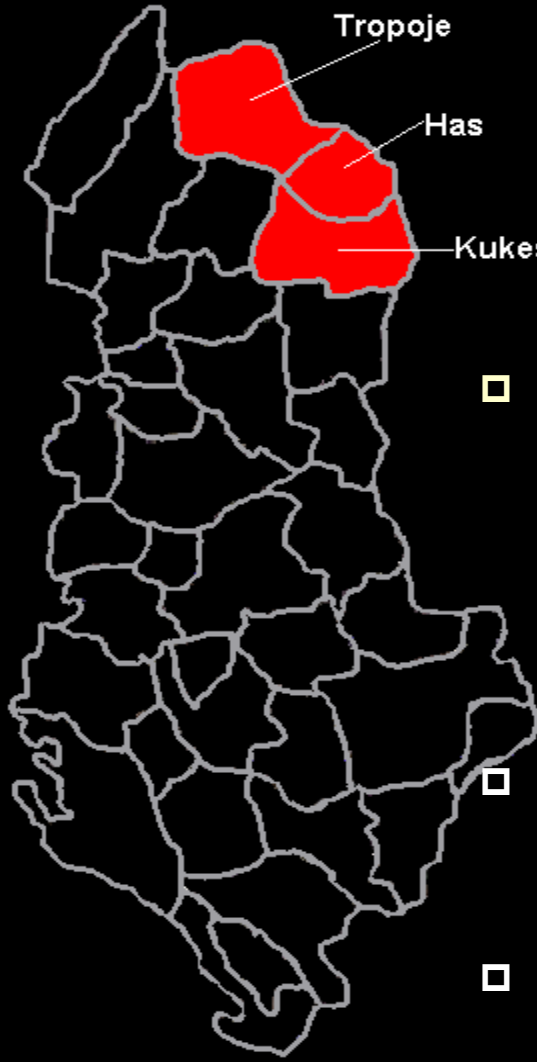


THE ALBANIA MINE ACTION PROGRAMME

**“ALBANIA FREE FROM
THE EFFECT OF MINES
AND UXO BY 2005”**



MINE CONTAMINATED AREAS



- The threat emanates from the Kosovo conflict:

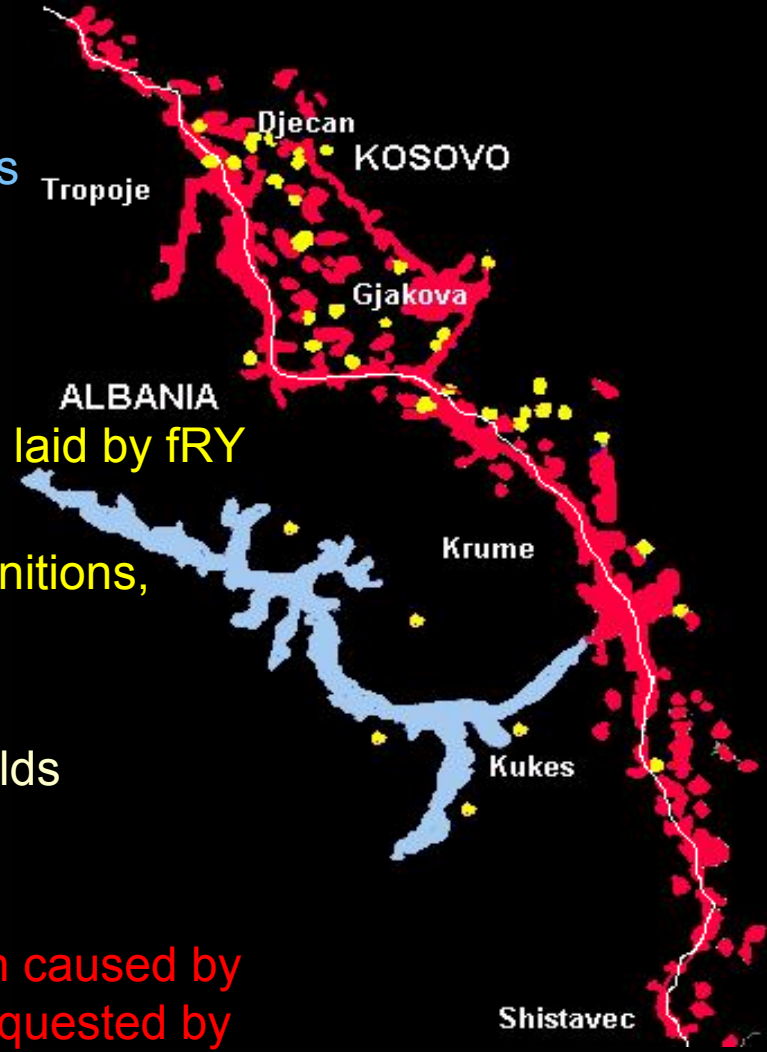
- 120 km border
- 57 identified areas
- 15,250,000 m²

