

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

I. General information

Assignment name	Short-term Expertise on Climate-related Public Finance
Beneficiary	Ministry of Finance
Country	Albania
Delivery time	4 weeks

II. Context and description of the project

Expertise France, the French technical cooperation agency, designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Governance, security, climate, biodiversity, health, education. It operates in key areas of development and contributes alongside its partners to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With an activity volume of 324 million euros, over 350 projects running in 100 countries and 78,118 days of expertise delivered in 2022, Expertise France provides partner countries with knowledge, skills and management expertise. Through its work, the agency promotes French and European development policy goals.

In order to support the convergence of the Republic of Albania towards its future accession to the European Union (EU), the Albanian government sent a request for a financial support to AFD in March 2022. In response, the French Development Agency (AFD) prepared a EUR 120 million Public Policy Loan (PPL), designed in parallel with the World Bank's (WB) "Sustainable Growth Development Policy Financing (DPF)" USD 120 million Development Policy Loan (DPL). This combined AFD & WB support is called "Resilience and Green Development program".

The general objective of the Resilience and Green Development program is to contribute to the convergence of the Republic of Albania towards its future accession to the EU. The specific objective is to support the implementation of areas of reform under three pillars, which are part of the joint AFD/WB matrix:

- Pillar 1: Strengthening the resilience of government and households;
- Pillar 2: Increasing reliance on renewables and promoting energy efficiency;
- Pillar 3: Protecting the environment and reducing the carbon footprint.

The joint AFD/WB matrix combines the two loan reforms and objectives as well as the result indicators to be reached by April 12, 2026. A total of 12 reform areas receive support, with 5 receiving support from both AFD and WB, 3 from AFD alone, and 4 from WB alone. In addition, AFD decided to finance a EUR 800,000 grant designed to support the Republic of Albania in fulfilling its commitments as outlined in pillar 3 of the loan matrix. This technical assistance (TA) project, implemented by Expertise France (EF), was launched on 18th October 2023.

Three ministries are involved in the overall program implementation: the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MIE). A steering committee has been set up to supervise the implementation of the program. The members are: MoF, MoE (including its implementing agencies such as the National Agency for Protected Areas, the National Agency for the Environment, etc.), MIE, municipalities involved in the program implementation, AFD and WB (as observers).

III. Description of the assignment

1. Background

Within the framework of the AFD PPL, the second disbursement (EUR 60 million) is conditional upon the achievement of selected Disbursement Indicators, notably under “Reform Areas 1.2: Climate Budget Tagging”, “1.3: Managing fiscal risks related to disasters, including climate change” and “1.4: Increasing the climate resilience of public investments”.

Preliminary analyses conducted by Expertise France indicate that:

- the relevant reforms are “partially” implemented;
- key elements are in place, but documented evidence and traceability remain incomplete;
- beyond a binary compliance check, EF is willing to contribute to an informed policy dialogue with Albanian authorities

In this context, Expertise France intends to mobilise a short-term senior expert to:

- verify the level of achievement of the relevant indicators;
- assess the robustness of the systems in place;
- identify realistic and targeted improvement actions and relatives technical assistance supports, if needed (additional technical assistance needs should be discussed with other development partners involved in the targeted reform areas as AFD has no more budget in 2026 to support specific short-term actions).

2. Objectives of the assignment

Overall objective: To provide a **concise, evidence-based and policy-oriented** assessment of the achievement of AFD Disbursement Indicators under Reform Areas 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, in support of the second disbursement of the PPL.

Specific objectives: The expert shall:

- Verify whether the AFD Disbursement Indicators are “achieved”, “partially achieved” or “not achieved”;
- Assess the quality, coherence and effective use of the mechanisms put in place, beyond formal compliance;
- Formulate pragmatic and actionable recommendations and short and medium term actions to address identified gaps, where relevant.

3. Scope of work and expected deliverables

Task 1 – Reform Area 1.2: Climate Budget Tagging

The expert will:

- Comment the Climate Budget Tagging methodology already approved by the MoF (as compared to international best standards: gaps, weaknesses, areas for improvements);
- Assess its effective application within at least two lines ministries (at minimum: MoE and MIE as proposed by the MTE in its last progress report) and the ministries’ contribution to the reduction of emissions;
- Identify and document the budget lines effectively “tagged” as climate-related in the medium-term budget framework 2026-2028;
- Assess and provide concrete, short- and medium-term recommendations as regards:
 - o the clarity of climate-related objectives;
 - o the relevance of performance indicators;
 - o the process through which tagged activities were identified and prioritized;

- institutional roles, responsibilities and available capacities at the ministry level
- Identify the actors that could provide support to the Ministry.

