

For office use
Application Number: _____
Date : _____

Application Form Civil Society Fund FY08

Tirana Office, WORLD BANK

Executive Summary

During the last years the fire phenomenon in forests and pastures is widely spread causing considerable damage to the environment (especially important parts of the forest ecosystems) and to the country economy. According to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration during summer of 2007 there have been 980 fire occurrences in forests and 56 fire occurrences in pastures. As a result 1100 ha of forests and 3050 ha of bushes have been burnt. To extinguish the fires there were engaged 850 persons from the forest service personnel, 1,300 military forces and 500 police forces. The literature available shows that 90% of fires is caused by the lack of care, negligence and unknown causes where the human factor is the main responsible.

ECAT Tirana (Centre for Environmental Administration and Technology) in collaboration with SNV are actually implementing the project “Analytical Inventory of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania” financed by SNV. The objective of the project is to present a historical and 2007 overview of the Albanian fire situation, statistics and dynamics that affect communal and state forest in all its aspects: occurrence, distribution, extend (area and time), typology, time, cause, damages, property, management type, prevention and control measures.

Further more, the project will identify shortcomings in the institutional and legal framework paying special attention to the local forest users and their organizational structures. The project will analyze various factors that influence the level of risks and exposures for forest fires related to different communes, districts, regions, typology, presence of FUA’s, property transfer, village awareness trainings, implementation of NRDP, etc.

The purpose of the project “The Awareness Campaign for Forest Fire and Pasture Situation” is to develop supplementary activities of the project “Analytical Inventory of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania,” to raise community awareness and participation in the fire management activities and to extend the database so that the recommendations and conclusions coming out from these data can be comparable and implemented for all the territory.

The project will focus in rural communities and local governmental units, which have had the greatest number of fire occurrences during 2007 and will include forest service specialists of the respective regions.

To have a clear national overview of the situation of fire occurrence risks and the factors which cause them, an observation is necessary, which will be developed in some problematic districts of Albania like: Vlora, Saranda, Delvina (as far as fire occurrence history is concerned) which are not covered by the project “Analytical Inventory of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania” financed by SNV. This observation aims to test the public awareness and participation level in management and fire prevention activities and also to

identify the causes of forest fires and to evaluate the relationship between fire occurrence and frequency and the factors under study.

To realize this observation a questionnaire is compiled which aims in gathering data about the location, distribution and causes of fires, type of burnt vegetation, and above all the impact of human factor in fire occurrence, their control and management.

The results, recommendations and conclusions of the observations will be available to all DFS-ve, communes and associations to help them compile effective action plans for preventing forest fire occurrences.

The final step of “The Awareness Campaign for Fire Situation in Forests and Pastures” Project is the organization of a workshop in one of the most problematic districts in fire occurrence with the participation of the representatives of Forest Service Directorates of the District, communes, associations of forest and communal pastures users. The associations and the location of the workshop will be chosen based on the observation results where the districts will have priority and where the human factor is the main responsible of fire occurrence. This workshop aims to get together all the interested parties:

- to introduce the situation of fire occurrence in Albania during 2007
- to discuss about the main problems noted in the observation and aslo

to collect opinions from the communities about the main causes of fire occurrence and the necessary recommendations to improve the situation of fire occurrence in Albania

1. Date: 14 Mars, 2008
2. Name of organization: ECAT Tirane
3. Contact person and title: Valbona Simixhiu, GIS expert
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Email: ecat@ecat-tirana.org Website (if available): www.ecat-irana.org
7. Mission statement of the applicant organization:
Mission of ECAT Tirana: ECAT is engaged to improve the protection of environment through:
 - Collaboration with local and international institutions which deal with concrete environmental problems of the country,
 - Raising public awareness and attitude towards environment,
 - An enthusiastic and multi-disciplinary staff
8. Title of the project:

“The Awareness Campaign for Fire Situation in Forests and Pastures”

9. Purpose of funding request and how this activity relates to **youth civic engagement** or **environment protection**:

The purpose of funding request and the way this activity is related to the **youth civic engagement** or **environment protection**: The funding request from the WB is related to the fact that the above-mentioned project “The Awareness Campaign for Fire Situation in Forests and Pastures” aims to develop supplementary activities with the project financed by SNV: “Analytical Inventory of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania” to raise public awareness and community engagement in the activities of prevention and management of fires, to protect forest ecosystem and pastures from fires.

10. Target population and number benefiting from the proposed activities:

The main beneficiaries of this project include: the residents of the communes, representatives of the communes, specialists of local forest service directorates and also members of local forest users and their organizational structures.

11. Expected outcomes of the activity:

- Raise of public awareness in prevention and management of forest fires and pastures;
- Identification of the causes of fire occurrence and evaluation of the relationship between fire occurrence and their frequency and also other factors under study;
- Extension of the database at a national level based in the observation of the chosen problematic districts in relation to fire occurrence during 2007.

12. Plans for learning and knowledge sharing:

The results, recommendations and conclusions of the observation will be available in the form of a report to all the other communes not included in the project, to DFS-s and local user associations of forests and pastures to help them take effective measures to prevent fires in forests and pastures.

13. Period this funding request will cover: **July 2008-January 2009**

14. Amount of request (Details under Activity Income): **4,460 \$**

15. If your organization has received previous support from the World Bank, please list the year, amount, and describe for what purpose:

16. Authorizing signature of the applicant organization’s executive director or board chair:

Signature: Marieta Mima
Director of ECAT Tirana
Name (print):

Title:

Purpose of the Grant

17. Describe briefly the need or issue you will address. Include a description of the constituency served (including number participating) and how they will participate/benefit?

Fire happened in the most important forest areas in the period between July-September 2007. This resulted in destruction of important forest ecosystems. To develop a database and to identify the causes of fire occurrence, forest typology, prevention and control measures, and also *to identify the shortcomings in the legal and institutional framework paying attention to the local users and their organizational structures* etj, ECAT Tirana in collaboration with SNV is managing a Project for “The Analytical *Inventory* of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania,” financed by SNV. As a supplementary part of this project, it is proposed to develop supplementary activities to undertake an Awareness Campaign for the Fire Situation in Forests and Pastures, which aims to raise local communities awareness and participation in the prevention and control of fires in forests and also to develop and extend the database at a national level including some districts which are not included in the above-mentioned project financed by SNV. The supplementary activities will focus in the participation of rural communities and local governmental units, including forest service specialists and extending the observation in 2 or 3 districts which have had the greatest number of fire occurrences during 2007. This observation aims to measure the awareness and participatory level of the local communities in the prevention and control of fires and also the impacts of this participation in forest management growth.

18. How will the proposed activity promote youth civic engagement or environment protection?

The proposed activities will influence raising public awareness and engagement of all interested actors including even young people about the causes and environmental impacts of forest fire occurrence. This will reduce the fire occurrences in the areas where these activities will be developed.

19. List the activity goal(s) and measurable objective(s).

The purpose of the activities developed under the Awareness Campaign for Fire Situation in Forests and Pastures are:

- Raising awareness and participation of local communities in the activities of fire prevention and control;
- Extending the database at a national level so that the recommendations and conclusions coming from this database can be comparable and implemented in all the territory of Albania.

The indicators which will measure the realization of these purposes will be the opinions of the participants who have filled in and analysed the questionnaires, and during the workshop organized in one of the chosen districts.

20. Is the activity new or ongoing on the part of the applicant organization? If the activity is ongoing, how will your organization support this activity in the future?

As mentioned above the proposed activities are supplementary to the project financed by SNV “Analytical Inventory of Forest Fires and the Relationship with Communal Forestry in Albania”. In the future ECAT Tirana will support the included communes in the project with technical assistance, making recommendations, and finding specific solutions for various environmental issues and forest management, through application of the most recent methods.

21. Provide a brief timetable for implementation of activity.
22. What other organizations, if any, will be participating in the activity? Describe their roles.

The organizations participating in the project:
ECAT Tirana. Its role consists in managing and organizing project activities
Local SNV-s which will coordinate the activities in the communes of the districts where they are located
Forest user Associations
Communes and Forest Service Directorates of the Respective Districts
The latter will be included in the observation phase (through filling in the questionnaires) and also their inclusion in key discussions on management of forest and pastures.

23. List the names and qualifications of key staff/volunteers responsible for activity implementation.

For the realization of the proposed activities, ECAT Tirana will engage the following experts and supporting staff:

1. Prof. As. Thimaq LAKO, Forest Expert on development of Communal and Private Forests;
2. Mrs. Valbona SIMIXHIU, Forest and GIS Expert, (experienced in interpretation of satellite images or aerial photographs)
3. MSc. Genci ÇOMO, Environmental Expert,
4. MSc. Brunilda JEGENI, Environmental Expert

See attached respective CV-s of the above-mentioned persons.

Evaluation

23. Please list the specific outcomes of your activity. What assessment methods/strategies will you use to track and measure outcomes? (e.g. interviews, surveys, focus groups, community feedback, etc.)

Specific results:

- Raising community awareness level in preventing and managing forest fires and pastures;
- Identification of the causes of fire occurrence and evaluation of the relationship between fire occurrence and frequency and the factors under study;
- Extension of the database at a national level based in the observation of the problematic districts of fire occurrence during 2007;
- Compiling a report with the recommendations and conclusions of the observation in three districts in Albania.

To obtain the above-mentioned results, ECAT Tirana will extend the observation in 3 districts of Albania, through the questionnaires distributed to the focus groups te like: local communities, associations of forest and pasture users and also specialists of local DFS-s.

24. Describe briefly what will be different at the end of the grant period.

By the end of the project a report will be delivered to the local DFS-s, communes and associations of forest and pasture users in the chosen regions. This report will include all the recommendations and conclusions of the observation analysis and the workshop which will help taking effective measures sa me efektive in preventing forest fires.

24. How will the activity's results be used and/or disseminated?

The results of the project activities will be delivered to other communes and forest service directorates of the respective districts

Budget for the Proposed Activity

Please (1) provide the necessary information for each budget item, and (2) indicate the funding source(s) that will cover the expense. Use as much space as necessary. All items must be related to the activity.

24. Contribution from Applicant

a. in In kind:

GIS software and hardware

1500 \$ USD

b. Cash

500 \$ USD

Total: 2 000 \$ USD

25. Funding leveraged by applicant from other donors:

a.) SNV

7 900 \$ USD

Total: 7 900 \$USD

26. Total requested from the World Bank:

Total: 4,460 \$USD

27. Total activity income from all sources:

14,360 \$USD