

Environmental and Social Management Plan for Reconstruction / Rehabilitation Works on the Border Crossing of Qafe Thane in Albania

Third Draft

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The Environmental and Social Management Plan for Renovation Works at Qafe Thane Border Crossing is based on the structure and definitions of the Environmental and Social Environmental Framework of the Western Balkan Trade and Transport Facilitation Project. It implements the requirements of the WB policies and Albanian legal framework at the time of drafting of this plan.

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1 Introduction

The Western Balkan Trade and Transportation Facilitation Project (WBTTFP) supports Western Balkan governments in the promotion of a deeper economic integration within the region and the EU by assisting with the implementation of measures aiming at:

- facilitating cross-border movement of goods,
- enhancing transport efficiency and predictability, and
- enhancing market access for trade in services and investments.

There is a history of institutional efforts among the WB6 countries to foster regional integration, with an acknowledgement that trade and transport facilitation are key elements to deepening economic integration in the region and the EU. The WB6 countries are committed to this agenda with a clear EU accession perspective and integration into the multilateral trading system. The Western Balkan countries, the EU, and the main regional organizations have all recognized the importance of the regional cooperation and have committed to supporting the integration agenda.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for Renovation Works at Qafe Thane border crossing premises, is drafted according to the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The renovation works will consist in improvements of systems and structures for the realization of the new concept joint border crossing. The works will include some reorganization of the internal driveway in order to improve traffic flow internally. All the renovation works will be carry out inside the perimeter of the property of Qafe Thane border crossing.

The ESMF ensures that all the activities carried out under the project, address and identify measures to avoid and minimize environmental and social impacts, as much as possible, and where they cannot be avoided, the impacts are adequately identified/assessed and necessary mitigation measures designed and implemented following relevant Albanian environmental and social legislation and the World Bank's safeguards policies.

During the initial assessment of the project the World Bank safeguards policy OP 4.01 was triggered. The initial screening identified that Sub-Project involving civil construction and reconstruction works will take place within the existing property borders. However, subsequent scoping resulted in triggering OP 4.12 because the exact list of investments to be financed by the Project will be determined during implementation and it cannot be ruled out that some of them may entail land acquisition or asset loss. Activities which trigger the OP 4.12 on involuntary land acquisition and resettlement are subject to implementation of adequate mitigation measures. The RPF document is prepared for this eventuality.

This ESMP is based on the structure and definitions of the ESMF of the WBTTFP. It implements the requirements of the WB policies and Albanian legal framework at the time of drafting of this plan.

2 Project Description

The regional project will comprise country-specific projects, which will support the WB6 countries with a combination of equipment and infrastructure investments, results-based financing elements, and technical assistance for the regulatory and institutional reforms anchored in the regional cooperation and integration processes to which all six countries have subscribed. This regional project aims to promote deeper economic integration within the region and the EU by assisting with the implementation of measures around the following three components tailored for Albania, for about 20 million USD:

(a) Facilitating cross-border movement of goods

Support for the implementation of a full-fledged National Single Window. This will require a review and simplification of import and export requirements and procedures related to import/export/transit clearance process and border controls. In a second stage, this sub-component will support the upgrading of existing systems to achieve the implementation of a full-fledged National Single Window (NSW) solution. This will help reduce administrative costs to trade, and provide more transparency and predictability for traders through streamlining and automating regulatory obligations. It will also help enhancing national coordination with relevant national authorities, as well as strengthening cooperation, coordination and collaboration of border management agencies at the regional level, through standardized data exchanges, joint risk management, development of trusted trader regimes leading towards AEO compliance consistent with EU accession requirements, and joint border controls.

The improvements in border crossings in selected trade corridors, such as the expansion of the Joint Border Crossing of Qafe Thana/Kafjasi, for the freight traffic, consist in the integration of information flows among border agencies and harmonization of their operational procedures, such as opening hours and shift changes and development of joint border crossing agreements for rail and road traffic, as well as specific equipment and optimized infrastructure.

The proposed sub project "Rehabilitation / Small-scale building construction on Border Crossings between Albania and FYR Macedonia" has been classified as Category B mainly for civil works related to Rehabilitation / Small-scale building construction on Albanian Border Crossing, under the WBTFP sub-component 1b Improvements in Border Crossings in Selected Trade Corridors. The designs are not defined yet, but works are expected to include small scale civil or earthworks (along the existing infrastructure such as roads, electrical cables and pipelines or placed jointly) and/or installation to existing infrastructure (e.g. to overhead power lines). Some small earth and/or installation works will take place too.

The works on the buildings and structures will be mainly reconstruction / rehabilitation works. These works will make them suitable for the functioning of the new concept joint border crossing. The internal spaces will fit this new concept and accommodate new equipments necessary for the new functioning order. The reconstruction works will change some internal walls layout for the new organization of the offices. Some internal doors and windows will change also. There are not expected changes in the roof or in the holding structure of the facility in general. The bathrooms of the offices will be reconstructed also. The electrical system of the building will be replaced in order to fit the needs of the new computers and equipments. Painting of walls will follow up all the reconstruction works.

