ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Environmental crime consists of illegal activities that damage the environment through the exploitation and/or destruction of natural resources, water, air, and land or damage to protected areas to make material gains for groups or individuals.

CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

FILE

1 11

1 11

1 11

To the question: "What are your major concerns regarding threats to







26.9% environmental crime

In 2019, a public survey conducted by the OSCE and

Academy of Security with 1,559 interviewees (48.7%

women, 51.3% men) considered environmental crime as the 2nd most dangerous threat to Albania (26.9%)



environmental safety?" 84% of the respondents included water pollution. air pollution and illegal logging among their major concerns threatening Albanian environmental safety, followed by land pollution (74%) and waste burning (69.2%).

Environmental Crimes were the 4th largest crime globally in 2018 according to UNEP and INTERPOL.

According to the Albanian Forest Policy Document 019-2030 (CMD No. 814, dated 31.12.2018)

of firewood is logged annually in Albania, 2.5 times higher than the generation capacity.



ECONOMIC DAMAGE

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Environmental crime requires trained, resourced, and a QUICK REACTION FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.

Albania needs to strengthen its enforcement regarding waste crime, nature crime and transboundary environmental crime.



DATA AND STATISTICS

7.69%

Environmental crimes marked an annual increase of 7,69 % compared to 2018, based on the 2019 General Prosecution Annual Report.

REPORTED CASES During 2014-2018

Police reported 1,754 cases

Prosecution reported **586** cases or 33.4%

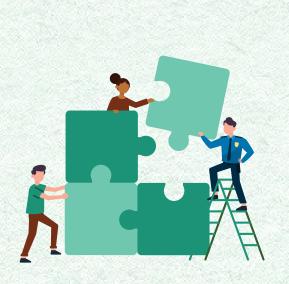
KEY CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

PROPERLY REGISTERED CASES

TRACEABLE CASES

LACK OF UPDATED STATISTICS

COOPERATIO



Preventing and punishing environmental crime requires close cooperation across the:



Learn more about OSCE Presence in Albania environmental crimes activities:







Produced the documentary:

74 KM! Water is life

2016

Established an inter-institutional group against environmental crime (IGEC) composed of 11 entities and 12 experts to share information, deliver joint activities, inspections, and propose legal changes

Raised public awareness on environmental information, also through arts and public activities

Built a strong national network of experts and practitioners from national organization, law enforcement agencies, NGOs and academic entities active in the field

Provided expert training to IGEC members to understand environmental crime, particularly on waste crime and illegal transboundary shipment of waste

Organized 12 events linking local government, central authorities, law enforcement and expert (360 people)

Published the handbook for local authorities to act against environmental crime

Contributed to the amendment of the criminal code to strengthen provisions against environmental crimes

Established the Consultative Group of Civil • Society Organizations to push forward the government agenda on environmental crime

Strengthen academic linkage with institutions and enforcement chain

Published the conference proceedings "Environmental Crime, Environmental Security and National Security", of V International Scientific Conference

OSCE PRESENCE IN ALBANIA ACTIVIT

D ACHIEVEMENTS TIMELINE

Assessment

In 2015, the Presence conducted an institutional assessment and SWOT analysis of the environmental crime situation in Albania

Then a ministerial order was prepared and issued to establish an inter-institutional group against environmental crimes (IGEC) involving

Police

National Agency for **Protected Areas**

State Inspectorate of Environment, Forestry and Water Customs office

State Health Inspectorate

Tax Office

Land inspectorate

Agency for Protected Areas

Road police

Prosecution

Interinstitutional Maritime **Operation Center**

Cooperation

In 2016, the Presence developed a Strategy and an Institutional Development Plan 2015-2020 for IGEC

In 2017, training and qualification development were provided to all IGEC members which led to accreditation of 12 members of the group (by the Scottish Qualification Authority)

Functionality

From 2018-2020, work was dedicated to strengthening the group's interaction, joint inspections and co-operation through on-site visits, institutional presentations, workshops, forums and public discussion, and lectures with public universities

Learn more about OSCE Presence in Albania environmental crimes activities:





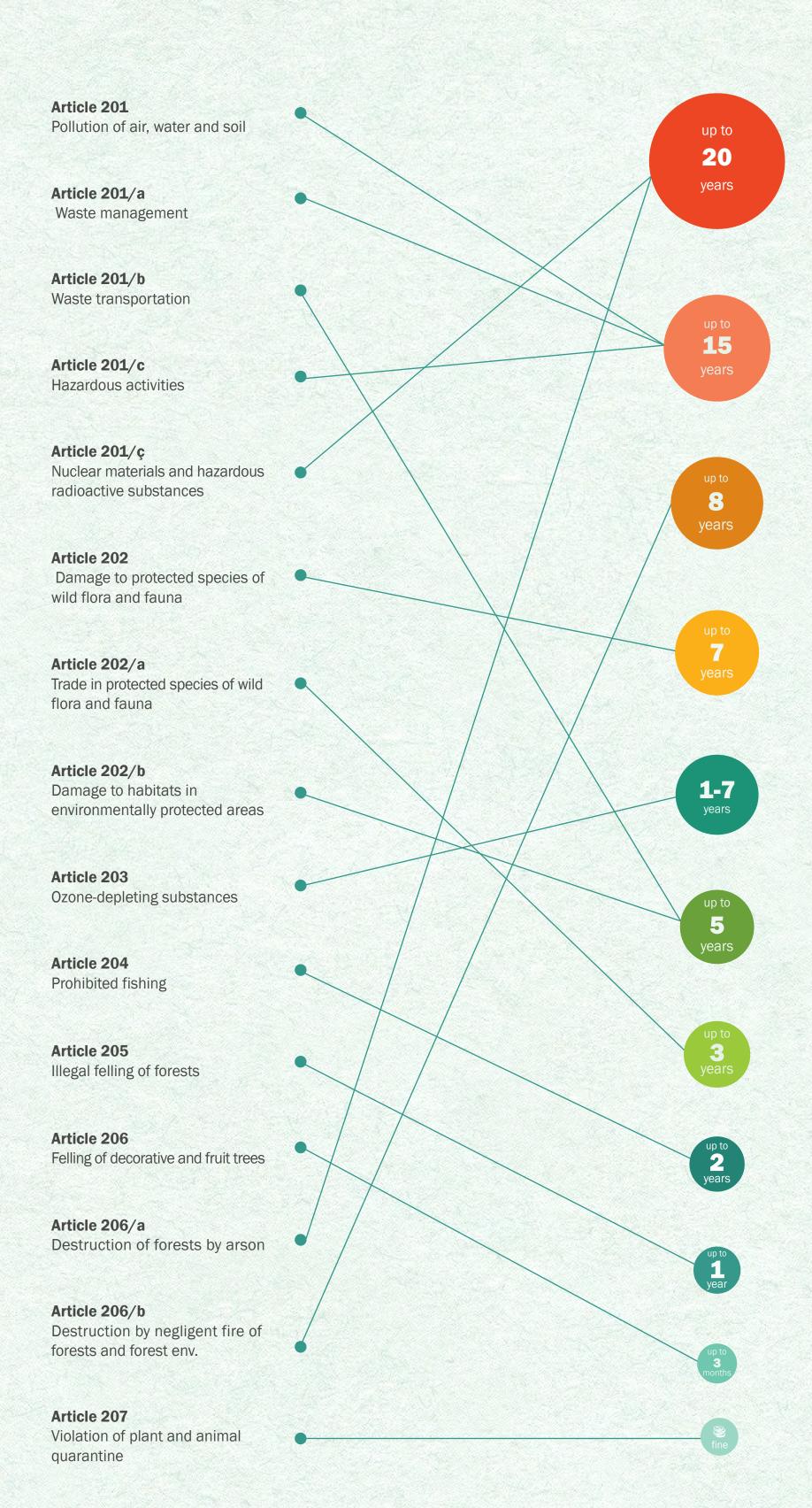




O

CRIMINAL CODE

Criminal Code of Albania Imprisonment



*Criminal Code of Albania as amended in October 2019

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO RAISE AWARENESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

Citizens

Citizens need to be informed about the environmental crimes, risks, and dangers around themselves. They need to learn and engage to prevent environmental crimes in their territory.

Media

We live in a digital media and open source information. The use of media to communicate, engage with people and initiate reaction is very important to raise awareness and expose environmental crimes.

CS0s

Civil society is working on various environmental related problems such as industrial pollution, environmental degradation, breach of legislation and corruptive practices. As such, CSOs need to join forces and raise their concerns and provide solutions to address environmental crimes to institutions

Government

The government needs to cooperate and use the expertise of all stakeholders with the aim to discourage, prevent and prosecute environmental crimes in Albania.

Learn more about OSCE Presence in Albania environmental crimes activities:



