

COVER PAGE OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT

NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: ALBANIA

REPORTING PERIOD: 01 January 2003 to 31 December 2003
 (dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

<p>Form A: National implementation measures:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2002)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form F: Program of APM destruction:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2002)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form G: APM destroyed:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form C: Location of mined areas:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form H: Technical characteristics:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2002)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form D: APMs retained or transferred:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2002)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form I: Warning measures:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form E: Status of conversion programs:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2002)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2002)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form J: Other Relevant Matters</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: yyyy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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Notes on using the cover page:

1. The cover page can be used as a **complement** to submitting detailed forms adopted at the First and Second Meetings of the States Parties in instances when the information to be provided in some of the forms in an annual report is the same as it would be in past reports. That is, when using the cover page, only forms within which there is new information needs to be submitted.
2. The cover page can be used as a **substitute** for submitting detailed forms adopted at the First and Second Meetings of the States Parties only if all of the information to be provided in an annual report is the same as in past reports.
3. If an indication is made on the cover sheet that the information to be provided with respect to a particular form is **unchanged** in relationship to a previous year's form, the **date of submission** of the previous form should be clearly indicated.

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA



ARTICLE 7 REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2003

To the Secretary General of the United Nations

**On the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction**

Ministry of Defense

30 April 2004

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION
AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

REPORTING FORMAT FOR ARTICLE 7

STATE PARTY:

ALBANIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION

30 APRIL 2004

POINT OF CONTACT

ALBANIA MINE ACTION EXECUTIVE (AMAE)

Tel/Fax. 003554373780; email: amaealbania@amae.org.al

Form C Location of mined areas

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003

1. Areas that contain mines*

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
See Annex A.	Various types including: PMA-1, PMA-1A, PMA-2, VPMA-2, PMA-3, PMR-2A, MRUD.	Not known, no records of minefields are available to Albania.	During the Kosovo crisis of 1999.	All mines were laid by FYR forces, see Annex A.

2. Areas suspected to contain mines

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Not Applicable				The are no other identified mined areas

2. Status of programs for destruction of APM's in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including, Location of destruction sites	Details of:
See Annex B (Form F)	Methods: Open Detonation
	Applicable safety standards: Albanian Mine Action Executive Technical and Safety Standards (AMAE TSS's) /IMAS
	Applicable environmental standards: AMAE TSS's/IMAS

Form G APM's destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]: ALBANIA reporting for time period from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003

1. Destruction of stockpiled APM's (Article 4)

Type	Original	Destroyed	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
Mine AP Wood	234,980	243,979		The additional 76,440 APM were discovered through a self-generated internal verification programme of the Albanian Armed Forces. 8,100 AP mines were destroyed on Sazan Island because there were no means available to transport them to the mainland.
Mine AP Bakelite	310,290	176,447		
Mine AP Fragmentation	930,050	989,825		
Mine AP Fiber	132,100	265,509		
Mines Destroyed on Sazan Island		8,100		
TOTAL	1,607,420	1,683,860		

2. Destruction of APM's in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Qty / 2000	Qty / 2001	Qty / 2002	Qty/ 2003	Supplementary information
PMA3 , VPMA -3	182	828	217	36	
PMA-1, PMA-1A, VPMA-1A	141	450	1619	1283	
PMR-2A	219	276	228	211	
PMA-2, VPMA-2	172	462	127	91	
PMR-3,VPMR-3		-	2	251	
MRUD	4		2	1	
Unknown AP Mines			2		
TOTAL	718	2016	2197	1873	

Vision - To prevent all mine and UXO incidents in NE Albania.

Strategic objective - AMAE/AMAC is to direct and coordinate the implementation of the MRE Strategy in NE Albania forthwith as an integral part of the AMAP in order to effectively reach all targeted groups by 2005.

Target groups were readjusted and it was decided to concentrate on the following in 2004:

- Focus on economically active group 15-30 and remote villages.
- Do further assessment of gender issues relating to women as a potential target group.
- Implement an effective way to permanently mark mined and battle areas.
- Raise awareness of mine action problem nationally and internationally.
- Implement an integrated structure to involve all of the implementing partners including AMAE, UNICEF, ICRC, Albanian Red Cross, the Victims of Mines and Weapons Association, (LNGO), demining organizations and the village Anti-mining Committees.
- Implement a more durable and permanent minefield marking system.

A local NGO, Victims of Mines and Weapons Association (VMA), and ICRC/ARC have been widely involved in Mine Risk Education.

