



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
AND WATERS ADMINISTRATION**

Tirana, on _____.____.2011

To: Dr Valerie Hickey
Task Manager,
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Lead Biodiversity Specialist, Environment Department
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433, USA
Fax: ++1 202-522-0367

SUBJECT: Letter of endorsement for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

Dear Ms. Hickey,

As the GEF Operation Focal Point for the Government of Albania, I endorse the investment strategy outlined in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Ecosystem Profile for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot, and the provision of grants to nongovernment and private sector organizations for projects and activities that fulfill the programmatic objectives outlined therein.

We understand that each of the CEPF donor partners (Conservation International, l'Agence Française de Développement, GEF, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank) has committed funding to the CEPF initiative.

In providing this endorsement, we confirm that the Ecosystem Profile for the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot has been shared with the officials responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has undergone review in our country. We note that provision of funding for activities outlined in the ecosystem profile will be contingent upon approval by the CEPF Donor Council. We understand that the ecosystem profile will be made publicly available.

Sincerely,

Pellumb ABESHI

General Director and GEF OFP

cc: CEPF Executive Director, fax: ++1.703.553.0721

