

Bioinvasion and Global Environmental Governance: The Transnational Policy Network on Invasive Alien Species

Albania's Actions on IAS

Description¹⁵

Albania, officially the Republic of Albania, is a small country (28,748 sq km) in South Eastern Europe with a total population of about 3.619 million. Geographically, Albania shares a long border with Greece to the south-east, Macedonia to the east, Kosovo to the north-east and Serbia and Montenegro to the north-west. Its coastline along the Adriatic Sea spans 362 kilometres.

Albania declared independence from the Ottomans in 1912 but was conquered by Italy in 1939. In 1944 Communism took hold. By the early 1990s elections ousted the communist leaders and economic reforms began. After years of relative economic insularity, Albania spent the 90s and the new century so far making a swift transition to a free-market economy. Currently, Albania's economy is largely driven by the agricultural sector, which produces wheat, corn, potatoes, and sugar beets, among other fruits and vegetables. Albania, a United Nations member since 14 December 1955, belongs to numerous specialized agencies, including ECE, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IMO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, and the WTO.¹⁴ It is also a potential candidate for membership in the European Union and received a NATO membership invitation on 3 April 2008.

Overview of Biodiversity

The flora of Albania is divided into four main types: Mediterranean, Balkan, European and Eurasian. Habitat types are coastal communities, inland water, bushes, forests, pond vegetation and rocky formations. Protected areas cover 9.89% of Albanian territory.

- [CBD Country Profile](#)
- [EarthTrends Country Profile on Biodiversity and Protected Areas](#)
- [UNEP/GRID-Arendal's Capacity Building in Environmental Information Management: "Biodiversity in Albania"](#)

Legislation relating to IAS

- [Law on Biodiversity Protection No. 9587](#) (20 July, 2006)
- [Guideline No. 4 laying down the Certificate of Origin for Export for wood and other forest products](#) (8 May 2006)
- [Regulation No. 396 on the use and transfer of forests from local government units](#) (21 June 2006)
- [Law No. 9362 on the Plant Protection Service](#) (24 March 2005) and certain amendments on the Plant Protection Services Law¹³
- [Law No. 9103 on the protection of transboundary lakes](#) (10 July 2003) see Annex I for details
- [Law No. 8906 for protected areas](#) (6 June 2002)

- [Protocol on specially protected areas and biological diversity in the Mediterranean](#) (14 December 1999)
- [Decision No. 541 creating the Institution for Environment Protection](#) (25 September 1995)
- [Regulation on the functioning, duties and the rights of Regional Environmental Agencies \(REA\)](#) (1995)
- Order of the Minister of Agriculture “Regulation for Plant Protection Services Organization”¹³
- Council of Minister decision No.72 “Regulation approval for Products of Plant Protection”¹³
- Council of Minister decision No.9 “Plant Protection Services Organization.”¹³

Government Agencies/Programs/Ministries dealing with IAS

[Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration](#)

Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Food Security and Consumer Protection

Institute for Plan Protection and the Institute for Plants¹³

Ministry of Environmental Protection⁶

Major Invasive Alien Species²

[Aedes albopictus](#) (insect)

[Aristichthys nobilis](#) (fish)

[Carassius auratus](#) (fish)

[Carpobrotus edulis](#) (succulent)

[Ctenopharyngodon idella](#) (fish)

[Cyprinus carpio](#) (fish)

[Eupatorium cannabinum](#) (herb)

[Gambusia affinis](#) (fish)

[Gambusia affinis](#) (fish)

[Oncorhynchus mykiss](#) (fish)

[Ricinus communis](#) (tree, shrub)

Native Species Exported/Introduced to Non-Native Environments²

[Acer platanoides](#) (tree)

[Agrostis capillaris](#) (grass)

[Anas platyrhynchos](#) (bird)

[Butomus umbellatus](#) (aquatic plant)

[Camelina sativa](#) (herb)

[Centaurea solstitialis](#) (herb)

[Clematis vitalba](#) (vine, climber)

[Columba livia](#) (bird)

[Erodium cicutarium](#) (herb)

[Frangula alnus](#) (shrub)

[Hedera helix](#) (vine, climber)