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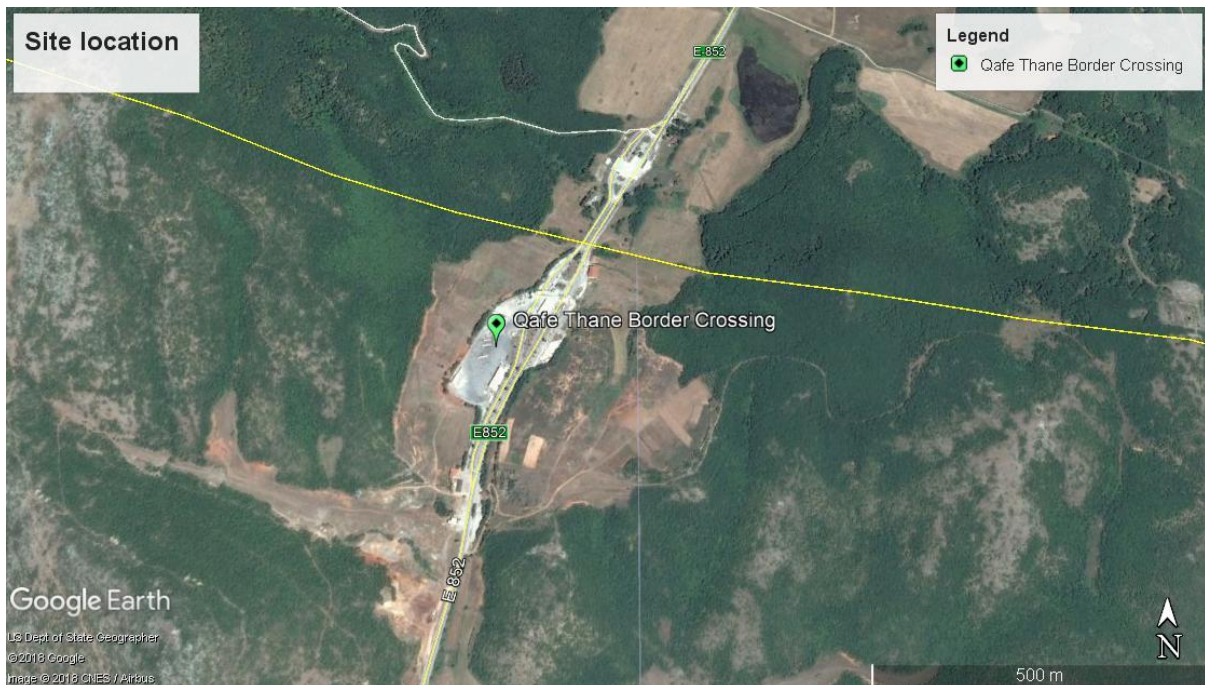
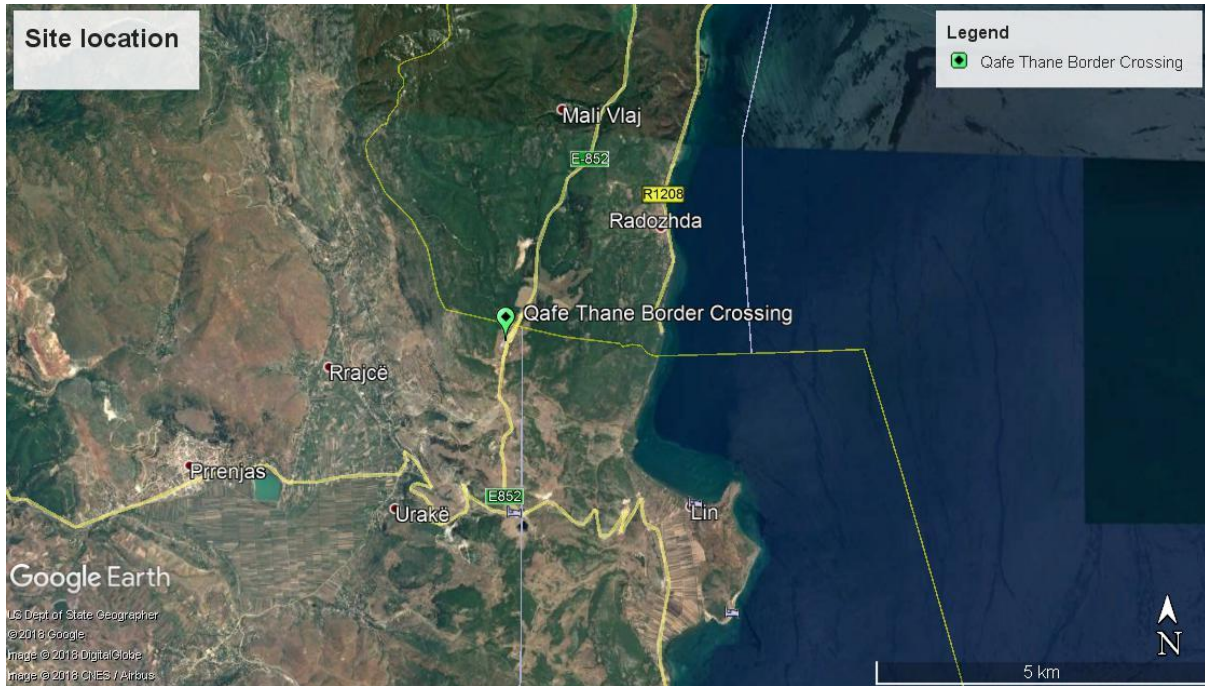
The driveway will be redesigned according to the new traffic flow scheme. This might include some excavation and re-pavement of some areas. The painting of the new driveway will be according to the new scheme. There will also be placed the new equipments and signals.

The works will all take place inside the border of the property of Qafe Thane border Crossing.

The objective of this ESMP is to review environmental due diligence procedures related to proposed sub project, and to prepare mitigation measures and monitoring plan to describe actions to mitigate expected environmental impacts. The assessment reviews issues related to assessment of social safeguards such as cultural heritage (e.g., assessing the presence of cultural values, cultural land issues or sites previously identified as cultural sites; and a process for "chance finds", or anything unearthed by chance in the digging/construction process). Objectives of the ESMP have been defined based on the World Bank's policies: OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment

3 Possible environmental and social impacts associated with proposed Qafe Thane Border Crossing Reconstruction / Rehabilitation Works

3.1 Geography



The Qafe Thane border crossing is named after the mountain pass leading to Lake Ohrid in Albania. It is located in the southeastern Albanian mountains, close to the border between Albania and the FYR Macedonia. The border crossing point is a "primary gateway" between the two countries. It is no more than 2 km from Ohrid Lake.

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The drawing below is the actual footprint of the border Crossing of Qafe Thane. The contour shows the border of the land property. It is state owned. All the reconstruction / rehabilitation / improvements works including re-dimensioning of the driveways will take place within the actual border of the property. There will be no need of land either for auxiliary structures or for temporary camps or storage of any kind beyond this border.



Lake Ohrid is one of Europe's deepest and oldest lakes, preserving a unique aquatic ecosystem that is of worldwide importance, with more than 200 endemic species. The importance of the lake was further emphasized when it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979. In 2014, the Ohrid-Prespa Transboundary Reserve between Albania and FYR Macedonia was added to UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. The towns situated at the lakeside are Pogradec in Albania, along with Ohrid and Struga in FYR Macedonia. The lake is otherwise densely surrounded by settlements in the form of villages and resorts in both basin countries. Lake Ohrid is the deepest lake of the Balkans, with a maximum depth of 288 m and a mean depth of 155 m. It covers an area of 358 km², containing an estimated 55.4 km³ of water. It is 30.4 km long by 14.8 km wide at its maximum extent with a shoreline length of 87.53 km, shared between Macedonia (56.02 km) and Albania (31.51 km). Of the total surface area, 248 square kilometers belongs to the FYR Macedonia and 110 km² belongs to Albania.

