



**Best practices for sustainable use of common grasslands  
in the Western Balkans and Europe**

***SEE Round table***

Sofia, Bulgaria 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Example from Albania – Mark Rupa**

Total surface = 2,875,000 ha

Agricultural Land → 696,000 ha

Pasture Lands → 423,000 ha

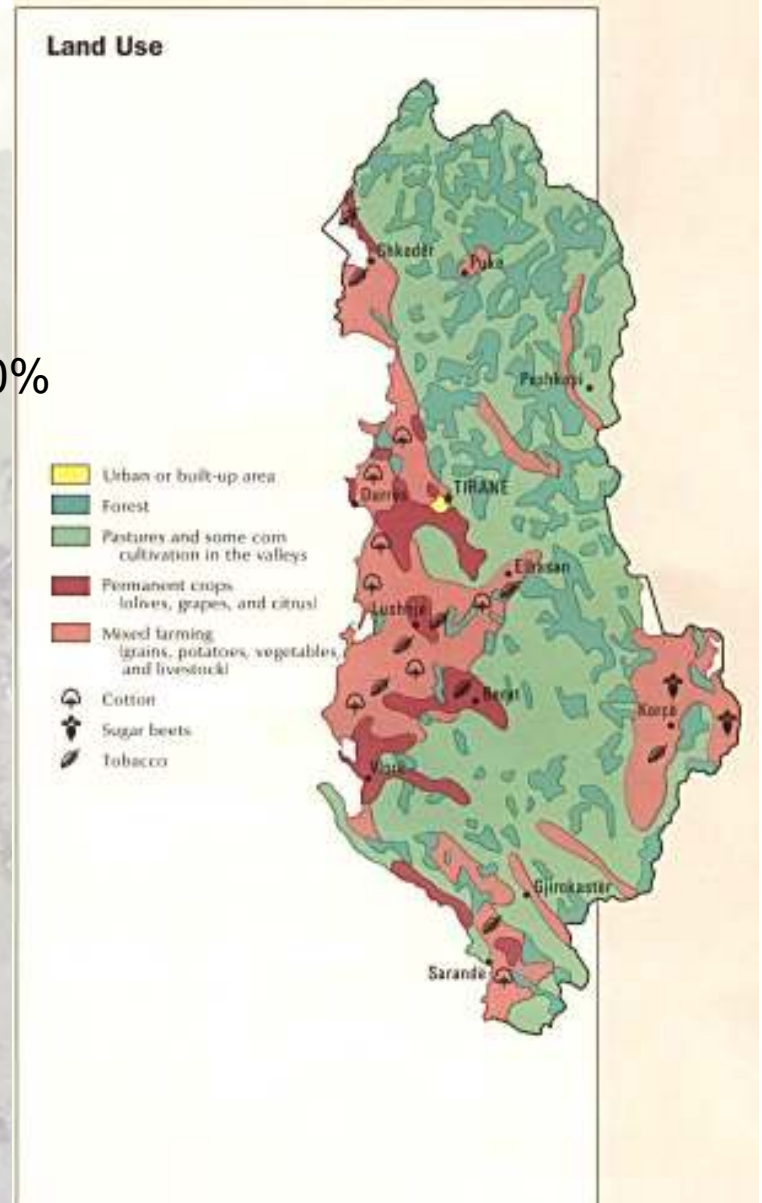
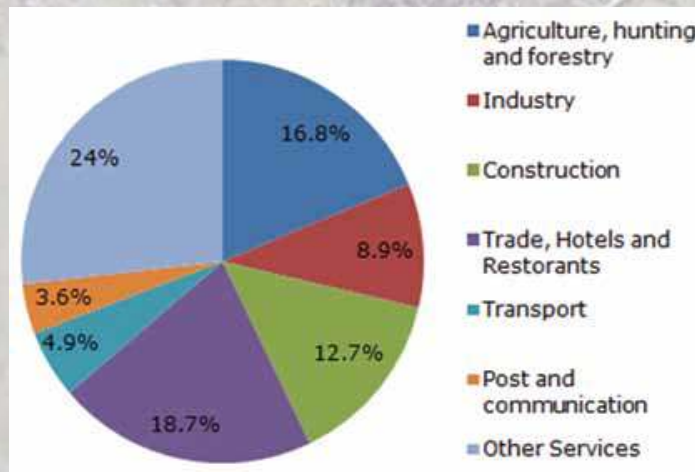
Avg altitude → around 710 m

Population → over 3.5 million of whom more than 50% live in a village.

550 large farms before 90s → 357,027 farm Households currently.

Animals in Albania (heads in 000)

**Cattle → 495**  
**Sheep → 1768**  
**Goats → 772**



Winter pastures → 23 % of pasture areas, altitude 600 - 800 m.



Summer pasture → altitude 1200 - 2100 m.

- Heavily degraded Forest and Pasture (F&P) pasture areas.
- Central government couldn't successfully manage F&P areas
- Decentralization of forest and pasture management to local governments and communities.
- Local govt. needs capacity & support to manage communal forest and pastures in line with the newly-transferred responsibilities.



### Actions taken:

#### Improving decentralized management & better securing property rights for forest & pasture users

This includes

- support to strategic policy and planning processes;
- implementation of approved management plans;
- review of revenue collection;
- as well as securing property rights for rural forest families respecting traditional use rights



### Improve user-orientated management strategies & income opportunities;

through

- farmer forestry and pasture models,
- better organization within and between farmers and collectors,
- better links to markets in order to maximize income generation in support of rural livelihoods.



**Strengthening the institutional, policy & legal framework in support of communal forest and pasture users.**

Through

- strengthening communal forest & pasture user representative bodies for lobbying & advocacy in support for CFP users.
- Promoting gender awareness & increasing women's participation in decision making over CFP areas.
- Supporting multi-stakeholder analysis of CFP issues to contribute towards policy & legal framework review



**Improving the awareness of Local Government Units to manage the Nation's communal forest and pasture areas;**

Raise awareness of Local Government units about the new arrangements and supporting annual forums in all Regions of Albania to share and disseminate learning and experiences.



References:

MAFCP; Statistical Yearbook 2009

GDP data Source: INSTAT

Map on land use source: SHUNDI, Andrea Prof.: Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles Albania; 2006

Photos source: F. Lici, Mark Rupa

Thank you