

National Environment Strategy

Protection and preservation of the environment at local and regional

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Introduction

Environment today is a global problem which occurs as in developed countries and those in economic and social problems develop. But , environmental protection is one of the biggest problems with which the region faces .

Environmental protection has not been any time previously treated and arranged in a systematic way . Development of a new environment protection strategy is a result of collaboration of many acts that have scope for environmental issues . In order for the strategy to be as comprehensive and acceptable to society at large . For the design of this professional and expert participate in a wide range of different institutions and scientific research Working on environment and development stability. Ne circumstances which have characterized the social and economic development in the past has been the protection of the environment a neglected issue that should henceforth be the primary and create new circumstances to protect the environment and develop a long-term concept development at the regional level .

Definition

"The environment is the source of everything that people need to live and develop . "

Integrated treatment , requires the implementation of economic policies , social and environmental issues in a mutually reinforcing way . However , a balance must be found between the level of exploitation of the environment and its protection . Delays in adopting this integrated approach and continuity in activities that harm the environment greatly , endanger public health and reduce quality of life , will lead to a large increase in the total cost of developing the National Strategy economic. This environment is itself part of an integrated treatment is performed with the National Strategy for Development and Integration . It should be seen in the context of national politics in general . Many of the policies and actions of this strategy , supported by determined action programs in the sector , such as water , energy and agriculture . Moreover , they also supported by detailed action programs to address specific issues , such as Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan and the National Plan of Waste Management . The National Environmental Strategy brings together the most important elements of these documents into a single . Implementation of this strategy will bring enormous benefits to the health and welfare of the country . However , to realize these benefits , will have a practical commitment as well as financial. We must be willing to fulfill these commitments if we are to

achieve our goals of sustainable development and membership in the European Community .

3 . Current conditions in the environment can be assessed by considering the fact that you :

1 . The environmental situation in relation to national quality standards , European and international - monitoring results indicate non-compliance with these standards in a number of environmental components , including air and water .

2 . The rate and extent of environmental impact per unit of activity created the Albanian settlements and enterprises ' efficiency and environmental activities " , with the exception of electricity , is generally high.

3 . The level of expenditure as income and on capital , to prevent environmental degradation and associated health effects - both public sector and the private is comparatively low .

4 . The degree of concordance between the Albanian and European legislation in the field of the environment is an average .

5 . The level of implementation and compliance with the legislation , including the existence of environmental infrastructure , systems such as wastewater collection - for now many of the laws that protect the environment presupposes not enforced or implemented well .

State of the Environment

Results of monitoring of ambient air quality , clearly demonstrates that air quality standards are not met in most urban areas of the country . Especially particulate levels encountered in major cities , exceeding the legal standards set by national legislation increasing the level of diseases of the respiratory system .

The level of compliance with standards for bathing water is moderate to low . Although average values indicate compliance with the basic standards for bathing waters , the values of these parameters in summer and do not meet most of the samples reach levels not strictly defined by the legislation of the European Union (Guidelines) .

Drinking water is not provided at all times , for all settlements . The quality of the water supplied to consumers is also different and in many cases does not comply with European standards . Data groundwater monitoring are insufficient to present a comprehensive assessment of the current situation . However , as over- exploitation of coastal resources and the pollution of shallow aquifers occur in many areas .

Monitoring of surface water quality is insufficient to present a full evaluation . However , the data that are available indicate a serious pollution of surface water, particularly those located near large sources of pollution , cities , existing industrial construction sites , former industrial

complexes and complexes of extraction and processing minerals .

In Albania and Kosovo has problems with land protection . Soil erosion is widely recognized as a major problem caused by unsustainable forestry and agricultural practices . Chemical pollution levels are low in most agricultural soils , however , large areas of land with industrial pollution are still . Some of these lands are occupied by settlers who have built houses on the land and therefore are exposed to risks arising from contamination at these zona.6 % of the national territory enjoys the status of a protected area .

However , this national network is too small to have a long-term impact on biodiversity protection . To compare the worth noting that 18 % of the territory of EU Member States is included in the network " Natyra 2000" to protect nature . Even many specialists consider this as insufficient . However , the current coverage of protected areas is not equal and do not represent different habitat types that exist in the country .

The level of protection achieved in many protected areas is also not appropriate or sufficient , since it is still widespread informal settlement and illegal hunting .

Noise is a common urban problem . Its main sources are transport , construction, industry and some commercial activities such as bars and clubs . So far , there is no standard issue for the permitted noise levels from any source and there are no standards for noise levels in residential areas . Actually there is no official restrictions .

4 . Resource Use Efficiency

The efficiency with which resources are used for environmental and non- economic activities , is a critical factor in determining the overall impact of the activities . Key activities include :

- Urban Development , including development and use of private and commercial property ;
- industry , including mining and processing industry ;
- Transportation: roads , rail and air transport ;
- Agriculture , Forestry and Fishing ;
- Energy , production and distribution of electricity ;
- Tourism .

In addition , it should be noted that the environmental impacts caused by a still greater number of previous activities , in particular the former industrial and mineral extraction .

Urban Development

During the last two decades , there has been a dramatic increase in the number of construction activities . Although it is mainly concentrated in existing urban areas and coastal areas , a large number of houses were built on small plots in scattered areas and coastal plains . This "construction boom " is planned and badly arranged . A large number of constructions are carried out informally and without permission . In terms of the development of such practices , practices for the provision of municipal infrastructure for environmental protection , especially for

drinking water supply , wastewater collection and processing of waste and collection - solid waste disposal are extremely difficult and much more costly than would have been if instead of this chaotic development of distributed and we had a placement in residential areas organized , systematized according the standard parameters .

The current urban development causes great damage through impact :

- Air quality - from construction dust , emissions from generators and / or space heating equipment ;
- Water resources - water extraction is not done properly and does not follow any rule , the leakage rate is estimated to reach up to 75 % in many distribution systems .
- Water quality - there is an insufficient infrastructure of sewage collection , sewage canals flowing and more outlets are connected to the surface water drainage , there is also a general lack of wastewater treatment remaining , albeit with the help of foreign assistance have been established for this purpose plants - lack of adequate collection and treatment of wastewater does not comply with legal requirements such as national and European .
- Landscape - abnormal development has led to the creation of scattered settlements , which brings a very distinct erosion between urban and rural areas and the devaluation of landscape values .

The environmental impact of urban development in current conditions is relatively high compared with the standard of living .

Conclusions

Over the past few years has been significant progress in the field of environmental management . In particular it should be noted that it created a number of environmental laws , institutions are created and now make some investments in municipal environmental infrastructure . However , there remain a number of obstacles to achieving a sustainable development and the achievement levels of environmental protection , which can be regarded as particularly appropriate for a country that wants to join the EU , and in particular :

- The level of public expenditure for operational costs of environmental protection is too low to ensure effective communication, leadership , awareness and / or enforcement of the law ;
- The level of public spending on infrastructure, environmental protection is too low to achieve European standards in the foreseeable future ;
- economic activities , particularly transport , are relatively inefficient and cause a high level of environmental impact per unit of activity .

As a result of these problems the environmental situation is not , in many cases , in accordance with the requirements of national or European legislation and is in danger of deteriorating further , harming human health , affecting the development potential of reducing the potential for

activities economic benefit , such as a high value tourism .

Conclusions : Vision and Priorities

" The rapid development and sustainable is the fundamental objective .

It is of particular importance and international be supported and strengthened to achieve entry into the European Union , the country needs over the next decade to achieve compliance with European Community legislation in the field of environment . In some cases , especially in elements of Community legislation as a condition that " heavy investment " full compliance will not be completed until some time after entry , as in the case of many of the new member states . However , even in these areas have made considerable progress . The environment is one of the largest components of European Community legislation and confirmed that it is one of the most difficult areas to achieve compliance .

Government Programme for the period 2005 - 2009 sets out priorities in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources . In summary these are :

- 1 . Disciplines strengthening of environmental law , especially for activities that cause pollution of air and / or water , affecting tourism potentials , damage forests and cause soil erosion ;
- 2 . Significant reduction in the level of air pollution in urban areas ;
- 3 . Eliminating examples / most serious sources of surface water pollution ;
- 4 . Rehabilitation of the " Hot Spots " environmental industries caused by old and abandoned ;
- 5 . Preventing soil erosion and rehabilitation of dams , forests and pastures ;
- 6 . Improvements in waste management to reduce waste of resources and minimize pollution ;
- 7 . Besides the strengthening of discipline , for environmentally friendly behavior , will be put to use in service incentives pollution reduction caused by economic activities and individuals , investment in " clean technology " energy saving , efficient use of natural resources and investment in the environment ;
- 8 . The imposition of a special Fund for the Environment , which will be used to finance projects for environmental protection and technological improvements that improve the environmental situation ;
- 9 . Improving the definition of property rights and ensure its implementation , including the transfer of property and the right to use certain community environmental resources , such as forests , pastures , waters and / or lands ;
- 10 . Prevention of uncontrolled exploitation and unsustainable wild fauna , through capacity building and growth monitoring and protection of the punitive austerity measures for offenders ;
- 11 . Doubling the surface area protected by law , and entitlements not only protect them , but also a further development , finding appropriate ways and instruments of economic and environmental ;
- 12 . Rational and efficient use of mineral resources through market liberalization and concessions to domestic and foreign investors . These concessions will include the same

conditions that guarantee the protection and recovery of the environment ;

13 . Increase public awareness about the real state of the environment , encouraging public participation by civil society and independent organizations ;

14 . Improved administrative procedures and judicial appeal , improve and thereby increase the possibility of pro - environmental and ordinary citizens seeking protection of the environment and environmental issues in court .