Promotion materials have been distributed by Albanian Red Cross in the affected areas such: leaflets, posters, table games “Be aware of mines” notebooks for pupils, pocket- books for adults with messages on the mines risks, calendars etc. The mine awareness coordinators and instructors have established permanent relations with the Demining Organizations.

VMA also implemented a project funded by ITF and UNICEF to provide MRE in the contaminated villages of Northeastern Albania.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims.

State [Party]: **ALBANIA**

reporting for time period from **1 January 2003** to **31 December 2003**

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Since the end of the Kosovo conflict in 1999, 202 accidents have occurred as a result of mines and UXO in North East Albania, which have killed 27 people and injured 216 within Albanian territory. Approximately one third were of the economically active group between 15-30 and half of the victims were farming, grazing cattle or going to school.

In 2003, 3 prostheses technicians, 1 physiotherapist and 3 surgeons were trained with ITF support and the US State Department donated \$100,000 worth of surgical equipment to the Kukes Hospital. 14 victims were treated and prostheses fitted in Albania with ICRC assistance and 20 victims received advanced treatment and fitment of prostheses at the Slovenian Rehabilitation Institute with US State Department funding through the ITF. A revolving fund was set up with US State Department funding. This fund will be utilized for the economic rehabilitation of victims through viable household economies.

A fund raising activity initiated by the US Embassy in Tirana, "Night of a Thousand Dinners" was organized in December 2003. A total fund of \$23,000 was collected and will be utilized for mini-projects to the benefit of children mine victims.

A broad integrated victim assistance strategy was adopted in Albania during 2003. The strategic framework is as follows:

Strategic objective - To build a sustainable Albanian mine action capability by 2005.

Objectives:

- Fitment of prostheses to priority lower limb amputees in Albania.
- Fitment of prostheses to upper limb amputees abroad (Slovenia).
- Rehabilitation of sight impaired victims abroad.
- Building the capacity of Albanian institutions to fit all types of prostheses and orthoses in Albania by 2005.
- Building a victim rehabilitation capacity in Albania by 2005.

- Building a capacity in NE Albania to surgically treat trauma and amputee victims and serve as a level three medical facility for victims of demining accidents.
- Economic reintegration of mine victims through a micro-financing scheme.
- Social and educational reintegration of child victims.

The victim assistance planning from 2004 is to establish an Albanian capacity by 2005.

Table 1 - Locations and sizes of contaminated areas in Albania

District	Commune	Location	Type	IMSMA ID	Area size (sqm)	Priority	Task
TROPOJE	Bytyc	Zherka	Mine	MA-9-1	10,000	1	TS
		Zherka	Mine	MA-9-2	9,000	1	TS
		Zherka	Mine	MA-9-3	14,000	2	TS
		Zherka	Mine	MA-9-4	5,000	1	TS
		Zherka	Mine	MA-9-5	30,000	2	TS
		Zherka	Mine	MA-9-6	14,000	1	TS
		Zherke	Mine	CR-1536	12,000	1	CL
		Zherke	Mine	CR-1544	8,000	1	CL
		Zherke	Mine	CR-1546	37,620	1	CL
		Prush	Mine	MA-12-5	9,000	1	TS
		Prush	Mine	MA-12-7	7,000	2	TS
		Prush	Mine	MA-12-8	12,600	2	TS
		Prush	Mine	MA-12-9	21,000	2	TS
		Prush	Mine	MA-26-1	2,500	2	TS
	Tropoje	Cerem	Mine	DA-4235	210,002	1	IS
		Cerem	Mine	DA-4236	354,341	1	IS
		Cerem	Mine	DA-4237	192,527	1	IS
		Bradoshnice(Papaj)	Mine	MA-41-1	40,000	3	TS
		Bradoshnice(Papaj)	Mine	MA-41-2	40,000	3	TS
		Bradoshnice(Papaj)	Mine	MA-41-3	22,500	4	TS
		Bradoshnice(Papaj)	Mine	MA-41-4	40,000	4	TS
		Bradoshnice(Papaj)	Mine	MA-41-5	150,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	Mine	MA-39-1	30,000	3	TS
TROPOJE	Tropoje	Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-29-1	30,000	3	TS