The Ohrid and Prespa Lakes belong to a group of Dessaret basins that originated from a geotectonic depression during the Pliocene epoch up to five million years ago on the western side of the Dinaric Alps. Worldwide, there are only a few lakes with similarly remote origins with Lake Baikal and Lake Tanganyika being the most famous. Most other, short-lived lakes have a life span of less than 100,000 years before they are eventually filled up with sediments. It is believed that in the case of Lake Ohrid this process was delayed by its great depth and small sediment input from its filtered spring inflows. Moreover, the Ohrid-Korca graben to the south of the lake is still tectonically active and might compensate sedimentation by subduction. In contrast to Lake Ohrid, Lake Prespa is likely to have turned dry several times in its history, as a result of its karstic underground.

3.2 Biodiversity

Measured by its surface area of 358 km², Ohrid is probably the most biodiverse lake on Earth. While it is special as such, by far the most spectacular quality is its impressive endemism. Ohrid sponge (*Ochridaspongia rotunda*) is endemic to Lake Ohrid. Similar to Lake Baikal or Lake Tanganyika, Lake Ohrid harbors endemic species covering the whole food-chain, from phytoplankton and sessile algae (20 species; e.g., *Cyclotella fottii*), over plant species (2 species; e.g., *Chara ohridana*), zooplankton (5 species; e.g., *Cyclops ochridanus*), cyprinid fish (8 species; e.g., *Pachychilon pictus*), to predatory fish (two trout species; the Ohrid trout complex *Salmo letnica*, and "Belvica" *Salmo ohridanus*) and finally its diverse endemic bottom fauna (176 species; e.g. *Ochridagammarus solidus*), with particularly large endemism among crustaceans, molluscs, sponges and planarians. There were recorded 68 species of freshwater snails from the Lake Ohrid basin. 73.5% (50 species) of the total freshwater gastropod fauna appear to be endemic to the Lake Ohrid basin.

Quite remarkably, exotic species do not seem to be a major issue in Lake Ohrid, although they have been recorded in small populations for several decades or exist in nearby rivers or lakes. The reason lays very probably in the ideal adaptation of the endemic species to the specific conditions in the lake, such as low nutrient availability, good living conditions in greater depth thanks to high water

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transparency and oxygen content, as well as subaquatic spring inflows supplying cool and oxygen-rich water. In total, seven introduced fish species are known from the lake.

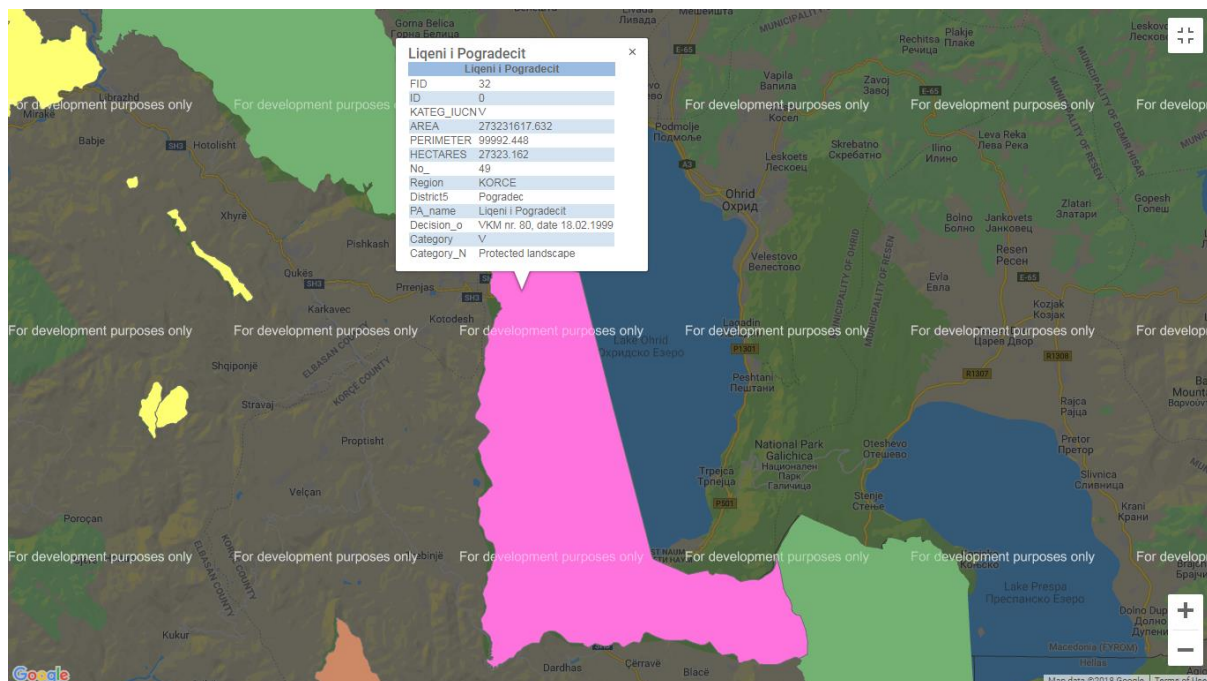
Despite the exceptionally high level of endemism in Lake Ohrid (for example, a third of the 21 native fish species and almost 80% of its 72 mollusk species are endemic), a significant number of non-endemic species are found in Lake Ohrid. This includes species, which are mobile (e.g., via water birds) or migratory, such as the European eel.

The lakeshore reed beds and wetlands provide critical habitat for hundreds of thousands of wintering water birds, including rare and threatened species such as the Dalmatian pelican, ferruginous duck, swan, spotted eagle, and eastern imperial eagle.

The reed beds are a very sensitive habitat. They are an important link in the lake's ecosystem exchange of nutrients. Construction waste, gravel, stones, soil or even different type of earth might influence this sensitive ecosystem. Another source of impact might be waste water or other liquid waste that might accidentally or intentionally finish on the lake shores and reed beds.

The reed beds are also habitat to the above mentioned threatened species. Increased levels of noise and dust resulting from the construction works might interfere with the habitude of these species. They might also be threatened from a sudden change in water quality as a direct result of a waste water discharge.

3.3 Protected area “Liqeni i Pogradecit”



The border crossing of Qafe Thane is within the protected area “Liqeni i Pogradecit” (DCM No. 80 / date 19.02.1999, Pink Area). It is a IUCN category V “Protected Landscape”.