Problems and Policies

Forcing Compliance / Enforcement of Environmental Legislation

The imposition of increased enforcement and punitive measures against violators of environmental legislation , is definitely needed . Forcing the implementation of legislation is currently weak . An imposing greater will require additional resources to be provided to the Regional Environmental Agencies . Strengthening Regional Environmental Agencies will also help them to operate and function as a connector tool for communication between central / national and local government , which will be increasingly important , while continuing the process of decentralization . Moreover , you will be able to act as an advisory capacity to assist local authorities in meeting their obligations and environmental sector can play a more active role in the further awareness of their region 's population .

It also required the imposition or enforcement of strict liability law against illegal economic activities . However , successful enforcement will require improvements in the system of permits , which

the main mechanism of control . While improvements in permitting and enforcement will create environmental benefits , such improvements must be realistic and achievable in line with the notion of " best technology available " where industries and other entities can plan investment their new technology and environmental protection measures . It is not appropriate to economic activities required to compensate for the absence of utility infrastructure such as sewage channels .

Capital Investment in Environmental Protection

Basic needs for capital investment in municipal infrastructure is examined above . Current levels of investment are not sufficient to meet these needs in a short term period . It is therefore crucial that the current investment program to strengthen and as soon as possible, to develop a program of prioritized sustainable and long-term investments , taking into account the standards of the European Community during the next 20 years .

Such a public investment program should address :

- Drinking water supply - reliable , sufficient and suitable quality ;
- Wastewater collection - sanitation in all towns with a population greater than 2,000 inhabitants;

Wastewater treatment - secondary treatment of wastewater collected for all cities ;

- Solid Waste - collection, recycling and disposal (landfill and incineration) .
- Contaminated areas - improvement / rehabilitation of the "hot spots "
- Technological improvement of state industries

The cost of such a program would be significant - that exceeds the cost of investment of 1 billion Euros only for domestic waste water and solid waste . Most of these costs should be made by the public sector . Although commercialization of wastewater collection services and the use of water supply is achieved in some areas , it is unlikely that the privatization of infrastructure , given the attraction of private sector investment will be successful . Actual fees paid for such services are relatively low and can not provide enough income to make successful investments for a commercial operator . Consequently , many of these investments will be made through the public sector . Current public expenditure on elements of the program are insufficient to achieve such a thing 20 -year period cited. Investment will also be required from the Private Sector . Achieving the standards of private industry should be subject to conditions / legal obligations , but they can also be supported by the use of fiscal incentives or other economic instruments . Costs of citizens / families will also be required , including the renewal of the fleet of vehicles to which we referred above and the measures for efficient use of energy , such as improved insulation of buildings, or the purchase of new equipment more efficiently higher. In determining the necessary investments should also take into account the operating costs associated with the investment . For example , the implementation of a technology extensive wastewater treatment may require more land for its implementation , but operating costs are much lower , allowing for more appropriate fee to cover costs , which disadvantage is neither the consumer nor the service provider .

Environment Fund

The program is committed to create a capable Environmental Fund to cover the financing of environmental investment projects , which are the power of the few ministries , including items such as solid waste management , collection and treatment of wastewater and energy efficiency and , except for those items specifically in support of the program of Environmental Protection , under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment , Forestry and Water Management . Environment Fund was created in a number of countries such as Bosnia and the Czech Republic . In both cases the fund is created as a financial entity " that operates on its own " as defined by law , which is administered by an executive board consisting of ministers and other senior officials . Such a model will be followed here . Administrative and financial resources volume of work will require significant budgetary amendments and a division of responsibilities between several Ministries .

The Fund will be responsible for processing applications and projects attracting external support for such projects . Projects will be prioritized using criteria explicit and transparent way to select the most profitable initiatives by both economic and environmental one . Given the transfer of responsibilities to local and regional authorities , many of these projects will be proposed by local authorities . In order to identify appropriate investments and management measures should be introduced to planning systems :

- Urban Air Quality
- Solid Waste Management Units
 - Planning of water industry

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