District	Commune	Location	Type	IMSMA ID	Area size (sqm)	Priority	Task
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-29-2	30,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-30-1	40,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-30-2	40,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-30-3	30,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-30-4	20,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-6	7,500	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-1	50,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-2	50,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-3	50,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-4	60,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-5	60,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-31-7	105,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-32-1	140,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-32-2	120,000	2	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-32-3	150,000	3	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-32-4	60,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	UXO	MA-32-5	60,000	4	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-28-1	30,000	2	TS
		Gegaj	Mine/UXO	MA-28-2	30,000	2	TS
		Kasaj	UXO	MA-44-2	30,000	1	TS
		Kasaj	UXO	MA-44-4	40,000	1	TS
		Kasaj	UXO	MA-44-5	30,000	2	TS
		Kasaj	UXO	MA-44-6	40,000	2	TS
		Kasaj	Mine	MA-13-1	20,000	1	TS
		Kasaj	Mine	CR-1500a	15,000	1	CL
TROPOJE	Tropoje	Kasaj	Mine	CR-1500b	35,000	1	CL

District	Commune	Location	Type	IMSMA ID	Area size (sqm)	Priority	Task
		Kasaj	UXO	CR-1537	25,534	1	CL
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-1	3,600	2	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-2	8,000	2	TS
		Vicidol	Mine/UXO	MA-10-3	14,000	1	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-4	10,000	1	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-6	50,000	1	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-7	30,000	2	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	MA-10-8	28,000	2	TS
		Vicidol	Mine	CR-1547	30,550	1	CL
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-1	30,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-10	50,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-12	90,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-13	40,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-14	40,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-15	15,000	1	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-3	20,000	1	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-4	15,000	1	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-5	30,000	3	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-6	15,000	2	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-7	37,500	3	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-8	40,000	3	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-42-9	60,000	3	TS
		Papaj	Mine	MA-43-1	90,000	4	TS
		Papaj	Mine	CR-1545	39,480	1	CL
	Total Tropoje				3,455,254		

District	Commune	Location	Type	IMSMA ID	Area size (sqm)	Priority	Task
Has	Gjinaj	Pogaj	Mine	MA-18-1	30,000	3	
	Golaj	Dobruna	Mine	CR-1535	40,455	1	TS
		Golaj	UXO	MA-52-1	36,250	2	TS
		Golaj	Mine/UXO	MA-53-1	83,200	1	TS
		Golaj	UXO	CR-1524	21,733	1	CL
		Letaj	UXO	MA-45-1	49,900	2	TS
		Letaj	Mine	MA-14-1	5,000	2	TS
		Letaj	Mine	MA-14-2	14,000	3	TS
		Letaj	Mine	MA-14-3	10,000	3	TS
		Letaj	Mine	MA-14-4	5,000	3	TS
		Letaj	Mine	MA-14-5	10,000	3	TS
		Vlahen	Mine	MA-35-1	30,000	1	TS
		Vlahen	Mine	MA-37-1	50,000	1	TS
	Krume	Zaharisht	UXO	CR-1525	11,572	1	CL
		Cahan	UXO	DA-4278	359,898	2	TS
	Total Has				757,008		

District	Commune	Location	Type	IMSMA ID	Area size (sqm)	Priority	Task
KUKES	Shishtavec	Borje	Mine	MA-23-1	25,000	1	TS
		Shishtavec	Mine	MA-16-1	3,500	2	TS
		Shishtavec	Mine	MA-16-2	3,000	2	TS
		Shishtavec	Mine	MA-16-3	3,500	2	TS
		Shishtavec	Mine/UXO	MA-55-1	260,000	3	TS
	Terthore	Morine	Mine	MA-34-1	50,000	2	TS
		Morine	Mine	MA-24-1	15,000	2	TS
	Zapod	Orgjost	Mine	MA-19-1	15,000	2	TS
		Pakisht	Mine	MA-21-1a	6,000	1	TS
		Pakisht	Mine	MA-21-1b	6,000	1	TS
	Total Kukes				387,000		
	GRAND TOTAL				4,599,262		

Table 2 - List of 27 still affected villages in North East Albania

Nr	KUKES DISTRICT	HAS DISTRICT	TROPOJE DISTRICT
1	Borje	Zaharisht	Gegaj
2	Shishtavec	Vlahen	Vicidol
3	Morine	Dobrunë	Prush
4	Pakisht	Letaj	Tropoje
5	Orgjost	Cahan	Zherke
6		Golaj	Kasaj
7		(Pogaj)	Cerem
8		Helshan	Papaj
9			Zogaj
10			Stoberde
11			Buqaj
12			Padesh
13			Kepenek
14			Kamenice

