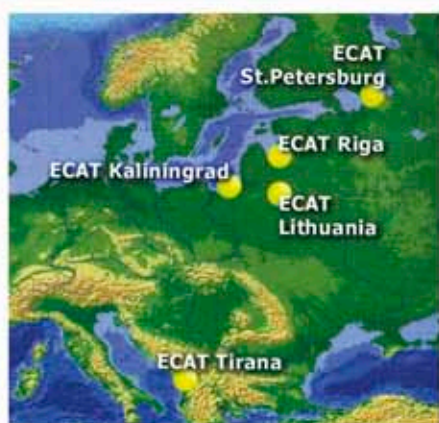


ECAT Tirana role and related activities into coastal management in Albania and GIS tools within Plan coast Project



ECAT Tirana (Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology) is established in 1995 by the European Commission and German Government and is serving as an advisory and consultative body for Albanian Ministry of the Environment, Forests and Water Administration, aiming to:

- Develop and implement projects, programmes of action, and policy instruments to improve the environment.
- Attract international assistance on environmental initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe.
- Facilitate the flow of environmental information between Albania and EU Member States.

Projects

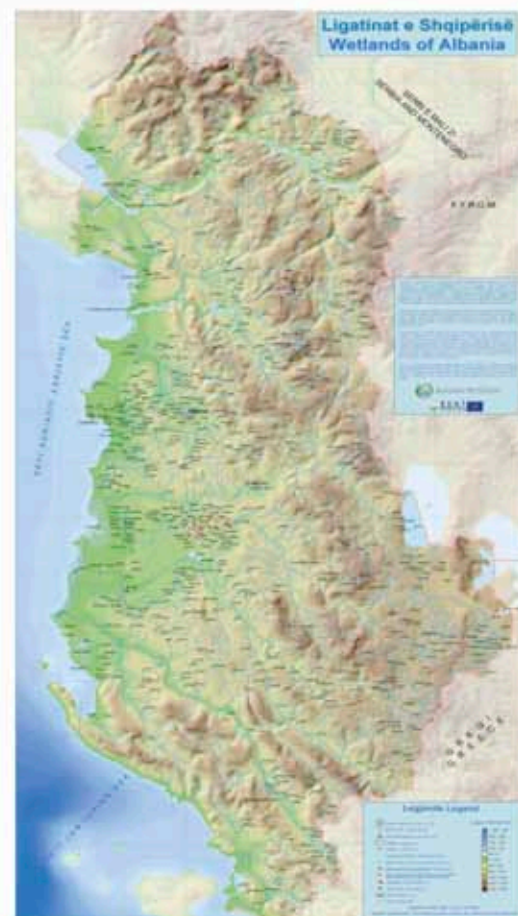
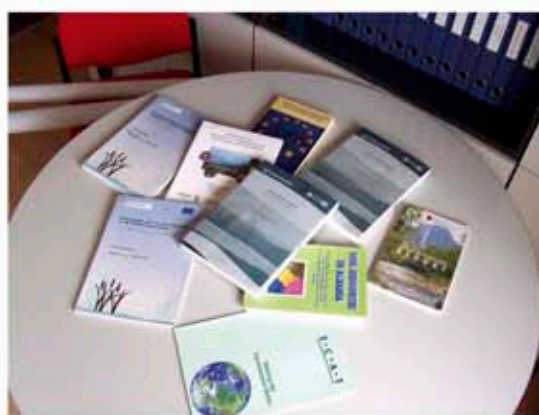
- **Inventory of Albanian Wetlands** (DAC / Greek Government, 2001-2003)
- **Capacity Building on Conservation of Albanian Wetland Ecosystems (ALWET)** (EU / LIFE; General Directorate of Forestry and Pastures of Albania, 2004-2007)
- **Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin, Focus on the Kune-Vain Lagoon (MedWet 2)** (EU LIFE Programme, 1997-1998)
- **Walking Trails for Visitors of Dajti National Park** (Government of Netherlands, UNDP / GEF / SGP, 2004 – 2006)
- **Cleaning up and Management of the Beaches** (EU Phare Programme, 1996)
- **Public Awareness and Water Usage Survey in the Greater Tirana area** (JICA, 2006)

