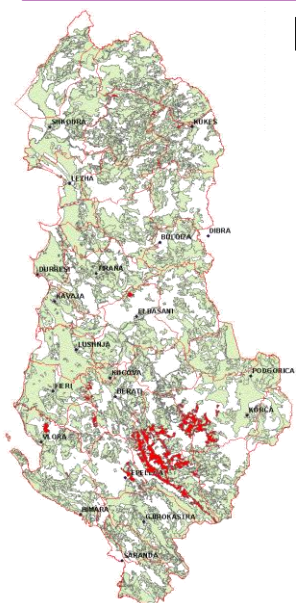


# Overview of the institutional settings for EUTR implementation i ALBANIA.

**A brief presentation in frame of “EU  
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## Hwo is ALBANIA?

- The Republic of Albania is situated in the South East region of Europe, South-West of the Balkan Peninsula, along the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas.
- The total surface is 28,748 km<sup>2</sup>
- The population of Albania is – 3.2 million inhabitants
- The length of the total boundaries of Albania is 1094 km
- Capital city is Tirana.
- The main geographic regions are the coastal lowlands, the intermediate hill country and the mountain ranges, rising to altitudes of around 2 000 meters above sea level.
- Average altitude is 708 m above the sea level. This altitude is two times higher than European average. The average agricultural land per capita is very small at 0.2 ha, the smallest in Europe.

# 1. Forest Data

- Total forest area 1 040 000 ha, or 36% of Albania land cover.
- State forest or public forest 98 %, and 2 % privat forest.
- About 83% of the forest consists of semi-natural forests with natural origin of replication.
- About 8.2% or 84 841 hectares of virgin forest located in the north of Albania.
- Broadleaf forests 81.5%, when 32.1% oak, beech forests 17.9%, 10.0% Carpinus, etc.
- Coniferous forests make up 18.5%, represented mainly by 11.4% black pine, Mediterranean pines (wild pine, soft pine) 3.4%, 2.2% white fir, etc.
- Hight forest constitute 45.7%, 54.3% coppice, and also simple forest 72.3% and 27.7% mixed forests.
- Protected areas 15 % of total national area (Natural Parks and other categories according IUNC)
- Rich biodiversity with 3200 species known so far.

## ALBANIA, “on the road of reforms to the EUROPIAN UNION” (I)

- The forest sector in Albania is inserted in a deep reform during 2015.
- For the first time in the history of 25 years of transition, the forest sector has gone conflict of interest.
- Forest law amendment ensured the transfer the copetencis of the forest administration to the municipalities.
- In February 2016 was adopted Law No. 5/2016 of 04.02.2016 “On the Moratorium on Forests in the Republic of Albania”.
- In order to step up law enforcement in the field of environment and inspection, on 29.03.2016 is adopted by the Council of Ministers the new structure of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and its subordinate institutions.
- Increase in the number of forest inspectors of the State Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry (SIEF) by 62 forest inspectors. From 346 that is actually, it will become 408;
- Referring to the continuous communications with the General Prosecutor Office, in the new structure is foreseen also the appointment of 13 Officers of the Judicial Police (OJP).

## ALBANIA, “on the road of reforms to the EUROPIAN UNION” (II)

- Regulation EU/995/2010 and Regulation EC/2173/2005 are partially transposed in the national legislation by Law No. 9385, date 04.05.2005 on “Forest and Forest service” amended. Law no 48/2016, “Some changes on the Forest and Forest service Law”
- The above regulations will be fully transposed in the new law “For the forest administration in the Republic of Albania”, that is already in discussions in the parliamentary groups.
- Meanwhile, with the amendment of Law No. 9385, date 04.05.2005 on “Forest and Forest service” there is an on-going reform in the forestry service, which will transfer within three months, the Public forest and pasture fund under the administration of the municipalities .
- The MoE will preserve the role as a policy-making authority on forest fund and will provide technical and legal assistance for an indefinite time for the municipalities.

## ENFORCEMENT CAPACITIES IN ALBANIA

- Enforcement capacities in Albania for forest protection includes the Inspectorate of Forest Police and local government structures especially after the administrative territorial reform.
- In order to protect the nature, during September 2015 – March 2016, the Inspectorate Structures of Forest Police have taken the following measures:
- 1512 inspections accomplished in total;
- 10 fines set for law violations (worth of damage around 1.472.500 Euro) and 4 cases are investigated by prosecutors;
- 206 causes recorded for administrative offenses in the forest fund (worth of damage around 39.355.107 Euro);
- 5 fines set (worth around 2857 Euro) for violation of Law 5/2016, “On moratorium on the forest in the Republic of Albania;.
- 1016 m<sup>3</sup> wood materials illegally cut or transported are sized.

## THE FINAL STEPS FOR PROHIBITION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING

- On behalf of moratorium law, the “Green Guard” Task Force is established with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 215 of 03.16.2016, on the “Creation of “Green Guard” Task-Force on emergency protective measures, for prevention, reduction and remedy from any damage of public and private forests”.
- The Steering Group of this Task Force is headed by the Deputy Minister of Environment and includes Deputy Minister of Defense, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Deputy Minister of Finance and the Prefects of 12 districts. This Task-Force aims to control the illegal logging and the implementation of the Law No. 5/2016 of 04.02.2016 “On the Moratorium on Forests in the Republic of Albania”.
- The operational structure of the Task Force consists on representatives from the State Police structures, Military Police or other structures of the Armed Forces, the State Inspectorate of Environment and Forestry, investigation tax structures and anti-smuggling.

## STATISTICS ON TRADE TIMBER PRODUCTS (I)

- Albania is a small country, but has a developed market of timber.
- Albania exports and imports timber and its finished products.
- Exports consist mainly in the processed timber, and mainly to Italy and Greece.
- In 2015 exports of processed timber to the external market were 46 thousand cubic meter.
- Scoring record in exports in 2015 is pellets, with an amount of 80 thousand tons.
- Due to the negative balance in the domestic market, the export of firewood is prohibited since 2014.
- The imports consisting mainly in raw materials for the processing industry in the country.
- In the import trade exchanges are mainly countries in the region, but also with Ukraine and Sweden

## STATISTICS ON TRADE TIMBER PRODUCTS (II)

- After taking into the force the law of moratorium on forest, the import of files has increased considerably.
- Imports are increased significantly with Bulgaria and Montenegro, mainly for raw timber.
- The contracted amount so far with these two countries is about 50 thousand cubic meter.
- To encourage the import, the government is considering reducing customs duties for imported timber.

## Social and economic effects of the moratorium on forests.

- Although it is considered a drastic measure, the moratorium on forests was the only opportunity to improve the current state of forests.
- Last years floods have as the main cause the damage of forest cover .
- The moratorium does not prevent the supply of population with firewood.
- Measures for rehabilitation of degraded forest areas will accompany moratorium.