The Article 20 of Law No. 81 2017 date 04.05.2017 “On the Protected Areas”, defines the “Protected Landscape” as follows:

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1. "Protected Landscape" are declared large territories with harmonious and well-formed landscapes with distinctly developed characteristics, with a variety of ecosystems, marine or land, areas within which there may be residential centers that develop activities such as agriculture , fruit trees, forestry and fishing.
2. "Protected landscape" is managed to protect landscape values, biodiversity, recreation and entertainment. This category includes land / sea / public or private owned water.
3. In a "protected landscape" it is applied the degree of protection that has the main object:
 - a) empowering the harmonious interaction of nature with culture to protect landscape quality, traditional land use, construction practices and social and cultural manifestations, characteristic of the area;
 - b) supporting those lifestyles and economic activities that are in harmony with the nature and preservation of the spiritual and cultural constitution of the local population;
 - c) elimination, where necessary, and prevention of land use and carrying out activities that are inappropriate in size and / or content;
 - ç) creating opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism, in accordance with the character and magnitude of the core characteristics of the area;
 - d) encouraging scientific and educational activities that assist in long-term development and well-being of the local population and in providing broad public support for the protection of the environment of such protected areas;
 - dh) bringing economic benefits and contributing to the growth of local population welfare through the use of natural products, such as forests and fish production, and services such as clean water or income derived from the appropriate forms of tourism.
4. Activities that change the use of land such as constructions, sewage treatment at farms, construction of highways, navigable routes and urban areas, and similar activities are permitted to be exercised only if the entity seeking to carry out the activity is licensed by the National Territorial Council.
5. The following shall be sufficient for the exercise of the following activities: written approval of the administration of the protected environmental zone:
 - a) Use of chemicals and pesticides for agricultural lands;
 - b) ignition of fires outside of certain places and points;
 - c) movement of vehicles outside the established routes. This rule does not apply to state, agricultural and forestry vehicles, machinery, firefighters, ambulances, veterinary and water management machinery;
 - ç) organization of competitions with motor vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles;
 - d) practices of unique or traditional land use and social organization expressed in human settlements, local customs, and religious beliefs, after having been granted environmental permits.
6. In the management plan for Protected Landscapes, according to the administration subdivisions, are clearly and in detail specified the allowed, prohibited and those for which a permit issued by the competent authorities is required, according to the Albanian legislation in force.

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The Management Plan of Pogradec Protected Landscape defines in Annex 1; Categories, levels of protection and forbidden activities.

Any activity related to the construction / rehabilitation works of the border crossing of Qafe Thane should consider the following table of forbidden activities. If during construction there will be the necessity foreseen in point c) of article 20 above, than a written consent should be asked to the administration of the protected area.

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Category	Protected area	Level of protection	Forbidden activities
V	Protected Landscape	Level 4	Planting of single culture forests; Neutralization of waste and ignition of fires outside specified sites; Spread of animals and plants coming from abroad; Hunting with poisoned food; Construction of motorways, sewers and urban areas; Circulation by means of transport outside of roads and established routes. This rule does not apply to state machines, agricultural and forestry machinery, firefighters, ambulances, and waste management machinery and veterinary services; Organizing games with cars, motorcycles and bicycles.

Circulation of vehicles outside established routes may be required during construction works. This should be avoided and alternative solutions should be found in respect to the above management plan.

3.4 Climate

The climate of the area is classified as a local-continental type because of a micro climate that is created in that area influenced by Mediterranean climate. The average annual rainfall in the Lake basin amounts to approximately 730 mm.

From the climatic point of view, the district of Pogradec is part of the Mediterranean mountain and paramagnetic area, where the four seasons of the year are clearly distinguished. Spring and autumn are abundant with rainfall, cold winter with snow and frost, while hot and dry summers.

The climate of the area is influenced by two main factors:

- Height above sea level

- The presence of mountains. The Pogradec district is surrounded by mountains, far from the mitigation impact of the sea. The relief is quite diverse. It is mainly mountainous, and hilly.

Mokra Mountains are in the southwestern part, located to the south of the Domosdova foothills and to the south of Qafe Thana.

The Pogradec Basin has a height of 695-710 m above sea level. The Mountain chain area has an average height of 1000-2000 m above sea level. The genuine mountainous area over 2000 m above sea level. Abundant rainfall as well as snowfall creates large water reserve needed for the supply of residential centers, artificial irrigation, and industry. The human influence on the environment has an impact on the creation of microclimate. Here we mention wetlands or deforestation, a very worrying phenomenon nowadays.

3.5 Hydrology

The lake drains an area of around 2600 km² and is fed primarily by underground springs on the eastern shore (about 50% of total inflow), with roughly 25% shares from rivers and direct precipitation. Over 20% of the lake's water comes from nearby Lake Prespa, about 10 km to the southeast and at 150 m higher altitude than Lake Ohrid. The water leaves Lake Prespa trickling through underground watercourses in the karstic landscape, where it is joined by mountain range precipitation and eventually emerges in numerous springs along the eastern shore and below the water surface of Lake Ohrid. The water leaves Lake Ohrid by evaporation (40%) and through its only outlet, the Black Drin River, which flows in a northerly direction into Albania and thus to the Adriatic Sea. The relatively dry, Mediterranean climate and the small drainage basin of 2600 km² of Lake Ohrid results in a long hydraulic residence time scale of 70 years.

The water at the surface of Lake Ohrid moves predominantly in a counter-clockwise direction along the shore, as a result of wind forcing and the Earth rotation, similar to the Ekman-phenomenon known from oceans. In terms of vertical water exchange, convective mixing during winter cooling is the dominant process. However, in an average winter only the top 150–200 meters of the lake are mixed, whereas the water below is stably stratified by salinity. The stability due to this salinity gradient allows complete convective mixing events only roughly once every 7 years.

Both in terms of nutrient concentration (4.5 µg L⁻¹ of phosphorus), as well as biological parameters Lake Ohrid qualifies as oligotrophic. Thanks to this oligotrophy and the filtered spring inflows, the water is exceptionally clear with transparencies to a depth of as much as 22 meters. Lake Ohrid lacks an annual deep water exchange which in other lakes can bring complete overturn; plunging rivers are also absent. Despite this, dissolved oxygen never drops below 6 mg L⁻¹.

