section



Meeting at the AU of Bulqize – 24/06/2020:

- Lefter Alla: Mayor
- Shahin Alliu: Director of Services
- Leonard Daçi: General Secretary
- Erion Isaku: Director of Urban Section
- Aleks Sinani: Director of Education and Culture
- Flamur Meta: Director of Health Services



Meeting with the land acquisition department of ARA: 25/06/2020

- Ermal Shena: Lead of land acquisition department