- **The Threat:**

- AP and AT mines laid by fRY forces
- UXO and sub-munitions, including NATO

- No records of minefields available to Albania

- None of this has been caused by Albania, AAF were requested by NATO not to get involved in the conflict

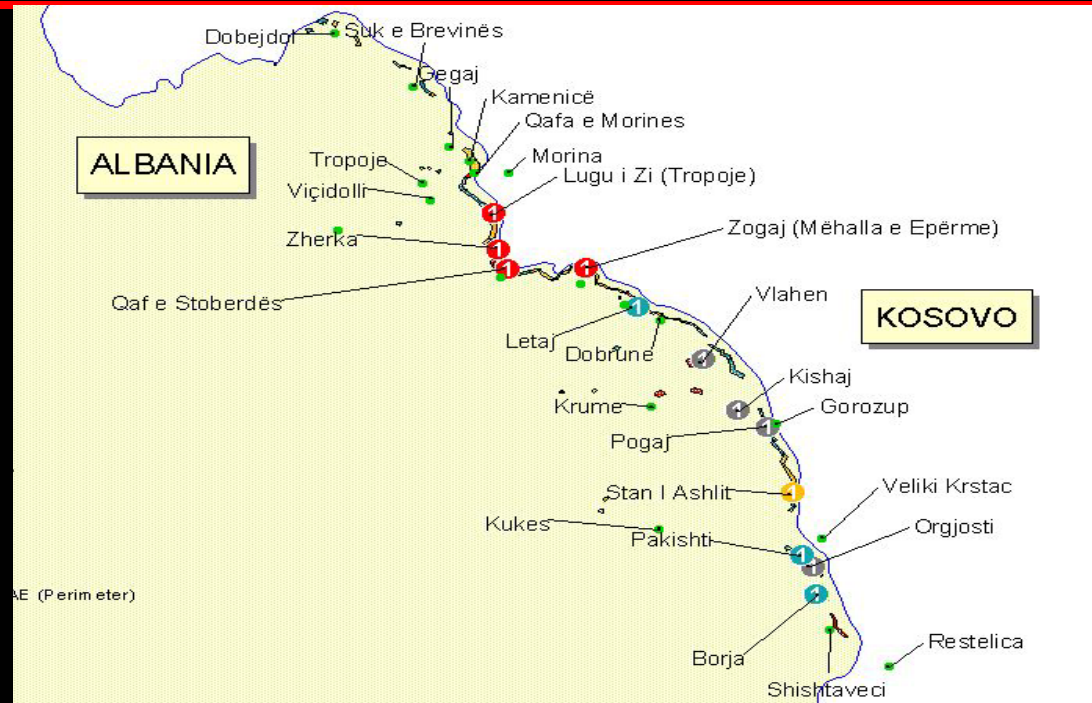


SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT

- The population of the Kukes prefecture, almost 120,000 of which 75% are rural, are the poorest in Albania, if not in Europe
- Average size of farms are 1.5 ha
- Main activities are: grazing, farming, gathering firewood, and other subsistence livelihoods.
- Land pressure is exacerbated by 75% mountainous terrain and mines
- 27 people killed and 216 injured



SECURITY IMPACT



- A grave consequence of the mines, is the added difficulty of patrolling the Albania/Kosovo border, where drug, human and weapons trafficking, and other crimes, take place on a cross-border basis.
- 13 police officers have already been wounded or killed by mines and UXO in the execution of their duties.
- Patrolling is almost impossible as it takes 1 to 2 hours to respond to a border incident due to mines and unexploded ordnance contamination. This is a weak point regarding integrated border management in SEE
- The criminals have identified and cleared lanes through mine fields, through which they pass unfettered to and from Kosovo, while police can not respond effectively



ALBANIAN RESPONSE

- Surface clearance (no areas certified cleared to humanitarian standards), which drastically reduced civilian casualties
- Level 1 Survey, total border area indicated to be contaminated – had to be redone employing impact survey methodology
- Ratification of international treaties
- Adoption of international humanitarian mine action standards
- Establishment of a national humanitarian mine action structure: AMAC and AMAE
- Advocacy for demining and funding by ICRC