Updated maps of Contaminated Areas in Albania

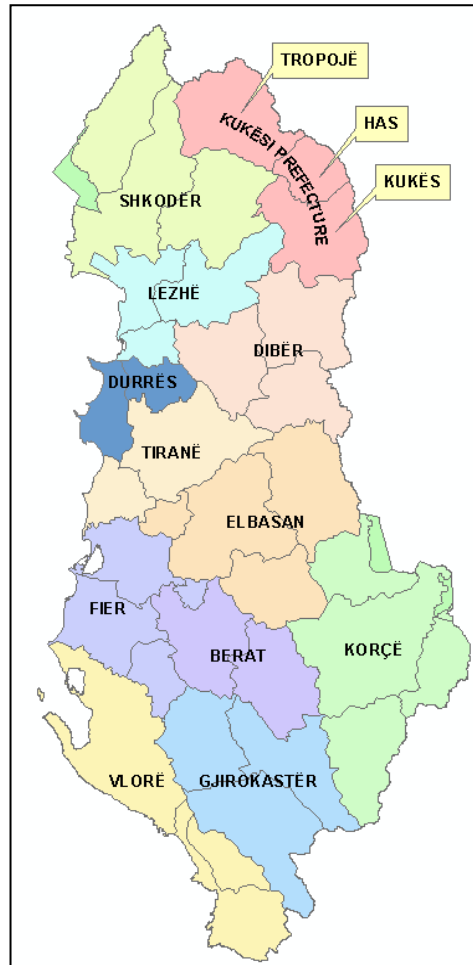


Table 3 - Cleared Areas in North East Albania during 2003

Nr	IMSMA ID	Type of report	MCO	Total size of area released	Type of mine	AP Mines destroyed
1	AL-1511	CR ¹	FSD	20,612	No AP Mines	0
2	AL-1516	CR	FSD	75,000	No AP Mines	0
3	AL-1517	CR	FSD	75,000	No AP Mines	0
4	AL-1518	CR	FSD	70,000	No AP Mines	0
5	AL-1522	CR	FSD	24,450	No AP Mines	0
6	AL-1523	CR	FSD	56,248	PMA-1,PMA-1A,VPMA-1A, PMR-2A	267
7	AL-1524	SR ²	FSD	3,733	No AP Mines	0
8	AL-1525	SR	FSD	15,358	No AP Mines	0
9	AL-1526	CR	FSD	187,436	PMR-2A, PMA-3, VPMA-3, PMA-1 PMA-1A, VPMA-1A	597
10	AL-1528	CR	FSD			
11	AL-1529	CR	FSD			
12	AL-1534	CR	FSD	55,530	PMR-2A, PMA-1, PMA-1A, VPMA-1A PMA-3, VPMA-3	284
13	AL-1535	SR	FSD	9,545	PMA-3, VPMA-3, PMA-1, PMA-1A, VPMA-1A	39
14	AL-1536	SR	FSD	447	PMR-2A	1
15	AL-1537	SR	FSD	74,386	No AP Mines	0
16	AL-1539	CR	FSD	30,930	PMR-2A, MRUD	3
17	AL-1548	CR	FSD			
18	AL-1549	CR	FSD			

¹ Completion Report² Suspension Report

Nr	IMSMA ID	Type of report	MCO	Total size of area released	Type of mine	AP Mines destroyed
1	AL-1512	CR	DCA	1,870	No AP Mines	0
2	AL-1513	CR	DCA	12,285	PMR-2A	14
3	AL-1514	CR	DCA	3,730	PMA-2, VPMA-2	44
4	AL-1515	CR	DCA	30,000	No AP Mines	0
5	AL-1519	CR	DCA	16,400	PMR-2A	36
6	AL-1520	CR	DCA	24,750	No AP Mines	0
7	AL-1521	CR	DCA	20,000	PMR-2A, PMR-3	88
8	AL-1527	CR	DCA	41,760	PMR-2A	50
9	AL-1530	CR	DCA	12,600	No AP Mines	0
10	AL-1531	CR	DCA	4,500	PMA-2, VPMA-2	4
11	AL-1532	CR	DCA	28,611	No AP Mines	0
12	AL-1533	CR	DCA	12,545	PMR-2A	19
13	AL-1538	CR	DCA	11,520	PMR-2A, PMA-2, VPMA-2	20
14	AL-1540	CR	DCA	25,900	No AP Mines	0
15	AL-1541	CR	DCA	72,036	PMR-2A, PMR-3, VPMR-3	197
16	AL-1542	CR	DCA	9,000	PMA-2, VPMA-2	17
17	AL-1543	CR	DCA	48,287	PMR-2A	32
18	AL-1544	SR	DCA	13,666	PMA-1,PMA-1A,VPMA-1A, PMR-2A PMA-2, VPMA-2	122
19	AL-1545	SR	DCA	11,520	PMR-2A, PMA-3, VPMA-3,	37
20	AL-1546	SR	DCA	2,738	No AP Mines	0
21	AL-1547	SR	DCA	6,950	PMR-2A	1
22	AL- 1550	SR	DCA	1,058		1
			Total	1,110,401		1873