3.6 Environmental Issues

Previously extensive wetland habitats in the vicinity of Lake Ohrid have been lost due to conversion into agricultural or urban land. These include Struga Marsh, large portions of which were drained for agriculture in the 1940s and again in the 1960s when the River Sateska was rerouted.

Nowadays, the last remaining significant coastline wetland at Lake Ohrid is Studenchishte Marsh, which is located on the eastern shore near the city of Ohrid. Despite degradation from a variety of sources such as large-scale disposal of construction waste, major land conversion, disruption of water connections to Lake Ohrid, beach urbanization and loss of reed belts, Studenchishte Marsh is still an important buffer to prevent lake eutrophication and a key habitat for biodiversity, including relict plants and endemic species.

Changes to the General Urban Plan for Ohrid 2014-2020, however, made provisions for Studenchishte Marsh to be drained and replaced with infrastructure for tourism and water-sports, a proposal which, together with other regional developments, was opposed by numerous local and international experts, including the Society of Wetland Scientists. A Strategic Environmental Assessment also concluded that no measure except non-implementation could reduce the direct negative impact on Studenchishte and the indirect negative impact on Lake Ohrid if the proposed construction was to take place at the wetland. Plans to drain the area have subsequently been reversed and the Macedonian government announced in 2018 that it would move forward with proclamation of Studenchishte Marsh as a protected area and its designation together with Lake Ohrid as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Nonetheless, the precise surface area to be protected is yet to be defined and plans for a new-build marina at the location are still being considered.

The IUCN identifies wetland rehabilitation as one of five potential site needs for the UNESCO Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region. However, the potential to restore Struga Marsh is likely to be reduced by construction of the European Corridor VIII railway, while Studenchishte's future is yet to be fully resolved.

Shore habitats are under particular pressure from human activities. Particular threats are the building of tourist facilities directly at the shore, destroying of reed belts to gain agricultural land and intense pollution close to the mouth of tributaries. Although the effects of these human impacts have not been evaluated in detail they are of great concern, as the shallow water sites are particularly rich in endemic bottom fauna and form important spawning grounds for several endemic fish species. Moreover, reed belts have great importance for water birds. Commercial fish yield, i.e. the two endemic trout species, has dropped significantly over the past decades, both in FYR Macedonia and in Albania. The most probable reason is overfishing and possibly destruction of spawning grounds. Pollution may also be a factor. Although there are regulations regarding fishing practice (e.g. minimal mesh size) and only a limited number of licensed fishermen, these rules are always not obeyed as a result of the high market value of the endemic trout. As a reaction to the situation, a seven-year moratorium on fishing Ohrid trout was imposed from 2004 to help the populations recover and to allow scientists collect further data. Nonetheless, even though thorough assessment of fish stocks has not been conducted since the 1990s and trout populations are still believed to be in decline. More data is required to determine whether these current fishing levels are sustainable and illegal fishing, particularly on the Albanian side of the lake, remains a problem.

While most of the endemic fish species are non-migratory, the European eel spawns in the distant Sargasso Sea while its offspring return to the lake. Unfortunately, as in many European lakes, it is very unlikely today that eels can reach Lake Ohrid naturally and return to the Sargasso Sea, as a result of several hydropower dams on the Black Drin and the Drin River, both in FYR Macedonia and Albania. As a result, eel found in Lake Ohrid are stocked populations. Given the population growth over the past 50 years, a particular concern is the potential eutrophication of currently oligotrophic Lake Ohrid from increased pollution. Indeed, sediment cores show a 3.5 fold increase in phosphorus concentration over the past century. On the one hand, shifts from endemic to common European species, which are better adapted to higher nutrient conditions, have already been observed close to polluted inflows. On the other hand, higher nutrient levels have reduced the water transparency, as well as the oxygen availability in the deep water and at the lake bottom, two properties which are

requisite for the endemic flora and fauna. Still, the lake is in a comparably good state at the moment. However it may take more than a decade to see the effects of today's pollution level in the lake, because of its long water residence time. Moreover, it was shown that the negative effects from eutrophication would be significantly amplified by global warming. Although there is time to react, computer simulations indicate that at least a 50% reduction in phosphorus input must be reached to keep the deep water oxygenated for the next 50 years at predicted atmospheric warming. This aim could be reached by controlling household wastewater, which is by far the biggest phosphorus source at the moment. First steps in that direction have been taken by extending and improving the existing sewage system in FYR Macedonia in the framework of a GEF program. The most important next task would be a solution for three remaining, severely polluted tributaries, one in FYR Macedonia and two in Albania.

3.7 Social aspects

There are three cities on the lake's shores: Ohrid and Struga on the Macedonian side; Pogradec in Albania. There are also several fishing villages, although tourism is now a more significant part of their income. The catchment area of the lake has a population of around 170,000 people, with 131,000 people living directly at the lake shore (43,000 in Albania and 88,000 in FYR Macedonia). The population in the catchment has increased by 100,000 people in the last half century, putting the lake's fragile ecosystem under pressure. The historic monuments, as well as the pristine lake environment make the area around Lake Ohrid a prime site for tourism. In the 1980s, more than 200,000 national and international tourists went on a pilgrimage to the Macedonian lake side every year. During the Yugoslav crisis and particularly after the interethnic conflicts within Macedonia in 2001 international tourism collapsed but has been slowly recovering during the past years. Even though many of the above visitors are staying for a weekend only, tourism makes an important share of local economy.

3.8 Environmental impacts associated with project activities

The overall environmental impacts of the Project are expected to be temporary and of light impact as they are related to small scale reconstruction / rehabilitation work in already existing structures. These impacts most commonly include:

- a) Dust and noise due to excavation, demolition and construction;
- b) Management of demolition / construction wastes;
- c) Hazardous waste resulting from demolition / construction works (asbestos, used oils, mercury containing equipments, etc)
- d) Soil pollution or erosion;

