

Improvement of Flood Protection Infrastructure on Erzen-Ishem, Shkumbin, Seman and Vjosa Rivers

Project Financing

WBIF	Grant	WB20-ALB-ENV-02	€ 2,512,500
National Contribution	Own Contribution		€ 12,500,000
EIB	Loan		€ 51,000,000
Other sources	Other Sources		€ 29,000,000
Anticipated WBIF INV Grant	External Grant		€ 8,000,000
Anticipated WBIF TA Grant	External Grant		€ 2,500,000
Total			€ 105,512,500
Total Grants			€ 2,512,500
Total Loans			€ 51,000,000

Project Description

Albania's rivers are particularly prone to flood risk, which effects are extended to 110,000 hectares of agricultural land. The largest floods have been concentrated in the low western area of the country, where the rivers diffuse into the sea. Massive flooding of rivers Drini-Buna, Mati, Erzen-Ishem, Shkumbin, Seman and Vjosa, have been recorded in 1962, 1971, 1976, 1979, 1986 and 1992, 2003, 2015, 2017 and February 2018. Consequently, the existing dikes and the riverbanks on both sides of the rivers were inundated and overflowed.

In order to mitigate and prevent the negative effects of flooding, this project seeks to increase the level of flood protection management in Albania to prevent damages to human health, flora, fauna and the economy. Specifically, the project entails the construction/rehabilitation of longitudinal embankments, weirs and cross panels along rivers Erzen-Ishem, Shkumbin, Seman and Vjosa. The feasibility study and environmental impact assessment are being developed through a €2 million WBIF TA grant, as well as support to the project implementation unit.

The project is expected to generate several socio-economic and environmental benefits for farmers and general population in Albania, including:

Results and Benefits

- Rehabilitation/construction of approx. **300 km embankments/dikes**
- Protection of **110,000 ha of agricultural land and residential areas**
- Increased flood protection for **400 000 inhabitants** and about **80 000 farmers**
- Increased employment possibilities for residents in the project area
- Improvement in socioeconomic conditions of the rural population

- **Countries:** Albania
- **Code:** PRJ-ALB-ENV-026
- **Sector:** Environment
- **Lead IFI:** EIB
- **Status:** Preparation
- **Beneficiary:**