ALBANIA AND THE OTTAWA TREATY

- Albania ratified the Ottawa Treaty on 29 February 2000
- Stockpile Destruction Project commenced 15 January 2001 with Canadian assistance
- Demilitarisation was based on reverse assembly and recycling was a major aspect
- Last APM of 1,683,860, was demilitarised on 4 April 2002, 2 years ahead of obligatory period in terms of Ottawa Treaty
- Now preparing legislation in terms of Article 9
- Obligations to Article 5 (1) to be achieved by 2010



UNDP/AMAE 2-YR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



- **Commenced April 2002**
- **Assisting AMAC with policy, strategy, legal structure and priorities of MA**
- **Facilitate National Mine Action Planning**
- **Capacity building of AMAE**
- **Resource mobilisation**



ALBANIA NATIONAL MINE ACTION PLAN

VISION

The Republic of Albania free from mines and unexploded ordnance by 2010.



MISSION

AMAC is to develop and implement a sustainable mine action programme including:

- Development and implementation of mine action strategy and policy.
- Supervision and empowerment of AMAE to act as an executive and coordination body.
- Clearing medium and high priority mine and unexploded ordnance contaminated areas in North-east Albania.
- Raising awareness of the mine action situation.
- Treating the most serious mine victims.
- Smooth transition from an international to a national mine action capacity.

In order to eliminate the effect of mines and unexploded ordnance in North-east Albania by 2005.



DEMINING ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANNING

□ Before 2002:

- Clearance rates were small-scale and ineffective.
- 42.5 ha were cleared, total of 2,000,000 m² released.
- Impact surveys inaccurate.
- Lack of coordination and direction.



□ Currently:

- DCA-ACT and FSD deployed for demining.
- ICRC and ARC assist actively in creating an atmosphere conducive to demining.
- Most impact surveys accurately redone by end of 2002.
- With increased coordination and more efficient utilisation of demining assets, more than 7,00,000 m² of formerly contaminated land released through survey and clearance during 2002.

□ From 2003 the demining capacity will be expanded to (dependent on funding):

- 5 Manual Tech Survey Teams, 2 Mini Flails and 2 MDDT's.
- 8 manual demining teams.

□ A realistic estimate indicates that Albania can be rid of the effect of mines within 3 years on a reasonable a budget.



DEMINING PLANNING 2003-2005

Year	2000-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total Reduction 2002-2005 m2
Contaminated Area m2	15,250,000	13,250,000	6,232,000	1,331,000	519,000	181,000	
Reduction by Impact Survey m2	938,000	5,893,000	2,990,000				9,821,000
Reduction by Technical Survey m2	637,000	675,000	1,496,000	445,000			3,253,000
Reduction by Clearance m2	425,000	450,000	350,000	380,000	390,000		1,995,000
Total Reduction m2	2,000,000	7,018,000	4,836,000	825,000	390,000		15,069,000



MINE AWARENESS AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE STRATEGY

- ❑ **MOST COMMUNITIES REACHED**
- ❑ **STRATEGY REVISED**
- ❑ **TARGET GROUPS READJUSTED**
- ❑ **INTEGRATED STRATEGY**
 - ❑ **AMAE – COORDINATION**
 - ❑ **UNICEF, ITF – STANDARDS, FUNDING**
 - ❑ **ICRC – ADVOCATING AND FUNDING**
 - ❑ **ARC – FOCAL POINT AND FACILITATING**
 - ❑ **VMA (LNGO) – MANAGE GRASSROOTS LIAISON**
 - ❑ **MCO's – LIMITED IMPLEMENTATION**
 - ❑ **AMC's – GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY LIAISON, IMPLEMENTATION**



EXIT STRATEGY

- Government responsibility to be phased in by 2004-2005
- After 2005 – much reduced MA programme:
 - **Leaner structure**
 - **Only low impact areas left to demine**
- Albanian capacity for demining and victim assistance fully established
- Mine awareness objectives mostly reached
- Solid resource mobilisation base established



FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- ❑ Previous and current donors include UNDP, EU, DFID, ITF, Canadian, Danish, German, Swiss and US Governments.
- ❑ EU adopted resolution to fund MA in Albania “as far as possible”.
- ❑ Of the US\$4,8m for 2003, US\$2.3m has already been funded.
- ❑ Albania received promising indications of EU and ITF funding.
- ❑ Funding needs are:



	2003	2004
Capacity building	USD400,000	USD400,000
Demining (technical survey and clearance)	USD4,000,000	USD3,500,000
Socio-economic impact activities	USD400,000	USD400,000



CONCLUSIONS

- There is a significant mines and UXO threat in NE Albania
- There is increased awareness and commitment to solve problem
- Albania can set the pace in the region on issues such as stockpile destruction
- Albania can be rendered free from the effect of mines and UXO in a reasonable time with a reasonable budget.