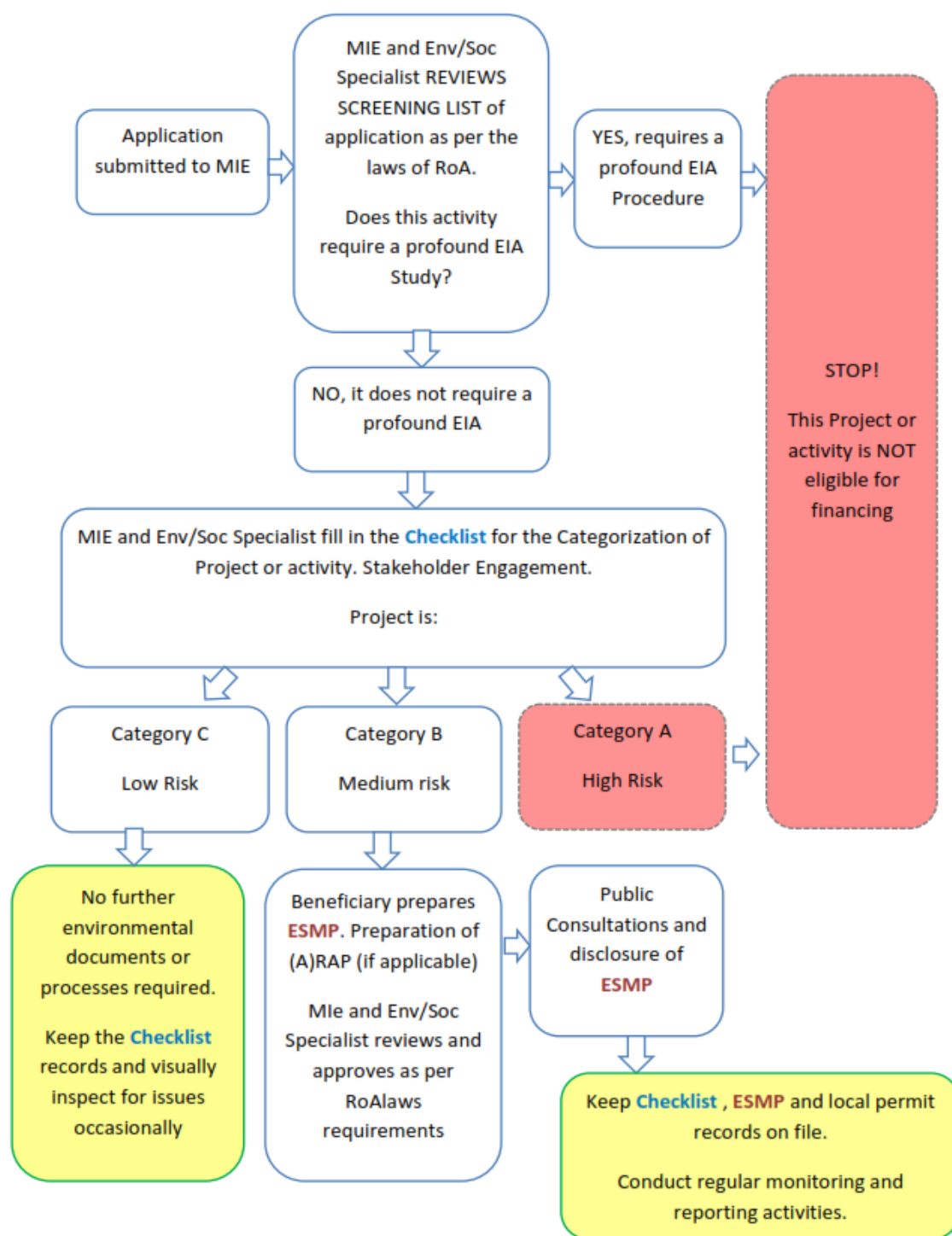
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e) Contamination of nearby water courses, reed beds or surface water by waste generated from the construction activities and from wastewater discharges from the facilities on site.

All the works will consider all the additional regulation explained above in regard to the status of “Protected Landscape” of the site.

4 Application of the Environmental and Social Review and Screening Process from ESMF

Following the scheme below from the screening process from ESMF, the project is classified as a category B project. It does not require a profound EIA. The ESMP should be prepared. The ESMP is prepared following the ESMF structure and requirements.



4.1 The Environmental and Social Screening Check List

	Name of Project (Reference number):	Reconstruction / Rehabilitation Works on the Border Crossing of Qafe Thane in Albania		
	City/Municipality:	City of Pogradec / Municipality of Pogradec		
	Name of applicant:	Contractor		
	Contact:	-		
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHECKLIST (must be filled out and filed for every application)				
	CRITERIA	YES	NO	Notes
1	Does the proposed activity require a profound Environmental Impact Assessment as per the Albanian Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (list of Projects for which profound EIA is mandatory follows this form)? If yes, this activity cannot be financed.			
2	Does the proposed activity require a preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment as per the Albanian Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (list of Projects for which preliminary EIA is mandatory follows this form)?			
3	Will the financed works include construction, reconstruction or demolition works?" <i>If yes, an ESMP needs to be prepared!</i>			
4	Does the existing enterprise have valid operating permit, licenses, approvals etc.? If not, please			

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5	<p>explain.</p> <p>Permits to screen for include: construction permit, operational/use permit, urban permit, water management permit...</p> <p><i>If not, will the financing be used to correct this condition?</i></p>			
6	Does the existing enterprises have a valid environmental permit (or is in the procedure of obtaining an environmental permit as per the Albanian law for the environmental permits) and does the proposed activity fall under those for which this permit was issued?			This activity does not require environmental permit.
7	Does the existing enterprise have a valid water management permit that calls for special investments or measures for the enterprise's wastewater releases (or is in the procedure of obtaining this permit as per the Albanian regulation)?			This activity does not require water management permit.
8	Does the existing enterprise need to follow specific Albanian environmental regulations regarding air emissions, water use or wastewater discharge and solid waste management?			During the works all the emissions limits for water, air and solid waste management should be respected!
9	Are there any significant outstanding environmental fees, fines or penalties or any other environmental liabilities (e.g. pending legal proceedings involving environmental issues etc.)			
10	<p><i>If so, will the financing be used to correct this condition and please explain?</i></p>			
11	Have there been any complaints raised by local affected people or groups or NGOs regarding the activity/project?			
12	<p><i>If so, will the grant financing be used to remedy these complaints?</i></p>			

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13	<p>Will the proposed activity require acquisition of land, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encroachment on private property • Relocation of Project affected persons • Loss of private lands or livelihood • Impacts on livelihood incomes <p><i>If yes, a site-specific Resettlement/Livelihood restoration Action Plan or Abbreviated Resettlement/Livelihood restoration Action Plan shall be prepared</i></p>			
14	Does the activity affect more than 200 persons?			
15	Use land that is currently occupied or regularly used for productive purposes (e.g. gardening, farming, pasture, fishing locations, forests)			
16	Result in the involuntary restriction of access by people to legally designated parks and protected areas			
17	Will the proposed activity disrupt access to health and education institutes?			
18	Impact community health and safety?			
19	Will the project affect vulnerable groups by any of impacts identified above?			
20	Have negative impact to informal side road shops, traders or any nomadic type of commercial activity			
21	Provide the opportunities to improve the informal side road shops, traders or nomadic type of commercial activity			