THE ALBANIAN MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

THE MINE ACTION PROBLEM

The mines and UXO threat in Northeast Albania emanated from the Kosovo conflict, it includes 120 km border between Albania and Kosovo from Shishtavec to the Montenegro border in the North, up to 20 km inside Albania. After the Albanian Armed Forces' (AAF) Level One Survey in 1999, 102 areas were identified, representing 15,250,000 m². The threat includes AP and AT mines laid by FYR forces, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and sub-munitions from FYR rocket artillery and at least six NATO cluster strikes within Albanian territory. An added complication is that no records of minefields are available to Albania.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

The population of the Kukes prefecture, almost 120,000 of which 75% are rural, are of the poorest in Albania, if not in Europe. Thirty-nine villages are directly affected. The average size of farms is 1 ha and the main activities are grazing, farming, gathering firewood, and other subsistence livelihoods. Poverty and the pressure on land are further exacerbated by 75% mountainous terrain in the North, as well as the mines and UXO contamination. Although most people have been informed and educated about the mines threat, some are still killed and injured because of economic pressure to utilize contaminated land. The mines problem also has a serious impact on infrastructure development and the impact of the contamination on the environment should not be underestimated. Some water sources in NE Albania are still blocked by mined areas and the whole of the Albania/Kosovo border, prime land for eco-tourism development, is a wasteland because of mines and unexploded ordnance contamination.

IMPACT ON BORDER MANAGEMENT

A grave consequence of the mines is the added difficulty of patrolling the Albania/Kosovo border, where trafficking, and other crimes, takes place on a cross-border basis. Since the end of the Kosovo crisis, 13 police officers have already been wounded or killed by mines and UXO in the execution of their duties. Patrolling is almost impossible as it takes 1 to 2 hours to respond to a border incident due to mines and unexploded ordnance contamination. This is a weak point regarding integrated border management in South East Europe.

ALBANIAN RESPONSE AND COMMITMENT

During the emergency of 1997 in Albania, at least 15 Government ordnance depots were destroyed and looted countrywide, leaving tons of dangerous munitions scattered around, threatening the lives of civilians. It is reported that up to 2,000 persons were killed or seriously injured as a result of this emergency. The AAF started clearing up the 15 so-called "Hot Spots" in 1998 and is still in the process of mopping up the last remnants of that.

After the Kosovo crisis in 1999, the Albanian Government responded swiftly in conducting rapid surface clearance, which drastically reduced civilian casualties. This was, however, not done to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and all the areas have to be re-cleared. Shortly after that, the AAF conducted a Level 1 Survey, which indicated virtually the total border area to be contaminated.

Albania ratified both the AP Mine Ban Treaty and the Amended Protocol II to the CCW Convention. Towards the end of 1999 the Albanian Government decided to adopt IMAS and established a structure to implement humanitarian mine action. In order to adequately coordinate mine action, an inter-ministerial body - the Albanian Mine Action Committee (AMAC) - was formed in October 1999. This body is the overall executive and policy - making body for mine action. At the same time, an operational body - the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE) - was established to carry out the mine action programme under direction of the AMAC. Material and in-kind support from the Albanian Government from 1998 until 2003 to the mine action and explosive ordnance disposal programmes will total US\$1,583,600.

APM STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAMME

Albania ratified the Ottawa Treaty on 29 February 2000 and the Stockpile Destruction Project commenced 15 January 2001 with Canadian assistance. Demilitarisation was based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect. The last anti-personnel mine (APM) of 1,683,860, was demilitarised on 4 April 2002, 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty.

POLICY, STRATEGY AND ADVOCACY

A national workshop was held in June 2002, formulating vision, mission, priorities and 3-yr plan. The essential elements of the plan are:

Vision - Albania free from mines and unexploded ordnance by 2010.

Mission - Develop and implement a sustainable mine action programme in order to eliminate the effect of mines and unexploded ordnance in North-east Albania by 2005.

