



TAFF

Technical Assistance Financing Facility
for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

Component 1: Country-Specific technical assistance



Last updated: September 2025



Albania:

Strengthening Albania's Fire Risk Management and Search and Rescue Capacity

Overview

Grant Size	€500,000
Duration	September 2024 – August 2026
Key hazard(s)	Wildfires
Key word(s)	Rescue capacity; Rescue services; Fire protection

Context

Wildfire and general fire risk is a growing concern in Albania with heat stress increasing due to climate change.

Albania is at high and continuous risk of forest fires, especially in the dry summer season June-September. According to World Bank estimates, 23 per cent of crop area in the country is already under medium to high wildfire risk with 10 municipalities having the highest level of exposure. In 2021 alone, 329 wildfires were recorded, burning a total of 31,275 ha of land. Data from [Global Forest Watch](#) shows that fires in Albania are the second leading cause of forest area loss in the country. From 2001 to 2023, the country lost 19.8 kha of tree cover from fires and 26.7 kha from all other drivers of loss. In Albania firefighting and rescue services are the responsibility of municipalities, which carry the mandate of first responders on all incidents posing a danger to the population or environment. While equipment at local levels has been upgraded over the past years, municipalities still lack the capacity and institutional structures to effectively fulfil their mandate to prevent and mitigate incidents. This leads to the need for intervention by the National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) for even small and medium incidents. To address Albania's limited capabilities in extinguishing fires, the country's fire response capacity, infrastructure (e.g., fire stations), technology, and equipment for tracking and extinguishing fires require urgent strengthening.

Objective

The objective of the grant is to support the government of Albania in strengthening its fire risk management and search and rescue capacity, thereby improving its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to general fires, wildfires, and emergencies. The results of this technical assistance will inform a proposed investment project in Albania on fire risk management.

Key Activities and Expected Results

Institutional and capacity review of fire protection and rescue services (FP&RS)

This activity reviews the existing FP&RS capacity in Albania against international best practices to identify potential capacity strengthening, policy, and investment needs to improve the delivery of firefighting services in the country.

Road map for strengthening fire protection and rescue services

A road map is developed based on Albanian demography, the geographic distribution of damage and loss risks due to fires, and a consultation process with municipalities. The road map prioritises resources and interventions at the local level regarding infrastructure and equipment, and it supports the identification of needs for training in firefighting and search and rescue.

Strengthening wildfire risk management

This activity aims to strengthen wildfire fire risk management in Albania with activities covering forest fire risk assessment and mapping, analysis of current mechanisms to fight wildfires, a review of institutional coordination and community engagement mechanisms, and recommendations for increasing Albania's capacity to combat wildfires.

Sustainability and Coordination

This project is part of a broader collaboration between the World Bank, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), and the government of Albania to strengthen the country's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The objective of the grant is to support the government in strengthening its fire risk management capacity. The grant serves as a basis for the identification, prioritisation, and preparation of activities under a proposed World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) on fire risk management with the Ministry of Interior. Overall, the activities benefit from the knowledge being generated through collaborations between government actors, the World Bank, and the UCPM.

Contacts

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