

IPN REQUEST RQ07/05

August 16, 2007

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

**Re: Request for Inspection
Albania: Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-Up Project
(ICZMCP)
(IDA Credit No. 4083-ALB)**

On August 13, 2007 the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”) received a Request for Inspection (the “Request”), dated August 5, 2007, related to the Albania: Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Clean-Up Project (ICZMCP) (the “Project”) financed by the International Development Association (IDA) (Credit No. 4083-ALB). The Panel received a first Request related to this Project on July 30, 2007, and registered it in the Inspection Panel Register on August 2, 2007.

Mr. Petrit Levendi, on behalf of the Association of Tourist Operators (CTO) of Vlorë, Albania, and other affected individuals who reside in Vlorë and in the “*area covering the northern part of the Bay of Vlora, known as Treport Beach, Narta Lagoon Coastal Strip and Bisht Poro,*” submitted the Request for Inspection. Signatures are attached to the Request.

The Bank-financed Project’s objective is “*to establish an integrated approach to coastal zone management by carrying out policy reform, institutional development and investments to protect coastal resources and promote sustainable development and management of the Borrower’s southern coast.*”¹ The Project is the first phase of an Adaptable Program Lending (APL) aimed at contributing to developing sustainable tourism, improving environmental conditions, enhancing the quality of life, and preserving and revitalizing the cultural and architectural heritage of targeted communities. These goals are to be achieved through four Project components: integrated coastal zone management policy and institutional capacity building, infrastructure building and rehabilitation on the Southern Coast, Porto Romano clean up, and Project management and monitoring.

¹ Development Credit Agreement (Integrated Coastal zone Management and Clean-Up Project) between Albania and International Development Association, (Credit No. 4083 ALB), June 29, 2005, Schedule 2.

The Requesters state that they are likely to suffer harm as a result of the World Bank's failures and omissions in the Project. They claim that *"although the Project covers an area of the Albanian coastline from Butrint region in the South (Ionian Sea) to the Porto Romano in the North (Adriatic Sea), it nevertheless excludes from its scope and implementation the area covering the northern part of the Bay of Vlora up to the mouth of River Vjosa"*, an area which is south of Porto Romano and is the area where the Requesters reside. According to the Requesters, the Project's integrated coastal management and clean up strategy has artificially divided the Vlora Bay into two regions. They believe that this is *"discriminatory, simply unnatural and fundamentally harmful"* to their interests.

The Requesters argue that the Project creates a *"dangerous vacuum"* by excluding the northern part of the Vlora Bay from its scope and, as a result, it will significantly harm tourism development in the Bay and its vicinity. According to the Requesters, the Project's discriminatory approach *"opens the way for other potentially detrimental development projects with long standing negative consequences"* for the Bay of Vlora and the Albanian Adriatic-Ionian coastline. They also claim that the Project *"ignores the on-going decontamination efforts"* taking place in the Vlora region, thus leaving the area *"to the mercy of oil-storage developers."* The Requesters further believe that works such as water supply and waste management that the Project provides for the municipalities of Saranda and Himara would also be needed in the municipalities of Orikum and Vlora and the communities of Quender and Radhim.

The Requesters claim that the *"very purpose, goals and importance of the Project are being undermined"* by focusing on the southern part of the Albanian coast and excluding the north part of the Vlora Bay, which is, according to the Requesters, *"widely accepted"* to be the *"real gateway to Albania's tourism and valorization of cultural heritage."* They claim that such exclusion from the Project is harmful for their economic interests.

The Requesters state that they have raised their concerns with Bank staff but have received no satisfactory response. They ask that the Project be extended to include the entire area of Vlora Bay up to the mouth of the River Vjosa. They also request that the Panel conduct a full investigation of this matter.

The above claims may, *inter alia*, constitute non-compliance by the Bank with various provisions of the following operational Policies and Procedures:

OP/BP 4.01	Environmental Assessment
OMS 2.20	Project Appraisal
OPN 11.03	Management of Cultural Property in Bank-financed Projects

Until further notice, all communications with the Requesters in connection with the Request will be sent to Mr. Petrit Levendi, as the representative of the Requesters.

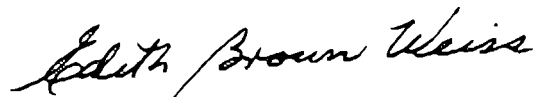
Pursuant to paragraph 17 of the Panel's Operating Procedures (the 'Operating Procedures'), I am notifying you that I have, on August 16, 2007, registered this Request in the Inspection Panel Register.

In accordance with paragraph 18 of the IDA Resolution that established the Panel ('Resolution'), paragraphs 2 and 8 of the "*Conclusions of the Board's Second Review of the Inspection Panel*" (the '1999 Clarifications'), and paragraph 18 (d) of the Operating Procedures, Bank Management must provide the Panel, no later than September 17, 2007, with written evidence that it has complied, or intends to comply, with the Bank's relevant policies and procedures in relation to the above-referenced Project. The subject matter that Management must deal with in a response to the Request is set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1999 Clarifications.

After receiving the Management response, the Panel will, as outlined in the 1999 Clarifications and as provided by paragraph 19 of the Resolution, "*determine whether the Request meets the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the Resolution and shall make a recommendation to the Executive Directors as to whether the matter should be investigated.*"

The Request has been assigned IPN Request Number RQ07/05

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edith Brown Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Edith" and last name "Weiss" clearly legible, and "Brown" in the middle.

Edith Brown Weiss
Chairperson

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The Executive Directors and Alternates
International Development Association