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22	Impact internally displaced persons or refugees			
23	Will the activity generate water effluents (wastewater) that may require special treatment, control or the water management permit?			
24	Will the activity generate air emissions which would require special controls in order to ensure compliance with the legal standards?			
25	Will the activity generate noise levels that would require control measures to ensure compliance with the noise standards? Will the noise levels impact particularly sensitive receptors (natural habitats, hospitals, schools, local population centers)?			
26	Will the activity consume, use or store, produce hazardous materials that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require special permits or licenses • require licensed or trained personnel • are outlawed or banned in EU • are difficult, expensive, or hard to manage • may cause soil and water pollution or health hazards if adequate control measures are not in place 			
27	Will the activity generate solid waste that may be considered hazardous, difficult to manage, or may be beyond the scope of regular household waste? <i>(This may include, but not be limited too, animal carcasses, toxic materials, pesticides, medical waste, cleaning materials, flammables etc.)</i>			

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28	Will the activity be located within or close to natural habitats or areas under consideration by the Government for official protection status? Will the activity potentially impact areas of known significance to local, regional or national cultural heritage?			Protected landscape IUCN Category V
29	Will the activity involve import of living organisms, e.g. saplings, insects, animals, etc. or works that can impact sensitive environmental receptors?			
30	Has the local population or any NGOs expressed concern about the proposed activity's environmental aspects or expressed opposition?			
31	Is there any other aspect of the activity that would – through normal operations or under special conditions – cause a risk or have an impact on the environment, the population or could be considered as a nuisance (e.g. use of pesticides)?			

The applicant is aware of the EIA requirements as per the Albanian Law and certifies that there are no Full Environmental Impact Assessment reports required.

After this step, the flowchart “Environmental and Social Procedure” shown above, should be followed. This checklist and procedure decide whether a preliminary EIA and ESMP must be drafted.

For this project an ESMP should be drafted.

5 Environmental and Social Management Plan

5.1 Environmental and Social Mitigation Plan

The ESMP identifies mitigation measures that may reduce potentially significant adverse environmental and social impacts to acceptable levels. The plan includes compensatory measures if mitigation measures are not feasible, cost-effective, or sufficient. Specifically, the ESMP:

- identifies and summarizes all anticipated significant adverse environmental and social impacts (including those involving indigenous people or involuntary resettlement);
- describes each mitigation measure, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate;
- estimates any potential environmental impacts of these measures; and
- provides linkage with any other mitigation plans required for the project.

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PHASE	ISSUE	MITIGATION MEASURES	COSTS	INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Reviewing design plans for construction and adaptation of structures	Implementation of measures proposed by ESMP	Included in the project costs	Design team	ESMP should be understood by the designer before any drafting
	Impact on landscape and urban areas	Reconstruction of the existing building shall be designed according to local constructing and cultural practice in respect of surrounding architecture	Included in cost of procurement	Reviewed by institution issuing construction permit (under MIE)	
CONSTRUCTION	Noise	Construction is restricted to 5 days a week and only dayshift (9 am to 5 pm).	Not significant	Contractor	Will be specified in bidding documents (compliance with ESMP)
	Dust	Dust from demolition and transportation of construction material and waste will be minimized by use of water If demolition in the object presents high source of dust, the site should be enclosed	Could be significant if construction is done in the dry period of the year	Contractor	Will be specified in bidding documents (compliance with ESMP)

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PHASE	ISSUE	MITIGATION MEASURES	COSTS	INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
CONSTRUCTION	Construction waste Excavated material handling	<p>Hazardous waste has to be separated from solid waste</p> <p>For hazardous waste (batteries, paints, oils, etc.) contractor has to follow procedure for hazardous waste management. This implies collection, handing over the waste to authorized company for hazardous waste management and fulfilling accompanying documentation</p> <p>All recyclable fractions have to be separated from non-recyclable waste and taken to appropriate collection points with accompanying documentation</p> <p>Non-recyclable waste has to be taken to approved landfill</p> <p>The building site will be cleaned and all debris and waste materials will be disposed of in accordance with conditions specified in the bills of quantities</p> <p>Burning or illegal dumping of waste is strictly forbidden</p> <p>Excavated material is transported to the area in the city planned for such type of materials.</p>	Significant (depending on quantities of hazardous waste)	Contractor (or other entity, depending on the Contract)	Will be specified in bidding documents (compliance with ESMP)

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PHASE	ISSUE	MITIGATION MEASURES	COSTS	INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
	Wastewater from construction works and from facilities on site	Waste water should never leave the collection system of the existing premises. This is a site in a protected area and therefore e very sensitive one. Any accidental leakage or spilling should also be captured and redirected to the existing discharge system.	Included in the costs of operations	Contractor	Will be specified in bidding documents (compliance with ESMP)
	Replacement of asbestos containing materials and other Hazardous materials	Replace asbestos and other not environmental friendly material from the building Insulation material containing asbestos is defined as hazardous waste and it has to be handled accordingly	Significant cost	Contractor	Will be specified in bidding documents (compliance with ESMP)
CONSTRUCTION	Degradation of historical or culturally important sites	Supervising construction, If encountering archaeological finds during preparation of the site, the contractor should stop the works and follow the procedure to notify authorized bodies If works are on historical monument, the construction workers should follow the special condition of construction	Not significant cost	Contractor	Notify: Municipal Authorities, Regional Institute for Protection of Cultural and Historical Heritage Project Team
OPERATION	Heating system and storage tanks for crude oil or gas	Fire protection measures have to be implemented there will be significant storage of fuel.	Relevant costs	Contractor	According to the project a fire protection plan might be needed for approval from the local Fire Fighting Directory
	Waste management	Organized solid waste separation, Collection of recyclables organized collection of non-recyclable solid waste	Not significant	Contractor	