[Lepidium latifolium](#) (herb)

[Mustela erminea](#) (mammal)

[Nymphoides peltata](#) (aquatic plant)

[Onopordum acanthium](#) (herb)

[Panicum repens](#) (grass)

[Phalaris arundinacea](#) (grass)

[Rhamnus alaternus](#) (tree)

[Rhamnus cathartica](#) (tree)

[Sabella spallanzanii](#) (annelid)

[Sagina procumbens](#) (herb)

[Sagittaria sagittifolia](#) (aquatic plant)

[Salsola tragus](#) (shrub)

[Scardinius erythrophthalmus](#) (fish)

[Streptopelia decaocto](#) (bird)

[Tussilago farfara](#) (herb)

[Typha latifolia](#) (aquatic plant)

Table 1 Actions to prevent, detect and manage IAS categorized into three themes: biodiversity, human health, and economic

Note: Actions (such as projects, publications and programs) are classified according to the most obvious theme but may also fit into the dimensions of another.

Theme	Action
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of a National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan, setting immediate, short, medium, and long-term action goals.³ • Coordinated designation of 13 new specially protected areas with 5 other Balkan nations⁵. • Have identified some of the alien species within their borders but have not yet established a tracking system⁴ • Under Albania's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, there is a Protected Areas law – this is through the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and deals with the management of protected areas and protection of the biodiversity out of them.⁴ • Assess themselves as having a 'relatively good ability' to control and to take adequate decisions regarding the prevention of the introduction of alien species⁴ • Albania has a total of 3 Ramsar sites with a total area of 83,062 hectares¹ • Establishment of Regional Environmental Agencies in all of prefectures by the Albanian Committee of Environment Protection to enhance municipal outreach⁶ • The document, Lake Shkoder (Ramsar sites) Transboundary Diagnostics Analysis, assesses the condition of exotic fish species in the lake and some related factors, but it doesn't actually list any plans to deal with invasive species. <p>Albanian Ecological Club (AEC) Project: Clean up of infected pine trees Clean up of pine trees infected with their parasites in the area of Rrapez and Kolonja. The action involved school children and monks, who helped clean up 300 infected pine trees, with the aim of educating children about the environment⁷.</p> <p>Regional Environmental Center for (CEE – REC) (May 2000 – April 2002) Project involved workshops for environmental specialists and NGO members, enhancing networks among them with the aim of offering opportunities for future cooperation. Three courses over three days that offer methodologies in inventory, planning, management and monitoring of biodiversity level in Albania took place at both the national and local levels, in both rural and urban parts of the country⁸.</p> <p>Massmedia and the Environment (May 2000 – November 2000) Project involved raising public awareness in coastal areas of Albania of the danger of the invasive <i>Caulerpa tadifolia</i>. Action involved the distribution of leaflets about the impact of the alien invader, the</p>

	<p>verification of the presence of the species by eight specialists by investigative diving in the affected areas, and the organization of meetings with local fishermen in Durrresi, Lezha, Vlora, and Saranda. Results and photos from the dives were published in newspapers and disseminated on TV⁹.</p> <p>Protection and Presentation of Natural Environment in Shkodr (July 2003 – May 2005)</p> <p>Project sought to increase public awareness about the ecological importance and vulnerability of the Cemi valley in Northern Albania. Contacts were established with academic institutions across the border in Monte Negro and standardized information exchanged towards the end of creating a cross-border national park. It has also documented biodiversity values of the area, identified special areas of interests for their high concentration of endemic and rare plants, and built capacity in the local community concerning the Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁰.</p> <p>Southern Natural Environment in Albania (SNEA) (July 2003 – June 2004)</p> <p>Project aimed at protecting the area of Rrezome and Kardhiq to unify the two areas into one larger National Park and Nature Reserve. To this end, information on fauna and flora was gathered, and the community was involved in preparing documentation in the forms of maps and thematic reports¹¹.</p>
Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Border veterinary control is carried out by border inspections for veterinary medical control and quarantine located at border inspection posts (BIPs) which are located at border control checkpoints¹² • Items subject to veterinary control include animals, materials and products of animal origin, additives, fodder and fodder activities, veterinary medical preparations and vehicles transporting animals and the above products. • The Border Veterinary Inspector performs controls consisting of¹²: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. documentary check – inspecting both the veterinary certificate for import and the NVS import permission 2. identity check – there must be a full and clear correspondence between the veterinary certificate for import and the NVS import permission 3. physical check – inspection of the condition of the consignment and also the transport conditions 4. inspection of the animals – inspection and clinical check of health status 5. quarantine measures – the imported animals intended for reproduction must go to the quarantine base officially approved by the NVS 6. disinfection • Article 2 of the Plant Protection Service law states that: “The purpose of this Law is to protect plants, and especially agricultural

