



# in ALBANIA



Through technical cooperation and ODA Loan projects, JICA has been supporting Albania in the fields of environmental protection and urban planning.

## Project for Capacity Building for Improving Ecosystem-Based Management on Divjakë-Karavasta National Park (DKNP)

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**

Project Period: **May 2021 – May 2024**

Counterpart Organization: **National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA)**

Divjakë-Karavasta National Park (DKNP), Ramsar site lagoon, with Dalmatian Pelican and the Mediterranean pine, is popular tourist attraction in Albania. It is also a residential area with lively agriculture, livestock breeding, fisheries, traditional handicrafts, and tourism services. Therefore, it has been recognized as necessary to take appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of tourism and agricultural activities on the ecosystem of the park.

The cooperation started in April 2012, whereas the system for conservation and sustainable use of the Divjakë-Karavasta National Park based on a management plan has been established and active participation of local governments and stakeholders has been secured in a two-year Project. Through the second phase (2021-2024) a promotion of the ecosystem-based management approach has been introduced in DKNP. By strengthening the function of the National Park Management Committee to establish a model for harmonizing conservation with sustainable use of protected areas in the DKNP, various activities of the action plans were implemented with the stakeholders. This model is expected to be shared with other protected areas in Albania for strengthening management capacity in the entire country.



Dalmatian Pelican at Divjakë-Karavasta National Park

## SMALLHOLDER FAMILIES' FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROJECT IN ALBANIA

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**

Project Period: **November 2017 – May 2022**

The objective of the Project is to improve financial access and provide non-financial services among small-scale farmers through FEDinvest and it was successfully implemented through a fruitful cooperation between JICA, the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Savings and Credit Association FEDinvest. As an achievement of the Project, a functional digital platform, ABA Center, was created and provides online access to information, education, consulting services, marketplace, and financial services. It supports the expansion of agricultural production and agritourism businesses, as part of the value chain. Nowadays, ABA Centre counts more than 20,000 registered users, has accomplished more than 60 practical demonstrations, offered more than 30 online trainings sessions, and has published around 50 new agriculture and livestock articles. By utilizing such a strong basis of achievements, and to further enhance the support towards those in need, JICA, Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation (MEKI) and FEDinvest are working together for commencing a new Technical Cooperation, named "Project for Promotion of Gender-responsive Financial Inclusion and Business Development through Digital Use".



Project beneficiaries in Elbasan

## PROJECT ON GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT IN TIRANA-DURRËS AREA

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**

Project Period: **June 2017 – October 2020**

Counterpart Organization:

**State Authority of Geospatial Information (ASIG)**

As a result of this JICA's Technical Cooperation, the 1: 2,000 digital topographic maps covering 300 km<sup>2</sup> were created by a successful collaboration between the State Geospatial Information Authority (ASIG), and the JICA Project Team involving local companies. As a result of the Project implementation, ASIG has created new capacities as well as obtained up-to-date technology and expertise for the creation of digital topographic maps with high resolution, which are of primary importance in the socio-economic development of the country. During the implementation of the Project, 10 ASIG experts were trained in Japan, related to advanced technologies for data capture, utilization of geospatial information etc. At the same time, technological equipment and software were donated to ASIG, to facilitate the creation of digital maps. In addition, during the Project implementation as well as upon Project completion, some of ASIG staff had chance to participate in JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program on Planning and Management of National Mapping and Surveying.



Students at Polytechnic University of Tirana learn how to produce digital topographic mapping.

## Project on Capacity Building for National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction (NbS-DRR)

Scheme: **Technical Cooperation**

Project Period: **June 2024 – June 2029**

Counterpart Organization: **National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)**

This 5-year Project will support Albania in creating an integrated emergency management system in the country and develop the capacities of government agencies for early warning for forest fires and other natural disasters. Through this Technical Cooperation Project, Japanese experts will be dispatched to Albania, for assisting NCPA in implementing the National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and adopting Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction (NbS-DRR). Through Project activities, nature-based solutions will be introduced through piloting in Bovilla water catchment area, water storage for the capital Tirana. Aiming at disaster risk reduction, a stabilization of soil runoff and sedimentation in the basin would be targeted. NFFIS is expected to be developed, tested, and operationalized to monitor forest fires. Institutionalization of NFFIS and NbS-DRR and civil protection in Albania is expected to contribute to regional and global frameworks such as Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative, EU Civil Protection Mechanism, and Forest Europe process.



Bovilla water catchment area

## ABOUT JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assists and supports developing countries as the executing agency of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In accordance with its vision of "Leading the world with trust", JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing and transient countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional, country and issue-oriented approach.

JICA is in charge of administering ODA such as technical cooperation, finance and investment cooperation and grants in an integrated manner. JICA, one of the world's largest bilateral aid agencies, operates in approximately 140 countries and regions and has approximately 100 overseas offices.

### Technical Cooperation

For the human resources development and the formulation of administrative systems of developing countries, technical cooperation involves the dispatch of experts, the provision of necessary equipment and the training of personnel from developing countries in Japan and other countries. The cooperation plans can be tailored to address a broad range of issues.



DKNP Final Seminar



Signing R/D for Eco-DRR project



Training in Japan: Capacity Development in Sustainable Tourism based on Japanese tradition "Omotenashi-Hospitality".

### ODA loan

#### ODA Loan

The ODA loans support developing countries by providing low-interest, long-term and concessional funds. The ODA loans are used for large-scale infrastructure and other forms of development that require substantial funds.

#### Private Sector Investment Finance

JICA supports the acceleration of developing countries' economic/social growth through the private sector, through debt and equity investment for the development projects of private companies.



Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project Phase 2 (India)

### Grants

Grants provide funds to low-income developing countries without the obligation of repayment to support the construction of facilities necessary for social and economic development, such as schools, hospitals, water supply systems, and roads, and the procurement of equipment and other supplies.



Pediatric Clinic "Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre" in Tirana

Disaster Relief

Research

Cooperation through Citizen Participation



## ABOUT JICA BALKAN OFFICE

Established in 2006 in Belgrade, Serbia, JICA Balkan Office covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

JICA Balkan Office aids with growth and stability to the countries of the region, working mainly in the areas of environmental conservation, Disaster Risk Reduction, private sector development and consolidation of peace.

\*The Government of Japan recognized Kosovo as an independent country on March 18th, 2008.

Last modified: December 2024

### JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY BALKAN OFFICE

Business Centre USCE, 17th floor  
Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 6, 11070 Beograd, Serbia  
 TEL: +381-(0)-11-4350-400

FAX: +381-(0)-11-4350-417  
 [www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/index.html](http://www.jica.go.jp/balkan/english/office/index.html)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/jicabalkanoffice/](https://www.facebook.com/jicabalkanoffice/)