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PHASE	ISSUE	MITIGATION MEASURES	COSTS	INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY	COMMENTS
		Introduction of measures for minimization of waste production, Coordination with local waste management plan Collect and separate waste within facility Hand over waste to authorized company for hazardous waste management Follow binding reporting procedure on hazardous waste			
	Storing	Hazardous materials should be stored according to Material Safety Data Sheets.	Initially relevant (one time cost)	Contractor	Facility designs should address the need for storage
OPERATION	Waste water from facilities	Waste water should be collected and managed through the existing sewage system. This is a site in a protected area and therefore e very sensitive one. Any accidental leakage or spilling should also be captured and redirected to the existing discharge system.	Included in the costs of operations	Contractor	According to the project

5.2 Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan

Environmental monitoring during project implementation provides information about key environmental and social aspects of the project, particularly the environmental and social impacts of the project and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Such information enables the Implementing Agency and the Bank to evaluate the success of mitigation as part of project supervision, and allows corrective action to be taken when needed. Therefore, the ESMP identifies monitoring objectives and specifies the type of monitoring, with linkages to the impacts assessed in the EA report and the mitigation measures described in the ESMP. Specifically, the monitoring section of the ESMP provides:

- (a) a specific description, and technical details, of monitoring measures, including the parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits, and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and
- (b) monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures, and furnish information on the progress and results of mitigation.

Monitoring of the compliance of activities' implementation with the mitigation measures set out in its ESMP will be required.

The objective of Environmental and Social Monitoring is:

- 1) To alert project authorities by providing timely information about the success or otherwise of the environmental management process outlined in this ESMF in such a manner that changes can be made as required ensuring continuous improvement to WBTFP environmental management process.
- 2) To make a final evaluation in order to determine whether the mitigation measures incorporated in the technical designs and the ESMP have been successful in such a way that the pre-project environmental and social condition has been restored, improved upon or is worse than before and to determine what further mitigation measures may be required.

This section sets out requirements for the monitoring of the environmental and social impacts of the project. Monitoring of environmental and social indicators will be mainstreamed into the overall monitoring and evaluation system for the project. In addition, monitoring of the implementation of this ESMF will be carried out by MIE/PIU as the key implementing institutions of Western Balkan Trade and Transport Facilitation Project.

The goals of monitoring are to measure the success rate of the project, determine whether interventions have resulted in dealing with negative impacts, whether further interventions are needed or monitoring is to be extended.

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PHASE	WHAT Parameter is to be monitored?	WHERE Is the parameter to be monitored?	HOW Is the parameter to be monitored?	WHEN Is the parameter to be monitored (frequency)?	WHY Is the parameter to be monitored?	COST	RESPONSIBILITY
Baseline	Noise	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane and in the vicinity of it	With a sound meter	In regular intervals of time during a normal operation day of Qafe Thane border crossing	In order to measure the increase of noise levels during the reconstruction / rehabilitation works	100 Eur/day	Sub project Implementation Agency
Baseline	Dust	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane Indoor and outdoor	Monitor particulate matter (PM) concentrations in the air with a dust measuring device	In regular intervals of time during a normal operation day of Qafe Thane border crossing	In order to measure the increase of dust levels during the reconstruction / rehabilitation works	100 Eur/day	Sub project Implementation Agency

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Construction	Noise	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane and in the vicinity of it at the same locations where it was measured before construction phase	With a sound meter	In regular intervals of time during a normal operation day of Qafe Thane border crossing	In order to measure the increase of noise levels during the reconstruction / rehabilitation works	100 Eur/day	Sub project Implementation Agency, contractor
Construction	Dust	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane Indoor and outdoor at the same locations where it was measured before construction phase	Monitor particulate matter (PM) concentrations in the air with a dust measuring device	In regular intervals of time during a normal operation day of Qafe Thane border crossing	In order to measure the increase of dust levels during the reconstruction / rehabilitation works	100 Eur/day	Sub project Implementation Agency, contractor

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Construction	Waste water	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane Indoor and outdoor	Monitor defective or occasional discharges outside the collection system	In regular intervals of time during a normal operation day of Qafe Thane border crossing	In order to avoid impacts on nearby water bodies or soils	100 Eur/day	Sub project Implementation Agency, contractor
Construction	Waste	In the premises of the border crossing of Qafe Thane, in the territory of the construction site and in the surrounding area outside it.	Visual inspection	Once a week	To ensure correct waste management function and avoid pollution of water bodies or soil	Should be part of the project	Sub project Implementation Agency, contractor

5.3 ESMP Implementation Responsibilities

The Ministry of Industry and Energy is the key relevant institution for the management of WBTTFP related projects. For local projects the Regional Environmental Directory is responsible for environmental protection and for conducting all environmental procedures in accordance with the applicable Laws.

For all WBTTFP sub projects a project implementation unit PIU under the MIE is established to carry out planning, implementation and monitoring activities. Each operation will include independent safeguards review, assessment, implementation and supervision.

Sub project Implementation Agency, in this case Albanian Road Authority is responsible for overall project performance (preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation).

The other aspects of environmental management related to WBTTFP projects are dealt with several other institutions whose function and responsibilities are explained in the institutional configuration in the ESMF document.

5.4 Capacity Development and Training Needs

As the project includes sub projects implemented by MIE, the capacity building will be addressed on two levels:

PIU Environmental Focal Point (appointed personnel) will receive training on WB Environmental Policies and Procedures, emphasizing OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment from the WB Environmental Specialist, while for the MIE, a training will be provided by the Environmental Focal Point, supported by WB Environmental Specialist.

6 Public consultation and disclosure

In line with transparency principles, the public will be consulted on the proposed activities. Public consultations will be held as part of the environmental and social screening process.

The purpose of these consultations is to allow for the identification of the main issues and how the concerns of all parties should be taken into account in deciding whether or not to issue a permit for the sub-project.

For category B activities, during the screening process, project-affected groups and local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will be consulted about the project's environmental aspects

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and their views are taken into account. Such consultations should be initiated as early as possible in the component elaboration stage. In addition, project implementers consult with such groups throughout project implementation as necessary to discuss the status of implementation of the project and identify and address any pending EA related issues that may affect them.

The final ESMP report for category B activities will be disclosed to the public by presenting the findings and recommendations and disclosing the document at the offices of the concerned institutions. NGO's and other local civil society organizations will be informed of the meeting, and copies of the ESMP report will be made available before the meeting, in a language that is understood by the recipients.

Beneficiaries under WBTTFP sub projects or any affected interested party, have the right to appeal. If dissatisfied, the affected party has the right to bring their concerns to the MIE, and also to appeal to the Minister responsible for Environment.