

57th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Campo Grande, Brazil, 22 March 2026

UNEP/CMS/StC57/Outcome1

CMS REVIEW MECHANISM

**FILE NO. 2021/01: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AT THE VJOSA-NARTA PROTECTED
LANDSCAPE – ALBANIA**

DECISION

1. The StC strongly regrets that the Government of Albania did not respond to the repeated outreach, including the letter sent by the Chair of the CMS Standing Committee as an Outcome from the 56th Meeting of the Standing Committee in March 2025, and that no progress report has been provided.
2. The Standing Committee notes the advice provided by the Scientific Council in Annex 2 of StC 57 document 10, and in this regard The StC issues a warning to the Government of Albania that the mitigation and compensation measures proposed for both the construction and operation phases of Vlora International Airport are inadequate to prevent significant impacts on CMS Appendix I-listed species and thus a contravention of CMS. The environmental impact assessment (EIA) was found to contain methodological deficiencies and data gaps, including inadequate ecological surveys, insufficient assessment of impacts on key habitats and migratory routes, and limited analysis of long-term effects on species of concern, notably the Dalmatian Pelican. In addition, there are concerns regarding operational risks, including habitat fragmentation, bird strikes and noise pollution.
3. The StC urges advises the Government of Albania to suspend the construction and/or operation of the Vlora International Airport until sufficient ecological and species-specific data is gathered, a properthe deficiencies in the current EIA are addressed EIA has been done and sufficient mitigation and compensation measures are implemented so as to ensure the conservation of CMS App. I listed species.
4. The StC requests Albania to report on the implementation of these recommendations to the 59th Meeting of the Standing Committee underscoring the importance of engaging meaningfully in the Review Mechanism. of consultation with the Party concerned for the proper operation of the Review Mechanism.
5. The StC requests the Secretariat to transmit these decisions to Albania in a letter prepared jointly with the Bern and AEWA Secretariats and signed, on behalf of CMS, by the Chair of the Standing Committee.