	<p>plants, from pests and non-parasitic harmful agents; to protect agricultural products from different pests; to avoid possible health risks for humans or animals originating from the use of pesticides and other plant protection measures, as well as the application of international legislation in the field of plant protection.”¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Phyto-Sanitary service in Albania is governed through the Ministry of Agriculture¹³ • Phyto-Sanitary controls apply to both plants and pesticides¹³
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albania has taken part in some collaborative actions with bordering nations via Customs services⁴

Table 2 Actions on IAS in cooperation with other countries

Agreement/ Organization	Countries/ Member	Action
Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of Croatia on collaboration in environmental protection (17 July 2005)	Croatia	This Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of Republic of Croatia concerns collaboration in environmental protection. The collaboration areas include the following: (i) environmental impact assessment; (ii) integrated management of coastal areas; (iii) education and training for developing environmental protection systems; (iv) drafting of domestic environmental legislation; and (v) environmental projects.
Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the protection and sustainable development of Lake Ohrid and its watershed (17 June 2004)	Macedonia	The Contracting Parties agree to work individually and in cooperation to ensure the integrated protection of the Ohrid Lake and to give to the lake and its watershed the status of world natural and cultural heritage as well as the status of biosphere reserve. The Parties shall take all necessary measures in order to: (a) prevent, control and reduce pollution in the watershed; (b) protect soil from erosion, depletion and pollution; (c) preserve biodiversity, especially through the protection of endemic, rare, threatened and endangered species; (d) prevent the introduction and breeding of non autochthonous animal and plant species; (e) ensure the sustainable exploitation of natural resources of the watershed; (f) avoid any serious damage of the cultural values and natural landscapes; and (g) prevent and control the economical activities which cause or may cause harms to the watershed. The Agreement establishes the Lake Ohrid Watershed

		Committee, which monitors the activities carried out for protecting the lake and proposes measures for attaining the objectives pursued.
Accord sur la conservation des cétacés de la mer noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone atlantique adjacente (24 November 1996)	Albania; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; France; Georgia; Greece; Italy; Monaco; Morocco; Portugal; Romania; Spain; Tunisia; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Malta; Syrian Arab Republic	Par cet accord, pris en application des principes établis par la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage, les Etats de l'aire de répartition et les organisations d'intégration économique régionale prennent des mesures coordonnées afin d'atteindre et de maintenir un état de conservation favorable pour les cétacés. A cette fin, les parties interdisent tout prélèvement délibéré des cétacés et coopèrent pour créer et maintenir un réseau d'aires spécialement protégées pour conserver les cétacés. En outre les Parties appliquent les mesures de conservation, de recherche et de gestion prévues à l'annexe 2 au présent accord qui portent sur les questions suivantes: a) adoption et mise en application de la législation nationale; b) évaluation et gestion des interactions hommes-cétacés; c) protection des habitats; d) travaux de recherche et de surveillance continue; e) renforcement des capacités, collectes et diffusion de l'information, formation et éducation et f) réponses à des situations d'urgence.
European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)	Founded in 1951 by 15 European countries, EPPO now has 50 members, covering almost all countries of the European and Mediterranean region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPPO is an intergovernmental organization responsible for European cooperation in plant health. Its objectives are to protect plants, to develop international strategies against the introduction and spread of dangerous pests and to promote safe and effective control methods. • In Albania the Law on the plant protection service of 19.01.1993 Order N° 115 and text of the regulation on organization and functioning of plant protection service of 10.03.1995 is specifically meant to implement its obligations to this organization.

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