In 2004 the policy level priorities will be to regularize activities of AMAC, formulation and ratification of a comprehensive mine action policy and to pass national legislation in terms of Article 9 of the Ottawa Treaty.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND COORDINATION

A UNDP capacity building programme commenced in April 2002, funded for 21 months by UNDP, ITF and DFID. AMAC is assisted in the formulation of policy, strategy, a national mine action plan and priorities for mine action. Assistance to AMAE entails the establishment of a sustainable structure capable of coordinating all mine action in Albania.

To this effect, the UNDP employed two technical advisors, one Chief Technical Advisor and an in-kind Operations Advisor from the Swiss General Staff. AMAC was assisted with advice on policy, strategy and legal structures and priorities for mine action, to achieve the strategic objective. A fully functional AMAE was established with UNDP, EU and ITF assistance, including an integral quality management (QM) Section with a regional office in NE Albania. A complete set of AMAE Technical & Safety Standards (TSS's), based on IMAS, was introduced.

It is estimated that all land cleared up to the end of 2003 will be certified and properly handed over to communities by April 2004. The QM Team was expanded with another 2 persons to provide for a larger workload as a result of the technical survey project in 2004.

The capacity building priorities for the coming year are to optimize operations/IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) integration and conduct further in-service training of the QM Team on quality assurance and quality control. Management training of AMAE staff is also a high priority, including middle management training of managers, exchange of managers with other MAC's and study tours to neighboring MAC's. Lastly, AMAE will be assisted to effect the completion of the impact and technical surveys of NE Albania, as well as with the monitoring of clearance and training standards.

DEMINING

Before 2002, RONCO, HELP and Swiss Foundation for Demining (FSD) conducted demining in Albania. It is estimated that approximately 2 million m² of mined land was released by these organizations from 2000-2001. Since 2002, Danish Church Aid (DCA-ACT) and FSD are deployed for demining in Albania, mostly with Danish, EC, US, Luxembourg, Swiss, Czech Republic and German funding. With increased coordination and more efficient utilization of demining assets, more than 7,000,000 m² of formerly contaminated land was released through survey and clearance during 2002.

In 2003, the demining assets of FSD and DCA were expanded to 3 survey teams, 8 manual demining teams, a Bozena I mini-flail, an ML-1 medium flail donated by the US State Department and 1 mine detection dog team (MDDT). With these resources, 90% of the impact surveys were completed, a total of 1,110,401m² were released and 310,800 m² were physically cleared.

TECHNICAL SURVEY

UNDP is implementing a 24-month EU funded technical survey project in August 2003 to be completed by the end of 2005. The aim of the Technical Survey Project is to accurately delineate all of the minefields and battle areas in NE Albania and thereby contributing to the overall mission of the Albanian Mine Action Programme of freeing NE Albania from mines and UXO by 2005.

A Technical Survey Organization will be established and the project will be managed by the management team of the UNDP mine action programme and coordinated by the Albanian Mine Action Executive (AMAE). The tender for execution was awarded to Handicap International France. The technical survey organization will be converted into a national demining organization in 2005, funding will be secured, demining priorities will be determined and demining tasks will be issued.

IMSMA

A functional Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Cell was established during 2003 with ITF and Swiss support and the database was populated with up to date mine action information. Albanian maps were georeferenced from Krassowsky projection to UTM 34 projection with EU and ITF support. An Albanian IT Chief was appointed, an internal information quality management system was implemented and IMSMA updated to Version 3. In the regional context, an agreement was reached between the Albanian Government and the ITF regarding information exchange. In the year ahead, efforts will be focused to ensure full Operations/IMSMA, database management training and the establishment of an effective IMSMA capability at the regional office.

MINE RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

See Form I above.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

See Form J above.

TRANSITION STRATEGY

The Albania Government's responsibility will be phased in by the end of 2005. After 2005 there will be a reduced mine action programme, allowing for a leaner structure and only low impact areas left to demine. An Albanian capacity for demining and victim assistance will be fully established by 2005, the MRE objectives will mostly be reached and a solid resource mobilisation base will have been established.

CONCLUSIONS

There is a significant mines and UXO threat in NE Albania, but also an increased awareness and commitment to solve the problem. The year 2002 was the turning point for the Albania mine action program and 2003 was crucial in laying the basis for a national mine action programme. Albania can now set the pace in the region on issues such as stockpile destruction and IMSMA training. The focus next year will be on accurately determining the extent of the mines and UXO problem and implementing the transition strategy to realise the strategic objective of Albania free from the effect of mines and UXO by 2005.