Deliverable 1: Analytical note including:

- a clear and justified assessment of the indicators' achievement status;
- concise, prioritised and operational recommendations, distinguishing:
 - short-term actions relevant for disbursement;
 - medium-term improvements feeding into policy dialogue.

Task 2 – Reform Area 1.3: Managing fiscal risks related to disasters, including climate change

The expert will:

- Comment the Fiscal Risk Statements (FRS) 2023 and 2024 (cf. Annex), with a focus on natural disaster and climate-related risks (identify climate risks, relevance, related budget, etc.);
- Justify the explicit inclusion of at least one climate-related risk in each FRS (mitigation measures);
- Analyse how fiscal risks related to climate and disasters are reflected in budgetary instruments (e.g. emergency funds, reserves, etc.) and the coordination mechanisms among relevant ministries to consider these risks;
- Assess the extent to which the FRS inform, or is linked to, the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF);
- Identify key gaps against best practices, and realistic options to strengthen the budget-risk nexus.

Deliverable 2: Analytical note including:

- a clear and justified assessment of the indicator's achievement status;
- concise, prioritised and operational recommendations, distinguishing:
 - short-term actions relevant for disbursement;
 - medium-term improvements feeding into policy dialogue.

Task 3 – Reform Area 1.4: Increasing the climate resilience of public investments

The expert will:

- Comment the Public Investment Management (PIM) procedures in the perspective of climate resilience of public investments;
- Assess whether environment assessment and climate impact criteria are effectively integrated into project identification, selection and appraisal processes;
- Review a limited sample of project appraisal documents (e.g. F-2 / F-3 forms);
- Estimate the share of climate informed new public investments included in the MTBF as a percentage of total public investments submitted;
- Assess the systematic application of climate criteria in public investment proposals;
- Identify practical measures to strengthen evidence, traceability and quality control.

Deliverable 3: Analytical note including:

- a clear and justified assessment of the indicator's achievement status;
- concise, prioritised and operational recommendations, distinguishing:
 - short-term actions relevant for disbursement;
 - medium-term improvements feeding into policy dialogue.

IV. Place, duration and terms of performance

1. Duration and level of effort

Up to 15 working days, to be completed within 4 weeks from contract signature.

2. Coordination and reporting

The expert will work under the supervision of the Expertise France Project Managers, in close coordination with:

- the Ministry of Finance (MoF);
- relevant line ministries;
- AFD, as observer and policy dialogue counterpart.

3. Expected deliverables and timeline:

Item	Description	Timing
Draft deliverables	Draft D1, D2 and D3	Week 2
EF and AFD review	EF and AFD comments on the draft deliverables	Week 3
Final deliverables	Final D1, D2 and D3	Week 4

V. Required expertise and profile

The expert shall meet the following requirements:

- Minimum 10 years of professional experience in:
 - o climate-related public finance and/or climate budget tagging;
 - o and/or integration of climate considerations into budgeting processes and/or public investment management systems.
- Proven experience working directly with Ministries of Finance, preferably in the Western Balkans, including:
 - o hands-on engagement with central budget departments;
 - o familiarity with internal budget preparation, MTBF processes and fiscal reporting practices.
- Demonstrated ability to operate effectively within restricted institutional environments, including:
 - o established professional networks within the Ministry of Finance and Economy and, where possible, line ministries;
 - o prior assignments requiring access to non-public budgetary documents and internal procedures;
 - o capacity to secure timely inputs and clarifications from senior civil servants.
- Prior involvement in policy-based lending / policy-based operations (AFD, World Bank, EU, IMF).
- Strong analytical and drafting skills, with the ability to produce concise, decision-oriented deliverables.
- Excellent command of English.
- Previous professional experience in Albania and fluency in Albanian are strong assets.

VI. Required documents

Link to apply: https://expertise-france.gestmax.fr/14566/1/short-term-expertise-on-climate-related-public-finance-h-f/en_US

An **updated CV** and a **brief technical and financial offer** (5 pages maximum), both written in **English**.

Application will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Starting date: ASAP

Annex:

The following documents will be made available following selection of the expertise:

- Documents/evidences as regards reform areas under Pilar 1:
 - o Climate Budget Tagging methodology approved by the MoF (Instruction No 12, dated 18.10.2024 (and revised Instruction No 7, dated 28.02.2018, Annex 8)
 - o MTBF 2026-2028 for MoE and MIE
 - o Fiscal Risk Statements (FRS) 2023 and 2024
- Preliminary analyses conducted by Expertise France to assess progresses and weaknesses
- AFD Aide Memoire, October 2025
- First MTE annual report (covering April 2024 to April 2025), May 2025
- MTE second (semi-annual) report, ...
- EF progress report (covering...)