Workshops

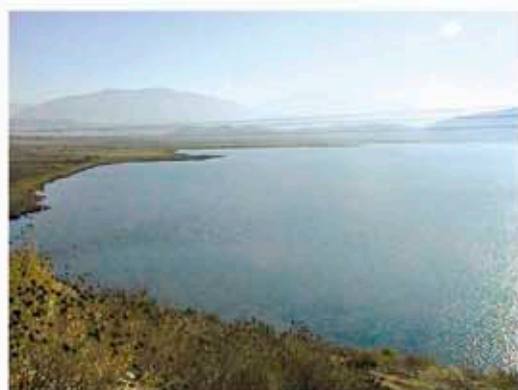
- **Coastal Zone Diagnostic Analysis and Budget of Pollutants** (UNEP / MAP/ GEF, 2004-2005)
- **Albania National Action Plan for the Reduction of the Pollution of the Coastal Zone from Land Based Sources** (UNEP / MAP/ GEF, 2005-2006)
- **National Wetland's Seminar "Wise Use and Management of Albanian Wetlands" MedWet 2** (EU /LIFE, 1998)

Publications

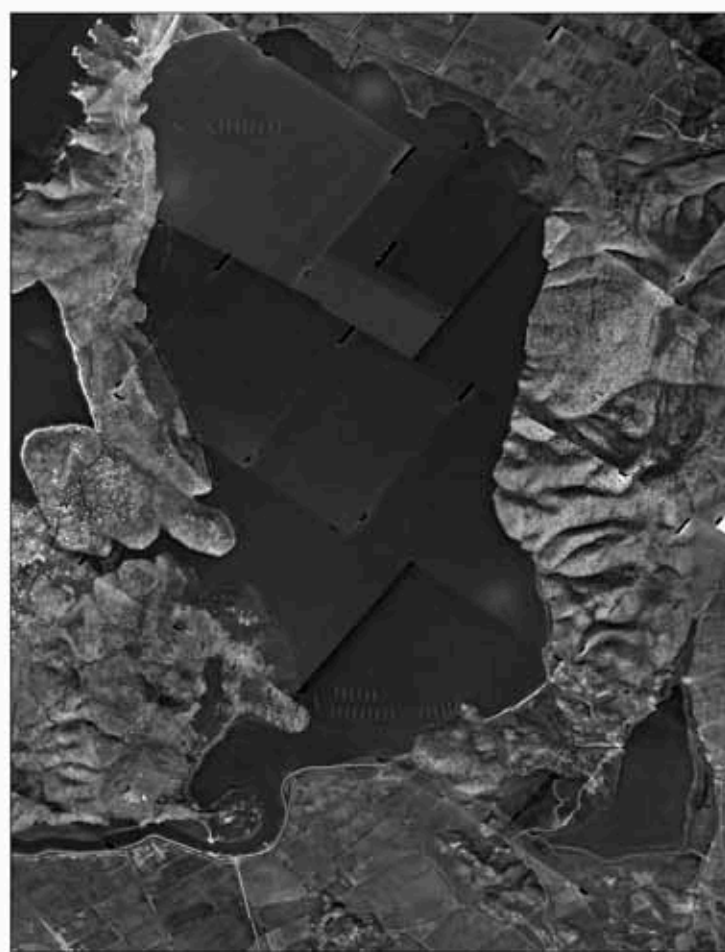
- **Publication of "Inventory of Albanian Wetlands"** (DAC / Greek Government)
- **Monitoring Albania's path to European Integration** (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung/Ministry of Integration of Albania, February 2003)
- **Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment – Albania** (UNEP, 2000 – 2001)
- **Publication of "Albania Guide to its Natural Treasures"** (Federal Ministry of Technical Co-operation of Germany (through CIM), 1999 – 2000)
- **Assessment of the Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plants from the Ohrid and Prespa Region** (EU LIFE / ECAT Tirana, 1999)
- **Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands in the Mediterranean Basin** (EU/LIFE Programme, 1997 – 1998)



The first national wetland inventory was prepared at levels of: catchment, area and wetland. Based on the MedWet methodology it comprised wetland classification by satellite images; data collection through fieldwork; data customization; and data processing. Wetland archive stored in MedWet database and the digital map was prepared.



The ALWET, project through promoting remote sensing, databases, and GIS tools aims to build the capacities of scientists involved in nature conservation in order to advance their knowledge and enable them to undertake wetland inventories



The MedWet inventory methodology is carried out in three pilot sites (at catchments, site, and habitat levels), Butrinti lake (coastal wetland complex), Dumre lakes (a complex site composed of 85 big and small freshwater lakes), and Small Prespa lake (a trans boundary lake shared between Greece and Albania) using the MedWet database. ECAT Tirana GIS Unit in co-operation with EKBY GIS department is providing expertise on the interpretation of aerial photos and satellite imagery. The results of the latter are combined with field work to produce the final maps representing these sites.



Training courses on inventory and mapping issues, electronic data management, and GIS organized by ECAT Tirana in co-operation with EKBY.

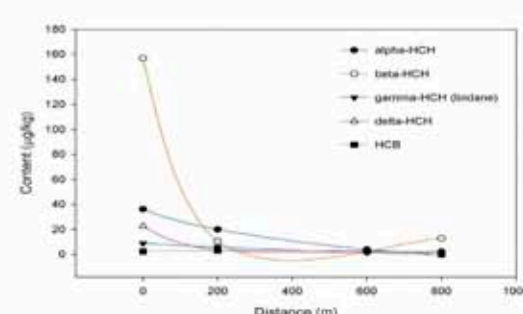


Kune-Vain, clearly demonstrates the pressures on the northern Adriatic coast. It represented the first effort of ECAT Tirana to introduce the MedWet inventory method in Albania in the frame of EU / LIFE MedWet2 project involving five non EU Mediterranean countries. The exercise included preparation of maps related to land use, land cover, habitats, hydrology, soils, and salinity and water regime.



The map of is part of the Dajti National Park Visitors Guide – the first nature guide ever prepared for a national park in Albania. Under the project, leaflets, posters, and maps are under preparation in an effort to encourage protection of natural and cultural values and tourism in the area.

The objective of EU / Phare "Cleaning up and the Management" of the Beaches the project was to establish a regular service for waste collection and disposal from the beaches of Golem and Kavaja during the summer season. Both areas are the most obvious example of what might happen if non-sustainable coastal development takes place



The chemical factory in Porto Romano, Durres identified as a priority pollution hot spot, was very close to the coast. Evaluation of the contamination from organochlorine pesticides provided evidence of continuing pollution although the factory was closed some time ago. The preliminary study conducted by ECAT Tirana was to establish the level of contamination of the region from the isomers of hexachlorocyclohexane.

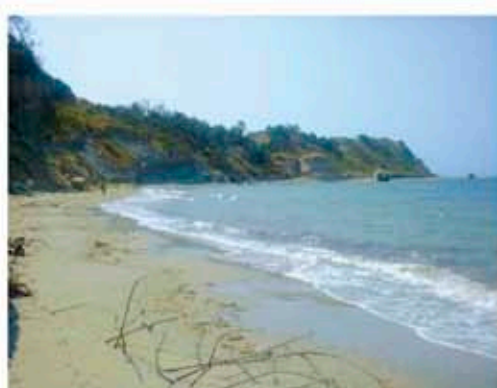


Outputs of the project

- Inventory of use demand
- Evidences of development potentials
- Increased public involvement and awareness
- Recommendations how to minimize the identified conflicts
- Meaningful information for all stakeholders
- Database established and operational, providing information and interpretation of different coastal zone management aspects

Some Indicators

- List of required information by type and user-groups
- List of present data collections, their contents and use, and assessment reports on gaps and deficiencies
- List of potential end-users and their overall need for coastal management information
- List of existing GIS-layers and assessment report on gaps and deficiencies



The Minister of Environment of Albania outlined main findings and recommendations of National Diagnosis Analysis (NDA) and Baseline Budget (BB) for Coastal Zone studies and discussed relevant issues leading to the preparation of National Action Plan on the workshop organized by ECAT Tirana to a broad audience of experts and decision makers.

